

JOINT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Special Joint Board Meeting with Ruth Lake Community Services District

591 Van Duzen Road, Mad River, CA 95552

Friday, September 25, 2026

Poem provided by Caitlin Canale, written by Marylu Terral Jeans, circa 1958/1959

NEW DAM IN THE VALLEY

A dam is being built here on the Mad River where my husband's people settled over half a century ago, and my people over two decades ago. The dam will bring many changes, good and bad, and it will take away much that we have known and loved.

Beyond the kitchen window, in the garden, there is a stake with red ribbons fluttering in the breeze. This stake marks the edge of the proposed lake. We always planted our corn there.

We haven't planted a garden for several years, but it is easy to remember the gardens that sustained us in the past; the hours of bean snapping, tomato, pear, and apple peeling that preceded the canning that was so important to our economic welfare. It was hard work, but the finished product was beautiful, and somehow we managed to can and preserve something of the spirit of summer and fall to enjoy in the days of winter. My husband's mother came to this house as a bride, and she helped to raise five children here. My husband was born in this house, and the two sons were raised here. The living room is paneled with pine cut from our land, sawed in our mill, planed on our planer. There is no other lumber like it. My husband can point out the board he was nailing when he received the call from the hospital that the younger son was due to make his arrival. These memories have value.

The lake will take the tree we used as a measuring stick in the winter when the river was high. Trips to look at the measuring tree were exciting adventures, and we will remember them long after the rising river ceases to be important to us.

The old smokehouse will be gone, and the old barn where my husband fed placid mama sheep while the boys and I watched their pogo stick-legged offspring play ring-around-the-rosie and follow the leader in the barnyard.

The new school will go, and the old school house and woodshed, along with the memories and carved initials of two generations of pupils.

The lake will take the old store building whose logs were cut in 1887, and are so hard and weathered that one needs a hammer to make a thumbtack stick in them. The old store seemed picturesque to visitors, dirty and inconvenient to us, but it served an important purpose to the community. It was the meeting place where people gathered to wait for the mail stage, buy supplies and catch up on all of the local news. It was the setting for winter tale-telling ... running bear and bob-cat, hunting bucks, the big fish that got away or the one that didn't, and discussions of the local dances held on Saturday nights. The wood fire roared in the dark, old building, and there was warmth and friendliness there for all who cared to share it.

Although the work has been hard, and the hours long, we will miss the new store that we built with much of our own labor, and with pride. There is no wood stove in the new store, but the oil heater is warm, and in the summer the shady porch holds some of the same groups of people telling and re-telling the old stories. There is a feeling of continuance here; we have roots.

The lake will take the airstrip we built, and our hangar. We will miss the plane that widened our horizons, and met many an emergency for us and for our neighbors, and we will miss those neighbors. Like them, we will find a new home, new work, new friends, but it will not be the same. We have lived here too long.

We will lose a mile of river that is as familiar to us as the faces of our family, and trees that are like old friends, for each of us living here feels a kinship with the mountains.

Throughout the United States with its building programs for new highways, thru-ways, bridges, dams and airports, these things are happening. This is progress, and we cannot halt it. I am not sure we would if we could ... but it is perhaps good to stop and think that progress bears a price tag beyond its value in dollars and cents.

By Marylu Terral Jeans

(wife of Aubert Jeans)

JOINT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Friday, September 25, 2026

PURPOSE	<i>Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District safeguards and sustainably delivers clean and reliable water to our community while protecting our natural resources and providing a resilient water supply for present and future generations.</i>
VISION	<i>An innovative and future-ready water system that equitably and reliably delivers water while enhancing environmental stewardship and community well-being.</i>

MEETING ACCESS & PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

How to Submit Public Comment: Members of the public may provide public comments via email until 5 p.m. the day before the Board Meeting. Comments for Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District may be emailed to office@hbmwd.com or mailed to 828 7th Street, Eureka, CA 95501. Comments for Ruth Lake Community Services District may be emailed to ruthlakecsd@yahoo.com or mailed to P.O. Box 6, Mad River, CA 95552. Email and written comments should identify the agenda item number. Comments may also be made in person at the meeting.

Document Availability: Materials related to an item on this agenda that have been submitted to the HBMWD Board of Directors within 72 hours prior to this meeting are available for public inspection at the HBMWD Office, 828 7th Street, Eureka, California, during normal business hours, and can be viewed at www.hbmwd.com.

Disability Notice: In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you require a disability-related modification or accommodation to participate in this public meeting, please call (707) 443-5018. Notification 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the District to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility.

AGENDA

REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING

Friday, September 25, 2026, • 1:00 p.m. • 591 Van Duzen Road, Mad River, CA 95552

1. CALL TO ORDER

1. Roll Call
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Accept Agenda

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Members of the public are invited to address the Joint Board on items not listed on the agenda that are within the scope and jurisdiction of the District. At the discretion of the Board Presidents, comments may be limited to five minutes per person. Under the Brown Act, the Joint Board may not take action on any item that does not appear on the agenda and is limited to a brief response, clarifying questions, or referral to staff. Public comment on agenda items will be received before or during the Joint Board's consideration of the item.

3. PARTNER UPDATES

1. Trinity County – 5th District Supervisor and Staff – Julia Brownfield
2. Trinity County Planning – Drew Plebani
3. Trinity County OES – Arina Erwin/Sonni Demello
4. Southern Trinity Area Rescue (STAR) – Brooke Entsminger
5. Southern Trinity Volunteer Fire Department – Melony Shortt
6. US Forest Service – Kristen Lark

4. DISCUSSION

1. Shared History, Founding Partnerships, and Renewed Commitment to Collaborate at Ruth Lake
2. Status Update on Current Grant-Funded Projects at Ruth Lake
3. Watershed Resilience Implementation Program – Proposition 4 Grant Opportunity
4. Trinity County Update to the Ruth Lake Specific Unit Development (SUD) Guidelines
5. HTRA Request to Donate a Portion of APN 020-330-005 for the Trinity Resilience Center

5. ADJOURNMENT



HUMBOLDT BAY MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT

828 Seventh Street, Eureka, CA 95501
(707) 443-5018 • www.hbmwd.com

JOINT STAFF MEMORANDUM

Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District | Ruth Lake Community Services District

MEETING: Special Joint Board Meeting, HBMWD and Ruth Lake Community Services District
DATE: September 25, 2026
AGENDA ITEM: 4.1
TO: Joint Boards of Directors
FROM: Michiko Mares, HBMWD and Caitlin Canale, RLCSD - General Managers
SUBJECT: Shared History, Founding Partnerships, and Renewed Commitment to Collaborate at Ruth Lake

PURPOSE

This memorandum provides the Joint Boards with a brief history of Ruth Lake and the partnership that built it, describes how our agencies and our founding partners are connected, identifies the purpose we share, and asks both Boards to reaffirm a commitment to collaborate as significant work lies ahead. It is offered to frame the joint discussions today. The story of Ruth Lake is not the story of two districts alone. From the beginning it has been a partnership among Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District (HBMWD), Trinity County, the Ruth Lake community, and the United States Forest Service, and that broader foundation is worth remembering as we plan the years to come.

A SHARED ORIGIN AT RUTH LAKE

The relationship among the partners begins with a single body of water. HBMWD was formed in 1956 to develop a reliable water supply for the Humboldt Bay area, and it looked to the Mad River in southern Trinity County. Building a reservoir in one county to serve another required cooperation from the start, and that cooperation was formalized before a single yard of the dam was built.

In 1958 and 1959, to resolve differences over the District's water rights applications then pending before the State Water Rights Board, HBMWD and the Trinity County Board of Supervisors entered into a Memorandum of Understanding, approved by the HBMWD Board through Resolutions No. 11, 12, and 13. In that agreement the District committed to purchase a strip of land above the reservoir and lease it to Trinity County for public recreation, to maintain a minimum summer pool for recreation, to rebuild county roads, to replace the Ruth airstrip, to clear the reservoir, to pay Trinity County taxes on project lands, and to support legislation to fund the project. This Memorandum of Understanding is the true founding document of the Ruth Lake partnership.

The partnership was put into operation a few years later. On December 31, 1964, HBMWD, as Lessor, and the County of Trinity, as Lessee, entered into a lease of the District's lands above the waterline of Ruth Lake for public recreation, at one dollar per year, for a thirty-nine-year term renewable in successive periods not to exceed ninety-nine years in total. The lease authorized the County to build and operate boat-launching and other recreational facilities and, importantly, to sublet to tenants, which is the origin of the individual sublease lots managed at Ruth Lake today. It also reserved to HBMWD all lands within 2,000 feet of the dam centerline, required that any construction be subject

to District approval and to County and State building and health codes, obligated tenants to protect the purity of the reservoir, and reflected the \$95,000 Davis-Grunsky recreation grant that helped fund the onshore facilities. This 1964 lease is the direct ancestor of the master lease and sublease structure that governs the Ruth Lake buffer lands now.

Construction followed, and HBMWD completed the R.W. Matthews Dam in 1962, impounding Ruth Lake as the region's principal water supply reservoir. In 1966, following a petition by Ruth Lake area residents and an election in which the community voted 119 in favor, the Trinity County Board of Supervisors created the Ruth Lake Community Services District, adopting its formation on June 20, 1966 under Government Code Section 61000 et seq. (Resolution No. 34-66) to provide water, wastewater, solid waste, and related community services in the Ruth Lake area. Over the following decades RLCSD's role centered on managing recreation at the lake, including sublease sites, the marina, and campgrounds, while also overseeing small water systems, and coordinating garbage collection. RLCSD activated fire protection support in 1991 for the Southern Trinity Fire Company, with its boundaries span portions of both Trinity and Humboldt counties.

OUR FOUNDING PARTNERS

Four partners shaped Ruth Lake as it exists today, and each still matters to how the lake is planned and managed:

- **Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District** owns the majority of Ruth Lake, the R.W. Matthews Dam, and the surrounding buffer lands, and operates the reservoir as a FERC-licensed, high-hazard facility (FERC Project No. P-3430) that supplies drinking water to roughly 94,000 residents.
- **Trinity County** was the District's original partner. Through the 1958-59 Memorandum of Understanding, the County secured public recreation, road, airstrip, and minimum-pool commitments in exchange for resolving the water rights dispute, and the County holds the land use authority over the Ruth Lake area to this day.
- **The Ruth Lake community, through RLCSD**, manages the recreation and community life of the lake that the founding agreements were designed to protect and provide.
- **The United States Forest Service (Six Rivers National Forest)** was part of the original recreation framework. The onshore recreational facilities contemplated for Ruth Lake were to be developed with the Forest Service and built to Six Rivers National Forest standards, and the Forest Service remains a key landowner and partner across the upper watershed.

