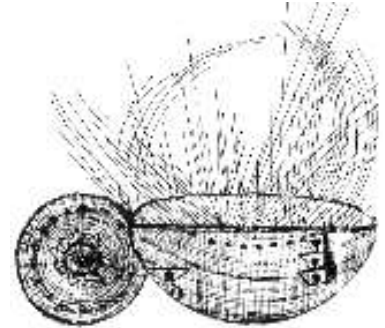


Redwood Valley Rancheria Tribal EPA Newsletter

Winter 2021
Edition



Solid Waste	Transportation	Water	Community News
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dumpster Bins 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safety plan • New Changes to Roads 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water testing • Winter Conditions with Cisco 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trailer Moved • Contest Winner • Traffic Safety • Drought • Library • Vegetation Management • Now Hiring



A new year is here and the work being done by the RVR Tribal Office continues. This quarterly report brings you updates and information to cover January, February, and March-the winter season. What unexpected things will happen this year? Only time will tell. For now let's take things one day at a time and narrow our attention to what we have control over rather than what is beyond our power. Please remember that each cardboard box, aluminum can, candy wrapper, and yes even the parked vehicles on the street have a designated place where it belongs. The difference between randomly putting things where they don't belong and putting them in the proper location is like unpleasantness versus harmony. Thank you in advance for helping create a better more tidy community.

Solid Waste

There will be some changes coming to solid waste this year. The Rancheria will have less Community Clean-Up Events because of less funds for dumpsters. Please keep this in mind and arrange trips in town to 3151 Taylor Drive, Ukiah, CA 95482 if you have items that are too large for the weekly pick up. Many items will be accepted by them for free. Their phone number is 707-462-8621.

Please continue to keep cooking oil and grease out of your kitchen sink drains. It will damage the waste water system. The winner of last quarter's raffle contest for used oil (each container of oil turned in to the office counts as one ticket, or one chance to win) was Elizabeth at 1025. Thank you.



Ian empties a bucket of kitchen grease and oil at Solid Waste Solutions in Ukiah

Vegetation Management



Please do not wait until the spring to begin cutting your lawns. It is much easier to start now and keep it up every 2 to 4 weeks. This will help in fuels reduction ahead of wildfire season. Thank you!

Tribal Transportation News

Handrails have been installed in front of both Tribal buildings. This is meant to help folks travel to and from the front office and Learning Center. They have powder coating and should last for many years.

The Strategic Transportation Safety Plan is in near completion. A version was given to Council along with an overview from the planner leading project. Examples of similar plans may be found online at: <https://www.tribalsafety.org/safety-plans-library>. This document will help in future transportation projects.

New signs are being placed on and along RVR roads. This will assist delivery vehicles, help prevent loitering, and lessen erosion from off road vehicles.

Please keep ATVs or motorcycles off muddy areas. There is a high risk of permanent damage caused by tire marks. Please keep all vehicles on pavement to help thwart complications from their use. Thank you.



The Tribe has submitted the Caltrans Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant. This is to plan the discussion of an emergency egress to the North to connect with Road J. Although the route is short there are two major obstacles. The first is the cooperation of the neighboring landowners. Having any kind of additional access to someone's land can create discomfort for some folks. A way to possibly help remove this obstacle is to create good relations with the community. That way they know we're well intentioned. One of the ways this is done is by having the Tribal Office fuel its fleet of vehicles strictly from the local Redwood Valley Gas Station. The other obstacle is Deer Creek. Due to water regulations it may require a bridge to be created for crossing rather than simply placing down a large culvert. With the submission of this grant, hopefully there will be progress made soon.

Water News

As winter continues, so does monitoring of culverts that drain water up on the hillside and around the homes of RVR. The waste water system is being monitored also to make sure that the pumps are working as they should. Routine monthly coliform testing of drinking water are sent to Alpha Lab and reported to EPA each month.

