

DRAFT\* MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
AND  
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
Utilities Field Operations Training Center  
35 Stony Point Road, Santa Rosa, CA  
May 6, 2024

Attendees: Oriana Hart, City of Petaluma  
Jon Schribbs, City of Petaluma  
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)  
David Rabbitt, SCWA  
Laura Sparks, City of Cotati  
Craig Scott, 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  
Vanessa Garrett, City of Rohnert Park  
Jed Smith, Marin Municipal Water District  
Larry Russell, Marin Municipal Water District  
Michelle Montoya, City of Santa Rosa

Staff/Alternates: Pam Jeane, SCWA  
Paul Piazza, SCWA  
Lynne Rosselli, SCWA  
Don Seymour, SCWA  
Jake Spaulding, SCWA  
Andrea Rodriguez, SCWA  
Shannon Cotulla, Town of Windsor  
Peter Martin, City of Santa Rosa  
Claire Nordlie, City of Santa Rosa  
Stacie Hatfield, City of Santa Rosa

Public: Brenda Adelman, Russian River Watershed Protection  
Dick Dowd, Sonoma County Alliance  
Bob Anderson

1. Check In  
Vice Chair Rogers called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.
2. Public Comment  
None.
3. Recap from the April 8, 2024 WAC/TAC Meeting and Approval of Minutes  
Moved by Jon Foreman, Valley of the Moon Water District, seconded by Jack Baker, North Marin Water District. Unanimously approved.  
**No public comment.**

4. Water Supply Coordination Council – April 29, 2024  
The Water Supply Coordination Council met on April 29 and finalized today's agenda.  
**No public comment.**
  
5. Water Supply Conditions and Temporary Urgency Change Order  
Don Seymour, SCWA, presented.  
Two very full reservoirs, with storage almost identical to this time last year. Lake Mendocino is currently just under 100,000 acre-ft and Lake Sonoma is just under 264,000 acre-ft, which is at the top of the minor deviation pool. Sonoma Water is currently managing the system under the temporary urgency change order that was issued by the state board in December 2023. Two weeks ago, Sonoma Water took control over making release decisions at Lake Mendocino. Lake Sonoma is still under Army Corps., since it is still in the deviation pool. They should maintain control through July. At this time, it is forecasted that we will stay in normal supply through end of June. Based on the 2008 Biological Opinion, the minimum stream flows must be reduced. The upper Russian River will reduce the minimum stream flows from 185 cubic ft per second (cfs) to 125 cfs and from 125 cfs to 70 cfs on lower Russian River. The Potter Valley project is currently importing 90 cfs into east fork of the Russian River. That amount will increase on May 15 to meet the minimum stream release of 80 cfs. PG&E filed flow variance on February 21, comments and motion to intervene have been received. PG&E has not yet acted on this variance.  
**No public comment.**
  
6. Sonoma Marin Saving Water Partnership (TAC)
  - a. 2024 Water Production Relative to 2013 Benchmark  
Jennifer Burke, City of Santa Rosa, presented.  
Total deliveries in March 2024 relative to 2013 saw a 33% reduction in water use and a 24% reduction for year to date.
  
  - b. Water Use Efficiency Outreach Messaging  
Andrea Rodriguez, SCWA, presented.  
Eco-Friendly Garden Tour is coming up on May 18<sup>th</sup>. March wrapped up dye tab challenge, which had great participation. Getting ready for summer campaign that will include an irrigation scheduling tool, plant picker, water waste report form, and a regional and local program lookup tool.
  
  - c. Annual Water Supply and Demand Assessment  
Jennifer Burke, TAC Chair, announced the item and said Paul Piazza, SCWA, was open for questions.

Brenda Adelman asked if the various years are compared for water conversation. Wants to know if it is flattening out or how each year is comparing to one another in regard to conservation.

Jennifer Burke, City of Santa Rosa, shared that the graphs shows there is a downward trajectory but there are variables to consider, including the weather.

7. Biological Opinion Status Update  
Pam Jeane, SCWA, presented.  
Fish Flow Project – Continuing work and looking at long term change petitions for project.  
Dry Creek Habitat Enhancement Project – Phases I - III completed in 2021. Phases IV - VI being worked on, with Phases IV and V being completed this summer. Phase VI is still having challenges with obtaining right of way and they are starting to consider doing something different. Not sure what that looks like exactly, or if they will have the support of

the resource agencies. Working on compensation, offers, and appraisals, but it has been a challenge to get participation from property owners. Reaching out to landowners to evaluate the feasibility of a project to replace the remaining two grade-control sills on Dry Creek with engineered riffles.

