

DRAFT* MINUTES OF THE WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Utilities Field Operations Training Center
35 Stony Point Road, Santa Rosa, CA
February 3, 2025

Attendees: Chelsea Thompson, City of Petaluma
Alex DeCarli, City of Petaluma (Joined at 9:21 a.m.)
Matt Fullner, Valley of The Moon Water District
Jon Foreman, Valley of the Moon Water District
Jennifer Burke, City of Santa Rosa
Natalie Rogers, City of Santa Rosa
Tony Williams, North Marin Water District
Jack Baker, North Marin Water District
Grant Davis, Sonoma County Water Agency (SCWA or Sonoma Water)
Laura Sparks, City of Cotati
Ron Wellander, City of Sonoma
Mike Berger, City of Sonoma
Cristina Goulart, Town of Windsor
Sam Salmon, Town of Windsor
Emily Sanborn, City of Rohnert Park
Cortney Bowser, City of Rohnert Park
Larry Russell, Marin Municipal Water District
Paul Sellier, Marin Municipal Water District
Michelle Montoya, City of Santa Rosa

Staff/Alternates: Paul Piazza, SCWA
Kent Gylfe, SCWA
Lynne Rosselli, SCWA
Stephen Maples, SCWA
Andrea Rodriguez, SCWA
Brad Sherwood, SCWA
Ryan Pedrotti, SCWA
David Manning, SCWA
David Royall, SCWA
Todd Schram, SCWA
Dan Herrera, City of Petaluma
Oriana Hart, City of Petaluma
Janice Cader Thompson, City of Petaluma
Cortney Bowser, City of Rohnert Park
Shannon Cotulla, Town of Windsor
Peter Martin, City of Santa Rosa
Claire Nordlie, City of Santa Rosa

Public: Brenda Adelman, Russian River Watershed Protection
Duane DeWitt
Neil Hancock

1. Check In
Chair Rogers called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.
2. Public Comment
Duane Dewitt shared clarification on his public comment from the last WAC meeting, and shared thoughts on water conservation, and habitat enhancement.

3. Recap from the November 4, 2024 WAC/TAC Meeting and Approval of Minutes (See Attachment)
Moved by Jon Forman, Valley of the Moon Water District, seconded by Jack Baker, North Marin Water District. Unanimously approved with City of Petaluma and City of Sonoma abstaining.
4. Recap from the January 6, 2025 TAC Meeting and Approval of Minutes (TAC) (See Attachment)
Duane Dewitt clarified his public comment from the January 6, 2025 meeting and shared that he disagrees with the move to action minutes.
Brenda Adelman spoke in opposition of moving to action minutes.
Moved by Tony Williams, North Marin Water District, seconded by Matt Fullner, Valley of the Moon Water District. Unanimously approved with City of Cotati absent and City of Petaluma abstaining.
5. Water Supply Coordination Council – January 27, 2025
Chair Rogers announced that the Water Supply Coordination Council met on January 27, 2025 and set today's agenda.
No public comment.
6. New WAC Member Orientation
Grant Davis, SCWA, welcomed new WAC members Council Members Alex DeCarli (primary) and Janice Cader Thompson (alternate) from the City of Petaluma.
No public comment.
7. Water Supply Conditions and Temporary Urgency Change Order
Don Seymour, SCWA, spoke on this topic.
Lake Sonoma and Lake Mendocino reservoirs are full. Lake Sonoma is currently above its deviation pool, with the Army Corps. of Engineers set to ramp up releases to bring the pool down to the top of the deviation. Lake Mendocino is still below its deviation, but likely will hit its deviation pool in the next few days and will also likely need releases. Temporary Urgency Change Order is in place until Spring. Currently, under normal water supply condition and will be reassessed on March 1, 2025.
Jennifer Burke, City of Santa Rosa, asked if a temporary urgency change petition will be needed in summer to comply with the biological opinion.
Don Seymour, SCWA, anticipates that they will be reapplying in April or May.
Grant Davis, SCWA, asked Don to speak on the upcoming Forecast Informed Reservoir Operations (FIRO) Steering Committee and to explain more on the deviations at the reservoirs.
Don Seymour, SCWA, shared that the deviations are to the reservoir's water control manuals.
Paul Sellier, Marin Municipal Water District, asked if 30,000 acre-ft could be put into context.
Don Seymour, SCWA, answered that SCWA water sales are around 40,000 acre-ft, which means that essentially the storage is around three quarters of the annual water sales.
Tony Williams, North Marin Water District, asked when the deviation pool goes up to the 19,000 acre-ft.
Don Seymour, SCWA, said it will increase on February 16, 2025.
Grant Davis, SCWA, spoke about atmospheric rivers.
Don Seymour, SCWA, added that not only is it a huge benefit to have the extra water at Lake Sonoma, it does carry over to the next year. So if there is a drier year, it will not take as much to fill it back up.
Natalie Rogers, City of Santa Rosa, asked if there could be changes coming from the federal government that could impact our water storage.

