

Final Minutes of Water Advisory Committee and Technical Advisory Committee
Utilities Field Operations (UFO) Training Center
35 Stony Point Road
February 6, 2023

Attendees: Mike Healy, City of Petaluma
Natalie Rogers, City of Santa Rosa
Jack Baker, North Marin Water District
Laura Sparks, City of Cotati
David Rabbitt, Sonoma County Water Agency (SCWA or Sonoma Water)
Sam Salmon, Town of Windsor
Jon Foreman, Valley of The Moon Water District
Jed Smith Marin Municipal Water District
Craig Scott, City of Cotati
Dan Herrera, City of Petaluma
Mary Grace Pawson, 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: Sylvia Lemus, City of Cotati
Andrea Rodriguez, SCWA
David Royall, SCWA
Kevin Booker, SCWA
Dale Roberts, SCWA
Lynne Rosselli, SCWA
Don Seymour, SCWA
Paul Piazza, SCWA
Pam Jeane, SCWA
Grant Davis, SCWA
Chelsea Thompson, City of Petaluma
Robert Rogers, SCWA
Kent Gylfe, SCWA
Jake Spaulding, SCWA
Shannon Cotulla, Town of Windsor
Peter Martin, City of Santa Rosa
Claire Nordlie, City of Santa Rosa
Colin Close, City of Santa Rosa
Elise Miller, 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 9:07 a.m.
2. Public Comments
No public comments.
3. Recap from November 7, 2022 WAC/TAC Meeting and Approval of Minutes
Moved by Jon Foreman, Valley of the Moon, seconded by Town of Windsor.
No public comments. Unanimously approved with City of Rohnert Park and City of Sonoma absent.
4. Recap from the January 9, 2023, TAC Meeting and Approval of Minutes (TAC)
Moved Matt Fullner, Valley of the Moon, seconded by Mary Grace Pawson, City of Rohnert Park.
No public comments. Unanimously approved with Craig Scott, City of Cotati abstaining.
5. New WAC Member Orientation
Grant Davis, SCWA, presented. A binder of materials has been prepared for each new WAC member, WAC Alternate, TAC member and TAC alternate and was provided at the meeting.
No public comments.
6. Water Supply Coordination Council – January 27, 2023
Mike Healy, WAC Chair, presented. The Water Supply Coordination Council met on January 27, 2023 and created the agenda for today's WAC/TAC meeting.
No public comments.
- 6a. SCWA Board of Directors Special Meeting – February 21, 2023.
David Rabbitt, SCWA Board of Directors, announced that the Board of Director's Special Meeting is being moved to February 27, 2023. Topics will include strategic planning, water supply, flood control and sanitation.
Jennifer Burke, TAC Chair, asked for confirmation of start time. Grant Davis, SCWA, responded that the meeting is tentatively scheduled from 8:30am-2:00pm, and will be held in the Board of Supervisor's Chamber.
No public comments.
7. Water Supply Conditions and Temporary Urgency Change Order (TUCO)
Don Seymour, SCWA, presented. Lake Mendocino is at 80,050 acre-feet (af), and Lake Sonoma is at about 240,000af, both of which are in better condition than last year at this time. The Temporary Urgency Change Order (TUCO) issued by the State Water Board Division of Water Rights (State Board) in May 2022 expired on December 14, 2022 and on the same date the State Board issued a new TUCO in response to the Temporary Urgency Change Petition (TUCP) filed by Sonoma Water in October 2022. The TUCP requested that the Russian River minimum instream flow requirements be based on storage in Lake Mendocino rather than cumulative storage in Lake Pillsbury.

As of February 1, 2023, hydrological conditions remain in “normal” conditions, with minimum instream flow requirements of 150 cubic feet per second (cfs) for the Upper Russian River, and 125 cfs for the Lower Russian River. The condition will be assessed monthly through June 2023. Based on the current storage level at Lake Mendocino, the Russian River water supply condition will likely remain Normal until at least the end of March.

No public comments.

8. 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. December water usage was a 31% reduction compared to the December 2013 benchmark. Cumulative Russian River diversions are down 27% compared to 2020.

No public comments.

b. Water Use Efficiency Outreach Messaging

Andrea Rodriguez, SCWA, presented. (*Refer to handout.*) The outreach campaign shifted focus to Water Use Efficiency rather than Drought messaging. Outreach messaging now includes upgrading household fixtures, Load Up to Save Water, Take A Power Shower, Fix a Leak week (March 20-26), and the Dye Tab Challenge running February 1 to March 31. Advertising and outreach efforts include print ads and posts to various social media platforms.

No public comments.

9. TAC Finance Subcommittee Update – FY FY2023-24 Draft SCWA Water Transmission System Budget (TAC)

Shannon Cotulla, Town of Windsor, presented information as detailed in the handout. (*Refer to handout*)

No public comments.

