

DRAFT MINUTES OF TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
Utilities Field Operations Training Center  
35 Stony Point Road, Santa Rosa, CA  
June 3, 2024

Attendees: Dan Herrera, City of Petaluma  
Matt Fullner, Valley of The Moon Water District  
Peter Martin, City of Santa Rosa  
Eric Miller, North Marin Water District  
Grant Davis, Sonoma County Water Agency (SCWA)  
Mike Berger, City of Sonoma  
Christina Goulart, Town of Windsor  
Vanessa Garrett, City of Rohnert Park  
Lucy Croy, Marin Municipal Water District  
Michelle Montoya, City of Santa Rosa

Staff/Alternates: Don Seymour, SCWA  
Brad Sherwood, SCWA  
Pam Jeane, SCWA  
Paul Piazza, SCWA  
Jake Spaulding, SCWA  
Andrea Rodriguez, SCWA  
Don Seymour, SCWA  
Kent Gylfe, SCWA  
Oriana Hart, City of Petaluma  
Cortney Bowser, City of Rohnert Park  
Shannon Cotulla, Town of Windsor  
Stacie Hatfield, City of Santa Rosa  
Claire Nordlie, City of Santa Rosa

Public: Brenda Adelman, Russian River Watershed Protection Committee  
Dick Dowd, Sonoma County Alliance  
Neil Hancock

1. Check In  
Vice Chair Matt Fullner called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m.
2. Public Comment  
None.
3. Election of TAC Leadership  
A motion was made by Dan Herrera, City of Petaluma, seconded by Vanessa Garrett, City of Rohnert Park, to reaffirm Jennifer Burke, City of Santa Rosa, as Chair and Matt Fullner, Valley of the Moon Water District, as Vice Chair. The motion was approved with seven affirmative votes, with City of Cotati absent.  
**No public comment.**
4. Water Supply Conditions and Temporary Urgency Change Petition  
Don Seymour, SCWA, presented.  
Lake Mendocino is just under 96,000 acre-ft and Lake Sonoma is just over 250,000 acre-ft., which is 14,000 acre-ft over the top of the conservation pool. The Army Corp. remains in control of Lake Sonoma as it is within the flood control pool. The Temporary Urgency Change Order (Order) remains in effect with Sonoma Water managing the Russian River system under the December 27<sup>th</sup> Order which changes the index from cumulative inflow to Lake Pillsbury to the storage thresholds at Lake Mendocino. This will remain in effect until

June 28<sup>th</sup>. At that point, management of the Russian River will move under flow regimes outlined in Decision 1610, which are inconsistent with the Biological Opinion for the protection of endangered species in the Russian River. Sonoma Water filed a new Temporary Urgency Change Petition with the State Water Resources Control Board in late April to address the needs of protected species similar to last year. If approved, this will reduce minimum instream flows on the upper Russian River from 185 cubic feet per second (cfs) to 125 cfs and from 125 cfs to 70 cfs on the lower Russian River. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) has not acted on the flow variance filed by PG&E back in February.

Brenda Adelman asked what the flows are at Hacienda Bridge.

Don Seymour answered that current flows are a little over 400 cfs and flow at Healdsburg is a little over 300 cfs.

5. Sonoma Marin Saving Water Partnership

a. 2024 Water Production Relative to 2013 Benchmark

Matt Fullner, Valley of the Moon Water District, presented.

Total deliveries in April as compared to 2013 are cumulatively down 34%, with year to date down 27% by the same comparison. Gallons per capita per day also continue to trend downwards.

b. Water Use Efficiency Outreach Messaging

Andrea Rodriguez, SCWA, presented.

Summer campaign has launched and will run through August. A toolkit was emailed out to the partnership. May was the Eco-Friendly Garden Tour, which was a success with 3,900 people registering for the event and 26 gardens participating.

Peter Martin, City of Santa Rosa, shared that he was able to visit one of the gardens and hopes that it continues to grow.

**No public comment.**

6. Biological Opinion Status Update

Pam Jeane, SCWA, presented.

Fish Flow – No change.

Dry Creek Habitat Enhancement Project – Working on Phases IV – VI. Phase IV has a small amount of project left, with eight of nine sites completed. Phase V's contractor mobilized last year and was not able to complete everything. They winterized the project and are scheduled to be back out on June 15. Phase VI is still in the planning phase, including working with property owners on appraisals and right-of-way compensation.

Habitat Monitoring and Maintenance – The 2023 monitoring ended in December and has been completed. The pre-project surveys were completed as well. Monitoring crews have started the field work for this year. They are currently working to obtain permits for long term maintenance on the projects. With the past rainy season, there are elevated flows in Dry Creek. Due to the elevated flows, there has been some sedimentation at the newly constructed sites, as well as some erosion damage. This information will be documented so that repairs can be made, if needed.