Don Seymour, SCWA, said he did not have an answer, but acknowledged both reservoirs are federally run and operated by the Army Corp. of Engineers.

Grant Davis, SCWA, added that our river system is separate from other state and federal systems, and he thinks we are in a good spot.

Laura Sparks, City of Cotati, asked if we have good communication with Army Corp. of Engineers.

Don Seymour, SCWA, said that there is excellent communication with the Army. Corp. of Engineers and SCWA works with them daily on reservoir operations.

Bob Anderson spoke on Project 2025 and referenced page 548 where FIRO is cited.

Grant Davis, SCWA, said that the language in that document supports the FIRO efforts.

Neil Hancock asked about the 30,000 acre-ft that could be stored with FIRO, how much by percentage is used for riparian rights holders and urban usage.

Don Seymour, SCWA, clarified that the 30,000 acre-ft is combined between Lake Sonoma and Lake Mendocino. The water stored does not solely go to the water contractors, but some of the stored water is used by downstream water rights holders and meeting minimum stream flow requirements.

8. Sonoma Marin Saving Water Partnership (TAC)

a. 2024 Water Production Relative to 2013 Benchmark (See Attachment)

Jennifer Burke, City of Santa Rosa, spoke on this topic.

For the month of December, the partnership saw a 25% reduction compared to 2013.

The year-to-date compared to 2013 is showing a 23% reduction.

No public comment.

b. Water Use Efficiency Messaging (See Attachment)

Paul Piazza, SCWA, presented on Winter/Spring 2025 outreach, Sonoma Water social media campaigns, partnership resources, and the dye-tab challenge.

Jennifer Burke, City of Santa Rosa, shared Sonoma Water and Santa Rosa will be at the St. Paddy's Day 5K to kick off fix-a-leak week.

No public comment.

9. TAC Finance Subcommittee Update - FY2025-26 Draft SCWA Water Transmission System Budget (TAC)

Cristina Goulart, Town of Windsor, updated that the draft water transmission system budget was presented to the subcommittee. Questions and comments from the subcommittee were submitted to Sonoma Water staff and the subcommittee will reconvene on February 13, 2025 to review responses and the next draft of the budget.

Jennifer Burke, City of Santa Rosa, asked about timeline for March and April.

Cristina Goulart, Town of Windsor, answered that once the second draft is received, the subcommittee would vote on the draft budget. In March, Lynne Rosselli, SCWA, will be going out to the water contractor's various Boards and Councils to present.

Jennifer Burke, City of Santa Rosa, mentioned the TAC vote will happen in March, with the WAC vote happening in April.

Tony Williams, North Marin Water District, thanked Sonoma Water for their work on this.

No public comment.

10. Biological Opinion Status Update (See Attachment)

David Manning, SCWA, spoke on this topic.

Dry Creek Habitat Enhancement Project has completed 5 miles and are awaiting the next Biological Opinion to see how the last mile will be treated by the National Marine Fisheries Service. Both ground surveys and drone surveys have been done to research various habitats that exist in the flood plain and in the stream itself. Due to high flows in Dry Creek, there has been movement of sediment along the channels and maintenance work will take place this summer to remove some of the sediment.

