

Russian River Water Forum

Water Advisory Committee, April 3, 2023

- Overview
- Potter Valley Project (PVP)
- Russian River Water Forum
 - Planning Group
 - Russian River Water Supplier Caucus
 - Russian River Water Forum Leadership Council
- Next Steps
 - Planning Group Member and Alternates (April 2023)
 - Leadership Council Membership (May 2023)
 - Water Supplier Caucus



Potter Valley Project (PVP)

- On average, 60,000 acre-feet (AF) of water is transferred annually
- Demand has recently exceeded supply, resulting in curtailments
- Loss of PVP water
 - Lake Mendocino water shortages in 8 out of 10 years
 - **Lake Mendocino is predicted to go dry 2 out of 10 years.**
 - **Losses in the tens of millions per year** to the Russian River economy



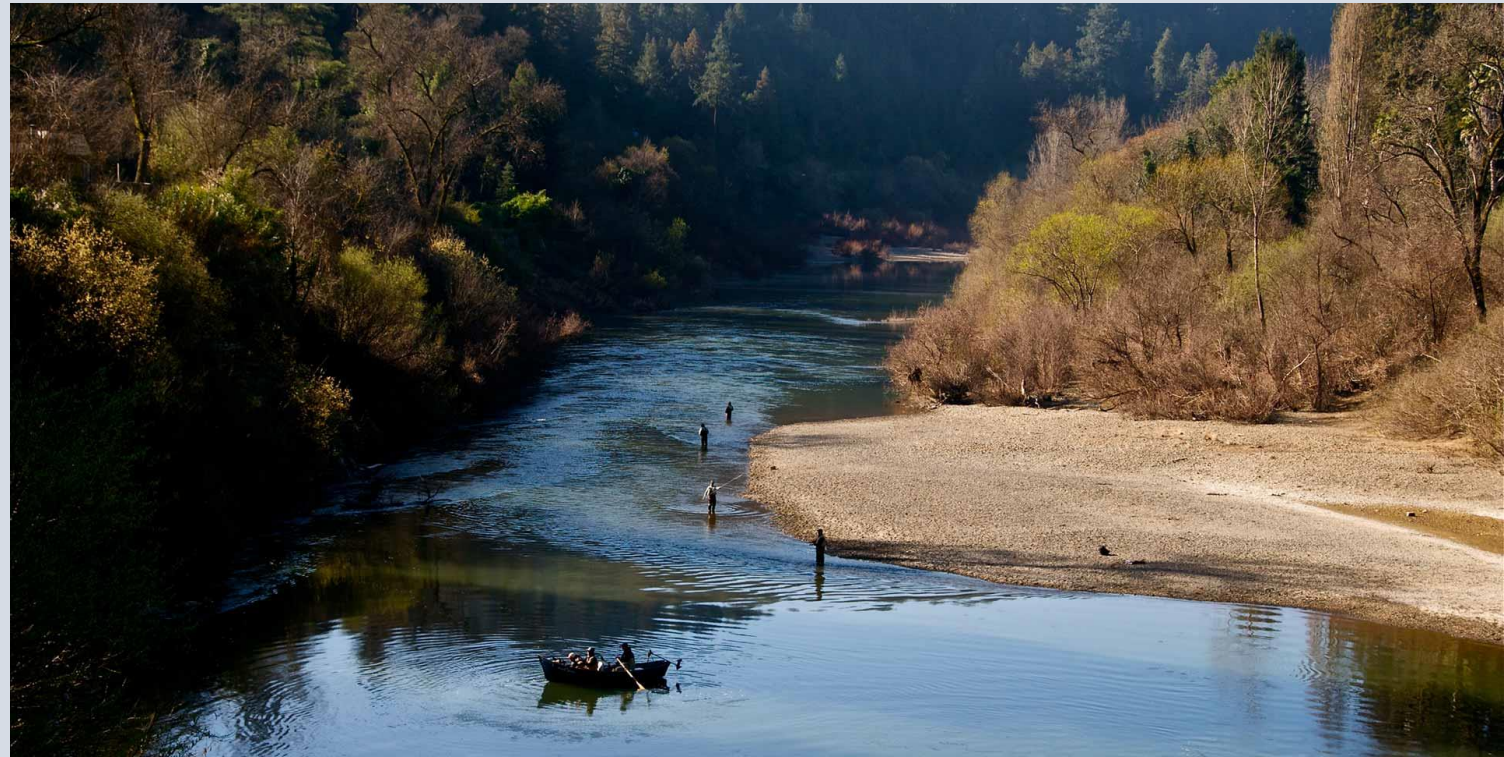
Russian River Water Forum (RRWF)

- Is there an interest in protecting this important source of water? If yes, then four big questions:
 - What PVP assets would be acquired and how would they be modified?
 - Who would acquire, modify, and operate these assets?
 - How would the acquisition, modification, and operation be funded?
 - How will water rights be impacted?*
- Sonoma Water received funding from the California Department of Water Resources Urban and Multi-benefit Drought Relief Grant Program to support water supply resiliency planning.
- The funding supports the establishment of a Russian River Water Forum.

