

Memo

To: MCCSD Board of Directors
From: District Superintendent
cc: Jim Jackson
Date: December 1, 2023
Re: Groundwater Management Report

The 2023-24 Rain Year

October 1, 2023 was the beginning of the 2023-24 rain year. Average annual precipitation in Mendocino is 39.20 inches, and average rainfall in November is 4.86” inches. 2.38” inches of rainfall has been measured in the District for the month, as of November 30, 2023 (Figure 1, Table 1).

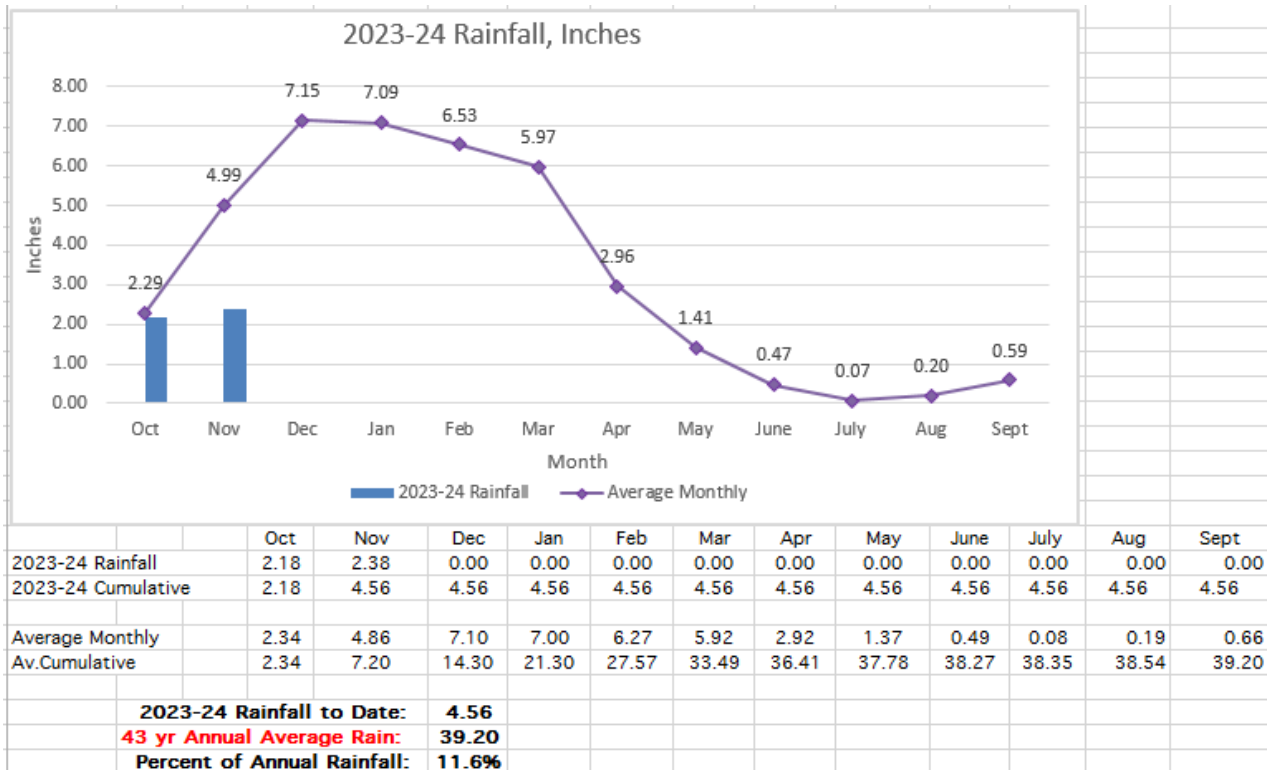


Figure 1, Table 1

Total Rainfall for Rain Year 2022-23 was 41.93” inches. Mendocino received 106% of normal annual rainfall during the last water year. By November 30, 2023, total rainfall since October 1, 2023 was 4.56” inches, 11.6% of average annual rainfall.

