INITIAL STUDY
AND
PROPOSED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

FOR

MENDOCINO COUNTY RUSSIAN RIVER FLOOD CONTROL AND WATER CONSERVATION IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT REDWOOD VALLEY ANNEXATION

Prepared for:
Mendocino County Russian River Flood Control and Water Conservation Improvement District
PO Box 2104
Ukiah, CA 95482

June 29, 2025

MENDOCINO COUNTY RUSSIAN RIVER FLOOD CONTROL AND WATER CONSERVATION IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT
PUBLIC NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT PROPOSED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

The Mendocino County Russian River Flood Control and Water Conservation Improvement District ("**RRFC**") prepares, makes, declares and publishes this proposed Negative Declaration for the Mendocino County Russian River Flood Control and Water Conservation Improvement District Redwood Valley Annexation ("**Project**").

Project Description: Filing of an application with the Mendocino County Local Agency Formation Commission to annex the Redwood Valley County Water District ("**RVCWD**") into the boundaries of the RRFC. The Project Description is more fully set forth in the Initial Study for the Project. The purpose of the annexation is to allow RVCWD to contract with the RRFC to receive surface water supplies available under the RRFC's licensed water right.

Project Location: The Project is located within Mendocino County as shown on the map attached as **EXHIBIT "A"**.

Determination: The RRFC has reviewed the proposed Project and has determined that the Project, as identified in the attached Initial Study, will not have a significant effect on the environment. An Environmental Impact Report is not required pursuant to the Environmental Quality Act of 1970 (Division 13 of the California Public Resources Code).

Public Review: The Initial Study/Negative Declaration has been prepared in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act and contains an environmental review of the potential impacts of the proposed Project. This Initial Study/Negative Declaration is being circulated for 30-day period from June 29, 2025, through July 29, 2025. Comments on the Initial Study/Negative Declaration may be sent by 12:00 noon on July 29, 2025, to the RRFC, Attention: Ms. Elizabeth Salomone, PO Box 2104, Ukiah, CA 95482, DistrictManager@rrfc.net. Comments will be reviewed by the RRFC, and the Initial Study/Negative Declaration will be revised, as appropriate, prior to the adoption of the proposed Negative Declaration by the RRFC, which is scheduled for September 7, 2025.

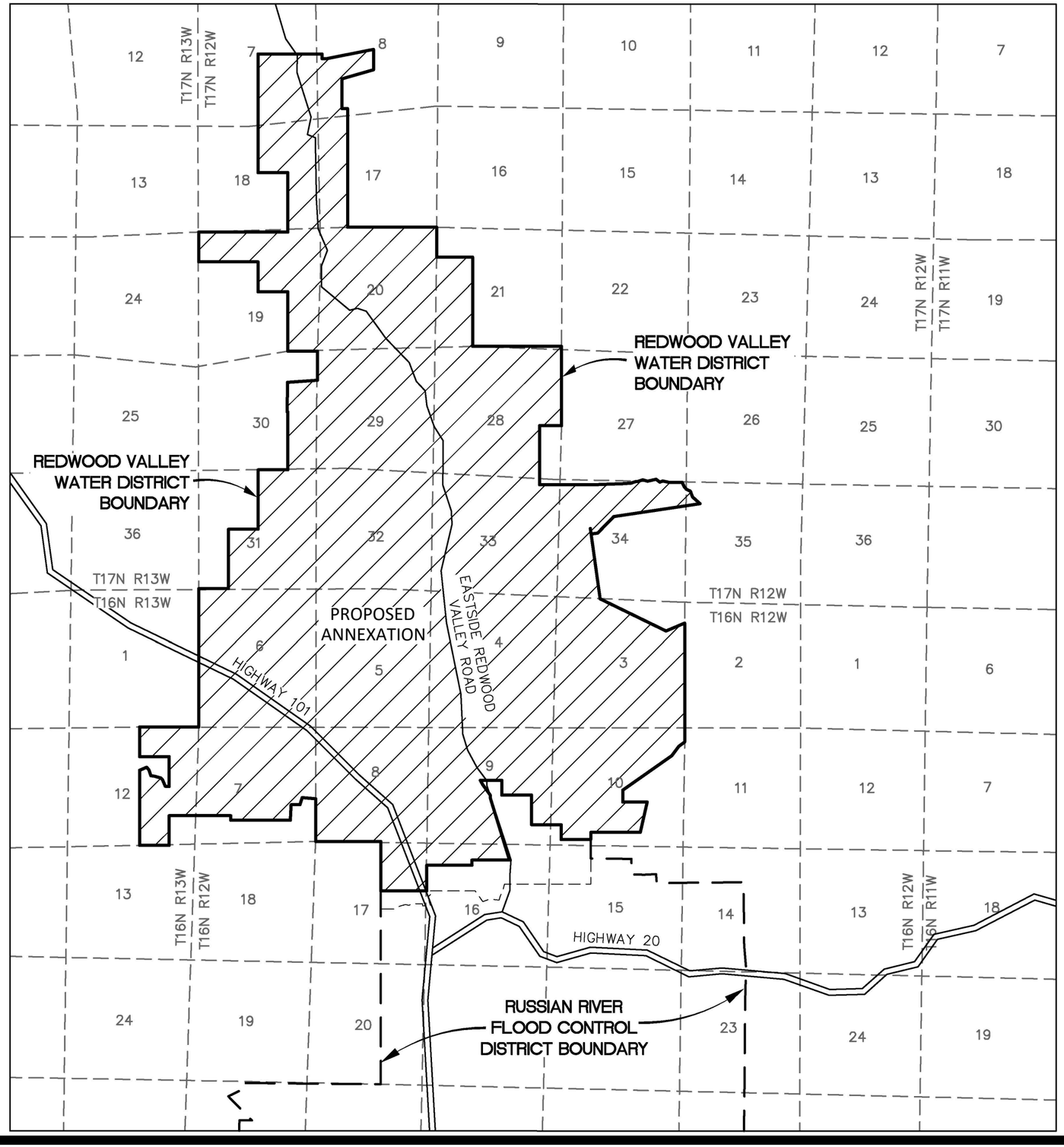
This environmental review process and Negative Declaration filing is made pursuant to Title 14, Division 6, Chapter 3, Article 6 of the California Administrative Code Section 15070.

A copy of the Initial Study and Proposed Negative Declaration may be reviewed at the RRFC office at 304 North State Street, Ukiah, California, 95482.

Elizabeth Salomone

Elizabeth Salomone, General Manager

EXHIBIT "A" TO NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT
PROPOSED NEGATIVE DECLARATION
MAP OF RVCWD AREA TO BE ANNEXED INTO RRFC



THIS MAP HAS BEEN PREPARED BY STEVEN J. KLEIN.

