



November 29, 2021

SENT VIA: EMAIL

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

300 Seminary Avenue
Ukiah, CA 95482
(707) 508-3670
info@rrwatershed.org
www.rrwatershed.org

California Department of Water Resources
Division of Regional Assistance, Financial Assistance Branch
715 P Street, 6th Floor, Mailbox 15
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001
Attn: Linda Woolridge

SUBJECT: Sonoma County Regional Parks Drought Funding Project

Dear Drought Relief Review Committee:

Serving as Executive Director for the Russian River Watershed Association (RRWA), I'm writing to express my support for the **Sonoma County Regional Parks Rainwater Catchment and Water Conservation Project**. This project will support the goals of RRWA by improving and promoting use of available and alternative water sources in our community at priority Sonoma County Regional Park properties, including demonstration of rainwater catchment systems designed by our local Resource Conservation Districts.

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. This project will help our watershed communities utilize an available alternative water source through collection of rainwater at Regional Parks facilities for park operations, grazing operations, irrigation, and wildfire emergency response. This alternative supply will reduce use of groundwater extraction benefiting local groundwater dependent ecosystems and reduce the use of municipal supply.

The rainwater catchment projects on Regional Parks property will also provide high visibility demonstrations of rainwater catchment systems that could be used by residences, businesses, agricultural operations, and other public lands in the area. The collective impacts of multiple large-scale rainwater catchment systems would greatly benefit our Regional Parks facilities and park users in addition to offsetting groundwater extraction and municipal supply.

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

Sincerely,

Andy Rodgers, Executive Director
Russian River Watershed Association