

**Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District
50-Year Chronology of District Events: 1956 - 2006**

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| 1955/1956 | Members of the Greater Eureka Chamber of Commerce and the Humboldt County Board of Trade met to consider the formation of a water district. Plans were drawn up under the leadership of James A. Nealis, President of the Eureka Chamber, and Robert Matthews, head of the Chamber's Industrial Committee. They approached the cities of Eureka and Arcata and the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors and requested that these public agencies fund a feasibility study of locations for developing a dam on the Mad River. These agencies and the Chamber provided the funding. The Bechtel Corporation was retained by the County of Humboldt to perform the study. Ultimately, the Ruth Valley, located in Trinity County, was determined to be the best location. |
| March 13, 1956 | Voters approved the formation of a proposed water district for the Humboldt Bay area (88.9% of the voters favored its formation). |
| March 19, 1956 | Humboldt County Board of Supervisors adopted a resolution setting forth the organization of a municipal water district within the boundaries of the County under the name "Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District". |
| April 25, 1956 | The Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District was formed under the California Municipal Water District Act of 1911. |
| September 25, 1956 | 69.1% of the District's voters approved a \$12,000,000 general obligation bond issue to fund construction costs. |
| October 20, 1959 | Board authorized the issuance of \$12,000,000 in bonds to fund construction costs for Ruth Dam, Essex diversion facilities and pipeline as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• November 1, 1959 - \$10,700,000 Series A bonds sold• November 14, 1961 - \$ 1,300,000 Series B bonds sold |
| August 9, 1960 | Contracts awarded to the joint venture of Norman I. Fadel and Granite Construction Company for the following projects: Construction of Ruth Dam (\$2.3 million). Relocation of Trinity County Roads (\$1.7 million). Relocation of Forest Service Roads (\$0.4 million). |
| 1960 | Hazel Wilburn became Trinity County's first women to be elected County Supervisor, and the first women elected to that post in far |

Northern California. She served as Supervisor from the Southern Trinity County area (District 5), which includes the Ruth area.

- September 29, 1960 Groundbreaking Ceremony for construction of Ruth Dam and Ruth Lake at Ruth, Trinity County.
- February 16, 1962 Ruth Lake crested and water flowed over the Ruth Dam spillway for the first time (9:25 p.m.).
- May 30, 1962 Ruth Dam Dedication Ceremony at the dam site.
- October, 1962 The original water delivery facilities were placed into operation and initially served the following customers:
- City of Eureka
 - City of Arcata
 - Georgia-Pacific (later to become Louisiana Pacific, Samoa Pacific Cellulous, Stockton Pacific Enterprises, and Evergreen Pulp).
 - Simpson Timber (later to become Crown Simpson) whose facilities were not yet built.
- August 29, 1963 District received a \$300,000 Recreation Grant under the Davis-Grunsky Act from the Department of Water Resources.
- June 25, 1966 The formation of the Ruth Lake Community Services District approved by County Supervisors.