



Eel-Russian Project Authority

c/o Sonoma County Water Agency
404 Aviation Blvd, Santa Rosa, CA 95403
<https://www.eelrussianauthority.org>

Board of Directors

<u>County of Sonoma</u> James Gore	<u>Mendocino County Inland Water and Power Commission</u> Madeline Cline Janet Pauli, Vice Chair
<u>Round Valley Indian Tribes</u> James Russ	<u>Sonoma County Water Agency</u> David Rabbitt, Chair

Board Meeting
August 6, 2026 12:00-2:00pm

County of Sonoma Board of Supervisors Chambers
575 Administration Drive, Room 102A
Santa Rosa, CA 95403



Board of Directors Meeting Agenda

August 6, 2026

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of the Agenda
3. Consent Calendar
 - a. Approve the minutes of the meeting of the Board of Directors on December 11, 2025
 - b. Insurance for Eel-Russian Project Authority

Regular Calendar Items

4. 2026-27 Eel-Russian Project Authority Budget and Related Actions
5. Informational Items
 - a. New Eel-Russian Facility water diversion modeling analysis update and presentation
 - b. Executive Director's report
6. Public Comment - items not on the agenda
7. Board Member Announcements/Reports



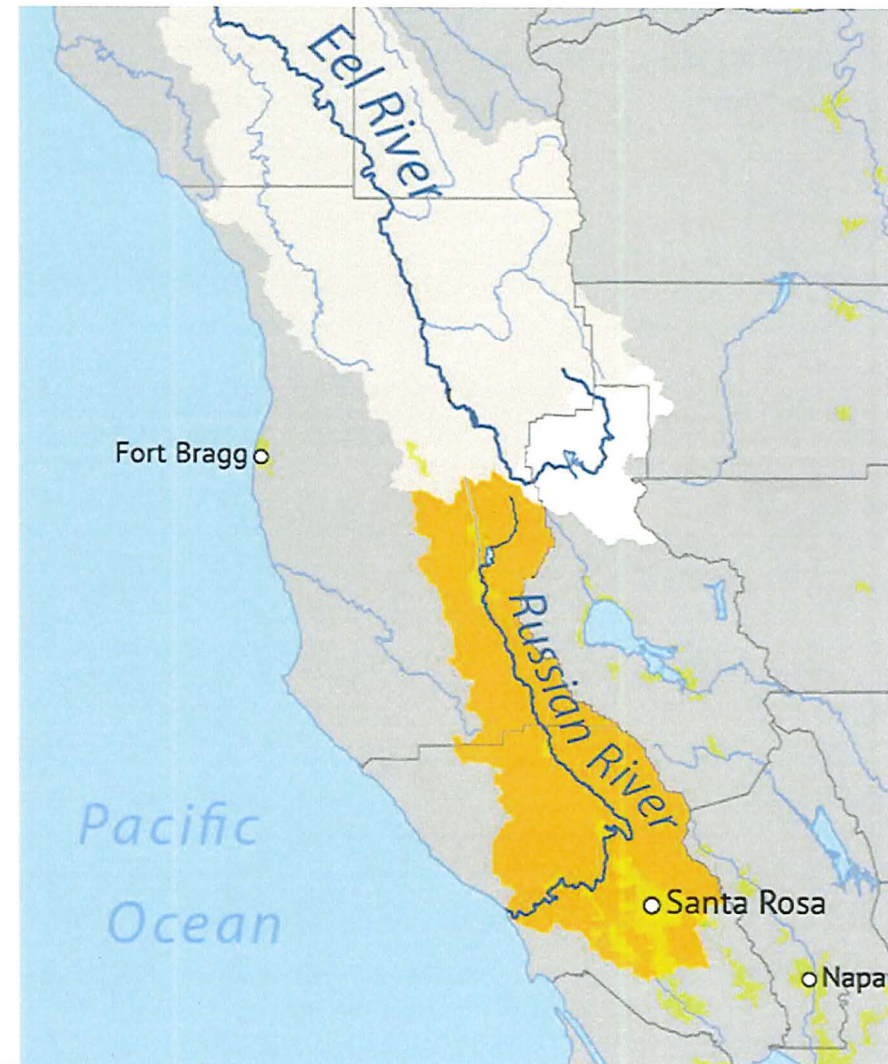
Item 2.

Approval of the Agenda

Item 3.

Consent Calendar

- a. Approve the minutes of the meeting of the Board of Directors on December 11, 2025
- b. Insurance for Eel-Russian Project Authority



Consent Calendar Item 3b: ERPA Insurance

Staff recommends that the Board of Directors:

- 1) Adopt a resolution approving the form of and authorizing the execution of the Sixth Amended Joint Powers Agreement and authorizing participation in the Special District Risk Management Authority's (SDRMA) Property/Liability Program.
- 2) Authorize the Executive Director to enroll the Eel-Russian Project Authority for an initial 3-year term in the SDRMA Property/Liability Program, apply for membership in the Special District Association (CSDA), and make annual payments to SDRMA and CSDA.



Item 4. 2026-27 Eel-Russian Project Authority Budget and Related Actions

David Manning (Executive Director)

Abe Byun (Grants and Funded Projects Finance Manager, Sonoma
Water)



2026-27 ERPA Budget

CDFW Grant Budget Summary (51803) ¹

Task 1	Project Management	0	127,330	127,330	100.00%
Task 2	Engineering Design for the New Eel-Russian Facility	0	1,010,362	1,010,362	100.00%
Task 3	Environmental Compliance and Permitting	0	1,598,400	1,598,400	100.00%
Task 4	Water Supply Resiliency Planning	0	227,367	227,367	100.00%
CDFW Grant Budget Total		\$ -	\$ 2,963,459	\$ 2,963,459	100.00%

1. This amount assumes all funds from the Fish and Wildlife grant dedicated for this purpose are allocated across the life of the grant.
The Board will be asked to approve a budget adjustment if funds are expended at an accelerated rate.