No public comment.

11. Eel Russian Project Authority and Potter Valley Project Update

Dave Manning, SCWA, spoke on this topic.

Eel Russian Project Authority is working on the design of the new Eel Russian facility (NERF). Friday PG&E released a draft license surrender application for public comment. One part describes the removal activities of Scott and Cape Horn dams, the other part is related to the NERF. The application will eventually be submitted to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission at the end of July. Public can review and comment on the document by getting the link and password from PG&E. PG&E will host a webinar on February 6, 2025 describing what is in the document.

The Two Basin partners are working together to come up with an agreement on how the NERF will operate. Congressman Huffman secured \$15 million for construction of the NERF, but it is currently frozen under the new administration.

Ron Wellander, City of Sonoma, asked if they are optimistic about the relationship with PG&E.

David Manning, SCWA, said he is optimistic as PG&E has shown a willingness to work with stakeholders, as they would like to exit the process as soon as they can.

Alex DiCarli, City of Petaluma, asked about what the tribes are providing to the project.

David Manning, SCWA, said the tribes are very tied into the restoration projects, as well as some water conservation and water restoration planning.

Jennifer Burke, City of Santa Rosa, asked if there is benefit for the WAC to reinforce comments Sonoma Water may be making on PG&E's draft application.

David Manning, SCWA, said they have only been able to review parts of the draft application, but that comments would be welcomed.

Jennifer Burke, City of Santa Rosa, said that if there are comments that would be helpful, the WAC has a Potter Valley Project Ad Hoc Committee that can act quickly on sending comment letters

Grant Davis, SCWA, said planning to hold a Potter Valley Project Ad Hoc Committee meeting so that the WAC can reinforce Sonoma Water's comments would be helpful.

No public comment.

12. Business Services and External Affairs Division Update (See Attachment)

Brad Sherwood, SCWA, shared this is a new format for how his team will be providing updates.

a. Communications Update

Andrea Rodriguez, SCWA, spoke on SCWA social media, press releases, the annual report which will be available online in English and Spanish, and the FAQs that are focused on water supply during fires.

b. Community and Employee Engagement Update

Ryan Pedrotti, SCWA, spoke on community engagement including SCWA's education center and programs, the fish hatchery with the best day to visit is Thursdays for spawning, raising Steelhead fish eggs in classrooms, and the 2025 High School Video Contest.

c. Finance and Grant Funded Programs Update

Lynne Rosselli, SCWA, gave a snapshot of Sonoma Water's FY2024/25 adopted budget and Sonoma Water Grant funding sources.

d. Information Technology Update

Ty Justice, SCWA, spoke on the SCWA cybersecurity roadmap including previous accomplishments and the 2025/26 planning, the Azure Stack HCI migration, and the Teams cloud phone migration.

e. Government Affairs Update

Brad Sherwood, SCWA, spoke on the new seated government including the Board of Directors and Board of Supervisors. February 25, 2025 is the deadline for legislative

bills to be introduced for the State. Things have been stalled due to the fires happening in Los Angeles. On the Federal side, make sure to coordinate with Congressmen Thompson and Huffman on earmarks. On the local government side, a big thank you to Kent Gylfe, SCWA, who has been making presentations to the water contractors various Boards and Councils on capital improvements projects.

No public comment.

13. Integrated Regional Water Management Plan(s) Update

Grant Davis, SCWA, shared that last week Sonoma County hosted the North Coast Research Partnership retreat which included seven counties and highlighted the projects that have been funded by state revenues. Next week, Sonoma Water will be presenting to the Bay Area Water Managers Coalition on the radar project, Advanced Quantitative Precipitation and Information (AQPI).

No public comment.

14. Items for Next Agenda (next combined WAC/TAC meeting is April 7, 2025)

Brad Sherwood, SCWA, would like to add an operations and maintenance report by David Royall.

Natalie Rogers, WAC Chair, said we will look to add that to the May agenda.

No public comment.

15. Check Out

Chair Rogers adjourned the meeting at 10:34 a.m.