

Final Minutes of Technical Advisory Committee
Virtual Meeting – No Physical Location
January 9, 2023

Attendees: Craig Scott, City of Cotati
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: Grant Davis, Sonoma County Water Agency (SCWA)
Pam Jeane, SCWA
Peter Martin, City of Santa Rosa
Colin Close, City of Santa Rosa
Andrea Rodriguez, SCWA
Don Seymour, SCWA
Paul Piazza, SCWA
Brad Sherwood, SCWA
Jake Spaulding, SCWA
Kent Gylfe, SCWA
Lynne Rosselli, SCWA
David Manning, SCWA
Claire Nordlie, City of Santa Rosa
Mike Berger, City of Sonoma
Eric Miller, North Marin Water District

Public: Margaret DiGenova, California American Water
Bob Anderson
Charlie Schneider

1. Check-in

Jennifer Burke, TAC Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:01 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 City of Cotati, seconded by Town of Windsor, 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; approved by seven water contractors with City of Petaluma absent.

3. Public Comments

No public comments.

4. Recap from the December 5, 2022, TAC Meeting and Approval of Minutes

No public comments. Moved by North Marin Water District, seconded by Valley of the Moon; approved by seven water contractors with City of Petaluma absent.

5. TAC Finance Subcommittee Update – SCWA FY 23/24 Budget

Shannon Cotulla, Town of Windsor, presented. The subcommittee is now forming with members confirmed from Town of Windsor, Santa Rosa, Valley of the Moon, Marin Water, Rohnert Park, North Marin and Sonoma Water. The first meeting is tentatively scheduled for January 17, 2023, and will discuss the upcoming budget process and process improvements.

No public comments.

6. Water Supply Conditions and Temporary Urgency Ordinance

Don Seymour, SCWA, presented. Numbers are changing rapidly due to recent storm events. Lake Mendocino is at 72,000 acre-feet (AF). The Army Corps of Engineers (The Corps) anticipates the potential to do some flood control releases. Lake Sonoma is just over 166,000 AF, and inflow, as of this morning, at 10,000 cubic feet per second (cfs). Lake Pillsbury exceeded 36,000 AF on December 27, 2022.

Craig Scott, City of Cotati, asked for confirmation of how long the minor deviation up to 9,500 AF for Lake Sonoma will remain in place. Don Seymour, SCWA, confirmed it is through February 15. Grant Davis, SCWA, clarified that The Corps will not do any releases until it is safe to do so and won't impact flood conditions, most likely after January 12, 2023. Pam Jeane, SCWA, acknowledged that 10,000 cfs is going into Lake Sonoma, which means it is not flowing into the lower part of the river.

Don Seymour, SCWA, provided context that the two reservoirs combined impair approximately 18% of the watershed. The releases are minor compared to what the watershed is putting into the system.

The Temporary Urgency Change Order (TUCO) expired December 14, 2022. The State Board approved the SCWA petition submitted in October, on December 14, 2022. The petition requested that the minimum stream flow requirements be determined based on storage thresholds at Lake Mendocino.

On January 1, 2023, hydrologic conditions went from critical to normal conditions, with minimum instream flow requirements of 150cfs at the upper river, and 125cfs for the lower river, both of which are currently being met and surpassed from unimpaired flow. The condition will be assessed monthly through June 2023.

Shannon Cotulla, Town of Windsor, asked for clarification on the storage volumes that trigger The Corps taking over and going into flood control status for Lake Sonoma. Don Seymour, SCWA, confirmed that it is at 245,000 AF storage level, The Corps will take control of the dam and release decisions.

Jennifer Burke, TAC Chair, expressed appreciation to all regarding their staffing levels throughout the recent storm events.

No public comments.

7. 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.*) November water usage was 28% below 2013 benchmark year and year-to-date usage was 27% below the 2013 benchmark year.

No public comments.

b. Drought Outreach Messaging

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

The outreach campaign continues through December including messaging on load up to save, rainwater harvesting, and fixing your flush to save water. Current advertising and outreach efforts include streaming, print and digital ads, videos, and social media. Winter 2023 Campaign (January through March) includes same messaging and also includes adding messaging about “upgrade your fixtures, fix a leak week, and take a power shower.”

