

FINAL Minutes of Water Advisory Committee and Technical Advisory Committee
Virtual Meeting – No Physical Location
May 3, 2021

Attendees: Easter Ledesma, City of Santa Rosa
Gina Perez, City of Santa Rosa
Susan Harvey, City of Cotati
Mike Healy, City of Petaluma
Walter Linares, City of Rohnert Park
Tom Schwedhelm, City of Santa Rosa
Jack Ding, City of Sonoma
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
Mary Grace Pawson, City of Rohnert Park
Jennifer Burke, City of Santa Rosa
Colleen Ferguson, City of Sonoma
Drew McIntyre, North Marin Water District
Cristina Goulart, Town of Windsor
Matt Fullner, Valley of The Moon Water District
Paul Sellier, Marin Municipal Water District

Staff/Alternates: Grant Davis, SCWA
Michael Thompson, SCWA
Pam Jeane, SCWA
Jay Jasperse, SCWA
Don Seymour, SCWA
Paul Piazza, SCWA
Steven Hancock, SCWA
Barry Dugan, SCWA
Lynne Rosselli, SCWA
Brad Sherwood, SCWA
David Manning, SCWA
Laura Sparks, City of Cotati
Peter Martin, City of Santa Rosa
Colin Close, City of Santa Rosa
Claire Nordlie, City of Santa Rosa
Sandi Potter, Town of Windsor
Tony Williams, NMWD
Larry Russell, Marin Municipal Water District Director

Public A. Rodriguez
Bob Anderson, United Winegrowers
David Keller, FOER
Margaret DiGenova, Cal Am Water
Cory O'Donnell, SCWA
Mary Callahan, Press Democrat
Juan Carlos-Solis

1. Check-in
Susan Harvey, WAC Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.
2. Public Comments
No public comments.
3. Recap from the April 5, 2021 WAC/TAC Meeting and Approval of Minutes
Moved by Tom Schwedhelm, City of Santa Rosa, seconded by Sam Salmon, Town of Windsor; unanimously approved.
4. Recap from the March 1, 2021 TAC Meeting and Approval of Minutes (TAC)
Moved by Colleen Ferguson, City of Sonoma, seconded by Jennifer Burke, City of Santa Rosa; unanimously approved.
5. Water Supply Coordination Council- April 22, 2021
Susan Harvey, WAC Chair- The Water Supply Coordination Council met April 22 and created the agenda for today's WAC/TAC meeting. No public comments.
6. Potter Valley Project Relicensing
Pam Jeane, SCWA. One of the two focuses right now is looking at formation of the Joint Powers Authority. The attorneys have been through some key steps with the partners and are ready to start drafting the JPA. A lot of time is being spent on securing funding to complete the studies and other work required under the relicensing project. The next deadline is an update on progress on the studies and is due mid-September. The Partners are looking at state and federal funding options and also obtaining a funding commitment from PG&E. PG&E filed a variance with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and are proposing reduced water diversions this Summer from the Eel River to the Russian River. Public comment: David Keller asked if there is any work at this point in funding sources from the Russian River beneficiaries of the water transfers and if so, how far along is that? Grant Davis: All options are on the table, there are coordinated meetings up and down the watershed and everyone understands that there are going to be contributions on the ability of securing funding.
7. Water Supply Conditions and TUCO Update
 - a. Governor's State of Emergency proclamation for Mendocino and Sonoma Counties- April 21, 2021
Don Seymour, SCWA. PG&E's variance recently filed with FERC is more acute to the Russian River side. Previously they placed the burden of reducing releases from Lake Pillsbury to preserve storage on both the Eel River and Russian River. This year both PG&E and FERC thought if they tried to make changes to the flows in the Eel River it would open Section 7 consultations under the Endangered Species Act which would take months to implement. This delay could possibly drain Lake Pillsbury by the fall. The entire burden of reducing releases from Lake Pillsbury is put on transfers to the Potter Valley Irrigation District and the releases they would make with minimum stream flow requirements for the East branch. Lake Mendocino is currently at 36,380-acre ft, this is extremely low. Sonoma Water is still operating under the February Order from the State Water Resources Control Board which establishes a critical water year classification for the Upper Russian River. In the next week or so we will see releases increasing to meet the minimum stream flow requirements. The Order

expires at the end of July; Sonoma Water is projecting Lake Mendocino will be drained by October 1. There must be substantial efforts from Upper Russian River water users to prevent Lake Mendocino from draining and getting to the point of risking water supply for human health and safety. The Upper Russian River Drought response group is working to develop voluntary agreements to reduce diversions to preserve levels at Lake Mendocino. The steering committee group also meets weekly. Lake Sonoma is just under 150,000-acre ft and Sonoma Water is starting to be concerned. The lower Russian River was not included in the TUCO, it is currently in a dry water supply condition. Sonoma Water intends to file another Temporary Urgency Change Petition next week to request that the entire Russian River be placed in a critical water year classification. In order to preserve storage in Lake Sonoma, Sonoma Water has committed to reducing diversions from the Russian River by 20% between July 1 and October 31. Grant Davis: Sonoma County declared a drought emergency soon after Governor Newsom declared a state of Emergency. The entire Russian River watershed needs to be engaged and working together. Public Comment: Brenda Adelman would like to request the Water Agency coordinate with Lynda Hopkins and James Gore to hold a community meeting on the lower river to inform people of the details discussed today. Don Seymour- Presentations were given to the lower Russian River MAC that Director Hopkins attended. Also they are working closely with Sweet Water Springs Water District and will likely be presenting to their board this week. Brenda suggested an additional meeting and offered to help with it.

