UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
Agriculture and Natural Resources

Name, Lived Name: **Preferred Pronoun(s):**	Laura E. Garza Díaz (she, her, ella)
Academic Title:	Assistant Cooperative Extension Advisor
County/Program:	Mendocino and Lake – Water Resources
Review Type:	Merit
Current Rank/Step:	Assistant Advisor Step V
Requested Rank/Step:	Assistant Advisor Step VI
Review Time Period:	January 3, 2024, to September 30, 2025
Thematic Areas:	Theme 1: Needs Assessment: Program Establishment, Planning, and Development Theme 2: Water Resources Management and Climate Change Resilience

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
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ANR Academic Position Description

Laura Elisa Garza Díaz
Area Water Resources Management Advisor
Serving Areas: Mendocino and Lake Counties, California

Effective Date: January 3rd, 2024

PURPOSE & CLIENTELE

PURPOSE: The Area Water Resources Management Advisor will implement an innovative extension education and applied research program to address Northern California's evolving water challenges. The position will focus on identifying, interpreting, and addressing critical water resource issues, particularly those affecting water supply and quality through educational programs, policy recommendations, and water use planning. In addition, the position aims to strengthen community and ecosystem resilience by informing and supporting adaptation strategies for extreme events such as droughts, floods, and prolonged water scarcity. This includes advancing on integrated water resources management, supporting sustainable surface and groundwater use, restoring natural watershed functions, improving water use efficiency and promoting collaborative solutions that draw on western science, traditional ecological knowledge, and both qualitative and quantitative techniques.

The Area Water Resources Management Advisor will foster a shared vision among local governments, water agencies, water users, farmers, and tribes by building partnerships and strengthening local capacity for long-term water stewardship and climate resilience. The Advisor will also work to protect and enhance watershed ecosystems that support fish, wildlife, native vegetation, cultural practices, and sustainable agriculture. This position is based at the UC Cooperative Extension office in Mendocino County. The major geographical areas include Mendocino and Lake Counties, including transboundary river basins (i.e. Russian River, Cache Creek, and Eel River) shared within neighboring counties.

A small portion of the Advisor's time will contribute to statewide programming in coordination with other Advisors and Water Professionals across the main serving areas and throughout California.

CLIENTELE: The advisor will work with County and City governments, Water Agencies and Planning Departments, Irrigation Districts, Tribes, Water Suppliers, Natural Resources Professionals, and Water Users.

ACADEMIC PROGRAM MAJOR RESPONSIBILITIES

Include/revise only those items that apply; some may not fit your situation. Add other major responsibilities as needed.

- Develop and implement effective UC ANR Cooperative Extension applied research and educational programs to address the identified priority needs of the clientele that are consistent with UC ANR's Strategic Vision and Public Value Statements.

    - **Technical Competence & Impact**
        - Assess clientele needs across Northern California's water-stressed regions and develop research and extension goals aligned with UC ANR's Strategic Initiatives and Public Value Statements, particularly in water resources management.
        - Conduct applied research designed to solve locally relevant problems and monitor related changes.
            - Integrated Water Resources Management
            - Water quality and watershed health
            - Extreme climate event impacts (droughts, floods, sea level rise)
        - Maintain and promote UC ANR's credibility by providing science-based knowledge on hydrologic sciences and skills independent of personal or parochial interests.
        - Represent UC ANR locally in a professional manner.
        - Understand key concepts related to California's water management challenges
        - Ensure that outcomes and impacts are measured and communicated.
            - Local water plans, peer-reviewed journal articles, popular press and media outlets, online educational resources
        - Design and lead a Water Resources Management Program that addresses:
            - Water budgets and efficient water use
            - Planning for river and groundwater basins
            - Interactions between surface water and groundwater
            - Water storage and supply management (i.e. reservoirs, managed aquifer recharge, conjunctive use, rainwater harvesting)
            - Effects of extreme climate event impacts on water systems (i.e. droughts, floods, sea level rise, wildfires)
            - Watershed health and ecosystem function

    - **Communication**
        - Conduct and report regular needs assessments to identify priority issues or problems relevant to the local clientele groups being served. The communication could be achieved through several venues:
            - Personal communication, interviews, quantitative and qualitative surveys, and through the participation of meetings.
        - Disseminate useful, science-based information to inform clientele, using extension methods that are responsive to clientele needs and appropriate for the audience and situation. This includes:
            - In-person and virtual events, such as site visits, seminars, workshops, field days.
            - Factsheets, handouts, newsletters, media press, and industry collaborators

- Evaluate programs and report accomplishments, results, and potential or actual impacts to scientific and lay audiences.
- Foster an increased understanding of UC ANR's Cooperative Extension's research and education programs in clientele, the public and policy makers.
- Effectively use online communication methods and associated software programs to support research and instruction.
- Actively advocate for UC ANR program awareness and support.
    - Support and promote programs led by ANR Water Resources Programs with academic and industry partners, including those initiatives developed by fellow ANR Advisors in my shared counties.

- **Collaboration, Teamwork & Flexibility**
    - Develop collaborative teams with other UC ANR academics, campus-based specialists and faculty and/or others, to address priority issues for UC ANR. These could include:
        - UC water resources teams, advisors, and specialists
        - UC fire and land steward, forestry, diversified agriculture, viticulture, and 4H advisors
    - Act as a facilitator in the public policy arena to effectively bridge divergent interests around issues that impact subjects within the UC ANR purview.
    - Interact with UC ANR Program Teams, specialists, campus based Agricultural Experiment Station faculty (if appropriate) and others within the research/extension network to develop, strengthen and expand program goals. These could include:
        - California Institute of Water Resources
        - ANR California Naturalists and Climate Stewards
        - UC water team program
        - Hopland Research and Extension Center

    - Participate in UC and UC ANR leadership, through committees, task forces and other formal or informal structures.
    - Serve the California public by participating in activities of public agencies and organizations. These could include:
        - Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs)
        - Board of Supervisors, General Government Committees, and Municipal Advisory Committees
        - Flood Control and Water Conservation Districts
        - Water and Climate Agencies and Councils
    - Act as a consultant to local, state, and deferral regulatory agencies in water resources management in Mendocino and Lake Counties, including transboundary river basins (i.e. Russian River, Cache Creek, and Eel River) shared within neighboring counties.
    - Interpersonal Relationships: Be an effective listener and communicator, take responsibility for our own actions, motivate others, keep commitments and cultivate political and industry support for UC ANR.
    - Build relationships to work with diverse populations and acclimate to varying circumstances.

- **Professional Development & Lifelong Learning**
    - Participate in professional organizations and collaborate with federal, state and county governmental agencies, non-government organizations and others

by providing independent science-based information and leadership. Some professional organizations may include:
    - American Water Resources Association
    - Groundwater Resources Association

- Maintain a program of continuous self-improvement by participating in in-service training, seminars, workshops, work group & program team meetings, short courses, professional society meetings and other relevant opportunities.
    - ANR Water Program Group
    - Webinars by NOAA's National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS)

- **Provide academic oversight and leadership**
    - Develop and deliver engaging activities that serve the needs of youth and rural communities, and, when possible, provide mentorship or internship opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students in water resources management research projects

PUBLIC SERVICE

- Comply with all applicable federal and state laws and regulations, and all University policies.
- Develop a statement of program mission and define the potential program clientele with a commitment to serving the needs of all Californians.
- Plan and conduct programs to ensure broad accessibility and relevance across the full range of communities served.
- Identify and address any barriers that may limit participation, ensuring programs are broad and responsive to the needs of the entire population.
- Maintain current data on program reach and engagement to support effective planning and continuous improvement.
- Compile and maintain documentation of program activities, including records of participation, evaluations of benefits delivered, and efforts to engage a broad cross-section of the population.

