

*FINAL Minutes of Technical Advisory Committee
Virtual Meeting – No Physical Location
December 6, 2021

Attendees: Craig Scott, City of Cotati
Mike Ielmorini, City of Petaluma
Mary Grace Pawson, City of Rohnert Park
Peter Martin, 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

Staff/Alternates: Grant Davis, SCWA
Jake Spaulding, SCWA
Lynne Rosselli, SCWA
Don Seymour, SCWA
Jay Jasperse, SCWA
Barry Dugan, SCWA
Paul Piazza, SCWA
Pam Jeane, SCWA
Steven Hancock, SCWA
Michael Thompson, SCWA
David Manning, SCWA
Kimberly Zunino, City of Santa Rosa
Colin Close, City of Santa Rosa
Claire Nordlie, City of Santa Rosa
Elise Howard, 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
Brenda Adelman, RRWPC
Bob Anderson, United Wine Growers
Matt Wargula, GHD
Armin Munevar, Jacobs Engineering
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1. Check-in
Drew McIntyre, TAC Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:03 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

30th. The Governor signed AB361 on September 16th 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 Craig Scott, City of Cotati, seconded by Mary Grace Pawson, City of Rohnert Park, to adopt the Resolution; unanimously approved by seven water contractors (Valley of the Moon Water District absent). No public comments.

3. Public Comments

Brenda Adelman, RRWPC, referenced a recent Marin IJ article regarding North Marin Water District purchasing extra water from the Water Agency in order to store more water in their reservoir during the winter season and asked about the impact to water supply in Lake Mendocino. Drew McIntyre, North Marin Water District, replied that NMWD is only purchasing excess natural Russian River flows which reduces purchases in the summer when natural flows are lower. Don Seymour, SCWA, added the purchase will not include stored water from either reservoir. Jay Jasperse, SCWA, added the State Water Resources Control Board suspended curtailments in order to allow all water users to use this natural flow. Brenda Adelman, RRWPC, said river water level is dropping quickly and asked when considerations are made regarding impacts to the Lower Russian River. Don Seymour, SCWA, said the current TUCO requires a minimum stream flow of 35 cubic feet per second (cfs) until December 11, 2021 and a water quality monitoring plan to identify any impacts.

Drew McIntyre, NMWD, announced that Colleen Ferguson, City of Sonoma, is retiring at the end of December and expressed appreciation for her work with the Technical Advisory Committee.

4. FY 2020/21 SCWA Water Transmission System Budget Year-End Review

Lynne Rosselli, SCWA. (*Refer to handout.*) Water deliveries are the backbone of the Water Transmission System budget and FY 2020/21 deliveries were 8,100 AF more than the budgeted amount based on twelve months of deliveries ending December 31, 2019. The next budget cycle will likely be based on a three-year average (approximately 46,000 AF). Expenditures were 23% less than budgeted due in part to the pandemic and fires with resources being shifted away from the Water Transmission System Budget, then shifted back related to the drought. Details were provided on expenditures related to operations and maintenance, capital projects, biological opinion compliance and debt service. Drew McIntyre, NMWD, asked if any changes to the budget review process are anticipated for this year and if there is a SCWA policy regarding adherence to a minimum debt service coverage ratio. Lynne Rosselli, SCWA, replied no budget review process changes are anticipated and she is not aware of a maximum debt service amount. Sonoma Water maintains a AAA bond rating and the amount is consistent with rating company expectations. No public comments.

5. Water Supply Conditions and Temporary Urgency Change Order

Don Seymour, SCWA. Storage at Lake Mendocino is currently 21,000 acre-feet (AF) and is gaining approximately 50 AF per day primarily due to imports from the Potter Valley Project. The current release is the absolute minimum of 30 cubic feet per second (cfs). Storage at Lake Sonoma is currently 120,600 AF and the current release is the absolute minimum of 75 cfs. The current decline is 100 AF per day. Some precipitation events are expected in the next several weeks. The Temporary Urgency Change Order (TUCO) expires on December 11, 2021. A Temporary Urgency Change Petition (TUCP) was filed on November 16th and SCWA staff hope to have a new TUCO in place by or before December 11th to allow the system to be managed based on actual hydrologic conditions at Lake Mendocino. Peter

Martin, City of Santa Rosa, asked for current inflows from the Potter Valley Project. Don Seymour, SCWA, said current inflow is 45 cfs, and approximately 50 cfs is coming into the reservoir indicating additional natural flow. No public comments.

6. Regional Water Supply Resiliency Study – Drought Management Options Update
Jay Jasperse, SCWA. Work continues to focus on the drought evaluation. The regional model from Potter Valley to Marin Municipal Water District, including all of the systems collectively, has been developed and calibrated. The worst-case drought scenario was identified as 1976 through 1980 utilizing statistical information from 1912 to 2017 and 20 climate futures modeled and accepted in California. Baseline drought impacts have been modeled for that scenario and several drought mitigation projects and measures have been identified. The study will focus on seismic scenarios when the drought modeling and calculations are complete. No public comments.

