

Memo

To: MCCSD Board of Directors
From: District Superintendent
cc: Jim Jackson
Date: October 25, 2023
Re: Groundwater Management Report

The 2023-24 Rain Year

October 1, 2023 was the beginning of the 2023-24 rain year. Average annual precipitation in Mendocino is 39.20 inches, and average rainfall in October is 2.34" inches. 2.06" inches of rainfall has been measured in the District for the month, as of October 25, 2023 (Figure 1, Table 1).

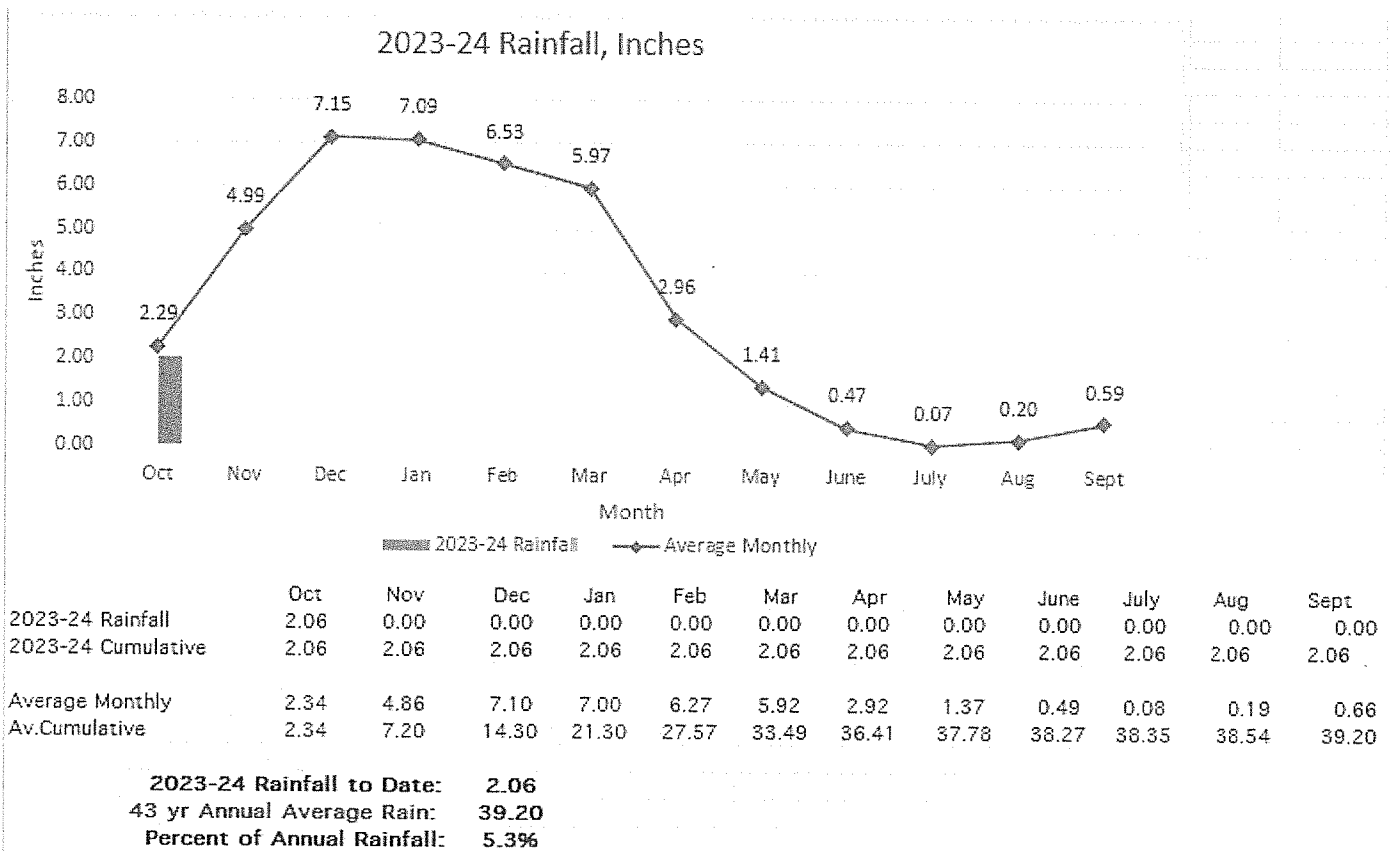


Figure 1, Table 1

Total Rainfall for Rain Year 2022-23 was 41.93" inches. Mendocino received 106% of normal annual rainfall during the last water year. By October 25, 2023, total rainfall since October 1, 2022 was 2.06" inches, 5.03% of average annual rainfall.

