

Eel-Russian Project Authority

**c/o Sonoma County Water Agency
404 Aviation Blvd, Santa Rosa, CA 95403
<https://www.eelrussianauthority.org>**

DRAFT MINUTES – JANUARY 31, 2024 Board Meeting County of Sonoma, Board of Supervisors Chambers 575 Administration Drive, Room 102A Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Attendees: Director James Gore, County of Sonoma
Director Glenn McGourty, Mendocino County Inland Water and Power Commission
Director Janet Pauli, Mendocino County Inland Water and Power Commission
Director David Rabbitt, Sonoma Water
Director James Russ, Round Valley Indian Tribes

Staff/Presenters: Cory O'Donnell, County of Sonoma
Pam Jeane, Sonoma Water
David Manning, Sonoma Water
Brad Sherwood, Sonoma Water

1. Call to Order

County Counsel Cory O'Donnell called the meeting to order at 3:15pm.

2. Selection/Appointment of Officers

- a. Selection of Chair: Janet Pauli moved to nominate David Rabbitt, seconded by James Gore, unanimously approved by voice vote, no abstentions, no one absent.
- b. Selection of Vice-Chair: James Gore moved to nominate Janet Pauli, seconded by Glenn McGourty, unanimously approved by voice vote, no abstentions, no one absent.
- c. Appointment of Secretary: Chair David Rabbitt appoints Sonoma Water as the Secretary/Interim Secretary, moved by Glenn McGourty, seconded by James Gore, unanimously approved by voice vote, no abstentions, no one absent.

3. Approval of the Agenda

Counsel Cory O'Donnell noted an edit to item 5d on the Consent Calendar to include RVIT Counsel Erica Costa and Curtis Berkey to the list of negotiators in the Resolution. Approval of agenda was then moved by Glenn McGourty, seconded by Janet Pauli, unanimously approved by voice vote, no abstentions, no one absent.

4. Introductory Remarks by the Board of Directors

Each Director made opening remarks as follows: Glenn McGourty, James Russ, Janet Pauli, James Gore, David Rabbitt.

5. Consent Calendar

The Consent Calendar included the following items:

- a. Adopt a resolution to authorize the Chair and Counsel to take all necessary administrative actions in support of the establishment and operation of the Eel-Russian Project Authority.
- b. Adopt a resolution to deposit funds of the Authority to the County of Sonoma acting as the Treasurer for the Authority and Authorize the Chair to manage accounts and make payments on behalf of the Authority.
- c. Adopt a resolution (i) providing public notice of a draft Conflict of Interest Code and seeking public comments after a 45-day comment period; (ii) directing Co-Counsel to accept and consider any comments received and to forward the draft Conflict of Interest Code to the Fair Political Practices Commission after any needed revisions; and (iii) directing Board Members and Co-Counsel to file Statements of Economic Interest with the Clerk who should retain them.
- d. Adopt a resolution (i) designating negotiators for purpose of the negotiation over the acquisition of portions of the Potter Valley Project from PG&E; and (ii) designating the staff of the County of Sonoma, Mendocino County Inland Water And Power Commission, and Sonoma County Water Agency as Authority staff for purposes of representing the Authority and preserving the Attorney Client Privilege; and (iii) adopting a policy to support member agencies by allowing them to discuss ERPA closed session items in their own agencies' closed sessions pursuant to California Government Code section 54956.96(b).

Glenn McGourty moved, and James Gore seconded, approval of items 5a through 5d (as amended), and adoptions of Resolutions 2024-01, 2024-02, 2024-03 and 2024-04, unanimously approved by voice vote, no abstentions, no one absent.

6. Informational Briefings

The Board received informational briefings, followed by a question and answer period, by staff as follows:

- a. Status of Pacific Gas and Electric's Potter Valley Project Decommissioning (Pam Jeane, Sonoma Water)
- b. Facilities Assessment Process (David Manning, Sonoma Water)
- c. Status of Grant Application to United States Bureau of Reclamation (Brad Sherwood, Sonoma Water)

Public Comment was then taken on the briefing with remarks from:

Bob Anderson (also provided written comments to the Board, attached)
Ross Linscum

7. New Business Action Items

- a. Direction was given to staff to establish a Board meeting schedule of every other month beginning in March, 2024, and after March 11, 2024, alternating the location of the meetings between Sonoma and Mendocino Counties.
- b. Direction was given to staff to include potential items for discussion at the next Board meeting.

8. Counsel Report

At the request of the Board, Counsel Cory O'Donnell gave a high level overview of the Joint Exercise of Powers Authority agreement and structure of the Board and their voting rights.

9. Public Comment on Items Not Listed on the Agenda

Rue Furch

10. Board Member Announcements

None.

11. Adjournment

After some closing comments, Chair Rabbitt adjourned the meeting at 4:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa Musso James

Acting Clerk of the Eel-Russian Project Authority Board