

DRAFT MINUTES OF TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Utilities Field Operations Training Center

35 Stony Point Road, Santa Rosa, CA

July 1, 2024

- Attendees: Oriana Hart, City of Petaluma
 Matt Fullner, Valley of The Moon Water District
 Jennifer Burke, City of Santa Rosa
 Tony Williams, North Marin Water District
 Grant Davis, Sonoma County Water Agency (SCWA)
 Craig Scott, City of Cotati
 Mike Berger, City of Sonoma
 Vanessa Garrett, City of Rohnert Park
 Paul Sellier, Marin Municipal Water District
 Michelle Montoya, City of Santa Rosa
- Staff/Alternates: Grant Davis, SCWA
 Pam Jeane, SCWA
 Paul Piazza, SCWA
 Jake Spaulding, SCWA
 Andrea Rodriguez, SCWA
 Kent Gylfe, SCWA
 Lynne Rosselli, SCWA
 Michelle Maxwell, SCWA
 Cortney Bowser, City of Rohnert Park
 Peter Martin, City of Santa Rosa
 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
 Duane DeWitt

1. Check In
 Chair Burke called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.
2. Public Comment
 Duane DeWitt spoke about the well groundwater level dropping in Roseland and suggested that there should be a forum for the people of Roseland to be able to discuss this topic.
3. Recap from the June 3, 2024 TAC Meeting and Approval of Minutes
 A motion was made by Matt Fullner, Valley of the Moon Water District, seconded by Vanessa Garrett, City of Rohnert Park. Unanimously approved, with Windsor absent and Cotati abstaining.
No public comment.
4. Recap and Update On The Point Fire
 Michelle Maxwell, SCWA, presented.
 Staff was alerted of the fire on June 16. The first action was to remove staff out of visitor center at Lake Sonoma. For the rest of the event, their role was monitoring. Sonoma County Emergency Management stayed in contact with SCWA and they provide updates on if there is danger to infrastructure. For this fire event, no structures were threatened and there were no impacts to Lake Sonoma. In the off season, mitigation for fire risk at Lake Sonoma takes place through the vegetation management program. Sonoma Water

staff are working to formalize the Emergency Coordination Committee meetings and are working on standard operating procedures (SOPs), which will have triggers and activation criteria to guide when the contractors need to be called in during an emergency.

Pam Jeane, SCWA, said the fire was confined to the Dry Creek watershed and not in the Lake Sonoma watershed. The fire burned 1 to 2% of Dry Creeks watershed and .1% of the Russian River watershed as a whole. Hatchery staff do live onsite at Lake Sonoma. They lost power to residences and hatchery, also had no landline or cell phone communication. Paul Sellier, Marin Municipal Water District, asked if the area was managed watershed lands.

Pam Jeane, SCWA, said that the land that was affected is privately owned.

Grant Davis, SCWA, asked if the prescribed burn that took place contributed to the Point Fire and when the final report would be out.

Michelle Maxwell, SCWA, said that they have not heard if the prescribed burn and the fire were related or had any impact on one another.

Grant Davis, SCWA, stated that since 2017 SCWA has been trying to establish a wholesale water resource vegetation management with the Army Corp. of Engineers at both Lake Sonoma and Lake Mendocino.

No public comment.

5. Water Supply Conditions and Temporary Urgency Change Order

Pam Jeane, SCWA, presented.

Lake Mendocino storage is at almost 94,000 acre-ft. Releases have been increased to 155 cfs, with the reservoir declining about 180 acre-ft per day. Lake Sonoma is still in the flood pool at 253,000 acre-ft, with releases at about 100 cubic feet per second (cfs), and with the reservoir declining by 270 acre-ft per day. On June 27, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) issued an order to PG&E for the flow variance they requested. That authorized PG&E to reduce releases out of the east branch of the Russian River from 80 cubic feet per second (cfs) to 25 cfs. Under the Temporary Urgency Change Order flows have been reduced from 185 cfs to 125 cfs on the upper Russian River and 125 cfs to 70 cfs on the lower Russian. These changes were requested per the Biological Opinion and expire October 15.

Jennifer Burke, City of Santa Rosa, asked if the Army Corps of Engineers were still managing Lake Sonoma's releases.

Pam Jeane, SCWA, confirmed that the Army Corps is still in control of the releases at Lake Sonoma.

No public comment.

6. Sonoma Marin Saving Water Partnership

a. 2024 Water Production Relative to 2013 Benchmark

Jennifer Burke, City of Santa Rosa, presented.

Total deliveries in May saw a 31% reduction in water use and a 28% reduction in the year-to-date. Gallons per capita per day continue to be low thanks to conservation efforts.

b. Water Use Efficiency Outreach Messaging

Andrea Rodriguez, SCWA, presented.

