

Final Minutes of Technical Advisory Committee  
Utilities Field Operations Training Center  
35 Stony Point Road, Santa Rosa, CA  
March 6, 2023

Attendees: Craig Scott, City of Cotati  
Mike Ielmorini, City of Petaluma  
Jennifer Burke, City of Santa Rosa  
Peter Martin, City of Santa Rosa  
Matt Wargula, City of Sonoma  
Mike Berger, City of Sonoma  
Cristina Goulart, Town of Windsor  
Tony Williams, North Marin Water District  
Eric Miller, North Marin Water District  
Matt Fullner, Valley of The Moon Water District  
Mary Grace Pawson, City of Rohnert Park  
Michelle Montoya, City of Santa Rosa

Staff/Alternates: Grant Davis, Sonoma County Water Agency (SCWA)  
Pam Jeane, SCWA  
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  
Robert Rogers, SCWA  
Emma Walton, SCWA  
David Royall, SCWA  
Sylvia Lemus, City of Cotati  
Dina Manis, City of Santa Rosa  
Eric Ballinger, City of Santa Rosa  
Paul Sellier, Marin Municipal Water District

Public: Duane DeWitt  
Bob Anderson  
Brenda Adelman, Russian River Watershed Protection  
Glen Wright, Board of Public Utilities  
Margaret DiGenova, California American Water

1. Check-in  
Jennifer Burke, TAC Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m.
2. Public Comments  
Duane Dewitt, Roseland resident, spoke about Roseland Creek and groundwater recharge projects. He shared concerns about pollution of creeks and suggested

that less pavement and car parking next to creeks will help reduce pollutants getting into the water supply.

Brenda Adelman spoke in support of looking for natural solutions for aquifer recharge and suggested that “surplus Russian River water” be defined..

3. Approve – FY2023-24 Draft SCWA Water Transmission System Budget

a. TAC Ad Hoc Budget Subcommittee Recommendation

Jake Spaulding, SCWA, presented. (*Refer to handouts.*)

An overview of the proposed water transmission system budget and corresponding water rate increases was presented. It was confirmed that the budget includes multiple water transmission system activities and funds. It was also shared that some of the upcoming challenges include aging infrastructure, maintenance needs, increased repairs, and natural hazard vulnerabilities. This budget includes: \$6.34 million for hazard migration projects to reduce risks, \$5.94 million for capital projects to increase resiliency, \$40.4 million for operations and maintenance projects and studies, and \$9.78 million for Biological Opinion, Water Supply Planning and Water Conservation. The proposed rates for FY23-24 are \$1,173.09 per acre-foot for the Santa Rosa Aqueduct, a 10.56% increase; \$1,162.09 per acre-foot for the Petaluma Aqueduct, a 9.42% increase; and \$1,348.67 per acre-foot for the Sonoma Aqueduct, a 10.56% increase. The upcoming schedule was shared with presentations on the budget to the Water Contractor Boards and Councils in March, the Water Advisory Committee on April 3, and the Sonoma Water Board of Directors on April 18.

Cristina Goulart, Town of Windsor, gave a brief summary of the TAC Ad Hoc Budget Subcommittee meeting held on February 23, 2023.. The TAC Ad Hoc Budget Subcommittee was comprised of representatives from Santa Rosa, Cotati, Rohnert Park, Valley of the Moon Water District, Windsor, Marin Municipal Water District, and North Marin Water District. During that meeting, there was no consensus for recommending approval of the proposed budget with City of Cotati and Town of Windsor voting yes, North Marin Municipal Water District, City of Sonoma, and Valley of the Moon Water District abstaining, and Santa Rosa voting no.

Tony Williams, North Marin Water Distract, asked what the next several years look like for average rate increases. Lynne Rosselli, SCWA, answered that rate increases will be, on average, 9% to 10% over the next five years.

**No public comments.** Moved by City of Sonoma, seconded by Valley of the Moon Water District to recommend approval of the FY2023-24 Draft SCWA Water Transmission System Budget to the Water Advisory Committee (WAC). The recommendation passed with 7 affirmative votes, with City of Santa Rosa voting no.

4. Water Supply Conditions and Temporary Urgency Change Order

Don Seymour, SCWA, presented. Water supply conditions are fuller than full, with Lake Mendocino at approximately 85K acre-feet and Lake Sonoma at approximately 245K acre-feet of storage. Since both of the reservoirs are in the flood control pool, the Army Corps is managing the releases, when necessary. The last time the reservoirs were in this type of storage condition was 2019 and we are going into Spring with remarkable water supply storage. The current Temporary Urgency Change Order is set to expire June 12. Sonoma Water anticipates filing a new Temporary Urgency Change Petition in late April to comply with the Biological Opinion.

**No public comments.**

5. Sonoma Marin Saving Water Partnership

a. 2023 Water Production Relative to 2013 Benchmark

Jennifer Burke, Santa Rosa Water, presented. *(Refer to handouts.)*  
Water usage as a whole is down 20%, both for the month and the year to date.

