

FOR ACCESSIBLE
MEETING INFORMATION
CALL: (707) 543-3350
ADD: (707) 543-3031



DRAFT* Minutes of Water Advisory Committee and Technical Advisory Committee
Utilities Field Operations (UFO) Training Center
35 Stony Point Road
April 3, 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
Ron Wellander, 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
Michelle Montoya, City of Santa Rosa

Staff/Alternates: Sylvia Lemus, City of Cotati
Lynne Rosselli, SCWA
Don Seymour, SCWA
Paul Piazza, SCWA
Pam Jeane, SCWA
Robert Rogers, SCWA
Kent Gylfe, SCWA
Jake Spaulding, SCWA
Peter Martin, City of Santa Rosa
Eric Miller, North Marin Water District
Tony Lopes, Forestville Water District

Public: Bob Anderson
Brenda Adelman, Russian River Watershed Protection
Jake McKenzie

1. Check In
Mike Healy, WAC Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.
2. Public Comment
No public comments.

3. Recap from the February 6, 2023 WAC/TAC Meeting and Approval of Minutes
Moved by Jon Foreman, Valley of the Moon Water District, seconded by Laura Sparks, City of Cotati.
No public comments. Unanimously approved with City of Sonoma absent.
4. Recap from the March 6, 2023 TAC Meeting and Approval of Minutes (TAC)
Moved by Tony Williams, North Marin Water District, seconded by Cristina Goulart, Town of Windsor.
No public comments. Unanimously approved.
5. Water Supply Coordination Council – March 15, 2023
Mike Healy, WAC Chair, presented. The Water Supply Coordination Council met on March 15, 2023 and created the agenda for today's WAC/TAC meeting.
No public comments.
6. Presentation of Draft FY2022-23* SCWA Water Transmission System Budget
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. The 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 next steps include asking that today the budget be recommended for approval by the WAC, as it was recommended for approval by TAC on March 6, 2023. The budget will go in front of the Sonoma Water Board of Directors for consideration on April 18, 2023.

No public comments.

***Note:** Item agendized as FY2022-23, however, the correct language is FY2023-24 SCWA Water Transmission System Budget.
7. Recommendation to Sonoma Water Board of Directors - FY2022-23* SCWA Water Transmission System Budget
Moved by, Jon Foreman, Valley of the Moon Water District, seconded by Jack Baker, North Marin Water District, to recommend approval of the FY2023-24 Draft SCWA Water Transmission System Budget to the Sonoma Water Board of Directors. The recommendation passed with 6 affirmative votes, with City of Santa Rosa voting no and City of Sonoma absent.

No public comments.

***Note:** Item agendized as FY2022-23, however, the correct language is FY2023-24 SCWA Water Transmission System Budget.
8. Water Supply Conditions and Temporary Urgency Change Order
Don Seymour, SCWA, reported that the United States Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) is still in charge of the two reservoirs and that water storage at both are in the flood control pool. Storage at Lake Mendocino is a little more than 97,000-acre ft, which puts it right at the

top of the major deviation water supply pool. The Corps is matching in-flow and out-flow of the reservoir, keeping it hovering at the top of the increasing deviation pool. The reservoir is gaining about 400-acre ft per day, with an estimate that it will be at, or over, 100,000-acre ft by end of month. Reservoir is currently at 7000-acre ft above what the rule curve will allow. Lake Sonoma is also in the flood control pool, with storage at 270,000-acre ft, which is 6,000-acre ft above the minor deviation water supply pool for that reservoir. The Army Corps is trying to release slightly more than in-flow to try to bring the reservoir down. They are bringing it down about 250 to 300- acre ft per day, so by the end of the month, the reservoir will be at the top of the minor deviation water supply pool. This year SCWA is moving into the dry season with the highest combined storage ever observed between the two reservoirs, at 370,000 to 375,000-acre ft. Last year the combined storage was the lowest ever observed.

Mike Healy, WAC Chair, asked if Lake Sonoma can be changed to a major deviation. Don Seymour confirmed they are working towards that with a viability analysis.

Jennifer Burke, TAC Chair, asked about temporary urgency change petitions (TUCP) for this summer, and if SCWA would be filing in compliance with the Biological Opinion (B.O.), and when would it be submitted. Don Seymour confirmed SCWA is currently still under the temporary urgency change order. This year will be normal water supply conditions, whether under decision 1610 or the hydrologic condition that was requested in the TUCP. SCWA is in the process of completing the TUCP and hopes to file by end of this month, which would ask to have the minimum instream flows on the upper Russian River at 125csf and the minimum stream flows on the lower Russian River at 70 csf. SCWA anticipates getting the TUCP filed within the next few weeks and would take affect prior to June 12, 2023.