HOW ANNEXATION SHAPED PLANNING AND DESIGN

An important and sometimes overlooked chapter came in 1971 and 1972. By Resolution No. 231, adopted December 27, 1971, the HBMWD Board applied to annex its Trinity County property, the lands adjacent to Ruth Lake and the R.W. Matthews Dam, into the District. On January 19, 1972, the Humboldt County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) approved the annexation of this District-owned property.

The annexation carried two conditions that still shape planning and design at Ruth Lake today. First, it expressly kept the 1958-59 Memorandum of Understanding in force, and continued the District's annual payments to Trinity County under Paragraph 7 of that agreement. Second, the resolution named the affected agencies, the County of Trinity, RLCSD, and the local school districts, and recorded that a purpose of the annexation was to promote convenience of management and planning and to benefit possible future State and Federal funding. In practical terms, this means the founding commitments to recreation, public access, roads, and minimum pool were not superseded by annexation; they were carried forward. Any planning or design framework for the Ruth Lake buffer lands, including the Specific Unit Development guidelines now before Trinity County, sits on top of this layered foundation of the 1959 MOU, the 1972 annexation, and the County's continuing land use authority. Honoring those original commitments is part of getting current planning right.

OUR SHARED PURPOSE

Although the partners were brought together for different primary functions, water supply, recreation, county services, and forest stewardship, we share a common purpose rooted in the same watershed. All of us are committed to protecting the quality and integrity of Ruth Lake and the Mad River (Baduwa't) watershed, to keeping the reservoir safe and accessible, and to sustaining this resource for present and future generations. That shared commitment is reflected in HBMWD's own adopted Purpose and Vision:

PURPOSE

Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District safeguards and sustainably delivers clean and reliable water to our community while protecting our natural resources and providing a resilient water supply for present and future generations.

VISION

An innovative and future-ready water system that equitably and reliably delivers water while enhancing environmental stewardship and community well-being.

OUR CURRENT COLLABORATIVE RELATIONSHIP

The partnership remains active and productive. The clearest recent example is the joint response to aquatic invasive species. HBMWD has secured multiple grants through the California Division of Boating and Waterways to support its Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Plan at Ruth Lake, and on April 3, 2026, HBMWD and RLCSD issued a joint statement implementing a mandatory 30-day quarantine for watercraft with ballast tanks or components that cannot be fully drained, to keep invasive species out of the reservoir. Collaboration continues across the initiatives on today's agenda.

A RENEWED COMMITMENT TO COLLABORATE

For nearly seven decades, the partners at Ruth Lake have shared the same reservoir, the same watershed, and the same fundamental commitment to protecting it. That foundation was built on early agreements that deliberately tied water supply, recreation, county governance, and forest stewardship together. Significant work now lies ahead, from watershed resilience and dam safety to invasive species prevention, and source water protection. Staff recommend that the Joint Boards use this meeting to reaffirm their commitment to collaborate, in the same spirit of partnership that created Ruth Lake, and to invite our founding partners at Trinity County and the Forest Service to continue that work with us.

RECOMMENDATION

Receive and file. This item is presented for informational purposes to promote collaboration.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Resolution No. 13 of Board of Directors of Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District approving Redrafted Memorandum of Understanding with Trinity County, January 28, 1959.
2. Lease between Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District and County of Trinity, December 31, 1964.
3. Resolution No. 34-66 of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Trinity relating to the Formation of the Ruth Lake Community Services District, February 9, 1966.

Clean. Reliable. Resilient.

RESOLUTION NO. 13

RESOLUTION OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE HUMBOLDT
BAY MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT APPROVING
REDRAFTED MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District hereby approves the terms of the Memorandum of Understanding by and between representatives of this District, and representatives of the County of Trinity, State of California, and its duly elected Board of Supervisors, in the manner and form as redrafted on January 28, 1959, a true copy of said redrafted Memorandum of Understanding being hereto attached, marked Exhibit "A", and hereby made a part of this Resolution.

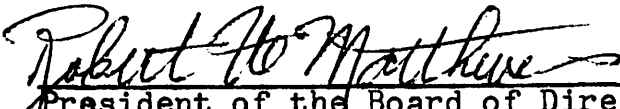
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the terms and provisions of said Memorandum of Understanding shall be effective at such time as said District shall proceed with construction of the contemplated Ruth project.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED this 2nd day of February, 1959 by the following vote:

Ayes: Directors Matthews, Hilfiker and Butler.

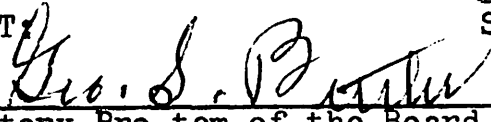
Noes: Directors - None

Absent: Directors Gosselin and McBride.



President of the Board of Directors
of Humboldt Bay Municipal Water
District of the County of Humboldt,
State of California

ATTEST



Secretary Pro-tem of the Board
of Directors of the Humboldt
Bay Municipal Water District of
the County of Humboldt, State
of California

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

This memorandum drafted this 28th day of January, 1959, represents understandings reached by representatives of Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District, herein referred to as "District", and representatives of the County of Trinity, State of California and its duly elected Board of Supervisors, herein referred to as "Trinity County";

Said understanding has been reached in order to resolve certain differences which have arisen between the parties hereto in relation to District's Applications Numbers 16454 and 17291 now pending before the California State Water Rights Board.

It is understood as follows:

1. DEVELOPMENT OF RECREATION

District intends to negotiate for and to purchase a strip of land at least 300 feet wide above normal maximum pool elevation of the ultimate project development, approximate contour 2697. (All contours to which reference is herein made are according to Bechtel Survey datum, as shown on District's Exhibit Number 7 in the records of the hearings of said applications). Said lands to be purchased by District will not include United States properties under the jurisdiction of the United States Forest Service. The lands to be purchased by the District will be for the following purposes:

- (a) to make available to the public free access to the reservoir, and
- (b) to assure proper sanitation.

District will make an agreement of lease with Trinity County, to extend for a period of 10 years, with option to renew for successive five-year periods, for an annual consideration of \$1.00, to enable Trinity County, without expense to District, to administer said strip, to designate and improve access facilities to the reservoir, to build, maintain, and operate boat launching facilities, and, subject to prior written approval of District, to construct such other recreation facilities and structures as Trinity County may deem suitable. Detailed terms of said lease to be drafted by legal counsel for District and for Trinity County.

2. MINIMUM POOL

The Ruth Reservoir will be operated in such a manner that from June 1 through September 10 of each year, water surface elevation will not be lower than approximate contour 2610, which represents reservoir capacity of approximately 8,000 acre-feet.

3. ROADS

District, at its expense, will rebuild existing Trinity County roads according to approved standards to be determined by the Trinity County Road Commissioner, a representative of the United States Forest Service, and a representative of Bechtel Corporation.

4. MAJOR MAINTENANCE OF ROADS

District agrees to maintain the relocated roads for a period of three years from completion of the road construction.

Such maintenance shall extend only to major maintenance. Major maintenance is defined to be repair of slides, slip-outs, washouts, or defective construction. Ordinary maintenance will be assumed by Trinity County. Ordinary maintenance is defined to mean grading, cleaning gutters, snow removal, minor graveling and removal of obstructions other than those defined as major maintenance. District agrees prior to road construction to submit complete plans and specifications to Trinity County for review and approval of any relocated roads.

5. REPLACEMENT OF EXISTING AIRSTRIP

District, at its expense, will replace the Ruth Air-strip with approximately equal facilities, to be rebuilt at a location to be selected by the Trinity County Road Commissioner, a representative of the United States Forest Service, and a representative of Bechtel Corporation.

6. CLEARING OF RESERVOIR

At expense of District, the Ruth Reservoir will be cleared of all timber, stumps, and brush up to the high water mark, in accordance with stage construction of the project.

7. PAYMENT OF TAXES

District agrees to pay taxes on all land acquired, or to be acquired, in the construction of the project or any extension thereof. It is understood and agreed that the assessed valuation of said property shall be the assessed valuation as shown on the Trinity County Roll 1958-1959,

exclusive of improvements. The tax rate will vary as determined by the County for all taxpayers within the County from time to time.

8. STATE FUNDS

District agrees to support any legislation to obtain State funds to construct the dam on a larger scale than the initial project proposal of the District. District further agrees to join with Trinity County in any procedural steps necessary to gain the State funds and assistance. District's duty hereunder does not extend to a requirement for a financial contribution to obtain such State funds, and the District shall not be required to join in any procedures which interfere with the District's construction program or operation of facilities. If State funds are available before the District commences construction, State contribution at any such time will not be deemed an interference with the District's construction program.

It is understood and agreed that any permit issued to said District by the State Water Rights Board may be issued subject to this memorandum.

This memorandum of understanding will forthwith be submitted for approval by appropriate resolution by the parties to this memorandum.

LEASE

1. PARTIES. The parties to the within agreement are the HUMBOLDT BAY MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT, hereinafter called Lessor, and the COUNTY OF TRINITY, STATE OF CALIFORNIA, hereinafter called Lessee, both of which are political subdivisions of the State of California.

2. TERM: The term of the within Lease shall be thirty-nine (39) years commencing June 1, 1964 and ending May 31, 2003, without any other act of Lessor had or obtained. Provided, however, that should the Lessee hold over beyond the expiration of the within term that the tenancy shall continue thereafter from month to month, and provided further, that the Lessee may at its option renew the within term for successive ten (10) year periods, at the request of Lessee, should Lessee so request within thirty (30) days prior to the end of the within term or any ten (10) year extension thereof. In no event shall the original term and renewals exceed ninety-nine (99) years in total.

3. RENTAL. The rental for the within thirty-nine (39) year term is the sum of THIRTY-NINE (\$39.00) DOLLARS, ONE (\$1.00) DOLLAR of which is payable on July 1, 1964, the balance thereof to be paid in successive annual installments of ONE (\$1.00) DOLLAR each on the 1st day of July in each successive year.

4. PURPOSE OF LEASE. The lands hereinafter described demised by Lessor to Lessee are let solely for the following purposes and no other purpose or purposes whatsoever or at all:

(a) To build, maintain and operate boat launching facilities, access and appurtenances thereto.

X (b) To construct and maintain such other and further recreational facilities, roads and structures as Lessee may deem desirable from time to time, provided however, that Lessee shall give forty-five (45) days prior written notice of any such construction. Every such notice must be accompanied by a building permit issued by

the County of Trinity and any other applicable political subdivision of the State of California. In the event that Lessor does not object to such construction within said forty-five (45) day period, Lessee may do the construction in accordance with the notice and accompanying building permit. Lessor shall not object to such construction unless the same shall unreasonably interfere with or be likely to interfere with the value or utility of Lessor's lake, waters, and improvements at Ruth, California. In the event that Lessor desires to object, such objection shall be made in writing and shall specify the grounds of objection. No construction shall be done after such objection by Lessor except with prior written approval of Lessor.

