

*FINAL Minutes of Water Advisory Committee and Technical Advisory Committee
Virtual Meeting – No Physical Location
August 2, 2021

Attendees: 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
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
David Rabbitt, County of Sonoma/Sonoma Water
Roberta Atha, City of Santa Rosa
Easter Ledesma, City of Santa Rosa
Gina Perez, City of Santa Rosa

Staff/Alternates: Grant Davis, SCWA
Pam Jeane, SCWA
Don Seymour, SCWA
Paul Piazza, SCWA
Carlos Diaz, SCWA
Steven Hancock, SCWA
Barry Dugan, SCWA
Lynne Rosselli, SCWA
Brad Sherwood, SCWA
Jake Spaulding, SCWA
Ann DuBay, SCWA
Hailey Norman, SCWA
Peter Martin, City of Santa Rosa
Colin Close, City of Santa Rosa
Claire Nordlie, City of Santa Rosa
Shannon Cotulla, Town of Windsor
Chelsea Thompson, City of Petaluma
James Grossi, North Marin Water District Director
Tony Williams, NMWD
Larry Russell, Marin Municipal Water District Director

Public Brenda Adelman, RRWPC
David Keller, FOER
Mark Millan, Data Instincts
Paul Selsky, Brown and Caldwell

1. Check-in
Susan Harvey, WAC Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.
2. Public Comments
Brenda Adelman, RRWPC, said she has checked various agency websites for information on the declining water supply in the Russian River and many failed to share the seriousness of the problem. Some sites required viewing several pages and some of the information was unclear. She added that mandatory water use restrictions don't mean much without penalties. The websites for larger cities have better information and were better organized. She asked about the possibility of smaller cities linking to these websites to better communicate information to customers. No public voicemail or email comments.
3. Recap from the May 3, 2021 WAC/TAC Meeting and Approval of Minutes
Moved by Jack Baker, North Marin Water District, seconded by Sam Salmon, Town of Windsor; unanimously approved.
4. Recap from the July 12, 2021 TAC Meeting and Approval of Minutes (TAC)
Moved by Matt Fullner, Valley of the Moon Water District, seconded by Jennifer Burke, City of Santa Rosa; unanimously approved.
5. Water Supply Coordination Council- July 19, 2021
Susan Harvey, WAC Chair. The Water Supply Coordination Council met July 19 and created the agenda for today's WAC/TAC meeting. No public comments.
6. Water Supply Conditions and Temporary Urgency Change Order
Don Seymour, SCWA. Storage at Lake Mendocino is currently 24,800 acre-feet (AF) which is 22% of the water supply pool. The current release is 115 cubic feet per second (cfs) in order to meet minimum stream flow requirements. The level dropped below the threshold in the Division of Water Rights Emergency Regulation and curtailment notices were sent to those with water rights on the Upper Russian River requiring water use only for human health and safety and minimum stream flow requirements. SCWA Staff anticipates the storage level will drop to 12,000 AF by October 1. The numbers are very concerning and reductions are not being seen. Storage at Lake Sonoma is currently 122,000 acre-feet (AF) which is 50% of the water supply pool. The Sonoma Water contractors are meeting the 20% reductions. SCWA Staff anticipates the storage level will drop to 100,000 AF by October 1. Curtailments may be issued based on data and tracking of the storage level. Public Comment: Brenda Adelman, RRWPC, reviewed the information on yearly water sales to contractors and asked why the most recent year showed a significant increase in sales from the prior year. Don Seymour responded it could be due to a second dry year and an increased need for landscape irrigation and some contractors taking more water when there was a natural flow in the river and it didn't impact storage in Lake Sonoma. No public voicemail or email comments.
7. Sonoma Marin Saving Water Partnership (TAC)
 - a. 2021 Water Production Relative to 2013 Benchmark and 2021 TUCO
Drew McIntyre, North Marin Water District. (Refer to handout.) Year-to-Date water deliveries were 23% below 2013 benchmark year. The message is getting out and customers are conserving and reducing outdoor water use. Mike Healy, City of Petaluma, asked why 2013 is still used as the benchmark year. Drew McIntyre said Partnership water use for June 2021 was 10% below the same month in 2020 and that tracking of 2021 Russian River diversions versus 2020

starting July 1 is reported in the second attachment. Paul Piazza, SCWA, added that 2013 was selected by the State Water Resources Control Board and is still referenced in the monthly reports. No public comments.