STEVEN J. KLEIN, P.L.S. 8155

LICENSED LAND SURVEYOR
STEVEN J. KLEIN
No. 8155
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

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LEGEND

- *BOUNDARY OF LANDS TO BE ANNEXED*
- *EXISTING BOUNDARY OF RUSSIAN RIVER FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT*
- *SECTION LINES*
- *OVERLAP OF RVCWD & RRFCD*

MUNSELLE CIVIL ENGINEERING
CIVIL ENGINEERING ◆ LAND SURVEYING
513 CENTER STREET
HEALDSBURG, CA 95448
(707) 395-0968

MCE CIVIL ENGINEERING AND SURVEYING

LAFCO SITE PLAN

REDWOOD VALLEY COUNTY WATER DISTRICT
REDWOOD VALLEY, CA

JOB NO.
129-25

SHEET NO.
1
OF 1 SHEETS

[PROPOSED]
MENDOCINO COUNTY RUSSIAN RIVER FLOOD CONTROL AND WATER CONSERVATION IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT
NEGATIVE DECLARATION REGARDING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

1. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Project described below has been reviewed pursuant to the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970 (Public Resources Code Section 21100, et seq.) and a determination has been made that it will have no significant effect upon the environment.

2. PROJECT NAME: Mendocino County Russian River Flood Control and Water Conservation Improvement District Redwood Valley Annexation Project ("**Project**").

3. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT: Filing of an application with the Mendocino County Local Agency Formation Commission to annex the Redwood Valley County Water District ("**RVCWD**") into the RRFC. The Project Description is more fully set forth in the Initial Study for the Project. The purpose of the annexation is to allow RVCWD to contract with the RRFC to receive surface water supplies available under the RRFC's licensed water right.

4. LOCATION OF PROJECT: The Project is located within Mendocino County as shown on the areas identified on the map attached as **EXHIBIT "A"**.

5. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PROJECT PROPONENT: Mendocino County Russian River Flood Control and Water Conservation Improvement District, PO Box 2104, Ukiah, CA 95482, (707) 462-5278.

6. MITIGATION MEASURES: None.

7. A copy of the Initial Study regarding the environmental effect of this Project is on file at the RRFC office at 304 North State Street, Ukiah, California, 95482. This study was:

   ☐ Adopted as presented.

   ☐ Adopted with changes. Specific modifications supporting reasons are attached.

8. The RRFC considered this Negative Declaration at a public meeting of its Board of Directors on September 7, 2025.

9. DETERMINATION: *(To be completed by the Lead Agency)*.

   On the basis of this initial evaluation:

   X I find that the proposed Project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.

☐ I find that although the proposed Project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions to the Project have been made by or agreed to by the Project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.

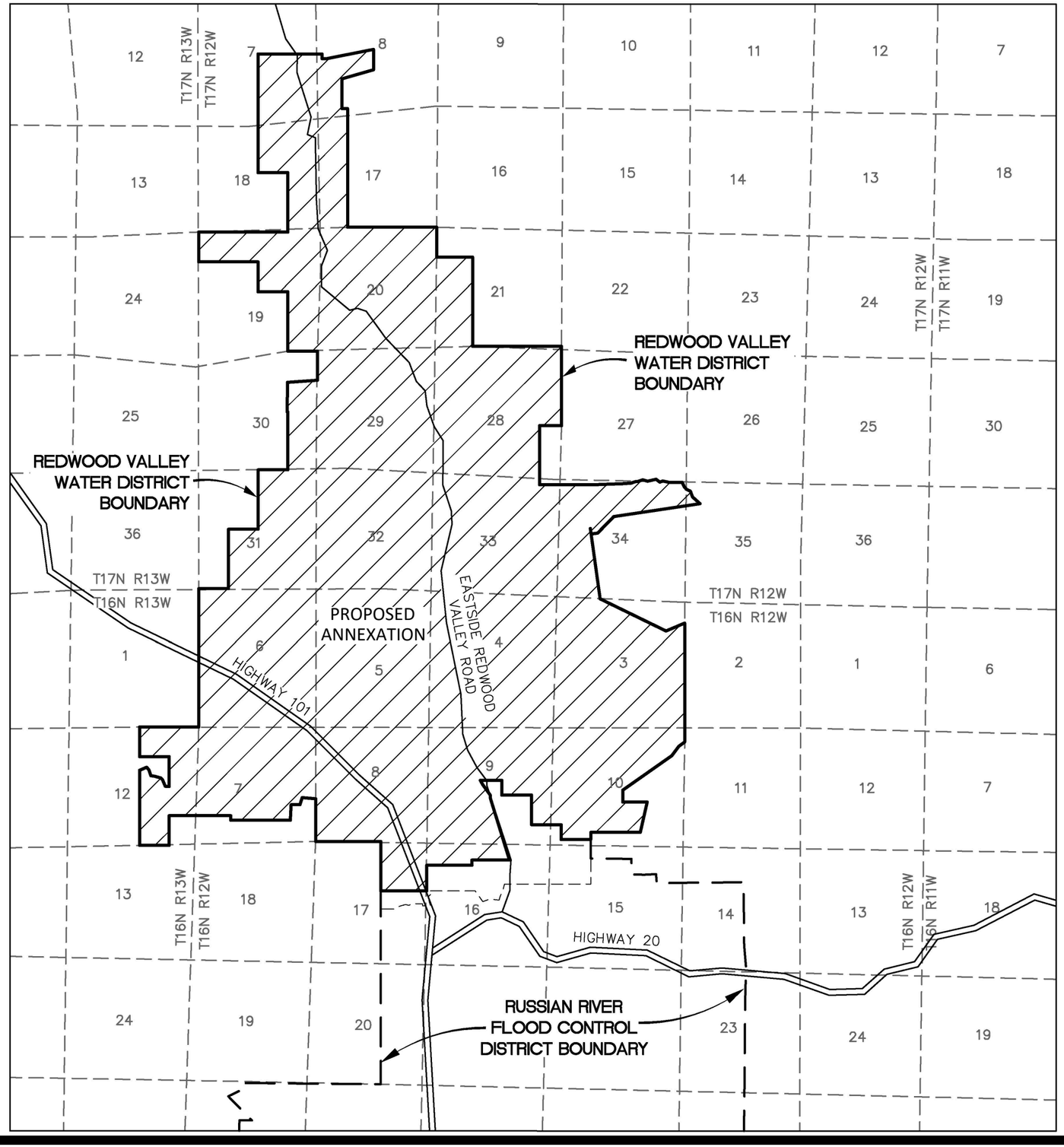
☐ I find that the proposed Project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.

