

*FINAL Minutes of Water Advisory Committee and Technical Advisory Committee
Utilities Field Operations (UFO) Training Center
35 Stony Point Road
August 1, 2022

Attendees: Susan Harvey, City of Cotati
Mike Healy, City of Petaluma
Tom Schwedhelm, 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
Dan Herrera, City of Petaluma
Mary Grace Pawson, City of Rohnert Park
Jennifer Burke, City of Santa Rosa
Tony Williams, North Marin Water District
Mike Berger, City of Sonoma
Cristina Goulart, Town of Windsor
Matt Fullner, Valley of The Moon Water District
Lucy Croy, Marin Municipal Water District
Dina Manis, City of Santa Rosa
Easter Ledesma, City of Santa Rosa

Staff/Alternates: Andrea Rodriguez, SCWA
Dale Roberts, SCWA
Lynne Rosselli, SCWA
Paul Piazza, SCWA
Pam Jeane, SCWA
Joan Hultberg, SCWA
Mike Thompson, SCWA
Peter Martin, City of Santa Rosa
Colin Close, City of Santa Rosa

Public: Brenda Adelman, RRWP
Bob Anderson

1. Check-in
Mike Healy, WAC Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m.
2. Public Comments
No public comments.
3. Recap from May 2, 2022 WAC/TAC Meeting and Approval of Minutes
Moved by Susan Harvey, City of Cotati, seconded by Jack Ding, City of Sonoma. **No public comments.** Unanimously approved with City of Santa Rosa abstaining from vote.

4. Recap from the July 12, 2022 TAC Meeting and Approval of Minutes (TAC)
Moved by Matt Fullner, Valley of the Moon, seconded by Tony Williams, North Marin Water District. **No public comments.** Unanimously approved.
5. Water Supply Coordination Council
Mike Healy, WAC Chair, presented. The Water Supply Coordination Council met on July 18, 2022 and created the agenda for today's WAC/TAC meeting. **No public comments.**
6. Water Supply Conditions and Temporary Urgency Change Order (TUCO)
Pam Jeane, SCWA, presented. Lake Mendocino is at 49,700 acre-feet (af), which is better condition than last year at this time. However, due to the change in the Potter Valley Project last Thursday, that condition will deteriorate over time. PG&E filed a variance, and it was approved last week. The minimum flow requirement at East Fork (Potter Valley Project from the powerhouse) is now 5 cubic feet per second (cfs) and was previously at 75 cfs range before last Thursday. Last year the State Water Board curtailed water rights on the Russian River based on hydrologic conditions. This year they have an emergency regulation in place, due to the drought, for the water sharing agreement amongst water users in the Russian River watershed and it has been in place for a month and a half. The water sharing agreement allows for senior water rights holders to share water with less senior water right holders. This unique agreement only works if water is available to share. The State Water Board will update their curtailment notices and refer permit and license holders to their website to frequently check those statuses as water rights holders will likely be curtailed. Lake Sonoma is at about 124,500 af this morning. Flow at Hacienda Bridge is 52 cfs, and the minimum flow requirement is 35 cfs, and at Healdsburg it is at 30 cfs with minimum of 25 cfs. Matt Fuller, Valley of the Moon Water District, asked if there is any indication from PG&E that they will exceed the 5 cfs minimum flow requirement. Pam Jeane, SCWA, responded that they will most likely hit that mark but may see more flow into the lake and we often see return flow from irrigation operations up there. Mike Healy, WAC Chair, asked if 5-10 cfs is coming into Lake Mendocino, what is being released at Lake Mendocino. Pam Jeane, SCWA, responded that as of this morning 82 cfs is being released in order to meet that 30 cfs we are seeing in Healdsburg. **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 continue to be impactful. There is a 27% reduction compared to the June 2013 benchmark, and a 25% reduction in 2022 compared to the year-to-date 2013 benchmark. **No public comments.**
 - b. Drought Outreach Messaging
Andrea Rodriguez, SCWA, presented. (Refer to handout.) The Summer Outreach Campaign continues and includes information on updating drip systems, tree care during a drought, graywater and rainwater systems, advertising and outreach at community events, and various pop-up events throughout the region in August and specifically on August 20th. Please loop in your public information offices with the information. In

partnership with Sonoma County, bilingual Drought Virtual Town Halls will be held with different drought themes on August 4, September 1, October 6, and November 3. The State campaign, "Save Our Water" will have a booth at the fair with drought material provided. Matt Fullner, Valley of the Moon Water District, commented that City of Sonoma and Valley of the Moon Water District will be teaming up with Friedman's in the Valley for the pop-up event. Jennifer Burke, TAC Chair, asked how the plant tags are being distributed. Paul Piazza, SCWA, responded that plant tags are made available at local nurseries in Marin and Sonoma counties. SCWA works with a consultant, Plant Harmony to provide information and education to nursery staff on drought tolerant materials for our region and their nursery stock. Susan Harvey, City of Cotati, asked if big box stores have been contacted, like Lowes or Home Depot. Paul Piazza, SCWA, responded that yes, through the Our Water Our World program for storm water purposes, but it is tough to get in on the plant label side as those stores partner with out of state nursery and materials growers. Cristina Goulart, Town of Windsor, clarified Town of Windsor will not be participating on the August 20th pop-up event, but working on alternative dates and locations in August. **No public comments.**

8. **Biological Opinion Status Update**

Pam Jeane, SCWA. (Refer to handout.)

Fish Flow Project- no changes since last WAC meeting. SCWA is working on the draft Environmental Report and will present in 2023.