10. SCWA Infrastructure Update

a. Computerized Maintenance Management System (CMMS) Presentation

David Royall, SCWA, presented. (*Refer to handout*) SCWA is replacing their Maximo CMMS system with NEXGEN for a more dynamic infrastructure asset management system that utilizes GIS technology. The implementation of NEXGEN kicked off in January 2023 and is scheduled to go live in November 2023. Dan Herrera, City of Petaluma asked what other platforms were evaluated before selecting NEXGEN. David Royall and Kevin Booker stated they would share that information post-meeting. Jed Smith, Marin Municipal Water District, asked if there will be training opportunities for partner agencies to get familiar with the software. David

Royall confirmed that as inter-agency topics came up, he would share those opportunities.

No public comments.

b. Russian River Crossing Video

Andrea Rodriguez, SCWA, showed the video on the recent Russian River Pipeline Crossing project

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qmTpBjPJ2I>). The video was the third installment in a series of updates addressing the aging infrastructure and how Sonoma Water is investing in upgrades to provide safe and secure water.

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 of Phase IV, at Reach 10 and 13. Most of Reach 13 has been completed this year. Reach 10 will be constructed next year.

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 continue.

Construction – The Corps is constructing Phase IV of the Dry Creek Project. McCullough Construction completed both Reach 13 sites in 2022, with the exception of the inlet to the 13B site of Reach 10 which will be constructed in 2023. Sonoma Water is planning to advertise for the 13B inlet construction in mid-to-late February 2023 and the Corps plans to advertise Phase V in late February 2023.

Habitat Monitoring and Maintenance – Environmental staff continue physical and biological surveys and monitoring using a variety of tools. Additionally, they are using drones to evaluate the conditions at the constructed projects following the high flows during the recent rain events in late December and early January.

Public Outreach – No update provided.

Fish Monitoring – SCWA have observed 1,180 adult Chinook, 67 coho salmon, and 3 steelhead were observed in 2022.

Russian River Estuary Management – The mouth of the Russian River is open. Sonoma Water will be working on the draft 2023 Adaptive Management Plan (AMP).

Interim Flow Changes – Addressed under Item 7 on the agenda.

Biological Assessment – SCWA is working with National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), and California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) to reinitiate consultation and develop a Biological Assessment (BA) for continuation of the USACE and Sonoma Water operations in the Russian River watershed. A draft Biological Assessment was submitted to NMFS and CDFW on December 9. A final Biological Assessment will be submitted in late February or early March.

Grant Davis, SCWA asked why we chose to take on the fish monitoring in-house. Pam Jeane, SCWA responded that the California Sea Grant Salmonid Monitoring program was being performed on behalf of The Corps, but due to the inability to fund the program, Sonoma Water took up the monitoring efforts. SCWA may enter into an agreement The Corps for future monitoring requirements. Jed Smith, Marin Municipal Water District, commented that Marin's coho count was great as compared to prior counts.

No public comments.

12. Potter Valley Project Update

Pam Jeane, SCWA, reported that on January 10, 2023, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) held a meeting to discuss the possible re-opening of the FERC license for the Potter Valley Project. The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has requested additional interim measures be incorporated into the annual license. As a result of this meeting, FERC is opening a formal comment period related to the January 10 meeting. SCWA continues to work with partners on the grant from California Department of Water Resources (DWR), which is funding three projects including: a facilities assessment of the Potter Valley Project, currently in progress by McMillen; an assessment of water supply resources in Potter Valley; and the continued development of the Russian River Water Forum (Forum). Sonoma Water is applying for a second grant to continue the work of the Forum.

Jennifer Burke, TAC Chair, asked when the public comment period will close related to the January 10 meeting. Pam Jeane, SCWA, responded that she will confirm the close date and send information after the WAC-TAC meeting.

No public comments.

13. SCWA Government Affairs Update

David Rabbitt, Sonoma Water Board of Directors, provided a report on the recently signed Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023 which provides funding for a number of regional programs. Director Rabbitt also reported on the recent Sonoma Water lobby day on February 2, 2023 in Sacramento. The delegation met with key officials and staff to discuss regional issues. SCWA will provide a tour of their water system to Town of Windsor on February 7, 2023, and also recently provided tours for Valley of the Moon Water District and North Marin Water District.

No public comments.

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

Grant Davis, SCWA, provided a report on the AQPI appropriations and the direct link to IRWM plans efforts. The North Coast region IRWM will present a strategic plan for their regional program in May. Jed Smith, Marin Municipal Water District, expressed appreciation of the inter-agency work and hopes of building an even stronger two-way partnership between Marin and Sonoma Counties.

No public comments.

15. Items for Next Agenda (next combined WAC/TAC meeting is April 3, 2023)

None.

16. Check Out

Chair Healy adjourned the meet at 10:12 a.m.