

FINAL MINUTES OF TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Utilities Field Operations Training Center
35 Stony Point Road, Santa Rosa, CA
June 5, 2023

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

Staff/Alternates: Pam Jeane, Sonoma County Water Agency (SCWA)
Colin Close, City of Santa Rosa
Mike Thompson, SCWA
Andrea Rodriguez, SCWA
Don Seymour, SCWA
Paul Piazza, SCWA
Kent Gylfe, SCWA
Lynne Rosselli, SCWA
Robert Rogers, SCWA

Public: Brenda Adelman, Russian River Watershed Protection
Bob Anderson
Dick Dowd

1. Check In
Matt Fullner, TAC Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.
2. Public Comments
None.
3. Water Supply Conditions and Temporary Urgency Change Petition
Don Seymour, SCWA, presented. The water supply conditions remain good, with Lake Mendocino up to 99,500 acre-feet and gaining in storage. This is a result of the State Board issuing the Temporary Urgency Change Order necessary for compliance with the 2008 Biological Opinion. There is a pretty good contribution from the Potter Valley Project with transfer from the Eel River of 130 cubic feet per second. This will be reduced due to PG&E filing a FERC variance request a few weeks ago. PG&E did not close the spillway gates due to seismic concerns, resulting in the reservoir holding 20K acre-feet less than what it could this year. Lake Mendocino will remain at or above 60K acre-feet at the end of the water year. Lake Sonoma is just under 265k acre-feet, and the Army Corps. remain in control

of the releases. The minor deviation at Lake Sonoma expires at the end of the water year and another request for an additional minor deviation will be filed.

Peter Martin, City of Santa Rosa, asked if the order changes the flow of Dry Creek.

Don Seymour, SCWA, confirmed that it does not affect Dry Creek.

No public comments.

4. Sonoma Marin Saving Water Partnership

a. 2023 Water Production Relative to 2013 Benchmark

Matt Fullner, Valley of The Moon Water District, presented. (*Refer to handouts*)

For the month of April, the partners are collectively at a 39% reduction in water use compared to the 2013 benchmark, with the year to date at 29%. Overall, GPCD is continuing to trend down with the recent drought.

b. Water Use Efficiency Outreach Messaging

Andrea Rodriguez, SCWA, presented. (*Refer to handouts.*)

The Sonoma County Water Agency's summer campaign is rolling out with June's messaging focusing on "Sprinkler Spruce Up". May had the Eco-Friendly Garden Tour which saw 3,700 people attending, with over 20 garden hosts.

No public comments.

5. Annual Water Supply and Demand Assessment

Paul Piazza, SCWA, presented. (*Refer to handouts.*)

This is the second year of the Annual Water Supply Demand Assessment, which needs to be completed before July 1. This is an exercise that is coupled with the Water Shortage Contingency Plan and is the driver on whether action will be taken to implement a stage of the shortage plan. This report also guides the work of the Sonoma County water contractors. With the reservoirs being more than full, there is plenty of water to meet the supply need, with no projected shortage.

No public comments.

6. Biological Opinion Status Update

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

Fish Flow Project – Continue to work on revisions in anticipation of recirculating an updated draft of the Environmental Impact Report.

Dry Creek Habitat Enhancement Project – Phase IV construction will be finished this year. Phase V will hopefully begin construction this summer. Sonoma Water staff are in the process of evaluating other sites within Dry Creek after these high flows to determine what maintenance needs might be needed in the future. Sonoma Water staff are also back out collecting habitat data now that flows in Dry Creek are lower.

Public Outreach – The Public Policy Facilitating Committee (PPFC) met last month and discussed items including the Russian River Biological Assessment Update, Russian River Estuary Management Project Pinniped Monitoring Update, Dry Creek Habitat Enhancement Project, and Coho Smolt Survival Study. The presentations for these items are available on the Sonoma Water website.

Fish Monitoring – Eight migrant traps have been installed. This has provided some interesting information including the capture of more Coho smolts and less Chinook smolts than normal, with steelhead parr being similar to the last few years, but still down from earlier years.

Russian River Estuary Management – The lagoon management season runs from May 15 to October 15. The mouth of the Russian River is now open and the Biological (fisheries and pinnipeds) and water quality monitoring for this season has also begun.

