Mendocino County
Inland Water & Power Commission
P.O. Box 1247 • Ukiah, CA 95482
Phone (707) 391-7574 • Email: IWPC@mendoiwpc.com

A G E N D A
Regular Meeting

Place: **County Admin building, Conference Room A**
501 Low Gap Rd, Ukiah
Date: **November 12, 2026 Thursday**
Time: **5:00 pm—Hybrid meeting Zoom Link**
Join Zoom Meeting at— https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88514185920
Meeting ID: 885 1418 5920
Dial in by phone: 669 900-6833

Open Session

1. **Roll Call**

2. **Public Expression** - The Commission meeting will be held in person and by video/teleconference. The public may observe and comment in person or by Zoom. See end of agenda for additional information on public expression

3. **Consent Calendar** (Discussion and/or Action)
   a. Approve meeting minutes for October 8, 2026
   b. Approve expenses on billing statement for October 2026
   c. Update on financial accounts

4. **Eel River Water Importation (Potter Valley Project/New Eel-Russian Facility)** (Discussion and/or Action)
   a. Potter Valley Project—General
   b. Potter Valley Project—Transfer negotiations with PG&E
   c. NERF (New Eel-Russian Facility) development
   d. ERPA (Eel-Russian Project Authority) update
      1. Approval of the Revised Master Reimbursement Agreement (attached)

5. **Ad Hoc Committees and Special Reports** (Discussion and/or Action)
   a. IWPC Ad Hoc Committee reports—(Water Storage Ad Hoc in next section)
      1. Executive Director Recruitment (staff report attached)
      2. Marketing and public education program; website
      3. PVP Asset transfer
      4. Finance/Budget (staff report attached)
   b. Discussion of principles for an "Amended and Restated Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement" reforming IWPC—Jeanne Zolezzi
   c. Discussion of Redwood Valley County Water District's past funding of IWPC—Adam Gaska
   d. Updated Ad Hoc committee list

6. **Water Storage Development** (Discussion and/or Action)
    a. Update on increased storage at Lake Mendocino--(staff report attached)
    b. Update on Potter Valley Storage Development
    c. Update on Other Storage Development

7. **Commissioner Reports** — Reports by Commissioners/Staff on meetings attended or actions taken by their agencies as well as informational items. Each Commissioner will be given an opportunity to speak on any activities of interest that are relevant to the IWPC members.

8. **Closed Session**:

    Conference with Real Property Negotiators (Gov't Code §54956.8)
    Property: Acquisition of PG&E's Potter Valley Project
    Agency Negotiators: Scott Shapiro, Janet Pauli, Tom Johnson
    Negotiating Parties: MCIWPC, ERPA, SCWA, and PG&E
    Under Negotiation: Price and Terms

Adjournment

PUBLIC EXPRESSION
The Commission welcomes participation in their meetings. Comments shall be limited so that everyone may be heard. This item is limited to matters under the jurisdiction of the Commission which are not on the posted agenda and items which have not already been considered by the Commission. The Commission limits testimony on matters not on the agenda to three (3) minutes per person. No action will be taken. Individuals wishing to address the Commission under Public Expression are welcome to do so throughout the meeting day. To best facilitate these items, please notify either the Chairman of the Commission or the Secretary of the Commission.

CLOSED SESSION
If agendized, the Commission may adjourn to a closed session to consider litigation, personnel matters, or real estate negotiations. Discussion of real estate negotiations may be held in closed session - Authority: Government Code Section 54956.8. Discussion of litigation or pending litigation may be held in closed session -- Authority: Government Code Section 54956.9. Discussion of personnel matters may be held in closed session -- Authority: Government Code Section 54957.

ADDITION TO THE AGENDA
(If any) in accordance with Section 54954.2 (b)(2) of the Government Code (Brown Act) Two-thirds Vote Required for Action Items. (Upon determination by a two-thirds vote of the legislative body, or, if less than two-thirds of the members are present, unanimous vote of those members present, that the need to take action arose after the Agenda was posted.)

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draft
MINUTES
Regular Meeting
October 8, 2026

Open Session

The meeting was called to order at 5:03 p.m. in county conference room A by Chair Janet Pauli.