In the event of disagreement between Lessee and Lessor as to Lessor's ground of objection as above set forth, Lessor and Lessee shall each designate an arbitrator and the two arbitrators so selected shall select a third arbitrator. The arbitrators so selected shall herein determine the controversy, and their decision thereupon shall be final and binding upon the parties hereto. Each party shall bear half of the cost of such arbitration.

(c) To sublet to tenants of Lessee ground upon which to carry on the activities set forth in (a) and (b) above, provided further, that any such subtenant shall agree in writing to be bound by the terms of these presents.

(d) Any subletting or sublease shall not act in any way to relieve the Lessee from any of its undertakings herein. Lessee may assign the within Lease in whole or in part. No such assignment or assignments shall relieve Lessee of any of its undertakings herein.

5. PREMISES. The lands hereby demised are all those lands of Lessor above the level of the water in the lake of Lessor, as the same may exist from time to time. It is understood and agreed that the water level of the lake cannot be accurately set forth, as the same will necessarily vary due to the forces of nature, and Lessor's operation of its project.

Lessor reserves, and specifically excludes from the lands demised by this agreement, all lands owned by Lessor, or to be owned

by Lessor within 2,000 feet of the center line of the dam of Lessor as the same is now constructed at Ruth, California; PROVIDED, however, that Lessee may have full use, consistent with this lease, of a certain vista site and flat within approximately 2,000 feet of the center line of said dam.

It is understood that Lessor may at some future time require the use thereof for construction purposes, and that Lessee will not sublease any portion thereof, or seek permission for any commercial or dwelling structures to be placed thereon. Lessor may at any time recapture the use of said vista site and flat if needed by District for construction purposes.

6. INTERFERENCE WITH LESSOR'S ACTIVITIES. Lessee covenants for itself, its successors, assigns and subtenants that it shall not nor shall any of them engage in any activity, construction or take any act which shall in any way interfere with Lessor's lake and dam, the water therein or the beneficial enjoyment and use thereof or the quantity thereof. The parties hereto recognize that the waters impounded in said lake are intended both for human and industrial consumption and that every effort must be taken and maintained in order to preserve the purity and quantity thereof.

In order to protect Lessor and its facilities, Lessee covenants that it and its subtenants, if any, shall give notice of construction in the same manner as provided in Paragraph 4(b) above, subject to the same objection of the District. All subtenants, if any, shall comply with all building and health ordinances of the COUNTY OF TRINITY and the STATE OF CALIFORNIA. The notice required to be given to Lessor hereunder is not in any manner to be deemed limited to buildings or structures, but extends to roads, wells, outbuildings, drainage facilities, pipes, recreational facilities, utility services, communication facilities, and boat facilities. Notice, subject to objection thereby prohibiting such construction, shall be required for both permanent and temporary facilities.

7. LAKE LEVEL. The primary purpose of the installation of Lessor's facilities at Ruth, California, is for impounding water.

It is agreed between the parties hereto that the level of the lake at Ruth, California, shall be maintained or kept at such levels as the Lessor shall in its sole discretion deem advisable from time to time, provided, however, that Lessor covenants that it will not raise the height of the spillway crest of its said dam above contour 2697. Lessor reserves to itself the right to change the level thereof, whether to the detriment of Lessee or its subtenants or not, without any prior notice to Lessee or its subtenants. It is specifically understood that Lessor may at any time in the future increase the lake level to a stage which may or may not inundate or impair facilities of Lessee or Lessee's subtenants. Should the same occur, Lessor will not give or render any consideration whatsoever or at all for such damages, if any, as may be occasioned to Lessee and its subtenants. Lessor covenants that it will not drain the lake below the minimum pool required under its said water rights application. Lessor further covenants that it will make surplus water available to tenants of Lessee and Lessee to the extent that there is surplus water available at reasonable prices and under reasonable conditions. "Surplus water" is used within this paragraph to mean that water not otherwise committed by law or contract belonging to the District under its said water rights, and further not required or needed by the District for use or sale within the physical confines of the District as the same shall politically exist from time to time.

8. STATE GRANT. The Lessor is about to receive a State grant under contract of NINETY-FIVE THOUSAND (\$95,000.00) DOLLARS pursuant to the Davis-Grunsky Act for development, operation and maintenance of on-shore recreation facilities at the demised premises, which funds shall be spent as follows:

(a) So much thereof as is necessary for the construction of facilities as provided under Paragraph C of a contract between the State of California and Lessor under the Davis-Grunsky Act. Lessor will proceed to construct said facilities as soon as the State of California has approved the plans and specifications in relation thereto.

(b) (b) The balance of said sum after construction costs shall be deposited in a trust account to secure Lessor's performance of said contract to said State and Lessor will invest said trust account in such a manner as to bear interest and will pay the interest to Lessee on the 30th day of June of each year, as earned. When a sufficient number of years have elapsed to release Lessor from any claim by said State under said contract for return of funds, Lessor will pay unto Lessee the sum of TWO THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED SEVENTY-FIVE (\$2,375.00) DOLLARS each year thereafter on the 1st day of July of each year until the entire balance of said account has been paid to Lessee. Lessee covenants that it will keep and maintain all of Lessor's covenants in said contract, which contract is incorporated herein as though set forth at this point in full.

(c) Lessee covenants that it will provide Lessor with duplicate copies of all reports which shall be required from time to time by the State of California in relation to said State grant and contract relating thereto.

9. NON-LIABILITY OF LESSOR. As a material part of the consideration for the within Lease Lessee covenants that in its sole cost and expense it will comply with all of the requirements of all State and Federal authorities now in force or which may hereinafter be in force pertaining to the said premises and shall faithfully observe in the use of the premises all State and Federal statutes now in force or which may hereinafter be in force.

This lease is made on the express condition that Lessor is to be free from all liability and claims for damages by reason of injury to any person or property, including the property of Lessee, from any and all causes whatsoever while; in, upon, or in any way connected with the demised premises or appurtenances thereto during the term of this Lease or any extension hereof, Lessee hereby covenanting and agreeing to indemnify and save harmless Lessor from all liability, loss, cost, and obligation on account of or arising out of such injuries or losses however occurred.

10. LIABILITY INSURANCE. Lessee further agrees as a material part of this Lease to take out and keep in force during the life hereof at Lessee's expense public liability insurance in companies approved by Lessor to protect against any liability to the public incident to the use of or resulting from any accident occurred in or about said premises. The liability of the insurer under such insurance shall not be less than TWO HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND (\$250,000.00) DOLLARS for any one person, FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND (\$500,000.00) DOLLARS for any one accident in which more than one person is injured and FIFTY THOUSAND (\$50,000.00) DOLLARS property damage. Such insurance shall insure the contingent liability of Lessor and Lessee shall obtain an endorsement from such insurer to notify Lessor not less than thirty (30) days, in writing, precedent to cancellation thereof. In the event that Lessee does not maintain such insurance at all times Lessor may acquire the same and charge the premium to Lessee as additional rental to be due from Lessee to Lessor on the date upon which rent next becomes due.

11. RESERVE PROPERTY. Lessor reserves unto itself at this time, in addition to the lands adjacent to its dam as set forth in Paragraph 5 above, those certain buildings heretofore belonging to the Mad River School District consisting of a school building and a teacherage together with a strip of land 300 feet around said buildings in all directions together with access to said lake as the high water mark thereof may exist from time to time.

Lessor may at any other time or times, without payment or prior permission of Lessee, or its subtenants, if any, repossess any portion or portions of the demised premises for road, highway, or right-of-way purposes as may be reasonably necessary for its use to the exclusion of Lessee and its subtenants if any. Lessor may repossess other portions of the demised premises provided only that the same be unimproved and reasonably required by Lessor for the operation, maintenance or protection of its assets or activities, or purposes as set forth in Paragraphs 6 and 7 above.

Lessor will take possession of only such property as is

necessary for its proper purposes as set forth above, and to the fullest extent possible will give advance notice thereof to Lessee. In the event of increase in height of the dam or spillway, Lessor will give at least one (1) year advance notice of such increase in height.

12. WASTE. Lessee shall not commit or suffer to be committed any act upon the premises which shall constitute waste or nuisance which shall in any manner disturb the quiet or beneficial use of any portion of the demised premises or said lake or said dam and the appurtenances thereto.

13. DISPOSAL FACILITIES. Lessee shall not permit, suffer or allow any open pit or exposed disposal facilities for garbage, waste, or otherwise, to exist at any time on the lands herein demised except with the prior written permission of Lessor.

DATED: December 31, 1964.

HUMBOLDT BAY MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT,
a political subdivision of the State
of California

By

[Signature]
Its President

ATTEST:

[Signature]
Its Secretary

LESSOR

COUNTY OF TRINITY, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

By

[Signature]
Chairman of the Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:

MARION KEESLING

COUNTY CLERK AND EX-OFFICIO CLERK OF
THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY
OF TRINITY, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

[Signature]
Its Secretary

By: [Signature], Deputy LESSEE

RESOLUTION
OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
OF THE COUNTY OF TRINITY

RESOLUTION NO. 34-66, RELATING TO THE FORMATION OF RUTH LAKE
COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

WHEREAS, heretofore and on the 9th day of February, 1966, there was presented to the Board of Supervisors, County of Trinity, State of California, a certain petition for the formation of a community services district pursuant to Section 61000 et seq. of the Government Code of California, by residents of the Ruth Lake area, in Trinity County, California, and

WHEREAS, the said Board of Supervisors on the 24th day of February, 1966, and on the 3rd day of March, 1966, gave notice of public hearing to be held on the 8th day of March, 1966, and whereas on the 8th day of March, 1966, there was held a public hearing at which protests to the formation of said district and for exclusion of territories were heard, and

WHEREAS, no exclusions were granted, and

WHEREAS, on the 21st day of March, 1966, this Board called an election pursuant to Sections 6066 and 61122 of the Government Code, said election to be held in the proposed district on the 7th day of June, 1966, and

WHEREAS, said election was held upon said date and whereas the majority of the votes cast at the said election favored formation of the district, said votes being 119 for formation of said district,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by this Board of Supervisors ~~for~~^{for} 25th the County of Trinity, State of California, in regular session this 25th day of June, 1966, as follows:

1. That the said district is declared duly organized, pursuant to Sections 61000 et seq. of the Government Code of the State of California.

