



January 14, 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

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Urban and Multibenefit Drought Relief Grant Program Manager
California Department of Water Resources
Division of Regional Assistance
PO Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001

SUBJECT: Letter of Support for the On-Farm Groundwater Recharge Multi-Benefit Demonstration Project

Dear Urban and Multibenefit Drought Relief Program Review Committee:

Serving as Executive Director for the Russian River Watershed Association (RRWA), I am writing to express my enthusiastic support of the application submitted by the Mendocino County Russian River Flood Control & Water Conservation District (RRFC) to the California Department of Water Resources for the On-Farm Groundwater Recharge Multi-Benefit Demonstration Project.

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 RRWA provides support to communities throughout the Russian River watershed and works to enhance awareness of special studies and water resource programs funded through grants.

This project will demonstrate the potential benefits of diverting wet-season surplus flows from the Russian River in the Ukiah Valley for on-farm groundwater recharge to increase Ukiah Valley groundwater basin storage, improve dry-season river and tributary flows, and decrease the need for releases from Lake Mendocino to maintain instream flows. The proposed groundwater recharge pilot project will help advance drought preparedness, aquifer replenishment, and reduce flood risk for the benefit all Ukiah Valley residents and stakeholders. Information from this demonstration project will inform an understanding of groundwater quality, pumping impacts on surface water flows, and other water supply management and sustainability efforts.

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