☐ I find that the proposed Project MAY have a "potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless mitigated" impact on the environment, but at least one effect (1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards; and (2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on the attached sheets. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.

☐ I find that although the proposed Project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (1) have been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to the applicable standards, and (c) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the Project, nothing further is required.

Elizabeth Salomone Date

EXHIBIT "A" TO NEGATIVE DECLARATION
MAP OF RVCWD AREA TO BE ANNEXED INTO RRFC



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- *BOUNDARY OF LANDS TO BE ANNEXED*
- *EXISTING BOUNDARY OF RUSSIAN RIVER FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT*
- *SECTION LINES*
- *OVERLAP OF RVCWD & RRFCD*

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INITIAL STUDY
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1. SUMMARY

Project Title:	Mendocino County Russian River Flood Control and Water Conservation Improvement District Redwood Valley Annexation Project
Project Location:	Mendocino County
Lead Agency:	Mendocino County Russian River Flood Control and Water Conservation Improvement District
Agency Carrying Out Project:	Mendocino County Russian River Flood Control and Water Conservation Improvement District
Contact Person:	Elizabeth Salomone General Manager Mendocino County Russian River Flood Control and Water Conservation Improvement District PO Box 2104, Ukiah, CA 95482 Telephone: (707) 462-5278

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED:

☐	Aesthetics	☐	Agriculture and Forestry Resources	☐	Air Quality
☐	Biological Resources	☐	Cultural Resources	☐	Geology/Soils
☐	Greenhouse Gas Emissions	☐	Hazards & Hazardous Materials	☐	Hydrology/ Water Quality
☐	Land Use/Planning	☐	Mineral Resources	☐	Noise
☐	Population/Housing	☐	Public Services	☐	Recreation
☐	Transportation/Traffic	☐	Utilities/Service Systems	☐	Mandatory Findings of Significance

Organization of the Initial Study

This Initial Study contains the following sections:

Chapter 1 – Summary. Provides information about the proposed Project location, lead agency, and identification of environmental issues determined to be "Potentially Significant Impacts" as indicated by the Environmental Checklist contained in Section 4.

Chapter 2 – Project Description. Describes the Project location, surrounding land uses, Project objectives, and characteristics of the proposed project.

Chapter 3 – Environmental Checklist. Contains the Environmental Checklist presented in Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines. The checklist is used to describe the impacts of the proposed project. A discussion follows each environmental issue identified in the Checklist.

Chapter 4 – Consultation with Responsible Agencies Summarizes informal consultation with the State Water Resources Control Board.

Chapter 5 - Determination. States the determination by the Lead Agency. In this case, The Mendocino County Russian River Flood Control and Water Conservation Improvement District is proposing that a Negative Declaration be adopted for the proposed Project.

2. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Project Objectives

The project is the filing of an application to the Mendocino County Local Agency Formation Commission ("**LAFCo**") to annex the remaining portion of the Redwood Valley County Water District ("**RVCWD**") into the boundaries of the Mendocino County Russian River Flood Control and Water Conservation Improvement RRFC ("**RRFC**"). The size of RVCWD's service area is roughly 15 square miles in a valley 5 miles long by 3 miles wide. A portion of RVCWD's service area has already been annexed into RRFC and by this application RRFC seeks to annex the remaining portion of RVCWD to allow RVCWD to contract with RRFC for surface water supplies available under RRFC's licensed water right ("**License**") for use anywhere within RVCWD.

RRFC's License authorizes domestic, municipal, industrial, irrigation, and recreational uses within the RRFC's service area and further authorizes the RRFC to supply *surplus* water supplies to RVCWD. As a result, RVCWD has expressed its desire to have its entire service area annexed into the RRFC to become an in-District customer which would allow it to contract for a reliable surface water supply rather than rely only upon the existence of surplus water.

Project Area

The proposed Project would occur within Mendocino County and would alter the boundaries of the RRFC to include the complete boundaries of RVCWD. The area to be annexed is specifically depicted in **Exhibit A**.

Existing Conditions

RRFC is located entirely in Mendocino County. The service area boundaries of RRFC include 51,000 acres of a larger 312,675-acre sphere of influence. RRFC provides raw water for irrigation and to municipal water purveyors within its boundaries. When treatment is required, the municipal service provider treats and distributes the water to its customers. RRFC's License currently serves as its only surface water supply. Under existing conditions, any surface water under the License not needed by existing in-District customers is made available as surplus to RVCWD.

