

DRAFT MINUTES OF TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Utilities Field Operations Training Center
35 Stony Point Road, Santa Rosa, CA
December 4, 2023

Attendees: Dan Herrera, City of Petaluma
Amanda Hudson, Valley of The Moon Water District
Jennifer Burke, City of Santa Rosa
Peter Martin, City of Santa Rosa
Tony Williams, North Marin Water District
Pam Jeane, Sonoma County Water Agency (SCWA)
Grant Davis, SCWA
Craig Scott, City of Cotati
Matt Wargula, City of Sonoma
Mike Berger, City of Sonoma
Christina Goulart, Town of Windsor
Emily Sanborn, City of Rohnert Park
Lucy Croix, Marin Municipal Water District
Michelle Montoya, City of Santa Rosa

Staff/Alternates: Andrea Rodriguez, SCWA
Don Seymour, SCWA
Paul Piazza, SCWA
Brad Sherwood, SCWA
Jake Spaulding, SCWA
Ann DuBay, SCWA
Lynne Rosselli, SCWA
Claire Nordlie, City of Santa Rosa

Public: Dick Dowd

1. Check In
Jennifer Burke, TAC Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m.
2. Public Comment
No public comment.
3. Water Supply Conditions and Temporary Urgency Change Order
Don Seymour, SCWA, presented.
No major changes currently, as there has not been a large amount of rain, so reservoirs have not refilled. However, both reservoirs are still in good shape with Lake Mendocino just under 60,000 acre-ft and Lake Sonoma is just over 218,000 acre-ft. PG&E continues to operate Potter Valley under the FERC order variance until Lake Pillsbury exceeds 36,000 acre-ft. Currently, Lake Pillsbury is around 29,000 to 30,000 acre-ft.
SCWA filed the new temporary urgency change petition in October and has been working with National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), the Regional Water Quality Control Board, and California Fish and Wildlife on support letters for the petitions. NMFS and California Fish and Wildlife did submit support letters with pre-negotiated terms. SCWA has been working closely with state board staff on some of their concerns and questions based on the new storage thresholds for Lake Mendocino. Hoping the Temporary Urgency Change Order will be issued prior to January 1, 2024.
No public comment.
4. Sonoma Marin Saving Water Partnership
 - a. 2023 Water Production Relative to 2013 Benchmark

Jennifer Burke, TAC Chair, presented.

October 2023 water usage compared to October 2013, shows a 24% water savings for the partnership. Water usage to date 2023 compared to 2013 shows a 27% reduction in use. Even with the increase in population, the gallons per capita per day are down.

b. Water Use Efficiency Messaging

Andrea Rodriguez, SCWA, presented.

SCWA is using December and January to plan for Spring, so no updates at this time.

No public comment.

5. Biological Opinion Status Update

Pam Jeane, SCWA, presented.

Fish Flow Project - No changes.

Dry Creek Habitat - Identical to last month. Construction on reach 4C will winterize the site, which has already begun. Work will be finished in 2024. Looking for further extension on Phase 6 due to issues with access.

Fish Monitoring – As of November 21, there were 1925 Chinook seen at the camera at Mirabel, 162 Coho, and just a few Steelhead. Expect to see a few more fish after November 21, due to rain and manual breach at estuary.

Biological Assessment for New Biological Opinion – Waiting for consultation to formally start. Discussion with NMFS about information they would like to see before the consultation is formally started.

Jennifer Burke, Santa Rosa Water, asked how long the consultation will take once the formal process begins.

Pam Jeane, SCWA, said they have a certain number of days in order to produce the Biological Opinion. Believes this is part of why they have not formally accepted consultation. Estimated it will take 6 months to complete, based on last time.

Jennifer Burke, Santa Rosa Water, asked if this will be a 15-year term.

Pam Jeane, SCWA, said it will likely be for a 10-year term.

No public comment.

6. Potter Valley Project Update

Pam Jeane, SCWA, presented.

PG&E released the initial draft license surrender application and preliminary decommissioning plan for the Potter Valley Project on November 17. A public comment period is open until December 22. The draft final license surrender application is scheduled to be released in June 2024. The finalized application package is due at the end of January 2025. The initial draft document is on PG&E's website, along with instructions on how to submit comments.

The initial proposal for the new Eel-Russian facility included 3 parties, but now it includes 7 parties. The proposal included two options for fish passage, a roughened channel option and a manual pump diversion option.

Jennifer Burke, Santa Rosa Water, asked if Sonoma Water has specific comments that they would like the contractors to submit to PG&E and, if they do, please let everyone know.

Pam Jeane, SCWA, said a draft of SCWA's comments will be done by end of day today and that comments will be brief and mainly focused on inconsistencies and corrections on maps.

Jennifer Burke, Santa Rosa Water, asked for an update on the regional entity formation for the new Eel-Russian facility.

Pam Jeane, SCWA, said on November 30, Mendocino County Inland Water and Power Commission took the JPA to their Board of Directors. The JPA was approved with one small caveat. The Round Valley Indian Tribes has also approved the JPA. SCWA is scheduled to take it to the County of Sonoma Board of Supervisors and Sonoma Water Board of Directors tomorrow.

Jennifer Burke, Santa Rosa Water, asked if that was all the members of the JPA or if the number will increase over time.

Pam Jeane, SCWA, said it may increase over time, but that there was no time to negotiate with the other parties before submittal.

Jennifer Burke, Santa Rosa Water, asked in terms of the make-up of the JPA, are Sonoma County, Sonoma Water, Mendocino County Inland Water and Power Commission, and the Round Valley Indian Tribes the four agencies that will have Board Members and asked when they will meet.

Pam Jeane, SCWA, confirmed that those are the four agencies, however, Round Valley Indian Tribes will have a voting Board member but are not a signatory to the JPA. The first meeting will be January and not sure when and where the Board will meet but it will be a Brown Act body.

No public comment.

7. Russian River Water Forum Update

Grant Davis, SCWA, presented.

Next meeting will be on December 7, and has Zoom option but would encourage everyone to be there in person. PG&E has said they will have someone monitoring the discussion at the Forum meeting but will not be available for questions. The Forum is low on funds, so for efficiency purposes, the meetings will be more informational and will probably be limited to two more meetings, possibly a third.

No public comment.

8. Items for Next Agenda (TAC Meeting, January 8, 2024)

Reminder to provide updates if your agencies WAC or TAC member has changed.

No public comment.

9. Check Out

Jennifer Burke, TAC Chair, adjourned the meeting at 9:33 a.m.