8. Water Supply Conditions and TUCO Update

a. 2021 Water Production Relative to 2013 Benchmark

Drew McIntyre, North Marin Water District. Refer to handout. Year-to-Date water deliveries were 11% below 2013 benchmark year.

b. Drought Outreach Messaging and TUCO Term 9 Reporting

Paul Piazza, SCWA. The Partnership subcommittee meets twice monthly to work on the ongoing messaging and are currently pivoting the message away from “It is a dry year. Save water with us”, to “Drought is here. Save water” and the message will be ready in the next few weeks as it is currently with the Partnership for review and comments. In addition the TUCO Term 9 monthly water conservation report was filed with the State Board this week. It covers the outreach for the Partnership and events. Sonoma Water is planning a region wide event across Marin, Sonoma and Mendocino counties. It will be a “drop by” event for device giveaways on June 12 from 9am-1pm. The Eco-Friendly Garden tour will be held virtually May 15 and the link is on savingwaterpartnership.org. City of Santa Rosa held a successful Earth Day drive up event and Sonoma Water will coordinate with them for the upcoming event. No public comments.

9. Approve- Resolution Supporting SMSWP Efforts and Urging Reduction in Water Use

Susan Harvey, City of Cotati. A memo was sent to everyone due to the critically low rainfall over the last two years and historic low storage levels in Lake Mendocino (currently at 43% of storage capacity) and Lake Sonoma (62% of storage capacity).. Recommend the WAC approve this resolution. No public comments.

Moved by Mike Healy, City of Petaluma, seconded by Jon Foreman, Valley of the Moon Water District; unanimously approved.

10. Approve- Temporary Allocation of Water Deliveries

Drew McIntyre, North Marin Water District. Goal is to have an allocation that is approved by the WAC to achieve the 20% reduction in diversions from the Russian River. SCWA staff and TAC members are meeting once again to build upon the 2014 Water Shortage Allocation Methodology and have the goal of having an updated methodology ready for WAC approval at the August WAC/TAC meeting. No public comments.

Moved by Jack Ding, City of Sonoma, seconded by Mike Healy, City of Petaluma; unanimously approved.

11. Regional Water Supply Resiliency Study Update

Jay Jasperse, SCWA. Regional Water Supply Resiliency Study is a collaborative study with Sonoma Water and the water contractors as well as Marin Municipal Water District. Jacobs Engineering was hired to develop a model that will incorporate all of the individual systems as well as water supply features from Potter Valley down to Sausalito. The purpose of the planning tool is to remove all the jurisdictional boundaries and see how the interconnecting infrastructure operates when stress tests are applied such as seismic or water shortage. Sonoma Water is looking at expediting part of the project that focuses on the drought scenarios. Phase 1 is a workplan and it has been completed. The model is being developed by Jacobs in Phase 2 and they hope to have it completed by summer. No public comments.

12. Biological Opinion Status Update

Pam Jeane, SCWA. Refer to handout.

Fish Flow Project- SCWA hopes to have a recirculated draft out before the end of the year and has been spending a lot of time talking with resource agencies and the State Water Board to work through items such as water quality, water rights and recreation. The project manager is meeting with the assigned State Water Board staff member to talk about the draft and progress that has been made over the last year.

Dry Creek Habitat Enhancement Project- There are two remaining elements for Phase III that will be under construction this summer. Habitat monitoring is occurring to maintain the features. Phases IV, V and VI are far along and the Army Corps are working on right-of-way agreements. Phase IV with Inter-Fluve will be the first to be constructed, ESA is working on Phase V and has a 99% design submittal done and is expected to start construction in 2023. Cardno is working on Phase VI which is at the 99% design submittal and expects to start construction in 2026.

Fish Monitoring: Staff are working on estimating survival of fish at various life stages that are migrating to the ocean (salmon and steelhead). This Spring, Sonoma Water staff are starting a project to estimate survival of Coho salmon smolts. They are implanting fish with acoustic tags and listening for the tags with specifically designed acoustic receivers situated along the river course.

Russian River Estuary Management- The mouth of the Russian River closed April 21, 2021 and is currently closed. Sonoma Water will submit an Adaptive Management Plan by May 15, 2021. Seal monitoring and Water Quality monitoring of the estuary started last week.

There was a Public Policy Facilitating Committee Meeting on March 9th and there is a full recording of the meeting on Sonoma Water's website.

No public comments.

13. Items for Next Agenda

Grant Davis, SCWA. Following the Governor's drought declaration at Lake Mendocino, Sonoma Water will be going to the Board of Directors and the Board of Supervisors May

11 and will be making a presentation regarding water supply conditions. Director Rabbitt will likely be one of the few testifying in the Assembly Water Parks and Wildlife committee and it will be a time to share projects and scope of what is being done in the region and remind them of the needs we have in order to get support. At Lake Mendocino the Governor recognized the work Sonoma Water is doing around atmospheric river rainfall research. Another item is the Advanced Quantitative Precipitation Information (radar) projects. There are five radars around the Bay Area. These projects will continue to be addressed and information brought to the WAC and TAC.

Paul Sellier, Marin Municipal Water District. MMWD is currently under a declared water shortage emergency and the county is planning to make it more formal in the next few weeks.

14. Check Out

Meeting adjourned at 10:40am