



Anderson Valley Community Service District *Proposed Drinking Water Project Final Outreach Report* November 2023

I. Project:

Anderson Valley Community Service District (AVCSD) is located in Boonville, a census designated place in Northern California approximately 60 miles northwest of the City of Santa Rosa and 12 miles southwest of the town of Ukiah. The population of Boonville was 1,018 at the 2020 census.



Figure 1: Location Map of Boonville, CA.

AVCSD is seeking funding from the California State Water Resource Control Board (SWRCB) Drinking Water State Revolving Fund to determine the feasibility of a public drinking water system. The proposed drinking water project boundary (Exhibit 1) includes 188 parcels (139 residential, 14 commercial, 19 mixed-use residential and commercial, and 16 non-profit) currently unserved by a public water system and 51 parcels served by the Meadow Estates Mutual Water Company (MEMWC) Public Water System ID No. CA2300506.

To determine the level of interest among residents to connect to the proposed drinking water system, the SWRCB requested public outreach and an interest survey be performed by the Rural Community Assistance Corporation (RCAC) under the Proposition 1 Comprehensive Assistance to Tribal and Small Systems Project Agreement Number D1612801, Assistance Request 6082.

II. Methodology

Survey:

On February 15, 2023, the first community outreach informational packet was sent to owners of all 239 parcels within the proposed project boundary. The packet included a letter describing the need for the project, key information on the project benefits, information for parcels with existing wells and water sources, and notification of a hybrid public meeting scheduled for March 7, 2023 (Exhibit 2), as well as a map of the proposed drinking water system boundary, an interest survey form (Exhibit 3) and postage-paid return envelope (Exhibit 4). The information was provided in English only and recipients were instructed to return the responses by mail to RCAC for tracking purposes.

A meeting reminder post card was mailed on February 28, 2023, to all the same addresses (Exhibit 5).

On March 31, 2023, the second community outreach informational packet was sent to 144 non-responsive parcel owners within the proposed project boundary. The packet included a letter encouraging recipients to complete the survey and notification of a second, in-person and virtual hybrid public meeting scheduled for April 24, 2023 (Exhibit 6), a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) outreach flyer (Exhibit 7), a map of the proposed drinking water boundary, an interest survey form (Exhibit 8) and postage-paid return envelope. In addition, RCAC mailed a FAQ outreach flyer to the 74 parcel owners who had been responsive to the first survey. The information was provided in English only and the recipients were instructed to return responses by mail to RCAC for tracking purposes.

On April 28, 2023, RCAC mailed 50 blank survey forms, FAQ outreach flyers and postage-paid envelopes to AVCSO to have on hand at their office for distribution as requested. The information was provided in English only.

On June 2, 2023, a third community outreach informational packet was sent to the remaining 87 non-responsive parcel owners within the proposed project boundary. The packet included a letter encouraging residents to complete the survey by June 15, 2023 (Exhibit 9), a FAQ outreach flyer, a map of the proposed drinking water boundary, an interest survey form (Exhibit 10) and postage-paid return envelope. To increase outreach to the community, the SWRCB Office of Public Participation provided translation of all materials into Spanish and the information was sent in English and Spanish. Recipients were instructed to return responses by mail to RCAC for tracking purposes.

Public Meetings:

Two informational meetings were held in a hybrid format and were attended both online via Zoom and in person. The purpose of the meetings was to educate the public on the project and answer any questions and both were advertised and open to the entire Boonville community.

The first community outreach meeting was held on Tuesday, March 7, 2023, at 7:00 pm onsite at the Boonville Fire Station at 14281 Highway 128, Boonville, CA 95415 and online via Zoom for those

who could not attend in person. Approximately 40 persons attended in person and 25 attended online. The AVCSO board of directors, AVCSO fire chief, Brelje & Race Engineering staff, Mendocino County Planning & Building Department staff, and SWRCB Division of Financial Assistance staff were in attendance to provide information and answer questions about the proposed drinking water conversions, funding basics, and the purpose of the survey. RCAC staff co-moderated the meeting with the SWRCB Office of Public Participation staff. The engineer presented the project information, and the community was given an opportunity to ask questions or make statements (Exhibit 11). After the meeting the FAQ flyer was created and was included with subsequent mailers. RCAC is unable to locate the sign in sheets from this meeting.