The following Commissioners were present:

Janet Pauli—Chair (Potter Valley Irrigation District)
John Reardan—Vice Chair (Russian River Flood Control District)
Madeline Cline— Commissioner (County of Mendocino Water Agency
Tom Schoeneman —Commissioner (Redwood Valley County Water District)
Mari Rodin—Commissioner (City of Ukiah)

The following individuals were participants:

Present: Jared Walker, David Koball, Phil Williams, Kyle Farmer, Paul Paulin, Mo Mulheren, Buffy Bourassa

Online: Scott Shapiro, Beth Salomone, Kirk Ford, Carre Brown, Susanne Zechiel, David Manning, Angela Godwin, Adam Gaska

Public Expression

Chair Pauli explained that anything not currently on the agenda may be discussed at this time, however, no action could be taken. She further advised that comments would be welcome throughout the meeting.

Consent Calendar

Motion by Reardan, seconded by Rodin, to approve the Consent Calendar items with the following changes by Rodin: under Commissioner reports**…** Schoeneman relayed that once the revisions to the JPA are completed, the RVCWD will be stepping down from IWPC and the Water Authority will join as a new member. Also, Mulheren's comments under Commissioner reports need to be changed. Rodin will provide the revisions. **The motion with these changes was unanimously approved.**

Eel River Water Importation

a. Potter Valley Project: General—

1. Report/potential action regarding Chair Pauli's D.C. visit—Pauli gave a background report on this item. Sonoma County had applied and received a $15 million grant from the USBR agency during the Biden administration. However, this money was frozen with the new administration. SW invited Pauli to go to Washington DC regarding the need to have storage options built in PV by the time the PVP dams were decommissioned. Increased water supply projects will help the PV residents and possibly further downstream in the Russian River. While in DC, the group discussed repurposing the original grant funds for these new projects. Pauli is drafting a letter of support from the PVID Board for the $15 million dollar grant as requested by DOI/USBR. Once the letter is approved, she will be asking for additional letters of support from other agencies. The

question was asked if this grant money could be used for developing a pumping system from Lake Mendocino to PV. Shapiro explained that without raising Coyote Dam, a pump back system would not be possible due to existing water rights and requirements for releases protective of anadromous fish in the Russian River. **Motion by Cline, seconded by Reardan, to allow IWPC to send a letter in support of the USBR grant funds being used for Potter Valley water storage studies and projects. The motion passed unanimously.**

b. Potter Valley Project: Transfer negotiations with PG&E—No report.

c. NERF Development—The next ERPA meeting will be in Mendocino County on November 13. They will be reporting on the progress on the NERF at the meeting.
Manning reported that they are into the CEQA process and will be opening the comment period in November through the end of December. They will have two scoping meetings, one in Ukiah and one in Santa Rosa. They are moving through the 60% design phase and are working on modeling of the sediment conditions. Draft designs are expected early next summer.

d. Eel-Russian Project Authority JPA update—Included above.

Ad Hoc Committees (Discussion and/or Action)

a. IWPC Ad Hoc Committee reports

1. Executive Director Recruitment—Rodin reported that they already have seven applicants with several being very promising. The Ad Hoc will have a meeting with the recruiter to go over the applications and will be interviewing them in the first part of November.

2. Marketing and public education program—Pauli thanked Mulheren for her Op Ed piece in the Mendocino Voice. She believes that IWPC should focus more on social media next year.

3. PVP Asset transfer—No report.

4. Finance/Budget—

a. Audit update and possible approval of auditor for FY 2025/26—Horsley reported on the proposals that had been received from auditing firms for IWPC FY 2025/26. **Motion by Schoeneman, seconded by Rodin to approve the contract with Zach Pehling's firm for the FY 2025/26 fiscal year audit. The motion was approved unanimously.**
b. Report on Budget planning meeting—Horsley gave a report on the first meeting with Wurzel regarding the multi-year budget. A draft template for such a budget was prepared for the meeting with the Ad Hoc so that they didn't have to start from scratch.

b. Discussion of principles for an 'Amended and Restated Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement' reforming IWPC—Williams gave an overview of the suggested changes to the IWPC JPA document. The attorneys will be preparing a detailed staff report and coming back to the Commission in November for more discussion with a possible final draft.

