

The Agency and WAC member agencies are truly "A Partnership for Sustainable Resources" and are committed to protecting and preserving Russian River water resources and habitat.

For more information about water resource management and water conservation programs in Sonoma and Marin Counties, contact your local water supplier:



**Sonoma County Water Agency**  
(707) 547-1933  
[www.sonomacountywater.org](http://www.sonomacountywater.org)



**City of Santa Rosa**  
(707) 543-3985  
[www.srcity.org/wc](http://www.srcity.org/wc)



**City of Cotati**  
(707) 665-3623  
[www.ci.cotati.ca.us](http://www.ci.cotati.ca.us)



**Town of Windsor**  
(707) 838-1004  
[www.townofwindsor.com](http://www.townofwindsor.com)



**City of Petaluma**  
(707) 778-4546  
[www.cityofpetaluma.net](http://www.cityofpetaluma.net)



**Valley of the Moon Water District**  
(707) 996-1037  
[www.vomwd.com](http://www.vomwd.com)



**City of Rohnert Park**  
(707) 588-2232  
[www.rpcity.org](http://www.rpcity.org)



**North Marin Water District**  
(415) 897-4133  
[www.nmwd.com](http://www.nmwd.com)



**City of Sonoma**  
(707) 933-2247  
[www.sonomacity.org](http://www.sonomacity.org)

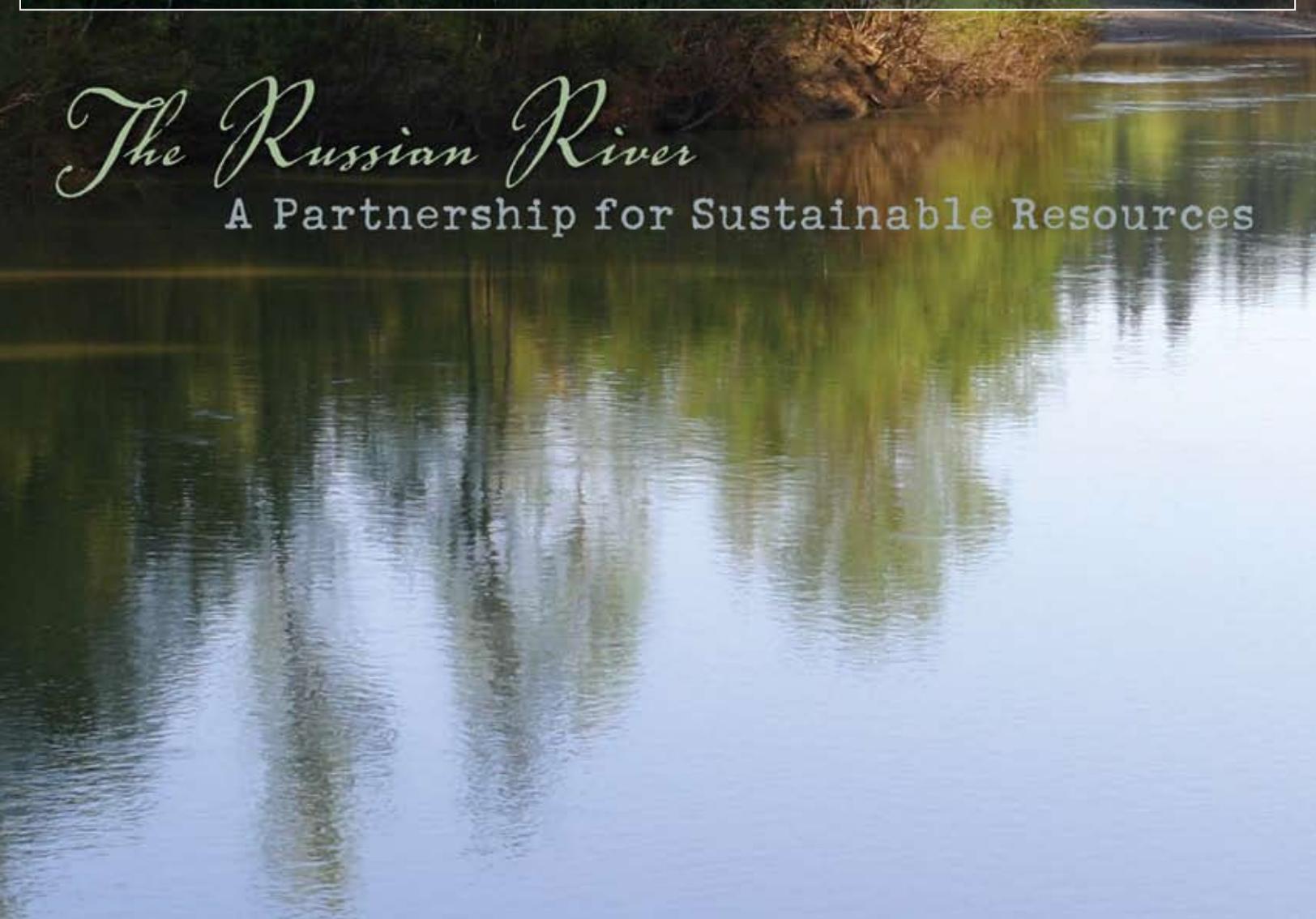


**Marin Municipal Water District**  
(415) 945-1455  
[www.marinwater.org](http://www.marinwater.org)



# *The Russian River*

A Partnership for Sustainable Resources



# A Partnership for Sustainable Water

More than 600,000 residents in Sonoma and Marin counties rely on the water delivered from the Russian River by the Sonoma County Water Agency (Agency). Wildlife, including threatened and endangered species, such as steelhead, coho and Chinook salmon, recreational interests and agricultural crops, also rely on these same natural