RELATIONSHIPS

Administratively responsible to County Director for Mendocino and Lake Counties, for the conduct of the UC ANR program(s), but working cooperatively with County Directors within neighboring counties, and the Director of the California Institute of Water Resources.

QUALIFICATIONS

A minimum of a Master of Science Degree in water resources management and policy, irrigation, environmental engineering, or hydrology, is required. Specialty and/or professional experience must demonstrate capacity or potential to accomplish team-based research and education programs consistent with the values of Cooperative Extension.

Must be able to work independently and collaboratively in teams and provide leadership for research and education activities. Must be adaptable to different work circumstances and work with people and collaborators.

Must be literate in internet communications and software appropriate to support research and education programs.

Reviewers:



April 8, 2025

Academic (Dr. Laura E. Garza Díaz) Date

Matthew Barnes

April 14,2025

County/REC Director or Supervisor Date



4/14/25

Statewide Program Director (if applicable) Date

Final Approver:

Dr. Daniel Obrist Date
Vice Provost of Academic Personnel

INTRODUCTION

As the Area Water Resources Management Advisor, I lead the Water and Climate Change Program in Mendocino and Lake counties. My focus also extends to transboundary watersheds, including the Eel River (Lake, Mendocino, and Humboldt), the Russian River (Mendocino and Sonoma), and Cache Creek (Lake, Yolo, and Colusa). This is my first program review, covering the period from January 3, 2024, to September 30, 2025. I currently hold the rank of Assistant Advisor V and am seeking advancement to Step VI. Both my position and the Water and Climate Change Program are new to the region and UCANR, presenting a unique opportunity to establish a stewardship framework for water and climate resilience that integrates research, water management, governance, and community action. My primary clientele includes three main groups: 1) Local governments, including their water resources and climate departments, and Tribal Nations, including their Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) directors; 2) Water agencies, groundwater sustainability agencies (GSAs), and state and local water suppliers, and 3) Water users (e.g. well owners, domestic users) and farmers. The program also aims to protect and enhance watershed ecosystems that provide essential environmental services. The region faces critical water challenges, including water scarcity, disconnection between surface and groundwater, aquifer overdraft, degradation of water quality, and aging infrastructure. Many communities rely on domestic wells, small water supply systems, and limited storage capacity, making them highly vulnerable to these water problems. Climate change exacerbates these issues, as frequent droughts, floods, sea-level rise, and increased weather variability place additional strain on local water quantity, quality, and security. Additionally, there's a significant need to support water governance and public policies. For example, Mendocino County lacks a County Water Resources Department, and although Lake County has a Water Department, it faces capacity issues. My program addresses these challenges by supporting water policies and developing water and climate plans, promoting sustainable and climate-adaptive management practices, disseminating research-based information, and clarifying water regulations for users. My program's themes are: 1) Needs Assessment: Program Establishment, Planning, and Development, and 2) Water Resources Management and Climate Change Resilience. These themes advance UC ANR's Public Values of "securing safe and healthy environments" by improving water quality, quantity, and security, and by "building climate-resilient communities and ecosystems" through increased preparedness and resilience to climate change.

THEME I – Needs assessment: program Establishment, Planning, and Development

Background, Clientele, Goals, and Inputs: Conducting a needs assessment is a foundational step in establishing, planning, and developing the new Water and Climate Change Program. Since this program has been newly introduced to the region, it is crucial to identify and prioritize the most pressing water and climate-related challenges and to start building relationships with key stakeholders. This approach ensures that research, outreach, and extension activities are aligned with the community's highest water and climate priorities.

Methods and Outputs: I employed several methods, including personal introductions, site visits, and participation in stakeholder meetings, to introduce myself and the new Water and Climate Change Program. I met with the Mendocino and Lake Board of Supervisors (BoS) and five Municipal Advisory Committees (MACs). I also introduced the program to county departments, in Mendocino, these include: the Department of Transportation (DOT), which oversees water resources projects, the Council of General Governments, and Environmental and Health. In Lake County, agencies include the Climate Resilience Office, the Water Resources Department, and the Clear Lake Technical Subcommittee. Engagement with local water agencies included the local Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs), the Inland Power and Water Commission, the Russian River Flood Control, and the Resource Conservation Districts. I conducted personal visits to five Tribes, meeting with Tribal Chairpersons and EPA Directors. I introduced myself to local grassroots organizations, visited multiple farmers and met with the Farm Bureaus. During these meetings, I practiced active listening, asked open-ended questions, took detailed notes, and conducted

surveys when possible. Additionally, I conducted site visits to key water features, including reservoirs, lakes, rivers, and creeks, to gain a better in-field understanding of the area's watersheds. To evaluate the effectiveness of the needs assessment, I implemented feedback tools, including follow-up surveys and feedback forms. Based on the collected information, I identified 28 key challenges, grouped into 9 main topics: water quality, groundwater, surface–groundwater interactions, water supply, water demand, climate extremes, aquatic and riparian species, and water governance. For each topic, I documented stakeholders, ongoing projects, and grants in Mendocino and Lake Counties (See supporting documentation). This structured assessment provides a clear overview of regional water and climate priorities, serving as a living document to guide collaboration, outreach, and research planning.

Outcomes and Impacts: In terms of program establishment, I increased awareness of the new UCCE Water and Climate Change program and began building trust and proactive relationships with my clientele. For example, an EPA director from a Lake County Tribe said, "*This is the first time I hear about UCCE and their work, thank you for keeping on reaching out and coming all the way to our offices to meet us. It's great to hear that there's a water advisor in the area to provide the much-needed support to our Tribe.*" These interactions enabled me to gain a deeper understanding of the organizations and the specific water and climate challenges in the area, while also establishing positive professional networks. I plan to maintain and deepen these relationships through organizing and attending regular meetings. For example, I have quarterly meetings with two tribes and regularly attend stakeholder GSAs and Water Department meetings. Regarding program planning and development, the needs assessment document provided a foundation for the development of extension projects, outreach activities, and research proposals outlined in Theme II.

THEME II – Water Resources Management and Climate Change Resilience

Background, Clientele, Goals, and Inputs: This theme builds on the region's growing need to balance water quantity, quality, and security across surface and groundwater sources in domestic, urban, agricultural, and environmental systems, as well as the effects of climate change, including resilience and adaptation strategies. This theme supports my overall clientele, and the overarching goals are 1) Extending knowledge through outreach activities to improve the local capacity by providing information on hydrology 101, watershed systems, water budgets, water use efficiency, irrigation strategies, and surface-groundwater interactions; 2) Support local governments in adapting water and climate policy frameworks to enhance water quantity, quality, and security and promote long-term water and climate resilience; and 3) Research and development related to water resources and climate change resilience, including the intersection between those. The inputs in this theme include county-wide projects in partnership with local governments and consultant firms, research projects, direct funding and in-kind donations, advisor time, program content, plans and proposal writing, and meetings.

