

FINAL MINUTES OF TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Utilities Field Operations Training Center
35 Stony Point Road, Santa Rosa, Ca
JULY 10, 2023

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

Staff/Alternates: Pam Jeane, Sonoma County Water Agency (SCWA)
Colin Close, City of Santa Rosa
Andrea Rodriguez, SCWA
Don Seymour, SCWA
Paul Piazza, SCWA
Kent Gylfe, SCWA
Lynne Rosselli, SCWA
Brad Sherwood, SCWA
Jake Spaulding, SCWA
Dannielle Farela, City of Petaluma
Stuart Tiffen, SCWA
Mike Berger, City of Sonoma

Public: Brenda Adelman, Russian River Watershed Protection
Dick Dowd

1. Check In
Jennifer Burke, TAC Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:01 am.
2. Public Comment
None.
3. Recap from the June 5, 2023 TAC Meeting and Approval of Minutes
Moved by Matt Fullner, Valley of the Moon Water District, seconded by Tony Williams, North Marin Water District.
No public comment.
Minutes approved as submitted with all Committee members voting yes, with the exception of Jennifer Burke, Santa Rosa Water, who abstained.
4. Water Supply Conditions and Temporary Urgency Change Order
Don Seymour, SCWA, presented.

The reservoirs at both Lake Mendocino and Lake Sonoma are still extraordinarily full. Lake Mendocino is still currently over 96,000 acre-feet (AF) and is losing slightly less than 140 AF per day. Even if FERC approves PG&E's flow variance request later this summer, it is projected Lake Mendocino will stay at, or above, 75,000 AF going into the new water year. Lake Sonoma is at, 252,000 AF, which is still 7,000 AF into the flood control pool. Lake Sonoma storage is currently losing about 200 AF per day. Projections are that, come October 1, Lake Sonoma storage will be over 235,000 AF. Temporary urgency change order for minimum stream flow in the upper Russian River and lower Russian River remains in effect until Oct 15.

Last week FERC noticed PG&E's flow variance request, and August 4th is the deadline to file any type of motion to intervene or comments to the flow variance request. Anticipating that, as of August 4th, FERC will move quickly, and we can anticipate the minimum stream flow of the East Branch Russian River (EBRR) will reduce from 75 cubic feet per second (CFS) down to 25 CFS. There is potential that if temperature approaches 16 degrees Celsius at Lake Pillsbury, there will need to be consultation with the National Fish and Wildlife Service and California Fish and Wildlife to determine if they should reduce the release of the EBRR from 25 CFS down to the minimum 5 CFS.

No public comment.

5. Sonoma Marin Saving Water Partnership

a. 2023 Water Production Relative to 2013 Benchmark

Jennifer Burke presented. (*Refer to handouts.*)

In comparison to May 2013, thanks to weather and conservation efforts, there is a 33% water use reduction. With an overall year to date reduction of 30%. Also, seeing good reductions of gallons per capita per day throughout the partnership.

Brenda Adelman asked what percentage of new apartment buildings have been inhabited and how that effects the water numbers that were cited.

Concerned that there will be an increase in water use as those apartments begin to be filled.

Jennifer Burke, Santa Rosa Water, stated this is the actual water usage data for the month, so any usage at recently filled apartments would be captured.

New development is part of projections, and they are also required to be significantly more water efficient than existing usage. Colin Close, Santa Rosa Water, also added that the population has decreased about 4,000 people over the last few years, according to the census.

b. Water Use Efficiency Outreach Messaging

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

Currently working on the July outreach campaign which is focused on the Irrigation scheduling tool. Also, working on streaming and social media. There will be a Zero Waste event in Healdsburg taking place at the end of July.

Also, looking ahead to the fair, the Partnership is working with the Master Gardeners to do a low water use efficiency exhibit in the courtyard outside of the Hall of Flowers.

Jennifer Burke, Santa Rosa Water, asked if the fair booth would be staffed and asked if there would be rebate information available for individual agencies. Andrea Rodriguez, SCWA, confirmed that the exhibit will be run by the Master Gardeners. However, SCWA will be there to help assemble and tear down. Rebate information will be available by QR code.

No public comment.

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 – Focusing on Phase IV and V construction. Part of Phase IV has been constructed and should be out of the stream by October 15. The exception to that is one of the reaches is being redesigned due to the impact of the high flow in the creek over this last winter. They also went to bid on the Phase V work.

Habitat Monitoring and Maintenance – After the high flows this year in Dry Creek, there was a substantial amount of rehabilitation work required. Just wrapped up the down stream monitoring.

Fish Monitoring – The traps are out of the rivers at creeks, and they did not see great numbers of steelhead, however, they did find the highest on record number of natural origin Coho. The estuary is open currently, and the management season ends October 15.

Biological Assessment for New Biological Opinion – Expires in September of this year and the draft was submitted. Working on responses to address all the comments that have been received.

Craig Scott, City of Cotati, asked if the annual repairs from the storms is anticipated in the cost or, if not, how will that be paid for. Pam Jeane, SCWA, was not sure but believes they are out of Warm Springs Dam fund.

Jennifer Burke, Santa Rosa Water, asked about what the schedule for biological opinion looks like, and if a new one is not issued by September, will they still be under the old order until a new one is issued. Pam Jeane, SCWA, does not believe they would be, however, since they are working on a new one with it in consultation, they would have coverage under that.