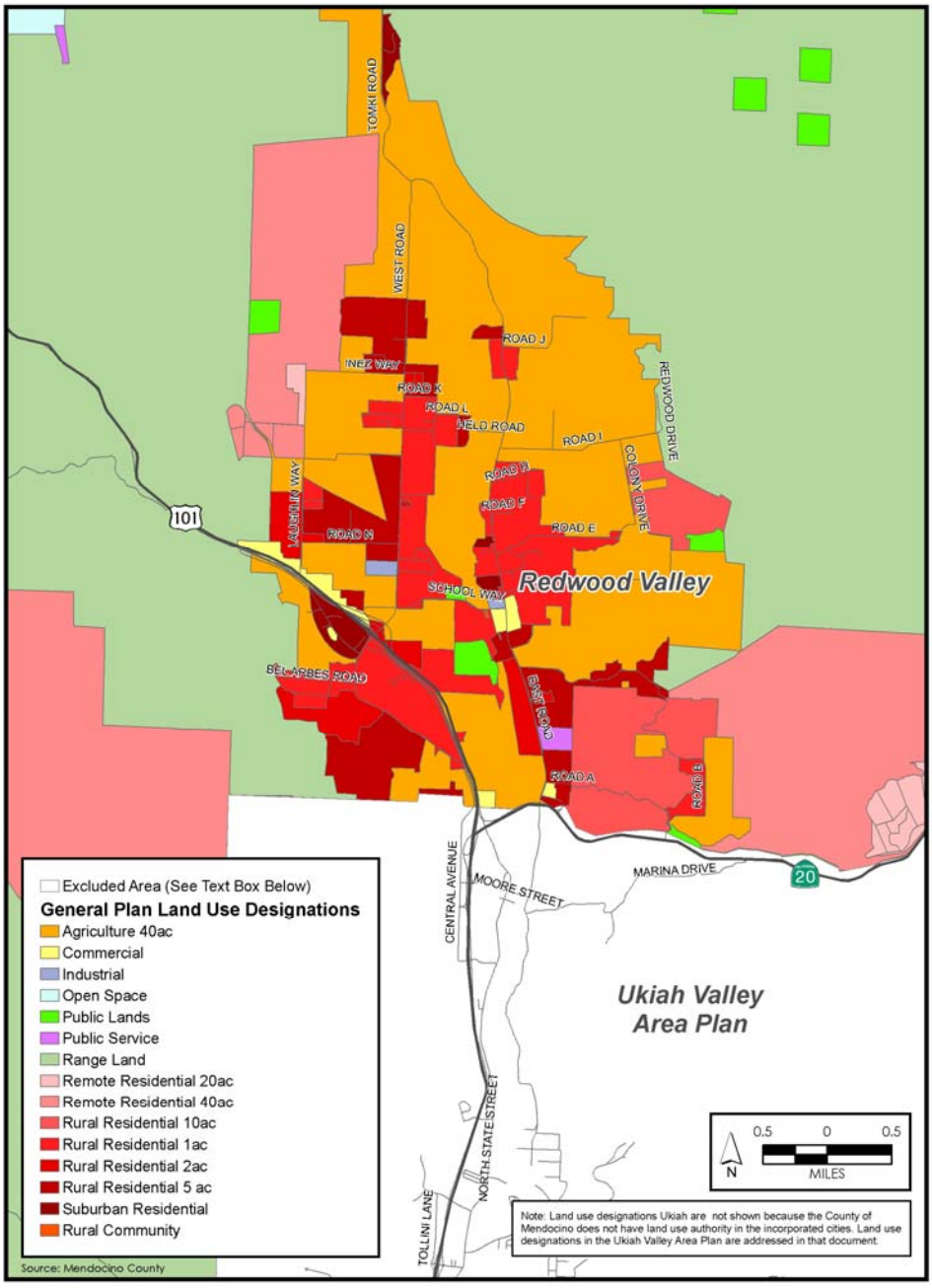
RVCWD provides domestic and agricultural water services to the community of RVCWD, including a total of 1,005 equivalent dwelling units and 197 agricultural customers across a roughly 15 square mile service area (MSR 2016). RVCWD's water supply consists of a permit (Permit 17593) to divert water from Lake Mendocino under very limited conditions, necessitating the need for RVCWD to seek alternative water supplies, including purchase of surplus supplies from the RRFC. The current general plan land use designations for RVCWD are included below as Figure a.

RVCWD is currently under a court-ordered moratorium for domestic water connections and a self-imposed moratorium for irrigation connections due to water supply instability, included here as **Appendix 1**. Currently, the health and safety needs of RVCWD's domestic customers are being met with purchased water from the Millview County Water District. During the irrigation seasons of 2021-2022, there was no available water from RVCWD for existing agricultural customers who were operating solely on storage ponds and groundwater.

In 2024, RVCWD became a member of the Ukiah Valley Water Authority, a joint powers authority pursuing consolidation of Ukiah Valley's municipal water suppliers. The UVWA offers coordinated use of each member's respective water supplies and systems to maximize availability. Annexation into the RRFC is yet another avenue by which RVCWD is attempting to secure an adequate, redundant, and reliable water supply.

a. General Plan Land Use Designation for broader RVCWD Community Planning Area

FIGURE CP-8: REDWOOD VALLEY COMMUNITY MAP



Project Characteristics

The Project will consist of submission of an annexation application to LAFCo requesting annexation of the complete service area of RVCWD, as depicted on **Exhibit B**, into the RRFC. All areas proposed to be annexed lie within the RRFC's existing Sphere of Influence (**Exhibit C**).

LAFCo will provide public notification to advise interested persons of the annexation application. Prior to acting upon any Petition for annexation, LAFCo must comply with the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act ("**CEQA**"). For purposes of CEQA, the RRFC is the lead agency, and LAFCo is a responsible agency.

3. ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

The following checklist is the form presented in appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines. The checklist form is used to describe the impacts of the proposed project. A discussion follows each environmental issue identified in the checklist. All answers must take account of the whole action involved, including off-site as well as on-site, cumulative as well as project-level, indirect as well as direct, and construction as well as operational impacts. Once the lead agency has determined that a particular physical impact may occur, then the checklist answers must indicate whether the impact is potentially significant, less than significant with mitigation, or less than significant.

For this checklist, the following designations are used:

Potentially Significant Impact: "Potentially Significant Impact" is appropriate if there is substantial evidence that an effect may be significant. If there are one or more "Potentially Significant Impact" entries when the determination is made, an EIR is required.

Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated: "Negative Declaration: Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated" applies where the incorporation of mitigation measures has reduced an effect from "Potentially Significant Impact" to a "Less Than Significant Impact."

Less-Than-Significant Impact: Any impact that would not be considered significant under CEQA relative to existing standards. If no significant impacts are identified, a Negative Declaration would be prepared.

No Impact: The project would not have an impact.

Issues	**Potentially Significant Impact**	**Less Than Significant with Mitigation**	**Less Than Significant Impact**	**No Impact**
I. AESTHETICS -- *Would the project:*				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a	☐	☐	☐	X

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
scenic vista?				
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	□	□	□	X
c) Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?	□	□	□	X
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare that would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	□	□	□	X

Discussion

a - d) The Project involves annexation of RVCWD into the RRFC. No construction, land alterations, or changes in land uses are planned or involved. Therefore, the Project would have no impact on aesthetics.

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
II. AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY RESOURCES: In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Dept. of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. In determining whether impacts to forest resources, including timberland, are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to information compiled by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection regarding the state's inventory of forest land,				

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
including the Forest and Range Assessment Project and the Forest Legacy Assessment project; and forest carbon measurement methodology provided in Forest Protocols adopted by the California Air Resources Board.				
Would the project:				
a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?	☐	☐	☐	X
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?	☐	☐	☐	X
c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))?	☐	☐	☐	X
d) Result in the loss of forestland or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	☐	☐	☐	X
e) Involve other changes in the existing environment that, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	☐	☐	☐	X

Discussion

a-e) The Project involves annexation of RVCWD into the RRFC. No change in land use will occur. The Project is likely to allow any existing agricultural acreage to continue in agricultural use. Farming practices on the annexed parcels are not anticipated to change following annexation. Therefore, the Project would have no impact on agriculture or forestry resources.

Issues	**Potentially Significant Impact**	**Less Than Significant with Mitigation**	**Less Than Significant Impact**	**No Impact**
III. AIR QUALITY – Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determination. *Would the project:*				
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	☐	☐	☐	X
b) Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?	☐	☐	☐	X
c) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions that exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?	☐	☐	☐	X
d) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	☐	☐	☐	X
e) Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?	☐	☐	☐	X

Discussion

a-e) The Project involves annexation of RVCWD into the RRFC. No construction, land alterations, or changes in land uses are planned or involved. Therefore, the Project would have no impact on air quality.

