

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

Attendees: 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
Roberta Atha, City of Santa Rosa
Easter Ledesma, City of Santa Rosa

Staff/Alternates: Grant Davis, SCWA
Brad Sherwood, SCWA
Jake Spaulding, SCWA
Lynne Rosselli, SCWA
Don Seymour, SCWA
Jay Jasperse, SCWA
Barry Dugan, SCWA
Paul Piazza, SCWA
Pam Jeane, SCWA
Michael Thompson, SCWA
David Manning, SCWA
Joan Hultberg, SCWA
Peter Martin, City of Santa Rosa
Kimberly Zunino, City of Santa Rosa
Colin Close, City of Santa Rosa
Claire Nordlie, City of Santa Rosa
Elise Howard Miller, City of Santa Rosa
Pat Echols, City of Sonoma
Shannon Cotulla, Town of Windsor
Christopher Bolt, City of Petaluma
Chelsea Thompson, City of Petaluma
Tony Williams, North Marin Water District
Monty Schmitt, Marin Municipal Water District

Public: Paul Selsky, Brown & Caldwell
David Keller, FOER
Brenda Adelman, RRWPC
Bob Anderson, United Wine Growers
Margaret DiGenova, California American Water
Robert Rawson, California River Watch
WOLFEC1

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 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 Matt Fullner, Valley of the Moon Water District, seconded by Jennifer Burke, City of Santa Rosa, 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 eight water contractors. No public comments.

3. Public Comments

Brenda Adelman, RRWPC, asked several questions regarding the purchase of surplus water by NMWD from both SCWA and MMWD, how the TUCP will impact water quality in the lower Russian River, whether reporting was being done on fish migration, temperatures and water levels for human health and what types of analyses are done to justify water availability related to new growth and building. Drew McIntyre, TAC Chair, made note of the questions and stated many would be answered during future agenda items. No other public comments.

4. Approve – FY2022-23 Draft SCWA Water Transmission System Budget

Kimberly Zunino, City of Santa Rosa, and Lynne Rosselli, SCWA. (*Refer to handouts.*) The TAC Ad Hoc Budget Subcommittee, comprised of representatives from Sonoma Water, City of Santa Rosa, City of Cotati, Valley of the Moon Water District, Town of Windsor and North Marin Water District, reviewed the proposed FY 2022-23 Water Transmission budget. The first draft included a 9.99% rate increase for the Santa Rosa and Petaluma Aqueducts and a 9.18% rate increase for the Sonoma Aqueduct. After discussion by the contractors, a decision was made to decrease the discretionary capital charge for the Santa Rosa and Petaluma Aqueducts in addition to other reductions made by Sonoma Water. The final proposed wholesale water rate increase is 6.06% for the Santa Rosa Aqueduct, 6.16% for the Petaluma Aqueduct and 6.52% for the Sonoma Aqueduct. The budget subcommittee is unanimously recommending approval of the proposed budget and rate increase to the Technical Advisory Committee. Lynne Rosselli, SCWA, provided details of the proposed FY2022-23 Water Transmission budget which, if approved, would become effective on July 1, 2022. If the TAC recommends the proposed budget to the WAC, there will be a vote at the April 4, 2022, WAC meeting and the budget will be presented to the Sonoma Water Board of Directors for adoption at the April 19, 2022, meeting.

Moved by Jennifer Burke, City of Santa Rosa, and seconded by Craig Scott, City of Cotati, to recommend the proposed Sonoma Water FY2022-23 Water Transmission budget; unanimously approved by eight water contractors.

Drew McIntyre, TAC Chair, acknowledged the good work by the Budget Subcommittee and the Agency's work to obtain State grants for well rehabilitation and aquifer storage and

recovery projects. Jennifer Burke, City of Santa Rosa, acknowledged the challenging times and thanked the subcommittee and Sonoma Water for developing a budget that can be recommended to policy makers. Grant Davis, SCWA, expressed appreciation for the unanimous support from the TAC. Though he was hopeful for a higher rate increase to fund deferred projects and maintenance, he recognizes the convergence of a potential for a third very dry year and limited sales. He noted that Sonoma Water has the lowest wholesale water rate in the Bay Area and it makes it difficult to keep up with needed projects and repairs. No public comments.

5. Water Supply Conditions and Temporary Urgency Change Order

Don Seymour, SCWA. Storage at Lake Pillsbury is currently approximately 55,000 acre-feet (AF) which is low, but not as low as last year at this time. Without some significant change in storage, there is a strong possibility PG&E will file a variance which will impact transfers into the Russian River watershed this summer. Lake Mendocino is currently just under 43,000 AF which is 10,000 AF greater than last year at this time and is increasing by 45-50 AF per day. Lake Sonoma is currently 148,400 AF which is 7,000 AF less than last year and is decreasing by 110-120 AF per day. Without significant storms in March or April, it's likely the water supply condition will be pretty similar to last year including similar diversion reductions from the Russian River. On March 1, the current Temporary Urgency Change Order (TUCO) put the Russian River watershed in a critical year classification and reduced the minimum instream flow in the upper Russian River from 75 cubic feet per second (cfs) to 25 cfs and in the lower Russian River from 85 cfs to 35 cfs. Sonoma Water anticipates filing another Temporary Urgency Change Petition (TUCP) in late April/early May to replace the current TUCO that expires early June. The new TUCP will be similar to the one filed last May and request the critical classification be kept in place for an additional 180 days or until December 2022.