The second community outreach meeting was held on Monday, April 24th, at 7:00 PM at the Boonville Fire Station at 14281 Highway 128, Boonville, CA 95415 onsite at the Boonville Fire Station at 14281 Highway 128, Boonville, CA 95415 and online via Zoom for those who could not attend in person. Approximately 25 persons attended in person and 5 attended online. The AVCSO board of directors, Brelje & Race Engineering staff, Mendocino County Planning & Building Department staff, and SWRCB Division of Financial Assistance and Division of Drinking Water staff attended to provide information and answer questions about the proposed drinking water project, funding basics, and the purpose of the survey (Exhibit 12). The FAQ flyer was provided, and the meeting format was tailored to individual owner's concerns and questions.

To increase the survey response rate and provide additional outreach to Spanish-speaking parcel owners, AVCSO board members and a bilingual community volunteer performed door-to-door visits on July 6, 2023. In total, 161 properties were visited. Completed surveys were obtained or blank surveys were left at the residents' doors/gates. After these initial outreach efforts, AVCSO board members continued outreach through phone calls and emails to obtain additional survey responses.

The survey was closed on August 14, 2023, and no additional surveys were received by RCAC. *Please note: After August 14, 2023, AVCSO received additional survey responses, however RCAC did not receive the additional responses prior to reporting, therefore RCAC did not include those responses in the results of this report.*

The outreach documents included in the exhibits at the end of this report were provided to the SWRCB in electronic format.

Summary of attendance for two public meetings:

Date/Type	Approximate Attendance
March 7 th In-Person & Zoom Meeting	65
April 24 th In-Person & Zoom Meeting	30

Interest Survey Results:

The survey results are based on responses from owners of 239 parcels including 188 outside of MEMWC and 51 parcels within the MEMWC boundary. After the initial interest survey was mailed on February 15, it was determined MEMWC’s bylaws and articles of incorporation require determination of interest in consolidation by a vote of the board of directors.

Meadow Estates Mutual Water Company conducted an independent and informal interest survey of the residents within their boundary and found that 35 of the 51 parcels are interested in consolidation, there were 12 non-responsive parcels and four (4) parcels against consolidation. Currently the decision whether those four (four) parcels are required to join the proposed system is being determined by SWRCB. The results are therefore reported by interest in water connection excluding and including MEMWC parcel owners.

Interest in Water Connection Excluding Meadow Estates Mutual Water Company				
	Interested	Not Interested	No Response	Percent Interested
Parcels	126	50	12	67%

Table 1. Calculations for 126 interested parcels ÷ 188 total parcels (excluding MEMWC) = 67.02% interested

Interest in Water Connection Including Meadow Estates Mutual Water Company				
	Interested	Not Interested	No Response	Percent Interested
Parcels	161	54	24	67%

Table 2. Calculations for 161 interested parcels ÷ 239 total parcels (including MEMWC) = 67.3% interested

See Figures 2-10 below for geographic display of the results, not including responses from MEMWC.