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES -- *Would the project:*				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	☐	☐	☐	X
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, and regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or US Fish and Wildlife Service?	☐	☐	☐	X
c) Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	☐	☐	☐	X
d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?	☐	☐	☐	X
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological	☐	☐	☐	X

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?				
f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted HCP, NCCP, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?	☐	☐	☐	X

Discussion

a-f) The Project involves annexation of RVCWD into the RRFC. No construction or land alterations are planned or involved. RVCWD is currently under a court-ordered moratorium for domestic water connections and a self-imposed moratorium for irrigation connections due to water supply instability so no change in land use is anticipated. No change is contemplated to the RRFC's diversion facilities, either in quantity or time of diversion. Therefore, the Project would have no impact on biological resources.

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
V. CULTURAL RESOURCES -- *Would the project:*				
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in §15064.5?	☐	☐	☐	X
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?	☐	☐	☐	X
c) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	☐	☐	☐	X
d) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?	☐	☐	☐	X

Discussion

a-d) The Project involves annexation of RVCWD into the RRFC. No construction, land alterations, or changes in land uses are planned or involved. Therefore, the Project would have no impact on cultural resources.

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
VI. GEOLOGY AND SOILS – *Would the project:*				
a) Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:	☐	☐	☐	X
i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42	☐	☐	☐	X
ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?	☐	☐	☐	X
iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	☐	☐	☐	X
iv) Landslides?	☐	☐	☐	X
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	☐	☐	☐	X
c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?	☐	☐	☐	X
d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform	☐	☐	☐	X

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property?				
e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?	☐	☐	☐	X

Discussion

a-e) The Project involves annexation of RVCWD into the RRFC. No construction, land alterations, or changes in land uses are planned or involved. Therefore, the Project would have no impact on geology or soils.

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
VII. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS -- *Would the project:*				
a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?	☐	☐	☐	X
b) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?	☐	☐	☐	X

Discussion

a-b) The Project involves annexation of RVCWD into the RRFC. No construction, land alterations or changes in land uses are planned or involved that could increase greenhouse gas emissions. Therefore, the Project would have no impact on greenhouse gas emissions.

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
VIII. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS -- *Would the project:*				
a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	☐	☐	☐	X
b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?	☐	☐	☐	X
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	☐	☐	☐	X
d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?	☐	☐	☐	X
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?	☐	☐	☐	X
f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?	☐	☐	☐	X
g) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency	☐	☐	☐	X

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
evacuation plan?				
h) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?	☐	☐	☐	X

Discussion

a-h) The Project involves annexation of RVCWD into the RRFC. No construction, land alterations or changes in land uses are planned or involved. Therefore, the Project would have no impact on hazardous materials.

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
IX. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY -- *Would the project:*				
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?	☐	☐	☐	X
b) Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level that would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?	☐	☐	☐	X
c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner that would result in substantial erosion or silation on- or off-site?	☐	☐	☐	X

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
d) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner that would result in flooding on- or off-site?	☐	☐	☐	X
e) Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned storm water drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?	☐	☐	☐	X
f) Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?	☐	☐	☐	X
g) Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map?	☐	☐	☐	X
h) Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures that would impede or redirect flood flows?	☐	☐	☐	X
i) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?	☐	☐	☐	X
j) Inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?	☐	☐	☐	X

Discussion

a-j) The Project involves annexation of RVCWD into the RRFC. No construction or land alterations are involved, and no change in land use is contemplated by the Project that would affect hydrology or water quality in any way. RVCWD is currently under a court-ordered moratorium for domestic water connections and a self-imposed moratorium for irrigation connections due to water supply instability so no change in land use is anticipated. The purpose of the annexation is

to allow RVCWD to contract for already available surface water supplies from the RRFC as an in-RRFC customer. Therefore, the Project would have no impact on hydrology or water quality.

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
X. LAND USE AND PLANNING - *Would the project:*				
a) Physically divide an established community?	☐	☐	☐	X
b) Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	☐	☐	☐	X
c) Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?	☐	☐	☐	X

Discussion

a-c) The Project involves annexation of RVCWD into the RRFC. No construction or land alterations are planned or involved, and no change in land use is contemplated by the Project. The Project is likely to allow any existing agricultural acreage to continue in agricultural use. Farming practices on the annexed parcels are not anticipated to change following annexation. RVCWD is currently under a court-ordered moratorium for domestic water connections and a self-imposed moratorium for irrigation connections due to water supply instability so no change in land use is anticipated. The purpose of the annexation is to allow RVCWD to contract for already available surface water supplies from the RRFC as an in-District customer. Therefore, the Project would have no impact on land use and planning.

XI. MINERAL RESOURCES -- *Would the project:*	**Potentially Significant Impact**	**Less Than Significant with Mitigation**	**Less Than Significant Impact**	**No Impact**
a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?	☐	☐	☐	X
b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?	☐	☐	☐	X

Discussion

a-b) The Project involves annexation of RVCWD into the RRFC. No construction or land alterations are planned or involved, and no change in land use is contemplated by the Project; therefore, the Project would have no impact on mineral resources.

Issues	**Potentially Significant Impact**	**Less Than Significant with Mitigation**	**Less Than Significant Impact**	**No Impact**
XII. NOISE – *Would the project result in*:				
a) Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?	☐	☐	☐	X
b) Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive ground borne vibration or ground borne noise levels?	☐	☐	☐	X
c) A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	☐	☐	☐	X
d) A substantial temporary or periodic	☐	☐	☐	X

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?				
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	☐	☐	☐	X
f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would people in the area be exposed to excessive noise levels?	☐	☐	☐	X

Discussion

a-f) The Project involves annexation of RVCWD into the RRFC. No construction or land alterations are planned or involved, and no change in land use is contemplated by the Project; therefore, the Project would have no impact on noise.

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XIII. POPULATION AND HOUSING -- *Would the project*:				
a) Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?	☐	☐	☐	X
b) Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	☐	☐	☐	X
c) Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of	☐	☐	☐	X

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
replacement housing elsewhere?				

Discussion

a-c) The Project involves annexation of RVCWD into the RRFC. No construction or land alterations are planned or involved, and no change in land use is contemplated by the Project. Although annexation into the RRFC may make additional surface water supplies available to RVCWD, RVCWD is currently under a court-ordered moratorium for domestic water connections so the Project would not induce substantial population growth. Instead, the focus of the Project is to improve the reliability of surface water deliveries to existing RVCWD customers.