b. Cumulative Russian River Diversions since July 1 vs 2020

Drew McIntyre, North Marin Water District. (Refer to handout.) Sonoma Water river diversions are being tracked and show a 24% reduction for the first three weeks in July – exceeding the 20% required in the Temporary Urgency Change Order to-date. No public comments.

b. Drought Outreach Messaging and TUCO Term 9 Reporting

Paul Piazza, SCWA. (Refer to handout.) Photos were shared from the very successful “Drought Drop By” event on June 12. The three-county, regional event distributed approximately 6,000 water saving kits to the general public at 16 locations. Two additional events are planned - August 21 and October 9. The “Saving Water Challenge” was launched on July 1, and includes opportunities to win prizes, provides 31 tips to save water and may be extended through the summer rather than ending in July. Other outreach events and messaging include participation at the Sonoma County Fair “Fun Fest” and a Trusted Messenger bilingual video featuring local business and community water saving champions. A significant number of drought lawn signs have been distributed to Sonoma Water contractors and the public. The fifth of six monthly TUCO Term 9 reports was submitted on July 30, 2021 detailing the Partnership’s conservation programmatic savings of 14.5 million gallons to date. The final report is due at the end of August. No public comments.

8. Water Shortage Allocation Methodology Update

Drew McIntyre, North Marin Water District. (Refer to handout.) Sonoma Water has an allocation model in place that was adopted by the Sonoma County Water Agency Board of Directors in 2006. The WAC approved an allocation model update in 2014 in order to address local supplies, monthly rather than annual allocations, and included fire prevention and water loss in the allocations. The 2014 update expired in 2016. TAC members and Sonoma Water staff have been working collaboratively on revisions to the 2014 update and are very close to a new 2021 update of the model. A request was made to hold a special WAC meeting on September 13, 2021 in order to present the proposed update to the 2014 water shortage allocation methodology to the WAC for consideration and a vote. No public comments.

9. Santa Rosa Plain Drought Resiliency Project

Grant Davis, SCWA. (Refer to handout.) In May 2021, Sonoma Water was able to secure \$400,000 from the County of Sonoma in an effort led by Director Rabbitt. The funding allowed the agency to investigate bringing the production well at Todd Road back online. The project should be completed in early September and will provide 200,000 to 500,000 gallons of water per day that will be used primarily to ensure the City of Petaluma can respond in a coordinated manner to livestock needs. Additional water will also be available to help the contractors meet the 20% reduction in diversions that is mandated by the TUCO. Additional work is underway to design and build a chlorine contact process to bring all three existing production wells (Todd Road, Sebastopol Road and Occidental Road) up to compliance. Sonoma Water will seek State drought funding with a goal of adding an active recharge component to some or all of these wells . The recharge component would be used to replace what has been taken out of the Santa Rosa Plain wells, improve the groundwater sustainability and create an

opportunity for SCWA to be active in conjunctive use and aquifer storage and recharge.
No public comments.

10. Biological Opinion Status Update

Pam Jeane, SCWA. (Refer to handout.)

Fish Flow Project- Continuing a lot of modeling work to complete a draft of the EIR for Board consideration.

Dry Creek Habitat Enhancement Project- Hanford ARC doing some construction this summer (Phase III) on both the east and west sides of the creek. This phase is expected to be completed in September so they will be out of the creek by the October 15 in-stream work deadline.