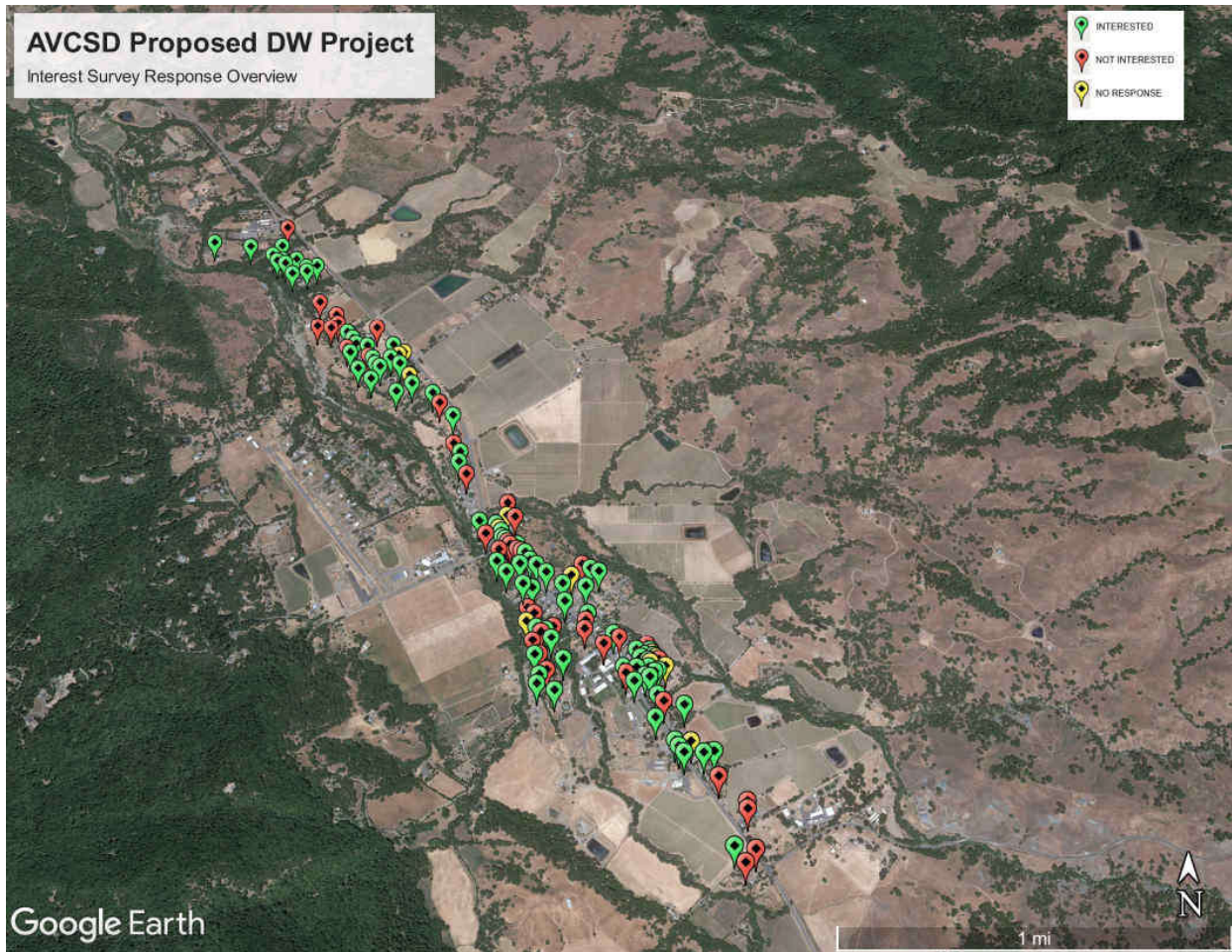


Figure 2: Complete map of entire community interest



Figure 3. Close-up map of community interest by area



Figure 4. Close-up map of community interest by area



Figure 5. Close-up map of community interest by area



Figure 6. Close-up map of community interest by area



Figure 7. Close-up map of community interest by area



Figure 8. Close-up map of community interest by area



Figure 9. Close-up map of community interest by area



Figure 10. Close-up map of community interest by area

ATTACHMENTS:

- Exhibit 1: Boonville Water Study Proposed Distribution System Boundary Map
- Exhibit 2: First Interest Survey Letter and Public Meeting Notice Mailed 02/15/23
- Exhibit 3: First Interest Survey Form Mailed 02/15/23
- Exhibit 4: Interest Survey Postage-Paid Envelope
- Exhibit 5: Meeting Reminder Postcard
- Exhibit 6: Second Interest Survey Letter and Public Meeting Notice Mailed 03/31/23
- Exhibit 7: Frequently Asked Questions Public Outreach Flyer
- Exhibit 8: Second Interest Survey Form Mailed 03/31/23
- Exhibit 9: Third Interest Survey Letter and Public Meeting Notice Mailed 06/02/23
- Exhibit 10: Third Interest Survey Form Mailed 06/02/23
- Exhibit 11: Public Outreach Meeting Materials 03/07/23
- Exhibit 12: Public Outreach Meeting Materials 04/24/23