2. That the name of said district shall be the RUTH LAKE COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT.

3. That the purposes for ²⁰which the district is presently formed are as follows:

are as follows:

- a. To supply the inhabitants of the district with water for domestic use, irrigation, sanitation, industrial use, fire protection, and recreation;
- b. The collection, treatment or disposal of sewage, waste and storm water of the district and its inhabitants;
- c. The collection or disposal of garbage or refuse matter;
- d. Public recreation by means of parks, including but not limited to aquatic parks and recreational harbors, playgrounds, golf courses, swimming pools or recreation buildings;
- e. Mosquito abatement;

BOOK 110 PAGE 331

4. That the boundaries of the district will be the same as the Mad River Joint School District and Metten Valley School District, excluding any lands lying outside Trinity County.

5. That the directors of the district will be:

Larry Brown
Earl P. Dillon
Gene McKittrick
Nelson Rouse
Frances Burrows

Adopted this 20th day of June, 1966.

Loyd L. Karrer

Supervisor - 1st District

John D. Larkin

Supervisor - 2nd District

Leroy W. Harrison

Supervisor - 3rd District

Supervisor - 4th District

Supervisor - 5th District

AYES: 4

NOES: 0

ABSENT: Rablin

ATTEST:

SEAL



HUMBOLDT BAY MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT

828 Seventh Street, Eureka, CA 95501
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JOINT STAFF MEMORANDUM

Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District | Ruth Lake Community Services District

MEETING: Special Joint Board Meeting, HBMWD and Ruth Lake Community Services District
DATE: September 25, 2026
AGENDA ITEM: 4.2
TO: Joint Boards of Directors
FROM: Caitlin Canale, RLCSD and Michiko Mares, HBMWD - General Managers
SUBJECT: Status Update on Current Grant-Funded Projects at Ruth Lake

PURPOSE AND CONTEXT

This memorandum updates the Joint Boards on the grant-funded projects underway at Ruth Lake. It is presented for information and discussion; no Board action is requested. Both projects share a single objective: keeping aquatic invasive species, particularly Golden, Quagga, and Zebra mussels, out of Ruth Lake. That objective protects the region's sole source of drinking water for roughly 94,000 residents and safeguards the recreation and community life that depend on a healthy lake. These grants let the districts advance that protection largely with outside funding rather than local dollars.

GRANT PORTFOLIO AT A GLANCE

Project	Funder / Program	Award	Term	Status
Old Ruth Gate Access Power Restoration & Prevention Supplies	CA State Parks DBW - Quagga/Zebra Prevention (Tier 2)	\$56,886.78	Sep 2024 - Sep 2026	Complete; final report submitted
Ruth Lake Decontamination Station	CDFW - Sport Fish Restoration / Invasive Mussel Response	\$100,100	Through Jun 2027	Installed; winterized

Together, these two awards represent \$156,986.78 in secured outside funding for invasive species prevention at Ruth Lake.

1. Quagga Grant - Old Ruth Recreation Area

The Old Ruth Gate Access Power Restoration and Prevention Supplies project strengthens invasive species prevention at Ruth Lake through improved boat launch access control, updated prevention signage, and enhanced early-detection monitoring.

Grant Details

HBMWD was awarded \$56,886.78 through the California State Parks Division of Boating and Waterways (DBW) Quagga and Zebra Mussel Infestation Prevention Grant Program. Grant

Agreement No. C24Q0804 is a Tier 2 Implementation grant with a term of September 16, 2024 through September 15, 2026.

Work Completed

The project restored electrical power to the Old Ruth Lake gate access, installed new quagga and zebra mussel prevention signage, and constructed artificial substrates for early-detection monitoring. Electrical power and automated operation of the gate arm and key card reader became fully operational on May 18, 2026. Prevention signage and the artificial substrate task are complete. Monthly early-detection monitoring has continued at four locations at Ruth Lake, with no quagga or zebra mussels detected during the grant term.

Current Status

Tasks 1 through 3 are 100% complete, and the final project report has been submitted. As of July 15, 2026, cumulative expenditures totaled \$50,167.99 of the \$56,886.78 award, leaving \$6,718.79 unclaimed, including the required 10% retention withheld by DBW pending project completion and cost approval. The grant term ended September 15, 2026.

The final project report has been submitted to DBW. The District is awaiting final review and grant closeout, including release of the remaining retention following approval of project costs.

2. Decontamination Station

The Ruth Lake Decontamination Station project provides on-site watercraft decontamination capability to strengthen the districts' invasive species prevention efforts at the lake.

Grant Details

In September 2025, HBMWD accepted \$100,100 in grant funding from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) through the Sport Fish Restoration Act Boating Access - Invasive Mussel Response Program (Grant Agreement No. Q2596908). The grant supports development of watercraft decontamination capability at Ruth Lake and has a term through June 30, 2027.

Adaptive Management - Redirecting the Project

This project reflects staff working actively to deliver a result within a constrained budget. The original scope contemplated site preparation and supporting infrastructure for a Clean Wake decontamination dip tank. On further evaluation, staff determined that the roughly \$1 million cost of the Clean Wake system substantially exceeded available funding. The District pursued additional funding through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service FY25 Golden Mussel Prevention and Control program but was not selected for an award. Rather than let the project stall, in March 2026 the HBMWD Board authorized amending Grant Agreement Q2596908 to redirect the existing \$100,100 toward a high-temperature spray wash decontamination system, estimated at approximately \$200,000, a more feasible path to real decontamination capability within the existing grant term, working closely with RLCSD.

Current Status

The high-temperature spray wash decontamination system has been procured, installed, commissioned, and staff trained on its operation. The system has been taken off-line and winterized until the next boating season, when it will be available to support watercraft decontamination at Ruth Lake.

Task responsibilities for equipment procurement, site preparation, utility installation, equipment installation, startup, and training were shared between RLCSD and HBMWD staff.

WHAT COMES NEXT

- Quagga grant: final project reporting has been submitted. Complete grant closeout with DBW and release the remaining retention following final review and cost approval.

- Decontamination station: return the commissioned spray wash system to service for the next boating season and complete grant reporting within the June 30, 2027 term.
- Both projects feed the districts' broader invasive species defense, including the joint Golden, Quagga, and Zebra mussel quarantine program and the watershed resilience effort, keeping prevention layered at Ruth Lake.

RECOMMENDATION

Receive and file. This item is presented to keep both Boards apprised of the status of current grant-funded projects at Ruth Lake and the continued protection of the reservoir and watershed from aquatic invasive species.

Clean. Reliable. Resilient.



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JOINT STAFF MEMORANDUM

Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District | Ruth Lake Community Services District

MEETING: Special Joint Board Meeting, HBMWD and Ruth Lake Community Services District
DATE: September 25, 2026
AGENDA ITEM: 4.3
TO: Joint Boards of Directors
FROM: Michiko Mares, General Manager, HBMWD
SUBJECT: Watershed Resilience Implementation Program - Proposition 4 Grant Opportunity

PURPOSE

This memorandum introduces the Joint Boards to a significant opportunity taking shape under Proposition 4, and to the shared vision our two districts are positioned to help lead. It is offered at a high level and for discussion. No Board action is requested. The intent is to align both Boards on what is possible for the Baduwa't (Mad River) watershed when the communities across it plan together, with support building at both the state and local levels.

What could this watershed become if all of us who care about it planned for its future as one?

THE OPPORTUNITY

California's Proposition 4 funds the Department of Water Resources (DWR) Watershed Resilience Program at roughly \$152 million statewide, offered through more than one grant opportunity. The District is focused on the watershed resilience planning opportunity, anticipated at roughly \$100 million statewide, which would fund multi-year, watershed-scale planning together with pilot implementation and carries no required local cost share. The program was built for exactly the kind of place the Baduwa't is: a large, multi-jurisdictional watershed that crosses county lines, includes tribal nations and disadvantaged communities, and faces shared challenges no single agency can solve alone. DWR is anticipated to use a two-phase process, with an initial application from all applicants followed by a short list invited to develop a detailed application with technical assistance from the State. The coalitions that reach that short list will be the ones that came together early and planned boldly.

Over the past several months the District has been pre-positioning for this opportunity: framing a summit-to-sea-to-tap coalition, opening collaborative conversations with the watershed's tribal nations, briefing our state delegation, and building direct relationships with DWR leadership. That groundwork is well ahead of any published solicitation, which is exactly where a credible coalition wants to be.

Two recent steps have moved this work from planning to momentum. On August 24, 2026, the District convened prospective coalition partners for an aerial tour of the Baduwa't watershed with EcoFlight, a nonprofit that provides conservation flights at no cost. Departing from Hayfork, the flight carried partners and DWR leadership from the Yolla Bolly headwaters down toward the coast, offering a shared, headwaters-to-tap view of the watershed as one connected system that no map or meeting can convey. Separately, on August 31, 2026, the North Coast Resource Partnership (NCRP) approved the District's request for technical assistance to fund neutral, third-party coalition facilitation, capped at \$15,000.

ONE WATERSHED, SUMMIT-TO-SEA-TO-TAP

The Baduwa't runs roughly 1,900 square miles from the Yolla Bolly Mountains of Trinity County, past Ruth Lake and the R.W. Matthews Dam, down through the Mad River floodplain to the Pacific near McKinleyville, and from there across the Humboldt Bay region to the communities served at the tap. This is a single connected system, a summit-to-sea-to-tap watershed, and both districts sit within it. RLCSD stewards the recreation and community life of the headwaters at Ruth Lake; HBMWD carries that same water the length of the watershed to roughly 94,000 residents. A plan at this scale would connect the whole system, from the mountain forests to the families at the tap.

A VISION OF ABUNDANCE, NOT SCARCITY

This is not a story about rationing what is left. The Baduwa't is rich in water, in salmon and steelhead, in ancient forests, in tribal knowledge held since time immemorial, and in communities who care deeply about its future. The task ahead is to steward and grow what we have, together. The strongest applications to DWR will come from coalitions that share a common vision, and this watershed has every ingredient to build one.

For both of our districts, this abundance has a very practical meaning. When the watershed is healthy, the water is clean and reliable and the reservoir stays full and safe, the recreation that draws families to Ruth Lake, the boating, the fishing, the camping, and the quiet mornings on the water, remains there to be enjoyed for generations to come. Stewarding the environment and sustaining the recreation are not competing goals. They are the same goal. Protecting the source protects the experience.

