

\*FINAL Minutes of Water Advisory Committee and Technical Advisory Committee  
Virtual Meeting – No Physical Location  
November 1, 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  
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  
David Rabbitt, County of Sonoma/Sonoma Water  
Roberta Atha, 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  
Jake Spaulding, SCWA  
Lynne Rosselli, SCWA  
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  
Ben Horenstein, Marin Municipal Water District

Public: Paul Selsky, Brown & Caldwell  
Armin Munevar, Jacobs Engineering  
David Keller, FOER  
Bob Anderson, United Wine Growers  
Margaret DiGenova, California American Water  
Veronica Blette, EPA WaterSense

1. Check-in

Susan Harvey, WAC Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:07 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, North Marin Water District. (*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 WAC for consideration and adoption.

Moved by Jon Foreman, Valley of the Moon Water District, seconded by Mike Healy, City of Petaluma, 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 Comment

No public comments.

4. Recap from the September 13, 2021 Special WAC/TAC Meeting and Approval of Minutes

Moved by Mike Healy, City of Petaluma, seconded by Jon Foreman, Valley of the Moon Water District; unanimously approved. No public comments.

5. Recap from the October 4, 2021 TAC Meeting and Approval of Minutes

Moved by Colleen Ferguson, City of Sonoma, seconded by Craig Scott, City of Cotati; unanimously approved. No public comments.

6. Water Supply Coordination Council – October 25, 2021

Susan Harvey, WAC Chair. The Water Supply Coordination Council met October 25 and created the agenda for today's WAC/TAC meeting. No public comments.

7. Approve – 2022 WAC/TAC Meeting Schedule

Susan Harvey, WAC Chair. (*Refer to handout.*) The draft 2022 WAC/TAC meeting schedule was presented for review and accepted with no changes. No public comments.

8. Water Supply Conditions and TUCO Update

Don Seymour, SCWA. Storage at Lake Mendocino is currently 18,000 acre-feet (AF), a gain of 6,000 AF, and storage at Lake Sonoma is currently 120,000 acre-feet (AF), a gain of 15,000 AF, following the Atmospheric River storm of October 23 and 24. Both reservoirs are still rising slightly allowing releases to be minimized. Lake Pillsbury gained 23,000 – 24,000 AF and has storage of 40,000 AF following the storm. PG&E's variance expired and the facility is now operating under the regular license. The State Board temporarily suspended curtailments to water rights for both the upper and lower Russian River. The Board will periodically analyze water availability, but, with the amount of natural flow and predicted future precipitation events, the curtailments are likely lifted through the end of November. The State Board also issued an amended order to the TUCP which ties the 20% mandatory reduction to curtailments, so that reduction is no longer a requirement. The Governor's November 19 proclamation requiring a 15% reduction is still in effect and SCWA is working with the contractors on how to use Russian River supply to offset local groundwater and surface water sources. Sonoma Water is preparing

a new TUCP since the current TUCO expires on December 10. The new petition will be similar to the January 2021 petition and apply to the entire Russian River. The petition will request that water year classification be based on storage in Lake Mendocino. The transformer bank at the Potter Valley powerhouse has failed and PG&E estimates an 18 to 24 month lead time for replacement at an estimated cost of \$5 - \$10 million. The bypass piping is being utilized solely to meet the 45 cfs obligation to the Potter Valley Irrigation District. Russian River water users are meeting with PG&E as the circumstances unfold. Drew McIntyre, TAC Chair, asked if meetings with Upper Russian River water managers were being scheduled. Don Seymour, SCWA, responded several had been included in the last meeting and that should continue. Public Comment: David Keller, FOER, asked how Potter Valley diversions could benefit Lake Mendocino when the current diversions to the east branch of the Russian River end in May. Don Seymour, SCWA, said diversions via bypass would be limited to 135 cubic feet per second (cfs) and would be a benefit to reservoir storage. No other public comments.

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

Don Seymour, SCWA. Based on conditions in the Russian River watershed, the suspension of curtailments and meeting the 20% reduction in diversions, the temporary allocation of water deliveries is not necessary at this time. No public comments.

