



Updates from the Mendocino County
INLAND WATER & POWER COMMISSION

Securing Water for Our Region's Future



Background: Water Infrastructure Changes are Inevitable for Our Region

In 2019, PG&E announced its decision to decommission the Potter Valley Project (PVP), leading to significant infrastructure changes, including the removal of Scott Dam and Cape Horn Dam. This will change how water is managed and delivered throughout the Russian River watershed. The Mendocino County Inland Water and Power Commission (IWPC), in collaboration with regional stakeholders, has proactively sought solutions for this water supply transition through careful planning and strategic partnerships.

Protecting Our Access to Essential Water Supplies

For over 120 years, water diverted from the Eel River into the Russian River through the PVP has supported agriculture, businesses, families, and communities across Mendocino, Sonoma, and Marin counties. IWPC is taking deliberate steps to ensure that these vital water diversions can continue even after the removal of PG&E's PVP infrastructure.

Planning and Collaboration

IWPC, alongside stakeholders from environmental, tribal, government, and agricultural sectors, has been preparing for years to meet this moment. This multi-year collaboration has positioned our region to emerge from this transition with water security for future generations.

Recent Milestones and Momentum

Our region has achieved significant recent milestones as PG&E approaches the July 2025 deadline for submitting its license surrender application to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC).

- **Creation of a JPA:** In 2023, the Eel-Russian Project Authority (ERPA) was created as a Joint Powers Authority between IWPC, the County of Sonoma, and Sonoma County Water Agency. This JPA will lead the design, development, and operation of the New Eel-Russian Facility.
- **Historic Water Rights Agreement:** In February 2025, a landmark Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was announced, securing continued water diversions post-PVP. The MOU includes lease payments to the Round Valley Indian Tribes for water rights, and dedicated funding for environmental restoration in the Eel River. This 30-year agreement (with renewal options) was achieved through cooperation among IWPC, Sonoma County Water Agency, Humboldt County, Sonoma County, CalTrout, Trout Unlimited, the Round Valley Indian Tribes, and California Department of Fish and Wildlife.
- **Feasibility Study for Modernizing Coyote Valley Dam:** IWPC, in collaboration with the Lytton Rancheria Tribe and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, launched a comprehensive feasibility study in April 2025. The study will evaluate the modernization and potential raising of Coyote Valley Dam to improve water supply storage, reduce flood risks, and enhance habitat restoration, potentially unlocking significant federal infrastructure investment for our region.

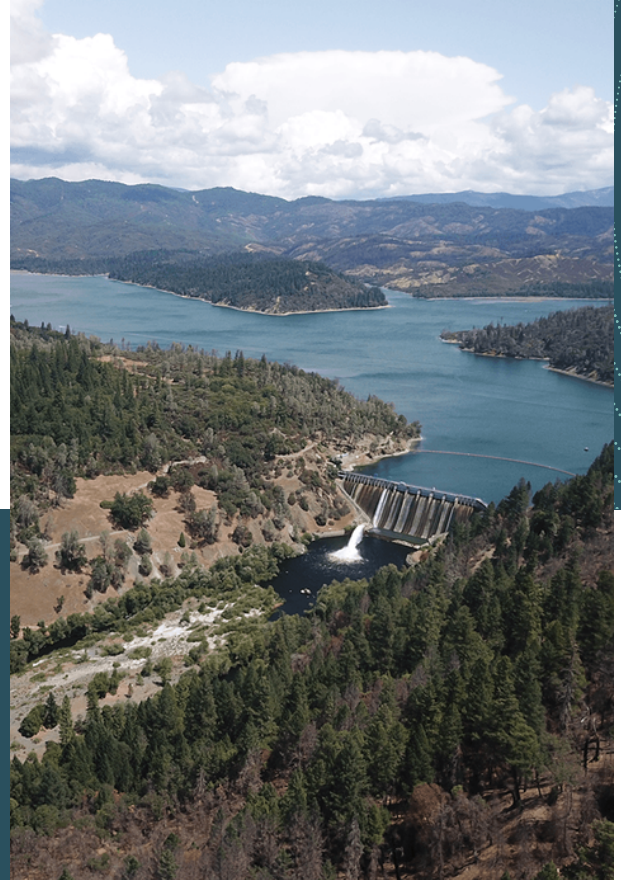


Replacing PG&E's Old PVP Infrastructure

Water diversions must continue after the PG&E dams and infrastructure are removed, and that can be done through the New Eel-Russian Facility. Strategically designed with a mechanical pump station and fish-friendly structures, this new facility will responsibly divert water during wet periods to ensure reliability during dry seasons.

Embracing a Once-in-a-Generation Opportunity

The transition from outdated infrastructure represents an extraordinary opportunity to modernize and secure sustainable, resilient water management solutions for future generations. IWPC remains committed to collaborative, and durable approaches that align environmental, social, and economic interests.



Engaging and Informing Our Community

There are understandable community concerns about these significant changes. It is important to clarify that PG&E's decision to decommission the PVP was made due to prohibitive costs and liability risks associated with the aging dams. With their decision, the region was forced to come together and develop a new plan for managing water resources differently. IWPC is committed to providing accurate information and building community understanding about these changes as we move together toward a sustainable water future.



For additional information or to schedule a community meeting or presentation, please contact [**IWPC@mendoiwpc.com**](mailto:IWPC@mendoiwpc.com).

IWPC was formed as a joint powers authority to serve as stewards of the Russian and Eel River watersheds, safeguarding the water that plays such a vital role to the region's economic development, environmental quality, and general well-being. IWPC members include:

- County of Mendocino
- City of Ukiah
- Redwood Valley County Water District
- Potter Valley Irrigation District
- Mendocino County Russian River Flood Control and Water Conservation Improvement District