

\*DRAFT Minutes of Technical Advisory Committee  
Virtual Meeting – No Physical Location  
October 4, 2021

Attendees: Craig Scott, City of Cotati  
Mike Ielmorini, 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  
Roberta Atha, City of Santa Rosa  
Easter Ledesma, City of Santa Rosa  
Priscilla Reyes, City of Santa Rosa

Staff/Alternates: Grant Davis, SCWA  
Pam Jeane, SCWA  
Don Seymour, SCWA  
Paul Piazza, SCWA  
Jay Jasperse, SCWA  
Barry Dugan, SCWA  
Steven Hancock, SCWA  
Brad Sherwood, SCWA  
Jake Spaulding, SCWA  
Lynne Rosselli, SCWA  
David Manning, SCWA  
Vanessa Garrett, City of Rohnert Park  
Peter Martin, City of Santa Rosa  
Kimberly Zunino, 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  
Tony Williams, North Marin Water District  
Larry Russell, Marin Municipal Water District Director  
Gary Andersen, Marin Municipal Water District

Public: Paul Selsky, Brown & Caldwell  
David Keller, FOER  
Bob Anderson, United Wine Growers  
Margaret DiGenova, California American Water  
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1. Check-in  
Drew McIntyre, TAC Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.
2. Adopt Resolution Finding Proclaimed State of Emergency and that Meeting in Person Would Present Imminent Risks to the Health or Safety of Attendees; and Authorizing Meetings by Teleconference of Legislative Bodies  
Drew McIntyre, TAC Chair. (*Refer to handouts.*) The Governor's Executive Order N-29-20 regarding modifications to the Brown Act related to virtual meetings expired on September

30<sup>th</sup>. The Governor signed AB361 on September 16<sup>th</sup> which allows legislative bodies to continue virtual meetings when a proclaimed State of Emergency is in effect. AB361 requires findings be made every 30 days that in-person meetings would present risk to the health and safety of attendees. A Resolution was presented to the TAC for consideration and adoption.

Moved by Matt Fullner, Valley of the Moon Water District, seconded by Mary Grace Pawson, City of Rohnert Park, to adopt a Resolution Finding Proclaimed State of Emergency and that Meeting in Person Would Present Imminent Risks to the Health or Safety of Attendees and Authorizing Meetings by Teleconference of Legislative Bodies; unanimously approved by all eight water contractors. No public comments.

3. Public Comments

No public comments.

4. Water Supply Conditions and TUCO Update

Don Seymour, SCWA. Storage at Lake Mendocino is currently 14,700 acre-feet (AF) and is dropping 130 AF per day. This is expected to increase to 150-160 AF per day related to the PG&E FERC variance for the Potter Valley Project allowing transfers to decrease from 30 cubic feet per second (cfs) to 8 cfs. Lake Mendocino is anticipated to have a water level below 12,000 AF within the next three weeks. The lowest water level at Lake Mendocino was 12,000 AF on November 3, 1977. Storage at Lake Sonoma is currently 108,700 AF and the current release is 85 cfs. The current decline is 200 AF per day and, with no changes to the releases, SCWA staff anticipates the storage level will drop to 100,000 AF by mid-November. Decision 1610 require a 30% reduction in diversions, compared to a three-year average for the same month, if Lake Sonoma is below 100,000 AF on January 1, 2022. This requirement can be avoided if analyses prove to the Deputy Director of the State Water Board Division of Water Rights (State Water Board) that the level won't drop below 70,000 AF. The Temporary Urgency Change Order (TUCO) expires on December 10, 2021. SCWA staff is working on another Temporary Urgency Change Petition (TUCP) and intends to file it by late October. If there are significant changes in hydrologic conditions, the petition can be pulled. SCWA staff wants a TUCO in place on December 11, 2021 so higher minimum stream flows can be avoided which are not appropriate if there are still really dry water supply conditions and low reservoir levels. Paul Sellier, MMWD, asked if there was a due date for the analyses to be provided to the Deputy Director of the State Water Board. Don Seymour, SCWA, replied there is no due date, but there has been continued communication and updates. Jennifer Burke, City of Santa Rosa, asked if there was additional information about the terms of the new TUCP. Don Seymour, SCWA, responded that it is still being developed but will essentially be the same as the January 2021 request. Drew McIntyre, TAC Chair, asked when the reduction in transfers from the Potter Valley Project (PVP) will occur. Don Seymour, SCWA, replied they will occur in the next day or two since the Potter Valley Irrigation District will be maxing out its allocation of 9,000 AF. Drew McIntyre, TAC Chair, asked whether the TUCP filing in late October is to receive a TUCO from the State Water Board before December 10, 2021. Don Seymour, SCWA, responded that was correct. Without the TUCO in place, the water year type would be "dry" and minimum in-stream requirements would increase significantly. No public comments.

