

DRAFT Minutes of Water Advisory Committee and Technical Advisory Committee  
Utilities Field Operations (UFO) Training Center  
35 Stony Point Road  
May 1, 2023

Attendees: 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)  
Grant Davis, SCWA  
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  
Mark Stapp, City of Santa Rosa  
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  
Paul Piazza, SCWA  
Pam Jeane, SCWA  
Robert Rogers, SCWA  
Kent Gylfe, SCWA  
Andrea Rodriguez, SCWA  
Jake Spaulding, SCWA  
Parastou Hooshalsadet, SCWA  
Shannon Cotulla, Town of Windsor  
John Shribbs, City of Petaluma  
Peter Martin, City of Santa Rosa  
Colin Close, City of Santa Rosa  
Eric Miller, North Marin Water District  
Tony Lopes, Forestville Water District

Public: Margaret DiGenova, California American Water  
Brenda Adelman, Russian River Watershed Protection

1. Check In

Jon Foreman, Acting WAC Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

2. Public Comment

No public comments.

3. Recap from the April 3, 2023 WAC/TAC Meeting and Approval of Minutes

Moved by Jack Baker, North Marin Water District, seconded by Laura Sparks, City of Cotati.

**No public comments.** Unanimously approved with City of Petaluma and Rohnert Park absent, and Mark Stapp, City of Santa Rosa, abstaining.

4. Water Supply Coordination Council – April 17, 2023

Jon Foreman, Acting WAC Chair, presented. The Water Supply Coordination Council met on April 17, 2023 and created the agenda for today's WAC/TAC meeting.

**No public comments.**

5. Water Supply Conditions and Temporary Urgency Change Order

Pam Jeane, SCWA, presented.

Potter Valley Project is currently importing about 90 cubic feet per second (cfs) into the upper Russian River Watershed. This will increase to 130 cfs on May 15, 2023 in accordance with PG&Es FERC (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission) operating license. The minimum release will increase at that time to 75 cubic ft per second. Lake Mendocino storage is close to 100,00-acre ft. Lake Sonoma is close to 264,000-acre ft. Storage remains in the flood control pool, with the Army Corp. managing releases. The current State Water Board Temporary Urgency Change Order (Order) expires in June of this year, however, another Temporary Urgency Change Petition (Petition) was filed with the State Division of Water Rights. These are being filed because of the requirement in the Russian River Biological Opinion to reduce stream flows in normal water supply conditions. If approved, this will lower the minimum instream flow requirement from 185cfs to 125cfs in the upper Russian River, and from 125cfs to 70cfs in the lower Russian River. Anticipate that the Petition will be approved soon. When the new Order does come out, it will supersede the December Order.

**No public comments.**

6. Sonoma Marin Saving Water Partnership (TAC)

a. 2023 Water Production Relative to 2013 Benchmark

Jennifer Burke, Santa Rosa Water, presented. (*Refer to handouts.*)

There has been a 32% reduction for all members of the partnership in March 2023 compared to the 2013 benchmark. In the year-to-date table, there is a 25% reduction for all members of the partnership compared to the 2013 benchmark. In chart two,

the partnership's gallons per capita per day showing that we have a significant reduction in water use, even with the growth of population.

**No public comment.**

b. Water Use Efficiency Outreach Messaging

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

Last month's campaign was "Thank You", which went through April in digital, media, and print. The summer campaign will focus on sprinkler spruce up, irrigation scheduling, water smart gardens, and the water smart plant label and will have a big push through streaming.

Jennifer Burke, Santa Rosa Water, asked about when and where people can sign up for the upcoming Ecofriendly Garden Tour.

Andrea Rodriguez, SCWA, answered that is back in person starting Saturday, May 13. Paul Piazza, SCWA, confirmed that the tour is free and that you need to sign-up at [savingwaterpartnership.com](http://savingwaterpartnership.com).

Grant Davis, SCWA, added that the partnership has been growing more including the addition of more cities north. Adding in Healdsburg and Cloverdale helps to strengthen the region. Strong public communication from DWR (Department of Water Resources) and the state about our leadership and water use efficiency.

**No public comment.**

7. **Regional Water Supply Resiliency Study Update**

Due to Don Seymour, SCWA, being absent due to illness, this item is postponed to later date.

