

*FINAL Minutes of Water Advisory Committee and Technical Advisory Committee
Virtual Meeting – No Physical Location
February 7, 2022

Attendees:

- Susan Harvey, City of Cotati
- Mike Healy, City of Petaluma
- Walter Linares, City of Rohnert Park
- Natalie Rogers, 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
- Matt Wargula, 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, Sonoma Water Director
- Roberta Atha, City of Santa Rosa
- Easter Ledesma, City of Santa Rosa

Staff/Alternates:

- Grant Davis, SCWA
- Pam Jeane, SCWA
- Don Seymour, SCWA
- Paul Piazza, SCWA
- Jay Jasperse, SCWA
- Barry Dugan, SCWA
- Brad Sherwood, SCWA
- Steven Hancock, SCWA
- Jake Spaulding, SCWA
- Lynne Rosselli, SCWA
- Ann DuBay, SCWA
- Colin Close, City of Santa Rosa
- Claire Nordlie, City of Santa Rosa
- Elise Miller, City of Santa Rosa
- Kimberly Zunino, City of Santa Rosa
- Peter Martin, City of Santa Rosa
- Shannon Cotulla, Town of Windsor
- Christopher Bolt, City of Petaluma
- Chelsea Thompson, City of Petaluma
- Pat Echols, City of Sonoma
- 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
R. Dowd
Mark Millan
Monty Schmitt
Congressman Jared Huffman
Jenny Callaway, Office of Congressman Huffman
Phone Participant: 6131

1. Check-in

Susan Harvey, WAC Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:01 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 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 WAC for consideration and adoption.

Moved by Mike Healy, City of Petaluma, seconded by Jack Baker, North Marin Water District, 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 seven water contractors (City of Sonoma absent). No public comments.

3. Public Comment

No public comments.

4. Appointment of 2022 WAC Leadership (2-year terms)

Susan Harvey, WAC Chair, Mike Healy, WAC Vice Chair and Drew McIntyre, TAC Chair. (*Refer to handout.*) Moved by Jon Foreman, Valley of the Moon Water District, seconded by Jack Baker, North Marin Water District to appoint Mike Healy, City of Petaluma, as WAC Chair and Natalie Rogers, City of Santa Rosa, as WAC Vice Chair; unanimously approved (City of Sonoma absent). No public comments.

(Susan Harvey, City of Cotati, left the meeting at 9:10 am.)

5. Recap from the November 1, 2021 WAC/TAC Meeting and Approval of Minutes

Moved by Jack Baker, North Marin Water District, seconded by Jon Foreman, Valley of the Moon Water District; unanimously approved (City of Cotati and City of Sonoma absent). No public comments.

6. Recap from the December 6, 2021 TAC Meeting and Approval of Minutes

Moved by Craig Scott, City of Cotati, seconded by Jennifer Burke, City of Santa Rosa; unanimously approved. No public comments.

7. New WAC Member Orientation

Drew McIntyre, TAC Chair. (*Refer to handouts.*) There is one new WAC member/alternate, Director Brooke Harland from Valley of the Moon Water District. Orientation materials as outlined in the memo will be provided by Melissa James, SCWA. Due to the pandemic and meeting virtually, several members have not had an opportunity to tour Sonoma Water facilities. Grant Davis, SCWA, is hopeful for this to resume when County health orders allow. No public comments.

8. Water Supply Coordination Council – January 20, 2022

Drew McIntyre, TAC Chair. The Water Supply Coordination Council met January 20 and created the agenda for today's WAC/TAC meeting. No public comments.

9. Water Supply Conditions and Temporary Urgency Change Order

Don Seymour, SCWA. Storage at Lake Mendocino is currently 42,600 acre-feet (AF) compared to 29,700 AF at this time last year, and storage at Lake Sonoma is currently 151,500 acre-feet (AF) compared to 157,700 AF last year. No precipitation is predicted for the next 15 days. Hacienda Bridge flows are currently 470 cubic feet per second (cfs) with a fair amount of tributary inflow; however, flows are declining higher up in the watershed. The Lake Mendocino water supply pool is variable and current levels are 62% of the winter level and 38% of the maximum level.

Sonoma Water filed a new Temporary Urgency Change Petition (TUCP) in mid-November and the State Board issued an order effective December 11, 2021 moving the hydrologic index from cumulative flow at Lake Pillsbury to storage thresholds developed at Lake Mendocino. The storage threshold on January 1 exceeded normal water supply conditions (41,000 AF). Due to an extremely dry January and the requirement to maintain 150 cfs minimum instream flow for the entire reach of the upper Russian River, storage decreased by 2,000 AF during the month. Water supply conditions were reassessed on February 1 and determined to be "dry," decreasing flows in the upper Russian River to 75 cfs and 85 cfs in the lower Russian River. Another assessment will occur on March 1 and is anticipated to be determined as "critical." This will decrease flows to 25 cfs (upper Russian River) and 35 cfs (lower Russian River). The State Board did a water supply availability analysis for February and determined there is enough natural flow in the Russian River to meet water right demands, so the curtailment is still suspended until the next analysis in March.

