

Planning Group Meeting #4

Thursday, August 17, 2023

10:00 am – 1:00 pm

Zoom

Welcome and Introductions

Meeting Objectives

- Revisit outcomes from July 13 Planning Group meeting and follow up on action items and key discussion topics.
- Provide overview of New Eel-Russian Facility Proposal Submitted to PG&E and invite Planning Group discussion of path forward for the group.
- Provide updates on recent and upcoming Working Group meetings.
- Provide the opportunity for public comment.

Welcome and Introductions

Planning Group Member Introductions

- Members and alternates, please write your name and affiliation in the chat.
- E.g., Ben Gettleman, Kearns & West

Welcome and Agenda Review

Time	Topic
10:00 am	Welcome, Introductions, and Agenda Review
10:15 am	Outcomes and Follow-up from July 13 Planning Group Meeting
10:30 am	Overview of New Eel-Russian Facility Proposal Submitted to PG&E
11:15 am	Discussion of New Facility Proposal and Planning Group Path Forward
12:00 pm	Update on Working Group Process and Upcoming Meetings
12:30 pm	Public Comment
1:00 pm	Adjourn

Planning Group Purpose

Seek to identify water supply resiliency solutions that respond to PG&E's planned decommissioning of the PVP while protecting Tribal interests and supporting the stewardship of fisheries, water quality, and recreation in the Russian River and Eel River basins.

Participation Guidelines

Planning Group

- Please be mutually respectful.
- Actively listen.
- One person speaks at a time.
- One Planning Group member may participate per slot (member or alternate).

Members of Public

- Members of public are invited to share input during public comment.

Participation Instructions: Planning Group

- Please use “raise hand” function to participate.
- Please use “chat” function for technical assistance only.
- Please rename yourself: “PG: First Name Last Name, affiliation”
 - To rename yourself, click on “Participants”
 - Hover over your name and click the three dots on the right
 - Click “rename,” then follow the format above
 - E.g., “PG: Ben Gettleman, Kearns & West”

Participation Instructions: Members of the Public

- Members of public are invited to share input during public comment.
 - Please stay on mute throughout the meeting.
 - During public comment, please use the “raise hand” function and/or the Q&A function.
- Please use chat function for technical assistance only.

Outcomes and Follow-up from July 13 Planning Group Meeting

Outcomes from July 13 Planning Group Meeting

- Planning Group discussed whether Working Group meetings should be public or private and agreed to the Steering Committee's recommendation of a hybrid approach.
- Planning Group confirmed the charter pending final updates to the resiliency section.
- Various members gave presentations on ongoing resiliency work in the Russian River basin, received questions, and participated in discussion.
- Planning Group generally agreed that the diversion is needed in the short-term with the goal of self-sufficiency in the long-term, while simultaneously pursuing a two-basin solution with Eel River fish passage.
- Public comment was received and documented.

Overview of New Eel-Russian Facility Proposal Submitted to PG&E

Sonoma Water, Mendocino IWPC, and Round Valley Indian Tribes

Discussion of New Facility Proposal and Planning Group Path Forward

Discussion: New Eel-Russian Facility Proposal and Planning Group Path Forward

- Preliminary proposal submitted to PG&E
- Opportunity for Planning Group to refine details of proposal
- Financing
 - How much water users will pay for O&M
 - Strategy for capital improvements
- Water Rights
 - Clarify implications of proposal for various categories of water-rights holders. Share information with water users.
- Governance
 - Help inform creation of long-term regional entity
- Water Supply Resilience
 - Reduce demand and eliminate need for diversion over time

Discussion: New Eel-Russian Facility Proposal and Planning Group Path Forward

- How can your interests be best addressed in the process moving forward?
- What recommendations or requests do you have for the Planning Group process?
- What requests or expectations do you have of the proposal proponents?

