

Russian River Water Forum Presentation

Water Advisory Committee
May 1, 2023

Presented by:

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Russian River Water Forum Presentation

Water Advisory Committee

- **Overview**
- **Russian River Water Forum**
 - Planning Group
 - Russian River Water Supplier Caucus
 - Russian River Water Forum Leadership Council
- **Next Steps**
 - Planning Group Meeting
 - Water Supplier Caucus
 - Leadership Council





Russian River Water Forum (RRWF)

- Four groups of questions:
 - Ownership
 - Who would acquire, modify, and operate these facilities?
 - Water Supply and Fisheries:
 - What PVP facilities would be acquired, how would they be modified, how reliable will the water supply be?
 - Financial
 - How would the acquisition, modification, and operation be funded?
 - Water Rights
 - How will water rights be impacted and managed?*
- 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



DRAFT

Planning Group Meeting

- May 17th
- Statements of Interests
- Working Group descriptions



Sonoma County Water Supplier Caucus

- Identify specific interests
- Principles
- Working team participation
 - Water Supply and Fisheries
 - Finance and Economics
 - Governance and Decommissioning
 - Water Rights



Water Supplier Caucus

Consideration of Shared Objectives

- Minimize or avoid adverse impacts to the Russian River and Eel River basins
- Improve fish passage and habitat on the Eel River
- Reliance on best available science and engineering analyses
- Economic welfare of both basins;
- Protecting tribal cultural, economic, and other interests in both the Eel and Russian River basins.



Water Supplier Caucus

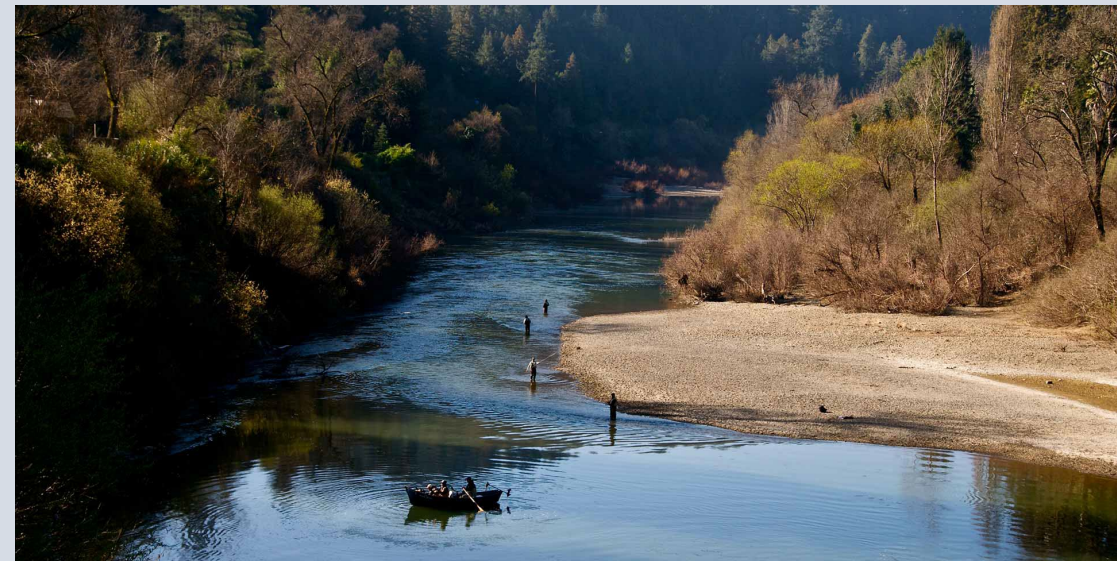
WAC: Statement of PVP Interests (10/2019)

- Decisions are consistent with the Restructure Agreement
- Regular communications
- Opportunity for meaningful input
- Opportunity for meaningful input into documents



Leadership Council: Elected Officials

- Membership:
 - Tribal, county (Sonoma, Mendocino, Lake, and Humboldt counties), state, and federal elected officials and staff.
- Purpose
 - Consider options and alternatives from the Planning Group.
 - Share information, build understanding, and strive for consensus.
 - Provide information and recommendations to their respective governments and constituents.



Next Steps

- Planning Group
 - First meeting: May 17th in Ukiah
 - Working Team: June
- Sonoma County Water Supplier Caucus
 - Caucus Advisory Team: Principles, Objectives, Interests
- Leadership Council: Mid to Late Summer



Funding for this project has been provided in full or in part from the Budget Act of 2021 and through an agreement with the State Department of Water Resources.



Photo by E Salomone

Questions, Discussion, and Thank You