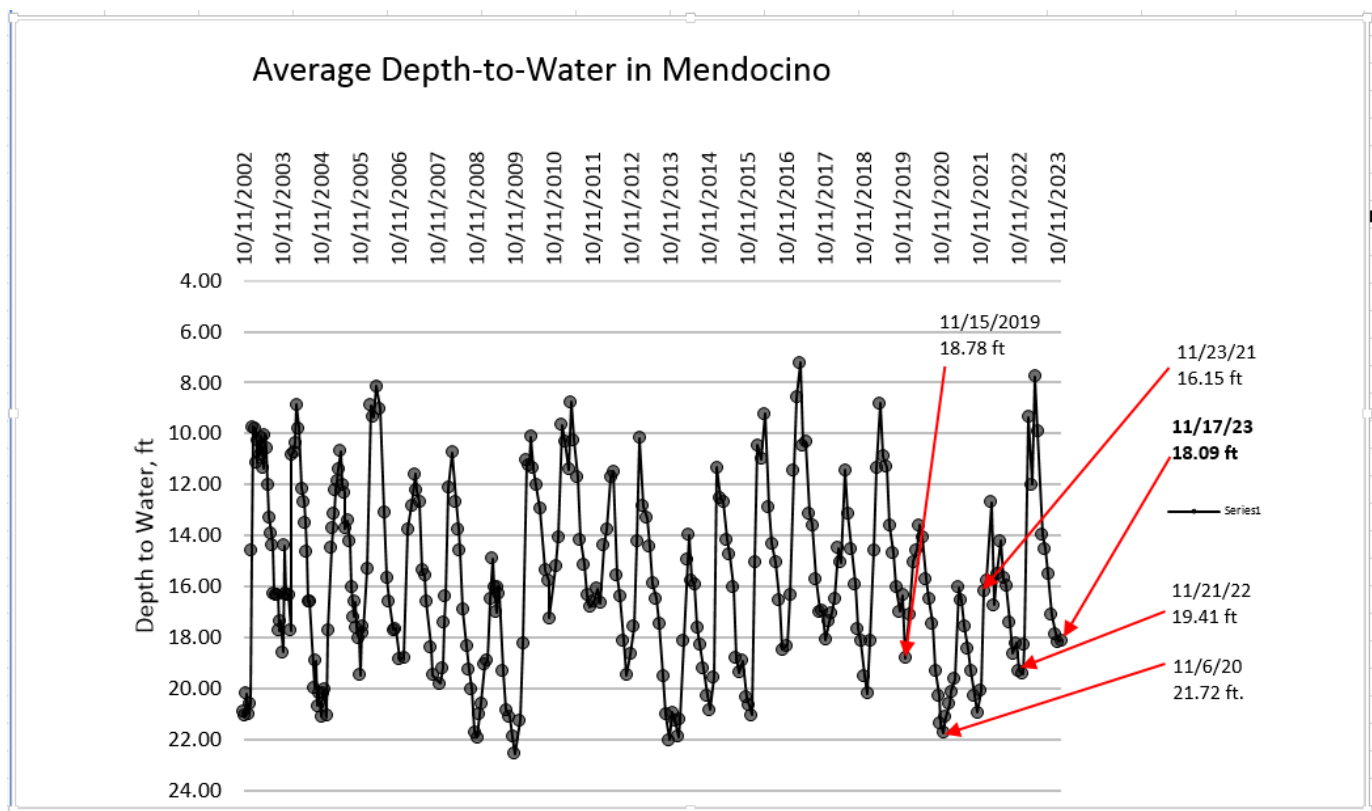
| DAILY TOTAL RAINFALL | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|--|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|--------------------------|--|----------------------------|
| | 2023-24 | | | | | | | | | | | <i>Elevation 72 Feet</i> | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | <i>Latitude 39.306°</i> | | |
| | Data From : Community Service District | | | | | | | 10AM | | | | | | <i>Longitude -123.800°</i> |
| Day | Oct | Nov | Dec | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | | |
| 1 | 0.01 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2 | | .01 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3 | | 0.03 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 4 | | 0.21 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 5 | | 0.37 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 6 | | 0.08 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 7 | 0.02 | 0.01 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 8 | 0.24 | 0.01 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 9 | 0.08 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 10 | 0.19 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 11 | 0.02 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 12 | 0.01 | 0.03 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 13 | 0.01 | 0.16 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 14 | | 0.39 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 15 | | 0.03 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 16 | 0.29 | 0.03 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 17 | 0.02 | 0.47 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 18 | 0.02 | 0.09 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 19 | 0.01 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 20 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 21 | 0.26 | 0.01 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 22 | 0.87 | 0.01 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 23 | 0.01 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 24 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 25 | 0.10 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 26 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 27 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 28 | | 0.20 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 29 | 0.02 | 0.01 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 30 | | 0.24 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 31 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sum | 2.18 | 2.38 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | | |
| Count | 17 | 18 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | |
| Max | 0.87 | 0.47 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | | |
| Rainy Days | | 35 | | | | | | | | | | 4.56 | | |
| Maximum Daily Rainfall | | | | 0.87 | | | | | | | | | | |