A Word with the Water Operator Assistant

Cisco works as the Tribal Water Coordinator Assistant. This is an interview I did to give an update on state of the Tribe's water. It was recorded on 1-26-2021

1. Ian: What is a workday in the life of your job with the Tribe?
Cisco: It's a job that keeps you on your toes and always moving.
2. Ian: What are some things you monitor and why?
Cisco: I Monitor on the tank level on daily basis to sure its where it needs to be in the ideal spot where I was told it should be maintained. I also look after the leech fields making sure them and the recirculation tank stay in a constant balance. To name a few of my duties.
3. Ian: Who is your boss and their bosses bosses?
Cisco: My immediate Boss is Eileen Womble It then goes down the line to I believe Mary Camp last in overall decisions is Tribal Council.
4. Ian: What is your craziest work story?
Cisco: Lucky I've never had one.
5. Ian: Has the pandemic affected your work routines?
Cisco: No at all, the few times I had to step away from on doctor's orders due to possible COVID scares. Besides, I believe we have been fortunate considering the affects the pandemic has had on the world here on the Rancheria
6. Ian: Please describe the water testing that you do
Cisco: I take sample of water from the tank and run through a Chlorine Hach DR300 Analyzer for level that deducted in the tank. Also, I run Ph balance testing using Stripes.
7. Ian: What changes does your job have in the winter vs. summer?
Cisco: The significant changes in the season changes are well in the summer when tends to use more due the summer's heat. In the winter months the waste water levels rise rather quickly due rain fall and weather conditions.
8. Ian: How can the community help make your job easier and help maintain a healthy water system?
Cisco: simply, just continuing to be themselves and following the flyers and newsletter information.



Recommendations from the Authors of the RVR Strategic Transportation Safety Plan

Recently Redwood Valley Rancheria has hired W-Trans, a transportation consulting firm to review traffic safety and operations on the Rancheria. One of the issues that they have addressed is the narrow roadway width on Redwood Drive.

Redwood Drive is approximately 20 feet wide with parking allowed on both sides of the street. There are no sidewalks or off-road pedestrian paths paralleling the roadway. The narrowness of the street combined with on-street parking on both sides and the lack of sidewalks results in numerous safety concerns:

- Pedestrians are vulnerable to vehicle traffic.
- There is limited sight distance due to proximity of parked vehicles.
- There is a high potential for children playing either in the street to be hidden by parked vehicles.
- The road has limited width available to emergency vehicles.

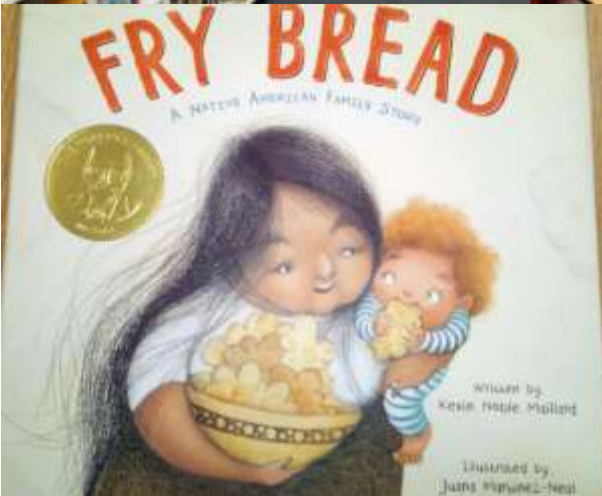
Current design standards for residential streets recommend minimum widths of approximately 30 feet and the inclusion of sidewalks on both sides of the street. Since homes were constructed close to the roadway, there is no opportunity to widen the road to provide the additional width. It would also be difficult to construct sidewalks along the roadway frontage since many homes have placed landscaping and other household amenities close to the edge of the road. The most appropriate approach given these circumstances is to move parking to one side of the street. As there are more homes on the west side of Redwood Drive, therefore fewer parking areas due to driveways, it is recommended that the parking remain only on the east side of Redwood Drive.

The consultant has recommended the following Action Items:

- Meet with residents to discuss these issues.
- Prohibit parking on one side of Redwood Drive.
- Provide edgeline striping on one side of Redwood Drive to serve as a pedestrian zone.
- Address potential need for additional parking, possible in a new parking lot on Tank Road.