Public Outreach – Annual meeting of the Public Policy Facilitating Committee will be held after the next Biological Opinion is issued, which will be sometime this fall.

Fish Monitoring – Crews have started doing downstream migrant trapping. Due to high stream flows, there was a bit of a delay to get the fish traps out. For example, the trap at Mirabel Dam is not in yet due to high flows. Should have counts at next meeting.

Russian River Estuary Management Project – Mouth of the Russian River is open.

Adaptive management plan has been completed and is ready to be implemented. Also, started the annual monitoring work at the lagoon which includes water quality monitoring.

New Biological Opinion – The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is expected to have a new Biological Opinion by the end of August.

Brenda Adelman shared that there were many people that worked hard on the original documents, including the Environmental Impact Report (EIR), and that they have been waiting for seven years for a response. Would like to know if alterations are being made to it, if there will be responses to comments, or if none of that past work is being considered. Shared that her understanding is that an EIR needs to be submitted before the Biological Opinion can go to the state for approval before stream flows can be changed. Would like a brief description of what the process is going to be and what types of changes are going to be made to the EIR. Would also like to see an analysis done to see how much benefit has come to the fish versus when the original Biological Opinion was done.

Pam Jeane, SCWA, confirmed that minimum stream flow requirements that are under their permit cannot be changed until the state says they can. However, there are ways to change them without having an EIR completed.

7. Eel Russian Project Authority and Potter Valley Project Update

Pam Jeane, SCWA, presented.

Work is continuing under the Department of Water Resources grant. The first piece is the Russian River Water Forum. The last meeting was held in May and the forum is now on hiatus due to lack of funding. The diversion assessment work that is being done for the existing facilities is complete, with a 30% design done. The engineering report and the design will be posted to Sonoma Water's website this week. Third piece is the water resource investigation in Potter Valley. The work is ongoing with monitoring wells being installed and then groundwater monitoring from the wells will be done. PG&E will be requesting an extension for time to submit their draft license surrender application. They are preparing the final draft, which was supposed to come out in June of this year, but they will be requesting a six-month extension.

Grant Davis, SCWA, shared that the \$2 million grant from Bureau of Reclamation for taking the agreed upon project for the Eel Russian River from 30% to 60% design will be highlighted this Friday, with Congressman Huffman holding a press conference. If interested in participating, call Jennifer at the Congressman's office, to see if there is room. The press conference will be held at Lake Mendocino.

**No public comment.**

8. Government Affairs Update

Brad Sherwood, SCWA, presented.

Starting with the state update, working on climate bond which is top priority. Have had several meetings with Senator McGuire's office to ensure that there is language in the bond that supports our regional work.

On the federal side, Congress is beginning work on appropriation bills for 2025. The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency sent out a notice regarding reporting criteria for their Infrastructure Act. Farm Bill and WRDA (Water Resources Development Act) are moving out of committee this week. Need letters of support from the partnership to Army Corps. for invasive species program. This would allow Sonoma Water to tap into the \$3 million that is appropriated to ensure that zebra mussels and quagga mussels do not get into our waterways. Brad will be sending out a link on how to comment on this.

Updates for the Business Services and External Affairs Division are that some positions have been realigned, including Jake Spaulding having a new position supporting the water transmission budget. Joan Holtberg received a promotion in the grants funded department. Ann DuBay's old position has been reworked and now Ryan Pedrotti is the new Community and Employee Engagement Manager, and will work on diversity, equity, inclusion (DEI) and work force training.

Matt Fullner, Valley of the Moon Water District, asked if Sonoma Water will have something drafted for the letters of support.

Brad Sherwood, SCWA, confirmed that they do have a draft letter and will send that along with the link for submission.

**No public comment.**

9. Communications Update

Andrea Rodriguez, SCWA, presented.

The Sanitation Rate Relief Program will help rate payers cover up to 50% of their sanitation bill. Ag and Open Space Preserve had a press release on the Mark West Wikiup Preserve. Sonoma Water Communications staff prepared a statement and talking points in response to recent news articles specific to the US EPA's communications about identified cybersecurity risks in the water and wastewater sectors. Stream Maintenance Program will have an ad in the Press Democrat. Tours and field trips are happening at Lake Sonoma.

Matt Fullner, Valley of the Moon Water District, asked if there is a link or webpage for Sanitation Rate Relief Program.

Andrea Rodriguez, SCWA, confirmed that the information can be found on the home page of SonomaWater.org.

**No public comment.**

10. Items for Next Agenda

None.

11. Check Out

Vice Chair Matt Fullner adjourned the meeting at 9:45 a.m.