REVENUES:

INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVENUE

42360	State Revenue	0	2,951,753	2,951,753	100.00%
42610	Other Government Agencies	0	50,000	50,000	100.00%
Subtotal Intergovernmental Revenue		\$ -	\$ 3,001,753	\$ 3,001,753	100.00%

EXPENDITURES:

SERVICES AND SUPPLIES

51042	Insurance - Premiums	0	4,222	4,222	100.00%
51206	Accounting/Auditing Services	0	20,000	20,000	100.00%
51207	Client Accounting Services	0	12,000	12,000	100.00%
51242	Bank Charges	0	200	200	100.00%
51803	Other Contract Services	0	2,963,459	2,963,459	100.00%
52091	Memberships/Certifications	0	1,872	1,872	100.00%
Subtotal Services and Supplies		\$ -	\$ 3,001,753	\$ 3,001,753	100.00%

TOTAL EXPENDITURES		-	3,001,753	3,001,753	100.00%
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May 21, 2026 Master Agreement to Provide Various Services and Advance Costs for ERPA

- ◆ Costs and expenses for employees acting on ERPA's behalf
 - Administrative tasks: Board meetings, contract and fiscal management
 - Grant applications and management
 - Outreach and communications
 - Technical services
- ◆ Costs and expenses for member agencies contracting for services on ERPA's behalf
- ◆ Current efforts potentially subject to reimbursement include
 - Sonoma Water staff acting as ERPA Executive Director
 - Sonoma Water and Mendocino County IWPC staff acting in technical capacities for outreach and communications, NERF engineering design, NERF environmental compliance and permitting
 - Sonoma Water contracting with consultants to prepare a CEQA document and business plan for NERF

Recommended Board Actions

- 1) Adopt a Resolution of the Board of Directors to approve the fiscal year 2026-27 budget and authorize the Executive Director and the Sonoma County Auditor-Controller-Treasurer-Tax Collector to make expenditures and necessary budgetary adjustments.
- 2) Authorize the Executive Director to enter into an agreement with the Client Accounting Division of the Sonoma County Auditor-Controller-Treasurer-Tax Collector's Office for general accounting services in an amount not-to-exceed \$12,000 for FY 2026-27, in a form approved by ERPA counsel.
- 3) Authorize the Executive Director to renew the agreement with the Client Accounting Division of the Sonoma County Auditor-Controller-Treasurer-Tax Collector's Office for general accounting services on an annual fiscal year basis for up to five additional fiscal years so long as costs do not increase by more than \$15,000 per fiscal year.
- 4) Authorize the Executive Director to enter into an agreement for outside auditing services in an amount not-to-exceed \$20,000 for FY 2026-27, in a form approved by ERPA counsel.
- 5) Authorize the Executive Director to amend the agreement for outside auditing service on an annual fiscal year basis for up to five additional fiscal years so long as costs do not increase by more than \$20,000 per fiscal year.



Item 5. Informational Items

a. NERF Water Diversion Modeling Analysis and Update

John Mendoza, P.E. (Water Resources Engineer IV, Sonoma
Water)

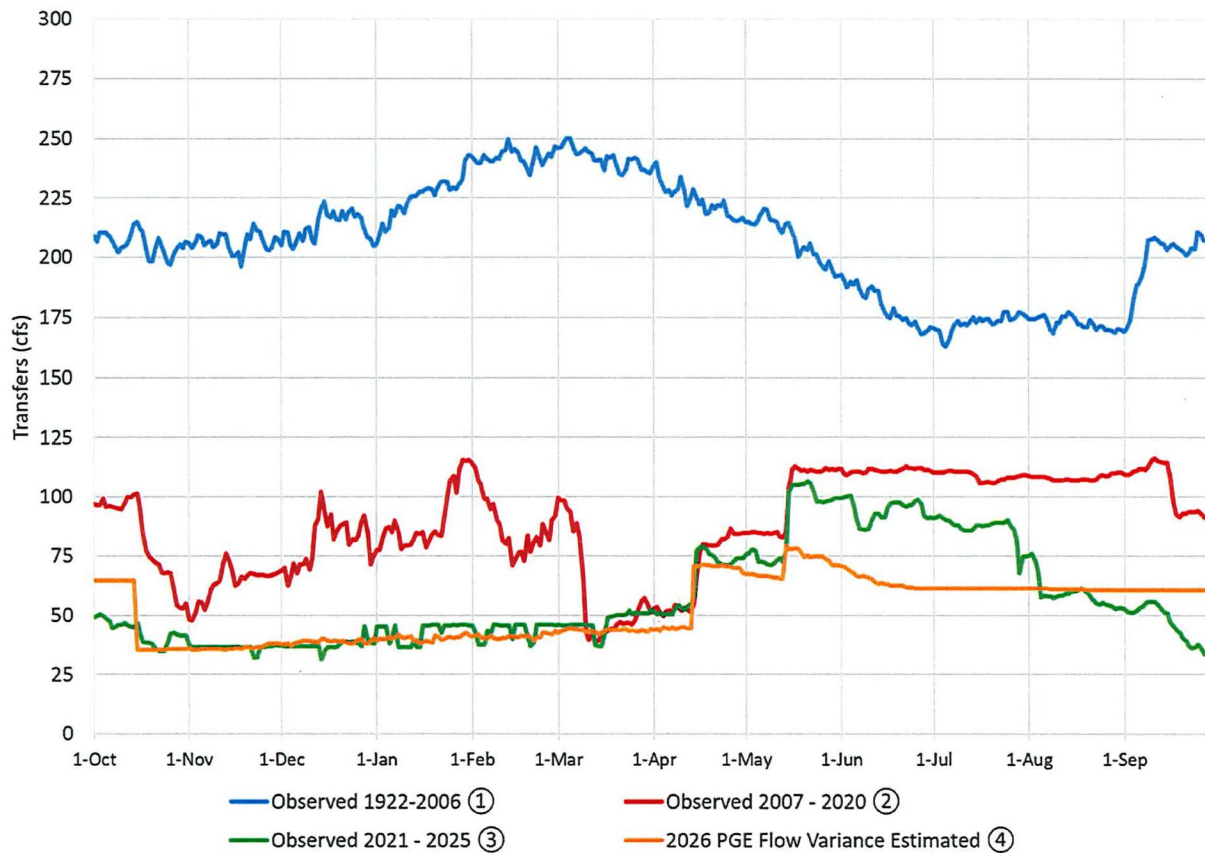


NERF Water Diversion Modeling Analysis Presentation Overview

- Sonoma Water has been modeling how transfers from the Eel River to the Russian River will be different than historical diversions as a result of the decommissioning of the Potter Valley Project and the construction of the New Eel-Russian Facility (NERF). This analysis will continue to be refined and updated as new information becomes available. Results may change from previous presentations.
- This modeling is made more complicated by major changes in the diversion rules implemented over the last 20 years as a result of the 2004 FERC License Amendment, the transformer bank failure, seismic risk assessment that reduced operational storage capacity at Lake Pillsbury, major drought, and FERC flow variances.
- Under the NERF rules, there is water for diversion in all year types, even drought years such as 2020 and 2021, and water would have been diverted in water years 2025 and 2026.
- In general, the average annual water available to be transferred through NERF under the Water Diversion Agreement each year is similar to transfers under the 2004 FERC License Amendment, but more Russian River storage is needed to maximize those transfers because of change in seasonality of the transfers.
- The Eel-Russian Project Authority continues to lead the effort to design, permit, and construct NERF so that water can continue to be diverted. Design and permitting are currently 100% funded.