Library News



Measures are currently being explored at the Learning Center Library to ensure future when Covid19 restrictions are lifted. There is a dedicated space honoring our Elders who may sit down, read a book/magazine or even watch a movie or two showcasing local Native History. This space has comfortable seating equipped with games and entertainment or can be a place for solitude if needed. Kids are welcome but encouraged to resume online learning or borrow the abundant board games the library has to offer. There are also some school supplies if needed. If interested in checking out a book/magazine library hours are Monday to Friday 9am - 4pm.

Jasmine Billy,
Education Coordinator

jom@rvrpomo.net
(707) 485-0361

Pedestrian Safety Tips

Everything you need to know to keep your kids safe while walking.

Teach Kids How to Walk Safely

- Teach kids at an early age to look left, right and left again before crossing the street. Then remind them to continue looking around until safely across.
- It's always best to walk on sidewalks or paths and cross at street corners, using traffic signals and crosswalks. If there are no sidewalks, walk facing traffic as far to the left as possible.
- Teach kids to make eye contact with drivers before crossing the street.
- Children under 10 need to cross the street with an adult. Every child is different, but developmentally, most kids are unable to judge the speed and distance of oncoming cars until age 10.
- Encourage kids to be especially alert for cars that are turning or backing up.
- Teach kids not to run or dart out into the street or cross between parked cars.
- If kids are walking when it's dark out, teach them to be especially alert and make sure they are visible to drivers. Have them wear light- or brightly-colored clothing and reflective gear.

Take Action Against Distraction

- Teach kids to put phones, headphones and devices down when crossing the street. It is particularly important to reinforce the message with teenagers.
- Put headphones down or turn off the volume before crossing the street.
- Be aware of others who may be distracted and speak up when you see someone who is in danger.
- If kids need to use a cell phone, teach them to stop walking and find a safe area to talk.

Let Your Actions Speak as Loudly as Your Words

- Be a good role model. Set a good example by putting your phone, headphones and devices down when walking around cars.
- When driving, put cell phones and other distractions in the back seat or out of sight until your final destination.
- Be especially alert and slow down when driving in residential neighborhoods and school zones. Be on the lookout for bikers, walkers or runners who may be distracted or may step into the street unexpectedly.
- Give pedestrians the right of way and look both ways when making a turn to spot any bikers, walkers or runners who may not be immediately visible.

This important information applies both here in this community *and* everywhere else. Please take a few moments to pass down these important safety tips to the youngsters in your life and practice them together. Thank you.



Drought Conditions

Mendocino County

Russian River Flood Control & Water Conservation Improvement District

151 Laws Avenue Suite D, Ukiah, CA 95482 707.462.5278 Website:
RRFC.net DistrictManager@rrfc.net

Russian River Water Webinar Thursday, January 21, 2021

Drought Conditions Update

By Elizabeth Salomone, General Manager

The Ukiah region is experiencing below average rainfall and the third driest water year on record. Russian River Flood Control, Farm Bureau, City of Ukiah, Sonoma Water Agency, and many others are concerned and are focusing attention on maintaining storage and managing flows over the coming months. Below are a few highlights of responses to our regional water supply concerns. You are encouraged to contact me, or others representing public interest, to get further information and find out what you, as an individual, agency, or business can do to support the efforts.

In an effort to maintain as much storage as possible, Sonoma Water Agency has filed another TUCP that will likely go into effect soon. (<https://www.sonomawater.org/tucp>) They are also coordinating a public outreach campaign with the Sonoma-Marin Saving Water Partnership to encourage conservation. (savingwaterpartnership.org) More information and resources can be found on their website at www.sonomawater.org.

To address Lake Pillsbury storage, PG&E is preparing a Drought Flow Variance to file with FERC. It will temporarily reduce flow requirements, including what is diverted to the Russian River watershed, further exasperating the Lake Mendocino storage and water supply issues.

