

FINAL MINUTES OF TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
Utilities Field Operations Training Center  
35 Stony Point Road, Santa Rosa, CA  
December 2, 2024

Attendees: Dan Herrera, City of Petaluma  
Jennifer Burke, City of Santa Rosa  
Tony Williams, North Marin Water District  
Mike Berger, City of Sonoma  
Cristina Goulart, Town of Windsor  
Vanessa Garrett, City of Rohnert Park  
Paul Sellier, Marin Municipal Water District  
Michelle Montoya, City of Santa Rosa

Staff/Alternates: Don Seymour, Sonoma County Water Agency (SCWA)  
Paul Piazza, SCWA  
Kent Gylfe, SCWA  
Alex Bodulow, SCWA  
Oriana Hart, City of Petaluma  
Christopher Pegg, City of Sonoma  
Cortney Bowser, City of Rohnert Park  
Peter Martin, City of Santa Rosa  
Lisa Cuellar, City of Santa Rosa  
Claire Nordlie, City of Santa Rosa

Public: Brenda Adelman, Russian River Watershed Protection Committee  
Bob Anderson  
Joy Eldredge, City of Napa  
Neil Hancock

1. Check In  
Chair Burke called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.
2. Public Comment  
None.
3. 2014 South Napa Earthquake – City of Napa Water System  
Joy Eldredge, City of Napa, presented.  
On Sunday, August 24, 2014, the South Napa Fault had a magnitude 6.0 earthquake. Napa has three major water sources, two local sources and then one connected to the state water project. At that time, the City of Napa had 51 employees, with 25,000 services for a population of 84,000. The City of Napa transmission and distribution system includes 12 Storage Tanks providing 30 Million Gallons (MG) of storage, 380 Miles of Pipeline – 42-inch to service laterals, 9 pump stations that serve 10% of population, 5 pressure zones, and 14 pressure regulating stations. Damage was primarily on the west side of Napa, in the Browns Valley area. The soils on that side are more clay and expansive, versus the east side which is rockier.  
There were cast iron pipes that broke, with 17 line breaks within a four block area. Day one the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) opened, the Department Operations Center (DOC) established at the corporation yard, and employees reported to work. During the day one damage assessment, it was determined that there were 60 water main breaks, confirmed dams and treatment plants were ok, troubleshooted why tanks were losing storage, assessed pump station needs including need for generators, and tracked leaks by spreadsheet. Some strategies implemented during day 1 included “FEED” the leaks to maintain positive system pressure, switched from 12 to 14 hour shifts, CalWARN offered

resources within one hour, called in four contractors as on-call emergency contracts, stockpiled backfill materials, set up potable water stations, issued a precautionary boil water notice, setup Bacti data spreadsheet, prepared leak packets which included maps and USA tags, and coordinated logistics including hotels and food for those crews that came in to assist. Day two saw 90 leaks confirmed, the ordering of repair materials, seven CalWARN crews arrived, three bacti samples plus one blank was done per location, and a cost estimate for damages began. Day three saw 100+ leaks confirmed, two more crews were ordered, day two bactis cleared and notifications sent out, contact made with area schools, and set a goal to complete priority work by Friday for the Labor Day holiday. Some lessons learned included the need to confirm customer call-ins, assign water "inspectors" to geographic areas to provide accurate information on leaks, develop a tracking and recording systems for leaks, control information, communicate clearly and often with Division of Drinking Water, pre-build potable water stations, organization of lab data and notifications, have more administrative support for record keeping, checking in and out of workers, and cost estimating, have shorter shifts, crews need to document each leak with photo, parts, and labor time, and join CalWARN. Overall, there were 200 leaks addressed within 100 days of the earthquake.

Tony Williams, North Marin Water District, asked about getting all AC pipe out of system and asked if the Water enterprise have its own emergency manager position.

Joy Eldredge, City of Napa, answered that they have a 36 inch right now, and have typically only seen breaks in swampy area, but are now starting to see breaks in residential areas. The breaks show it is time to remove the remaining AC pipe and the focus will be on residential areas first. The City of Napa does not have its own emergency manager position, but the duty of that role typically falls to Director or Deputy Director.

