



November 12, 2021

SENT VIA: EMAIL

City of Healdsburg
401 Grove Street
Healdsburg, CA 95448

MEMBER AGENCIES

- City of Cloverdale
- City of Cotati
- City of Healdsburg
- City of Santa Rosa
- City of Sebastopol
- City of Ukiah
- County of Mendocino
- County of Sonoma
- Sonoma County Water Agency
- Town of Windsor

ANDY RODGERS
Executive Director

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www.rrwatershed.org

SUBJECT: FEMA 2021 BRIC Grant Program

To whom it may concern:

Serving as Executive Director of the Russian River Watershed Association (RRWA), I am writing to express support of the City of Healdsburg's efforts to explore and construct municipal groundwater wells with the possibility of providing groundwater recharge using aquifer storage and recovery (or ASR). The RRWA is a coalition of ten public agencies in Sonoma and Mendocino Counties that have come together to coordinate regional programs in the Russian River watershed for clean water, habitat restoration, and watershed enhancement.

The Russian River is a managed river system with many users reliant on the flows of this watershed. Reservoir releases from both Lake Mendocino and Lake Sonoma control river flows, especially throughout most of the summer and fall when tributary stream flows are low. Stored water released from the reservoirs supplements natural flows in the Russian River and provides for water supply, irrigation, recreation, and aquatic habitat. The Russian River Watershed Association is keenly aware of the need to manage this precious resource through conservation and development of new local water supplies.

The City of Healdsburg's current infrastructure relies completely on surface water diversions. Adding municipal groundwater wells would increase local water supplies, reduce surface water diversions during times of drought, improve the security of Healdsburg's water supply due to climate change, and provide the possibility of groundwater recharge to sustain water supplies over a long period of time.

The Russian River Watershed Association looks forward to the City presenting the project to the RRWA membership and recommends FEMA consider this project for funding. The project not only improves Healdsburg's water supply but also reduces the demand in the Russian River watershed and increase the overall supply of water for entities reliant on this source of water.

Thank you in advance for considering grant funding to this project. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions, at cleanwater@rrwatershed.org or 707 508 3670.

Sincerely,

Andy Rodgers, RRWA Executive Director