

MEMORANDUM

To: Water Advisory Committee

September 8, 2021

From: Drew McIntyre, TAC Chair
Jennifer Burke, TAC Vice Chair

Subj: Approve – Update to 2014 Water Shortage Allocation Methodology

The April 5th Special WAC meeting included an update on the history of SCWA water shortage allocations since 2007. The allocation of water during shortage conditions is described in the 2006 Restructured Agreement for Water Supply executed between SCWA and the eight Water Contractors. In particular, Section 3.5 of the Restructured Agreement describes a specific approach to allocate water during water shortage conditions. An annual shortage allocation model was initially developed in 2006 for SCWA using the methodology described in the Restructured Agreement and subsequently adopted by the SCWA Board of Directors the same year.

In 2007 and 2009 different versions of an allocation methodology were used by SCWA to reduce Russian River deliveries. Section 3.5 of the Restructured Agreement also allows the Water Contractors, by unanimous vote, to determine an alternate method for allocating water during a water shortage. The WAC utilized this provision to approve an alternate method of allocation among the Water Contractors in 2007 but elected not to do so in 2009.

In 2010, SCWA began working with the Water Contractors to develop a new annual water shortage allocation methodology. In March, 2014, the WAC temporarily approved a new SCWA Water Shortage Allocation Methodology (2014 Methodology) that had a termination date of July 1, 2016. From March 2014 through July 2016, the Water Contractors worked to finalize the 2014 Methodology without success. Upon expiration of the 2014 Methodology, the adopted methodology reverted back to the 2006 shortage allocation model in place.

Since the April 5th WAC update, SCWA staff and TAC members have been meeting regularly to build upon the successful work that led to the WAC's initial unanimous approval of the 2014 SCWA Water Shortage Allocation Methodology. At the August 2nd WAC/TAC meeting, the WAC approved adding a Special WAC meeting to the regularly scheduled September 13th TAC meeting to consider approval of an update to the 2014 Allocation Methodology. The updated report is attached as well as a presentation summarizing the 2014 Methodology and the recent updates. TAC members from each water contractor have reviewed the update to the 2014 Allocation Methodology with their respective WAC member and are recommending approval. Implementation of this 2021 update will require unanimous approval by the full eight water contractors per the Restructured Agreement.

On May 3, 2021, the WAC approved a temporary allocation of water effective July 1 that sunsets October 31, 2021. Considering the current dry year and water shortage conditions, the updated to the 2014 Allocation Methodology will be needed throughout the remainder of the current 2021 drought.

RECOMMENDATION

1. WAC approve the Update to the 2014 SCWA Water Shortage Allocation Methodology as the Alternate Allocation Methodology to allocate water throughout the current drought and request formal adoption of the Update to the 2014 SCWA Water Shortage Allocation Methodology by the SCWA Board of Directors.