Water Storage Development

a. Update on the USACE Feasibility Study for Coyote Valley Dam—Shapiro reported that at they are working with the new lobbyist who is providing them with information from Washington D.C. Staff will bring back some very concrete steps to move us forward.

b. Update on Potter Valley Storage Development—No report.

c. Update on Other Storage Development—No report.

Commissioner Reports

- Pauli reported on IWPC's response to the Regional Water Quality Control Board in reply to their request for comments based on White's lawsuit. She would be signing the letter since the Commissioners had approved of that action at the last meeting.
- Reardan reported on the LAFCo meeting where RRFCD had an application to annex RVCWD into the District. The LAFCo board voted to approve the annexation.

Closed Session

The Commissioners went into Closed Session at 7:05 p.m.

The following Commissioners were present:

Janet Pauli—Chair (Potter Valley Irrigation District)
John Reardan—Commissioner (Russian River Flood Control District)
Madeline Cline—Commissioner (County of Mendocino Water Agency)
Tom Schoeneman —Commissioner (Redwood Valley County Water District)
Mari Rodin—Commissioner (City of Ukiah)

The following individuals were participants:

Present: Jared Walker, Mo Mulheren, Phil Williams,
Online: Scott Shapiro, Beth Salomone

The Commissioners came out of Closed Session at 7:39 p.m. No reportable action under the Brown Act was taken.

Adjournment at 7:40 p.m.

Candace Horsley, IWPC Staff

MENDOCINO COUNTY INLAND WATER AND POWER COMMISSION

Billing Statement
October 2026

***1. Staff Charges**:*

Date	Description	Hrs @ $35/hr	Amount
10/8	Meetings IWPC, mins.	3.50	$122.50
10/9	Accounting & meeting follow-up	12.00	$ 420
October	Website maint. & updates	6.00	$ 210
October	Ex. Dir; audit; budget, insurance, ERPA, SW, misc	35.00	$1,225
October	Public requests/media/PR	9.00	$ 315
Nov. 8	Agenda pkt, Co. forms, spreadsheet	10.00	$ 350
	Subtotal		$2,642.50

2. Miscellaneous:

Downey Brand for September 2026	$12,500.00
ERPA	$ 645.00
Eric Nagy for September 2026	$ 5,823.00
Jendi Coursey	$ 131.25
CA Special Districts Association dues	$ 500.00
Carpi & Clay (Lobbyist)	$ 5,000.00
CPS HR Consulting (Exec. Dir recruitment)	$10,000.00
Subtotal	$34,599.25

TOTAL **$37,241.75**

IWPC Financial Accounts
November 2026

Savings Bank: IWPC account	$ 889 *	As of 11/5/2026
Mendocino County Auditor's Office	$79,184	Balance, April 2026

After October 2026 bills are paid, we will have $250,633 in the PVP account and $18,438 in the Operations account.

*PayPal payments —

GSuite	$ 25.20
Zoom	$ 16.99
Total	$ 42.19

Agency Payments invoiced June 2026
$125,000 for PVID and RVCWD
$215,000 for RRFC, City of Ukiah and Mendocino County Water Agency

Agency Payments
City of Ukiah—$53,750 Aug;
County Water Agency—Pd $215,000 July
PVID— Pd $125,000 July
RRFCD—Pd $84,000 June;
RVCWD

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Staff Report

To: MCIWPC Commissioners

From: Scott Shapiro, Agency Counsel

Date: November 12, 2026

Re: Agenda Item 4d1: Agreement for Engineering and Design, Environmental Compliance and Permitting, and Russian River Water Supply Resiliency Planning Services for the New Eel Russian Facility (NERF)

Summary: Approval of this item will allow the Eel-Russian Project Authority (ERPA) to reimburse the Mendocino County Inland Water and Power Commission (IWPC) for expenses incurred by IWPC to perform work authorized by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) grant to ERPA or other future grants.

Recommended Action: Delegate to the Board President to execute the Agreement for Engineering and Design, Environmental Compliance and Permitting, and Russian River Water Supply Resiliency Planning Services for the New Eel Russian Facility (NERF) with ERPA, in substantially the form attached hereto, including the authority execute amendments to the agreement to update the scope of work.