WHAT BECOMES POSSIBLE, TOGETHER

A watershed-scale plan is not an end in itself; it is what makes the next decade fundable. By doing the studies that define the problems and identify the solutions now, the coalition arrives at future funding rounds with defensible, shovel-ready projects rather than good intentions. At a high level, a shared plan could open the door to work such as:

- A rigorous, coalition-built understanding of the river's flows, so that the needs of fish, communities, the estuary, and cultural life are measured.
- A clear picture of what post-fire sediment and forest recovery mean for Ruth Lake storage, water quality, and future fire risk in the upper watershed.
- An honest assessment of the transmission mains and bay crossings that carry water the last miles to disadvantaged and vulnerable coastal communities at Samoa, King Salmon, and Fields Landing.
- Nature-based solutions across the watershed: floodplain reconnection, riparian and forest restoration, and the return of prescribed and cultural fire where tribal partners wish to lead it.
- A shared, public picture of the watershed, built on California's Fifth Climate Change Assessment and downscaled Cal-Adapt data, that gathers decades of scattered studies into one place, so new dollars go only where real gaps remain.

Each of these serves both districts and the region as a whole. None of them is work any single organization could carry alone.

SUPPORT AT THE STATE AND LOCAL LEVEL

The vision is credible because support is already building across every level. At the State level, the District has opened direct lines to DWR leadership, including the agency's statewide planning and regional assistance divisions, framed as watershed familiarization ahead of any application, and hosted DWR leadership on the watershed by air during the August 24 flight. In September 2026, partners attended the North Coast Catalyst Convening, part of a statewide series hosted by the Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation and the Strategic Growth Council to connect community-driven climate and water priorities directly to state agencies and funding. Our state delegation has been briefed, beginning with an in-person legislative briefing with Assemblymember Chris Rogers. At the local level, a growing partnership already spans both counties: the watershed's tribal nations; the Humboldt and Trinity County Resource Conservation Districts; Trout Unlimited, California Trout, Baduwa't Watershed Council, and the Watershed Research and Training Center; the U.S. Forest Service; state and federal fisheries and water-quality agencies; and the cities, community services districts, and county governments across the system. As the coalition takes shape, the Watershed Research and Training Center, based in Trinity County, has expressed interest in serving as the coalition's lead fiscal agent, a role that would anchor the coalition's grant administration in the upper watershed. The joint engagement of both Boards adds the headwaters-to-coast credibility DWR is looking for.

WHY BOTH DISTRICTS, AND WHY NOW

Ruth Lake is where this watershed's water supply begins and where much of its public life happens. Our two districts share that reservoir, that watershed, and the same commitment to protecting it for present and future generations. A coalition that can speak with one voice from the Trinity County headwaters to the Humboldt Bay shoreline is a rare and compelling story in a statewide competition, and the moment to build it is now, while the guidelines are still taking shape and the coalition can help shape the vision rather than react to a finished one.

We want to be clear with our RLCSD partners about what this would ask of them, which is simply as much or as little as they are able to give. This is not a heavy lift for Ruth Lake CSD. There is no required match, and the coalition is being built with flexible roles so that every partner participates at the level that fits its capacity, from helping shape the vision to simply staying informed and lending a voice. RLCSD's knowledge of the lake, the recreation community, and the headwaters is itself a valuable contribution. What matters most is that both districts stand together behind a shared goal: stewarding this watershed so clean water and the recreation it supports remain available for generations to come.

WHAT COMES NEXT

Staff will keep building the coalition and will keep both Boards informed as DWR publishes program guidelines and the solicitation. In the near term, the work is to keep dreaming together: gathering partners at a watershed forum, circulating a coalition interest survey, and assembling a shared portfolio of ideas, then shaping the application together as the solicitation takes form, with an initial application anticipated in March 2027. The NCRP award funds professional facilitation but does not cover the full range of a coalition start-up. To help resource that early work, HBMWD will contribute additional funds from its current budget toward a broader seed-funding effort and will invite the District's seven wholesale customers, along with other coalition partners, to help seed the initiative, so that the cost and the ownership of this early work are shared across the region rather than carried by any single entity. This item is presented so both Boards see the shared vision and can lend their voice to it.

ATTACHMENTS

1. The Watershed Flight Photos from HBMWD Board Presentation, September 10, 2026
2. Baduwa't Watershed Resilience Initiative FAQ Sheet, September 18, 2026

Yolla Bolly Headwaters



Yolla Bolly Headwaters

The Baduwa't rises in the Yolla Bolly high country, the same rugged headwaters that give rise to the Middle/North Forks of the Eel, the South Fork Trinity, and Cottonwood and Thomes Creeks flowing to the Sacramento River. The Yolla Bolly sits at the divide of the Klamath, Sacramento, Eel and Baduwa't Rivers. Our drinking water begins in one of the most hydrologically significant landscapes in Northern California.

Upper Ruth Lake



Upper Ruth Lake

Looking west at Upper Ruth Lake, where the 2020 August Complex scars are visible. The August Complex was California's first mega-fire at over one million acres, which burned through the Yolla Bolly high country leaving behind denuded slopes and unstable soils that continue to shed sediment into Ruth Lake and drive turbidity downstream.

Hetten Cove and Boy Scout Camp



Hetten Cove & Boy Scout Camp

Looking south-west at Hetten Cove where the road culvert is failing due to increased erosion, sediment, and downed trees.

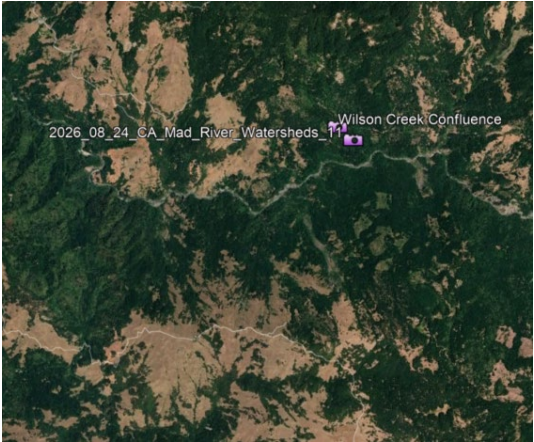


Down toward Kneeland



Down toward Kneeland

The mid-watershed working lands and river canyons, most of it behind private and federal gates with no public access. Facing downstream with McAlvey ridge (Showers Pass Road) to the west.

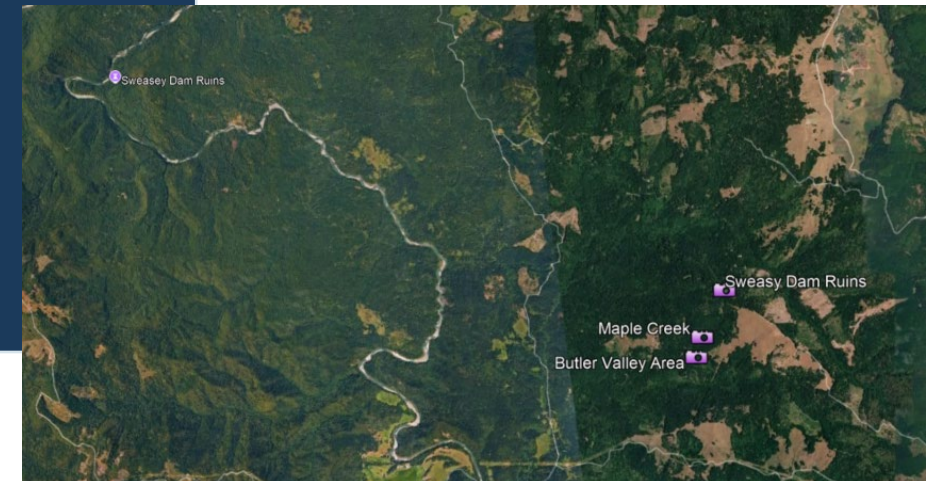


Turned back by fog in the lower watershed



Turned back by fog in the lower watershed

Coastal fog ended the flight near Kneeland. Facing downstream in the direction of the Sweasy Dam ruins.



Looking Back to the Headwaters



Looking back to the Yolla Bolly

Looking south-east from above Redwood and Panther Creeks to Black Rock Mountain within the North Yolla Bolly.

BADUWA'T WATERSHED RESILIENCE INITIATIVE

A Headwaters-to-Pacific Ocean Coalition for Integrated Watershed Planning
Proposition 4 Watershed Resilience Program

Community & General Partners

What is possible?

Every community in this watershed holds something the coalition needs: knowledge, history, relationships, a point of view. **We are inviting you** to bring yours. There is no minimum, no heavy lift, just a seat at a table that is better with you at it. The Baduwa't (Mad River) flows ~1,900 square miles from its headwaters in the Yolla Bolly Mountains of Trinity County, past Ruth Lake, to its mouth near McKinleyville, and Humboldt Water carries that water across the Humboldt Bay region to the communities served, including disadvantaged and vulnerable bay-shore communities. One connected system, from the mountain headwaters to the families at the tap, and one opportunity to care for all of it together.

Land Acknowledgment The Baduwa't (Mad River) and the lands and waters of this watershed have been cared for since time immemorial by tribal peoples whose stewardship continues today. A land acknowledgment belongs in this work, but its words are not ours to write alone. As an early act of this partnership, the coalition will develop one together with the watershed's tribal nations, in language they shape and approve.

A Watershed of Abundance

This is not a story of scarcity. The Baduwa't is alive and rich in water, in aquatic life, in ancient forests, in tribal knowledge held since time immemorial, and in communities who care deeply about its future. Our task is not to ration what is left, but to steward and grow what we have, together. The strongest applications will come from coalitions that share a common vision for the future.

Recent Momentum

This coalition is already taking shape. On August 24, 2026, partners from across the watershed shared an aerial tour of the Baduwa't, headwaters to coast, as guests of [EcoFlight](#), joined by partners from across the watershed including California Trout, the Watershed Research and Training Center, the California Department of Water Resources, and Humboldt and Trinity County leadership, seeing the river as one connected system, the kind of shared understanding a coalition is built on. We have also been meeting with DWR staff and executive leadership about this opportunity, well ahead of any solicitation. On August 31, 2026, the [North Coast Resource Partnership](#) (NCRP) approved technical assistance funding neutral, third-party facilitation, so the coalition and its shared vision are shaped by every partner, including tribal nations, rather than by any single entity. Humboldt Water is contributing matching funds and seeking additional seed funding so the cost and ownership of this early work are shared across the coalition.

What This Watershed Already Holds

- **Living tribal knowledge:** nations who have stewarded this watershed since time immemorial, invited as full governing partners
- **Communities across the whole system:** from Trinity County headwaters towns to Humboldt Bay's coastal neighborhoods, including disadvantaged and vulnerable communities whose voices matter
- **A working water system:** source water for ~94,000 residents, a dam, reservoir, and delivery network worth protecting and improving
- **Wild and natural wealth:** salmon-bearing rivers, an estuary, headwaters forests, and floodplains ready to be restored and renewed
- **Urgency that unites:** wildfire recovery, sediment, sea level rise and landscape subsidence are shared challenges that give us common cause

The Questions We Hope to Explore Together

Help us shape the vision; these are the questions on our minds

- What does a resilient Baduwa't look like to you, and to the community you serve?
- What is your organization already doing in the watershed that we could build on or connect?
- What project have you always wished you could fund, if resources were no obstacle?
- What knowledge, data, or relationships could you bring to the table?
- Who else belongs in this coalition that we may not have thought of?

