

*FINAL Minutes of Technical Advisory Committee
Virtual Meeting – No Physical Location
October 3, 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
Shannon Cotulla, 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: Eric Miller, North Marin Water District
Scott Carter, SCWA
Grant Davis, SCWA
Pam Jeane, SCWA
Don Seymour, SCWA
Paul Piazza, SCWA
Jay Jasperse, SCWA
Brad Sherwood, SCWA
Jake Spaulding, SCWA
Lynne Rosselli, SCWA
David Manning, SCWA
Elise Miller, City of Santa Rosa
Peter Martin, City of Santa Rosa
Kimberly Zunino, City of Santa Rosa
Colin Close, City of Santa Rosa
Claire Nordlie, City of Santa Rosa

Public: Margaret DiGenova, California American Water
Brenda Adelman, RRWPC
Kent Gylfe
Mike Berger
Eric Miller
Dale Roberts

1. Check-in

Jennifer Burke, TAC Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:03 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 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 Valley of the Moon Water District, seconded by City of Cotati 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 – None.**

4. **Recap from the September 12, 2022, TAC Meeting Minutes and Approval of Minutes**
No public comments.

Moved by North Marin Water District, seconded by Town of Windsor; unanimously approved by all eight water contractors.

5. **Water Supply Conditions and TUCO Update**

Don Seymour, SCWA, presented. Lake Mendocino storage is at 40,600 acre-feet (AF) with a release of approximately 60 cubic feet per second (cfs). Last year at this time the reservoir was at 14,400 AF. Lake Sonoma is at 110,000 AF and last year it was at 109,000 AF. Sonoma Water continues managing system per Temporary Urgency Change Order (TUCO) issued at the beginning of the summer. The TUCO will be amended to remove the term requiring habitat surveying, which was erroneously left in the TUCO as a holdover from the previous year's requirement. This was identified as redundant due to the habitat surveying being completed last year and the amendment should be received later this week. SCWA plans to file another Temporary Change Petition in the next two weeks requesting the minimum instream flow requirements be based on storage thresholds at Lake Mendocino.

Chair Burke requested clarity on the requirement of the TUCO which has the reduction in diversions through the end of this month and asked if there will be any changes or extensions from the State Water Board. Don Seymour, SCWA responded that there are no anticipated changes. Chair Burke also asked if the recent curtailments lifted by the State Water Board due to the recent rain events are still suspended. Don Seymour, SCWA, responded they are still suspended based on demands on those permits.

No public comments.

6. **Sonoma Marin Saving Water Partnership**

a. **2021 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.*) August water usage was 22% below 2013 benchmark year and year-to-date usage was 26% below the 2013 benchmark year. Chair Burke noted that the region continues to a great job reducing water usage. Cumulative Russian River diversions are down 30.4% compared to 2020.

No public comments.

b. **Drought Outreach Messaging**

Andrea Rodriguez, SCWA, presented. (*Refer to handout.*) The final portion of the 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. The Sonoma-Marin Saving Water Partnership and Santa Rosa Water hosted a Saving Water Pop-Up event at the LBC's Fiesta de Independencia on September 18, 2022. Twenty-six Saving Water Summer Pop-Ups have occurred to date through coordinated efforts. Lastly, a virtual drought town hall will be held on October 13, 2022 with the County communications team.

Chair Burke expressed gratitude related to the participation and the success on the Saving Water Summer Pop-Ups series.

No public comments.

7. Sonoma Water Tank Maintenance Project

Scott Carter, Sonoma County Water Agency (SCWA), presented. *(Refer to handout.)* SCWA owns and operates 18 water storage tanks that are critical components of the water transmission system. SCWA is under a 10-year agreement with Superior Tank Solutions for \$8.2 million. The process of implementing maintenance programs on five of the 18 storage tanks has already begun under other agreements. The agreement is to understand the condition of the remaining 13 tanks, clean tanks, perform routine and minor repairs, and provide on-call support. Phase 1 of agreement is cleaning and condition assessment of the 13 tanks. The tanks will be drained, scaffolding erected inside, cleaned and rinsed, test coatings (interior and exterior), leakage survey conducted, and structural engineer inspection on entire tank interior. At conclusion of inspections and based on resulting report, SCWA design section will prioritize the work to be done. Phase 2 is the long-term maintenance of all 18 tanks. This includes annual visual inspections, tank cleaning inspections, maintenance and repairs, and emergency and non-critical services (as needed).

Craig Scott, City of Cotati, asked if there is a drop-dead date for draining a tank and when the tank is drained, is it drained on demand. Scott Carter, SCWA, responded that the majority of the water is drained back into the system with only approximately the 2-3 inches at the bottom of the tank which may be drained to ground. There is no drop-dead date for draining of the tanks, but SCWA will be targeting months when demand is lower in terms of emergency services or irrigation usage.