8. **SCWA Local Hazard Mitigation Plan Update**

Parastou Hooshalsadat, SCWA, presented. (*Refer to handouts.*)

The update to SCWA's Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) was first brought to WAC/TAC in November 2022 and it was requested that this come back once the draft was available. This update was done in house at SCWA, without the assistance of consultants. There have been four public meetings held since November, providing the public and stakeholders a way to be involved in the planning process. The goal of the LHMP is to maintain and enhance a disaster-resistant region by reducing the potential for loss of life, property damage, and environmental degradation from natural disasters, while accelerating economic recovery from those disasters. In order to achieve the goals, there was a two tier ranking methodology. Tier 1 included actions that provide a high qualitative cost/benefit ratio and will result in substantial improvements. Tier 2 is

broken into Priority A and Priority B. Priority A are actions that have potential to be completed within the 5-year timeframe of the LHMP. Priority B are actions where the availability of resources and opportunities are not likely to be completed within the 5-year life of the LHMP. It was noted that there was a misprint in the table, as there is no LHMP work being done at Warm Springs Dam. Members of the public can submit comments on the draft starting on May 15. SCWA anticipates submitting the final draft LHMP to CalOES in June, and then in October they are projecting the LHMP will be approved by the Board of Directors and FEMA.

Brenda Alderman shared concerns, that over 15 to 20 years, there was raw sewage leaking into the river and is happy to see mitigation being planned for that.

Parastou Hooshalsadat, SCWA, gave a reminder that there will be a virtual meeting on May 10<sup>th</sup> for Russian River Sanitation district.

9. Russian River Water Forum Update (*Refer to handouts.*)

Mike Thompson, SCWA, presented.

PG&E is preparing a FERC license surrender and decommissioning of the Potter Valley Project. To fill the ownership void, there are steps that the Russian River interests need to take. The four big areas to tackle: long term diversion operations ownership and governance, water supply and fisheries, financial, and water rights. SCWA has received funding from the California Department of Water Resources Urban and Multi-benefit Drought Relief Grant Program to help support water supply resiliency planning. With this funding, the Russian River Water Forum (RRWF) has been established. The RRWF will include both Russian River and Eel River basin interests. To start the Planning Group will include representatives from counties, water suppliers, agricultural interests, environmental interests, recreation, and tribes. The first meeting will be May 17<sup>th</sup> where they will decide on the Statements of Interests and working group descriptions. The Leadership Council is planning to start meeting in the late summer or early fall. For the Water Supplier Caucus, they will be working to identify interests, principles, and working team participation. The Leadership Council will be comprised of elected officials and legislative staff and will be a non-decision-making body. Next steps include the Planning group's first meeting on May 17<sup>th</sup> in Ukiah from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., the Working Groups will meet in June, and the Leadership Council will meet mid to late summer.

Jon Scribbs, City of Petaluma, asked about the change in water rights for Russian River and ask how this is different from a watershed coalition group.

Mike Thompson, SCWA, clarified that there are many water rights on the Russian River. There were rights to summer flow from Potter Valley Project, which is the primary change. Explained that this includes multiple counties and includes the Eel River as well.

Jennifer Burke, Santa Rosa Water, added that the seats for the water contractors on the planning group will be Windsor, with Petaluma as their alternate, Santa Rosa with Rohnert Park as their alternate, and North Marin Water District with Marin Water as their alternate. For the Leadership Council seats are not limited, however, the Leadership Council will be subject to the Brown Act, and every town or Council will only have one elected official.

a. Recommendation for WAC Representation on Leadership Council

Jennifer Burke, Santa Rosa Water, suggested that the WAC Chair and WAC Vice Chair be elected to the Leadership Council.

**No public comment.** Moved by Sam Salmon, Town of Windsor, seconded by Mark Stapp, City of Santa Rosa. Unanimously approved with City of Rohnert Park absent.

10. Biological Opinion Status Update

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

Fish Flow Project – No changes, however, they are working on long term change petitions.

Dry Creek Habitat Enhancement Project – Currently working on the second portion of Phase IV. Overall, still working on Phases IV, V, and VI. Phase IV is being constructed in 2022 and 2023, Phase V is beginning construction in 2023, and Phase VI is tentatively planned for construction in 2024. Sonoma Water's right-of-way staff and project manager continue to work with the Phase VI property owners to finalize the access routes and staging areas for these projects, obtain appraisals for the value of the right-of-way compensation amounts, and prepare right-of-way compensation offers. The Army Corps advertised Phase V of the Project in March in order to issue a notice to proceed in May and have construction start in June.