9. Regional Water Supply Resiliency Study – Drought Management Options

a. Overview

Jay Jasperse, SCWA. (*Refer to handout.*) The study recognizes the regional system as a series of interconnected local systems and evaluates all natural and built infrastructure. Jacobs Engineering developed a model to test various water shortage scenarios, identify vulnerable areas and identify available mitigation efforts, with a recent focus on a drought scenario. The model validation assumptions were developed from historical data from 2009 to 2017. Jacobs Engineering is also meeting with retail customers to develop a range of drought management options. Public Comment: David Keller, FOER, asked whether the assumptions accounted for projected population increases in service areas. Jay Jasperse, SCWA, said the assumptions included both urban and agricultural conservation and leveraged a lot of the work related to the GSA/GSP process. David Keller, FOER, asked if the model, given the current Potter Valley Project transfers, accounted for wintertime transfers to Lake Mendocino. Jay Jasperse, SCWA, replied there may be an indirect impact, but further evaluation will be needed for the new conditions.

b. Approve – WAC Letter of Support for Santa Rosa Plain Drought Resiliency Project Grant Application

Jay Jasperse, SCWA. (*Refer to handout.*) WAC approval requested for a letter of support for a grant application to help fund repairs to the Occidental Road and Sebastopol Road wells that were installed in 1977 and are managed by Sonoma Water. State Board regulatory changes between 2016 and present regarding chlorine contact prevented operation of the wells. The Todd Road well was recently repaired utilizing funds provided by the County of Sonoma. Once repaired, the wells can be used to recharge the Santa Rosa Plain aquifer during the wintertime and provide drought resiliency for the Sonoma Water contractors.

There were no objections from the WAC members and the Letter of Support will be submitted. No public comments.

c. WaterSmart Water and Energy Efficiency Study Grant Application – SMSWP

Paul Piazza, SCWA. *(Refer to handout.)* The Partnership is submitting an application to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. The grant would primarily fund turf removal programs, along with efficient clothes washer rebates and a home water monitoring device. The total project cost is estimated at \$4,111,369. The maximum amount of the three-year grant is \$2 million. No public comments.

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

##### 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.)* Water usage was down 28% compared to the 2013 benchmark year and down 9% compared to the 2020 benchmark year. Cumulative Russian River diversions, tracked by Sonoma Water, are down 23.5% compared to 2020, meeting and exceeding the 20% ordered by the State Board. No public comments.

##### b. Drought Outreach Messaging

Barry Dugan and Paul Piazza, SCWA. *(Refer to handout.)* The October 9 Drought Drop By was another successful event. Ongoing bilingual drought messaging will focus on “Turn Your Irrigation Off” and may have some minor changes to inform customers that one storm doesn’t end the drought. The Graywater Webinar Series was completed with 125 participants for the first two sessions. The Super Water Saver campaign is ongoing. Drew McIntyre, TAC Chair, asked if the webinar series was recorded. Paul Piazza, SCWA, said it was recorded and there were plans to send it to people who registered and were unable to attend. No public comments.

##### c. 2021 EPA WaterSense Excellence Awards

Paul Piazza, SCWA, and Veronica Blette, EPA WaterSense. *(Refer to handout.)* The Sonoma Marin Saving Water Partnership (SMSWP) is the recipient of the 2021 WaterSense Sustained Excellence Award for the Qualified Water Efficient Landscaper (QWEL) program. Staff were recognized for their ability to quickly transition to online training and proctoring. The program has been made available to 20 other agencies in five western states and one Canadian province. Veronica Blette, EPA WaterSense, spoke about the goals of the WaterSense Branch of the EPA. She spoke of the well-deserved recognition for the SMSWP and looks forward to what the Partnership does in the future to help everyone save water. No public comments.

#### 11. Biological Opinion Status Update

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

Fish Flow Project- Recirculation of a Draft EIR is anticipated for 2022 due, in part, to the changes at PGE’s Potter Valley Project which impacts the EIR’s project description.