Grant Davis, SCWA, asked for a description of the importance of changing the hydrologic index. Don Seymour, SCWA, responded Decision 1610 of the water rights permit was a 1980's determination when the Potter Valley Project was transferring approximately 160,000 AF per year to the Russian River watershed. PG&E's FERC license was amended in 2006 and changed the relationship between the Eel and Russian River watersheds, decreasing the transfer to approximately 60,000 AF per year. This resulted in Sonoma Water filing more than a dozen TUCP's over the last 15 years to manage conditions in the Russian River watershed and reservoirs. The recent electrical equipment failure at the Potter Valley PG&E facility has further reduced the water transfer and will take millions of dollars and years to repair. The hydrologic index should be based on the Russian River watershed rather than on historical Lake Pillsbury criteria. Sonoma Water is working with the State Board and fisheries resource agencies on a longer-term process to move the hydrologic index to storage levels at Lake Mendocino.

Jennifer Burke, City of Santa Rosa, asked if the current Temporary Urgency Change Order expires in June 2022 and, if so, whether another TUCP will be filed at that time. Don Seymour, SCWA, responded it is likely another TUCP will be filed in late-April or May and, if storage conditions do not improve, the situation will be similar to last year. Public Comment: David Keller, FOER, asked when Sonoma Water will file a formal request with the State Board

regarding Decision 1610. Don Seymour, SCWA, replied with changing conditions at the Potter Valley Project since issuing the Draft EIR for the Fish Flow Project, assumptions are no longer representative of conditions. Sonoma Water hopes to start the process by the end of 2022. No other public comments.

(Agenda was re-ordered for comments from Congressman Jared Huffman.)

12. Regional Water Supply Resiliency Study Update

Jay Jasperse, SCWA, and Armin Munevar, Jacobs Engineering. *(Refer to handout.)* The study recognizes the regional system as interconnected infrastructure rather than jurisdictions and how that collective system can respond to a stress test (drought, seismic) through operational adjustments or projects with a regional benefit. The current focus is on drought scenarios – both near-term (acute/severe) and long-term (chronic and lasting 10 or more years).

Congressman Jared Huffman spoke about Federal financial support through passage of the 2021 Infrastructure, Investments and Jobs Act for projects to improve water supply systems and resiliency in the North Bay. There is \$55 billion in new federal investments for multiple aspects of water infrastructure projects. He identified two factors driving success for funded projects: equity (projects for underserved populations) and regional collaboration and resiliency. Congressman Huffman offered support from his office and staff and said a guidebook on funding opportunities is available on his website. Congressman Huffman described recent negotiations and collaboration between Sonoma Water, Marin Municipal Water District (MMWD) and North Marin Water District to discuss strategies to address worst-case drought and water supply scenarios. He is hopeful this collaboration leads to future benefits for MMWD, Sonoma Water and the North Bay contractors.

Armin Munevar, Jacobs Engineering, discussed development of 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.

Mike Healy, WAC Chair, asked about the status of the Kastania Pump upgrades. Paul Sellier, MMWD, responded they are substantially complete and some final testing is being done. Matt Fullner, VOMWD, asked how groundwater and declining groundwater levels during a drought was taken into account in the model. Armin Munevar, Jacobs Engineering, responded groundwater supplies were provided by customers and declining levels were not simulated in the model. Public Comment: David Keller, FOER, said approximately 15% of the water right holders didn't comply during the recent curtailment and asked if Sonoma Water would ask the State Water Board for a higher level of enforcement. Grant Davis, SCWA, responded the Upper Russian River areas are not Sonoma Water customers and enforcement would depend on the urgency of the State Water Board. Sonoma Water is working with the board on moving the hydrologic index and that is the most compelling need at this time. No other public comments.

