

*DRAFT Minutes of Technical Advisory Committee
Virtual Meeting – No Physical Location
July 11, 2022

Attendees: Craig Scott, City of Cotati
Dan Herrera, 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
Tony Williams, North Marin Water District
Paul Sellier, Marin Municipal Water District
Easter Ledesma, City of Santa Rosa
Dina Manis, City of Santa Rosa

Staff/Alternates: Grant Davis, SCWA
Jake Spaulding, SCWA
Lynne Rosselli, SCWA
Michael Thompson, SCWA
Barry Dugan, SCWA
Paul Piazza, SCWA
Pam Jeane, SCWA
Andrea Rodriguez, 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
Eric Miller, NMWD
David Manning, Sonoma Water

Public: Brenda Adelman, RRWPC
David Keller, FOER
Joan Hultberg
Rue
Charlie

1. Check-in
Jennifer Burke, TAC 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

Jennifer Burke, TAC Chair, presented. (*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.

No public comments. Moved by Matt Fullner, Valley of the Moon, seconded by Mary Grace Pawson, City of Rohnert Park, 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.

3. **Public Comments**

David Keller, Friends of the Eel River (FOER), announced his retirement after 23-24 years of service between being a member of City of Petaluma City Council and as a current member of Friends of the Eel River. Jennifer Burke, TAC Chair, congratulated Mr. Keller on his retirement and thanked him for his service. Grant Davis, Sonoma Water (SCWA), commented on Mr. Keller's years of service and showed appreciate for his years of service and legacy.

4. **Recap from the June 6, 2022, TAC Meeting and Approval of Minutes**

No public comments. Moved by Craig Scott, City of Cotati, seconded by Matt Wargula, City of Sonoma. Unanimously approved by eight water contractors.

5. **Water Supply Conditions and Temporary Urgency Change Order**

Pam Jeane, SCWA, presented. The Temporary Urgency Change Order (TUCO) was signed on June 17, 2022, and will run into December, and includes the requirement to reduce diversions from the Russian River by 20% compared to 2020, effective July 1 through end of October. Minimum instream flow in main stem (upper reach of river, Healdsburg to Ukiah, and down-stream of the confluence with Dry Creek to the ocean) have been set to critical conditions which is 25 cubic feet per second (cfs) in the upper river, 35 cfs in the lower river. The TUCO does not change the minimum instream flow in Dry Creek, currently at normal condition, which is 80 cfs.

Water Supply Conditions – Lake Mendocino has 50,600 acre-feet (af) in the reservoir which is 20,000 af greater than last year. The increase is partly due to PG&E not implementing a variance for the Potter Valley project that they requested. Lake Sonoma is currently at 129,000 af, which is same as last year. Projections show we should be able to stay above 100,000 af in Lake Sonoma through approximately November. Paul Sellier, Marin Municipal Water District (MMWD), asked if there is any flexibility on the Dry Creek releases. Pam Jeane, SCWA, responded that the 80 cfs minimum flow must be met. Paul Sellier, MMWD, asked if there is possibility of relief based on the TUCO. Pam Jeane, SCWA, responded that there could be relief in the future, but it was not requested in the TUCO this year. **Public Comment:** Brenda Adelman, Russian River Watershed Protection Committee (RRWPC), expressed concern that the State did not accommodate any requests for the lower river; about low flows and resulting bio-concentration of toxins and nutrients for those downstream; suggesting that flushing of the river could help water quality and recreation issues; and about how the 20% reduction in diversions over 2020 is calculated, and reliance on the Urban Water Management Plans that are based on calculations rather than water sales data. Pam Jeane, SCWA, responded for clarification that 35 cfs is the lower flow minimum, that the TUCO was issued before the State had everyone's comments, and that they could possibly amend the TUCO based on comments received; there is not a meaningful, controllable way to facilitate ramping up for weekend flows; and the TUCO requires 20% reduction in the diversion at the Russian River compared to 2020 water data. Jennifer Burke, TAC Chair noted that the comparison is 2020 water usage data, not based on Urban Water Management Plans' projections. **No other public comments.**

6. **Water Shortage Allocations (Attachment)**

Paul Piazza, SCWA, presented. (*Refer to handout.*) Term 12 of the TUCO requires that contractors meet a 20% diversion reduction July through October 2022. Jennifer Burke expressed gratitude to the TAC members in coming to agreement on the water shortage allocation methodology last year so it could be used this year. **No public comments.**

7. Sonoma Marin Saving Water Partnership

a. Water Production Relative to 2013 Benchmark

Jennifer Burke, TAC Chair, presented. (*Refer to handout.*) Water usage continues to be tracked based on 2013 benchmark, and conservation efforts are significant. There is a 24% reduction compared to the 2013 benchmark. **No public comments.**

b. State Water Board Emergency Drought Regulation

Paul Piazza, SCWA, presented. (*Refer to handout.*)

A new requirement of the California Water Code requires urban water suppliers to conduct an annual water supply and demand assessment (AWSDA) starting July 1, 2022, to evaluate water supply reliability for the current year and one subsequent dry year. It considers “unconstrained” demand (normal year demand) against current year supply. **Public Comment:** David Keller, FOER, asked if SCWA’s current water rights for 76,000 acre-feet per year (afy) from the Russian River would be considered by the State Water Board under the “use it or lose it” premise. Pam Jeane, SCWA, responded that SCWA is not having active negotiations with the State Water Board regarding their current water rights for 75,000 afy. David Keller, FOER, also asked for confirmation that the 2040 projections water demands are for 75,000 af. Grant Davis, SCWA, responded that it is a long way off, but the projections have been well-vetted.

c. Drought Outreach Messaging

Barry Dugan and Paul Piazza, SCWA, presented. (*Refer to handout.*)

Barry Dugan introduced Andrea Rodriguez as his successor upon his retirement today; the Summer Outreach Campaign (July through September) continues in both English and Spanish.