Habitat Monitoring and Maintenance – Finished effectiveness monitoring in December 2023. Looked at twelve enhancement reaches which helps inform what type of maintenance is needed and provides the monitoring data that shows that Dry Creek Enhancement Project is working. Working on obtaining long range programmatic permit to cover maintenance.

Outreach – Nothing new to report.

Fish Monitoring – Out in creeks of Russian River for migrant monitoring. Fish traps are out in multiple locations, and staff are going out daily to count how many fish are coming down.

Russian River Estuary Management Project – Estuary is open. Season starts on May 15 and ends on October 15. Pinniped monitoring is already taking place and have seen harbor seal pups been seen. Water quality monitoring is beginning to get underway for the season as well.

New Biological Opinion – The new Biological Opinion is being drafted now. Not sure of exact timeframe but should be within next few months.

Brenda Adelman asked if there will be public review of the Biological Opinion.

Grant Davis, SCWA, was unsure of the public comment period.

Pam Jeane, SCWA, added that they are unsure of the National Fishery Service process for public comment.

8. Eel Russian Project Authority (ERPA) and Potter Valley Project Update

Pam Jeane, SCWA, and David Rabbitt, Sonoma County Supervisor, presented.

Pam Jeane, SCWA, shared that PG&E is still working on their license surrender application. PG&E is working with SCWA in to get needed information, like project description, for the application and their schedule indicates that the draft will be released this summer, with the final draft being filed with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) next January. SCWA is working with Bureau of Reclamation to get grant funding for additional design work at the Cape Horne Dam site. Should have the assigned agreement no later than June. The Russian River Water Forum's last meeting will be held May 15<sup>th</sup>, virtually, at 2 p.m. The work being done taking the design from 30% to 60% is in a final review and is due to the Department of Water Resources (DWR) in June. The Potter Valley Water Resource investigation has work being done to get monitoring wells installed.

David Rabbitt, SCWA, shared that ERPA is going to meet in Sonoma with a more thorough update. This meeting should be in July.

Jennifer Burke, City of Santa Rosa, asked what the match funding is for the Bureau of Reclamation grant, and where is the funding coming from.

Pam Jeane, SCWA, answered that some of the work Sonoma Water has done will help match that grant, with the rest being part of their budget. It is expected to be a 35% match.

**No public comment.**

9. Government Affairs Update

Brad Sherwood, SCWA, presented.

Still looking at major deficit in the State budget, which puts our lobbying efforts in defend mode. Forecast Informed Reservoir Operations (FIRO) did get a small cut from \$10 million to \$8.5 million. DWR's resiliency program, which funds most of their ongoing IRWM work, is being defended, and hopefully grown, by the climate bond that will be on the November ballot. Sacramento lobby day has not been scheduled yet.

On the federal side, the sub-seasonal to seasonal coalition letter garnered forty-four signatories to coalition effort. This gives grant funding from DWR to help with outreach and

education in Washington D.C. This effort is for a \$15 million pilot project to help increase forecasting out to the sub-seasonal to seasonal bases.

**No public comment.**

10. Communications Update

Andrea Rodriguez, SCWA, presented.

Earth Day with the City of Santa Rosa in April had a great turn out. Last month, the EPA came out with their new PFAS standards. The water quality website page has been updated with some information around this. Lake Sonoma visitor center is very busy and is expecting up to 800 students on the upcoming field trips.

**No public comment.**

11. Integrated Regional Water Management Plan(s) Update

Grant Davis, SCWA, presented.

Will be in Sacramento this week negotiating with DWR over potential for North Coast pilot project. DWR is planning to have a series of 5 pilot regions in the state. Last week the Board of Supervisors authorized Sonoma Water to enter negotiations with DWR over what this would look like, including a \$2 million dollar grant. Must respond to two things, one is taking a three year grant for \$3 million dollars down to two year grant for \$2 million dollars. Secondly, with Sacramento facing major deficits, this has been caught in a 60 day freeze. North Coast Research Partnership met last month and reviewed a good number of grants for funding. On the Bay Area side, they are attempting to get two more radars installed. One is the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, down along the peninsula. The second is the C-band radar, which they are hoping to have installed by end of year. Scripps Institute, out of San Diego, will be taking on operational side of this project. Jennifer Burke, City of Santa Rosa, asked what the pilot is exactly. Grant Davis, SCWA, answered that it has evolved. It is a new iteration with the five different regions.

**No public comment.**

12. Items for Next Agenda (next combined WAC/TAC meeting is August 5, 2024)

None.

**No public comment.**

13. Check Out

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