Discussion: As part of the approval of the Water Diversion Agreement (WDA), whereby ERPA obtained the right to continue to divert water from the Eel River, the CDFW committed $18 million in support of the WDA, half of which was to provide benefits in the Russian River watershed. Those funds have been made available to ERPA through a funding agreement, and it is hoped that future funds may also be made available to ERPA from other sources.

ERPA wishes to contract with IWPC, so as to allow grant funds to be used to cover certain activities performed by IWPC, that are covered within the scope of work allowed under the grant and that may be allowed under future amendments of the scope of work or under future grants. Approval by the Board of this Agreement will allow IWPC to receive reimbursement from ERPA for all covered activities. Today's approval should allow minor changes in the form of the Agreement, and potential future changes in the scope of the work, to maximize the extent that incurred costs are reimbursable.

Attachment: Agreement for Engineering and Design, Environmental Compliance and Permitting, and Russian River Water Supply Resiliency Planning Services for the New Eel Russian Facility (NERF)

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Staff Report

To: MCIWPC Commissioners

From: Executive Director Recruitment Ad Hoc Committee
Scott Shapiro, Agency Counsel
Abby Ackert, CPR HR, Recruiter

Date: November 12, 2026

Re: Agenda Item 5a1: Executive Director Recruitment Ad Hoc Committee

Summary: This is an informational update on the status of the Executive Director recruitment.

Discussion: CPS HR Consulting conducted a comprehensive national recruitment for the Mendocino County Inland Power & Water Commission's (IWPC) first Executive Director, combining targeted executive search, broad professional advertising, social media marketing, and targeted outreach. The recruitment generated significant interest and visibility and resulted in a diverse applicant pool of 28 applicants from California and across the country.

Throughout the recruitment, CPS HR worked to identify candidates whose executive experience, leadership capabilities, professional background, and demonstrated accomplishments most closely aligned with the ideal candidate profile developed for IWPC. The process included direct recruitment of experienced public sector executives, comprehensive review of all application materials, prescreening questionnaires, and in-depth screening interviews.

CPS HR Consulting narrowed the 29 applicants to a list of nine most-qualified candidates and organized those candidates into Group 1 and Group 2, for the IWPC Ad Hoc Recruitment Committee's review. The Committee met with CPS HR Consulting and prioritized seven of the candidates for a first round interview. Those interviews were scheduled for Monday and Tuesday, November 9 and 10. Following those interviews, it is expected that the Committee will narrow the candidates to two to four well qualified candidates for the Board, as a whole, to interview. Those follow-up interviews are expected to occur during the third week of December. Assuming a leading candidate is selected by the Board, it is expected that the negotiations and background checks can be completed by the beginning of January, resulting in a start date no later than February 1, 2027.

Mendocino County Inland Water & Power Commission

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To: MCIWPC

From: Finance & Budget Ad Hoc Committee

Date: November 12, 2026

Re: Agenda Item #5a4

Ad Hoc Committee members:

Mari Rodin, Jared Walker, Elizabeth Salomone, Candace Horsley, and Seth Wurzel

Update:

The Committee met and focused discussion on multi-year and annual budgeting with the intent to provide this information to member agencies as early as possible for planning purposes. The Committee also discussed presenting a mid-year budget review at the January 2027 IWPC meeting.

Background

Multi-year budgeting provides IWPC with a framework for projecting operating expenses, project costs, and anticipated funding sources over several years. By identifying the timing of expenditures and potential funding gaps, it helps IWPC plan its work and gives member agencies a basis for anticipating future contributions, building reserves, and planning for any necessary adjustments (e.g. rate increases) to their funding sources.

Projections in a multi-year budget will be updated as project scopes, schedules, and funding opportunities become clearer and will inform the annual budget process without committing member agencies to specific future contribution levels.

Ad Hoc Committee Progress

A draft structure for developing a multi-year budget format was reviewed.

Seth will coordinate with IWPC legal counsel and consultants to draft numbers for the annual and multi-year budget. The Ad Hoc Committee will resume meeting in December to refine proposed budget(s.)

A preliminary annual and multi-year budget are expected to be presented at the February 2027 IWPC meeting with a final being considered for approval at the March 2027 IWPC meeting.

The Ad Hoc list will be reviewed again in Jan/Feb 2027 once the newly elected officials have been seated.