The Water Resiliency Task Force, cohosted by RRFC, City of Ukiah, and the Farm Bureau, was formed to focus on the Mendocino County portion of the Russian River watershed. Participants include Wagner & Bonsignore, California Land Stewardship Institute, Resource Conservation District, Willow/Millview/Calpella/Hopland/Redwood Valley County Water Districts, and a number of agricultural diverters. The Task Force is currently communicating with the State Water Board to prepare for the strain on water supply conditions expected in 2021.

Additionally, a public outreach focus group is also being formed to educate the public on their water supply and the importance of conservation.

Flood Control District is planning an additional webinar for its customers on frequently asked questions about water supply contracts, metering, and other relevant issues. Additionally, Don Seymour from Sonoma Water Agency will present at the February 1st, Flood Control Board meeting to provide an overview of the many contributing factors to the water supply conditions in the Russian River watershed. See attached photos.

For more Drought and Water Conservation Resources visit:
<https://mcrd.org/resources/drought-water-conservation-resources>
<https://mcrd.org/resources/flow-enhancement>

Lake Mendocino

January 16, 2021
South end of Lake



Looking from the south parking lot to the 'island' with Coyote Dam on right.

Photos by Elizabeth Salomone



Student Achievement Awards

Student	Award	School	Grade
Jimmy Altizen Jr.	Citizenship	Calpella Elementary	2
Jimmy Altizen Jr.	Good Sportsmanship	Calpella Elementary	2
Jax Cordova	Math	Calpella Elementary	2
Serrano Valle	Citizenship	Calpella Elementary	2
Guinevere Pearce	Student of the Month	Ukiah Independent Study Academy	10

Congratulations to Eileen

The Rancheria's EPA Director, Eileen Nunez Womble, is currently out on maternity leave but will return soon. She had a baby girl in November. In the meantime, please send any questions or concerns to the Administrator Mary Camp at (707) 485-0361. Thank you.



Departure Announcement

Friday February 12th will be the last day for me, the EPA Director Assistant, Transportation and Solid Waste Manager, Ian Osipowitsch. It's been a wild ride. After two years the time has come for me to pursue other doings in life. I hope that my embodiment of hard work and positivity will remain here for a long time into the future. Thank you all. I wish everyone the best for your future ambitions. Toodles. – Ian Osipowitsch

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(Photo: an Ojibwe Bandolier bag (left) and a Tlingit Octopus bag via Wikimedia C/C)

Friday, February 12, 2021 – More than what they carry

FEBRUARY 5, 2021 BY ART HUGHES — [LEAVE A COMMENT](#)

Bandolier bags come from Woodlands tribes like the Ojibwe, and can include glass seed beads, spot stitching and woven straps. Pipe bags are often from Plains tribes and serve as holders for sacred ceremonial pipes. In the Pacific Northwest octopus or finger bags have intricately decorated 'fingers' hanging from the bottom of the bag. We'll explore the utility and decoration of Native bags. We'll also hear from bag makers about their craft and passion for the things they carry.

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TUNE IN LIVE

Monday-Friday
1:00 – 2:00 pm EDT

To participate, call:

[1-800-996-2848](tel:1-800-996-2848)

[1-800-99-NATIV](tel:1-800-99-NATIV)

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<https://nativeamericacalling.com/friday-february-12-2021-more-than-what-they-carry/>

Tribal Position Openings

The following full time positions are open:

- WATER RESOURCES COORDINATOR – Responsible for all water related grants and activities. Requires grant management, reporting, and writing skills.
- EPA/SOLID WASTE COORDINATOR – Responsible for solid waste removal, assisting the EPA Coordinator with grant work plan tasks, transportation projects. 60% inside office work – 40% outside projects.
- BREATHE TOBACCO PROJECT COORDINATOR – Development of outreach material and presentations, community activities and media materials designed to reduce tobacco use. Part-time position (20 hours per week)
- COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COORDINATOR – Develop and work with youth group and community to reduce tobacco usage.

Applications and full position descriptions are available at the front desk.

Redwood Valley Rancheria
3250 Road I,
Redwood Valley, CA 95470

