

Final Minutes of Water Advisory Committee and Technical Advisory Committee
Utilities Field Operations (UFO) Training Center
35 Stony Point Road
November 7, 2022

Attendees: Laura Sparks, City of Cotati
Mike Healy, City of Petaluma
Samantha Rodriguez, City of Rohnert Park
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
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

Staff/Alternates: Andrea Rodriguez, SCWA
Dale Roberts, SCWA
Lynne Rosselli, SCWA
Don Seymour, SCWA
Paul Piazza, SCWA
Pam Jeane, SCWA
Grant Davis, SCWA
Parastou Hooshalsadat, SCWA
Kent Gylfe, SCWA
Jake Spaulding, SCWA
Shannon Cotulla, Town of Windsor
Peter Martin, City of Santa Rosa
Matt Roehm, City of Santa Rosa
Colin Close, City of Santa Rosa
Eric Miller, North Marin Water District

Public: Bob Anderson

1. Check-in
Mike Healy, WAC Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.
2. Public Comments
No public comments.
3. Recap from August 1, 2022, WAC/TAC Meeting and Approval of Minutes
Moved by Jack Ding, City of Sonoma, seconded by Jack Baker, North Marin Water District.

No public comments. Unanimously approved with City of Rohnert Park WAC representative absent

4. **Recap from the October 3, 2022, TAC Meeting and Approval of Minutes (TAC)**
Moved by Matt Wargula, City of Sonoma, seconded by Matt Fullner, Valley of the Moon.
No public comments. Unanimously approved with City of Cotati TAC representative absent.
5. **Water Supply Coordination Council – October 17, 2022**
Mike Healy, WAC Chair, presented. The Water Supply Coordination Council met on October 17, 2022, and created the agenda for today's WAC/TAC meeting.
No public comments.
6. **Approve – 2023 WAC/TAC Meeting Schedule**
Mike Healy, WAC Chair, presented. (*Refer to handout*) The draft 2023 WAC/TAC meeting schedule was presented for review and accepted with no changes.
No public comments.
7. **FY 2021/22 SCWA Water Transmission System Budget Year-End Review**
Jake Spaulding, Sonoma County Water Agency (SCWA) presented. (*Refer to handout.*) FY 2021-22 water deliveries were 4% below budget, 16% below deliveries last year. Revenues were 3% below budget, and water sales were approximately 96% of revenues with grant revenue making up the balance. Expenditures were broken down by: Operations and Maintenance (O&M) at \$26.62m or 49% of total expenses (including various projects and studies); Capital Projects at \$15.45m or 29% (for various hazard mitigation and other capital projects); Debt Service at \$4.4m or 8%; and BO Compliance, Water Supply Planning, Water Conservation at \$7.82m or 14% of total expenses. Debt services issued \$15m in new bonds, and SCWA refinanced about \$7.8m in outstanding 2012 water revenue bonds.

FY 2022-23 Q1, as of September 30, 2022, water deliveries were at 23% of budget, and given current trends 2023 deliveries may be budgeted at 43,000af. Q1 expenditures are at 34% of budget, which includes encumbered contracts. O&M expenditures are at 17% and Capital Expenditures are at 26% through Q1. Sub Funds about 27% of budget through Q1 which includes encumbered contracts. The FY 2023-24 Water Transmission Budget will be drafted in 2023, presented to TAC, and then City Councils/District Boards in March 2023, presented to WAC in April 2023, and presented for adoption by Sonoma Water's board by April 30, 2023.
No public comments.
8. **SCWA Tank Maintenance Program Video**
Brad Sherwood, SCWA presented and introduced the video on the tank maintenance program.
No public comments.
9. **Water Supply Conditions and Temporary Urgency Change Order (TUCO)**
Don Seymour, SCWA, presented. Lake Mendocino is at 37,00 acre-feet (af), which is better condition than last year at this time. Lake Sonoma is at about 102,600af, which is worse condition than last year at this time. PG&E continues to operate the Potter Valley Project under the temporary variance they received from Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) in July 2022, which reduced the transfers into the Russian River Watershed. Based

on the temporary variance, the minimum stream transfer into the east branch is 5 cubic feet per second (cfs). When the reservoir at Lake Pillsbury reaches 36,000af and the variance expires, the maximum stream transfer through the winter into May 2023 will be 45cfs.

Lake Mendocino will be reliant on its own watershed to fill. Sonoma Water continues to operate the system under the TUCO, which moves the upper and lower Russian River to critical water supply conditions, and allows for a minimum instream flow of 25cfs on the upper Russian River and 35cfs on the lower Russian River. The current TUCO expires December 13. On October 28 Sonoma Water filed another temporary change petition to have another TUCO in place for when the current TUCO expires.

Jennifer Burke, TAC Chair asked if there are requirements for reduction of diversions in the TUCO during the winter into spring. Don Seymour responded that is not anticipated but Sonoma Water is working with the resource agencies on conditions and terms they would like to see. TAC Chair Burke asked: What if we don't see the rainfall needed, and storage levels drop below 100,000af at Lake Sonoma, are their conditions/mitigations being written in the temporary change petition? Don Seymour responded that while Decision 1610 dictates a 30% reduction in diversions if water storage falls below 100,000af after January 1st, Sonoma Water will meet with the State Board to discuss the situation. In his opinion, it is unlikely that the 30% reduction in diversions would be enforced by the State Board due to the level of conservation that has taken place since Decision 1610 was made in 1986. Some communities would fall under the level of water needed for health and safety if 30% diversion reductions were to be enforced.

No public comments.

