

*FINAL Minutes of Water Advisory Committee and Technical Advisory
Committee Utilities Field Operations (UFO Training Center
35 Stony Point Road, Santa Rosa, CA
May 2, 2022

Attendees: Susan Harvey, City of Cotati
Mike Healy, City of Petaluma
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
Jake Spaulding, SCWA
Kimberly Zunino, City of Santa Rosa
Peter Martin, City of Santa Rosa
Mike Berger, City of Sonoma
Shannon Cotulla, Town of Windsor
James Grossi, North Marin Water District Director
Tony Williams, NMWD

Public: Armin Munevar, Jacobs Engineering
Brenda Adelman, RRWPC
David Keller, FOER
Bob Anderson, United Wine Growers
Margaret DiGenova, California American Water
Tony Lopes, Forestville Water District
William Mellana, Lawndale Mutual Water Company
Dick Dowd
Glen Wright
Mike Thyson

1. Check-in

Mike Healy, WAC Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

2. Public Comment

No public comments.

3. Recap from the April 4, 2022 WAC/TAC Meeting and Approval of Minutes

Moved by Susan Harvey, City of Cotati, seconded by Jack Ding, City of Sonoma; unanimously approved (City of Rohnert Park absent). **No public comments.**

4. Recap from the March 7, 2022 TAC Meeting and Approval of Minutes

Moved by Jennifer Burke, City of Santa Rosa, seconded by Matt Fullner, Valley of the Moon Water District; unanimously approved. **No public comments.**

5. Water Supply Coordination Council – April 18, 2022

Mike Healy, WAC Chair. The Water Supply Coordination Council met April 18, 2022 and created the agenda for today's WAC/TAC meeting. **No public comments.**

6. Water Supply Conditions and Temporary Urgency Change Order

Don Seymour, SCWA. Storage at Lake Pillsbury is currently 62,000 acre-feet (AF) which is 20,000 AF higher than last year at this time. PG&E will likely file a variance with FERC, but reductions of import of Eel River water into the Russian River watershed should be less severe. Lake Mendocino is currently 47,000 AF which is 12,000 AF higher than last year. Lake Sonoma is currently 7,000 AF lower than last year, but the rate of decline is much less and staff anticipates storage will match last year's levels in approximately 6 – 7 weeks, leading to a similar 20% reduction in diversions and implementation of the water shortage allocation model. Sonoma Water continues to manage the system under the Temporary Urgency Change Order (TUCO) issued last December which establishes a "critical" water supply condition and releases of 25 cubic feet per second (cfs) in the upper Russian River and 35 cfs in the lower Russian River. The TUCO expires on June 7. If nothing is done, the water supply condition would change to "normal" and require releases of 75 cfs in the upper Russian River and 125 cfs in the lower Russian River. This would create a 50 cfs delta and require really high releases from Lake Sonoma which would accelerate depletion of storage and cause SCWA to be out of compliance with the incident take statement for Dry Creek. Sonoma Water plans to submit a Temporary Urgency Change Petition (TUCP) in order to maintain water supply conditions and releases for the upper and lower Russian River. Staff will request flow releases based on PG&E plans for the Potter Valley Project (PVP) and hydrologic conditions.

State Board staff will take new emergency regulations to their Board on May 10 since the current emergency regulations for the Russian River watershed expire in mid-July. Sonoma Water staff anticipates curtailments will be based on a priority system of water rights and the availability of water related to PG&E plans for the PVP.

Drew McIntyre, NMWD, asked when PG&E is expected to file a variance with FERC. Don Seymour, SCWA, replied PG&E is in consultation with several groups and still assessing storage. If a variance is requested, approval will be in July (at the earliest). Drew McIntyre, NMWD, asked for additional information on Lake Sonoma storage. Don Seymour, SCWA, explained last year the TUCO was initially only for the upper Russian River with a second TUCO in the Spring that reduced releases on the lower Russian River, so overall, releases are less than last year. **No public comments.**