What Can We Build Together?

A planning grant of this scale can hold the whole spectrum, from a shared map to major restoration. These are starting points, not a fixed list. What would you add?

- **Know it together:** gather stories, studies and data already completed across the watershed into one shared, public Story Map, so every partner sees the same picture and we build on what exists rather than paying twice. Tribal knowledge and data are treated with care: each nation decides what, if anything, is shared, and tribal data sovereignty governs the Story Map from the start.

- **Study what we don't yet know:** how climate will reshape our flows, where sediment is going, how forests and floodplains are changing, which lands matter most to protect.
- **Care for the land:** restore forests and floodplains, return good fire to the land, reconnect the estuary, secure water for vulnerable communities, and protect cherished watershed lands.
- **Follow the water to the tap:** look hard at the transmission pipelines and bay crossings that carry this water the last miles, through some of the fastest sea level rise on the West Coast, to the bay-shore communities at the end of the line.

Why Now, and the Opportunity

Funded by Proposition 4 (2024), the [DWR Watershed Resilience Program](#) funds watershed-scale planning from headwaters to outflow that centers equity and tribal partnership, analyzes climate risk, and rewards collaboration across the water-supply, flood, groundwater, water-quality, forest and fire, ecosystem, and land-use sectors. DWR is anticipated to use a two-phase process: an initial application from all applicants, then a short-list invited to a detailed application with DWR technical assistance. The coalitions that reach that short list will be the ones that came together early. To see what a funded watershed can produce, the Sacramento region completed its pilot, the [American, Bear & Cosumnes Watersheds Resilience Plan](#), one of five 2024 pilots. That work is what we are inviting you into now.

Summer 2026	WE ARE HERE: facilitation funded, convening the coalition to build a shared vision
March 2027 →	Anticipated guidelines and initial application
Anticipated	Short-list invited to detailed application, with DWR technical assistance
Upon award	Multi-year watershed resilience planning + pilot implementation

~\$100M Watershed Resilience Program pool (40% of Prop 4 to disadvantaged communities)	~\$8M Anticipated award (implementation)	\$0 Required local cost share
--	--	---

The 2024 pilot round awarded \$2M to each of five regional watersheds. The implementation round is expected to be substantially larger, and we are planning around an anticipated award on the order of \$8M, with no required local match, though final award sizes and guidelines have not yet been published by DWR.

A Launch Pad, Not a Finish Line

Whatever we plan together becomes the foundation for what comes next. The studies, designs, and shared vision this grant funds turn ideas into shovel-ready projects, positioning the coalition to pursue the much larger implementation and infrastructure funding ahead (state climate bonds, FEMA BRIC, USDA programs, future Proposition 4 rounds), and to protect priority watershed lands through future acquisition and conservation easements with regional land-trust partners. Every conversation now multiplies into investment later.

LET'S START THE CONVERSATION

Will you join the conversation? Even a letter of support or a single voice at the forum strengthens us all. Tell us what a resilient watershed means to your community, we want to hear it.



HUMBOLDT BAY MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT

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JOINT STAFF MEMORANDUM

Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District | Ruth Lake Community Services District

MEETING: Special Joint Board Meeting, HBMWD and Ruth Lake Community Services District
DATE: September 25, 2026
AGENDA ITEM: 4.4
TO: Joint Boards of Directors
FROM: Caitlin Canale, RLCSD and Michiko Mares, HBMWD - General Managers
SUBJECT: Trinity County Update to the Ruth Lake Specific Unit Development (SUD) Guidelines

PURPOSE

This memorandum updates the Joint Boards on Trinity County's effort to prepare and adopt development guidelines for the Ruth Lake Specific Unit Development (the SUD Guidelines). It explains why the guidelines matter to both districts, describes the County development standards and the evolving California wildfire laws that will shape them, summarizes their current status, and highlights where the County, RLCSD, HBMWD, CAL FIRE, and Lease Lot owners share a common interest in getting them right. It is presented for information and discussion. No Board action is requested.

BACKGROUND

The lands immediately surrounding Ruth Lake are organized as a Buffer Area that HBMWD owns and, in 1964, leased to Trinity County for the development of a public recreational area. The County assigned that lease to RLCSD, which manages the individual recreational Lease Lots. In 2001, at RLCSD's request, the Trinity County Board of Supervisors rezoned the Buffer Area from Unclassified to the Specific Unit Development (SUD) District under Trinity County Code Chapter 17.24. A Specific Unit Development is a zoning tool for areas that, because of their mix of uses and lot types, do not fit standard zoning; it applies a set of site-specific guidelines in place of the standard rules.

A key condition of that 2001 rezoning was that no new development would occur in the Buffer Area until the Planning Commission formally adopted written SUD Development Guidelines for it. Those guidelines were never completed and adopted. In practical terms, that gap has left development, permitting, and improvements on the Lease Lots without the clear, adopted County framework the rezoning contemplated. Completing and adopting the SUD Guidelines is the update now underway at Trinity County and the subject of this agenda item.

WHY THIS MATTERS TO BOTH DISTRICTS

Ruth Lake is the sole source of drinking water for roughly 94,000 residents across the Humboldt Bay region, and the Lease Lots governed by these guidelines sit within the reservoir's immediate buffer. How development is sited and regulated on those lots, particularly onsite septic systems, water wells, fuel and vegetation management, and any in-water or shoreline work, has a direct bearing on

source water quality and on the long-term protection of the reservoir. For HBMWD, the SUD Guidelines are first and foremost a source water protection matter. For RLCSD, the same guidelines shape the recreational development and permitting it administers at the lake. Because the Buffer Area is HBMWD-owned land leased for recreation and managed by RLCSD, both districts have a direct and ongoing role in how these guidelines read and how they are applied. Both share an interest in guidelines that allow reasonable, orderly recreational use while protecting the water supply and the watershed that sustains it.

WHAT THE SUD GUIDELINES COVER

The draft guidelines are intended to establish the development framework for the recreational Lease Lots in the Buffer Area, working in tandem with RLCSD's own policies and the HBMWD and RLCSD approval process. In general terms, the guidelines address:

- The approval pathway for improvements, under which a Sublease Holder obtains HBMWD and RLCSD approval before applying to Trinity County for building and/or environmental health permits.
- The permitted uses and improvements on the Lease Lots, including the existing marina, campgrounds, day use areas, and other facilities, plus dwellings, accessory structures, and recreational vehicle use.
- Development standards covering matters such as onsite wastewater (septic) systems, water wells and setbacks from the reservoir, fire safety and defensible space, signage, and erosion control. The septic, well, and fire-safety standards, and the changing wildfire laws that shape them, are described in the two sections that follow.

DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS THAT SHAPE ALLOWABLE LEASE LOT USES

Trinity County's Building, Planning, and Environmental Health standards, provided by the County and summarized below, translate directly into what can practically be built on individual Lease Lots. In plain terms: every lot's onsite septic system is capped at the County's basic (Tier 1) design and cannot come within 200 feet of the reservoir's high water mark; water wells must meet minimum seal-depth and setback rules that interact with those same septic setbacks; and because the Lease Lots sit in a State Responsibility Area, every habitable structure carries defensible-space, fire-access, and emergency water-reserve obligations. None of this is unique to the SUD Guidelines; state law requires these standards. But they meaningfully shape which uses are realistic on which lots.

- **Septic / wastewater:** sized at 150 gallons per day per bedroom; the County can only approve basic (Tier 1) systems, not advanced engineered systems; a conventional leach field must stay at least 200 feet from the lake's high water mark, 100 to 150 feet from streams, and 50 to 100 feet from wells.
- **Water wells:** minimum protective seal depths of 20 feet (domestic) or 50 feet (public/monitoring); on tighter shoreline parcels, siting a well can be limited by its required distance from a neighboring septic system.
- **Fire safety:** as an SRA parcel, every habitable structure must maintain defensible space, adequate fire-access roads, and an emergency water reserve; the County's building standards also call for a minimum 30-foot structure setback from property lines or road centerlines on parcels of an acre or more.

Because Lease Lot parcels do not have clear surveyed boundaries, determining compliance with property-line setback standards poses a real challenge for the County. Taken together, these standards provide a potential framework for thinking about which uses are best suited to a given Lease Lot. Framing allowable uses in the guidelines around this tiered structure, rather than a single

standard applied across the entire SUD, would give the Joint Boards and Trinity County a clear, defensible basis for evaluating which uses a given Lease Lot can support.

A CHANGING WILDFIRE-LAW LANDSCAPE

The fire-safety standards above do not sit still. Since the SUD Guidelines were first contemplated, California's wildfire laws have moved substantially, and the Ruth Lake Buffer Area sits squarely in their path. The upper Baduwa't (Mad River) country around the reservoir lies within a State Responsibility Area and in elevated Fire Hazard Severity Zones, and the 2020 August Complex Fire burned a large share of the surrounding headwaters. The Lease Lots are, in every practical sense, wildland-urban interface (WUI) parcels. Three strands of state law shape how the guidelines should treat fire safety:

- **Defensible space (Public Resources Code 4291).** The long-standing requirement to maintain 100 feet of managed defensible space around structures in State Responsibility Areas is already in effect and already applies to habitable structures on the Lease Lots. This is current law, not a future change.
- **The ember-resistant "Zone 0" (AB 3074 of 2020, as advanced by SB 504 of 2024 and SB 63 of 2025).** This adds a new zone within the first five feet of a structure, where combustible materials such as bark mulch, wood fencing attached to the building, and stored firewood are restricted. The Board of Forestry and Fire Protection is still finalizing the Zone 0 regulations; the most recent draft uses a phased, education-first rollout, with new construction in the highest-hazard zones addressed first and existing structures to follow. It is not yet an enforceable statewide standard, but its direction is clear and it is expected to reach parcels like these.
- **WUI building standards (California Building Code Chapter 7A) and expanded hazard mapping (SB 63).** Ignition-resistant construction standards for new buildings and major remodels in fire hazard zones already apply, and SB 63 expanded the state's fire hazard severity zone mapping and the reach of defensible space and home-hardening obligations. Together these shape what can be built, and how, on the Lease Lots going forward.

The precise compliance dates for Zone 0 and for some mapping changes are still being set at the state level and will phase in over time. Staff will track the Board of Forestry rulemaking and confirm current requirements with CAL FIRE and the Trinity County Fire Marshal as the guidelines are finalized, rather than fixing a specific date in the guidelines themselves.