Section 15126.2(d) of the CEQA Guidelines requires a discussion of the ways in which a proposed project could be growth-inducing. This section defines a growth-inducing impact:

> *[T]he ways in which the proposed project could foster economic or population growth, or the construction of additional housing, either directly or indirectly, in the surrounding environment. Included in this are projects which would remove obstacles to population growth. . .*

A project can have direct and/or indirect growth inducement potential. Direct growth inducement potential would result if a project involved construction of new housing. A project can have indirect growth-inducement potential if it would remove an obstacle to additional growth and development, such as removing a constraint on a required public service. An example of this indirect effect would be the expansion of a wastewater treatment plant, which might allow for more development in service areas. This type of growth-inducing effect is typically referred to as a "growth-accommodating impact."

In accordance with the CEQA definition, the Project could be growth inducing, insofar as it could be used in the future to remove water supply as one obstacle to further urban development and population growth in RVCWD. The growth-inducing potential of a project would generally be considered to have a significant impact if the project either induces unplanned growth or created the capacity for growth to occur above and beyond the levels permitted by public planning policies.

Therefore, it is important to note that the 2009 Mendocino County General Plan, and specifically the RVCWD Community Planning Area, guides future development and land uses within RVCWD's Sphere of Influence. The additional water supplies that would be available to RVCWD upon annexation would accommodate only a portion of the planned growth identified by the General Plan to occur within the RVCWD Sphere of Influence; it would be insufficient to support a level of growth and development beyond that anticipated in the General Plan. Implementation of the Project would not induce unplanned growth within RVCWD, nor would the Project contribute to previously identified impacts association with planned growth. Therefore, to the extent that the Project could accommodate planned growth within RVCWD, implementation of planned growth

would result in only those secondary environmental effects that have been identified and addressed in the Environmental Impact Report completed on the general plan. The County's General Plan EIR considered the impacts of growth within the RVCWD Community Planning Area.

It should also be noted that the Project is not the only option for RVCWD to obtain additional water supplies to accommodate planned growth. RVCWD transfer of water services to the Ukiah Valley Water Authority (UVWA) was completed on January 2, 2025, with the City of Ukiah assuming oversight. The formation of this joint powers authority is intended to unify formerly independent water agencies, including RVCWD, creating coordination to optimize water resources. If the Project is not implemented, RVCWD would pursue alternate supply sources to support planned growth. Thus, while water supply is a necessary ingredient for future growth in the project area, implementation of planned urban growth within RVCWD's Sphere of Influence does not hinge solely on implementation of the Project. Further, provision of water supply is not the only obstacle that must be removed in order for additional planned growth to occur within RVCWD Sphere of Influence, provision of other utilities and infrastructure are needed as well as addressing the current court-ordered moratorium for domestic water connections and a self-imposed moratorium for irrigation connections.

Therefore, the Project would have no impact on population or housing and would not be growth-inducing.

Issues	**Potentially Significant Impact**	**Less Than Significant with Mitigation**	**Less Than Significant Impact**	**No Impact**
XIV. PUBLIC SERVICES				
a) Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:				
Fire protection?	☐	☐	☐	X
Police protection?	☐	☐	☐	X
Schools?	☐	☐	☐	X
Parks?	☐	☐	☐	X
Other public facilities?	☐	☐	☐	X

Discussion

The Project involves annexation of RVCWD into the RRFC. RVCWD is currently under a court-ordered moratorium for domestic water connections and a self-imposed moratorium for irrigation connections due to water supply instability resulting in no need for additional public services. No construction or land alterations are planned or involved, and no change in land use is contemplated by the Project; therefore, the Project would have no impact on public services.

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XV. RECREATION --				
a) Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?	☐	☐	☐	X
b) Does the project include or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities that might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	☐	☐	☐	X

Discussion

a-b) The Project involves annexation of RVCWD into the RRFC. No construction or land alterations are planned or involved, and no change in land use is contemplated by the Project. The Project provides no recreational opportunities, and the Project will have no effect on recreational opportunities. Therefore, the Project would have no impact on recreation.

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XVI. TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC -- *Would the project*:				
a) Conflict with an applicable plan, ordinance or policy establishing measures of effectiveness for the performance of the circulation systems,	☐	☐	☐	X

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
taking into account all modes of transportation including mass transit and non-motorized travel and relevant components of the circulation system, including but not limited to intersections, streets, highways and freeways, pedestrian and bicycle paths and mass transit?				
b) Conflict with an applicable congestion management program, including, but not limited to level of service standards and travel demand measures, or other standards established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highway?	☐	☐	☐	X
c) Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks?	☐	☐	☐	X
d) Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	☐	☐	☐	X
e) Result in inadequate emergency access?	☐	☐	☐	X
f) Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs regarding public transit, bicycle, or pedestrian facilities, or otherwise decrease the performance or safety of such facilities?	☐	☐	☐	X

Discussion

a-f) The Project involves annexation of RVCWD into the RRFC. No construction or land alterations are planned or involved, and no change in land use is contemplated by the Project; therefore, the Project would have no impact on transportation or traffic.

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XVII. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS -- *Would the project*:				
a) Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?	☐	☐	☐	X
b) Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?	☐	☐	☐	X
c) Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?	☐	☐	☐	X
d) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new/expanded entitlements needed?	☐	☐	☐	X
e) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider that serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?	☐	☐	☐	X
f) Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?	☐	☐	☐	X
g) Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	☐	☐	☐	X

Discussion

a-g) The Project involves annexation of RVCWD into the RRFC. No change is contemplated to the RRFC's diversion facilities, either in quantity or time of diversion. No additional surface water

supplies will be obtained as a result of this Project nor will it require construction of any new infrastructure or facilities. No construction or land alterations are proposed for this Project and no change in land use is contemplated by the Project that would negatively affect utilities or service systems in any way. RVCWD is currently under a court-ordered moratorium for domestic water connections and a self-imposed moratorium for irrigation connections due to water supply instability resulting in no need for additional utilities or service systems. Therefore, the Project would have no impact on utilities or service systems.

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XVIII. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE --				
a) Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	☐	☐	☐	X
b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?	☐	☐	☐	X
c) Does the project have environmental effects that will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	☐	☐	☐	X

Discussion

The Project involves annexation of RVCWD County Water RRFC into the RRFC. The Project will not change the current land use of any land to be annexed, and no changes in RRFC operations

are contemplated. No construction or land alterations are involved. Therefore, there are no mandatory findings of significance.