7. Accept – Regional Water Supply Resiliency Study – 2021-2022 Drought Resiliency Analysis TM

Jay Jasperse, SCWA, and Armin Munevar, Jacobs Engineering. (*Refer to handouts.*) 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). Armin Munevar, Jacobs Engineering, reviewed data sets used to develop 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 watershed is experiencing a three-year drought with warming conditions for the first time and the same trend is anticipated for future years. Simulation results show a combination of near-term options and conservation should allow the region to survive a third drought year. Jay Jasperse, SCWA, said the Technical Memorandum will be folded into the full report and the next focus will be on seismic resiliency

Mike Healy, WAC Chair, asked if population increases were included in the demand analyses. Armin Munevar, Jacobs Engineering, said data was based on the 2020 Urban Water Management Plans. Susan Harvey, City of Cotati, asked if the recommended increase in groundwater production worked together with the groundwater sustainability plans. Jay Jasperse, SCWA, replied the two are very much in sync and Russian River water can also be used to recharge the aquifers. Mary Grace Pawson, City of Rohnert Park, asked for clarity on winter water diversion and if that would be within current water rights or if additional water rights would be created. Jay Jasperse, SCWA, replied diversions would be within current water rights and supplemented with natural flow. Drew McIntyre, NMWD, asked how long-term projects such as more robust aquifer storage and recovery would be developed and if further studies would be needed. Jay Jasperse, SCWA, responded that Sonoma Water and Valley of the Moon Water District have current projects and there will be regional coordination and a possible credit for “carryover” if water is banked, though additional studies will assess viability. Grant Davis, SCWA, thanked Jay Jasperse (who is retiring soon) for his years of service and innovative work with consultants to identify regional coordination that will get the watershed through current and future challenges. **Public Comment:** Brenda Adelman, RRWPC, asked if the study considers impacts, both quantity and quality, to the lower Russian River. Jay Jasperse, SCWA, replied they are imbedded in the analyses. David Keller, FOER, asked when the initial report will be available. Jay Jasperse, SCWA, responded it will be posted on the Sonoma Water website today. **No other public comments.**

Moved by Jon Foreman, Valley of the Moon Water District, seconded by Susan Harvey, City of Cotati, to accept the Regional Water Supply Resiliency Study – 2021-22 Drought Resiliency Analysis TM; unanimously approved.

8. Sonoma Marin Saving Water Partnership (TAC)

a. 2022 Water Production Relative to 2013 Benchmark

Drew McIntyre, North Marin Water District. (*Refer to handout.*) The Partnership reduced water usage by 17% for the 2022 calendar year to date compared to the 2013 benchmark. Cumulative Russian River diversions versus 2020 will be reported beginning in late July/early August. **No public comments.**

b. Drought Outreach Messaging

Barry Dugan and Paul Piazza, SCWA. (*Refer to handout.*) The Sonoma Marin Saving Water Partnership (SMSWP) spring campaign has been slightly modified to show “Drought is STILL Here.” Bilingual outreach materials are regularly distributed to all members of the partnership. Outreach will focus on “Make a Change to Save Water” and

messaging includes social media ads, bill inserts, streaming with Comcast, print and digital ads in the Press Democrat, and a presence at public events. Jennifer Burke, City of Santa Rosa, noted that Barry Dugan may be retiring soon and expressed thanks for his work with the Partnership and the City. Jack Ding, City of Sonoma and Director David Rabbitt also expressed their thanks and appreciation. **No public comments.**

c. Eco-Friendly Garden Tour – May 14th

Paul Piazza, SCWA. (*Refer to handout.*) The annual event will be a virtual, online tour with quality digital videos. There is one opportunity to visit a site in-person at Homegrown Habitats in Novato. Registration is free at www.savingwaterpartnership.org with the event beginning at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, May 14. **No public comments.**

9. Election of TAC Chair and Vice Chair

Drew McIntyre, TAC Chair. (*Refer to handout.*) Moved by Mary Grace Pawson, City of Rohnert Park, seconded by Cristina Goulart, Town of Windsor, to elect Jennifer Burke, City of Santa Rosa, as TAC Chair and Matt Fullner, Valley of the Moon Water District, as TAC Vice Chair for the remainder of the current two-year term; unanimously approved. **No public comments.**

10. Biological Opinion Status Update

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

Fish Flow Project- SCWA staff continues work on the EIR for the project and anticipates recirculation of the Draft EIR in 2023.