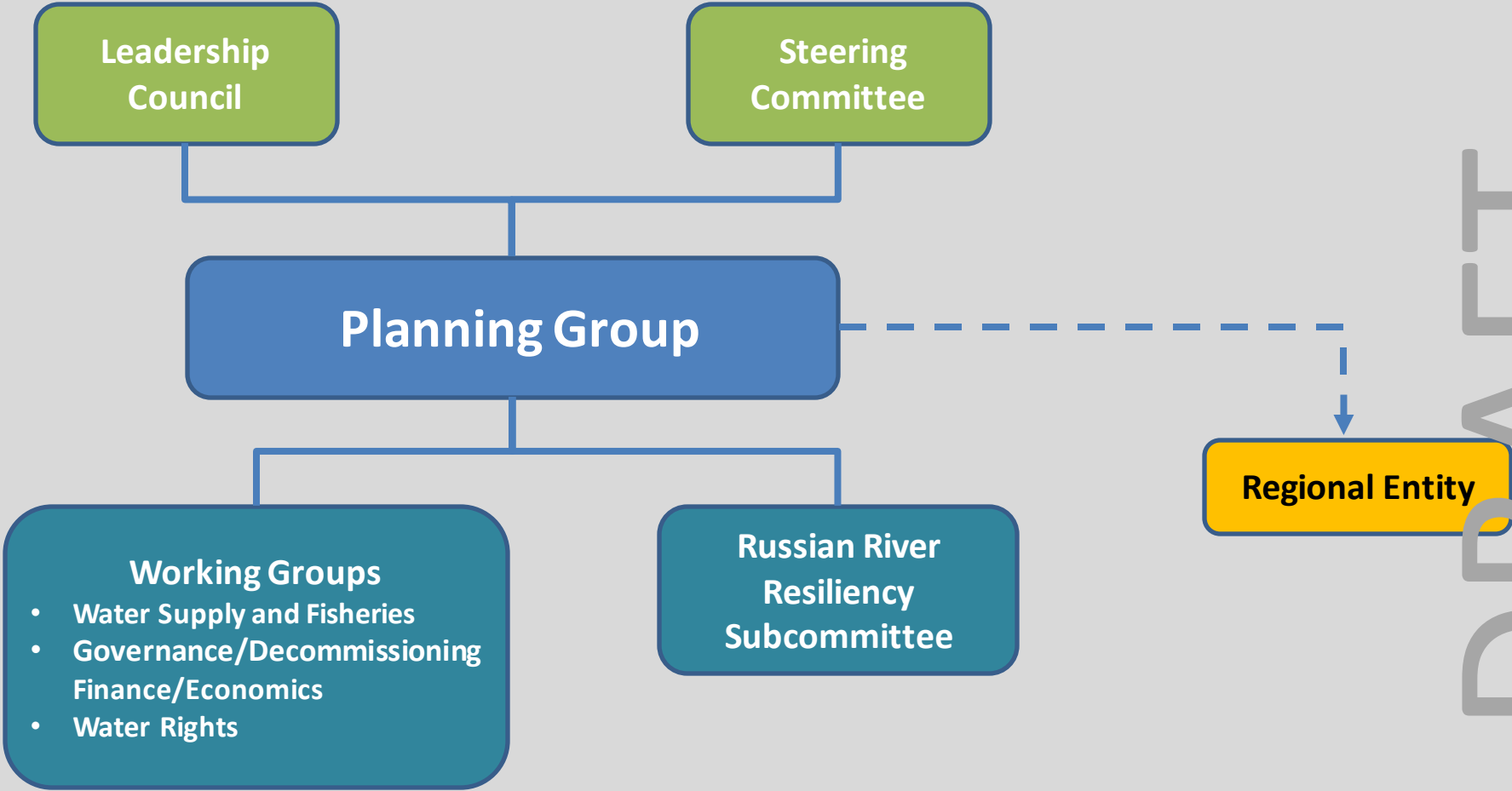


Russian River Water Forum Structure

- Russian River and Eel River basins interests
- Initial focus on PVP decommissioning solutions
- Focus on broader water resiliency issues over time
- Venue for inclusive engagement



Russian River Water Forum Structure



Planning Group (Technical Staff)

Purpose

- Collaborative, solutions-oriented process
- Improve understanding
- Problem-solve
- Seek an agreed-upon local solution
- Identify feasible funding sources
- Advance solution alternatives to the Leadership Council



Planning Group Membership

- Lake, Humboldt, Mendocino and Sonoma county governments
- Tribal governments in Russian River and Eel River basins
- Water suppliers
 - Six from Sonoma County
 - North County (member and alternate)
 - West County (member and alternate)
 - SCWA (member and alternate)
 - Water Contractors (3 members and 3 alternates)
- Environmental NGOs
- Agriculture interests
- Resource Conservation Districts
- Public and private recreation interests
- **Identify Members and Alternates by April 12th**



Sonoma County Water Supplier Caucus

- Limited number of Planning Group seats per category
- Caucus discussions outside Planning Group
- Working team participation
 - Water Supply and Fisheries
 - Finance and Economics
 - Governance and Decommissioning
 - Water Rights



Leadership Council: Elected Officials

- The purpose of the Leadership Council is to consider options and alternatives from the Planning Group.
- Members will share information, build understanding, and strive for consensus.
- Membership will be comprised of Tribal, county (Sonoma, Mendocino, Lake, and Humboldt counties), state, and federal elected officials and staff.
- Members will provide information and recommendations to their respective governments and constituents.
- **Suggested Topic for May 2023 Water Advisory Committee Meeting**

Next Steps

- Planning Group
 - Select Planning Group Members and Alternates
- Leadership Council
 - Further development/WAC Suggestions
- Sonoma County Water Supplier Caucus
 - Collaborating with Sonoma County Agriculture
 - Caucus Advisory Team
- “Hasten slowly” – Jake Mackenzie



Photo by E Salomone

Questions, Discussion, and Thank You