Biological Assessment for New Biological Opinion – There is still a ton of work being done to address all the comments that have been received.

No public comment.

7. Potter Valley Project Update

Pam Jeane, SCWA, presented.

Three things taking place under the Department of Water Resources Grant. First, the Russian River Forum is now under way. The first Planning Group meeting took place with 30 + stakeholders. They met on May 17, with another meeting taking place this month, and the plan is to continue to meet monthly. The smaller work groups that will be associated with the technical work that needs to be done are starting to be formed. Some of these working groups include Water Supply and Fisheries, Water Rights, Governance, and Finance, with a fifth to come. The assessment of current diversion facilities, including the Cape Horn Dam, is ongoing. Currently a technical work group including the resource agencies and the two basin solution partners is being pulled together. Part of the grant work is to look at water resources within Potter Valley. Bureau of Reclamation grant application was submitted, as the program fits what they are looking for and will help pairing the three alternatives down to one.

Matt Fullner, Valley of The Moon Water District, asked how the selection process for the three options that are being pushed to 30% design interplay with the Technical Advisory group and the Russian River Water Forum. Also, how the Technical Advisory Group members would be selected.

Pam Jeane, SCWA, answered that they will use the technical working group to do the nitty gritty technical work, as well as speak with the fisheries and the Russian River Forum 's Water Supply Working Group. The Water Supply Working Group will then report out to the Planning Group. The Technical Advisory Group will be selected by; 1. Being a two-basin solution partner and 2. the resource agencies.

Paul Sellier, Marin Municipal Water District, asked what the schedule is for the 30% and 60% design.

Pam Jeane, SCWA, answered that the 30% design under the grant is due to be completed this time next year.

No public comments.

8. Russian River Water Forum Update

Mike Thompson, SCWA, presented.

Planning group met May 17th to get a sense of the priorities of the members.

There was a wide range of interests and fixed positions, for example some want

Scott Dam to stay, and some want the diversions to end and both dams to go. One of the things the consultants will be working on is trying to work with fixed positions and move them to interests. One thing that was repeated was the idea of creating a fifth group for Russian River Water Resiliency. There was a strong interest in getting this started sooner rather than later. There was a strong “or” viewpoint of it should be Potter Valley Project “or” Russian River Water Resiliency. In the end, it came to an “and” viewpoint of Potter Valley Project “and” Russian River Water Resiliency, as both are important and needed. Next Planning Group meeting will be held virtually on June 12th, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Water rights will be an issue with or without the diversions.

No public comment.

9. SCWA Government Affairs Update

Robert Rogers, SCWA presented. (*Refer to handouts.*)

Demark Water Workshop to be held on June 27.

State Update: AB 1567- Bond will help increase IRWM funding from \$200M to \$350M, which is not the \$500M that was requested, but is still a significant increase. Also, AB 1567 now includes \$900M for dam safety and improvements. Sonoma Water’s co-sponsored bill AB 30 - Atmospheric Rivers: Research, Mitigation, and Climate Forecasting Program passed the assembly appropriations committee’s suspense hearing and will now move through the Senate.

Federal Update - The Sonoma Water Community and Government Affairs Team acquired and submitted letters of support from a variety of agencies and organizations to complete the next step of the appropriations process. The projects included in this were Penngrove Sewer Force Main Upgrade Project which was included in Senator Padilla’s appropriations project list, the Mirabel 12KV Hazard Resiliency Project, and Russian River County Sanitation District – Wet Weather Treatment Plant Capacity Upgrades. Sonoma Water recently submitted a Letter of Support for the LAKES Act which will reinvest recreation in areas like Lake Sonoma and Lake Mendocino. Recreational activities at both reservoirs include boating, camping, hunting, hiking, and swimming.

Craig Scott, City of Cotati, asked about CIP long term dam safety and improvements.

Robert Rogers, SCWA, was not sure but asked him to email Brad Sherwood, SCWA, and he would be able to supply an answer.

No public comment.

10. Items for Next Agenda

There were no requests to add items.

No public comment.

11. Check Out

Vice Chair Fullner adjourned the meeting at 9:44 a.m.