5. Sonoma Marin Saving Water Partnership

a. 2021 Water Production Relative to 2013 Benchmark and TUCO Cumulative Russian River Diversion Reductions Relative to 2020 Benchmark

Drew McIntyre, North Marin Water District. (*Refer to handout.*) August water usage was 29% below 2013 benchmark year and year-to-date usage was 19%

below the 2013 benchmark year. Cumulative Russian River diversions are down 22.1% compared to 2020. Contractors continue to work diligently to ensure diversions are below the 20% ordered by the State Board. Paul Sellier, MMWD, commented the GPCD in the handout is annual rather than seasonal and suggested calculation of a winter-time GPCD that would likely show usage already at the State's health and safety limit. Don Seymour, SCWA, responded staff and consultants are working on that calculation and plan to present it to the State Board as additional information to avoid a 30% reduction requirement. Public Comment: David Keller, FOER, asked if there is a likelihood of a rate increase by SCWA to accommodate financial needs due to significantly reduced water sales. Grant Davis, SCWA, responded it is too early to tell. SCWA has a long-term financial plan, though there may be a need for a drought response based on demand reductions. Drew McIntyre, TAC Chair, stated a new budget process will begin in late December/early January and may provide more specificity and he anticipates a year-end summary by SCWA in November/December. No other public comments.

b. Drought Outreach Messaging

Barry Dugan and Paul Piazza, SCWA. (*Refer to handout.*) Acknowledged assistance and support by Santa Rosa Water's outreach team, especially Elise Howard, for collaboration to push the artwork forward and update the look. The next Drought Drop By event is scheduled for October 9 with at least four agencies participating. The "Drought is Here. Save Water." campaign has been updated for Fall/Winter with a refreshed look and key messages that include "Take Action to Save Water" and "Become a Super Water Saver." The October message is "Turn Off Your Irrigation." Materials have been sent to the contractors for use on social media. Jennifer Burke, City of Santa Rosa, thanked staff for the quick turnaround on messaging and refreshing the brand. Barry Dugan, SCWA, mentioned members of the Partnership are meeting monthly during the drought and will form an outreach committee to solicit participation from all the partners in order to move ahead with a vigorous indoor water conservation campaign for the Fall/Winter. Public Comments: David Keller, FOER, asked how the campaign is addressing County messaging related to groundwater planning that includes 20 years of wet seasons and models surplus groundwater availability which is counter to knowledge of weather patterns and climate change. Mary Grace Pawson, City of Rohnert Park, referred to the synthetic hydrology model used by the Santa Rosa Plain Groundwater Sustainability Agency for planning for 20, 50 and 100 years. The model has a series of assumptions and is supplemented with a regular monitoring program and actual data. No other public comments.