Director Rabbitt, SCWA Liaison, asked for an update on the landslide at Olompali State Park and where the water pipeline sits in relation to the slide. Tony Williams, North Marin Water District (NMWD), acknowledged the North Bay Incident Management team for jumping in and bringing all the right players together. Tony confirmed that the slide is significant, and that the North Marin Aqueduct is on the lower end of the slide. This is a new section of pipe that was part of the freeway work and the frontage road construction. It took Cal Trans over a week to determine that they would be the responsible agency. Currently, there is no indication that there is any damage to the aqueduct. However, there have not been opportunities to do more exhaustive analysis. The aqueduct has held pressure upon opening two isolation valves and NMWD has run water through it for short periods of time. NMWD plans on deploying a remote camera into the pipeline this Thursday, and if no obvious damage, will run it for a day, ensuring it is functioning properly. It will be at least another week to determine what they are dealing with in its entirety.

Brenda Adelman – Stated that she would like to know why the order is only going to ask for 70 csf for the Lower Russian River since the reservoirs are full and there is no issue with water delivery for this year. Also, due to natural flows from creeks, flows will probably stay at 125 csf so would like to know the point of the 70 csf.

Don Seymour shared that the 125 cfs for the Upper Russian River, and the 70 for the Lower Russian River, comes from the Biological Opinion. Even with the natural flow of the system, and with the balance of minimum stream flows, we are unlikely to see flows under 100 csf all summer.

9. WAC Potter Valley Project Ad Hoc Update

Pam Jeane, SCWA, reported that there has not been any word from PG&E on surrender process. Two issues, PG&E is no longer going to be fix the transformer bank at the powerhouse. Second, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) was notified by PG&E that they would not be raising the gate at the top of Scotts dam, which means the

loss of an additional 20,000-acre ft of storage in Lake Pillsbury. Assuming PG&E does not raise the gates on the dam, a variance will need to be filed. No changes on the Department of Water Resources' grant work, however, SCWA now has access to the project from PG&E, which means they can get their Engineers up there to start the assessment work. Work still being scheduled for the Potter Valley water supply reliability analysis.

No public comments.

10. Russian River Water Forum

Mike Thompson, SCWA, presented. (*Refer to handouts.*)

Acknowledged Jennifer Burke, Grant Davis, Brad Sherwood, and Pam Jeane who have been part of an advisory committee since July.

Russian River basin receives 60,000-acre ft of water from the Potter Valley Project (PVP). Even with the water supply, the demand has recently exceeded supply resulting in curtailment. Loss of the PVP could mean Lake Mendocino water shortages in 8 out of 10 years, Lake Mendocino is predicted to go dry 2 out of 10 years, and losses in the tens of millions per year to the economy.

Russian River Water Forum questions to consider:

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, including the establishment of a Russian River Forum. Hired Kearns and West as a consultant. They interviewed 73 water interests in the area. Initial focus will be on the PVP, including governance and who would own and operate the facilities. A Planning Group is being formed, made of technical staff, to explore potential solutions for continuing the transfer of water from the Eel River to the Russian River. There will also be four working groups that will work to develop solutions to present to the Planning Group. The Planning Group would bring solution options to the Leadership Council which would consist of elected officials. Next steps include identifying Planning Group members by April 12th.

Natalie Rogers, Mayor – City of Santa Rosa, asked if these will be Brown Act body, and notated that it may violate the Brown Act based on how many people from each jurisdiction is involved.

Mike Thompson confirmed this body's meeting will follow the Brown Act and will take care to not break another governing body's Brown Act requirements.

Mike Healy asked if someone from WAC should be on Leadership Council, and Mike Thompson strongly suggested there be at minimum one WAC representative.

Jake Mackenzie spoke to the language for "Hasten slowly" and stated the Latin correctly.

11. Items for Next Agenda (next combined WAC/TAC meeting is May 1, 2023)

Mike Healy, WAC Chair, noted that both Mayor Rogers and he will not be at the next meeting. Jon Foreman, Valley of the Moon Water District, will chair the meeting.

12. Check Out

Chair Healy adjourned the meet at 9:58 a.m.