resources in order to thrive. Realizing the importance of protecting and preserving water resources for future generations, the member agencies of the Water Advisory Committee (WAC) of the Agency have taken a proactive role in helping fund, maintain and implement an array of water supply, conservation and fishery recovery programs.

## Water

The Agency strives to protect and sustain one of the region's most valuable resources – water of the Russian River – through water resource management, urban water supply and demand management, source water protection, water quality monitoring and flood protection maintenance.

## People

The Agency delivers essential drinking water supplies to member agencies of the WAC who in turn serve residential, commercial, industrial and institutional customers in the Sonoma-Marin region.

## Environment

The Agency is at the forefront of environmental stewardship of the Russian River watershed – working to protect, preserve and restore fish habitat and sustain the natural beauty and quality of the watershed for future generations to enjoy.

## Leadership

Elected officials appointed by the council or board of each city and water district that receives water delivered by the Agency, make up the WAC. The main purpose of the WAC is to advise the Agency's Board of Directors on policy and fiscal matters affecting the WAC member agencies. Through teamwork and commitment to the principles of professionalism and accountability, the WAC provides guidance and leadership regarding water supply issues in the Agency's service area.

WAC member agencies are essential partners with the Agency and implement water supply and demand management programs to assure sustainable water resources for the region's future quality of life.

