

MENDOCINO CITY COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT (MCCSD) TO RECEIVE \$4.9 MILLION STATE GRANT TO SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASE COMMUNITY WATER STORAGE TO ADDRESS DROUGHT AND FIRE SAFETY

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MCCSD was notified Monday by the California State Department of Water Resources Urban and Multi-benefit Drought Relief Program that the District was selected as one of 62 projects throughout the state to receive drought relief funding. MCCSD was awarded just over \$4.9 million to address drought, fire protection, and climate resiliency.

The grant will fund construction of new wells, a 500,000 gallon storage tank and an emergency intertie with the existing Mendocino Unified School District water system, to provide a local supply of emergency water during droughts, for the schools, fire protection, and District needs. The project is in partnership with the Mendocino Unified School District and Mendocino Volunteer Fire Department.

MCCSD Superintendent Ryan Rhoades: “I am just so happy for the community. This money will go a long way in helping our community better prepare for droughts, climate change, and fire protection. The award is a sign that the State is listening, recognizes the problem, and is willing to help.”

MCCSD is grateful to many who helped support its application for State funding including Senator Mike McGuire who took the time to visit Mendocino during last summer's drought to understand first hand, how our community's water emergency was impacting residents and businesses. The Senator worked side by side with the MCCSD, County government, the fire department, schools, and others to help us out.

"The Village of Mendocino is one of the most water scarce areas in our region. After months of work, help is on the way! Nearly \$5 million will be invested by the State to build desperately needed water storage and new wells that will enhance water supply and fire safety. Big thanks to the Community Services District for the tremendous job and planning efforts. We're thrilled to start moving dirt and getting these projects built. We'll continue to work with the District to ensure the project's success in the months ahead," said Senator McGuire.

Mendocino County 5th District Supervisor Ted Williams was also instrumental in helping the District to secure this important grant. Ted echoed the District's gratitude towards Senator McGuire, "once again Senator McGuire has been a champion for the Mendocino coast. State support for this water project offers relief as we enter another very dry year. Residents and businesses should continue to bolster their individual water storage systems."

Mendocino is facing a third year of historic drought. Climate change is making weather patterns more extreme and more difficult to predict. Fire season is now year-round and areas once considered safe are now at greater risk. The MCCSD, together with the Mendocino Volunteer

Fire Department, Mendocino Unified School District, our elected leaders and the State Department of Water Resources are working hard to ensure our community is safe and has the water it needs in the future.

This 500,000 gallon emergency water storage project will take time to develop and much planning and coordination remains to be done. Once built, we can store much needed water during the winter and make it available during times of drought and to fight fires. This \$4.9 million grant will bring a significant measure of water security to our community.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact Ryan Rhoades at mccsd.mcn.org or 707-937-5790.