Historical Eel River Transfers

Daily Average Eel River Transfers through the Potter Valley Project



1

Water Years 1922-2006:

Post Scott Dam construction, Pre-2004 FERC License Amendment

Average WY Volume: ~150,000 ac-ft

2

Water Years 2007-2020:

Post-2004 FERC License Amendment

Average WY Volume: ~64,000 ac-ft

3

Water Years 2021-2025:

Post transformer bank failure, Scott Dam seismic risk determination, and major drought

Average WY Volume: ~42,000 ac-ft

4

Post Water Year 2025 Estimated:

Estimated average transfers with FERC Flow Variances until NERF construction (2026 Flow Variance)
Average WY Volume: ~38,000 ac-ft

Eel River Transfer Analysis: 2 Operational Scenarios

Scenario #1: Observed (reported values)

- Eel River Transfers = observed (reported values)
- Lake Mendocino storage and outflow = observed (reported values)

Scenario #2: NERF Modeled

- *Eel River Assumptions*
 - Flow at Cape Horn Dam (NERF Facility)
 - Calculated using reported/estimated values from Scott Dam, Cape Horn Dam, and Potter Valley Project transfers
 - Transfer Operations (NERF Operations)
 - Consistent with the 2025 Water Diversion Agreement (WDA) Terms (Table I)
 - Developed to allow transfers through the NERF while being protective of salmonid life stages in the Eel River
- *Russian River Assumptions (Current Lake Mendocino Operations)*
 - 2025 Lake Mendocino Updated Water Control Manual (includes FIRO)
 - Lake Mendocino Storage Thresholds Hydrologic Index
 - 2025 Biological Opinion Minimum Instream Flow Requirements
 - Inflows and downstream flows/losses = observed

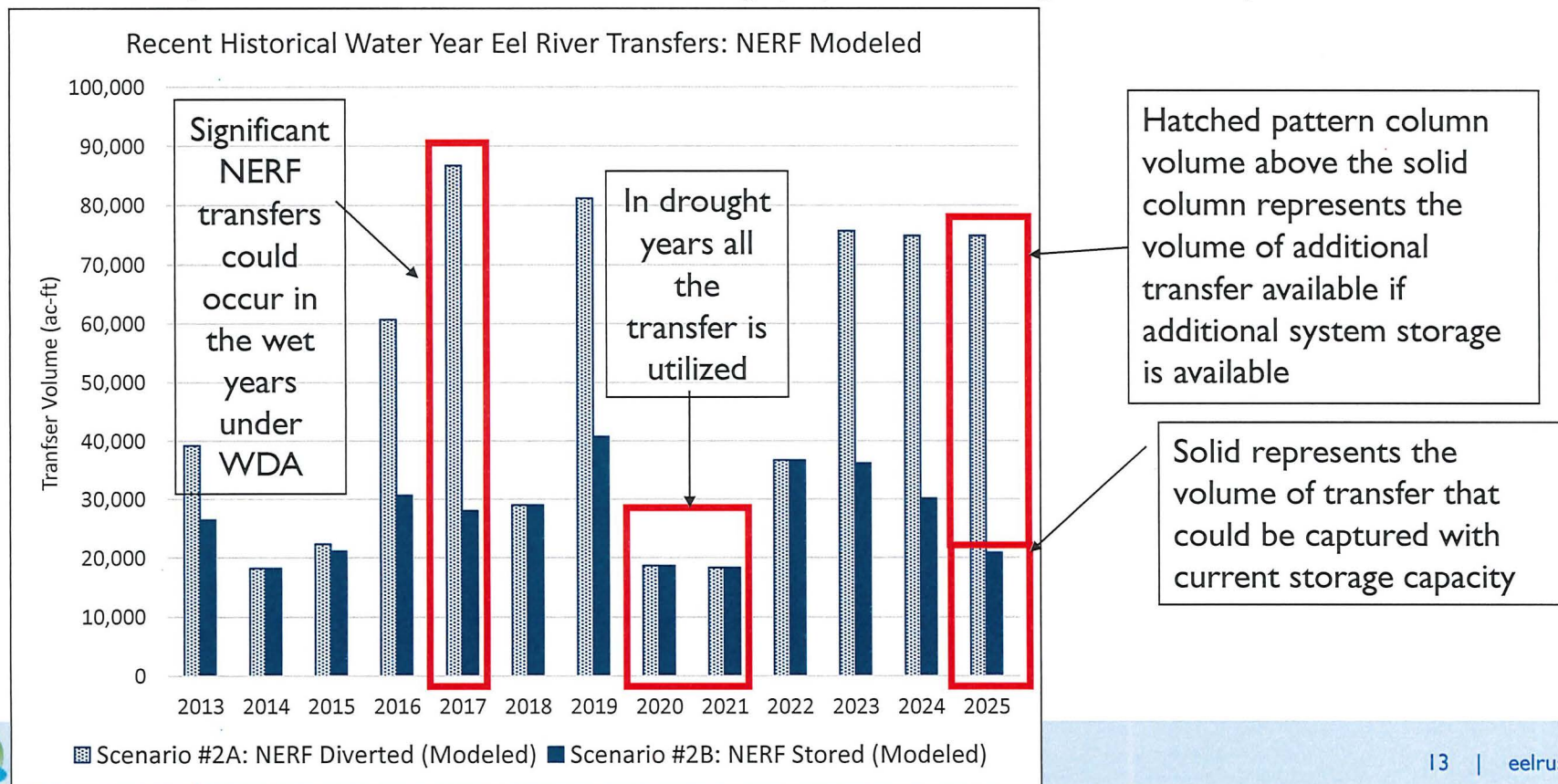
	Fall Flows	Winter Flows	Spring Flows	Summer Flows
	Oct 1 – Dec 31	Jan 1 – Feb 29	Mar 1 – May 31	June 1 – Sept 30
Floor (cfs)	300	250	125	35
Diversion Rate (% of flow)	20%	30%	20%	20%
Additional Rules	Require 1 freshet over 500 cfs	N/A	N/A	N/A

Table I: NERF operation assumptions

Modeled NERF Eel River Transfers last 13 Water years (WY2013-WY2025)