Goal 1 - Extending knowledge through outreach activities

Methods and Outputs: I provided 6 public workshops/events/field trips with 226 attendees, 6 policy engagement workshops with a total of 122 attendees and 4 organizations, and 23 policy meetings for 3 organizations. I presented 23 Educational Presentations at meetings to a total of 260 attendees and 4 governmental and water agencies. 14 Personal visits and 10 technical advice instances through phone, Zoom calls, and office visits. Additional methods include local radio and magazine interviews, development of educational resources through the UCCE Water and Climate webpage, four published blogs, one peer-reviewed article, and four technical notes. Additional methods include participation in local fairs and community events, and engagement through social media, email campaigns, and local newspaper press releases. Promotional campaigns included individual invitations to clients via phone calls and emails, as well as promotional event posters displayed at>70 locations.

Outcomes and Impacts: Across representative evaluations, participants consistently rated the events between 4.6-4.8 out of 5, and 80%-96% reported improved understanding of water systems and land

management strategies. For example, the Water, Fire, and Soil – Science on Tap workshop showed that 92% of attendees improved their understanding of river systems and natural flow regimes, while 76% agreed or strongly agreed that the information presented was informative and comprehensive. The statewide California Water Course achieved a 96% improvement rate in understanding statewide water systems and policies, with 90% of participants indicating they were very likely to apply what they learned in their communities. Similarly, 90% indicated they were very likely to apply what they learned in their jobs or communities. Course materials, including the guidebook, videos, and self-assessments, received positive ratings, with an average of 4.6/5 for clarity and usefulness. One participant (RC, Female 45, Latina) mentioned: *"I am so grateful for this Water Course because it gave me the knowledge, skills, and materials to better understand water management in my community. It was truly a blessing, as a migrant who couldn't finish high school, this course gave me the opportunity to learn and earn a certificate in California water systems. I will use these materials to keep on supporting my cooperative"*. The STEM Tribal Youth Workshop similarly reflected substantial knowledge gains, with participants' familiarity with my UCCE program increasing from 2.1 to 3.4 (on a 4-point scale), and all respondents expressing enthusiasm for future learning opportunities in agriculture, water, and natural resources. Collectively, these outcomes demonstrate significant progress toward Goal 1, illustrating how these outreach activities have enhanced the regional capacity of water resources, climate, and community-based stewardship across diverse audiences.

Goal 2 - Support local governments in adapting water and climate policy frameworks

Methods and Outputs: I collaborated closely with county agencies, consultants, and state partners across multiple planning efforts. Aside from the 6 policy engagement workshops and 23 policy meetings mentioned in Goal 1, I participated in 34 meetings and visits related to collaboration with tribes, technical advisory committees for GSAs, local and governmental agencies, tribes, and NGOs. For example, as part of the Mendocino County Drought Resilience Plan (DRP), I led the outreach and engagement component and supported the technical aspects of water and climate projections. Additionally, I developed content and reviewed the final policy plan document including two bilingual educational fact sheets and outreach posters distributed across inland and coastal communities, along with the coordination of two policy engagement public workshops (Ukiah and Fort Bragg) and meetings and presentations with the Mendocino BoS, Council of General Governments, Drought Task Force, and MACs. Regular coordination and plan update meetings were also held with the Mendocino DOT, EKI Environment & Water, and the County Drought Task Force to integrate community feedback into plan development and ensure alignment with the requirements of Senate Bill 552 (SB 552). Building on that experience, I began supporting the Lake County DRP (2025-2026) by contributing to the development of their outreach and plan framework to ensure consistency with SB 552 requirements. On the Mendocino coast, I am also co-leading the Sea Level Rise Roads Impact Study, which evaluates the vulnerability of critical transportation corridors to inundation and erosion under multiple climate scenarios. Initial analysis and outreach development began in May 2025. Public workshops, surveys, and content distribution are scheduled to take place in the Spring of 2026. I also provided technical review and feedback on the Evaluation of the Draft New Well Permitting Procedures under Executive Orders N-7-22 and N-3-23, led by Mendocino County Environmental Health, to assess groundwater implications and coordinate with local drought planning initiatives.

Outcomes and Impacts: Collectively, these actions have enhanced interagency coordination, improved the integration of science into local decision-making, and advanced counties' capacity to adapt to emerging water and climate challenges. For example, the Mendocino DRP outreach activities led to enhanced public awareness, improved stakeholder coordination, and increased community participation in drought planning. Across evaluations, 80% of attendees agreed that community engagement in the development of DRP was extremely important, and 20% considered it very important. Additional comments included: *"Have more workshops in more communities around the county"*. Given this feedback, I reached out to the Mendocino MACs and organized 4 additional public presentations. As a result of the outreach efforts, we received 5 public comments and 19 community engagement forms, which included information

and comments to be incorporated into the final DRP plan. Additionally, local news outlets wrote about the DRP workshops and the content of my presentations. In the final resolution of the Mendocino DRP during the BOS general public meeting, a member of the board said: *"I want to thank you for the work you put into it, I attended the stakeholder meetings and the General Government meetings and I was really impressed by the thoughtfulness and I think that it was very well conducted in terms of the community engagement."* Ultimately, the Mendocino BoS approved the DRP for implementation in May 2025, marking a significant milestone in the county's capacity to anticipate and respond to future droughts, water shortages, and resilience to extreme heat. In addition, through my review of the New Well Permitting, I helped strengthen local policy frameworks. This work is particularly significant in Mendocino, where the absence of a formal water agency highlights the need for hydrologic expertise and technical guidance in policy development.

Goal 3 – Research Development

Methods and Outputs: I prioritized initiating research projects related to the topics identified in the needs assessment. The main research project proposals include 1) *Evaluating the effects of a Dam Decommissioning in Northern California*, which investigates hydrologic, ecological, and social resilience following large infrastructure removal. Using the Eel River and Russian River Watershed and Scott Dam as a case study, this work examines post-removal flow regimes, sediment transport, economic impacts, and community adaptation, generating insights to inform future river restoration and water resource management efforts. And 2) *Development of a Tribal Climate and Natural Resources Assessment Plan for the MiRPI tribe in Lake County*. This project was completed in September 2025. This project established the foundation for long-term climate resilience and natural resource planning for the Tribe. The assessment identifies current vulnerabilities and evaluates the impacts of climate change on local ecosystems, cultural resources, and natural resource management. Aside from conceptualizing and developing these research projects, I advised, supervised, and managed two summer interns for each project.