Dry Creek Habitat Enhancement Project

Construction- There is no construction activity at the project sites at this time.

Habitat Monitoring and Maintenance- SCWA environmental staff continue physical and biological surveys and Sonoma Water field crews have performed some maintenance work.

Phases IV-VI- These Phases of the Dry Creek Habitat Enhancement Project are being implemented under a cost-share partnership where the Corps of Engineers and Phase IV is currently out for bid. SCWA staff and attorneys are in the final steps of executing right-of-way agreements and construction should start this summer. 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- SCWA staff started operation of the downstream migrant fish traps that are used through June of each year to capture fish on their way to the ocean.

Russian River Estuary Management- The mouth of the Russian River has closed several times this year and is currently closed. The lagoon management season and associated monitoring begins on May 15.

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

Drew McIntyre, NMWD, asked about the upcoming Public Policy Facilitating Committee (PPFC) meeting. Pam Jeane, SCWA, responded the virtual meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 4 at 2:00 p.m. The annual meeting provides updates for the public and elected officials regarding the biological opinion, which expires in 2023, and the biological assessment that is currently underway. **No public comments.**

11. Potter Valley Project Update

Pam Jeane, SCWA. The license for the Potter Valley Project officially expired on April 15. FERC has issued an annual license for continued operation and this process is expected to continue until the disposition of the project is complete. SCWA staff anticipates a letter from FERC to PG&E requesting a plan for surrender of its license which will likely take a couple of years and include studies and stakeholder outreach. There is a possibility of a variance being filed regarding operations at the project. Sonoma Water obtained a grant from the Department of

Water Resources (DWR) that covers three main scopes of work to continue its due diligence related to the project and Sonoma Water will be reviewing submittals and selecting consultants. Sonoma Water is still interested in seeing a two-basin solution move forward including restoration of Eel River fisheries as well as a transfer of water through the project for water supply purposes. **Public comments:** David Keller, FOER, stated that several entities filed a 60-day notice under the Federal Endangered Species Act to address deficiencies regarding salmon and steelhead takes happening at the fish ladder and diversion facility that are not covered under the license. **No other public comments.**

12. SCWA Government Affairs Update

Brad Sherwood, SCWA. (*Refer to handout.*) The quarterly updates are intended to improve transparency between Sonoma Water, its WAC and TAC members and the community. Staff summarized lobbying efforts and associated funding requests at both the Federal and State levels. Interested parties will begin receiving direct links (via e-mail) to relevant staff reports at Board of Supervisors meetings. The five-year strategic plan effort for Sonoma Water is underway and input is requested via an online survey and a link will be sent to interested parties. SCWA will host monthly Town Halls beginning May 26 to provide drought updates. One water contractor is being invited to each virtual weekly internal staff meeting in an effort to increase/improve communication. Lake Sonoma will have two prescribed burns of nearly 600 acres in June and in the Fall. The American Society of Civil Engineers recently awarded the Lake Mendocino Forecast Informed Reservoir Operations project as the top water project of the year. Jennifer Burke, Santa Rosa Water, asked for the time of the Town Hall meeting and that information on the prescribed burns be shared with regional Emergency Operation Center (EOC) managers so they are aware. Brad Sherwood, SCWA, said the Town Hall meetings are scheduled from 4:00 – 5:30 p.m. **No public comments.**

13. Integrated Regional Water Management Plan(s) Update

Grant Davis, SCWA. The North Coast Resource Partnership has arranged for the Governor's Fire Resiliency Task Force to meet at the Sonoma County Fairgrounds this week to discuss watershed management efforts. Sonoma Water is the fiscal agent for the Bay Area region IRWM Advanced Quantitative Precipitation Information (AQPI) radar program. Drew McIntyre, NMWD, asked for a recap of the tangible benefits of the radar installations. Grant Davis, SCWA, explained the program provides granular data for rain and storms and allows the ability to formulate responses and emergency preparedness. **No public comments.**

14. Items for Next Agenda

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

15. Proclamation for Drew McIntyre

Mike Healy, WAC Chair, read a Proclamation in honor of Drew McIntyre who is retiring in early May. The proclamation recognized his achievements both in his 24-year career with the North Marin Water District and as TAC Chair for the last five years.

16. Check Out

Meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m.