July campaign is focusing on irrigation scheduling, lawn conversation rebates, irrigation rebates, and finding and fixing leaks with a DIY toolkit. The toolkits are available at Sonoma County libraries.

Jennifer Burke, City of Santa Rosa, thanked Sonoma Water for attending this year's Water Smart Expo.

Brenda Adelman asked why the numbers are not changing with all of the new units being added. Wants to know if new units represent new population and how does new population effect these numbers.

Jennifer Burke, City of Santa Rosa, answered that all new builds have to be extremely water efficient and without landscaping.

Peter Martin, City of Santa Rosa, answered that gallons per capita per day are revised yearly based on population.

Jennifer Burke, City of Santa Rosa, added that with Tubbs fire about 5% of our population numbers were lost.

7. Biological Opinion Status Update

Pam Jeane, SCWA, presented.

Dry Creek Habitat Enhancement Project – Phases IV and V are currently under construction. Phase IV final construction began on June 15. Phase V construction began on June 17. Phase VI is still having challenges with gaining right of way access. May be something that changes with the new Biological Opinion.

Habitat Monitoring and Maintenance – Finished effectiveness monitoring for 2023.

Working to obtain long term programmatic permits for maintenance on Dry Creek. There was some minor damage and sedimentation from the high flows. Working with the Army Corps. to figure out what type of maintenance or reconstruction is needed.

Outreach – No update.

Fish Monitoring – Traps have been pulled out based on the migration ending. The counts of out migrants were very low this year. This is not unique to Russian river, and they are seeing this trend all up and down the coast.

Estuary Management Project – The mouth of the Russian River closed. It was closed at the end of May and the water surface is elevated but are not too high. The lagoon management monitoring season is underway, and the water quality stations have been deployed.

New Biological Opinion – The National Marine Fisheries Service is working hard to get it done. Expecting to have the new Biological Opinion out by August 25 or 26.

Jennifer Burke, City of Santa Rosa, asked about the resistance of property owners in Phase VI.

Pam Jeane, SCWA, said they are willing to work together but are looking for more money that does not seem reasonable.

No public comment.

8. Eel Russian Project Authority and Potter Valley Project Update

Pam Jeane, SCWA, presented.

Bureau of Reclamation \$2 million dollar grant that covers the RFQ for services to take the design of the new Eel Russian facility from 30% to 60% has been officially executed. Proposals are due back by end of July. Event at Lake Mendocino went well. Discussed removal of Cape Horn Dam, as well as construction of a new Eel Russian facility. PG&E filed for time extension to turn in license surrender application and decommissioning plan. Under the Department of Water Resources grant, the McMillian report is posted on Sonoma Water's website. Trying to get out and do groundwater monitoring in Potter Valley. Have access to the properties now, except for one, which they should have access to later this week.

Craig Scott, City of Cotati, asked about groundwater monitoring and how many monitoring wells there are and when results are expected.

Pam Jeane, SCWA, was unsure but will have Don Seymour, SCWA, get back to him.

Jennifer Burke, City of Santa Rosa, asked if there was a sense of when there would be a Eel Russian Project Authority (ERPA) meeting would occur.

Pam Jeane, SCWA, said they don't have any decision for ERPA board to make, so there is not one scheduled yet.

Brenda Adelman asked about reduction in flow on lower Russian river on permanent basis. Wants to know if that involves the State Water Board's approval and at what point

does that begin, or will it continue on an emergency basis. She asked if a new Environmental Impact Report (EIR) be done and what will the extent be of the flow study. Pam Jeane, SCWA, said they are looking at a permanent change, and believes the new Biological Opinion will have that requirement. State Board will need to approve it after an EIR is done. May take 7 to 10 years. Looking to file a limited term change to fill gap between the emergency orders and the new updated flows. Would be longer than 180 days.

9. Communications Update

Andrea Rodriguez, SCWA, presented.

Press release with Town of Windsor for operational agreement for wastewater treatment of Airport-Larkfield-Wikiup Sanitation Zone. ABC7 did an interview with Pam Jeane, SCWA, for the inflatable rubber dam. Water transmission and Dry Creek tour for with Chris Delany and Don Seymour of SCWA. Press coverage at Lake Mendocino and Potter Valley media event with Congressman Jared Huffman and U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Commissioner Camille Touton for the Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Program.

Jennifer Burke, City of Santa Rosa, added that ACWA region 1 will be hosting an event on October 30 Marin Water leading a watershed tour.

No public comment.

10. Items for Next Agenda

Jennifer Burke, TAC Chair, reminded the TAC members that there will be an election of WAC leadership at the next meeting.

No public comment.

11. Check Out

Chair Burke, TAC Chair, adjourned the meeting at 9:52 am.