

\*FINAL Minutes of Water Advisory Committee and Technical Advisory Committee  
Virtual Meeting – No Physical Location  
May 18, 2020

Attendees: Easter Ledesma, City of Santa Rosa  
Gina Perez, City of Santa Rosa  
Susan Harvey, City of Cotati  
Dave King, City of Petaluma  
Jake Mackenzie, City of Rohnert Park  
Victoria Fleming, City of Santa Rosa  
Jack Baker, North Marin Water District  
Sam Salmon, Town of Windsor  
Jon Foreman, Valley of The Moon Water District  
Jack Gibson, Marin Municipal Water District  
Craig Scott, City of Cotati  
Kent Carothers, City of Petaluma  
Jennifer Burke, City of Santa Rosa  
Colleen Ferguson, City of Sonoma  
Drew McIntyre, North Marin Water District  
Sandi Potter, Town of Windsor  
Mike Ban, Marin Municipal Water District

Staff/Alternates: Grant Davis, SCWA  
Pam Jeane, SCWA  
Jay Jasperse, SCWA  
Don Seymour, SCWA  
Paul Piazza, SCWA  
Steven Hancock, SCWA  
Peter Martin, City of Santa Rosa  
Colin Close, City of Santa Rosa  
Chelsea Thompson, City of Petaluma  
Larry Russell, Marin Municipal Water District  
James Grossi, North Marin Water District

1. Check-in  
Susan Harvey, WAC Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:07 a.m.
2. Public Comments  
No public comments.
3. Recap from the April 6, 2020 Special WAC Meeting and Approval of Minutes  
Moved by Jack Baker, North Marin Water District, seconded by Dave King, City of Petaluma; unanimously approved.
4. Recap from the March 2, 2020 TAC Meeting and Approval of Minutes (TAC)  
Moved by Craig Scott, City of Cotati, seconded by Jennifer Burke, City of Santa Rosa; unanimously approved.
5. Water Supply Coordination Council – Susan Harvey, WAC Chair- The Water Supply Coordination Council met remotely April 27 to develop this agenda

## 6. Potter Valley Project Relicensing

### a. Overview of Planning Agreement Partners May 13 Feasibility Study Report FERC Submittal

Pam Jeanne, SCWA- Four partners and SCWA submitted last Wednesday a cover letter and feasibility study report. Formed partnership a year ago and now known as Two Basin Partnership which covers Russian River Basin and Eel River Basin. In June of 2019, a Notice of Intent was filed with FERC and the first step was to complete a feasibility study and submit the report to FERC. The consultant team completed the feasibility study report. Report included several elements: description of regional entity that will be formed in order to apply for FERC license (license app is due April 2022), project plan showing capital modifications as well as operations and maintenance requirements, fisheries restoration plan, application study plan and financial plan. Major components of project include removal of Scott Dam, sediment and vegetation management in the footprint of Lake Pillsbury modifications at Van Arsdale Reservoir, fish passage modifications at Cape Horn Dam as well as revised operation plan including a water supply plan for Potter Valley Irrigation District.

### b. Approve WAC Support Letter for Planning Agreement Partners Feasibility Study Report submittal to FERC

Moved by Jon Foreman, Valley of The Moon Water District, seconded by Jack Baker, North Marin Water District, unanimously approved.

## 7. Sonoma Marin Saving Water Partnership (TAC)

### a. 2020 Water Production Relative to 2013 Benchmark

Drew McIntyre, North Marin Water District. March water deliveries were 7% below 2013 benchmark year. Year-to-Date Jan-March water deliveries were 10% below 2013 benchmark year.

### b. Approve WaterSense Comment Letter to EPA Drew McIntyre, North Marin Water District. No objections from TAC

c. Summer Ad Campaign. Paul Piazza, SCWA. Created a campaign that is supportive of the customer and the value that water brings to them during Shelter In Place orders and while they are taking on work such as home garden projects. Due to the low rainfall year, message of water savings is still going out and campaign will include WaterSense branding. Print campaign will be shared with conservation coordinators for additional review and will move forward to the TAC for review. Buys of radio spots focused on outdoor water use and digital campaign that is being put together, aiming for Memorial Day weekend launch.

d. 2020 Eco-Friendly Garden Tour – Paul Piazza, SCWA. Virtual Format was scheduled for May 2 and had to cancel in person garden tour. This was the 10-year anniversary, and staff was able to transition to a virtual approach this year. Solicitations sent out to the 28 garden hosts that signed up to participate to create and submit a video garden tour and they received 16 videos including from City of Santa Rosa, Laguna Foundation and additional private gardens that went live on May 2<sup>nd</sup>. Sonoma Water saw 6,400 unique website visits to the tour on the partnership website.