No public comment.

7. Potter Valley Project Update

Pam Jeane, SCWA, presented.

FERC noticed PG&E's flow variance last week. PG&E is still on their approved schedule, which means they should be releasing a draft license surrender application for public comment on schedule. Three projects that are being worked on under the Department of Water Resources grant. This includes the Russian River Water Forum, Potter Valley water resiliency work, and the facilities assessment

which is underway now. The facilities assessment work is under contract with McMillian. They have looked at how to repurpose existing facilities and have also looked at different ways to reconfigure the outlet for the EBRR. They are currently working on three options for reconfiguring the diversion itself, building on the prior feasibility study. Hoping to get three options to 30% design. A technical advisory committee of primarily engineering staff from the fisheries agencies has been convened to work with McMillian, with the intent to have our technical advisory group chose one of the options to take to 60% design.

No public comment.

8. Russian River Water Forum Update

Jennifer Burke, Santa Rosa Water, presented. The Planning group has been put together representing all different interest categories including Mendocino County, water suppliers, Lake County, Humboldt County, environmental interests, fishery interests, recreation interests, as well as Mendocino and Sonoma Counties agricultural interests, and tribal interests. For Sonoma County, the three members from the TAC that are part of the Planning group are Tony Williams, Shannon Cotulla, and Jennifer Burke, with the alternates being Mary Grace Pawson, Paul Sellier, and Mike Thompson. Two meetings have been held so far and have been focused on identifying interests and finding consensus on potential recommendation. However, they are not a decision-making group. A steering committee was formed, and met last Friday, with the intent to put together an agenda for the next meeting and to make decisions on the Technical working groups which will include Water Supply and Fisheries, Finance, Governance, and a Water Rights group. Fisheries and Water Rights have had initial meetings, providing some technical briefings. Finance and Governance are planning to meet later this summer. The next meeting is scheduled for this Thursday in Ukiah. The focus will be Russian River supply resiliency work that has been completed.

Shannon Cotulla, Town of Windsor, asked if we have ever received an analysis of what PG&E's obligations are in the decommissioning process.

Pam Jeane, SCWA, answered that she is not sure they have done analysis in the way he is describing, however, they are operating under a FERC license and have an agreement with Sonoma Water, and have a contract with Potter Valley Irrigation District. Under the FERC license, they will need to continue to stay in compliance. Once they go through the decommissioning process, PG&E will no longer have an obligation to this process.

Brenda Adelman asked how the interrelationship will work between the water agency and the City of Santa Rosa will be integrated into the Russian River Water Forum.

Jennifer Burke, Santa Rosa Water, answered that, as water contractors we are working with SCWA on a resiliency study and how it integrates with all of the individual systems. There has been and will continue to be collaborative and will continue to share information.

9. Recap of Sonoma / Santa Rosa and Water Technology Alliance of Denmark Workshop on Resilience and Next Steps

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

Two weeks ago, Sonoma Water and Santa Rosa Water, met with the group from Denmark's Water Efficiency and Innovation Council. Also, hosted representatives from various Demark companies in the water industry. The presentation from that workshop is available online for review. Want to continue collaboration, so Sonoma Water is creating a Memoranda of Understanding between them and Denmark and is extending the invitation to Sonoma County Water contractors to join.

Jennifer Burke, Santa Rosa Water, asked what the timeline is for review and suggested edits.

Brad Sherwood, SCWA, asked that edits be submitted by end of July, and would like signatures on MOU by September. It was notated, that this would be the first MOU between a country and group of utilities. Also, if you cannot sign on to the MOU now, you will still be able to join at a later date.

No public comment.

10. SCWA Government Affairs Update

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

August 10 is the ACWA Region 1 membership tour and meeting. This will include tour of the CalPine side of the geysers. There are 50 slots open for ACWA members. State lobby team focused on Climate Bond, with two different pieces of legislation moving forward. The main focus is on the integrated regional water management funding which they have been able to get up to \$350M on the Assembly side, while trying to get the same amount on the Senate side. Governor did make some big cuts in climate resiliency in the water world, making this bond critical. Also, support for their forecast informed reservoir operations, AB 30, continues. This would essentially put into code the DWR, the funding program for FIRO, and this would solidify \$10M of research efforts. Which is not only critical for our FIRO efforts at Lake Sonoma, but for eight other reservoirs throughout California. On the Federal side, some of our earmark requests successfully made it through thanks to Senator Padilla's office. However, we are not exactly sure where the earmarks are, or if they will be implemented in the next budget, so we waiting to see how the process unfolds over next month. Subseasonal to Seasonal Forecasting with DWRs is making good progress on the hill. The next opportunity to go to Sacramento will be September or October. They are also considering starting a new chapter of California Special Districts and wanted to gauge interest in joining if that moves through.

Matt Fullner, Valley of the Moon Water District, added that they had planned to join the California Special Districts but decided to hold off on joining for one year due to budget.

No public comment.

11. Items for Next Agenda

Next meeting is August 7 and will be a combined WAC TAC. There will be item for the WAC interest statement for the Russian River Water Forum.

No public comment.

12. Check Out

Chair Burke adjourned the meeting at 9:55 a.m.