Dry Creek Habitat Enhancement Project

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

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

Phases IV-VI- The Army Corps of Engineers is under construction on Phase IV, and awarded contract to McCullough Construction at end of May. They are now conducting long-term surveys with Sonoma Water staff, and pre-construction topographic and biological surveys. Construction is scheduled to begin in early August.

Phase V – The design report is at 99% and plan to advertise in fall of 2022 for work to commence in 2023.

Phase VI – The right of way staff continues to work with property owners and plan to begin construction in 2024.

Public Outreach - The Army Corps of Engineers and Sonoma Water will hold a ground-breaking ceremony for the Dry Creek mile 4 (Army Corps Phase I) project on August 16. Sonoma Water will provide a project update to the Dry Creek Valley Association Board on August 17th.

Fish Monitoring- Sonoma Water plans to conduct sampling in Dry Creek to determine whether young salmon and steelhead are using the newly constructed habitat in Dry Creek. 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- The mouth of Russian River is open and 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- No changes since last report. The TUCO was approved in June and expires in December of 2022. The TUCO is similar to last year's order in terms of minimum stream flow requirements and our commitment to 20% reduction in diversions compared to 2020.

Biological Assessment for New Biological Opinion- This starts the process to get to the new Biological Opinion as our current Biological Opinion expires in September of 2023. Please refer to the hand-out for the schedule.

Jennifer Burke, TAC Chair, asked for clarification on the process for submitting the Biological Assessment draft which is due to National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) in fall of 2022. Pam Jeane, SCWA, responded that it is not a public process, although SCWA has handled it that way with a Public Policy facilitating committee that holds annual meetings to discuss what is happening with the biological opinion. She was not sure if the Biological Assessment will be subject to public comment but will clarify this point and share her findings. The components of the Biological Assessment are being submitted to the resource agencies, and once all have been submitted, they can create/draft the biological opinion. Jennifer Burke, TAC Chair, also asked if anything not completed in the current Biological Opinion, but still expected to be done, would carry over to the new Biological Opinion. Pam Jeane, SCWA, confirmed that yes, it would roll over. **Public Comment:** Brenda Adelman expressed deep concern about the process and asked which agencies, besides NMFS, determine if there is public participation. Pam Jeane, SCWA, responded that it is NMFS. Brenda Adelman also stated the public should be able to participate throughout the process rather than at the end, or when the draft document is available, and requested that Pam Jeane share that recommendation to those determining the process. **No other public comments.**

9. Potter Valley Project Update

Pam Jeane, SCWA, presented. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) license expired in April. An annual license was issued and will be renewed each year until the license is surrendered and the project is decommissioned. PG&E is starting the license surrender process and received approval last week from FERC on their plan and schedule. The plan called for a 30-month process, including public and stakeholder involvement. **No public comments.**

10. Drought Task Force Update

Dale Roberts, SCWA, presented. (Refer to handout.) The Drought Task Force was created over a year ago in April 2021 after the Board of Supervisors declared a local emergency due to drought conditions. The Drought Task Force was intended to be an information exchange and not a decision-making body. The Drought Task Force met monthly through September 2021, and then stopped convening. At the beginning of the year due to the requirements of Senate Bill 552, the Drought Task Force has started convening more regularly. The Drought Task Force will: identify and support potential infrastructure improvements and seek to identify and align projects with funding opportunities; coordinate and initiate actions to respond to water shortages and alleviate impacts; and coordinate

public education and outreach. Susan Harvey, City of Cotati, asked how or if the three Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) JPA's will be participating. Dale Roberts, SCWA, responded that they will be invited to participate, it just hasn't happened yet. Jennifer Burke, TAC Chair, asked what the vision is for the water shortage plans mentioned in the report. Dale Roberts, SCWA, clarified that the water shortage plans would cater to the 200 smaller water agencies/districts, that may not have the same available resources as larger agencies, to provide general resources and guidelines to meet the needs of the water shortage plans. Sam Salmon, Town of Windsor, asked how to best field the question of where the water is going to come from for growth. Mike Healy, WAC Chair, concurred that his response is also finding the water through conservation, but a more robust response would be helpful. Dale Roberts, SCWA, acknowledged that this is the type of question the Drought Task Force will discuss. **No public comments.**

11. **Integrated Regional Water Management Plan(s) Update**

Joan Hultberg, SCWA, presented. The Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) service area for Sonoma Water is split between two regional water management districts, the North Coast from Santa Rosa up to Humboldt County, and the San Francisco Bay Area water management program that expands from Cotati through Marin. The North Coast currently has an IRWM grant project with \$425,000 in grant funds. The lead agency is Gold Ridge Resource Conservation District, partnering with Sonoma Water. This is a pilot program to develop and implement a pilot rebate and training program to promote household level water storage through rainwater catchment systems. The San Francisco Bay Area water management program has a \$20,000,000 regional grant for Advanced Qualitative Precipitation Information system (AQPI) where Sonoma Water is the lead agency. This program will develop state of the art forecast models, especially during periods of extreme weather to aid Bay Area government decision makers to prepare for and mitigate future weather damages. For both IRWM regions, there is a call for projects related to Proposition 1 funding for projects related to integrated regional water management planning programs and implementation. These projects must respond to climate change and regional water self-reliance. This final round of funding is making \$193,000,000 in funds available for awards across the state. In our region, \$8,500,000 in funds are available in the North Coast region and \$29,000,000 in funds are available for the San Francisco Bay Area region. Of those totals 25% must be allocated to economically disadvantaged communities. Regional proposals are due to DWR in February 2023. **No public comments.**

12. **Community and Government Affairs Update**

Andrea Rodriguez, SCWA, presented. (Refer to handout) **No public comments.**

13. **Items for Next Agenda**

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

14. **Check Out**

Meeting adjourned at 10:07 a.m.