Drew McIntyre, TAC Chair, referenced prior public comment and asked for information about contractors accessing excess natural flows in the wintertime and the impact on the Agency's ability to operate during the summer months. Don Seymour, SCWA, stated the current flow in the lower Russian River is 100 cfs more than minimum instream flow requirements of 125 cfs in a normal water classification. Sonoma Water encouraged contractors to leverage the winter water supply through local storage and take pressure off the summer demands and flows. Public Comment: David Keller, FOER, referred to information presented at a Russian River drought working session held by the State Board stating Decision 1610 minimum flows in the upper and middle Russian River must be maintained entirely from storage at Lake Mendocino. Don Seymour, SCWA, responded that is one interpretation, but it is a complicated legal question that will be reviewed by the State Board and Sonoma Water's counsel. Brenda Adelman, RRWPC, expressed concern about removing water from the reservoir in the winter while summer supply and conditions are unknown and asked for clarification on "surplus supply." Don Seymour, SCWA, responded water taken by MMWD to maintain storage in its reservoirs and the water taken by NMWD to backfill Lake Stafford was natural flow in the system related to the large October storms and no water was released from either Lake Sonoma or Lake Mendocino. Surplus supply is natural flow above minimum instream flows. Drew McIntyre, NMWD, suggested Ms. Adelman and Don Seymour schedule a one-on-one phone call for responses to other questions. No other public comments.

6. Sonoma Marin Saving Water Partnership

a. Water Production Relative to 2013 Benchmark

Drew McIntyre, TAC Chair (NMWD). (*Refer to handout.*) Water usage is tallied by calendar year and, as of January 2022 (only one month), there is a 21%

reduction compared to the 2013 benchmark. Actual per capita water use has continued to decline over the last 25 years even with an increase in population.
No public comments.

b. Drought Outreach Messaging

Barry Dugan and Paul Piazza, SCWA. (*Refer to handout.*) Bilingual drought messaging continues with a focus on “Fix-a-Leak Week” (3/14 – 3/24), an annual campaign run by the EPA WaterSense program. Messaging occurs via social media, bill inserts and paid advertising and encourages customers to locate and repair leaks. Sonoma Water is hosting a Drought Town Hall on March 10 and further information is available on the Sonoma Water and Sonoma Marin Saving Water Partnership websites. No public comments.

7. Biological Opinion Status Update

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

Fish Flow Project- A lot of new modeling for the Environmental Impact Report is underway due to the change in the Potter Valley Project operation.

Dry Creek Habitat Enhancement Project

Construction- There is no construction activity at this time.

Habitat Monitoring and Maintenance- Environmental staff continue physical and biological surveys on constructed projects and maintained sites. Maintenance was performed at one site related to debris from the October 2021 storms.

Phases IV-VI- The Corps of Engineers is preparing to advertise for construction of Phase IV and construction is planned for Summer 2022 and 2023. 99% design submittals have been completed for Phases V and VI. The additional Phase V site in Reach 5B is in the 60% design Phase.

Fish Monitoring-Steelhead are returning, but numbers are low up and down the coast. The coho salmon spawner season is complete with higher numbers than prior years.

Russian River Estuary Management- A mechanical breach to open the estuary occurred on March 3. The estuary closed again on March 6 and is currently in a closed condition. If the lagoon water surface elevation rises, another mechanical breach may be needed.

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

Drew McIntyre, TAC Chair, asked if Phase IV was a two-year project and if construction would occur at the same time as Phase V. David Manning, SCWA, responded construction would occur in both phases at the same time and usually takes two years to complete. Drew McIntyre, TAC Chair, referenced prior public comment and asked if there is a document that tracks fish monitoring. David Manning, SCWA, replied there are several reports, both State and Federal. He also provided information on the fish monitoring program (Fish Bulletin 180) Sonoma Water performs on behalf of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and grants the Agency has received to fund this program. Public Comment: Brenda Adelman, RRWPC, asked how she can learn about reports and be placed on a distribution list for new reports. David Manning, SCWA, said he can be contacted to receive copies of reports and be added to the distribution lists. No other public comments.

8. Potter Valley Project

Pam Jeane, SCWA. On January 31, the Two Basin Solution Partners informed FERC that a license application will not be submitted in April, when the FERC license expires for the Potter Valley Project, and the project will go to “surrender.” It’s anticipated that FERC will send a notice to PG&E in April to provide a plan and schedule for the surrender process. Completion of the plan will probably take 1-2 years and will also include a plan for decommissioning the facility. Congressman Jared Huffman held an Ad

Hoc meeting regarding the Potter Valley Project on February 14. The Partnership discussed the January 31 filing to FERC regarding its decision to not submit a license application and provided an update on a grant awarded from the Department of Water Resources (DWR). Tasks of the grant include (1) development of a Russian River Water Users Forum including stakeholders who benefit from PVP transfers (2) looking at a change to the PVP diversion facilities from power generation to operating for water supply; and (3) reviewing water supply facilities and water use efficiency in Potter Valley. A fourth task to be performed by SCWA is modeling work on the Russian River in terms of water supply reliability. CalTROUT provided an update to the Ad Hoc on a Ca. Dept. of Fish & Wildlife grant to develop a basin-wide Eel River fish restoration plan. Mike Schonherr from PG&E spoke about the transformer issue at the Potter Valley Project and informed the group that the intention is to replace it and estimates it will take two years. The group discussed whether to continue the Ad Hoc meetings due to current direction and the surrender process and it was decided to continue the meetings as they provide a place for good dialog and communication. No public comments.

9. Items for Next Agenda

- FY2022/23 Water Transmission Budget
- Drought Resiliency Technical Memorandum from Jacobs Engineering

No public comments.

10. Check Out

Meeting adjourned at 10:17 a.m.