Vanessa Garrett, City of Rohnert Park, asked what the team looked like that got out customer information.

Joy Eldredge, City of Napa, answered said they worked through the City of Napa, with the Mayor and City Manager, to get word out to the public. Also, by day three, the GIS map system had leak information available.

Paul Sellier, Marin Municipal Water District, asked if they had an emergency response plan (ERP) and if, as a result of 2014, if there anything else she would like to see done.

Joy Eldredge, City of Napa, answered that they do have an ERP and staff do take National Incident Management System (NIMS) training.

Peter Martin, City of Santa Rosa, asked if there were any pump stations or reservoirs that sustained lasting damage.

Joy Eldredge, City of Napa, answered that there was one pump station that fed one tank did fail, but they still had one working pump that served the area.

Dan Herrera, City of Petaluma, asked about risk resiliency and the use of earthquake sensors.

Joy Eldredge, City of Napa, said for her efforts she would rather put reliability and redundancy into their Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) and communications.

Kent Gylfe, SCWA, asked if their ERP has been updated since this event or if they updated the document from what was learned.

Joy Eldredge, City of Napa, answered that it has not been updated, just documented in ways like these presentations and information sharing.

Jennifer Burke, City of Santa Rosa, asked if they determined if they needed additional staff going forward based on this experience and the leaks that happened up to six months later, how much of a fight with FEMA was it to get reimbursement for those repairs. Also, were there issues with the 214 forms or could you use records of timecards and pictures. Regarding communication and the need for information right away, how did they deal with council members and suggestions.

Joy Eldredge, City of Napa, said no new staff were added as a result, including no emergency manager position. They did get reimbursed from FEMA, but it was a battle and they had to provide lots of documentation. The one thing that they did apply for and had

denied, were pipe replacements in the four or five areas that had pipes with multiple breaks in one area. They did do the 214 forms and had to keep up with it, as FEMA would not accept other documentation. As for communication with council members, the City Manager should be managing the situation and providing information, including helping them understand the process.

**No public comment.**

4. Water Supply Conditions and Temporary Urgency Change Order

Don Seymour, SCWA, presented.

The recent storms had a significant impact on the Russian River water supply condition. Lake Sonoma had 32,000 acre-ft of inflow, bringing it to 254,000 acre-ft which is just shy of the water supply pool that is authorized by the minor deviation. If it goes above that, the Army Corps. of Engineers will start making releases. Lake Mendocino had 15,000 acre-ft of inflow, bringing it to 62,000 acre-ft. The watershed is fully saturated now, so any additional precipitation will translate to runoff into our reservoirs. For Lake Sonoma, the water that had been released since last May was recovered with this storm.

The Temporary Urgency Change Order was approved October 31, 2024, and based on storage in Lake Mendocino, the Russian River is in a normal water supply condition and will be reassessed January 1, 2025.

Jennifer Burke, City of Santa Rosa, asked if there was any damage due to flooding from the atmospheric river.

Don Seymour, SCWA, replied there was no damage on the water supply side.

Kent Gylfe, SCWA said Sonoma Water faired really well on the sanitation side as well.

**No public comment.**

5. Sonoma Marin Saving Water Partnership

a. 2024 Water Production Relative to 2013 Benchmark

Jennifer Burke, City of Santa Rosa, presented.

October 2024 compared to 2013 shows that the partnership's usage is down 19%, with the year- date- showing a 22% savings.

b. Water Use Efficiency Messaging

Paul Piazza, SCWA, presented.

The Fall/Winter outreach campaign is focusing on seasonal reminders such as reducing irrigation, fall planting season for natives, taking advantage of water saving rebates, and checking for leaks ahead of sewer-averaging months. For social media, Nextdoor postings are averaging 24,510 impressions with an average of 16 interactions per post. The Eco-Friendly Garden tour signups are ending. There are 25 applications so far, and all of them are new to the tour.

**No public comment.**

6. Items for Next Agenda

Jennifer Burke, TAC Chair, reminded everyone to let her know if new WAC or TAC members are appointed.

**No public comment.**

7. Check Out

Chair Burke adjourned the meeting at 10:19 am.