Jennifer Burke, TAC Chair, complimented the Partnership on creativity of the 12 Days of Conservation campaign in December.

No public comments.

c. FY 2022 Annual Report

Paul Piazza, SCWA, presented. (*Refer to handout.*)

The Sonoma-Marín Saving Water Partnership Annual Report included details on partnership overview, outreach efforts, 2022 achievements, and partnership highlights for the year.

Jennifer Burke, TAC Chair, asked that hard copies of the Annual Report be distributed to the partner agencies.

No public comments.

8. **Biological Opinion Status Update**

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

Fish Flow Project- SCWA staff are working on revisions in anticipation of recirculating the Draft EIR in 2023.

Dry Creek Habitat Enhancement Project

Phase IV-VI – Phase IV has started construction and will continue into 2023, Phase V will begin in 2023, and Phase VI will begin in 2024. Phase VI right-of-way access discussions, compensation amounts and preparation of right-of-way compensations offers are in process.

Construction - Sonoma Water will advertise the 13B construction in January 2023, and The Corps plans to advertise Phase V of the project in late January 2023 for construction in May.

Habitat Monitoring and Maintenance - As flows and weather conditions permit, SCWA environmental staff continue physical and biological surveys on constructed projects and maintained sites to quantify the habitats and to identify any maintenance needs.

Fish Monitoring – Cameras were removed December 9, 2022 due to high flows. Since September 2022, 1180 adult Chinook, 3 steelhead, and 67 coho salmon have been observed passing through the fish ladder.

Russian River Estuary Management – The mouth of the Russian River closed on November 25, 2022, and again on December 26, 2022.

Interim Flow Changes – No additions to presentation under Item 6.

Biological Assessment for New Biological Opinion – The final Biological Assessment will be submitted in late February or early March 2023.

Jennifer Burke, TAC Chair, asked how the enhancements and mitigations have held up due to the recent rain events. Pam Jeane, SCWA, responded that it is too soon to tell. David Manning, SCWA, commented that the flow has peaked at Yokum Bridge 4,000cfs. Flows above 1,000cfs are generally when sediment starts moving. Historically, the extended releases from Warm Springs dam show the most significant changes on the rivers, which we have not seen this year.

No public comments.

9. **Potter Valley Project Update**

Pam Jeane, SCWA, presented. The Department of Water Resources grant work continues. Work on the configuration of the Russian River Water Forum continues. There is an executed contract with McMillan to do the review of the Potter Valley Project components. . Jacobs Engineering will be reviewing water supply alternatives for Potter Valley. There will be a meeting on January 10, 2023, between PG&E and FERC regarding the potential to do a license amendment for the Potter Valley Project. The public can RSVP to listen in but not

able to provide comment.

No public comments.

10. SCWA Government Affairs Update

Brad Sherwood, SCWA, presented. SCWA will be hosting a Sacramento Lobby Day on February 2, 2023, to discuss the drought, aging infrastructure awareness, atmospheric river forecasting, and more. SCWA will begin recruitment efforts for Community Engagement positions at the Lake Sonoma visitor center. Part of the funding for these positions will be from quagga mussel prevention programming.

Grant Davis, SCWA, acknowledged Santa Rosa Water's efforts related to two different earmarks for \$1.5 million to do a direct install toilet program, and \$19.4 million in funding for sewer trunk lining projects.

Jennifer Burke, TAC Chair, clarified the timeline for the February 2, 2023, Lobby Day. Brad Sherwood confirmed it will be held 10am-4pm.

No public comments.

11. Items for Next Agenda

Chair Burke asked that notification of any changes in TAC and WAC membership due to recent elections be submitted as soon as possible.

Effective March 2023, if the Governor's COVID-19 executive order is rescinded, all TAC and WAC/TAC meetings will be held in-person.

No public comments.

12. Check Out

Chair Burke adjourned the meeting at 10:09 a.m.