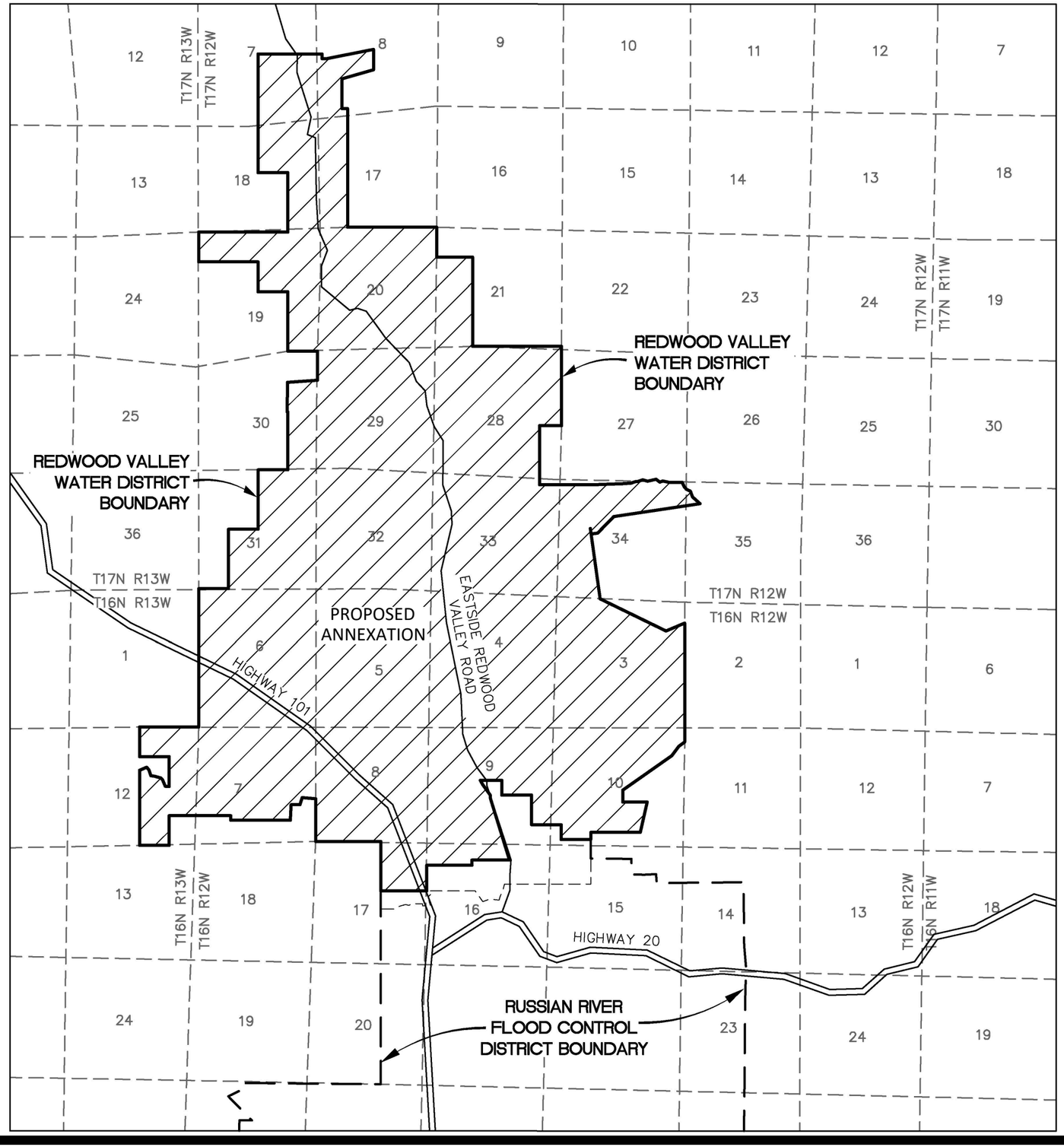
4. CONSULTATION WITH RESPONSIBLE AGENCY

The Mendocino County Local Agency Formation Commission is a responsible agency under Public Resources Code § 21080.3 and Title 14 California Code of Regulations § 15381. CEQA requires that as soon as the lead agency has decided than initial study is required, it must consult with all responsible agencies to obtain their recommendations on whether an EIR or a Negative Declaration should be prepared. Public Resources Code § 21080.3; Title 14 Cal. Code Regs. § 15063(g). The RRFC has been communicating with Mendocino County LAFCO regarding the annexation and the CEQA process.

5. DETERMINATION

Based upon the information contained in the Initial Study, it is determined that the Negative Declaration should be adopted.

EXHIBIT "A" TO INITIAL STUDY
MAP OF RVCWD AREA TO BE ANNEXED INTO RRFC



THIS MAP HAS BEEN PREPARED BY STEVEN J. KLEIN.

STEVEN J. KLEIN, P.L.S. 8155

LICENSED LAND SURVEYOR
STEVEN J. KLEIN
No. 8155
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

N
W E
S

LEGEND

- *BOUNDARY OF LANDS TO BE ANNEXED*
- *EXISTING BOUNDARY OF RUSSIAN RIVER FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT*
- *SECTION LINES*
- *OVERLAP OF RVCWD & RRFCD*

MUNSELLE CIVIL ENGINEERING
CIVIL ENGINEERING ◆ LAND SURVEYING
513 CENTER STREET
HEALDSBURG, CA 95448
(707) 395-0968

MCE CIVIL ENGINEERING AND SURVEYING

LAFCO SITE PLAN

REDWOOD VALLEY COUNTY WATER DISTRICT
REDWOOD VALLEY, CA

JOB NO.
129-25

SHEET NO.
1
OF 1 SHEETS

EXHIBIT "B" TO INITIAL STUDY
MAP OF REDWOOD VALLEY COUNTY WATER DISTRICT

EXHIBIT A

Tomki Rd.
J
Road
Inez Way
West Rd.
101
Road I
Colony Dr.
Way
Laughlin
Road N
Road E
Road D
School Way
Road B
East Rd.
Road A
Calpella out of area services
Central Ave.
Calpella County Water District
Moore St.
20
District Boundary
Adopted SOI 2016
0
0.5
1 Miles

Redwood Valley County Water District

Prepared for Mendocino LAFCo by: PLANWEST PARTNERS, INC.