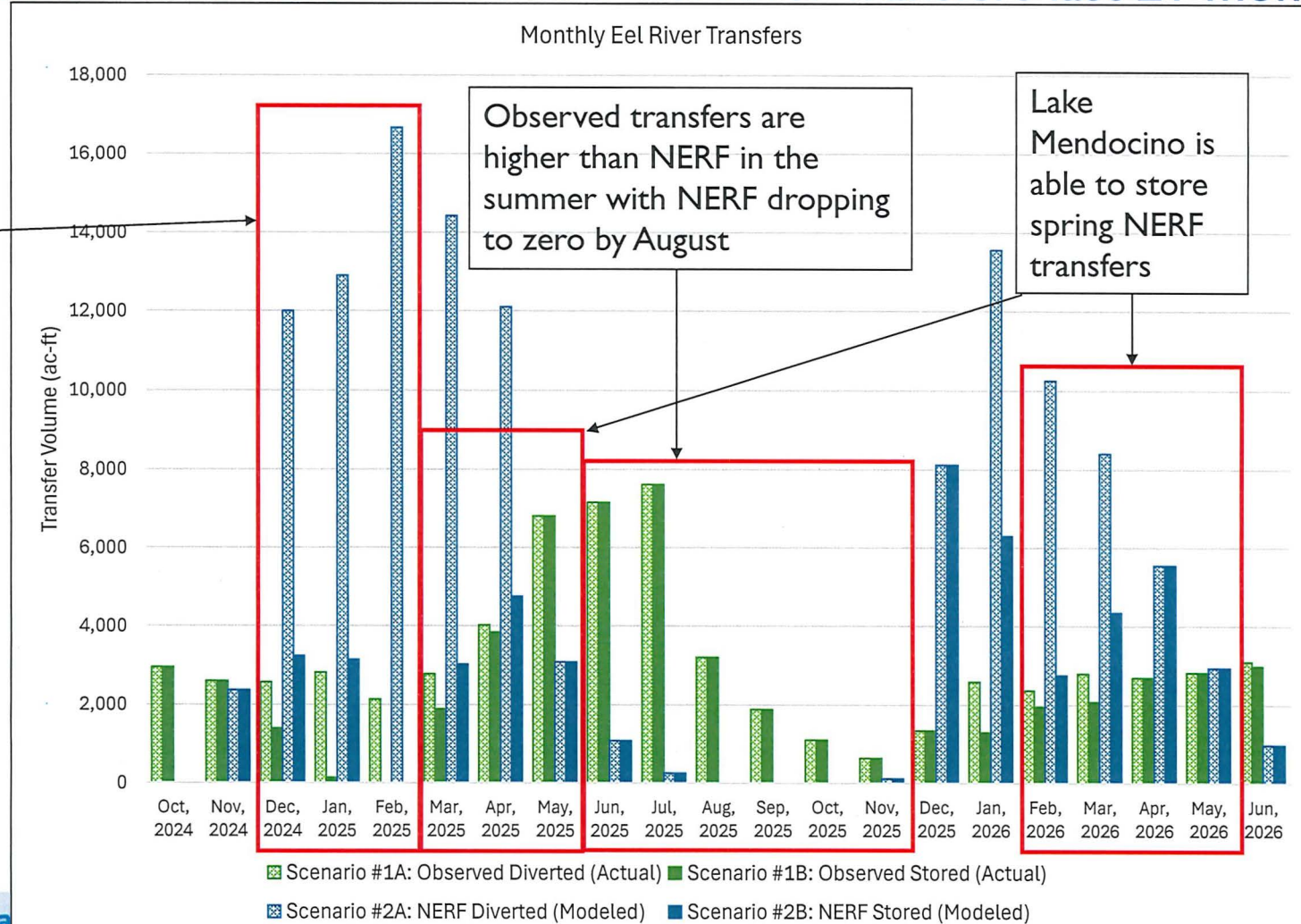
Analyze Two Metrics (A and B)

- A) Diverted: Total transferred based on Eel River conditions. NERF modeled based on WDA.
- B) Stored: Transfers that can be currently stored in Lake Mendocino or passed through for downstream beneficial use (not released for flood control). NERF model assumes a PVID future storage project. The modeling has included a placeholder 3,000 ac-ft.



Measured versus Estimated NERF Eel River Transfers last 21 months

Large NERF transfers available under WDA with future storage projects in wet winters



NERF versus Measured Eel River Transfers

	Monthly Volumes (ac-ft)			
	Scenario #1A: Observed Diverted (Actual)	Scenario #1B: Observed Stored (Actual)	Scenario #2A: NERF Diverted (Modeled)	Scenario #2B: NERF Stored (Modeled)
Oct-24	2,942	2,942	0	0
Nov-24	2,588	2,588	2,358	2,358
Dec-24	2,563	1,381	11,994	3,223
Jan-25	2,805	132	12,894	3,132
Feb-25	2,130	0	16,658	0
Mar-25	2,773	1,880	14,416	3,020
Apr-25	4,017	3,838	12,093	4,742
May-25	6,799	6,799	3,073	3,073
Jun-25	7,145	7,145	1,070	1,070
Jul-25	7,603	7,603	243	243
Aug-25	3,197	3,197	0	0
Sep-25	1,870	1,870	0	0
Oct-25	1,089	1,089	0	0
Nov-25	629	629	112	112
Dec-25	1,333	1,333	8,109	8,109
Jan-26	2,575	1,285	13,560	6,297
Feb-26	2,360	1,948	10,241	2,745
Mar-26	2,787	2,071	8,399	4,339
Apr-26	2,686	2,686	5,549	5,549
May-26	2,817	2,817	2,928	2,928
Jun-26	3,088	2,981	972	972
Period Total	65,795	56,213	124,667	51,913

Lake Mendocino stores
NERF diversions in a springs:
Spring 2025 (wet spring):
~11,000 ac-ft for NERF
(modeled)
~12,000 ac-ft for observed

Spring 2026 (dry spring):
~15,000 ac-ft for NERF
(modeled)
~9,000 ac-ft for observed

Over the October 2024
through June 2026 period:
NERF is modeled to have
stored similar transfers over
the last 21 months compared
to observed

