

*DRAFT Minutes of Technical Advisory Committee
Virtual Meeting – No Physical Location
September 12, 2022

Attendees: Craig Scott, City of Cotati
Dan Herrera, City of Petaluma
Vanessa Garrett, City of Rohnert Park
Jennifer Burke, City of Santa Rosa
Matt Wargula, City of Sonoma
Tony Williams, North Marin Water District
Cristina Goulart, Town of Windsor
Matt Fullner, Valley of The Moon Water District
Paul Sellier, Marin Municipal Water District
Dina Manis City of Santa Rosa
Easter Ledesma, City of Santa Rosa

Staff/Alternates: Grant Davis, SCWA
Pam Jeane, SCWA
Don Seymour, SCWA
David Royall, SCWA
Paul Piazza, SCWA
Brad Sherwood, SCWA
Jake Spaulding, SCWA
Lynne Rosselli, SCWA
Mike Berger, City of Sonoma
Peter Martin, City of Santa Rosa

Public: Bill Keene
Bob Anderson
Brenda Adelman
Charlie Schneider
Emma Walton
Sandi Potter
Administrator NMWD

1. Check-in
Jennifer Burke, TAC Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:00 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. (*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, 2021. The Governor signed AB361 on September 16, 2021, 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 City of Cotati seconded by 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 by all eight water contractors.

3. Public Comments

Bill Keene, Sonoma Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA), representing Santa Rosa Plain, Petaluma Valley, and Sonoma Valley commented the GSA is interested in partnering with Sonoma Water and water contractors on conservation efforts in more rural areas.

Chair Burke acknowledge the comments and noted that the topic will come back at a future meeting.

No other comments.

4. Water Supply Conditions and Temporary Urgency Change Order (TUCO) Update

Don Seymour, SCWA, presented. Lake Mendocino is at 43,400 acre-feet (AF), with a release of approximately 90 cubic feet per second (cfs). Last year at this time the reservoir was at 17,700 AF. Lake Sonoma is at 114,400 AF with a release of 105 cfs and last year it was at 113,300 AF.

At the end of July, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) issued an order approving PG&E's May flow variance request, authorizing PG&E to reduce transfers to the east branch of Russian River to between 5-25 cfs. PG&E is currently releasing 5 cfs, plus an amount requested by the Potter Valley Irrigation District. Since the order was issued PG&E has been hosting drought working group meetings with stakeholders and resource agencies to provide storage projections under different transfer scenarios and results of temperature monitoring. The drought working group needs to unanimously approve increasing the transfer from 5 cfs up to 25 cfs. To date, the resource agencies have not agreed to the increase.

Since the temporary change petition was approved in May, Sonoma Water has been managing the Russian River under critical water supply conditions with a minimum instream flow requirement of 25 cfs in the upper river (upper reach of river, Healdsburg to Ukiah) and 35 cfs in the lower river (down-stream of the confluence with Dry Creek to the ocean) , , and complying with the monitoring and reporting requirements of the TUCO. The TUCO expires December 13, 2022, and it is anticipated that Sonoma Water will file another petition to base the hydrologic index on storage in Lake Mendocino instead of cumulative inflow into Lake Pillsbury.

Chair Burke asked Don Seymour regarding Lake Sonoma storage projections and staying above the 100,000 AF mark by November. Don Seymour concurred that conditions are on track for that but if dry conditions persist, the storage will dip under 100,000 by early 2023.

Craig Scott, City of Cotati, asked if there is an idea what the long-range forecast is for the remainder of the year. Don Seymour responded that La Niña is expected, but long-term forecasting is unreliable so it is unclear if it will be a wet or dry winter.

No public comments.

5. Sonoma Marin Saving Water Partnership

a. 2022 Water Production Relative to 2013 Benchmark and TUCO Cumulative Russian River Diversion Reductions Relative to 2020 Benchmark

Jennifer Burke, TAC Chair, presented. (*Refer to handout.*) Chair Burke noted that the region continues to a great job reducing water usage. July water usage was 36% below 2013 benchmark year and year-to-date usage was 27% below the 2013 benchmark year. Cumulative Russian River diversions are down 30.2% compared to 2020.

Public Comments:

Brenda Adelman asked if/when population increases are tracked to throw in as a comparison. While a good job of saving water so far, concerns about population increase will get to the point of cancelling out the savings. Chair Burke responded that population data is provided by the State annually and is considered/applied in the data provided.

Cristina Goulart, Town of Windsor, suggested tracking total water use and that may meet Brenda Adelman's request.

b. Drought Outreach Messaging

Paul Piazza and Andrea Rodriguez, SCWA, presented. (*Refer to handout.*) The regular summer drought campaign continues. Current messaging includes information on drip systems, tree care during drought, graywater systems, rainwater harvesting, and picking WaterSmart Plants. Current advertising and outreach efforts include streaming, print and digital ads, videos, social media, and radio. Saving Water Summer Pop-Up Events were successfully held on Saturday August 20, 2022, at Garrett Ace Hardware Healdsburg, Friedman's Petaluma, Friedman's Sonoma with Valley of the Moon Water District and City of Sonoma staff, Pini Hardware Novato, Sloat Garden Center Mill Valley, and Friedman's Santa Rosa. Upcoming Pop-Up event dates and locations can be found at: SavingWaterPartnership.org/PopUps. Drought Town Halls are scheduled the first Thursday of every month at 4pm, with upcoming dates on October 6 and November 3. If you have a topic you would like to present or hear about, please reach out to Andrea or Paul.