Mendocino County Inland Water and Power Commission
List of Ad Hoc Committees
November 2026

Ad Hoc Committee	Commissioners	Admin Leads	Other Participants
Water Storage	Dave Koball Janet Pauli	LWA—Eric Nagy, Melissa Weymiller	Sean White, Beth Salomone, Tom Johnson, Scott Shapiro, Candace Horsley
Communications (outreach/education)	Mari Rodin Dave Koball	Alison McLeod	Candace Horsley, Phil Williams
Finance/Budget	Mari Rodin	Beth Salomone	Seth Wurzel, Candace Horsley, Jared Walker
PVP Asset transfer	John Reardan Mo Mulheren	Tom Johnson	Sean White, Scott Shapiro, Candace Horsley
Exec Dir Recruitment	Mari Rodin John Reardan	Beth Salomone, Abby Ackers	Scott Shapiro, Sean White, Candace Horsley

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Staff Report

To: MCIWPC Commissioners

From: Water Storage Ad Hoc Committee

Date: November 12, 2026

Re: Agenda Item #6a: Update on the USACE Feasibility Study for Coyote Valley Dam

Background

The Coyote Valley Dam General Investigation (GI) Study was initiated in partnership with the Lytton Rancheria of California to evaluate alternatives to modernize and expand the storage capacity of Coyote Valley Dam. The Study was initiated in March 2025 and paused by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) in October 2025, due to a lack of federal funding.

IWPC continues to engage Congressional and Administration representatives to secure additional funding for Fiscal Year 2027 (FY27). The federal government is currently operating under a Continuing Resolution through December 11th with no final federal appropriation bills for FY27 enacted. Enactment of a final Energy and Water Development Appropriation Act (EWDAA) is required before the Coyote Valley Dam GI Study can receive additional federal funding. Final EWDAA enactment and the subsequent receipt of funding by USACE is not expected until early summer 2027.

Reconnaissance Study / Alternatives Assessment

The Coyote Valley Dam GI Study was paused early in the federal planning process, before the range and scale of project alternatives were sufficiently developed to select a preferred alternative for the Study. While waiting for the receipt of additional federal funding, the Ad Hoc Committee recommends proceeding with a locally led reconnaissance study. A reconnaissance study provides an opportunity for IWPC and its partners to advance technical work that will better define the project and support efficient reinitiation of the GI Study when federal funding becomes available.

The reconnaissance study will develop a clearer understanding of potential improvements at Coyote Valley Dam and provide a stronger technical basis for future federal planning. The work is intended to be useful regardless of the ultimate study delivery pathway. Findings could be incorporated into a restarted USACE Coyote Valley Dam GI Study or used to help scope and advance a non-federally led Section 203 study if the traditional federal Study cannot be reinitiated or completed.

The reconnaissance study would focus on two dam raise alternatives and would use existing technical studies and water supply analyses, as the starting point for the evaluation. The study would develop dam raise concepts sufficient to assess potential water storage benefits, estimate an overall project delivery schedule, develop preliminary cost estimates, and identify other implementation considerations.

Funding

The reconnaissance study is anticipated to cost between $100,000 and $200,000. IWPC has up to $250,000 allocated in an existing California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) funding agreement with the Eel-Russian Project Authority (ERPA) to support work associated with the Coyote Valley Dam GI Study. Prior to awarding a contract, the Ad Hoc Committee will verify that the existing funding is appropriate for this effort. Because the reconnaissance study will advance technical information that can support either the existing GI Study or a future Section 203 study, the Ad Hoc Committee recommends using available CDFW funds to initiate this work. The reconnaissance study would proceed in parallel with IWPC's ongoing federal advocacy efforts, including pursuit of FY27 funding, engagement with USACE leadership, and resolution of policy questions affecting potential reinitiation of the GI Study.

Recommendation

The Coyote Valley Dam Ad Hoc Committee recommends that IWPC authorize Chair Janet Pauli to execute a contract for the Coyote Valley Dam Reconnaissance Study, using existing CDFW funding, in an amount not to exceed $200,000.

Next Steps

Following authorization, the Ad Hoc Committee will finalize the reconnaissance study scope of work, solicit for and select a consultant, execute a contract, and initiate the analysis. The project team will coordinate the work with Lytton Rancheria, Sonoma Water, and other project partners as appropriate and will provide periodic updates to IWPC as alternatives and preliminary findings are developed.