Variance start: August 2025 and May 2026

Large NERF transfers available if system storage is available

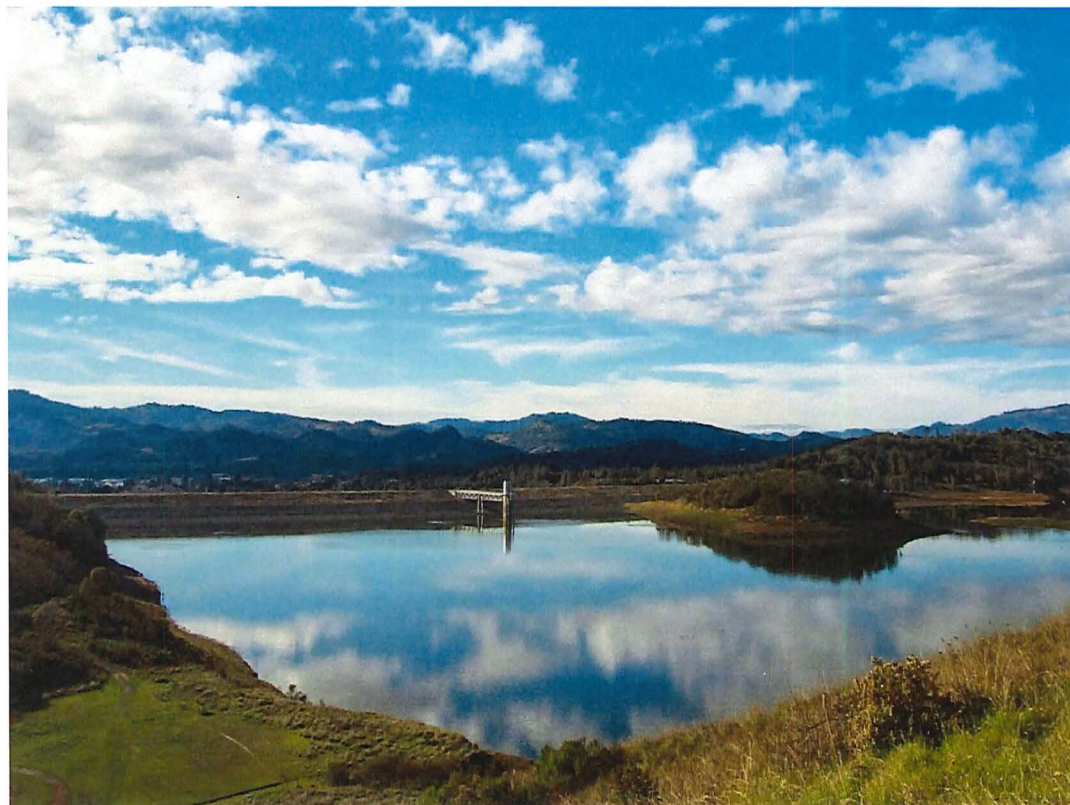
Key Take Aways

- **NERF Transfers would occur every year**
 - In the last 13 years the annual NERF transfers (modeled) range from ~18,000 ac-ft in the 2021 drought to ~86,000 ac-ft in the 2017
- **Over the Last 21 months, the NERF stored transfers (modeled) are similar to observed transfers**
 - In the last 21 months NERF (modeled) stored transfers are modeled ~52,000 ac-ft and observed stored transfers ~56,000 ac-ft
- **Significant benefits could be gained from constructing additional storage in the Russian River watershed.**
 - In the last 13 years (non-drought years) there is an average of ~40,000 ac-ft/yr of additional NERF transfers that can be utilized with additional water supply projects
- **This analysis will continue to be refined and updated as new information becomes available.**

Questions

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Donald.Seymour@scwa.ca.gov



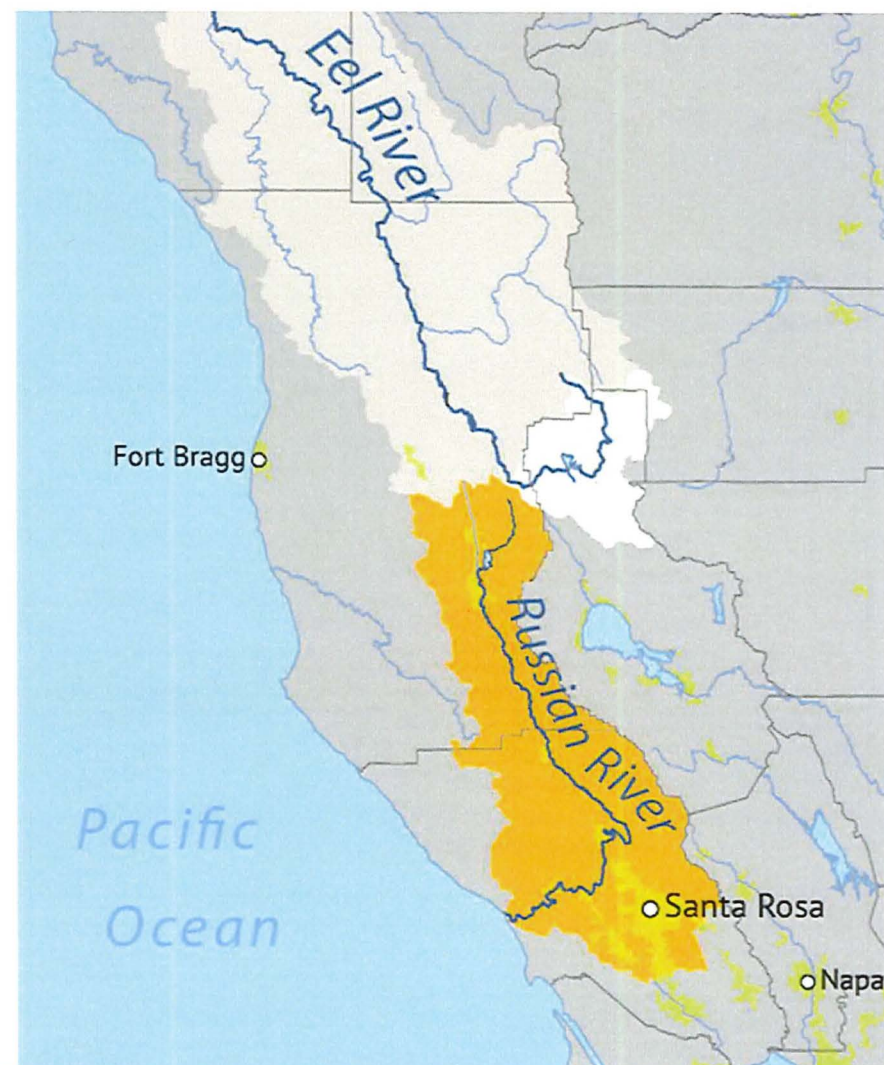


Item 5. Informational Items

b. Executive Director's Report

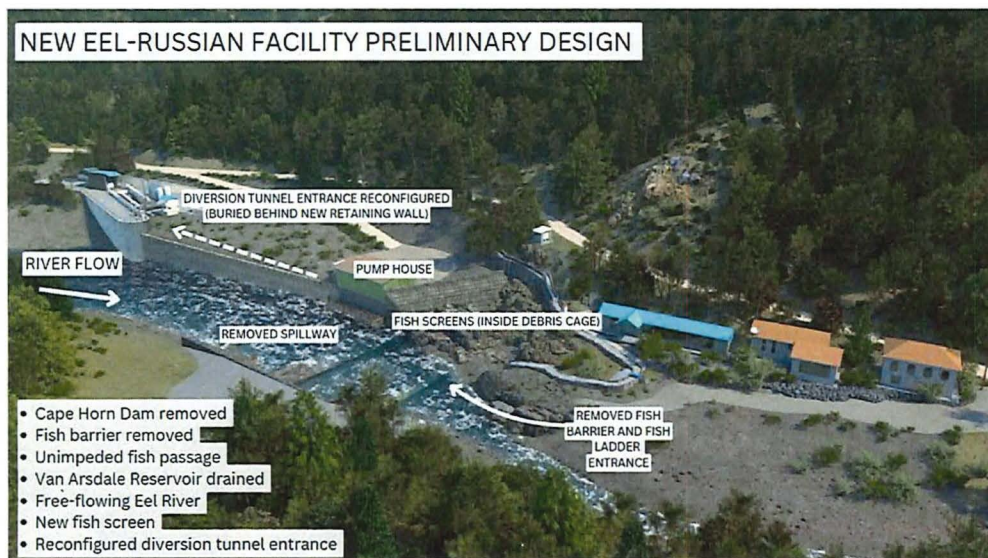
David Manning (Executive Director)