Brenda Adelman asked if percentages were based on 2013 and asked if it would be better to base it on the prior year. Jennifer Burke, Santa Rosa Water, confirmed that it is based on 2013 as that is what is required by the state.

b. Water Use Efficiency Outreach Messaging

Andrea Rodriguez, SCWA, presented. *(Refer to handouts.)*  
March is not only “Fix A Leak Week”, but also the “Dye Tab Challenge” which began in February and runs through the end of March. The dye tabs allow customers to check toilets for leaks, and the public can go online and share their results, which will enter them to win gift cards.

**No public comments.**

6. Biological Opinion Status Update

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

Fish Flow Project - Not a lot of changes to report. Work continues on revisions to the Draft Environmental Impact Report, in order to recirculate it. As of now, there is no time frame for release.

Dry Creek Habitat Enhancement Project - Currently implementing Phases IV-VI. Portion of Phase IV was constructed in 2022, and anticipate it being finished this year. Phase V will begin construction this year, with Phase VI tentatively scheduled to begin in 2024. Phase IV began last year, but there was a small piece that the Army Corps could not complete due to right of way issues. Sonoma Water will be completing the work on this piece. The Corps also plans to issue a Notice to Proceed in March for Phase V and will begin construction on June 15.

Public Outreach – Public Policy Facilitating Committee is looking for a date to meet this year.

Fish Monitoring – Has not changed since the last meeting.

Russian River Estuary Management - Mouth of the Russian River is open currently. Sonoma Water is working on this year's Adaptive Management Plan for the Estuary, but do not expect any significant changes from last year's plan.

Biological Assessment for New Biological Opinion – Current Biological Opinion expires in September of this year. Sonoma Water has submitted a draft to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) in December 2022, and Sonoma Water is addressing comments CDFW made on the document, and hosting topic specific workshops to receive CDFW comments and to understand their concerns.

Peter Martin, Santa Rosa Water, shared his appreciation of the progression photos.

Brenda Adelman stated that 15 years ago the Estuary Project's intent was to increase and improve habitat for the Steelhead. Asked if there were any fish studies to see if there has been any success with this project. Ms. Adelman also stated that she does not support lowering flows in the Russian River if it is not supporting fish recovery and believes there needs to be a scientific evaluation of the last 15 years of the project.

Pam Jeane, SCWA, responded that there have been numerous fish studies completed and studies have found that the Steelhead do thrive in estuaries.

#### 7. Potter Valley Project Update

Pam Jeane, SCWA, presented. PG&E is currently operating the project without a variance. There is a lot of water in the watershed and a lot of snow. Date to close the Scott dam gates will be dependent on what is going on with the snow shed. The surrender and decommissioning of the Potter Valley Project is still on schedule but not getting a lot of information from PG&E. Last week Sonoma Water submitted comments on the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) technical conference that was held in early January to consider whether or not to re-open the license for the Potter Valley Project to incorporate the interim measures proposed by the National Marine Fisheries Service.

Jennifer Burke, Santa Rosa Water, mentioned that the WAC Potter Valley ad hoc committee will consider a letter supporting Sonoma Water's comments.

#### **No public comments.**

#### 8. SCWA Government Affairs Update

Brad Sherwood, SCWA, presented. *(Refer to handouts.)*

Shared gratitude for all those who participated in Sacramento Lobby Day. Planning a follow-up for May or June. Also shared gratitude for all those who have submitted letters of support for AB30. Community Fund Project Requests (Earmarks) – Deadline to submit letters to Senator Padilla's office has passed. Sonoma Water was able to send in five letters. March 19 is Congressman Huffman's deadline. Sonoma Water will submit the same request that was submitted to Padilla's Office and will be asking for support letters again as it is a very competitive process. Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) recognized all of the efforts of Sonoma Water and they received the

Federal Affairs Outreach award for 2022. Sonoma Water continues to offer water supply tours and asked that everyone please come out and see the facilities.

Tony Williams, North Marin Water District, thanked Sonoma Water for coordinating the Sacramento Lobby Day. Mentioned North Marin Water District will be submitting a letter of support for AB30. Jennifer Burke, Santa Rosa Water, also shared gratitude for the coordination of the Sacramento Lobby Day and shared that Santa Rosa Water was able to give Congressman Huffman a tour of the Laguna Treatment Plant.

**No public comments.**

9. Summary of SCWA Board of Directors February 27th Special Meeting

Grant Davis, SCWA, shared that the SCWA Board of Directors met on February 27<sup>th</sup> regarding SCWA core functions and highlighted the four main areas including Water Supply, Flood Control and Stream Maintenance, Sanitation, and Climate Change. Hopeful to hold similar meeting once per year and shared that this year's meeting can be viewed on the Board of Supervisor's website if anyone would like to view it.

**No public comments.**

10. Items for Special WAC/TAC meeting (April 4, 2023)

Chair Burke gave a reminder that the special WAC/TAC meeting will take place on April 4 where the Sonoma Water water transmission system budget will be considered.

11. Check Out

Chair Burke adjourned at 10:09 a.m.