Chair Burke stated that at the Santa Rosa event over 600 water savings kits were distributed.

No public comments.

6. Sonoma Aqueduct Emergency Repair

David Royall, SCWA, presented. (*Refer to handout.*) SCWA is actively working on a repair at the Sonoma Aqueduct at Verano Avenue Bridge. County TPW Structural Engineers assessed and confirmed the bridge was sound. The dewatering phase is currently under way and will be followed by valve installation and then replacement of the leaking pipe. .

No public comments.

7. Biological Opinion Status Update

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

Fish Flow Project – No changes from the last presentation. SCWA continues modeling for the project in anticipation of recirculation of the draft EIR.

Dry Creek Habitat Enhancement Project – The Army Corps of Engineers (The Corps) started construction at Reach 13 (phase IV of the Project) on August 1, 2022. On August 16, 2022, SCWA was on site for a groundbreaking, and noted that progress is moving quickly.

Habitat Monitoring and Maintenance – Environmental staff continue physical and biological surveys using a variety of tools.

Phases IV-VI – The first portion of Phase IV is under construction. The Phase V design report has been submitted and the Corps and SCWA have completed the required District Quality Control review and provided comments. That project will begin construction in 2023. The Phase VI project is planned to begin in 2024.

SCWA staff is working on initial right-of-way with regards to the Phase VI work.

The additional Phase V site in Reach 5B is in the 60% design Phase.

Public Outreach – SCWA held an update meeting with the Dry Creek Valley Association Board Members on August 17, 2022.

Fish Monitoring – SCWA staff are sampling and monitoring at newly constructed habitat in Dry Creek to determine if young salmon and steelhead are using the habitat. SCWA is also monitoring aimed at documenting the effects of drought conditions on fish populations and their habitat in the main stem of the Russian River and Russian River Estuary. This monitoring 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 – The lagoon management season is from May 15th through October 15th and continues monitoring fisheries, pinniped, and water quality, along with beach topographic survey.

Interim Flow Changes – were spoken about under Item 5.

Chair Burke noted that she attended a tour of the construction currently occurring on phase IV of the habitat enhancement project and was impressed by the progress.

Public Comments: Charlie Schneider asked who he could be in touch with to discuss upper main stem fishery monitoring. Pam Jeane responded that Greg Horton would be the best person to contact.

8. Potter Valley Project –

Pam Jeane, SCWA, presented. PG&E received approval from FERC on their surrender plan which will occur over a 30-month period. They will prepare a final surrender application and decommissioning plan. No details have been provided on their public outreach plan.

SCWA has a grant from the State for three projects related to Potter Valley - the Russian River Water Users Forum, an assessment of the Potter Valley Project facilities, specifically those that move water between the Eel and Russian Rivers, and water supply reliability analysis. Contracts for these projects should be executed and start soon.

Chair Burke asked if the Congressman Huffman Ad-Hoc has met to discuss on how they may work with Congressman Thompson with the jurisdictions changing as of January 2023 which will move part of the Potter Valley Project into Thompson's district. Pam Jeane is not aware of any scheduled meetings currently and no future Huffman Ad-Hoc meeting has been scheduled at this time.

No public comments.

9. SCWA Government Affairs Update

Brad Sherwood, SCWA, presented and reported two big milestones from its advocacy in Washington DC. The Senate Committee appropriated \$1m in funding for the Seasonal-to-Sub Seasonal Forecasting Pilot Program which includes research on improving precipitation forecasts for water management, potentially forecasting precipitation 4-12 months out. The other milestone is the Advanced Quantitative Precipitation Information (AQPI) for the operations and maintenance of radar units throughout the Bay Area to enable better forecasting of extreme precipitation events. SCWA continues to advocate for a Continuing Resolution bill for on-going programs for sustained funding like the Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery Fund, Forecast Information Reservoir Operations (FIRO), and continued work at Lake Mendocino and throughout the state to support FIRO. The Governor signed a bill securing State funding investment in FIRO that included \$10m to support forecasting research. It also provides \$1m for AQPI funding. SCWA continues to work with Department of Water Resources (DWR) on efforts to double their investment in the turf removal rebate programs. SCWA continues to offer facility tours to partnering agencies.

No public comments.

10. Items for Next Agenda

Jennifer Burke, TAC Chair, mentioned the possibility for a presentation on the tank recoat item. No other items were suggested.

No public comments.

11. Check Out

Meeting adjourned at 10:10 a.m.