

Water Advisory Committee (WAC) to Sonoma County Water Agency  
Draft Statement of Interests on  
the Russian River Water Forum

The Water Advisory Committee (WAC) and Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) represent the municipal water suppliers (Water Contractors) located in central and southern Sonoma County and Marin County that receive wholesale water supply from Sonoma Water's Russian River System. The WAC and TAC are committed to participating in the Russian River Water Forum (RRWF), a grant funded collaborative effort to identify water supply resiliency solutions in response to the planned Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) license surrender and decommissioning of PG&E's Potter Valley Hydroelectric Project (PVP). At the request of the RRWF, the WAC has adopted the following Statement of Interests, which will guide the participation of WAC and TAC representatives to the RRWF.

1. Recognize the continued diversion of water from the PVP into the Russian River watershed supports overall Russian River water supply reliability and fisheries.
2. Recognize the diversion of water from the PVP provides benefits, particularly during dry periods, by providing water volume to supplement releases from Lake Sonoma thereby preserving storage. Recognize that Russian River water supply is significantly different north and south of the Russian River confluence with Dry Creek (Confluence). Water supplies north of the Confluence are almost entirely reliant on the PVP diversion and Lake Mendocino storage, while supplies south of the Confluence principally rely on Lake Sonoma storage,
3. Recognize that the Water Contractors have significant, state-mandated obligations to continuously provide safe and reliable water supplies for the communities that they serve.
4. Recognize that the California Constitution places limits on what can be included in each Water Contractor's retail water rates, and thereby ensures that any costs to the Water Contractors related to the continued diversion of water from the PVP will be proportionate to the benefit received by their customers.
5. Support the modification of water rights orders that more clearly align water rights with supply sources.
6. Ensure any outcomes or recommendations from the RRWF maintain water supply reliability of the Russian River and support the significant investments made by Sonoma Water and the Water Contractors in Russian River ecosystem and fishery restoration initiatives.
7. Ensure any decisions regarding the PVP are consistent with the Restructured Agreement for Water Supply between Sonoma Water and the Water Contractors, including, but not limited to, Section 2.4, Potter Valley Project.
8. While recognizing the importance of monitoring and adaptive management, ensure any outcomes or recommendations from the RRWF result in pragmatic, implementable actions that support the shared interests of the RRWF participants

9. Ensure the RRWF continues to explore funding options, from local, state, and federal sources to reduce the overall cost of implementing recommendations.
10. Recommend establishment of a Regional Entity to negotiate potential acquisition, operation, and maintenance of PVP facilities and water rights, as needed, to ensure long-term water supply reliability.
11. Continue to have opportunities for meaningful input and representation in any forum that realistically evaluates water supply resiliency solutions for the Russian River.

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