WHERE FIRE LAW AND WATER PROTECTION POINT THE SAME WAY

A Lease Lot that is fire-safe is generally also a lot that sheds less post-fire sediment toward Ruth Lake, is less likely to become an ignition source in the buffer, and is easier to insure. The state fire framework and HBMWD's source water mission point in the same direction.

These fire-law changes are, on balance, an opportunity for the Ruth Lake community rather than a burden on it. The vegetation management, fuel reduction, and ember-resistant practices the state is moving toward line up closely with what protects the reservoir and the watershed. That alignment lets the SUD Guidelines take a constructive posture. Rather than layering new and separate fire rules onto Lease Lot owners, the guidelines can point to and incorporate the state framework that already governs these parcels, so that owners see one coherent set of expectations. It also lets the County, RLCSD, HBMWD, CAL FIRE, and Lease Lot owners approach fire safety at the lake as a shared task, with each bringing the authority and knowledge it already holds, rather than as a point of friction.

DISTRICT REVIEW AND KEY CONSIDERATIONS

HBMWD and RLCSD have reviewed the current draft in coordination with Trinity County and have identified a number of considerations to strengthen the guidelines and align them with current law and both districts' missions. At a high level, these include:

- **Fire safety and WUI law:** incorporating current defensible space (PRC 4291), the emerging ember-resistant Zone 0 framework, and Chapter 7A WUI construction standards by reference, so the guidelines stay accurate as the state rules are finalized, and confirming how fire-safe setbacks and defensible space apply between adjacent Lease Lots.
- **Environmental review:** confirming and referencing the appropriate CEQA and NEPA determinations for adoption of the guidelines, given adjacent and in-lake U.S. Forest Service lands, and noting the additional state and federal permits (such as water quality certification, streambed alteration, and Army Corps authorization) that in-water or shoreline work would require.
- **Source water protection:** reserving HBMWD's authority to limit or condition development where it could affect reservoir water quality, during drought or low-reservoir conditions, or where it bears on aquatic invasive species risk.
- **Onsite wastewater:** aligning septic provisions with the State Water Resources Control Board's Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems (OWTS) Policy and the North Coast Basin Plan, given that siting near the reservoir is a first-order water quality concern.
- **Wells and water rights:** clarifying the basis for well setbacks from the reservoir and confirming that surface water diversions require the appropriate State water rights authorization.
- **Tribal consultation:** ensuring the guidelines account for tribal consultation consistent with state law, given the cultural significance of the area.

These considerations are offered to support Trinity County's process and to ensure the final guidelines protect the reservoir while providing the clear development framework the Buffer Area has long needed.

A PREDICATE FOR BROADER COORDINATION WITH THE COUNTY

Finalizing the SUD Guidelines around this shared fire-and-water interest may also open the door to broader coordination with Trinity County. The same questions the guidelines raise, fuel loads and defensible space in the buffer, post-fire sediment and its effect on reservoir storage and water quality, evacuation and access on lake-area roads, and fire-safe standards for recreational structures, are watershed questions as much as Lease Lot questions. They connect naturally to the County's own hazard planning and to the headwaters-to-coast watershed resilience work HBMWD is helping convene. Staff note this simply as a possibility worth carrying forward; nothing here commits either Board to a specific course.

CURRENT STATUS AND THE KEY NEXT STEP

A draft of the SUD Guidelines has been developed. Before it can be finalized, however, Trinity County, RLCSD, and HBMWD need a clearer, shared understanding of the intended use across the various Lease Lots. This is the central task ahead. The development standards summarized above, the septic and well setbacks, the 200-foot lake setback, and the defensible-space and WUI requirements, apply very differently depending on each lot's use and infrastructure. Determining the intended use lot by lot is therefore a necessary input to guideline development, not a detail to resolve after the guidelines are drafted. Framing allowable uses around the County's tiered standards, informed by that shared understanding, is the path to a set of guidelines the County can adopt and all parties can stand behind.

RECOMMENDATION

Receive and file. This item is presented for information so both Boards understand Trinity County's SUD Guidelines update, its relationship to source water protection and recreational development at Ruth Lake, and how recent changes in California wildfire law bear on the Lease Lots. Staff will

continue to coordinate with the County, RLCSD, and CAL FIRE on the draft and will return to the Boards if a formal position or comment letter is warranted.

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HUMBOLDT BAY MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT

828 Seventh Street, Eureka, CA 95501
(707) 443-5018 • www.hbmwd.com

JOINT STAFF MEMORANDUM

Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District | Ruth Lake Community Services District

MEETING: Special Joint Board Meeting, HBMWD and Ruth Lake Community Services District
DATE: September 25, 2026
AGENDA ITEM: 4.5
TO: Joint Boards of Directors
FROM: Michiko Mares, General Manager, HBMWD
SUBJECT: HTRA Request to Donate a Portion of APN 020-330-005 for the Trinity Resilience Center

PURPOSE

This memorandum informs the Joint Boards of a request from the Humboldt Trinity Recreation Alliance (HTRA) that HBMWD donate a portion of District-owned property near Ruth Lake for the proposed Trinity Resilience Center, and summarizes the legal and procedural considerations District Counsel has identified. Because the property involved is HBMWD land within the Ruth Lake area that RLCSO manages under the master lease, the matter is of shared interest to both districts. It is presented for information and discussion. No Board action is requested at this joint meeting.

BACKGROUND

HTRA is a California nonprofit public benefit corporation based in Mad River, organized under Internal Revenue Code section 501(c)(3), whose stated mission is to support disaster preparedness, emergency relief, food security, and community resilience in the rural Southern Trinity region. By letter dated April 16, 2026, HTRA requested that HBMWD donate a portion of District-owned property in the Mad River area for development of the Trinity Resilience Center, described as a disaster prevention and relief center, community development hub, and food bank.

The District parcel, APN 020-330-005, is approximately 256 acres and includes Ruth Lake and the surrounding buffer property. HTRA has clarified that it seeks only a smaller portion of the parcel located outside Ruth Lake and the buffer area. HTRA's concept includes a multi-purpose building for emergency operations, food distribution, community services, and training, along with related parking, emergency access, temporary animal holding, emergency-response staging, fire-camp capability, and possible helicopter-landing capability. Additional detail on the proposed campus is provided in the attached HTRA fact sheet.

HTRA has proposed that the District pursue a lawful parcel-creation process to separate the project site from the balance of the property, and has offered to pay the associated survey, County, environmental-health, parcel-map, and related technical costs, while acknowledging that the District, as owner, would need to participate in and approve the process. The HBMWD Board

received District Counsel's memorandum on this request at its August 13, 2026 regular meeting. No donation has been approved, no final parcel selected, and no transaction structure committed.

RELATIONSHIP TO BOTH DISTRICTS

The property at issue is HBMWD-owned land in the Ruth Lake area. HBMWD does not lease the individual lots directly; rather, the District leases the area to RLCSD under a master lease, and RLCSD subleases individual lots to residents. HTRA states that the proposed facility would serve residents throughout the Southern Trinity region, including occupants of those lease lots. A facility of this kind could support wildfire and emergency response, sheltering, and staging in the Ruth Lake area, which is a shared interest of both districts. For these reasons the request is shared with both Boards, even though any conveyance decision rests with HBMWD as the property owner.

SUMMARY OF LEGAL AND PROCEDURAL CONSIDERATIONS

District Counsel's memorandum addresses the threshold issues that must be resolved before HBMWD could consider any donation or conveyance. In summary, these include:

- Public purpose: whether a below-market conveyance would serve a sufficient District-related public purpose, supported by enforceable use restrictions and reversionary protections, consistent with the constitutional prohibition on gifts of public property.
- Surplus Land Act: whether the parcel must be declared surplus or exempt surplus land, and what process and Department of Housing and Community Development review would be required.
- Title and parcel creation: whether title, acquisition documents, the RLCSD master lease, easements, or other recorded matters affect the District's ability to divide or convey the property, and how a separate legal parcel could be established.
- Zoning and land use: whether the facility is consistent with the County General Plan, zoning, and the Ruth Lake Specific Unit Development requirements, and what land-use approvals would be needed.
- CEQA: what environmental review the parcel creation, conveyance, and development would require, with Trinity County the likely lead agency and HBMWD a responsible agency.

Counsel advises that the record appears capable of supporting a public-purpose finding, but that no finding should be finalized, and no conveyance made, until the proposed parcel, facility, operating commitments, and District-related benefits are more fully defined and the applicable CEQA and Surplus Land Act processes are complete.

SITE SUITABILITY STUDY

Based on the General Manager's recent site visit at the end of August and professional engineering judgment, the site as currently proposed presents significant suitability concerns, including a limited buildable area constrained by adjacent creek setbacks, access through the site to a private property, and floodplain across Mad River Road affecting the proposed heliport and future buildings. A site suitability study, prepared and stamped by a California-licensed civil engineer and funded by HTRA, will establish whether the requested site can physically and lawfully accommodate the proposed development. That study is the necessary first step before the District undertakes the feasibility, CEQA, Surplus Land Act, and transaction work as presented by District Counsel.

As an emergency-response campus intended to function during disasters, the Trinity Resilience Center demands a higher standard of site certainty than an ordinary development. At a minimum, the site suitability study should address the following, with geotechnical, environmental, and land-survey input as appropriate:

- **Boundary, access, and legal constraints:** a record-of-survey establishing actual parcel boundaries; legal and physical access to the site, including resolution of the private-property access; existing easements, rights-of-way, and the District's retained-land and dam-protection interests; and confirmation that a separate legal parcel can be created through a lawful subdivision or parcel-map process.
- **Buildable area versus program:** a buildable-area analysis overlaying all setbacks, floodplain, slopes, and access constraints against HTRA's actual space program, to test whether the proposed facilities physically fit on the site.
- **Utilities and onsite systems:** water supply source, adequacy, and fire-flow for an emergency facility; onsite wastewater feasibility, including percolation and soil testing and septic siting under Trinity County Environmental Health and the State Water Board OWTS Policy with reservoir-setback constraints; and reliable power and communications.
- **Hydrology and flooding:** FEMA flood-zone determination and site-specific floodplain and floodway mapping, directly addressing the floodplain affecting the heliport and future buildings; creek and watercourse setbacks and required buffers; and drainage, stormwater, and erosion and sediment control given proximity to the reservoir.
- **Geotechnical and topographic:** a geotechnical investigation of soil bearing capacity, slope stability, landslide and liquefaction potential, and seismic considerations; and a topographic survey and grading analysis confirming that building pad, parking, and heliport can be accommodated.
- **Regulatory and environmental:** zoning consistency, including the Ruth Lake Specific Unit Development requirements and needed land-use approvals; the CEQA pathway and lead-agency determination; and environmental constraints, including biological and cultural resources, wetlands and waters of the U.S. with any Army Corps or streambed-alteration nexus, tribal consultation, and wildfire and defensible-space considerations.
- **Heliport siting:** FAA and Caltrans Division of Aeronautics siting criteria, approach and departure surfaces, and obstruction clearances, which are often the binding constraint on where such a facility can be located.