- Greg Guensch (Engineer IV, Sonoma Water)
- Jessica Martini-Lamb (Environmental Resources Division Manager, Sonoma Water)
- Stuart Tiffen (Public Information Officer, Sonoma Water)



New Eel-Russian Facility Revenue Strategy

- Goal of the revenue strategy is to determine feasible approaches to pay for capital costs, bond financing costs, and ongoing maintenance and operation costs of the New Eel-Russian Facility (NERF) project over the debt repayment period, based on beneficiaries pay principles.



Tasks

- Task 1 - Funding Baseline
- Task 2 - Beneficiaries List
- Task 3 - Revenue Approaches

Outcomes

- Summary of funding needs and potential beneficiaries
- Potential revenue approaches
- Scenarios for evaluation in next phase

New Eel-Russian Facility Revenue Strategy

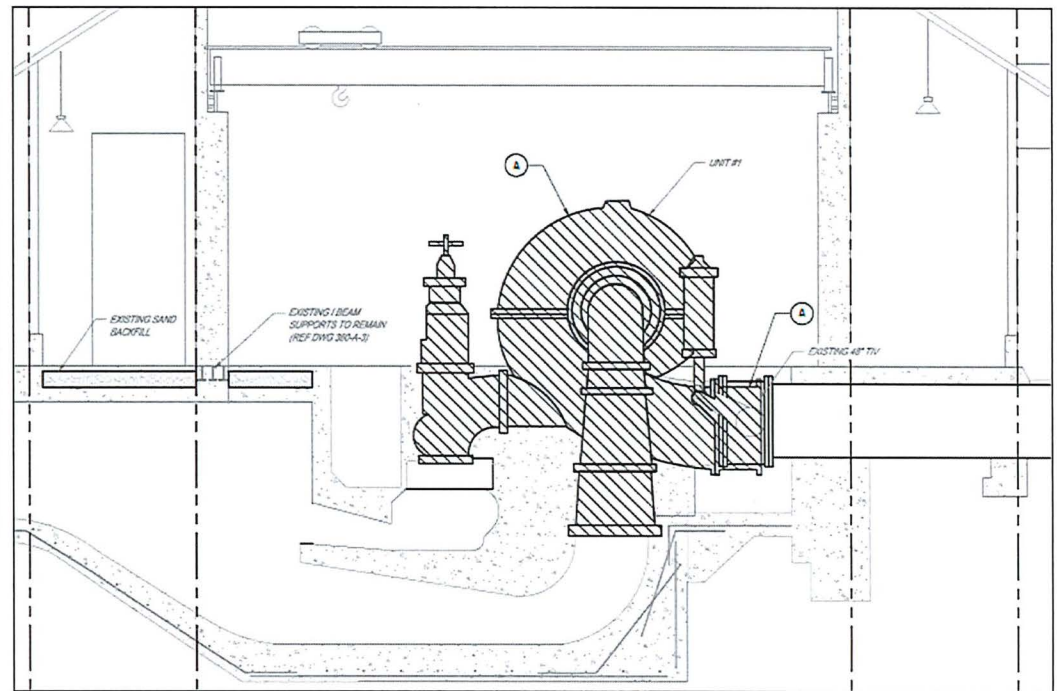
♦ Anticipated Schedule

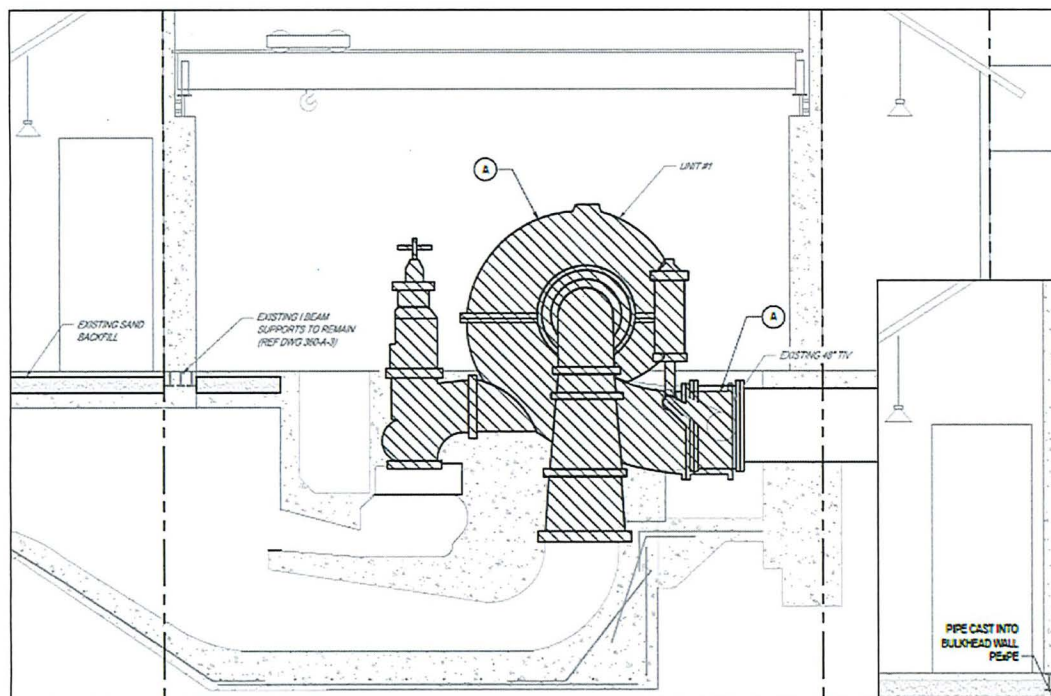
- August
 - Complete draft paper and presentation
- September
 - Review and comment from technical advisory team
- October
 - Issue Request for Qualifications for second phase of work
- November
 - Select consultant and initiate second phase of work
- November/December
 - Present to ERPA board

