

*DRAFT Minutes of Technical Advisory Committee
Utilities Field Operations (UFO) Training Center
35 Stony Point Road, Santa Rosa, CA
June 6, 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
Cristina Goulart, Town of Windsor
Matt Fullner, Valley of The Moon Water District
Roberta Atha, City of Santa Rosa
Dina Manis, City of Santa Rosa

Staff/Alternates: Brad Sherwood, SCWA
Jake Spaulding, SCWA
Lynne Rosselli, SCWA
Don Seymour, SCWA
Jay Jasperse, SCWA
Barry Dugan, SCWA
Paul Piazza, SCWA
Pam Jeane, SCWA
Peter Martin, City of Santa Rosa
Colin Close, City of Santa Rosa
Shannon Cotulla, Town of Windsor
Chelsea Thompson, City of Petaluma
Vanessa Garrett, City of Rohnert Park
Mike Berger, City of Sonoma

Public: Katie Ruby, Brown and Caldwell
Brenda Adelman, RRWPC
Bob Anderson, United Wine Growers
Margaret DiGenova, California American Water
Nichole Baxter, California American Water
Duane DeWitt

1. Check-in

Jennifer Burke, TAC Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

2. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

3. Water Supply Conditions and Temporary Urgency Change Order

Don Seymour, SCWA. Sonoma Water continues to manage Russian River flows and releases under the December 2021 Temporary Urgency Change Order (TUCO) which expires on June 8, 2022. Minimum instream flows in the upper Russian River are 25 cubic feet per second (cfs) and 35 cfs in the lower Russian River. Flows will increase to 75 cfs in the upper Russian River and 125 cfs in the lower Russian River if there is no new TUCO. A new Temporary Urgency Change Petition (TUCP) was filed on May 25, 2022, requesting a 180-day extension to the TUCO requirements. Filing of the TUCP was delayed due to PG&E's request for a flow variance, requiring re-evaluation by Sonoma Water staff. Lake Mendocino is currently at 50,500 acre-feet (AF) which is 16,000 AF greater than last year at

this time and is gaining 100 AF per day based on natural flow in the system and higher water transfers by PG&E than last year. Lake Sonoma is currently 138,500 AF which is 1,000 AF more than last year and is losing 150 AF per day. The State Board approved new emergency regulations in May related to issuance and enforcement of curtailments on the upper Russian River after natural flows recede – likely starting in July.

Jennifer Burke, TAC Chair, asked if there was any indication of a quick response from the State Board on the TUCP. Don Seymour, SCWA, replied the Board is aware of the timeframe, but have provided no information on a response. Jennifer Burke, TAC Chair, asked about the emergency regulations on curtailments and if the State Board is looking at voluntary agreements. Don Seymour, SCWA, replied the Board is amending the curtailment regulations and developing a water-sharing program between senior and junior water right holders who enroll in the program. He also added that Sonoma Water filed comments with FERC regarding the flow variance filed by PG&E. **Public Comment:** Brenda Adelman, RRWPC, expressed concern about the low flows at Hacienda Bridge and asked why a minimum flow of 35 cfs is still required if Lake Mendocino storage is higher than last year. Don Seymour, SCWA, noted 45 cfs instream flow is above the minimum requirement and stated analyses show Lake Mendocino storage below 30,000 AF by October and storage levels in Lake Sonoma are lower than last year. **No other public comments.**

4. Sonoma Marin Saving Water Partnership

a. Water Production Relative to 2013 Benchmark

Jennifer Burke, TAC Chair. (*Refer to handout.*) Water usage is tallied by calendar year and, as of April 2022, there is a 22% reduction compared to the 2013 benchmark. The partners water usage continues to be significantly below prior years and the last drought. **Public Comment:** Brenda Adelman, RRWPC, expressed confusion over the different calculation methods of water savings, asked why 2013 is still used as the benchmark year and referenced continued growth and her qualms about the analysis of water availability. Jennifer Burke, TAC Chair, replied the 2013 benchmark is a holdover from the State Board benchmark from the last drought and is used for reports, although the partners use a 2020 comparison for this drought. Chair Burke referenced recent analyses showing adequate water availability for additional housing. **No other public comments.**

b. State Water Board Emergency Drought Regulation

Paul Piazza, SCWA. (*Refer to handout.*) The State Board adopted an emergency regulation for urban water conservation on May 24, 2022 in response to Governor Newsom's Executive Order of March 28, 2022. The emergency regulation included three requirements related to submittal of a preliminary water supply and demand assessment by June 1, 2022 and a final version by July 1, 2022, implementation of shortage response actions detailed in adopted water shortage contingency plans for a shortage level up to 20% by June 10, 2022 and a prohibition on use of potable water for irrigation of non-functional turf at commercial, industrial and institutional (CII) sites, with exceptions for continued irrigation of trees and other perennial plants and non-functional turf with a plant factor of 0.3 or less. **No public comments.**

c. Drought Outreach Messaging

Barry Dugan and Paul Piazza, SCWA. (*Refer to handout.*) Bilingual drought messaging ("Drought is STILL Here") continues with a focus on outdoor water use and outreach materials are provided to all partners. The online Eco-Friendly

tour of eleven gardens in several cities and towns had 5,203 views on the day of the tour and more than 7,000 view to date. Sonoma Water will continue hosting monthly Drought Town Halls and there are also plans for a SMSWP Speakers Bureau presenting a call to action to continue water savings. Peter Martin, City of Santa Rosa, asked about communication regarding the CII turf emergency regulation. Paul Piazza, SCWA, replied there is a dedicated page about drought regulations on the SMSWP website and future outreach will be coordinated amongst the partners. **Public Comment:** Brenda Adelman, RRWPC, asked where presentations are available. Barry Dugan, SCWA, replied they can be found on both the SMSWP and Sonoma Water websites. **No other public comments.**