Outcomes and Impacts: The outcomes of research during the review period are limited, as research projects are still in progress. For project (1), I have completed the estimation of natural flow regimes for the Eel River at 20 gauge stations, using a daily time step from 1909 to 2025, advancing understanding of the ecological impacts of dam decommissioning on streamflow. Next steps include estimating natural flow regimes for the Russian River Watershed, developing hydrologic models, conducting interviews, and creating scenario projections. For the project (2), the plan has increased community preparedness and improved readiness to tackle resilience strategies in response to extreme weather and climate change. For example, after finalizing the Tribal Climate and Natural Resources Assessment Plan, the MiRPI tribe hired a new EPA director. This plan has helped improve the EPA's understanding of the current vulnerabilities and tribal priorities regarding climate change impacts on the tribe's natural resources in a more efficient and organized manner. In addition, the EPA director has begun writing grants to address the challenges of the assessment, including securing funding to evaluate well productivity and water capacity using this assessment as supporting documentation for this and future proposals. Additionally, the tribe is interested in initiating a Water Budget project to assess the water availability throughout the entire rancheria, enabling more effective water allocation strategies. Looking ahead, I plan to disseminate findings from the first project through peer-reviewed publications, conference presentations, and community workshops. These future impacts are expected to enhance water management and climate resilience strategies, as well as improve my clients' knowledge and decision-making within the watersheds I serve.

PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCE AND ACTIVITY

During this review period, I strengthened my professional competence through invited presentations, academic teaching, professional memberships, and ongoing training. I was invited by Water Education for Latino Leaders (WELL) to present to local elected leaders in California about California water policy. I also presented to the Environmental Justice Workgroup and was interviewed by Stanford University on community engagement practices. In addition, I guest lectured at UC Davis. I am an active member of the

UCANR Environmental Justice Workgroup and two professional societies: the American Water Resources Association (AWRA) and the International Association for Hydro-Environment Engineering and Research (IAHR). My work has been featured in 7 local newspapers and newsletters, reflecting recognition of my professional contributions across Mendocino and Lake Counties. I participated in over 15 professional development activities, including conferences, workshops, and webinars on groundwater, climate resilience, and cultural awareness. I also participated as a mentee in the UCANR mentorship program and completed certifications in first aid and climate stewardship.

SERVICE

University - I served on 3 hiring committees: for two SGMA Technical Assistance Community Educator via UC SAREP and for the CIWR Project Scientist Search Committee. I serve on the Hopland Research and Extension Center Research Advisory Committee. I contribute to county reports for UCCE offices. I mentored undergraduate and graduate students, interns, and Grizzly Corp fellows. Additionally, I presented at the UC ANR Leadership Visit at Lake County and at the Academic Programming Meeting in Redding. *Public*- I serve on three Steering Committees, including the Ukiah Valley Groundwater Basin Study, the Groundwater Modeling Project for the Upper Russian River, and the Lake County Drought Advisory Committee, where I contribute my hydrologic expertise to inform planning decisions. I also served on the Technical Advisory Committee for the Cache Creek Watershed Stewardship in Yolo and Lake counties.

CIVIL RIGHTS COMPLIANCE AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO UC ANR'S PRINCIPLES OF COMMUNITY

I am committed to fostering an inclusive and equitable Water and Climate Change Program that reflects UC ANR's values of communication, openness, and mutual respect, and engage with historically underserved communities. To enhance our accountability and commitment to these values, I have implemented demographic surveys within my program, ensuring representation from diverse groups, including Tribal Nations and Hispanic and Latino communities. Additionally, participant feedback is collected to assess how effectively we are meeting their needs and identify areas for improvement. As part of my program's foundational needs assessment, I established partnerships with four Tribal Nations that had not previously worked with UCCE. To strengthen my understanding of Tribal governance and cultural heritage, I have participated in cultural awareness workshops and organized collaborative projects with and for Tribes. For the Hispanic and Latino communities, I co-developed the California Water Course, a 40-hour bilingual training program that strengthens water literacy and leadership. Additionally, I have translated numerous fact sheets, presentations, and blogs to expand access to information. Furthermore, to ensure that all communities can engage with my work, I broadly share updates and events through newsletters, local media, blogs, and partner organizations, thereby helping to create equitable opportunities for all my clients.

CLOSING SUMMARY

During this first review period, I have established the foundation of my program as an integrated effort that connects outreach, policy support, community engagement, and research, thereby strengthening regional water and climate resilience. By combining these elements, my program has advanced local understanding of water systems, improved coordination among agencies and water users, and supported the development of more adaptive water and climate policies. These results and efforts not only reflect my growth as an advisor and committed leader but also make me eager to continue doing more impactful work to advance equitable and science-driven solutions for water and climate challenges within the counties and watersheds I serve, and across all of California. To conclude, I feel fortunate and grateful to be part of the extraordinary mission of UCANR

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SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

A. Project(s) Summary Applied Research and Creative Activity (for title series with research expectations)

THEME II – WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE RESILIENCE

Project Title	Role	Duration	Regional Extension (County)	Collaborators with Affiliation	Grant Total / Financial Support (FS)	Support Source
County Project: **Mendocino County Drought Resilience Plan**	Co-PI	2024 – 2025	County wide (Mendocino)	A. Fissette., Mendocino County Department of Transportation (MCDOT); and A. Mani., EKI Environment and Water Inc.	Total Grant: $198,000 FS to my program: $10,300	Mendocino County Department of Transportation
Research Project: **Climate and Natural Resources Assessment Plan for the MiRPI Tribe**	PI	2025	Tribal Reservation (Lake)	MiRPI Tribe; L. Gocobachi., University of Arizona (ITEP summer intern)	In Kind support: $10,000 for an intern and use of my Advisor Start-Up Funds	Indigenous Tribal Environmental Professionals (ITEP) from University of Northern Arizona
County Project: **Mendocino County Sea Level Rise Roads Impact Study**	Co-PI	2025 - ongoing	Mendocino Coast (Mendocino)	N. Barrett., J. Christian., and A. Pedrotti., MCOG. H. Dashiel., and A. Meier., MCDOT; C, Desmet., Caltrans; S. Jogia., L. Paz., Terraphase	Total Grant: $350,000 FS to my program: $5,800	Mendocino Council of Governments (MCOG)
Research Project: **Evaluating the effects of a Dam Decommissioning**	PI	2025 - ongoing	Eel River and Russian River Watersheds (Lake,	J. Nuñez., UC Davis Water Management Lab	In Kind support: $4,000 for an intern and	University of California Global Health Institute

in Northern California			Mendocino, Humboldt, Sonoma, Marin)		use of my Advisor Start-Up Funds	
***Outreach Project:* California Water Course: Science, Policy and Management**	Co-PI	2024-ongoing	Statewide	Specialist S. Sandoval, UCCE. Director E. Porse, California Institute of Water Resources (CIWR)	No specific funding, use of my Advisor Start-Up Funds	NA