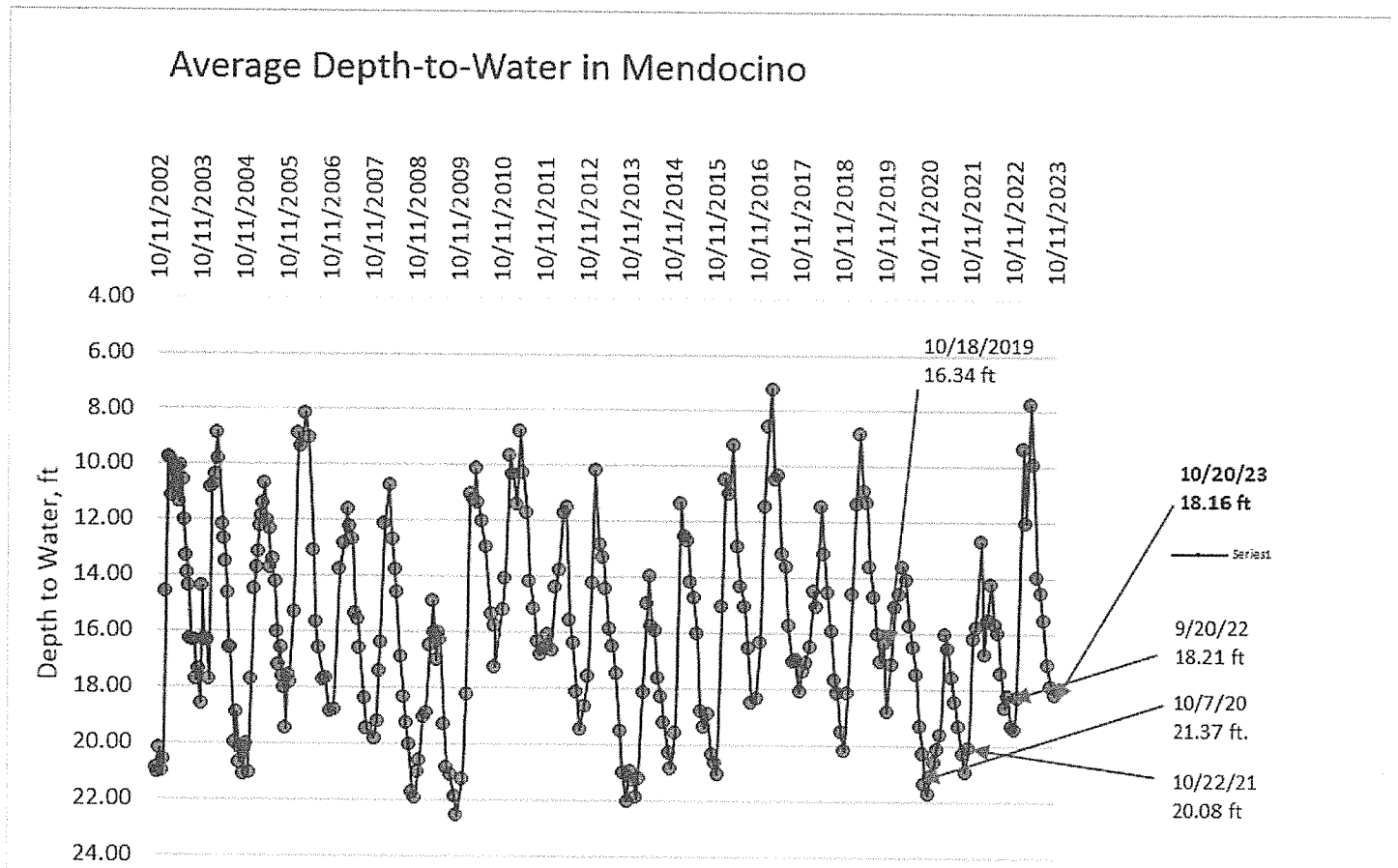
DAILY TOTAL RAINFALL													
2023-24												<i>Elevation 72 Feet</i>	
Data From: Community Service District												<i>Latitude 39.306°</i>	
												<i>Longitude -123.680°</i>	
Day	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	
1	0.01												
2													
3													
4													
5													
6													
7	0.02												
8	0.24												
9	0.08												
10	0.19												
11	0.02												
12	0.01												
13	0.01												
14													
15													
16	0.29												
17	0.02												
18	0.02												
19	0.01												
20													
21	0.26												
22	0.87												
23	0.01												
24													
25													
26													
27													
28													
29													
30													
31													
Sum	2.06	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Count	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Max	0.87	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Rainy Days	15							Water year Total Rainfall					2.06
Maximum Daily Rainfall				0.87									