New Eel-Russian Facility Engineering Design Update

Task	Start	End	Note
30-60% Design	Underway	Q2 2027	
Geotechnical Investigation	Underway	Q4 2026	
Studies	Q4 2026	Q2 2027	Sediment, Hydraulics, Construction Sequencing
Final 60% Design	Underway	Q2 2027	
60 – 99%	Q4 2027	Q3 2028	
Bid & Award	2031	TBD	

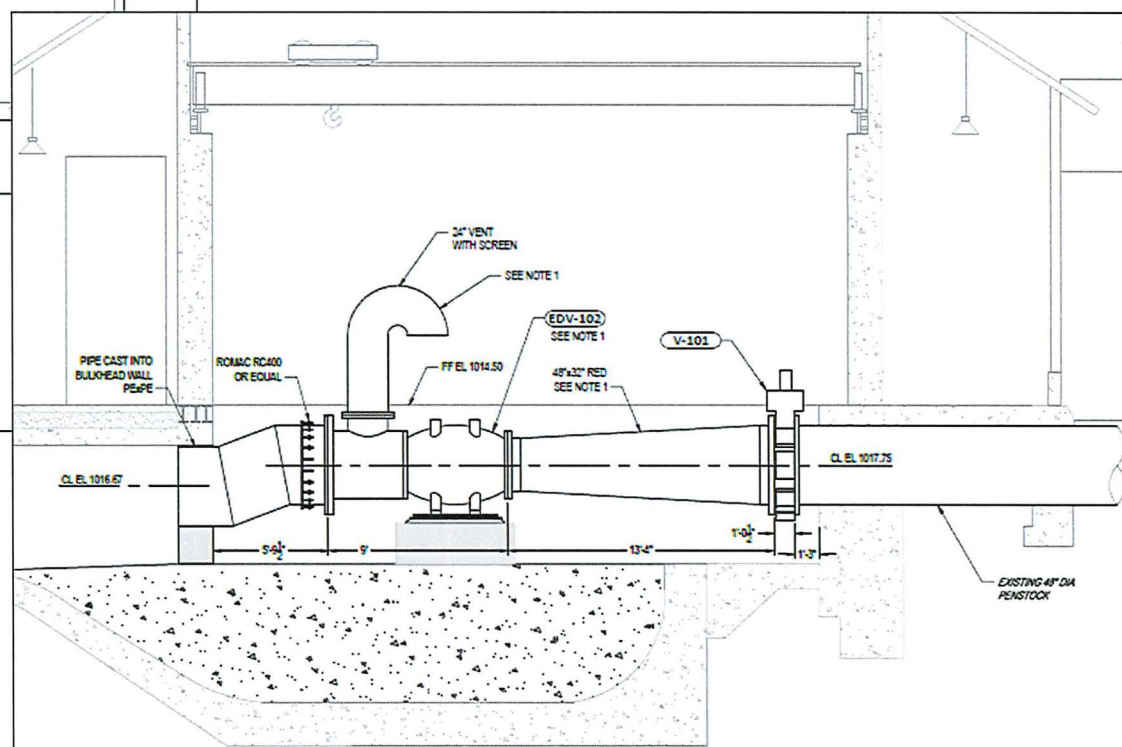
Potter Valley Powerhouse Existing Turbine (To Be Removed)





Existing Turbine
(To Be Removed)

New Energy Dissipation Valve





Removal of Cape Horn Dam (PG&E) and Diversion Modification (ERPA)

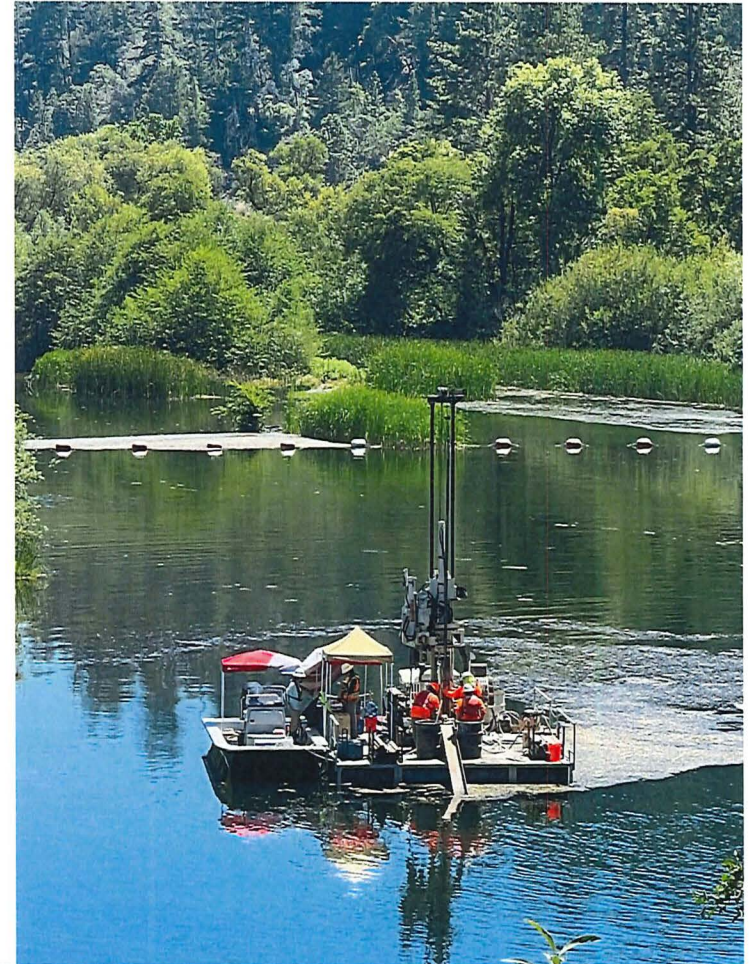


NERF Pump Station and Diversion



NERF Design Update – Geotechnical Work

- McMillen Inc. and DrillX exploring subsurface sediment (silt, sand, gravel, cobble) and bedrock conditions in and around Van Arsdale Reservoir upstream of Cape Horn Dam during the month of August 2026
- Small diameter bore holes 30 to 90 feet deep from floating barge and land-based equipment and digging test pits on gravel bars
- Inform NERF foundation and construction of pump station and retaining wall
- Modeling of sediment transport (movement) and deposition in the river channel after dam removal



CEQA Process for NERF

- ◆ California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) compliance required of public agencies approving or carrying out projects.
 - ERPA as CEQA Lead Agency, other CA public agencies as Responsible or Trustee Agencies
 - Ensures disclosure of potential environmental impacts that may result from projects and to avoid or minimize significant effects on the environment, where feasible
- ◆ Environmental Impact Report (EIR) preparation covering project construction, operations, and maintenance
 - Will include multiple opportunities for public and agency input during process
 - Initial work to:
 - Define New Eel-Russian Facility Project Description and Objectives
 - Distinguish from PG&E project
 - Identify future diversion scenarios
 - Technical analyses for hydrology, biological resources, cultural resources, recreation, agriculture, others
 - Project-specific and cumulative effects
- ◆ Timeline approximately 24 months once initiated