B. Professional Competence and Professional Activity

a. Professional Development and Training

Professional Development and Training	Location	Date
International Groundwater-Agriculture Conference, "Toward Sustainable Groundwater in Agriculture - Linking Science and Policy"	San Francisco, CA	6/17/24 - 6/20/24
UC Tribal Partnerships Workshop, Topics included: understanding tribal government and tribal lands, initiating and developing tribal relationships, listening to tribal needs, and building partnerships around areas such as food and nutrition, natural resource management, cultural heritage, and youth or community education.	UC ANR - Davis	8/19/24 - 8/20/24
Clear Lake Science Symposium - The symposium focused on local Lake County topics including watershed research, conservation, water quality, and the impacts of climate change on lakes, fish, invasive species, groundwater, and surface water.	Robinson Rancheria Center - Lake County	8/15/24 - 8/16/24
Fire-Water-Fish Futures Webinar: Tribal-Led Climate Modeling Explores Fire Effects on Streamflow	Virtual	11/6/24 - 11/6/24
UCANR Water and Environmental Justice Workgroup Meeting - Participated in a workshop focused on integrating environmental justice principles into water management and community engagement strategies.	Davis, CA	1/23/25 - 1/23/25
UCANR Water Program Team Annual Meeting - Attended the statewide Water Program Team meeting to align research, outreach priorities, and collaborative efforts across UC ANR.	Davis, CA	11/20/24 - 11/21/24
GoToWebinar - CA-NV DEWS December 2024 Drought & Climate Outlook Webinar - Joined a regional climate outlook webinar to review anticipated drought conditions strategies using a statewide dashboard to inform policymakers	Virtual	12/2/24 - 12/2/24
Climate Resilience in the North Coast of California Conference - Engaged in a regional conference highlighting climate adaptation strategies. I networked with tribes and water and climate state agencies.	Sonoma, CA	1/29/25 - 1/30/25
UCANR Regional Academic Meeting - coordinate extension priorities, share program updates, and strengthen cross-county partnerships.	Redding, CA	2/26/25 - 2/27/25
Cultural Awareness Training from Kno'Qoti Native Wellness, Inc. (KNWI) - This training aims to enhance the cultural competence of UCCE staff, fostering deeper understanding and sensitivity to the unique cultural heritage and contemporary issues of the Native American communities they serve.	Hopland REC	12/11/24 - 12/11/24
Review of Project Dashboard - Met with Kit Alviz to review project dashboard tools and strengthen tracking of deliverables, reporting metrics, and project performance.	Virtual	10/2/24 - 10/2/24

UCANR Training for Brand New Academics: Attended foundational UC ANR training to learn administrative processes, expectations, and resources essential for new academic	Virtual	10/9/24 - 10/9/24
Drought Resiliency Symposium- Participated in a symposium examining drought preparedness, resilience strategies, and the latest research on water management under climate variability.	Sea Ranch: Del Mar Recreation Center	10/30/24 - 10/30/24
Webinar: Fire-Water-Fish Futures Webinar: Tribal-Led Climate Modeling Explores Fire Effects on Streamflow and Ecosystems	Virtual	11/6/24 - 11/6/24
UCANR Mentorship Program: Engaged in structured mentorship with Doug Parker to receive guidance on program development, networking, and career advancement.	Virtual	1/24/24 - 12/31/24
First Aid Certificate: Completed certified first aid training to strengthen field safety skills and emergency preparedness.	Virtual	3/31/25 - 3/31/25
Wilderness First Aid Response Class: Received training in wilderness first aid to ensure safe fieldwork practices in remote and high-risk environments.	Sierra Foothill REC	4/2/25 - 4/4/25
Webinar: Data for Lunch - When Rivers Run Hot (California Water Data Consortium) - attended a webinar analyzing trends in rising river temperatures and implications for water quality, ecosystems, and climate adaptation.	Virtual	4/23/25 - 4/23/25
Webinar: Data for Lunch - Developing Drought Early Warning Systems in California - Participated in a seminar focused on the design and application of drought early warning systems to support proactive water manage	Virtual	6/11/25 - 6/11/25
UC Climate Stewards Certification: Completed Climate Stewards certification coursework and in-person instructor training to support climate literacy and community resilience programming.	Virtual, Yosemite REC	7/23/25 - 8/22/25

b. Disciplinary Society or Professional Association.

- American Water Resources Association (AWRA) - Member since 2024
- International Association for Hydro-Environment Engineering and Research (IAHR) - Member since 2022

c. Evidence of Professional Competence

Professional Standing Activities	Location	Date
Interview: Water Education for Latino Leaders – WELL UnTapped: I was interviewed by California elected officials and leaders about California water systems, hydrology 101 and water policy.	Richmond, CA	10/11/24
Presentation for Environmental Justice Workgroup: Presented about the Mendocino Drought Resilience Plan highlighting equity-centered drought planning and community engagement findings.	Online	1/22/25
Interview by Jenny Skerker (Stanford) on UCCE Water and Climate Change Program: Participated in an interview with Stanford researcher Jenny Skerker to discuss the goals, approach, and regional impacts of the UCCE Water and Climate Change Program.	Online	9/11/25
UC Davis Lecturer – PLS 150 Sustainability and Agroecosystem Management: Served as a guest lecturer presenting on California water resources management and water policy	UC Davis, CA	5/21/24
Featured in Local Newspapers and Newsletters: Recognition of work or events related to my Water and Climate Change Program. 2024 • The Water Under Our Feet. Word of Mouth Magazine. Summer 2024. • UC ANR Adds Experts in Water, Wildfire, Pest Management and More – Morning Ag Clips, May 2024. • Board OKs contract for firm to analyze effects of Scott Dam decommissioning. August 2024. • Mendocino County rated one of California's most at-risk counties for drought impacts – The Mendocino Voice, September 2024. 2025 • Work on Mendocino Drought Resilience Plan continues – The Mendocino Voice, February 2025. • UC Cooperative Extension Tribal Extension Office opens at Middletown Rancheria - Lake County News,California, June 2025 • UC Cooperative Extension outlines Lake County Water and Climate program, offers local drought. September 26, 2025 • Tribal teachers, UCCE advisors open doors for next Native scientists. - UC Green Blog, September 29, 2025 • Science program for Tribal youth hosted in Hopland - The Ukiah Daily, October 3, 2025	Online, in press	1/3/24

C. University Service

University Service	Role	Location	Date
CIWR Project Scientist Search Committee: Served on the CIWR Project Scientist Search Committee, reviewing applications, interviewing candidates, and assessing qualifications for hydrology and water resources research roles.	Search Committee Member	Online	5/23/2024 - 8/31/2024
Hopland REC Research Advisory Committee (RAC) 2024–2025: Participated in RAC meetings to evaluate research proposals for scientific merit, feasibility, and alignment with Hopland REC's long-term strategic priorities, while also providing guidance on REC direction and activities.	Member of RAC	Hopland REC	6/10/2024 - ongoing
Water and Environmental Justice Workgroup: Contributed to the UC ANR Water and Environmental Justice Workgroup by providing input on equitable water management approaches and supporting statewide coordination.	Collaborator	UC Davis - Online	5/1/2024 - ongoing
UC ANR Leadership Visit for Lake County: Supported the UC ANR leadership visit by presenting local program priorities, facilitating discussions with partners, and highlighting regional water and climate resilience needs.	Presenter	Lakeport, CA	11/7/24
SGMA Community Educators Onboarding (North Coast Presentation): Delivered a North Coast presentation for onboarding SGMA Community Educators, introducing regional groundwater issues, community engagement needs, and educational priorities.	Presenter	Hybrid - UCDavis	3/5/25
Hiring Committee – SGMA Technical Assistance Community Educator (CES IV), Santa Clara/San Benito/Monterey: Served on the hiring committee to evaluate candidates and support the selection process.	Committee member	Virtual	2/4/2025 - 9/3/2025
Hiring Committee – SGMA Technical Assistance Community Educator (CES IV), Riverside/San Bernardino: Participated in the hiring process for a CES IV SGMA educator, reviewing applicant resumes and contributing to candidate assessments.	Hiring Committee Member	Virtual	10/10/2024 - 1/13/2025
UC ANR Region 1 Academic Meeting: Presented a poster about the DRP and the Water and Climate program, participated in discussions with advisors and specialists.	Presenter and Attendee	Redding, CA	02/26/2025 - 02/27/2025
Middletown Rancheria – UCCE MOU Signing: Supported the UCCE–Middletown Rancheria MOU signing by representing the Water and Climate Change program and helping formalize institutional collaboration.	Collaborator	Middletown, CA	10/23/25