10. 2022 Annual Water Supply and Demand Assessment Planning

Paul Piazza, SCWA. The 2020 Urban Water Management Plan update cycle included new regulations from the State requiring an Annual Water Supply and Demand Assessment and an annual water shortage assessment report due to the Department of Water Resources (DWR) on July 1 of each year beginning in 2022. Sonoma Water and its water contractors have been doing this on a regional basis for many years and each water contractor included this component in their updated Water Shortage Contingency Plans. Sonoma Water has received annual demands for the next two years from the water contractors and are converting the information into a monthly step. Once the monthly demands are approved by the contractors,

Sonoma Water engineering staff will develop a supply assessment, including both hydrologic and regulatory conditions, and share it with the contractors for inclusion in their annual reports to the DWR. The data and report will determine the level of the water shortage plan to implement and the steps needed to achieve it. No public comments.

a. Water Shortage Allocation Methodology Update

Paul Piazza, SCWA. Following approval and recommendation of the updated Water Shortage Allocation Methodology and model by the Water Advisory Committee in September 2021, the Sonoma Water Board of Directors adopted the model update on January 4, 2022. The Board authorized Grant Davis, General Manager, to approve some final, minor work on the model for some Agency customers and the model is anticipated to be complete in a couple of months. Drew McIntyre, NMWD, reminded the group that the allocation methodology wasn't in place last year and, if reduced diversions from the Russian River are required this year, allocations will be based on the approved methodology. No public comment.

11. Sonoma Marin Saving Water Partnership (TAC)

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.)* The Partnership reduced water usage by 23% for the 2021 calendar year compared to 2013. Cumulative Russian River diversions, tracked by Sonoma Water, were down 22.7% compared to 2020. The Temporary Urgency Change Order terminated on December 10, 2021, and the water contractors 22.7% reduction exceeded the State Board's 20% mandated reduction. No public comments.

b. Drought Outreach Messaging

Barry Dugan and Paul Piazza, SCWA. *(Refer to handout.)* The winter campaign continues with "Drought is Here" messaging. Outreach will focus on indoor water savings in February and "Fix a Leak Week" in March. Bilingual messaging includes social media ads, bill inserts and post cards in collaboration with the Partnership. No public comments.

13. TAC Finance Subcommittee Update – FY2022-23 Draft SCWA Water Transmission System Budget

Kimberly Zunino, City of Santa Rosa. *(Refer to handout.)* The subcommittee had it's first meeting last week. Lynne Rosselli, SCWA, reviewed the proposed budget and the subcommittee members posed questions and provided comments. The subcommittee is scheduled to meet again on Thursday, February 10. No public comments.

14. Biological Opinion Status Update

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

Fish Flow Project- Since assumptions in the Draft EIR are no longer accurate, staff is re-running modeling and doing an impact analysis prior to its recirculation.

Dry Creek Habitat Enhancement Project

Construction- There is no construction activity at this time.

Habitat Monitoring and Maintenance- Drone flights were done in October 2021 – before and after the storm event – and follow-up flights were done in January 2022. Some willow planting and invasive plant removal is underway.

Phases IV-VI- Phases IV – VI of the Dry Creek Habitat Enhancement Project are being implemented under a cost-share partnership where the Corps of Engineers covers 65% of the cost and manages the actual construction. Bid documents for Phase IV are

complete and the project is expected to go to construction in Summer 2022. SCWA staff and attorneys are in the final steps of executing right-of-way agreements. 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- Sonoma Water partnered with California Sea Grant to perform spawner surveys in Russian River tributaries to measure progress toward recovery of coho salmon and steelhead populations in the Russian River.

Russian River Estuary Management- The mouth of the Russian River is open and the monitoring season starts in May. Drew McIntyre, NMWD, asked how long the monitoring needs to continue. Pam Jeane, SCWA, replied it will continue through the current Biological Opinion which expires in 2023.

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

No public comments.

15. Potter Valley Project Update

Pam Jeane, SCWA. (*Refer to handouts.*) The Two-Basin Solution Partnership (NOI Parties) submitted an abeyance request to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) in early September for an extension until the end of May 2022. FERC responded on September 23, 2021 and requested the Partnership file a new license application by April 14, 2022, and file status reports in November 2021 and January 31, 2022. Most recently, the Partnership submitted the January status report informing FERC that it would not be filing a license application and had secured funding to work on a non-licensed scenario. FERC is anticipated to request a surrender of license and timeline from PG&E. There was reference to a Press Democrat editorial in the February 6 issue. Drew McIntyre, NMWD, acknowledged the good work by SCWA staff in obtaining State grant funds. Public comments: Mark Millan stated the Press Democrat editorial and other news articles related to the Two-Basin Solution are available on the website: <https://www.twobasinsolution.org/>.

No other public comments.

16. Integrated Regional Water Management Plan(s) Update

Grant Davis, SCWA. The Bay Area region IRWM is managing a \$20 million Advanced Quantitative Precipitation Information (AQPI) radar program to assist with near-term precipitation and better inform emergency management agencies. The Governor's task force on forestry management will likely be in Sonoma County under Chair Gore's invitation to discuss watershed management efforts. No public comments.

17. Items for Next Agenda

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

No public comments.

18. Check Out

Meeting adjourned at 11:03 a.m.