5. **Biological Opinion Status Update**

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

Fish Flow Project- Sonoma Water staff anticipate recirculating the Draft EIR in 2023.

Dry Creek Habitat Enhancement Project

Construction- There is no construction activity at this time although there will be some later this year.

Habitat Monitoring and Maintenance- Environmental staff continue physical and biological surveys using a variety of tools. Field staff recently installed container plantings at existing habitat sites in the Reach 14 area of Dry Creek.

Phases IV-VI- The Corps of Engineers opened construction bids on May 19 and is currently reviewing the five bids received and plans for construction in mid-summer.

Fish Monitoring-Electronic tags are one tool used to monitor fish. They assist with understanding migration patterns and the number and location of smolt and adult salmon and steelhead.

Russian River Estuary Management- The lagoon management season began on May 15, 2022 and Sonoma Water staff started fisheries and water quality monitoring, along with ongoing pinniped monitoring. A link to the 2022 Adaptive Beach Management Plan was included in the attachment.

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

Jennifer Burke, TAC Chair, asked if there was an idea of when in 2023 the Draft EIR would be recirculated. Pam Jeane, SCWA, responded it is unknown at this time. **Public Comment:** Duane DeWitt indicated Roseland Creek is part of the Russian River watershed and asked if the Biological Opinion had looked at the lack of fish in that creek since SCWA re-worked the creek in the past. Pam Jeane, SCWA, replied the Biological Opinion covers areas where Sonoma Water has flood control authority. **No other public comments.**

6. **Potter Valley Project**

Pam Jeane, SCWA. The PG&E variance request was reported on earlier by Don Seymour, SCWA, and Sonoma Water staff is waiting on a decision by FERC related to operation of the Potter Valley Project for the summer. After the Two-Basin Solution decision to not pursue a license, FERC approved a one-year extension for PG&E and gave that agency 60 days to provide a plan and schedule for the license surrender process. FERC also asked PG&E to respond to a March 2022 letter submitted by NMFS requesting interim protective measures to the project operation be implemented during the annual license renewal(s) until the license is surrendered and the project is decommissioned. Jennifer Burke, TAC Chair, noted the WAC Potter Valley Project Ad Hoc that was authorized in 2018 is preparing a comment letter from the WAC supporting

the Sonoma Water comment letter related to the PG&E flow variance request. **No public comments.**

7. **SCWA Government Affairs Update**

Brad Sherwood, SCWA (*Refer to handout.*) Staff summarized lobbying efforts and associated funding requests at both the Federal and State levels. The water bond coalition will be activated to generate funding for the North Coast and Bay Area Integrated Regional Water Management Plans (IRWMP). The ACWA Region 1 meeting will be held in Eureka with a tour of the Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District. A prescribed burn equivalent to approximately 300 acres is scheduled at Lake Sonoma on June 22, 2022. The five-year strategic plan effort for Sonoma Water is underway and 350 community engagement surveys and more than 100 staff responses have been received. SCWA is hosting monthly drought outreach Town Halls in collaboration with SMSWP with the next scheduled for July 7, 2022. As part of infrastructure week, Sonoma Water toured facilities with City of Santa Rosa Mayor Chris Rogers and staff would like to continue the tours with one partner Council Member each month. Jennifer Burke, TAC Chair, asked if Sonoma Water system tours for new members of the WAC and TAC are occurring. Brad Sherwood, SCWA, replied there are plans to re-start the tours but, due to COVID concerns, they are currently restricted to smaller, one-on-one tours for the ability to interact with Sonoma Water technical staff. **Public Comment:** Duane DeWitt said it can be challenging for some members of the public to get information from Sonoma Water by using the internet and asked that other methods of communication be utilized. He referenced an area on McMinn Avenue along Roseland Creek that has become a homeless encampment and is creating pollution in the creek and asked that it be addressed. **No other public comments.**

8. **Items for Next Agenda**

No agenda items were suggested by the TAC members. **Public Comment:** Duane DeWitt, requested discussion about Roseland Creek. Jennifer Burke, TAC Chair, replied the TAC is an advisory committee to Sonoma Water related to the agency's operation of the Russian River system. **No other public comments.**

9. **Check Out**

Jennifer Burke, TAC Chair, recognized Barry Dugan and Jay Jasperse who are both retiring from Sonoma Water in July. She also congratulated Roberta Atha, Administrative Secretary, who is retiring from the City of Santa Rosa in July.

Meeting adjourned at 10:05 a.m.