

DRAFT MINUTES OF TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
Utilities Field Operations Training Center  
35 Stony Point Road, Santa Rosa, CA  
October 7, 2024

Attendees: Oriana Hart, City of Petaluma  
Matt Fullner, Valley of the Moon Water District  
Peter Martin, City of Santa Rosa  
Tony Williams, North Marin Water District  
Craig Scott, City of Cotati  
Mike Berger, City of Sonoma  
Shannon Cotulla, 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, Sonoma County Water Agency (SCWA)  
Andrea Rodriguez, SCWA  
Lynne Rosselli, SCWA  
Dale Roberts, SCWA  
Pam Jeane, SCWA  
Paul Piazza, SCWA  
Ryan Pedrotti, SCWA  
Lisa Cuellar, City of Santa Rosa

Public: Duane DeWitt  
Hollie Smith  
Brenda Adelman, Russian River Watershed Protection Committee  
Dick Dowd, Sonoma County Alliance

1. Check In  
Vice Chair Matt Fuller called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.
2. Public Comment  
Duane DeWitt congratulated on winning EPA water sense award. Shared about land purchased by Roseland Creek and that he would like to see it made into a riparian corridor.
3. Proclamation for Pam Jeane  
Vice Chair Matt Fullner read aloud the proclamation for Pam Jeane.  
Peter Martin, City of Santa Rosa, shared Jennifer Burke's appreciation for Pam Jeane and wished her all the best. Also, thanked her for all of her work outside of Sonoma Water.  
Shannon Cotulla, Town of Windsor, shared his appreciation for Pam Jeane and shared her impact on the Town of Windsor.  
Mike Berger, City of Sonoma, shared his appreciation for Pam Jeane and thanked her for all the knowledge she has shared.  
Tony Williams, North Marin Water District, shared his thanks for all Pam Jeane has done.  
Matt Fullner, Valley of the Moon Water District, shared his appreciation for Pam Jeane.  
Brenda Adelman shared her appreciation for Pam in all their interactions throughout the years.
4. Recap from the September 9, 2024 TAC Meeting and Approval of Minutes  
Moved by Craig Scott, seconded by Tony Williams. Unanimously approved.  
**No public comment.**

5. Water Supply Conditions and Temporary Urgency Change Order  
Don Seymour, SCWA, presented.  
Starting water year off with great carryover storage. Lake Mendocino is a little over 61,000 acre-ft and Lake Sonoma is just under 230,000 acre-ft. The Temporary Urgency Change Order (Order) that was received in June expires October 15, 2024. A new Temporary Urgency Change Petition (TUCP) was submitted to the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) in August that asks to use the storage level at Lake Mendocino to determine the water supply conditions. It is expected that the State Water Board will issue a response to the TUCP soon. Water storage levels, as well as Decision 1610, will keep us in normal water supply conditions. When the Order expires on October 15, 2024, the minimum stream flows in the upper Russian River will increase from 125 cubic feet per second (cfs) to 150 cfs and on the lower Russian River from 70 cfs. To 125 cfs.  
**No public comment.**
  
6. Sonoma Marin Saving Water Partnership
  - a. 2024 Water Production Relative to 2013 Benchmark  
Matt Fullner, Valley of the Moon Water District, presented.  
August 2024 compared to 2013 shows that the partnership has saved 18%, with the year-to-date showing a 24% savings.
  
  - b. Water Use Efficiency Messaging  
Andrea Rodriguez, SCWA, presented.  
The Sonoma-Marín Saving Water Partnership was honored with three EPA WaterSense awards this year including one as a Promotional Partner, one for the Qualified Water Efficient Landscaper program, and the Smart Water Technologies 2024 Outstanding Industry Partnership award. There is a call for gardens for the 2025 Eco-Friendly Garden Tour. Wrapped up summer campaign in September. Using NextDoor was a big hit this summer. Website has been updated to include Smart Plant picker.  
**No public comment.**
  