10. Sonoma Marin Saving Water Partnership (TAC)

a. 2022 Water Production Relative to 2013 Benchmark and River Diversion Reductions Relative to 2020 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. September water usage was a 28% reduction compared to the September 2013 benchmark. Cumulative Russian River diversions are down 30.5% compared to 2020.

No public comments.

b. Drought Outreach Messaging

Andrea Rodriguez, SCWA, presented. *(Refer to handout.)*

The outreach campaign continued September through October including messages on turning off irrigation systems. Advertising and outreach efforts included showing infographics with supply levels on the advertisements on streaming, print and digital ads, videos, and posts to various social media platforms. The last Drought Virtual Town Hall will take place on November 10, at 4:00p.m.

TAC Chair Burke asked what registration numbers looked like for the drought town halls. Andrea Rodriguez responded that people are registering for the events but also end up watching the recordings post event.

No public comments.

c. 2022 EPA WaterSense and Irrigation Association Awards

Paul Piazza, SCWA, presented. Sonoma Marin Saving Water Partnership was the recipient of three awards at the WaterSmart Innovations Conference in Las Vegas:

the sixth consecutive honor of the Sustained Excellence Award; the Promotional Partner of the Year; and the Smart Water Application Technologies for landscape design templates that aided homeowners rebuilding their homes due to fire events starting in 2017.

TAC Chair Burke acknowledged the historical work by these partner agencies to get to this point related to landscape management practices. WAC Chair Healy concurred. Grant Davis, SCWA also acknowledged the work of the coordinated efforts to make these projects funded and successful.

No public comments.

11. **Biological Opinion Status Update**

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

Fish Flow Project – SCWA continues work on revisions in anticipation of recirculating the Draft EIR in 2023.

Dry Creek Habitat Enhancement Project – The Army Corps of Engineers (The Corps) continues construction at Phase IV, at Reach 10 and 13. Most of Reach 13 has been completed this year. Reach 10 will be constructed next year.

Habitat Monitoring and Maintenance – No changes from the last presentation.

Environmental staff continue physical and biological surveys and monitoring using a variety of tools.

Phases V-VI – The Corps continues work on Phases V and VI. The Phase V design review process is complete, and the next portion should be advertised in early 2023, with construction to begin in summer of 2023. 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 and efforts on right-of-way compensation offers continue.

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

Fish Monitoring – SCWA have observed 185 fish at Mirabel coming through the fish ladder.

Russian River Estuary Management – The lagoon management season ended on October 15th, and the mouth of the Russian River closed at the end of October.

Interim Flow Changes – Addressed under Item 9 on the agenda.

Biological Assessment – SCWA comments on the administrative draft biological assessment were submitted to the consultant. It is expected to have a draft of the biological assessment to National Marine Fisheries Service and California Department of Fish and Wildlife by end of this month, and final in February 2023. The Biological Opinion expires September 2023.

No public comments.

12. **Potter Valley Project Update**

Pam Jeane, SCWA, presented. The powerplant is still non-operational. The surrender process is in month 3 of a 30-month process. PG&E is soliciting and hiring a consultant to develop the surrender application and decommissioning plan. SCWA continues to work with partners on a grant from California Department of Water Resources (CDWR), covering three projects including: a facilities assessment of the Potter Valley Project; an assessment of water supply resources in Potter Valley; and the development of the Russian River Water Forum (Forum), which included interviews of 45 stakeholders in association with this to gauge knowledge and understanding of the Potter Valley Project. Consultant will provide a summary of the findings from the interviews and this information will be used to help develop the Forum.

WAC Chair Healy asked if the surrender process would address the future of Scott Dam. Pam Jeanne confirmed that it should address Scott Dam.

No public comments.

13. **SCWA Government Affairs Update**

Brad Sherwood, SCWA, presented. (*Refer to handout.*) There will be a small delegation attending the United Nations Climate Conference in Egypt November 6 through 18, representing Sonoma Water, Sonoma Clean Power, and County of Sonoma. Santa Rosa Mayor Chris Rogers will be hosting delegations from around the world at a mini pavilion space in the Blue Zone, representing Sonoma County, California, USA. Rohnert Park Mayor Jackie Elward and Dr. Marty Ralph will also be participating in a variety of panels. This opportunity came about through Sonoma Water's involvement with the Global Council for Science for the Environment (GCSE) and membership in the Applied Solutions Coalition. SCWA continues advocacy efforts on the Sub-seasonal to Seasonal (S2S) Precipitation Forecasting. SCWA also held a 10-year anniversary celebration of the quagga/zebra mussel's prevention program.

No public comments.

14. **Integrated Regional Water Management Plan(s)**

Grant Davis, SCWA, presented. Last week the Department of Water Resources was filming a video highlighting 20 years of integrated water management plans and significant improvements statewide. Both the North Coast and the Bay Area regions will be featured. The Bay Area region will feature the advanced qualitative precipitation information project and outcomes. This coming year will be looking at updating and maintaining existing infrastructures. The infrastructure tours will be helpful for future direction taken by WAC/TAC.

No public comments.

15. **SCWA Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) Update**

Kent Gylfe, SCWA introduced, and Parastou Hooshialsadat, SCWA, presented. (*Refer to handout.*) SCWA presented an overview of the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) including: background and historical timeline of the LHMP; purpose and it's contents; 2018 LHMP implementation; 2023 LHMP Update and project timeline; and opportunities for public awareness and participation.

TAC Chair Burke requested that the draft be brought to the May WAC/TAC meeting. Parastou Hooshialsadat, SCWA, confirmed that it will be brought back to the May WAC/TAC meeting.

No public comments.

16. **Items for Next Agenda (next combined WAC/TAC meeting is February 6, 2023)**

None.

17. **Check Out**

Chair Healy adjourned the meet at 10:36 a.m.