

# Mendocino City Community Services District

Post Office Box 1029

Mendocino, California 95460

Business Phone (707) 937-5790 Fax (707) 937-3837

[mccsd@mcn.org](mailto:mccsd@mcn.org)

## PRESS STATEMENT

May 20, 2021

CONTACT: RYAN ROADES, SUPERINTENDENT: 707-937-5790 [mccsd@mcn.org](mailto:mccsd@mcn.org)

### **Steven Gomes files another lawsuit against Mendocino City Community Services District (MCCSD) in an attempt to undermine the District's conservation efforts during a severe 2-year drought.**

Steven Gomes, a property owner in the town of Mendocino has filed a second lawsuit against the MCCSD. Mr. Gomes' first lawsuit, filed June 30, 2015 failed to prevent the MCCSD from working to conserve and sustain the community's ground water resources. The one minor area where he succeeded was to force the District to re-adapt its Groundwater Management Plan last year. The only tangible results from his original suit are significant legal fees imposed upon the District and our community.

Harold Hauck, President of the MCCSD's elected board of directors, said: "It is unfortunate that as the people of Mendocino are impacted by a severe drought, Mr. Gomes has filed a second lawsuit attempting again to undermine the MCCSD's legal right to manage groundwater resources for the benefit of the entire Mendocino Community."

Along with repeating issues that Mr. Gomes unsuccessfully raised in his last lawsuit against the MCCSD, the current complaint lacks many specific factual details. The District will vigorously defend the new lawsuit while making every effort to limit legal costs.

The MCCSD board of directors made an emergency Stage Four Drought Declaration at its meeting on May 3, 2021 due to 2020-2021 rainfall of less than 50% of normal and lowering groundwater in District test wells to levels not seen in many years. Water conservation is imperative this coming summer and fall. "Coping with this severe drought will be difficult for us all. The State Water Resources Control Board advises the public to remain aware that California has a record of multi-year droughts and water planners to always assume the next year will be a dry one."