Paul Piazza, SCWA, presented on the Regional Drought Pop-up Events in Santa Rosa, Healdsburg, Petaluma, Sonoma, VOMWD and Marin County and encouraged all to participate on August 20, and other events throughout the summer; and reviewed the Zero Waste Week efforts and how homeowners can address irrigation leaks at their homes. Look for the webinar on Tuesday, July 26.

Andrea Rodriguez, SCWA, presented on the upcoming, bilingual Drought Virtual Town Halls with different drought themes on August 4, September 1, October 6, and November 3. Records and presentations will be available post meeting. **No public comments.** Jennifer Burke expressed gratitude to Barry Dugan regarding his years of service.

8. Biological Opinion Status Update

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

Fish Flow Project- no changes.

Dry Creek Habitat Enhancement Project

Construction- Currently there is no construction activity at this time although there will be next month.

Habitat Monitoring and Maintenance- There is continued data collection and referred to handout for additional detail.

Phases IV-VI- The Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) is implementing the projects and preparing to get the contractor on site now that contractor has been selected. The long-term terrestrial vegetation surveys have also commenced. A groundbreaking ceremony will be held in August.

Phase V – The 99% design has been submitted and the Corps is conducting their quality control review. Upon completion of review, the Corps will advertise this fall for 2023 construction.

Phase VI is not expected to begin construction until 2024 but SCWA continues working with property owners on access routes, staging areas, and right of way compensation offers.

Phase V – Reach 5B is in the 60% design phase. SCWA is coordinating with design consultants to design a drainage crossing (see handout for photos) for site access.

Public Outreach – Sonoma Water is planning a Dry Creek meeting tentatively in August.

Fish Monitoring- Monitoring continues and has expanded due to the ongoing drought. Monitoring aimed at documenting effects on fish population and their habitat, includes fish populations at 5 sites; water quality at 23 sites (not including USGS gage sites); and physical conditions at 8 sites. Findings will be reported to the State on a weekly basis.

Russian River Estuary Management- Currently in the lagoon management season which runs into October, and Sonoma Water staff continues to monitor fish, pinnipeds, and water quality, along with conducting topographic surveys.

Interim Flow Changes were spoken about under Item 5.

Jennifer Burke, TAC Chair, commented on the range of the construction bids. Pam Jeane, SCWA, acknowledged this point and spoke briefly on the selected contractor.

Public Comment: Brenda Adelman, RRWPC posed questions related to rehabilitation work on Dry Creek, based on her understanding was to slow the flow, which would allow higher releases and asked if there is any information on the changes or outcome of the work; noted that the Biological Opinion term is through September 2023 and asked if it would be renewed; and asked where the 8 USGS monitoring sites were located. Grant Davis, SCWA, explained the Dry Creek enhancement projects are intended to create habitat off the main stem that would slow the water down. Pam Jeane, SCWA, responded to the questions related to the USGS monitoring stations and that those locations can be found at the USGS website. Pam Jeane, SWCA, confirmed the Biological Opinion is set to expire in September 2023, and the biological assessment which leads to the next biological opinion will be included in future updates for TAC and WAC. **No other public comments.**

9. Potter Valley Project

Pam Jeane, SCWA, presented. Sonoma Water staff is waiting on a decision from FERC (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission) related to PG&E's flow variance request. The license for the Potter Valley Project expired in April 2022. PG&E is currently operating under an annual license. The project is currently in a surrender process and PG&E must provide a plan and a schedule for the surrender process to FERC and must submit a response to the March 2022 letter submitted by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). Sonoma Water is also working on 3 contracts funded by a Department of Water Resources grant for the Russian River reliability work. These contracts are in various stages of the selection process.

Jennifer Burke, TAC Chair, announced that during the meeting the plan and schedule had been submitted to FERC by PG&E, but not the response to the NMFS letter. **Public Comment:** David Keller, FOER, also noted that the FERC filing from PG&E came in during this meeting; indicated the surrender plan and decommissioning is 30 months from the date that FERC accepts the proposed plan and schedule; expressed desire for the process to move faster; and expressed concerns about Lake Pillsbury retaining storage necessary for NMFS recommendation of 30,000 af of storage for fisheries purposes. **No other public comments.**

10. **Items for Next Agenda**

No agenda items were suggested by the TAC members other than the recommendation to track 20% diversions with Sonoma Water. **No public comments.**

11. **Check Out**

Jennifer Burke, TAC Chair, adjourned at 10:29 a.m.