NERF CEQA Status Update

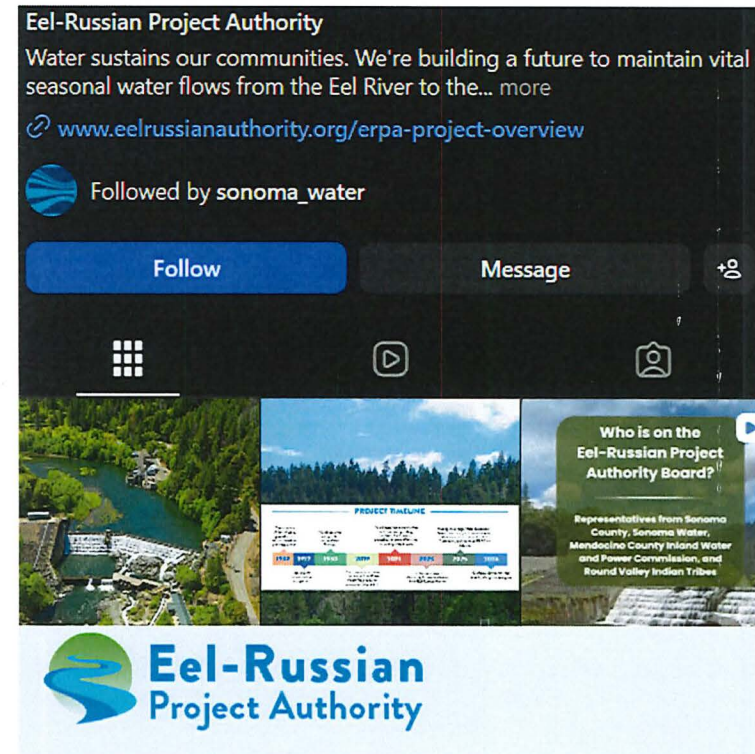
- Environmental Science Associates (ESA) work initiated on May 1, 2026
 - Project Concepts: initial project objectives, range of alternatives, baseline, and cumulative projects to be considered
 - Request for information: gathering available information to help inform future CEQA analysis
 - Notice of Preparation (NOP) and CEQA Project Scoping: anticipated late fall 2026
- Anticipated Milestones
 - NOP: late fall 2026
 - Draft EIR: late fall 2027
 - Final EIR: summer 2028
- ERPA will require state regulatory permits to construct, operate, and maintain the NERF project such as
 - Section 401 Clean Water Act water quality certification from State Water Resources Control Board
 - Section 1602 CA Fish and Game Code Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement from CA Department of Fish and Wildlife

Communications update

Expanding access to factual information

- Educational fact sheets, graphics, web content about ERPA and the New Eel-Russian Facility
- Responded to frequent media inquiries
- Launched ERPA's social media presence and targeted advertising in June

Looking ahead: CEQA scoping process messaging

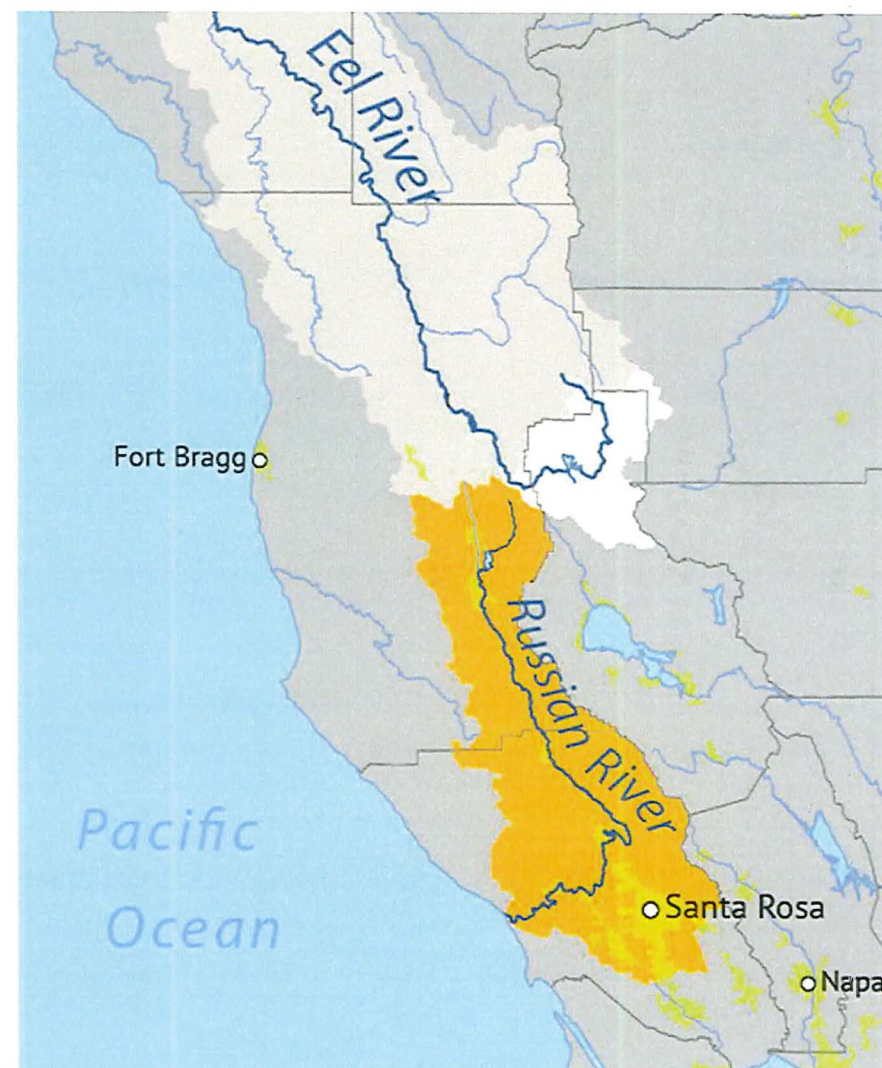


What is the Eel-Russian Project Authority?

The Eel-Russian Project Authority is a joint powers authority formed in 2023 to develop infrastructure that will maintain seasonal water diversions from the Eel River to the Russian River after PG&E ends that crucial flow. It's governed by a five-member Board of Directors consisting of representatives from the County,



Item 6. Public Comment on Items not Listed on the Agenda





Item 7. Board Member Announcements

Item 8. Adjournment