Habitat Monitoring Maintenance – Sonoma Water environmental staff continue to evaluate and monitor previously constructed and maintained sites to quantify the habitat areas and identify changes or maintenance needs. The Army Corps began releasing water from Warm Springs Dam to evacuate water from the flood control pool in Lake Sonoma. The flood control release reached a maximum flow of 4,000 cfs, declined to 1,000 cfs on March 23, and has been sustained at 1,000 cfs since that date.

Fish Monitoring – Spawning fish is dismal, with less than 1000 fish returning to the two facilities. In most years the total return of hatchery fish to both facilities exceed 4,000 fish and can be as high as 10,000 fish.

Russian River Estuary Management Project – The mouth of the Russian River is open and SCWA is not anticipating many changes for the 2023 draft Adaptive Management Plan.

Biological Assessment – Continuing work on the Biological Assessment as it expires in September of this year. This will be discussed further at a Public Policy Facilitating Committee meeting later in May.

**No public comment.**

11. Potter Valley Project Update

Pam Jeane, SCWA, presented.

There is no change in surrender process. PG&E is set to publish a draft application in November and will be soliciting comments. Gates at Scott Dam will not be raised for seismic stability reasons and dam safety. PG&E did notify FERC that they will not be raising the gates. PG&E will be filing a one-year variance for this year. Normally, they would convene a drought working group, but since this is not drought related, no working group was formed. PG&E does plan to file a long-term variance, or license amendment, for operations assuming no longer raising the gates. PG&E will also not be fixing the transformer bank or produce power. Hoping to get consultant out to Potter Valley to do some ground mapping and to speak to residents.

Jennifer Burke, Santa Rosa Water, asked if SCWA had heard where FERC is on regarding requiring PG&E to reopen their license for including the interim measures from NMFS (National Marine Fisheries Service).

Pam Jeane, SCWA, responded they have not heard anything, but that there was a communication from FERC to the resource agencies asking for concurrence with the plan that has been filed for operation of the facilities.

**No public comment.**

12. SCWA Government Affairs Update

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

Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Program proposal's deadline is June 1. Funding will support the study, design, and construction of collaboratively developed ecosystem restoration projects that provide widespread regional benefits and improve the health of fisheries, wildlife and aquatic habitat through restoration and improved fish passage. Our focus as a region is to determine how to meet the two basin goals of providing better fish

passage without harming the Eel River and supporting diversion from Potter Valley into Lake Mendocino. Robert Rogers, SCWA, AB 30, which is implementing FIRO (Forecast Informed Reservoir Operations) into the DWR budget, was heard in the Assembly Appropriations Committee and was moved to the Suspense File. Sonoma Water has also submitted letters of Support for AB 557, AB1572, SB 23, and SB 867. On the Federal side, they had some community funding requests, with two of them being chosen by Senator Feinstein's appropriations request. One being for the Russian River County Sanitation District and the other is for the 12kV Wohler-Mirabel overhead electrical distribution system. There were also two that were chosen for Senator Padilla's appropriations request. Those two were for the Russian River County Sanitation District and the Penngrove Lift Station. Last year SCWA was able to receive \$1,000,000 appropriation for the Sub-seasonal to Seasonal Precipitation Forecasting, and now \$15 million is being requested for fiscal year 2024. Also, they are requesting additional funding for the Advanced Quantitative Precipitation Information (AQPI) program building on the success of the \$900,000 appropriation.

John Shribbs, City of Petaluma, asked if the Petaluma Watershed would be included in the representation, or if they need to do separate requests for state and federal.

Robert Rogers, SCWA, confirmed that the Petaluma Watershed is included in these asks.

**No public comment.**

13. Integrated Regional Water Management Plan(s) Update

Grant Davis, SCWA, there are two plans to cover. First, the North Coast Resource Partnership has an upcoming strategic planning process in July. This process is the number one ranked regional planning process in the state because of the way they include tribal and cultural support and involvement. Second, the Bay Area Integrated Regional Water Management Plan is having their 20-year anniversary which will be held in Sacramento by DWR. The main project left is the Advanced Quantitative Precipitation Information (AQPI) program, which includes the radars that provide more precise precipitation. Last year SCWA received \$900,000 to help complete the program and begin operations.

**No public comment.**

14. Items for Next Agenda (next combined WAC/TAC meeting is August 7, 2023)

None.

**No public comment.**

15. Check Out

Jon Foreman, Acting WAC Chair, adjourned the meeting at 10:26 a.m.