Table 1 2023-24 Rainfall Record

November 2023 Depth-to-Water (DTW)

The average DTW measurements District-wide in the 24 monitoring wells on November 17, 2023 was 18.09' ft. DTW averages are about 0.07 ft. better than October of 2023, about 1.3 ft. better than November of 2022, and about 2 ft. lower than November of 2021. The DTW averages in the 5 drought monitoring wells reported at 22.13 ft.

Figure 2 November 2023, Depth-To-Water Chart



Following the Water Shortage Contingency Plan. The MCCSD Board declared on April 19, 2023 that no water shortage exists within the MCCSD boundaries. According to the Water Shortage Contingency Plan, (p. 14) "Calendar for Declaring Water Shortage,... If a water shortage is not declared by the end of May, no further evaluation is required until the following January 31." MCCSD staff continue to monitor and follow the plan. The MCCSD water table is on average at its lowest during October and November. The Superintendent recommends continued caution and conservation.

Following a request for additional information related to Groundwater Management, staff would like to report: the following:

There were no applications for well modification or well replacement during the month.

The District continues to make progress towards compliance with groundwater extraction permitting. Nine commercial properties were sent letters on October 16, 2023 notifying them of potential compliance issues, and requested that they complete a groundwater extraction permit application. The good news is that District staff have heard back from all nine properties and received the requested GWEP applications as appropriate. District staff appreciate businesses taking the first step towards compliance. Staff have 30 days from the receipt of a GWEP application to determine if it is complete. Staff have requested additional documentation from some business. Staff have not fully reviewed all applications. We are optimistic that more properties will be receiving permit approvals in the near future.

District staff met with the State Division of Drinking Water staff on Tuesday 11/21 to learn that they were conducting some site visits on 11/27/23. The State is still encouraging consolidation of water systems. Some properties may face challenges, but they believe there is a path forward for most properties to receive a permit.

We are still waiting to hear from County planning how they plan to facilitate collaboration between MCCSD, the state Division of Drinking Water, and other regulatory agencies which have jurisdiction within Mendocino.

We have received notification from County planning of a few building permit applications within the District which may also trigger the need for groundwater extraction permit applications. As a reminder, per Ordinance 2020-01 all new development, changes in use, or expansion of existing use require a valid groundwater extraction permit. A GWEP shall be obtained prior to:

- 1) issuance of a Mendocino County Use Permit or Coastal Development;
- 2) issuance of a Mendocino County Building Permit for other than minor repair and maintenance; or
- 3) issuance of a Mendocino County Well Permit.