

\*FINAL Minutes of Special Water Advisory Committee and Technical Advisory Committee  
Virtual Meeting – No Physical Location  
April 4, 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  
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  
Catherine Noceti, 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  
David Manning, SCWA  
Jake Spaulding, SCWA  
Lynne Rosselli, SCWA  
Cynthia DeLeon, SCWA  
Kris Loomis, SCWA  
Lauren Lum, SCWA  
Andrea Rodriguez, SCWA  
Brian Lee, 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  
Tony Williams, NMWD

Public: Paul Selsky, Brown & Caldwell  
Armin Munevar, Jacobs Engineering  
David Keller, FOER  
Bob Anderson, United Wine Growers  
Margaret DiGenova, California American Water  
Nichole Baxter, California American Water  
Brenda Adelman, Russian River Watershed Protection Committee  
Jim Downey, Penngrove Water Company

1. Check-in

Mike Healy, WAC 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, 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 Susan Harvey, City of Cotati, 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. No public comments.

3. Public Comment

Brenda Adelman, RRWPC, expressed concern about growth in cities and towns and asked what kind of analysis has been done regarding water demands for new buildings. She noted demand hardening and water conservation efforts by current residents. David Keller, FOER, requested a clear statement from Sonoma Water, as the major water supplier, on long-term water supply reliability. He said current General Plans are based on historic river flows which are becoming extremely unlikely in the future.

Grant Davis, SCWA, replied the Agency is watching this extremely closely. All water contractors are updating their Water Shortage Contingency Plans. This is the third year of a drought and the State will be taking corrective actions that will require response.

4. Recap from the February 7, 2022 WAC/TAC Meeting and Approval of Minutes

Moved by Susan Harvey, City of Cotati, seconded by Jon Foreman, Valley of the Moon Water District; unanimously approved. No public comments.

5. Presentation on Draft FY2022-23 SCWA Water Transmission System Budget

Lynne Rosselli, SCWA. (*Refer to handout.*) Ms. Rosselli provided details of the proposed FY2022-23 Water Transmission budget which, if approved, would become effective on July 1, 2022. 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 TAC unanimously recommended approval at its March 7, 2022, meeting. If the WAC approves the proposed budget, it will be presented to

the Sonoma Water Board of Directors for adoption at the April 19, 2022, meeting. Public comment: Brenda Adelman, RRWPC, complimented the work done by the Sonoma Water finance team in working with the water contractors and its fiscal management, and asked that the same assistance be offered to the sanitation districts managed by Sonoma Water. Jim Downey, Penngrove Water Company, asked for clarification about the rate increase for the Sonoma Aqueduct. Lynne Rosselli, SCWA, responded with the total charges to the prime water contractors for the Petaluma (\$1,602/AF) and Sonoma (\$1,220/AF) Aqueducts, which are passed on to the customers.

#### 6. Approve FY2022-23 SCWA Water Transmission System Budget

Drew McIntyre, TAC Chair. (*Refer to handouts.*). Mr. McIntyre thanked the Budget Subcommittee and Sonoma Water staff for their work on the budget and rates. Last year, the Agency deferred some projects in order to offer a lower rate increase. This year, there was a need to restore some funding to ensure the Agency can continue to provide water in a reliable and consistent fashion. Susan Harvey, City of Cotati, expressed appreciation for the hard work by the Budget Subcommittee and Sonoma Water finance team and acknowledged the fine balance between a preferred level of rate increases and ensuring the infrastructure is able to deliver quality water. Mike Healy, WAC Chair, acknowledged the enormous amount of work done by the Budget Subcommittee and Sonoma Water staff to ensure the budget process goes smoothly.

Moved by Susan Harvey, City of Cotati, seconded by Natalie Rogers, City of Santa Rosa, to approve the FY2022-23 SCWA Water Transmission System budget as presented; unanimously approved. No public comments.

#### 7. Water Supply Conditions and Temporary Urgency Change Order

Don Seymour, SCWA. Storage at Lake Mendocino is currently 44,400 acre-feet (AF) which is 7,000 AF more than this time last year and represents 50% of the available water supply pool. Storage at Lake Sonoma is currently 144,500 acre-feet (AF) which is 8,000 AF less than this time last year and represents 59% of the available water supply pool.

The current Temporary Urgency Change Order (TUCO), which provides for the hydrologic year determination to be based on Lake Mendocino instead of Lake Pillsbury, expires in June. Based on storage thresholds at Lake Mendocino, the Russian River watershed is currently in a critical water year type. Minimum instream flows are 25 cubic feet per second (cfs) in the upper Russian River and 35 cfs in the lower Russian River. Sonoma Water is preparing a fifth consecutive Temporary Urgency Change Petition (TUCP) for submittal in late April/early May.

The State Board's emergency regulation regarding the Russian River, that was adopted last June, is still in effect and expires in July 2022. Curtailments of water right permits are currently suspended and the Board is performing a monthly water availability assessment to determine if/when the curtailments need to be put back in place. State Board staff is preparing an emergency regulation that is currently out for public comment. A workshop is scheduled for April 14 with comments due on April 18 and plans to take it to the Board for consideration on May 10.

Public Comment: Brenda Adelman, RRWPC, spoke on how dire water quality becomes in the lower Russian River during a critical water year type and associated reduced flows. She added that using storage threshold at Lake Mendocino seems to lower Russian River flows permanently. No other public comments.

#### 8. State Drought Response Update

Director David Rabbitt. Sonoma Water and the water contractors were thanked for their efforts to meet water conservation efforts last year, having Water Shortage Contingency Plans in place

and working together as a region to address serious challenges. Several water contractors and neighboring municipalities have received funding from the Department of Water Resources (DWR) for projects related to water supply and reliability. Grant Davis, SCWA, noted \$41 million in grant money that was made available by the DWR to Sonoma Water contractors and partners due to water conservation targets that were met and not reflected in other regions of California. Sonoma Water has the lowest wholesale rates in the Bay Area and, at some point, it will be difficult to catch up with deferred projects. He pledged to get the approved and funded projects under contract and completed. No public comments.

9. Water Supply Conditions Public Outreach Messaging

Barry Dugan and Paul Piazza, SCWA. (*Refer to handout.*) The drought outreach campaign has been continuous since January 2021 and constituents continue to heed the call. The first two months of 2022 track nearly 20% less water use. The outreach message has been updated to “Drought is Still Here – Save Water.” The bilingual materials will be promoted through various platforms.

10. Items for Next Agenda

Mike Healy, WAC Chair, stated the May 2, 2022, WAC/TAC meeting will be in-person and located at the City of Santa Rosa Utilities Field Office, 35 Stony Point Road. Drew McIntyre, TAC Chair, said the water supply resiliency study from Jacobs Engineering will be presented at the next meeting. Public Comment: David Keller, FOER, requested an update on the Potter Valley Project.

11. Check Out

Meeting adjourned at 10:05 a.m.