D. Public Service

Public Service	Role	Location	Date
Steering Committee: Ukiah Valley Groundwater Basin Study: Served on the steering committee guiding a technical study evaluating how groundwater pumping in the Ukiah Valley affects river flows and regional water availability.	Steering Committee Member	Ukiah, Virtual	6/14/2024 - ongoing
Technical Advisory Committee: Cache Creek Watershed Stewardship Initiative: Provided technical guidance to the Cache Creek Watershed Stewardship Initiative (Lake and Yolo Counties), supporting cross-county collaboration on watershed health and sustainable water management.	Advisory Committee Member	Online - Yolo Co.	4/1/2024 - ongoing
Steering Committee: Groundwater Modeling Project for Ukiah Valley and Upper Russian River: Participated in the steering committee overseeing a long-term groundwater modeling effort to improve water supply resiliency for communities in the Ukiah Valley and Upper Russian River.	Steering Committee Member	Ukiah, CA.	6/14/2024 - ongoing
Lake County Drought Advisory Committee: Contributed expertise to the Lake County Drought Advisory Committee, providing input on drought impacts, resilience strategies, and community communication needs.	Advisory Committee Member	Lake Co., Virtual	4/16/2025 to 10/22/2025
Tule Boat Festival 2025: Supported the 2025 Tule Boat Festival by engaging with tribal community members	Collaborator	Lake Co.	7/24/25

E. Extension Activities or Coordination of Academic Program activities (as applicable)

a) Meetings Organized or co-organized (e.g., classes/short courses/workshops, demonstrations, field days/other)

Meetings Organized	Location	Instances	Attendees/ Organizations	Date
Public event: Water, Fire and Soil – Science on Tap: Organized and delivered a public talk on the connections between water, fire, and soil resilience as part of the Science on Tap community education series.	Ukiah, CA	1	24 attendees	08/14/2025 - 08/14/2025
Public Workshop: SV Tribal Youth STEM Day: Led interactive STEM activities for Tribal youth, introducing hands-on concepts in hydrology, climate, and environmental science.	Hopland REC	1	42 attendees	07/18/2025 - 07/17/2025
Public Workshop: Strategies for Drought Resilient Agriculture: Facilitated a workshop for growers focused on irrigation efficiency, and climate-smart strategies for drought-resilient agriculture.	Lakeport, CA	1	22 attendees	03/18/2025 - 03/18/2025

Public Course: California Water Course: Co-organized two full-day instructional courses for the California Water Course, teaching core concepts in water budgets, SGMA, and local water systems.	Online	2	79 attendees	10/25/2025 - 08/02/2025
Public Field Day: California Water Course Field Trip: Co-led a technical field day exploring CIMIS stations, groundwater well operations, and watershed restoration practices at Cache Creek Preserve.	Davis, CA	1	50 attendees	10/25/2025 - 08/02/2025
Public Event: Natural Resources & Climate Assessment for MRPI Tribe: Presented the final Climate and Natural Resources Assessment summarizing findings, community priorities, and next steps for resilience planning.	Middletown, CA	1	9 attendees	10/23/2025 - 10/23/2025
Policy Engagement Workshops SB 552 & DRP Presentations to Mendocino MACs: I organized four engagement workshops to Mendocino MACs (Hopland, Redwood Valley, Gualala, and Westport) and presented about SB 552 and the Mendocino County Drought Resilience Plan.	Hopland, Redwood Valley, Online	4	4 org 35 attendees	06/03/2025 - 08/21/2024
Policy Engagement Workshop: Second Public Meeting for the Mendocino County Drought Resilience Plan, SB552: Facilitated the second public meeting to share final components of the Drought Resilience Plan, drought triggers, roadmap, and collect community feedback.	Fort Bragg, CA	1	19 attendees	02/21/2025 - 02/21/2025
Policy Engagement Workshop: First Public Meeting for the Mendocino County Drought Resilience Plan: Hosted the first public meeting to introduce the Drought Resilience Plan, outline the planning process, and gather initial community insights.	Ukiah, CA	1	68 attendees	02/21/2025 - 02/21/2025
Policy Engagement Meeting with County Drought Task Force and Board of Supervisors (BoS): Organized and presented updates of the Mendocino Drought Resilience Plan Development to the Mendocino Drought Task Force under the General Government Committee Sessions and the Mendocino BoS.	Ukiah, CA	6	2 org: Mendocino BoS, Mendocino Drought Task Force, Attendees: General Public	5/21/2024 9/25/2024 10/22/2024 2/26/2025 3/26/2025 5/20/2025
Policy Coordination and Development Meetings: Mendocino County Drought Resilience Plan. Through a series of coordination meetings, I worked closely with my EKI consultant group, and my client Mendocino County's MDOT/Water Resources to advance the Drought Resilience Plan. These meetings focused on updating, editing, and	Ukiah, CA and online	18	1 org: Mendocino Dept. of Transportation/ Water Resources Branch	5/01/2024 - 10/1/2024 10/1/2024- 06/01/2025

organizing plan sections, aligning timelines, development and review of outreach materials, and preparing for public workshops, Drought Task Force and Board of Supervisors presentations.

b) **Educational Presentations at meetings – oral presentations and posters**

Educational Presentation and Topic	Location	Instances	Attendees/ Organizations	Date
Meeting: Mendocino Board of Supervisors and Public Workshops related to Mendocino DRP, SB552 **Topic: Mendocino DRP, SB552:** provided updates of Mendocino DRP SB552-aligned updates on the development of the Mendocino Drought Resilience Plan	Ukiah, CA	6	1 org: BoS and General Public attendees	10/21/2025 - 05/06/2024
Meetings: Water & Climate Change Program **Topic:** Water Resources Management, Russian River Watershed, Irrigation Efficiencies, Water Budget, and Climate Impacts on Local Water Systems	Ukiah, CA Hopland, CA Sonoma, CA Virtual	7	118 attendees	02/01/2024-09/30/2025
Meeting: Organic Crop Day **Topic:** Presented agricultural water budgets and climate-smart irrigation strategies to organic growers in Lake County.	Hopland REC Lakeport, CA	2	26 attendees	02/28/2024 - 02/29/2024
Presentation: Mendocino Drought Task Force **Topic:** SB552 Mendocino Drought Resilience Updates and key components of the Plan to the county's Drought Task Force.	Ukiah, CA	1	1 org: Mendocino Drought Task Force	09/25/2024
Meeting: Lake County Board of Supervisors **Topic:** Effects of Removing Scott Dam**:** Provided an overview of the hydrologic and community impacts associated with the potential decommissioning of Scott Dam.	Lakeport, CA	1	1 org: BoS and General Public attendees	08/06/2024
Meeting Hopland Nature Fest **Topic:** Science in the Creek: Delivered hands-on educational sessions on creek science, watershed processes, and local ecology during Hopland Nature Fest to youth and general public.	Hopland REC	2	60 attendees	05/01/2024 - 04/17/2025
Meeting at Ukiah Valley GSA Technical Advisory Committee **Topic:** Vineyard Consumptive Use: Presented technical analysis of vineyard consumptive water use to the Ukiah Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency.	Ukiah, CA	1	1 org: UVGSA	01/09/2025