Chair Burke asked to confirm that SCWA operations staff is coordinating with contractors and other operations staff if it is needed to top off storage before a tank is taken off-line.

Public Comments:

Brenda Adelman, Russian River Watershed Protection Committee (RRWPC), asked if there will there be water quality testing, and if so, is it on-going. Scott Carter, SCWA responded yes, there will be various test points throughout the process.

8. Biological Opinion Status Update

David Manning, SCWA, presented. *(Refer to handout.)*

Fish Flow Project- No new action.

Dry Creek Habitat Enhancement Project

Construction- The Army Corps of Engineers (The Corps) is in the process of constructing Phase IV of the Dry Creek Project and Reaches 10 and 13. Construction on the 13B portion is complete and the 13A portion is at 60% completion. The Reach 10 sites will be constructed in 2023.

Habitat Monitoring and Maintenance- SCWA environmental staff continue physical and biological surveys on constructed projects and maintained sites to

quantify the habitats and to identify any maintenance needs and continue collecting pre-construction data.

Phases IV-VI- Phase IV is under construction and discussions continue with landowners regarding right-of-way.

Public Outreach – Sonoma Water held an update meeting for the Dry Creek Valley Association Board members on August 17.

Fish Monitoring – Monitoring for adult salmonids at Mirabel dam fish ladder is underway. The number of adult Coho Salmon returning to the Russian River watershed has increased.

Russian River Estuary Management – Monitoring continues.

Interim Flow Changes – Due to the TUCO, monitoring and reporting requirements will change in the fall to review the video and assess pools in the lower Russian River for presence of adult fish, as in Dry Creek and Mirabel, and track how the flow changes are impacting the migration need of fish.

Biological Assessment for New Biological Opinion – This week a complete administrative draft of the biological assessment is being received by SCWA. A final draft is anticipated in February 2023.

Chair Burke asked if it was accurate to say the draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) will come after the final draft of the new Biological Opinion (BO). David Manning, SCWA, responded that the schedule of the dEIR will be affected by the new BO.

Chair Burke asked when the public document would be available for the BO. David Manning, SCWA, responded it isn't a requirement of the National Marine Fisheries Services (NMFS) process to have a public document until there is a federal registered notice of the completed BO. SCWA staff, the Corp, and resource agencies are discussing the public release, possibly Fall of 2023, and the possibility the draft EIR may be on a similar schedule.

Public Comments:

Brenda Adelman, RRWPC, asked that during the first round the BO took a couple of years, and afforded a public review towards the end, then NMFS took a year to write the BO with no public review and wondered if the EIR is coming after the BO, but before the final draft. David Manning, SCWA, responded the EIR and the BO are related, but not coordinated on their timing of their release. The current DRAFT EIR timeline will extend into the next BO. It is likely that the public comment on draft EIR will not be complete by the time the possible BO release date of September 2023. Brenda Adelman followed with a request to confirm that the EIR will take place after the BO is released, having no impact on the BO, and if there is an opportunity for the public to have influence on the BO. David Manning, SCWA, responded the BO will require completion of the EIR process and although there would be limited opportunity for the public to have impact on the BO, there will be plenty of impact the public can have on the EIR and the flows in the river.

9. Potter Valley Project Update

Don Seymour, SCWA, presented. There are no updates from PG&E on the surrender process, but the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) did approve the work plan in July 2022. The flow variance request for Potter Valley Project will stay in place until storage in Lake Pillsbury exceeds 36,000 AF.

Chair Burke asked for an update on the Department of Water Resources (DWR) grant related to the Russian River Water Forum. Don Seymour, SCWA, responded that SCWA received \$2.1 million in grant funding for tasks related to the Potter Valley Project. The three

tasks include a risk analysis/due diligence study, integrated water management evaluation, and lastly creation of the Russian River Water Forum.

No public comments.

10. SCWA Government Affairs Update

Brad Sherwood, SCWA, presented. Staff provided a summary of lobbying efforts and associated funding requests at both the Federal and State levels. Delegates will be travelling to Washington DC to advocate on additional forecasting needs. Grant Davis and Brad Sherwood, SCWA, will report back at the November WAC/TAC meeting. California Governor vetoed SB 222, which was the water rate assistance program and funds for low-income rate payers. Once a funding source is identified, the Governor would reconsider the bill. Valley of the Moon Water District will be touring the Spring Lake tanks. Santa Rosa Water and North Marin Water District are working on scheduling tours of the SCWA system. SCWA is working on their strategic plan and will present to WAC/TAC in the future.

No public comments.

11. Items for Next Agenda

Chair Burke noted that next month's meeting will be in-person and is a joint WAC/TAC meeting on November 7.

No public comments.

12. Check Out

Chair Burke adjourned the meeting at 10:14 a.m.