Update on Working Group Process and Upcoming Meetings

Russian River Water Forum Structure



DRAFT

Working Group Updates – Recent Meetings

- Water Supply & Fisheries Working Group
 - First meeting held **July 19.**
 - Topics discussed:
 - Cape Horn Dam alternatives being evaluated in the DWR study
 - Status of efforts to raise Coyote Valley Dam
 - Role/scope of this Working Group in the context of the RRWF
 - Group identified co-chairs: Sean White (City of Ukiah) and Charlie Schneider (CalTrout)
 - Next meeting: TBD; *facilitation team and co-chairs recommend the group reconvene after the DWR study is complete.*

Working Group Updates – Recent Meetings

- Water Rights & Water Management Working Group
 - First meeting held **July 25**.
 - WG members proposed developing a summary-level analysis of the water rights impacts of 1) a run-of-the-river diversion scenario and 2) a no-diversion scenario to guide future Planning Group discussions.
 - WG identified co-chairs: Philip Williams (Counsel to City of Ukiah) and David Taber (Palomino Lakes Mutual Water Company)
 - Next meeting: **Monday, August 21, 10-11 a.m.** (Zoom)
 - Focus: clarify timeline and level of analysis for work product, identify existing analyses and other resources, identify core work group

Working Group Updates – Upcoming Meetings

- Russian River Resiliency Subcommittee
 - Broad support from Planning Group to convene Resiliency Subcommittee in near-term
 - Need to understand what other resiliency efforts are underway, where the data gaps are, and what water is available through a complete and precise water accounting
 - Shared interest in continuing to reduce demand, increase recharge and recycling, and eventually eliminating reliance on the diversion
 - Support for developing RR basin resiliency plan with benchmarks
 - Scheduling first meeting: Aim for September

Working Group Updates – Upcoming Meetings

- Finance & Economics Working Group
 - Recommend two participation tracks:
 - Capital improvements – consideration of both basins, will need funding from state/federal agencies
 - Operations & maintenance – expected to be financed by RR water users/suppliers that will receive diversion water
 - Some discussions will be public, some will be closed WG sessions, some will be private discussions among subset of participants
 - Scheduling first meeting: Aim for September

Water Rights & Water Management Working Group

Report-out and Discussion

David Taber

Themes from July 25 Working Group Meeting

- WG needs to understand water rights impacts of future diversion
- Need everyone to understand effects on water rights if diversion ends
- PG and other working groups need a summary-level impact analysis to guide decision-making
 - Detailed documentation / analysis of impact on individual water rights not possible with available resources or PG&E timeline

Proposed Initial Work Product for PG

- A presentation (~20 slides) showing the implications of specific scenarios for major categories of water rights holders in the Russian and Eel River basins
- Scenarios to be reviewed/selected by the Planning Group – proposed scenarios on following slide
- Delivery before November 2023
- Intention is to develop information that would support broad understanding of the implications of potential future conditions.

Proposed Scenario(s) for Work Product

- Scenario 1: Run-of-the-river diversion
 - Matches key assumptions of “Scenario 2” in Huffman Ad Hoc modeling work (Scott Dam removed, seasonal diversion, Lake Mendocino FIRO with Fish Flow EIS operations)
 - Assumes new diversion infrastructure, but not raising Coyote Valley dam
 - Assumes diversion is owned and operated by a new regional entity
- Scenario 2: No diversion
 - No diversion flows
 - Matches key assumptions of “Scenario 3” in Huffman Ad Hoc modeling work
 - Purpose of evaluating this scenario is to clearly communicate the water rights and water availability implications of eliminating diversion flows

Public Comment

Instructions for Public Comment

- To comment virtually, please use the “raise hand” function.
- Each speaker will have 90 seconds to provide their comments.
- The facilitation team will not be responding to comments at this time. Comments will be captured in the meeting summary.

Recap of Meeting and Next Steps

Next Steps and Future Meetings

- Meeting Recap
- **Planning Group Meeting #5:** Thursday, September 7, 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. (Ukiah/Hybrid)
- Recurring Planning Group Meetings: First Thursdays, 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. (Hybrid)
 - **Meeting #6:** Thursday, October 5
 - **Meeting #7:** Thursday, November 2
 - **Meeting #8:** Thursday, December 7
- Working Group Meetings
 - **Water Rights & Water Management:** Monday, August 21, 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.
 - **Finance & Economics:** TBD
 - **Russian River Resiliency Subcommittee:** TBD
- Next Steering Committee Meeting: Friday, August 18, 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.



Meeting is adjourned.

Thank you for attending!