Presentation: Olive and Grape Day **Topic:** Presented on surface–groundwater interactions and their implications for orchard and vineyard water management.	Hopland, CA	1	41 attendees	07/30/2025 - 07/30/2025
Meetings: Lake County Board of Supervisors **Topic:** Provided an overview of the UCCE Water and Climate Change Program, including regional priorities, research, and outreach activities.	Lakeport, CA	1	1 org: BoS and General Public attendees	09/09/2025 - 09/09/2025
Meeting: HotSpot Irrigation Efficiency Workshop **Topic:** Irrigation Efficiencies: Delivered a practical demonstration and presentation on HotSpot irrigation efficiency tools for vineyard managers.	Mauritson Vineyards, Lake, CA	1	15 attendees	07/09/2024 - 07/09/2024

c) TV and/or radio interviews/programs, newspaper/trade magazine interviews, websites, social media, blogs

Activity sub-type	Name	Role	Date
Digital Media	**Syllabus and Videos:** California Water Course – Management and Policy: I am the main collaborator for the California Water Couse, I wrote instructional materials, including a course syllabus and main content focused on California water management, policy frameworks, and applied hydrology.	Main Collaborator	01/00/1900 - 02/01/2024
Media Outlet Program/Interview	**Radio Interview:** The Ecology Hour – KZYX: I was interviewed by Hannah Bird and I discussed my UCCE Water and Climate Change Program including the regional water challenges, highlighting climate adaptation and community resilience strategies. *Topic: Water Resources and Climate Change.*	Interviewee Interviewer: Hannah Bird	09/03/2024 - 09/03/2024
Media Outlet Program/Interview	**Article Interview:** "The Essential Undertaking of Aquifer Recharge" **– Word of Mouth Mendocino:** I was interviewed and provided expert insight on SGMA, drought impacts, and local aquifer recharge practices in a feature article on groundwater sustainability. *Topic: SGMA, Droughts, Aquifer Recharge.*	Interviewee Interviewer: Torrey Douglass	06/01/2024 - 06/01/2024
Media Outlet Program/Interview	**Interview: Drought Resilience Plan Case Study – UCLA (Will Calan):** Participated in an interview on the Mendocino County Drought Resilience Plan, emphasizing SB552 requirements and local planning efforts. *Topic: SB552 & Drought Resilience.*	Interviewee Interviewer: Will Calan	03/11/2025 - 03/11/2025
Website/Blog/ Social Media Managed	**Blog:** I help maintain and regularly update the Water Resilience, Climate Change, and Water Systems in California blog, a dedicated website focused on communicating research, news, and resources. My work includes editing content, developing new materials, and translating content to Spanish.	Co-Owner	10/23/2025 - 01/01/2025
Website/Blog/ Social Media Managed	**Program Webpage:** I manage and update Water and Climate Resilience the webpage to provide accessible information, resources, events, and tools for stakeholders across Mendocino and Lake Counties about my program.	Owner	01/00/1900 - 01/03/2024

d) Collaborations with other agencies, organizations, policy engagement.

External Collaboration	Role	Instances	Date
Middletown Rancheria & UCCE Internship Interviews – Climate Change and Natural Resources Needs Assessment Conducted interviews to support the Tribe's Climate and Natural Resources Needs Assessment and strengthening UCCE–Tribal partnerships.	Advisor	4	3/11/25 – ongoing
Big Valley Groundwater Sustainability Plan Advisory Committee (GSPAC) Participated in committee discussions to provide hydrologic expertise, review technical materials, and support the development of groundwater management strategies for the Big Valley Basin.	Advisor	2	5/7/25 – ongoing
Technical Advisory Committee – Ukiah Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (UVBGSA) Participated in regular meetings contributing insight on groundwater conditions, data needs, and long-term sustainability planning under SGMA.	Advisor	4	12/11/24 – ongoing
Meeting with CAFF (Community Alliance with Family Farmers) Engaged with CAFF staff to discuss resources and technical assistance needs for local farmers, including drought preparedness, irrigation efficiency, and water management tools.	Collaborator	1	1/23/25
Clear Lake Technical Subcommittee Meetings Participated in regular meetings with local, state, and Tribal partners to discuss Clear Lake water quality, hydrology, HABs, and monitoring needs, providing technical input to support coordinated lake management.	Collaborator	7	3/28/24 – ongoing
Ukiah Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (UVBGSA) Participated in regular UVBGSA meetings to remain aligned with basin-wide groundwater planning and to connect UCCE resources with the agency's implementation priorities.	Advisor	10	1/11/24 – ongoing
Technical Advisory Group – Mendocino County Coastal Groundwater Study Participated in regular meetings to support the County's technical study	Advisor	4	7/18/24 - ongoing
Engagement with Sherwood Valley Band of Pomo Indians (ShVBPI) Met with Tribal leadership and environmental staff to discuss water challenges, climate vulnerabilities, and opportunities for collaboration; provided follow-up support during site visits and coordination meetings.	Advisor	2	9/5/24 - ongoing

F. Publications (Bibliography)

Publications	Period of Review (Jan 2024 – Sept 2025)	Career total to present
Peer reviewed		
B) Scholarly journals	1	7
Non-peer reviewed		
A) Popular press articles and newsletters	4	4
D) Technical reports	4	4
E) Published abstracts		
Total	9	15

PEER REVIEWED

B - Peer-reviewed scholarly journal publications

1) Saiz-Rodriguez, Ramon; Solis, Sandoval; **Garza-Diaz, Laura** (2025). Resilient Flow Regimes in the Rio Grande and Rio Bravo Basin. *Authorea*. January 2025. **DOI: 10.22541/au.173766585.55064692/v1**
Role: *Conceptualization, Investigation, Methodology, Writing, Review, and Editing*.

NON-PEER REVIEWED

A – Popular Press Articles and Newsletters

1) Lofton, Esther N.; **Garza Diaz, Laura E.**; Sangha, Laljeet S. (2025). Advancing California's Water Future: Implementation Pathways & Local Case Studies Under the California Water Plan 2023. *Blog: Water Resilience, Climate Change, and Water Systems in California*. Online. September 23, 2025. https://ucanr.edu/blog/water-resilience-climate-change-and-water-systems-california
Role: *Investigation, Writing, Review, and Editing*.

2) Lofton, Esther N.; **Garza Diaz, Laura E.**; Sangha, Laljeet S. (2025). Avanzando el Futuro del Agua en California: Rutas de Implementación y Casos de Estudio Locales bajo el Plan del Agua de California 2023. *Blog: Water Resilience, Climate Change, and Water Systems in California*. October 15, 2025. https://ucanr.edu/blog/water-resilience-climate-change-and-water-systems-california/article/avanzando-el-futuro-del
Role: *Investigation, Writing, Review, and Editing* .