The study should conclude with a clear suitability determination, (suitable, suitable with conditions, or not suitable), distinguishing fatal flaws from mitigable constraints, and, if the requested site is not suitable, recommending whether an alternative location elsewhere should be evaluated. Requiring this study, funded by HTRA and completed before any District commitment, protects the District's water supply, property, and resources while giving HTRA a clear, professional basis for its own planning and funding decisions.

CURRENT STATUS

Since the HBMWD Board received District Counsel's memorandum on August 13, 2026, staff have continued to advance the phased, feasibility-first approach Counsel recommended, and coordination with HTRA and Trinity County has moved forward.

On the HTRA side, the organization reports that it has submitted a \$500,000 Community Resilience Centers Round 2 Planning Grant application through the California Strategic Growth Council, and was awarded \$15,000 in Technical Assistance through the North Coast Resource Partnership, with Lauren Short of Geocon proposed as its technical assistance provider. A \$20,000 request to Coast Central Credit Union is pending. HTRA has also begun working directly with Trinity County Planning to identify the zoning, subdivision, CEQA, environmental review, and permitting requirements for the project, and has requested written clarification from the County so those requirements and costs can be built into its planning and funding strategy.

RECOMMENDED NEXT STEPS

District Counsel recommends a phased feasibility process before any final commitment, beginning with the site suitability study described above. Only if that study shows the site can support the intended use would the District proceed to a cost-reimbursement memorandum of understanding under which HTRA funds the District's review costs while the District retains full control and discretion. The phases, in summary, are:

1. Obtain the site suitability study described above, procured by HTRA and prepared by a California-licensed civil engineer.
2. Negotiate a feasibility and cost-reimbursement MOU with HTRA, expressly stating it is not a conveyance, option, or promise to approve the project.
3. Obtain a sufficiently complete project definition from HTRA, including facilities, uses, funding plan, and operational commitments.
4. Complete property and title review, including the acquisition documents and the RLCSD master lease.
5. Consult Trinity County on zoning, the Specific Unit Development, parcel creation, permits, and CEQA lead-agency status.
6. Develop a preliminary parcel configuration that preserves District access, easements, and the use of retained lands.
7. Return to the Board with a feasibility report before authorizing the more formal CEQA, Surplus Land Act, and transaction processes.

At each stage the District retains discretion to modify or discontinue the proposal. Final decisions on any MOU or conveyance are matters for the HBMWD Board.

RECOMMENDATION

Receive and file. This item is presented for information so both Boards are aware of HTRA's request and the associated considerations affecting District-owned property in the Ruth Lake area. Any action on a feasibility MOU or conveyance would be considered by the HBMWD Board at a future meeting.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Trinity Resilience Center Fact Sheet (Humboldt Trinity Recreation Alliance).
2. Trinity County Letter of Support dated September 1, 2026

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TRINITY RESILIENCE CENTER

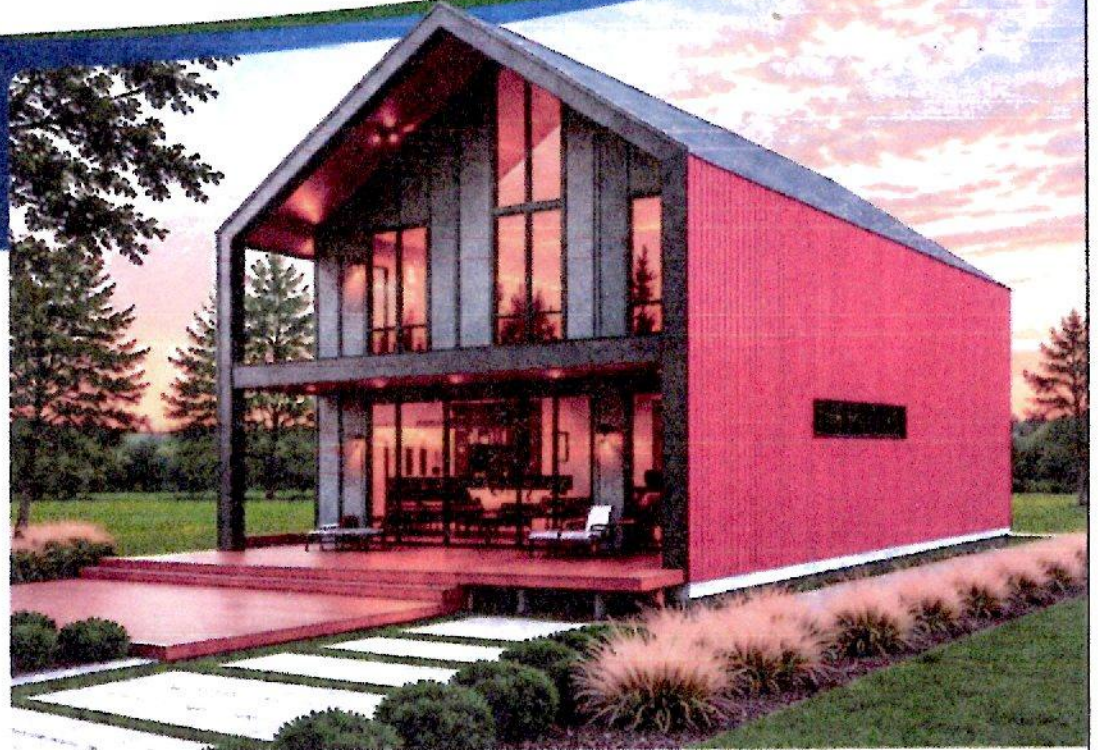
Whole Community Disaster Prevention,
Relief and Resilience Campus

A PERMANENT PLACE OF REFUGE,
RESOURCES, AND HOPE FOR
OUR RURAL COMMUNITIES.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Trinity Resilience Center is a proposed multi-purpose community campus being developed by the Humboldt Trinity Recreation Alliance (HTRA) to serve the rural communities of Mad River, Ruth Lake, Southern Trinity, eastern Humboldt County, and surrounding areas.

The Center will provide year-round resources for emergency preparedness, disaster response and recovery, food security, education, and community support before, during, and after disasters.



PROJECT AT A GLANCE



WHY IT IS NEEDED

Our rural communities face extreme wildfire risk, power outages, limited cell service, long travel distances, and limited resources. The Trinity Resilience Center will fill a critical gap by providing a central location to coordinate response, shelter residents and animals, distribute resources, and build long-term community resilience.



LOCATION

Mad River,
California
Eastern Humboldt
County and
Southern Trinity
Region



WHO WE SERVE

Mad River
Ruth Lake
Southern Trinity
Eastern Humboldt County
Neighboring Rural
Communities



PROJECT SPONSOR

Humboldt Trinity
Recreation Alliance (HTRA)
DBA: Trinity
Resilience Center



OUR MISSION

To strengthen the resilience of our rural communities by providing a permanent regional center for disaster preparedness, emergency response, recovery, and year-round community services.

PLANNED FACILITIES



6,000 SQ. FT. COMMUNITY RESILIENCE CENTER

- Emergency Coordination Hall
- Commercial Kitchen
- Food Bank
- Emergency Shelter
- Showers & Laundry
- Meeting Space
- Six Partner Agency Offices



7,200 SQ. FT. LIVESTOCK SHELTER

Safe shelter for large and small animals during evacuations and disasters.



EMERGENCY SUPPLY STORAGE BUILDING

For emergency supplies, equipment, and community resources.



FUTURE FIRE CAMP & EMERGENCY HELIPAD

Support for firefighting operations and emergency response.

COMMUNITY BENEFITS



EMERGENCY
SHELTER
OPERATIONS



FOOD
DISTRIBUTION
& SECURITY



EMERGENCY
COMMUNICATIONS



VOLUNTEER
COORDINATION



LIVESTOCK &
COMPANION ANIMAL
SHELTERING



COMMUNITY
PREPAREDNESS
TRAINING



DISASTER
RECOVERY
ASSISTANCE



EDUCATION &
COMMUNITY
PROGRAMS



WORKING TOGETHER

We are building this Center through partnerships with emergency response agencies, local government, nonprofit organizations, schools, public utilities, volunteers, and community members throughout the region.



WHY YOUR SUPPORT MATTERS

Your support helps create a safer, more prepared, and more resilient future for our families, our neighbors, and our entire community. Together, we can be ready—before disaster strikes.

*"Building Resilience.
Saving Lives.
Strengthening
Community."*



Patricia L. Lewis
Chief Financial Officer / Outreach Coordinator
Humboldt Trinity Recreation Alliance (HTRA)
DBA: Trinity Resilience Center



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TRINITY COUNTY

Board of Supervisors

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September 1, 2026

RE: Letter of Support for Humboldt Trinity Recreation Alliance's Resilience Center Project

To Whom It May Concern:

The Trinity County Board of Supervisors is pleased to express its support for the Resilience Center project being developed by the Humboldt Trinity Recreation Alliance (HTRA) to serve Southern Trinity County and surrounding rural communities.

The proposed Resilience Center would be located within Trinity County Supervisorial District 5 and is intended to address significant challenges faced by residents of this remote region. Communities in Southern Trinity County are located considerable distances from many essential services and emergency resources and face recurring threats from wildfire, severe winter weather, extreme heat, extended power and communications outages, road closures, and other emergencies that can leave residents isolated.

The Resilience Center is being planned as both a year-round community resource and a facility capable of supporting residents during emergencies. Proposed functions include emergency coordination, temporary sheltering, food distribution and food security, emergency supplies, communications and charging capabilities, clean-air and cooling space, preparedness activities, and accommodations for residents evacuating with household pets and livestock.

HTRA has undertaken substantial planning and project development and continues pursuing grant funding, technical assistance, professional expertise, and partnerships necessary to advance the project. These efforts demonstrate a commitment to developing a sustainable resource responsive to the needs of the communities it is intended to serve.

The Trinity County Board of Supervisors recognizes the potential value of a locally accessible Community Resilience Center in strengthening emergency preparedness, improving access to essential resources, supporting coordination among community organizations and emergency responders, and increasing the ability of rural residents to prepare for, withstand, and recover from emergencies and climate-related events.

Trinity Resilience Center Support

September 1, 2026

Page 2 of 2

The Trinity County Board of Supervisors supports HTRA's continued planning and development of the Resilience Center in Southern Trinity and its efforts to secure the partnerships, technical assistance, and funding necessary to advance this important rural community project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Heidi Carpenter-Harris". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Heidi Carpenter-Harris
Chairman