

Ukiah

Ensuring Affordable and Reliable Water Supplies for 2021 and the Years to Come



In the past several years, Ukiah has taken proactive steps to secure reliable water supplies for its residents and enable it to be a trusted partner for our neighbors throughout the Valley during times of water stress and drought.

These steps include:

- Developing a state-of-the-art water recycling plant that offsets demand on the Russian River by at least 30%
- Developing and implementing an Urban Regional Water Plan
- Achieving a 20% reduction in per capita water use by 2020
- Modernizing productive groundwater wells and building additional facilities
- Developing emergency interties so that water can be delivered to all our neighbors throughout the Valley

As the largest municipal supplier of water in the Valley, Ukiah plays a critical role in **water resource planning** for the entire Valley by coordinating with stakeholders and providing leadership on water-saving and reuse strategies as well as maximizing available supplies.



Source for Ukiah Water:

Ukiah lies in the Russian River Watershed, and depends on a combination of Russian River water and groundwater to meet water-supply demands.

It has senior water rights which makes Ukiah's water allocations and deliveries more reliable, although it is currently restrained from delivering some of that water to its neighbors on the outer edges of the Ukiah Valley with less resilient supplies.



Collaboration and strategic PARTNERSHIPS

Ukiah is working with our neighbors and the State Water Board through the Mendocino County Water Resiliency Task Force – looking not only at strategies for 2021, but also at **longer term solutions** that will secure our **water supply reliability** and ensure ongoing affordable service.

Preparing for Potential Drought Conditions

Rain levels throughout the Winter have been low, and our Valley will likely be subject to drought conditions and water use restrictions this year.

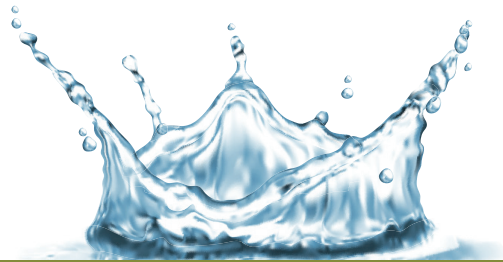
California's 2019–2020 water year was the third driest in the Upper Russian River watershed in recorded history.

Ukiah's recent investments in a diversified water supply with modernized infrastructure for groundwater and recycled water will help protect the region in case of extended drought.

Maximizing the Ability to Deliver Reliable Water

Given the lessons we learned during the last drought in 2015, Ukiah continues to evaluate ways to **modernize** water planning and **maximize** the use of available resources to most effectively meet the broadest needs in the Valley.

Ukiah's water experts and regional water stakeholders are examining the limitations of current governance structures and water rights held by differing local districts. Key changes to align service territories based on resource availability could improve water reliability and protect water affordability for the whole Ukiah Valley.



Overcoming Fractured Planning

For our 30,000 neighbors, there are TWELVE different water agencies in the Ukiah Valley, some of which have overlapping jurisdictions and management, competing governance structures, and widely differing levels of water reliability. **Better planning for service territories and systems for collaboration amongst these overlapping districts will avoid near-term water shortages and help support smart, sustainable growth in the region.**



City of Ukiah

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