Habitat Monitoring and Maintenance- Environmental Staff continue physical and biological surveys on constructed projects to quantify habitat areas and identify needs for maintenance. 2020 monitoring indicated the greatest amount of optimal habitat was in off-channel enhancement sites and alcove habitat units. Phase III work to repair deposition that occurred in 2019 at sites below the Westside Bridge is anticipated for 2022. The Warm Springs Dam funds will be used for both Phases II and III. Inter-Fluve, Inc. has completed the bid documents for Phase IV however work is still being done on right-of-way agreements and construction will not begin until 2022. ESA has completed 99% design submittal for Phase V and construction is anticipated to begin in 2023. Phase VI is also at 99% design and work is anticipated to begin in 2024. Sonoma Water is also working with ESA on an additional site in Reach 5 to provide additional habitat that may be needed to fully meet the 6 miles required by the Biological Opinion.

Fish Monitoring- Monitoring is being done related to the drought and how the change in flows is affecting habitat and population. Monitoring fish populations is being performed at 5 sites, water quality monitoring is being performed at 23 sites and physical conditions are being performed at 8 sites.

Russian River Estuary Management- The mouth of the Russian River is open and baseline, weekly pinniped, water quality and biological monitoring is underway as is normal for this time of year.

Interim Flow Changes- Reported on earlier in the meeting by Don Seymour, SCWA.

No public comments.

11. Potter Valley Project Relicensing

Pam Jeane, SCWA. The partnership for the relicensing is working on a filing that is due to FERC in mid-September. Negotiations are underway as to what the filing will look like and there will be time allowed for review by any of the Partnership governing boards.

Grant Davis, SCWA, noted that Sonoma Water staff has briefed TAC members throughout the process and kept elected officials updated and will continue that communication. No public comments.

12. SCWA Capital Improvement Projects Update – Inflatable Dam & RR Crossing

Carlos Diaz, SCWA. (Refer to handout.) The Russian River Crossing project on the Russian River/Cotati Intertie pipeline that runs underneath the river is underway. The project will protect the pipeline from potential damage related to seismic activity and related liquefaction or lateral spread from the land on both sides of the river. There are three anticipated shutdowns that will last approximately three days each. While this shouldn't cause a big impact to the contractors, updates are provided to the system operators in daily water production reports and regular coordination meetings, and contractors are encouraged to top off tanks prior to each shutdown. The project should be completed in December 2021. The Inflatable Dam Fabric Replacement project will replace the armored rubber fabric (bladder) at the inflatable dam at Mirabel. The dam

allows Sonoma Water to divert river flows into infiltration basins and impound water in the river channel to aid in recharge of groundwater from which the collector wells pump water into the transmission system. The fabric was last replaced in 1995-97. The project was planned for 2020, but bids were rejected due to material delivery concerns related to the pandemic. The project will also remove a gravel bar and vegetation to create better flow over the dam. The project is scheduled for completion in November 2021 and no shutdowns or service disruptions are anticipated. TAC members asked about the vendor for the rubber bladder and discussed future availability. No public comments.

13. Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Plan(s) Update

Grant Davis, SCWA. Urged the Water Supply Coordination Council members and the SCWA water contractors to stay abreast of the North Coast and Bay Area IRWM Plans. The North Coast Resource Partnership (northcoastresourcepartnership.org) is a very active and involved governance structure with Supervisors from the seven counties and tribal interests which gives the Partnership the ability to attract a lot of funding and commitment for resources. With drought funding currently being negotiated in Sacramento, members are encouraged to stay involved and aware and looking for opportunities to secure our priorities as a region. In the Bay Area, a group is managing a multi-year contract for Advanced Quantitative Precipitation Information (AQPI) to install high tech radar throughout the Bay Area. There is a commitment to get the one ring network up and running to provide granular information to resource managers and emergency responders on potential fires and flooding. These two regional forums need our participation to bring State resources to our region to support important projects. No public comments.

14. Items for Next Agenda

- Special Water Advisory Committee meeting (9/13/2021)

No public comments.

15. Check Out

Meeting adjourned at 10:46 a.m.