3) **Garza Diaz, Laura E.;** Sangha, Laljeet S.; Lofton, Esther N. (2025). Strengthening Drought Preparedness for Domestic Well Owners and Small Water Suppliers. *Blog: Water Resilience, Climate Change, and Water Systems in California*. April 22, 2025. https://ucanr.edu/blog/water-resilience-climate-change-and-water-systems-california/article/strengthening-drought

4) Sangha, Laljeet S.; Lofton, Esther N.; **Garza Diaz, Laura E.** (2025). Understanding natural climate variability and using it to our advantage! *Blog: Water Resilience, Climate Change, and Water Systems in California*. February 24, 2025. https://ucanr.edu/blog/water-resilience-climate-change-and-water-systems-california/article/understanding-natural
Role: *Investigation, Writing, Review, and Editing*

D - Technical reports and other non-reviewed articles

5) Mendocino County Drought Resilience Plan. (2025)
https://www.mendocinocounty.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/71585/638834390830470000
Role: *Investigation, Writing, Review, and Editing*

6) **Garza Diaz, Laura E.**; Gocobachi, Laylalanai (2025). MidRPI Tribe Climate Change and Natural Resources Needs Assessment. September 30, 2025.

7) **Garza Diaz,** Laura E.; Berris, Helaine (2025). Water Quality Technical Note - Boron (B). *Water Quality Technical Notes*. August 5, 2025. https://ucanr.edu/site/water-resources-management/article/water-quality-technical-note-boron-b

8) Berris, Helaine; **Garza Diaz, Laura E.** (2025). Water Quality Technical Note - Iron (Fe). *Water Quality Technical Notes*. October 20,2025. https://ucanr.edu/site/water-resources-management/article/water-quality-technical-note-iron-fe
Role: *Conceptualization, Review, and Editing*

Needs Assessment

Topic	Topic	Challenges	Mendocino	Lake	Stakeholder	Project / Grant
1	**Water Quality**	**Boron Contamination**: Elevated boron levels detected in multiple wells.	X	X		
		Algal Blooms: Persistent harmful algal blooms (HABs) affecting the ecosystem in Reservoir and Clear Lake.	X	X	Clear Lake Subcommittee	
2	**Groundwater**	**SGMA: Awareness**: The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) is unfamiliar to several community members. Lack of effective outreach materials, workshops, and events to facilitate the information flow among researchers and agency managers, and the community	X	X	UVGSA	
		SGMA: GSA Fee Collection Sensitivity: Ongoing uncertainties regarding fee collection processes in Mendocino, community members are not completely sure how these fees will support GSA or why are these necessary	X		UVGSA	Fee Study Resolution
		SGMA: Inclusion in Planning: Limited involvement of small farmers and disadvantaged communities in SGMA planning.	X	X		
		SGMA: Well Inventory Deficiencies: Absence of a comprehensive inventory of wells.	X	X	UVGSA	
		SGMA: Metering and Trust Issues: Insufficient well metering and prevailing distrust among well owners.	X	X		
		Permitting Challenges: New well permits entail complex and costly additional steps for the community.	X		Environmental Health & Sanitation Services	
		Geothermal Intrusion Prevention: Need to maintain elevated groundwater levels to avert geothermal water intrusion.		X		
3	**Surface-Groundwater**	**SW/GW Interaction:** Investigate how groundwater usage affects the flows of the Russian River.	X		City of Ukiah, CA Land Stewardship Institute (Laurel Marcus), LWA (Laura Foglia), Sonoma Water	Groundwater modeling project: Creating Long-Term Water Supply Resiliency for the Communities of Ukiah Valley and the Upper Russian River
		SW/GW Interaction: Confusion in the community about surface-groundwater interaction to	X	X		
4	**Water Supply**	**Scott Dam Decomissioning:** Uncertainty about the decomissioning of Scott Dam in terms of water supply for irrigation, dire suppression, recreation, domestic use	X	X	IWRP, Sonoma Water, City of Ukiah, County Gov (Mendocino, Lake, and Humboldt)	RFP Lake County: Bridging models and community input
		Ponds Inventory and Needs: Questions about the current number of ponds, future needs, and associated costs.	X	X		
		Recycled Water Initiatives: Advancement of the Recycled Water Project for conjunctive water use.	X		City of Ukiah	Phase 4 will increase recycled water production to 1500-acre feet per year. Phase 4 will serve large turf areas on the west side of Ukiah including the golf course, parks, stadium, cementery and schools
		Managed Aquifer Recharge: On-Farm Groundwater Recharge Multi-Benefit Demonstration Project	X		Russian River Flood Control	
		Managed Aquifer Recharge: Aquifer Storage and Recovery and Flood-MAR Feasibility & Implementation	X	X		
		Mendocino County Russian River Flood Control & Water Conservation Improvement: The Upper Russian River **Voluntary Water Sharing Program** is a locally driven approach for addressing water shortages.	X		Russian River Flood Control	the Program protects supplies and enables individuals enrolled in the program who still have water under their water rights to share with other participants who do not, effectively serving as an alternative to curtailments,
5	**Water Demand**	**Irrigation Efficiency**: Advancements in irrigation efficiency, including dry farming and deficit irrigation techniques.	X	X		
		Municipal Supply Efficiency: Enhancements in municipal water supply and usage efficiencies.	X	X		
6	**Climate change**	**Drought Resilience Planning**: Development of a Drought Preparedness and Resilience Plan.	X	X	Mendocino: MCDOT, EKI, UCCE, Lake: Stantec, UCCE, LCWR	Drought Preparedness Resilience Plan
		Drought Mitigation: Strategies for mitigating drought impact through demand management.	X	X		
		Anthropogenic Droughts and Megadroughts: Addressing the challenges of human-induced and extensive megadroughts.	X	X		
		Natural Flow Regimes: Assessing the impact of floods and droughts on natural flow regimes.	X	X		
		Tribes and Climate change: Many tribes are vulnerable to the impacts of climate change because of their close dependence on and connection with the natural environment for their culture, health, and livelihoods.	X	X		
7	**Education**	Hydrology: Lack of Water Resources curriculum in Mendocino and Lake Community College	X	X		
		Schools and Camps: Constant need for volunteers: Earth Day, Summer Camps, 4H etc.	X	X	HREC and 4H	
		Lack of water resources and ca water polity class (english/spanish)	X	X	UC Davis, UC Berkley, CIWR, UCCE	Water and California Policy digital class
8	**Aquatic and Riparian Speci**	Clear Lake Hitch: In 2014, the hitch was listed as a threatened species under the California Endangered Species Act. In March 2023, Governor Newsom directed the State Water Board to evaluate minimum instream flows, work with water users and Tribes on voluntary actions, and consider emergency regulations to protect the Clear Lake hitch.		X	Tribes	
9	**Water Governance**	The Mendocino Water Agency has been functioning with severely reduced staffing, presently staffed with the equivalent of 0.5 FTE assigned to the County Department of Transportation. The recent historic drought periods in California, both in 2012 to 2015 and currently, have created renewed interest in having MCWA assume a more active role in water management activities in the County.	X		MDOT	