Sonoma County Water Agency

City of Cotati

City of Petaluma

City of Rohnert Park

City of Santa Rosa

City of Sonoma

Town of Windsor

Valley of the Moon Water District

North Marin Water District

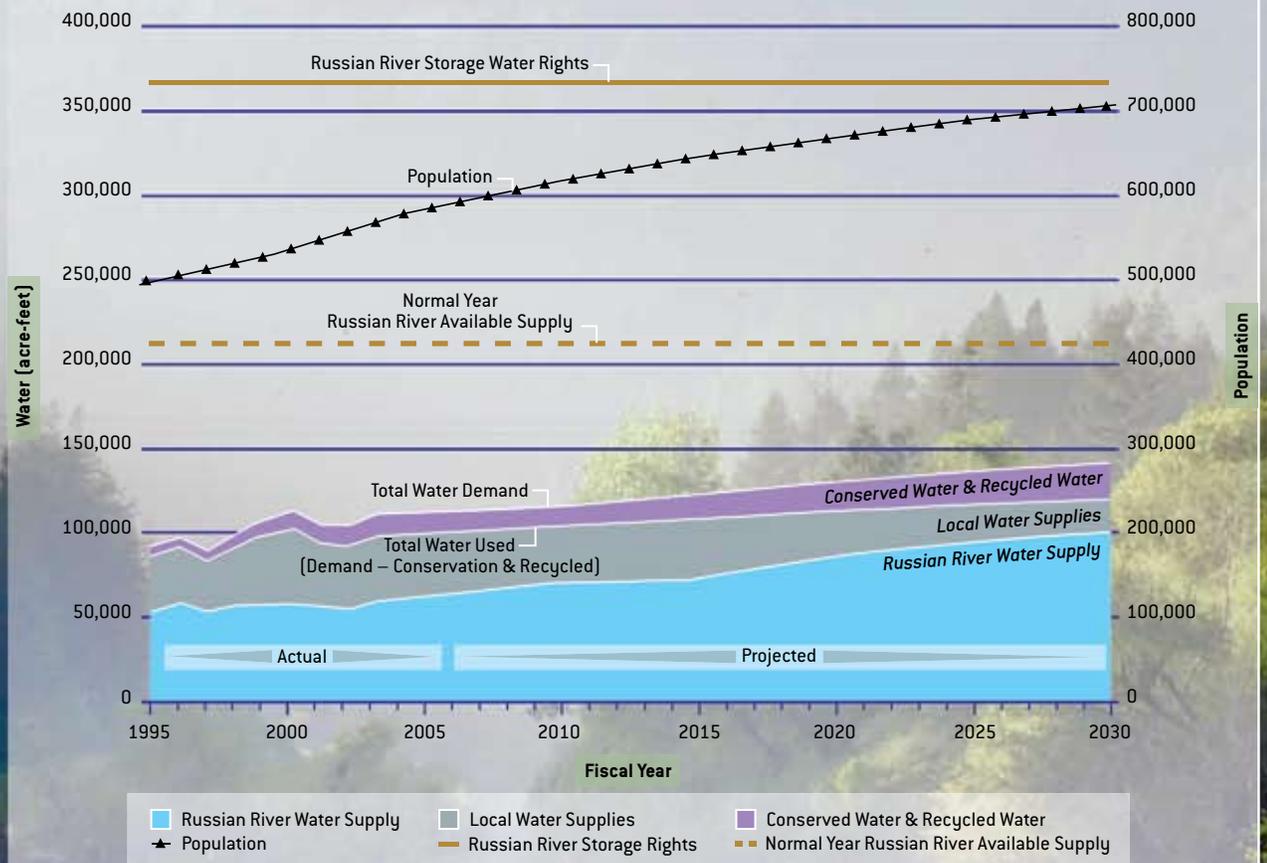
Marin Municipal Water District (non-voting member)

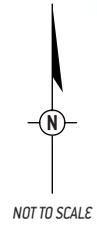


# Resources

## Total Urban Water Use

This chart shows the mix of water supply to meet the WAC member agencies' current and future needs.





# The Russian River Watershed



The Russian River originates in central Mendocino County, approximately 15 miles north of Ukiah. Draining 1,485 square miles, including much of Sonoma and Mendocino counties, its main channel is 110 miles long and flows generally southward from its headwaters near Redwood and Potter Valleys to Forestville, where the direction of flow changes to generally westward as it crosses part of the Coast Range. There are five principal tributaries to the Russian River: the East Fork, Big Sulphur Creek, Mark West Creek, Maacama Creek, and Dry Creek.

Two major reservoir projects provide water supply for the Russian River watershed: Lake Mendocino on the East Fork of the Russian River, and Lake Sonoma on Dry Creek (see map). Releases from Lake Mendocino and Lake Sonoma provide water for agriculture, municipal and industrial uses, in addition to maintaining the minimum stream flows required by Agency water rights permits. These minimum stream flows provide recreation and fish passage for salmon and steelhead.

## Lake Mendocino

This U.S. Army Corps of Engineers project began storing water in 1959 and impounds water supply on the East Fork of the Russian River behind Coyote Valley Dam. It captures a drainage area of about 105 square miles, as well as water diverted from the Eel River through the PG&E Potter Valley hydroelectric project, providing a total storage capacity of 118,000 acre-feet with a water supply pool of 70,000 acre-feet.