7. Biological Opinion Status Update  
Pam Jeane, SCWA, presented.  
Dry Creek Habitat Enhancement Project – Work through Phase V completed, with Phase VI in the final stages of design. With Phase VI, the right of way is still a challenge, with 50% of the offers to landowners still outstanding.  
Habitat Monitoring and Maintenance - There is a lot of monitoring and maintenance out on the project sites, with the 2024 effective monitoring taking place to make sure the habitat is remaining and the value of that habitat. Also working on getting long term permits for maintenance of the sites once constructed. Working to remove sediment from one of the sites that was completed which should be done in October.  
Public Outreach – Annual Biological Opinion meeting will be held once new Biological Opinion is issued.  
Fish Monitoring – Camera in place at the fish ladder at Mirabel Dam. Saw the first Chinook on September 16, 2024. Expect to see more fish moving up once we are out of the high-pressure system.  
Russian River Estuary Management Project – Mouth of Russian River is open. Laguna Management period for the estuary ends in a week.  
New Biological Opinion – This should hopefully be out by end of year.  
**No public comment.**
  
8. Eel Russian Project Authority and Potter Valley Project Update  
Pam Jeane, SCWA, presented.  
PG&E is in the process of developing their draft license surrender application and decommissioning plan. Draft will be available to public in January 2025 for public

comments. Final plan is due to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) at the end of July 2025, which will be the official filing. Sonoma Water is working with PG&E to make sure the information that is included in the application is accurate and reflects the new Eel - Russian facility as it is envisioned today. The facility is at about a 25% design. There is still one piece of the Department of Water Resources grant being worked on which is the water resource assessment in Potter Valley. The last piece of this includes placement of monitoring wells. The grant will close out at the end of December, but between now and then, there will be a meeting with the residents in Potter Valley to share the results of what is found out regarding the water resources in the valley.

**No public comment.**

9. **Communications Update**

Andrea Rodriguez, SCWA, presented.

Two fun projects to highlight from September. First, the Kastania Tank project was completed and, second, the Washington Creek Channel infrastructure reinforcement project is now underway in Petaluma, which includes the retaining wall fix. Water Professional Week this week. Press release in September for the approval of the local Hazard Mitigation Plan. Later this month there will be 30 water engineers from Brazil coming to see the water system. Tomorrow at the Board of Supervisors meeting there will be a gold resolution for Sonoma Water's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Matt Fullner, Valley of the Moon Water District, asked if Brazil was operating Ranney collectors.

Andrea Rodriguez, SCWA, answered that she was unsure.

**No public comment.**

10. **Community and Employee Engagement**

Ryan Pedrotti, SCWA, presented.

The Water Supply public tour that took place on June 1, 2024 had 22 participants. There are upcoming tours planned: on November 16, 2024 there will be a Water Supply public tour, on June 22, 2025 there will be a Spanish Water Supply tour, and a Russian River County Sanitation District (RRCSD) tour on September 21, 2025. Sonoma Water has been engaging teachers with workshops including a Climate Change workshop. Wohler Bridge is under seismic construction, which has provided logistical challenges for their engagement program. The 23/24 school year saw over 16,000 students participate in classroom lessons or field trip programs. The Pathways Program funding allows for environmental education experiences for all Sonoma County students. Lake Sonoma visitors center saw over 1000 visitors in September 2024. On the employee engagement side, new and existing employees are given the opportunity to see facilities and water systems. The County is working on an employee opinion survey, in conjunction with the County Office of Equity.

**No public comment.**

11. **Government Affairs Update**

Brad Sherwood, SCWA, presented.

Sonoma Water went to DC two weeks ago due to the staff changes on various committees. They met on fire prevention, Subseasonal to seasonal (S2S), forecast informed reservoir operations (FIRO), and atmospheric rivers. National Organization of Counties (NACO) is supporting everything we are doing. Supervisor James Gore is president of NACO this year. On October 30, 2024 the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) Region 1 event will be held in Marin. In terms of community engagement, Sonoma Water is working with Supervisor Hopkins who has opened up a West County service center, and Sonoma Water is looking to host community hours so that people have someone to talk to face to face.

**No public comment.**

12. Items for Next Agenda  
None.

13. Check Out  
Matt Fullner, TAC Vice Chair, adjourned the meeting at 9:45 a.m.