8. Water Supply Conditions – FIRO Update

Jay Jasperse, SCWA. It has been a dry year and Lake Mendocino will need to be carefully managed this year. This is an innovative project that Sonoma Water has been working on developing with Corps of Engineers and SCRIPTS along with other project partners. Sonoma Water was granted a major deviation which allows extra water storage in the flood pool to manage Lake Mendocino operations and releases. Last week submittal was made to the Corps for another major deviation for five years. Ukiah rain gage shows as of May 12, this year has been the third driest of the 127 years on record. Under major deviation, Corps has discretion to hold on to water in the FIRO and Major Deviation Variable Buffer Pool for potential water supply benefits. Although rainfall was under 40% of average this year, they were able to achieve an 18% increase in storage.

Don Seymour, SCWA- Sonoma Water will be filing a Temporary Urgency Change Petition this year partly due to a drier year. Storage at Lake Pillsbury for the Potter Valley Project is critically low, PG&E submitted a request for variance to reduce the minimum stream flows in both Eel River and transfer of water into the east branch of Russian River. Because of that we will see significant reductions in transfers from the Potter Valley Hydroelectric project this year. Required minimum in-stream flow releases is depleting storage at Lake Mendocino. To mitigate that, SCWA will be filing a TUCP with the State Water Resource Control Board and requesting as of July 1, minimum stream flows in the upper Russian River be reduced to 50 cfs and 60 cfs in the lower Russian River.

9. Regional Water Supply Resiliency Study Update

Jay Jasperse, SCWA- Regional Water Supply Resiliency Study embodies a collaboration of SCWA and the Water Contractors looking at whole regional system of infrastructure from Potter Valley down to Sausalito. The goal is to develop a decision support framework to simulate stress tests and work together on projects or management actions to increase overall resiliency and mitigate vulnerabilities. Three basic phases: work with consultant in developing a workplan (this phase is in progress now, draft workplan was just received), phase two would begin in July to build the model and would initiate the process of working with TAC on what scenarios to evaluate in the model, , phase three would be ongoing assessments of scenarios to look at and continue to increase regional resiliency.

10. Biological Opinion Status Update

Pam Jeanne, SCWA.

Fish Flow draft EIR - There have not been significant changes in the work that's being done. Staff are continuing to work on different sections of the Biological Opinion. There was going to be an unavailing of public outreach work that's been done but due to the COVID-19 pandemic the meeting will occur later.

Dry Creek Habitat Enhancement work- Sonoma Water bid out the construction project for the Summer, that is the last of Part 3, Phase III work. Contractor had been selected and agreement will go to Board of Directors in June. The right-of-way are in order and permits are pending. Maintenance work in Dry Creek will restore some function that was lost during high flows in the creek last year. Continue to move forward with Cops for Phases IV-VI of the project and are very happy about the money that was included in the Army Corps Budget this year which will include the 65% of funding (\$28.3 million) under their Eco System Restoration Program. Expect work to be done between 2021-2023. SCWA continues to meet with property owners participating in the last three phases of work to address issues with regards to right of way acquisition.

Fish Monitoring- Fish traps set for out migrating fish in 8 locations from Dry Creek and all the way into the Estuary near Willow Creek. They check the traps 7 days a week and will be ongoing. Staff are still working on ways to work through social distancing.

Russian River Estuary Management Project- Currently in management season which started May 15. Estuary is now open.

Interim Flow Changes- We are in a dry year, and temporary urgency change petition is being submitted. SCWA submitted all required reporting based on last years order.

11. Emergency Training & Coordination Program - Draft

Jay Jasperse, SCWA. In 2019 Sonoma County Grand Jury evaluated the regional water system for seismic hazards and vulnerabilities. They acknowledged the good work collectively done through the years and had 6 recommended actions for improvement, One item involves developing an emergency training and coordination program with SCWA and the contractors...

Steven Hancock, SCWA. Purpose of program is enhancing individual agency capabilities through training, exercises and workshops thus enhancing our regional resiliency creating an overall more resilient region. Also evaluate and develop opportunities in support of enhancing cooperation One idea is developing mutual aid program specific to the agencies. Purpose of the program is to identify what the training needs are, resources and areas of cooperation.

12. Items for Next Agenda (August 3, 2020) David Keller expressed concerns for real time comments for the next meeting.

13. Check out

Meeting adjourned at 10:54am