6. SCWA Temporary Allocation of Water Deliveries – November-December, 2021

Paul Piazza, SCWA. (*Refer to handout.*) Reviewed the history of the TUCO and the temporary allocations approved by the WAC on May 3, 2021 for the period of July through October to meet the 20% required reduction in diversions. WAC approved an Alternate Allocation Methodology on September 13, 2021 and SCWA has developed allocations for November 1 through December 10 based on that methodology. Calculations included an additional new supply of 1 million gallons per day of groundwater from Sonoma Water's rehabilitated Santa Rosa Plain well at Todd Road beginning October 8, 2021 and reallocation of the 2% savings in Russian River supply above the required 20% reduction. Colleen Ferguson, City of Sonoma, asked for clarification on the December information in the contractor allocation. Paul Piazza, SCWA, explained that December (a) applied to the first ten days of December and

December (b) is an assumption based on continued supply reduction. Paul Piazza, SCWA indicated that an allocation update would be provided at the next meeting when more accurate information is available. No public comments.

7. Biological Opinion Status Update

Pam Jeane, SCWA. (*Refer to handout.*)

Fish Flow Project- Staff will continue to respond to comments and update the project description for anticipated recirculation of the Draft EIR for the Fish Flow Habitat and Water Rights Project in 2022.

Dry Creek Habitat Enhancement Project

Fish Hatchery – Due to really dry conditions in the watershed, there has been a strategic release of Coho Salmon from the hatchery, with an unusual amount released to Dry Creek. In September, approximately 10,000 juvenile fish were released into some of the habitat enhancement sites, with another 10,000 planned for release in October.

Construction- Hanford ARC is wrapping up construction on Phase III project elements.

Habitat Monitoring and Maintenance- Environmental Staff continue physical and biological surveys on constructed projects to ensure they are meeting requirements of the Biological Opinion and to identify any maintenance needs.

Phases IV-VI- Bid documents for Phase IV and construction is planned for Summer 2022. Construction on Phase V is anticipated to begin in 2023 and construction on Phase VI 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- Underwater video monitoring systems are operating and 7-9 fish were recently spotted in the period of a few days, including Chinook and possibly a Coho.

Russian River Estuary Management- The mouth of the Russian River closed on September 28. It could be a long closure, depending on rain/storms and high waves. The management season ends in mid-October and marks a shift from fish monitoring to flood control.

Interim Flow Changes- Reported on earlier in the meeting by Don Seymour, SCWA. Grant Davis, SCWA, acknowledged Casa Grande High and United Anglers for providing some funding and creating an educational opportunity assisting with the fish release. Drew McIntyre, TAC Chair, asked if the fish would still have been released if the habitats hadn't been constructed, David Manning, SCWA, responded there is a space limitation at the hatchery. Fish can be held until early winter, but it can be stressful for them and the hatchery reaches a breaking point when spawning starts. The situation was made much easier by the availability of the habitat areas.

No public comments.

8. Potter Valley Project Relicensing

Pam Jeane, SCWA. (*Refer to handouts.*) The Two Basin Solution partners filed a letter with FERC on September 2 requesting an abeyance to allow more time to determine the best plan forward. A supplemental letter was sent on September 13 with updated funding status. The response from FERC was neither denial nor approval and requires a status update 60 days from the date of the letter and another in January 2022. The partners met last week and confirmed their commitment to the partnership and their plan to keep working as a partnership, regardless of the direction of the project (relicensing or surrender). The partnership is working on a plan to move forward, including acquiring State and Federal funding. Paul Sellier, MMWD, asked what surrender looks like if relicensing doesn't move forward and how it would impact water supply. Pam Jeane, SCWA, responded she has been told that a surrender process has very similar steps to

a relicensing process. At the end of a surrender process, the facility either stays in place, is locked and not operated or the facility is decommissioned – or anything in between where portions of the project could stay in place. For water supply purposes, some version of the diversion through the tunnel and into the headwaters of the Russian River would be preferred. The facility would change from a hydro facility to a water supply facility. No public comments.

9. Items for Next Agenda

- EPA WaterSense Award

No public comments.

10. Check Out

Meeting adjourned at 10:16 a.m.