

July 15, 2021 Drought Update

The 2020-2021 drought continues to challenge our community. The average depth to water for the MCCSD test wells continues to decline. If you depend on trucked water to supplement your well be prepared to pay more and wait longer.

On 7-15-2021 the City of Fort Bragg informed MCCSD that Sunday, July 18th will be the last day of water sales.

Low flows on the Noyo River and an upstream diversion were mentioned as possible factors. Elk, Irish Beach, and Westport are still able to sell bulk water as of this time, but may be rationing sales.

With reduced water sources being further away deliveries will take longer and prices are likely to increase. Ask water haulers and neighbors about sharing a truck load if you have less than 3,500 gal storage capacity.

Please work on increasing your individual storage capacity now! It can take up to a month or longer to get a new storage tank.

7-13-2021 The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors unanimously voted to approve an Ordinance temporarily removing all permitting restrictions related to the installation of water tanks 5,000 gal or less. Please contact Mendocino County Building and Planning 707-234-6661 or pbsplannerfortbragg@mendocinocounty.org for more details

MCCSD is working tirelessly with the County Drought Task Force, neighboring City Leaders, water haulers, community member, and the State Division of Drinking Water to try and find solutions. Every option and idea is on the table and they all come with a host of challenges. A water-by-rail project has been proposed that could involve transporting 1,000,000 gal per week from Willits to Fort Bragg via the Skunk train. Funding, logistics, liability, staffing, and regulating are all being discussed. The City of Willits will likely vote on this issue during a Special meeting in Early August. If you have friends in the Willits area please tell them we need the support of their City leaders.

County staff are also exploring ways in which small community water systems along the coast might be able to sell extra water one or two truckloads per day.

MCCSD has made emergency funding requests of the County and State for individual home owner storage tanks, larger District storage tanks, water hauling trailers, funds to renew the search for a water source, funds to subsidize water hauling from inland areas, funds to upgrade the recycled water system, and more. However no emergency funding has been provided to MCCSD as of yet.

MCCSD recently mailed out a survey. This data is critical to receiving funding. We need current and accurate numbers on dry wells, and water purchases. Please take the time to complete and return this survey. You can also report a dry well at: <https://mydrywatersupply.water.ca.gov/report/>

We are working to protect your wells and make sure you have access to other water sources if needed. Please do your part, continue to conserve, think of your neighbors, plan ahead, and work together to mitigate a difficult situation.