7. Sonoma Marin Saving Water Partnership

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

Drew McIntyre, North Marin Water District. *(Refer to handout.)* October water usage was 32% below the 2013 benchmark year and year-to-date usage was 21% below the 2013 benchmark year. Cumulative Russian River diversions are down 22.7% compared to 2020. Contractors continue to work diligently to ensure diversions are below 20% even though the order has been suspended. Public Comment: Brenda Adelman, RRWPC, asked for a statement explaining how the percentages are calculated. Drew McIntyre, TAC Chair, replied that the conservation tracking numbers in the first two pages of the attachment represent total retail water contractor deliveries, including both local supply and Sonoma Water deliveries. No other public comments.

b. Drought Outreach Messaging

Barry Dugan and Paul Piazza, SCWA. *(Refer to handout.)* Bilingual drought messaging continues with a focus on “Fix Your Flush,” encouraging customers to repair or replace their toilets. Bill inserts topics include installation of gray water systems, lawn replacement and the use of mulch and rainwater capture systems. The March 2022 “Fix a Leak Week” campaign is being rolled out regionally. No public comments.

c. FY 2021 Annual Report

Paul Piazza, SCWA. *(Refer to handout.)* The Partnership’s report covers activities from July 2020 through June 2021. It includes a letter from Sonoma County Supervisor Lynda Hopkins, and WAC Chair, Susan Harvey, identifying some of the challenges faced during the year, achievements “by the numbers,” and Partnership highlights. Colleen Ferguson, City of Sonoma, gave kudos to Paul, Barry and the Partnership for the accomplishments – especially during a drought and pandemic. Drew McIntyre, TAC Chair, asked how participation in the online Garden Tour compared to previous years. Paul Piazza, SCWA, replied prior years’ participation is based on sign-ups, but they are not mandatory, so actual attendance is difficult to track. No public comments.

8. Biological Opinion Status Update

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

Fish Flow Project- No changes since the November report. Staff hopes to have a recirculated Draft EIR for the Fish Flow Habitat and Water Rights Project in 2022.

Fish Monitoring- The underwater video monitoring system was removed due to the large storm event at the end of October. Staff will rely on spawner surveys in the mainstem Russian River and Dry Creek for the annual count.

Dry Creek Habitat Enhancement Project

Construction- Hanford ARC completed construction on Phase III project elements in late September. The site had minor damage from the October storm and the contractor returned to make some repairs.

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. The additional Phase V site in Reach 5B is in the 30% design Phase.

Russian River Estuary Management- The mouth of the Russian River Estuary closed on November 26 and self-breached on November 28. It also closed and self-breached during the first week of December. The Estuary management season ended on October 15th.

Interim Flow Changes- Reported on earlier in the meeting by Don Seymour, SCWA. Drew McIntyre, TAC Chair, commented on the erosion that occurred during the October storm and asked if the 3,000 cfs flow was expected? David Manning, SCWA, responded the flow was significant, but on the lower end of anticipated high flows. The area that eroded was vulnerable since it was new and didn't have vegetation to stabilize it; however, the area should have been more durable.

No public comments.

9. Potter Valley Project Update

Pam Jeane, SCWA. (*Refer to handout.*) Thanked the Water Contractors and Marin Municipal Water District for signing the November 16th letter of support for the Russian River Watershed Water Supply Resiliency Project. The Water Agency submitted an application in mid-November under the Drought Grant Relief Program in hopes of receiving approximately \$2 million for a water supply reliability study for the Russian River watershed. CalTrout, one of the members of the Two Basin Solution partnership, is also seeking \$750,000 in grant funds from the California Department of Fish & Wildlife for Eel River fishery enhancement. Regarding FERC PVP relicensing, the Partnership hasn't received a response from FERC on the status update submitted in mid-November and the next update is due at the end of January. A license application is due in April. PG&E isn't generating power at the Potter Valley Project. The agency is diverting water from the Eel River to the Russian River at a rate of 45 cfs in accordance with regulatory requirements and its contract with Potter Valley Irrigation District. The Water Agency be requesting PG&E to exercise its full authority to increase bypass flows through the facility to 135 cfs. Drew McIntyre, TAC Chair, asked if the request to PG&E will be made in December. Grant Davis, SCWA, responded an initial inquiry has been made and a formal request is expected soon. Public Comment: David Keller, FOER, asked if the Mendocino County Water Agency has potential use as a funding vehicle for future operation and maintenance of a water transfer project after the Potter Valley Project is decommissioned. Pam Jeane, SCWA, said the agency is funded by the Mendocino County General Fund and she isn't aware of a mechanism for the agency to generate additional revenues. Grant Davis, SCWA, added Sonoma Water is looking for a vehicle to monetize supply coming from the diversion. David Keller, FOER, asked if Sonoma Water has made any progress in creating an irrigation district in the middle and upper Russian River as a potential funding vehicle. Grant Davis, SCWA, replied efforts are underway, but he is not sure of the status. Pam Jeane, SCWA, said a component of the

grant application is creation of a Russian River Water Users Forum for education, identifying interests, identifying beneficiaries and determine whether there is support for such an option. Brenda Adelman, RRWPC, asked what concept projects are included to increase water supply reliability in the river and is anything related to impacts to the Lower Russian River. Jay Jasperse, SCWA, replied there is a portfolio of options which will benefit the entire river system. No other public comments.

10. Items for Next Agenda

- Drought Resiliency Technical Memorandum from Jacobs Engineering
- No public comments.

11. Check Out

Meeting adjourned at 10:28 a.m.