Dry Creek Habitat Enhancement Project

Construction- Hanford ARC completed construction of the two remaining Phase III Reach 5A project elements in late September and has fully demobilized.

Habitat Monitoring and Maintenance- Environmental Staff continue physical and biological surveys on constructed projects to quantify the habitat and to identify any maintenance needs. A drone flight is scheduled to assess any damage from the recent storm.

Phases IV-VI- Bid documents for Phase IV are ready to go. The Corps completed review of the right-of-way agreement modifications requested by some of the property owners participating in the project and provided those results to Sonoma Water. SCWA staff are reaching out to the property owners with feedback or possible revised

agreements, as needed. Construction on Phase IV is anticipated for 2022. Phases V and VI 99% design submittals are complete. Construction on Phase V is anticipated to begin in 2023 and construction on Phase VI is anticipated to begin in 2024.

Fish Monitoring- The underwater camera at Mirabel fish ladder had to be removed prior to the October 23-24 storm and SCWA staff is unsure if it will be reinstalled. Before the camera was removed, there were sightings of 38 Chinook and a few Steelhead.

Russian River Estuary Management- The lagoon management season ended in mid-October. Weekly pinniped monitoring continues. The mouth of the Russian River closed on September 28, but the recent storm caused flooding in the estuary (reaching approximately 11.2 feet) and the barrier self-breached.

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

No public comments.

## 12. Potter Valley Project Relicensing

Pam Jeane, SCWA. The Russian River partners are developing an application for the Department of Water Resources (DWR) Urban and Multi-Benefit Drought Relief Grant Program to assist with a couple of tasks for the FERC process. There are three components to the grant application: 1) development of a Russian River water user form to educate people about the source of water, the benefit received from the Potter Valley Project and if there is interest in financial participation to facilitate a continued transfer of water through the project whether or not it is operating as a hydro-electric power plant; 2) an assessment of the physical facilities and associated operational costs; and 3) a reach-specific water reliability assessment for Potter Valley to identify groundwater or storage facility options and undertake some modeling. The partners submitted an abeyance request in early September for an extension until the end of May 2022. FERC responded on September 23 and requested the Two-Basin Solution Partners file a new license application by April 14, 2022 and file status reports in November 2021 and January 2022. If the partners don't file a new license application, FERC may instruct PG&E to commence license surrender proceedings. The partners will file a November status report and are working on a draft response to FERC. Jennifer Burke, City of Santa Rosa, asked if a subset of the NOI parties is applying for the DWR grant. Pam Jeane, SCWA said that was correct and the partners to the north are working on a separate grant application targeted toward habitat and fisheries restoration. Jennifer Burke, City of Santa Rosa, asked if Sonoma Water will be the grant applicant. Pam Jeane, SCWA, confirmed they will be the grant applicant. Susan Harvey, WAC Chair, asked if the Potter Valley Basin needed to go through a SGMA process. Pam Jeane, SCWA, replied they did not. No public comments.

### a. Approve – WAC Comment Letter Supporting Partnership Abeyance Request to FERC

Drew McIntyre, North Marin Water District. (*Refer to handouts.*) WAC approval requested for a letter to FERC supporting the Partners' abeyance request for more time for additional studies and continued due diligence and reiterating the water contractors' support for the Two-Basin Solution. WAC approval was also requested for a second letter to the State supporting the DWR grant application.

There were no objections from the WAC members and both Letters of Support will be submitted. No public comments.

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

Grant Davis, SCWA. (*Refer to handout.*) Shared a San Francisco Chronicle front page article on the Advanced Quantitative Precipitation Information (AQPI) project in the Bay Area region IRWM Plan. The article provided a good graphic representation of what AQPI will do

and information about current and future sites for the Nexrad Radar Stations. The project will not only benefit water purveyors, but will also assist emergency management and flood agencies. Water contractors and partners need to continue to work together to secure funding from the significant \$15 billion climate resilience package passed and signed by the Governor in September. No public comments.

14. Items for Next Agenda

No agenda items were suggested by the WAC/TAC members.

No public comments.

15. Check Out

Meeting adjourned at 11:16 a.m.