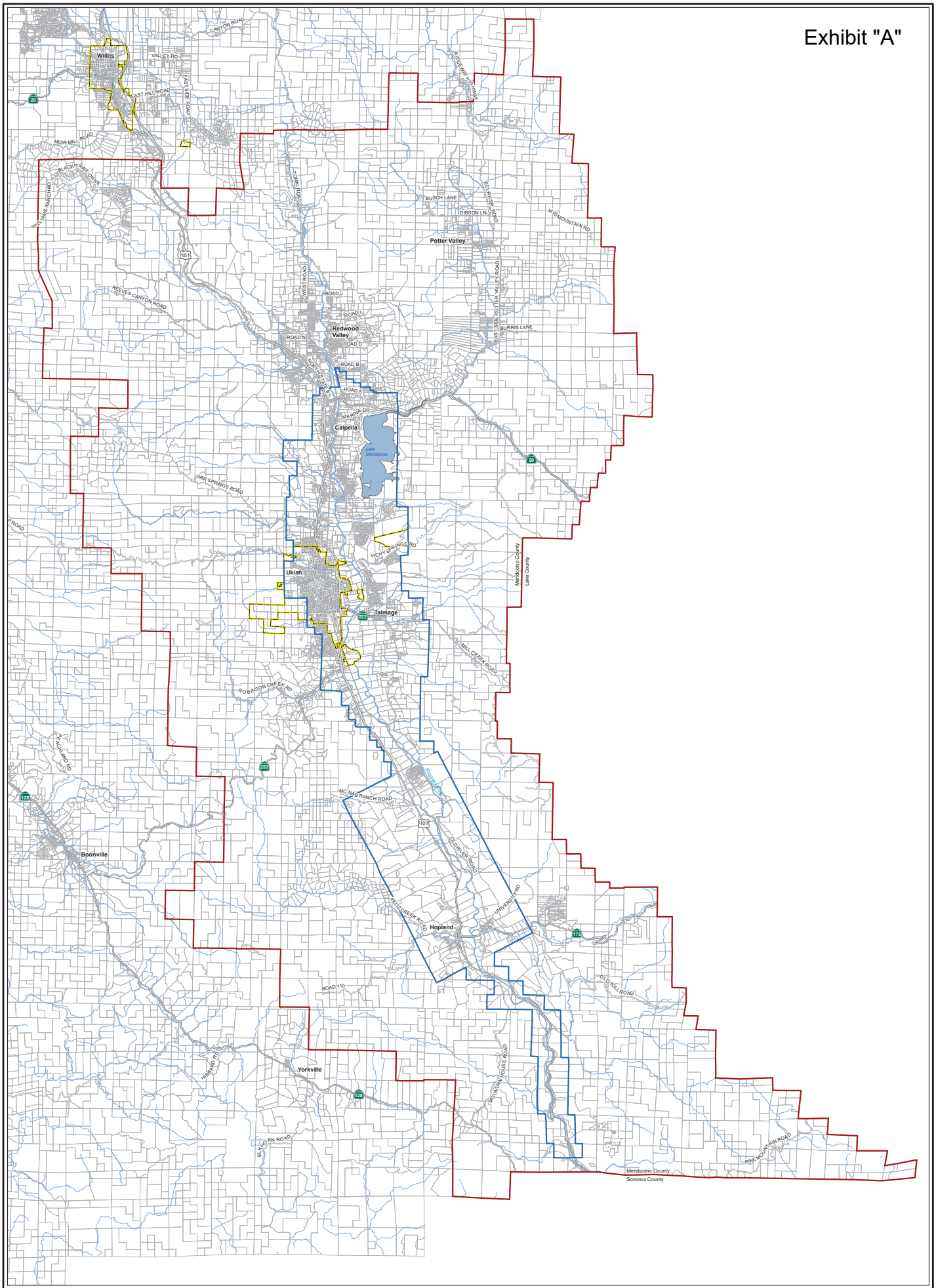
Date: 1/27/2016

Sources: Boundaries: Mendocino County; Roads: US Census TIGER.

Path: D:\Planwest_GIS\projects\current\Mendocino_LAFCo\Water_Districts\mapdocs\Redwood_Valley_Water_District.mxd

EXHIBIT "C" TO INITIAL STUDY
MAP OF RRFC'S SPHERE OF INFLUENCE

Exhibit "A"



Russian River Flood Control District

Source: This map was prepared by the Mendocino County Division of Information Services GIS Program, December 18, 2024.
Note: This map is not a survey product.

- Russian River Flood Control District
- Sphere of Influence
- Incorporated City
- Parcels
- Highways
- Roads
- Streams

2 1 0 2 Miles

N

APPENDIX 1 TO INITIAL STUDY
RVCWD MORATORIUM

Copy

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P.O. BOX N
UKIAH, CA 95482
(707) 462-1351

Attorney for Petitioners

FILED

JAN 25 1989

MARSHA A. YOUNG
MENDOCINO COUNTY CLERK
By _____ Deputy

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF MENDOCINO

RESIDENTS FOR ADEQUATE WATER, OLIVER L. SAUSE, and MICHAEL E. SWEENEY,

Petitioners,

vs.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES and REDWOOD VALLEY COUNTY WATER DISTRICT,

Respondents.

CASE NO. 55595

PEREMPTORY WRIT OF MANDATE

TO: REDWOOD VALLEY COUNTY WATER DISTRICT and STATE OF CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES, RESPONDENTS:

WHEREAS Petitioners served and filed herein their duly verified Petition for Writ of Mandate, and a hearing was held on May 6, 1988, May 9, 1988, June 13, 1988, June 14, 1988 and June 16, 1988;

WHEREAS it appears to this Court that Petitioners have no other plain, speedy and adequate remedy in the ordinary course of law;

WHEREAS it appears to this Court that Respondent REDWOOD VALLEY COUNTY WATER DISTRICT has failed to perform its legal duty by continuing to make new domestic service connections

despite the fact that it is not in compliance with the California Water Works Standards Requirement for source capacity;

WHEREAS it appears to this Court that Respondent STATE OF CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES has failed to perform its legal duty by failing to prohibit Respondent REDWOOD VALLEY COUNTY WATER DISTRICT from making new domestic service connections to said Water District despite the failure of said Water District to be in compliance with the California Water Works Standards Requirement for source capacity;

THEREFORE, you, REDWOOD VALLEY COUNTY WATER DISTRICT, are hereby commanded immediately after receipt of this writ to cease making any net increase in physical domestic service connections to said REDWOOD VALLEY COUNTY WATER DISTRICT, and you, STATE OF CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES, are hereby commanded immediately after receipt of this writ to prohibit REDWOOD VALLEY COUNTY WATER DISTRICT from making any net increase in physical domestic service connections to said REDWOOD VALLEY COUNTY WATER DISTRICT.

WITNESS the Honorable James W. Luther, Judge of the Superior Court.

JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT

Attest my hand and the seal of the Court this 24th day of January, 1989.

CLERK OF THE COURT

BY : Sherry Mobley
Deputy