Table 1 2023-24 Rainfall Record

October 2023 Depth-to-Water (DTW)

The average DTW measurements District-wide in the 24 monitoring wells on October 20, 2023 was 18.16' ft. DTW averages are about 0.32 ft. lower than September of 2023, about 0.05 ft. better than October of 2022, and about 2 ft. better than October of 2021. The DTW averages in the 5 drought monitoring wells reported at 21.54 ft.

Figure 2 October 2023, Depth-To-Water Chart



Following the Water Shortage Contingency Plan. The MCCSD Board declared on April 19, 2023 that no water shortage exists within the MCCSD boundaries. According to the Water Shortage Contingency Plan, (p. 14) "Calendar for Declaring Water Shortage,....If a water shortage is not declared by the end of May, no further evaluation is required until the following January 31." MCCSD staff will continue to monitor and follow the plan. The MCCSD water table is on average at its lowest during October and November. The Superintendent recommends continued caution and conservation.

Following a request for additional information related to Groundwater Management, staff would like to report:

A developed property on Lansing St. which previously applied for and received a permit to construct a replace well, drilled a 245 ft deep replacement well for their 15ft hand dug well. The submitted well log indicates the drilling took place from 9/19-9/25. The log reported an estimated yield of 2 gal per minute, after completing a 1 hour pump test. The property owner has not applied with the District for any new development, a hydrological study, or increase in water allotment as of this time.

An undeveloped property on south Main St. applied for and conducted a hydrological study. MCCSD staff observed the operation multiple times over the 72 hour pump test, which began on 9/11/23. The final report has yet to be completed or submitted for District review.

The District continues to make progress around groundwater management permitting compliance. On 10/26/23 staff met with County Planning Director Julia Krog to hear how County staff is working to facilitate collaboration between MCCSD, the state Division of Drinking Water, and other regulatory agencies which have jurisdiction within Mendocino. It is still early in the process and more will be known in early December after properties have submitted required paperwork to DDW and MCCSD.

MCCSD sent out a survey to 441 customers in early July to help update District records on current property uses. To date 181 have come back. While more information is still needed, this is another positive step towards increased compliance.

This month just 10 properties (2% of District customers) were noted to have now gone three months or more in the past year without submitting a water meter reading to the District. After three mailings, some of which were certified, failed to generate a meter reading, staff phoned or email each property in October. The phone calls promptly generated one new meter reading, more progress. Staff plan to make an additional attempt by mail and, following Ordinance 2020-01, the District may begin to bill properties for meter reading and send an operator to read their meters.

Nine commercial properties were sent letters on October 16, 2023 notifying them of potential compliance issues, and requested that they complete a groundwater extraction permit application. The good news is that District staff have heard back from eight of the nine properties. At least one property appears to be in compliance, another property has stated they will remove tables from an unpermitted dining area, and a third property possibly requiring some administrative changes has also offered to remove tables from an unpermitted outdoor dining area. District staff appreciate owners working with us on compliance and we are optimistic that more properties will find a path to compliance in the coming months.