## Lake Sonoma

Located at the confluence of Warm Springs Creek and Dry Creek, this lake began storing water in 1984 and has a total storage capacity of 381,000 acre-feet with a water supply pool of 212,000 acre-feet. Warm Springs Dam, also a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers project, impounds runoff from a drainage area of approximately 130 square miles to form Lake Sonoma.

## Russian River Transmission System

The Agency rediverts water released from storage near the Town of Forestville for water supply to WAC member agencies and other customers. The Agency is currently authorized to redivert up to 75,000 acre-feet per year (afy) of Russian River water. An inflatable rubber dam impounds water into off-stream infiltration ponds to augment summer water percolation, where six Ranney collector wells extract underflow river water for delivery to Agency customers. The water is chlorinated to protect against possible bacterial contamination, and pH adjusted for corrosion control. The Agency operates an aqueduct system extending from Forestville to Petaluma and Sonoma (map above) that consists of storage tanks, pipelines, booster (pump) stations and groundwater wells, and is designed to transport the average daily demand during peak water demand periods. Maximum demand usually occurs during the hotter summer months. The current transmission system capacity is 92 million gallons per day.

## Water Quality

The Agency consistently meets state and national standards for drinking water quality and operates under a water supply permit issued by the State Department of Health Services. WAC member agencies are fortunate to have an excellent quality water supply. Maintaining the high quality of water will continue to be one of the Agency's highest priorities.

# Partnership

As shown on the Total Urban Water Use Chart (page 3), WAC member agencies currently deliver 111,500 afy of potable water to residential, commercial, industrial and institutional customers in the Sonoma-Marín region. Russian River supplies make up a majority of this urban water delivery (64,000 afy) with supplies from local lakes and groundwater sources contributing 36,500 afy. Recycled water (highly treated and disinfected wastewater effluent) is also used for urban landscape irrigation, cooling tower water, car wash supplies and some toilet flushing and currently totals 2,500 afy. Over the past 10 years, the Agency and WAC member agencies have put an emphasis on water conservation efforts and currently save 8,500 afy. The region's future water supply will be met with continued water conservation efforts and development of recycled water, balanced by local supplies and additional Russian River water when needed (See generalized equation at right).

## Local Resources and Recycled Water Development

The Agency and WAC member agencies continue to expand the use of local and recycled water resources. During the past 10 years, 14,000 afy of local supply and recycled water have been developed. Recycled water projects alone total 6 million gallons per day of capacity to be used mostly in the summer months, WAC member agencies have developed recycled water plans in coordination with the wastewater treatment facilities in their local service areas to offset potable demand.

The Agency and WAC member agencies in Sonoma County utilize local groundwater sources to supplement Russian River supplies. Studies of the groundwater basins in Sonoma Valley, Alexander Valley and the Santa Rosa Plain, in cooperation with the USGS and Department of Water Resources, are currently underway. In Sonoma Valley, a groundwater basin advisory panel comprised of local stakeholders has been formed to develop a groundwater management plan. It's expected that future use of groundwater supplies will decrease to preserve this important resource for future generations. In Marin County, local surface water supplies are used in summer months to reduce deliveries of Russian River water.

## Water Conservation

The Agency is the first wholesale water agency in the state of California to have all of its water contractors signatory to the California Urban Water Conservation Council Memorandum of Understanding Regarding Urban Water



# Efforts to Sustain the Watershed

Conservation and implement the Best Management Practices (BMPs) for water demand management. Several WAC member agencies have water conservation programs that exceed the BMP requirements and have adopted standards that focus on low water-use requirements for new development. It's projected that water conservation efforts will ultimately save 14,800 afy per year.

## Russian River Habitat and Fishery Enhancement

Chinook salmon and steelhead are listed under the Endangered Species Act as threatened and coho salmon are listed as endangered in the Russian River system. The Agency and WAC member agencies work to enhance the broad range of fish and wildlife resources of the Russian River and have developed sound science to protect, preserve and restore the threatened and endangered fish species.

## Future Funding

The Agency and WAC member agencies participate in integrated regional watershed activities sponsored by the Russian River and North Bay Watershed Associations. The Agency and WAC member agencies have a contractual commitment to continue funding urban water conservation activities, development of local supply and recycled water, water management planning and watershed planning and restoration. Currently, over 12% of Russian River purchased water costs are allocated to these initiatives.

