

Water Supply & Fisheries Working Group Meeting #1

Wednesday, July 19, 2023

9:00 am – 11:00 am

Via Zoom

Welcome and Introductions

Meeting Objectives

- Review Working Group roles and responsibilities
- Provide a recap of the June 21 Water Supply & Fisheries Technical Briefing and relevant Planning Group discussions
- Identify Working Group co-chairs in closed session

Welcome and Agenda Review

Time	Topic
9:00 am	Welcome, Introductions, and Agenda Review
9:15 am	Working Group Membership, Roles, and Responsibilities
9:30 am	Recap of June 21 Water Supply & Fisheries Technical Briefing and Relevant Planning Group Discussions
10:00 am	Recap of Discussion and Next Steps
10:05 am	Identification of Co-chairs (closed session)
11:00 am	Adjourn

Participation Guidelines

Working Group

- Please be mutually respectful.
- Actively listen.
- One person speaks at a time.

Members of Public

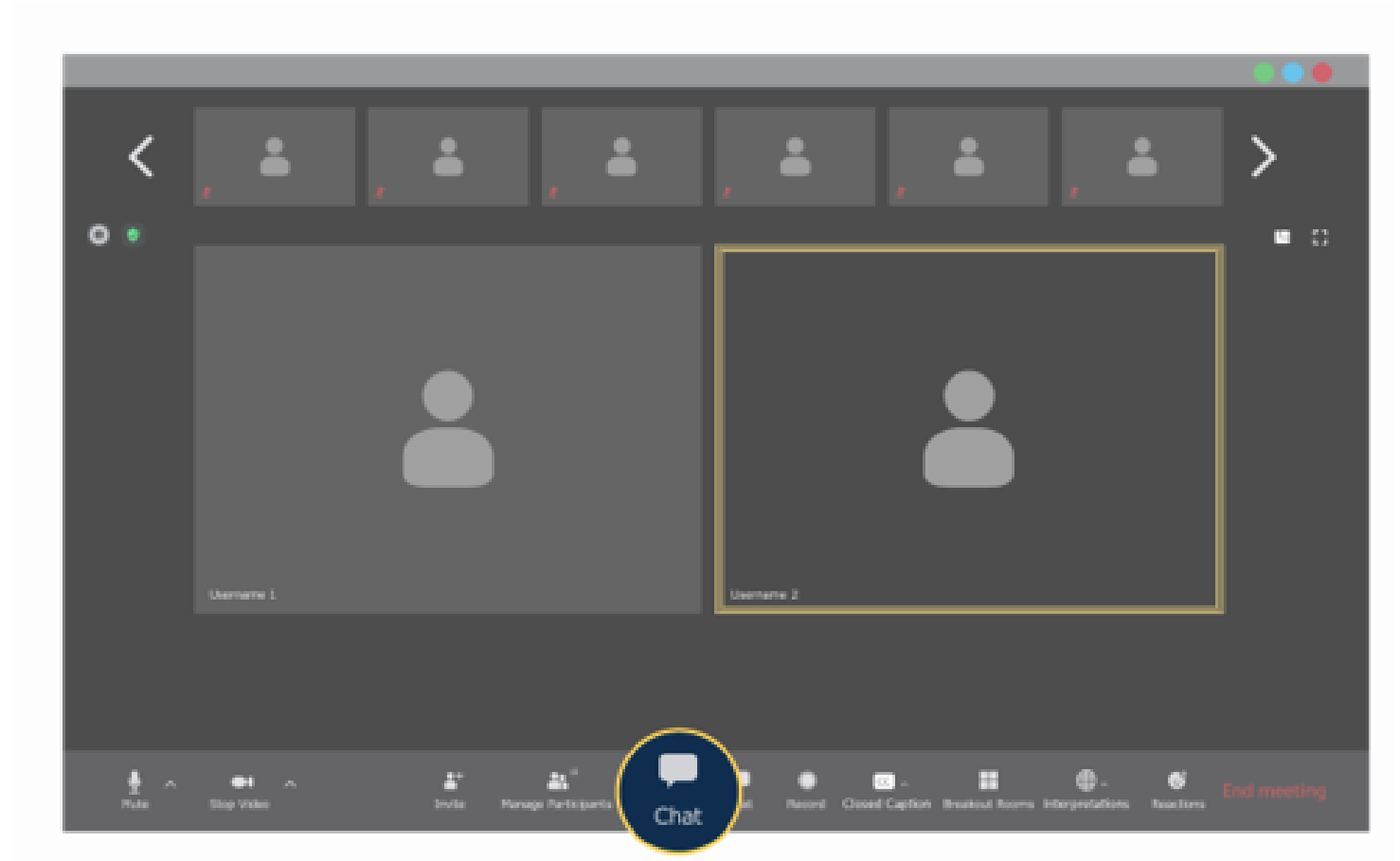
- Members of public are invited to observe.

Zoom Logistics

- Please virtually “raise your hand” to participate.
 - Please mute yourself when you are not speaking.
- State your name and affiliation, then make your comment.
- Facilitator will ensure that Working Members can participate fully.
- Presentation, meeting notes, and recording will be available for public session items.

Zoom Instructions: How to Participate

- Please use the chat *only* for technical assistance.



Working Group Membership, Roles, and Responsibilities

Working Group Membership and Participation

- Working Groups participation open to all Planning Group members, alternates, and nominated technical experts.
- Some portions of meetings will be open to public (as observers), some will be closed sessions.
- Monthly meetings, regular participation expected
- Working Groups will identify co-leads.

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.

Working Group Roles & Responsibilities

- Provide local expertise and knowledge of the Russian River and Eel River basins and the Potter Valley Project (PVP), for informing the Water Forum planning process.
- Develop options and alternatives for consideration by the Planning Group
- Identify and evaluate the technical needs, feasibility, and benefits of options and alternatives
- Provide input/feedback to Planning Group re: what range of solutions is acceptable

Recap of June 21 Water Supply & Fisheries Technical Briefing and Relevant Planning Group Discussions

Takeaways from Tech. Briefing and PG Discussions

- Water Supply & Fisheries technical briefing held June 21
- Planning Group discussions
 - May 17: Review of Huffman Ad Hoc Committee and Two-Basin Partnership processes
 - July 13: Russian River water resiliency presentations and discussion
- Slides, recordings, and summaries posted on the RRWF website.

Takeaways from Tech. Briefing and PG Discussions

- Municipal and agricultural water providers and water users in the Russian River Basin have implemented, and continue to implement, many measures to reduce water demand and increase water resiliency.
- In the near term, eliminating the PVP diversion would result in water use curtailments and Lake Mendocino draining in 2 of 10 years.
- In the long term, further resiliency investments could reduce or eliminate the need for the PVP diversion.

Takeaways from Tech. Briefing and PG Discussions

- The Two-Basin Partnership (Round Valley Indian Tribes, CalTrout, Humboldt County, Mendocino IWPC, Sonoma Water) evaluated multiple scenarios for the future of the PVP.
- The Partnership's preferred alternative included:
 - Removal of Scott Dam
 - Improved fish passage at Cape Horn Dam
- This alternative best met the Partnership's shared objectives.

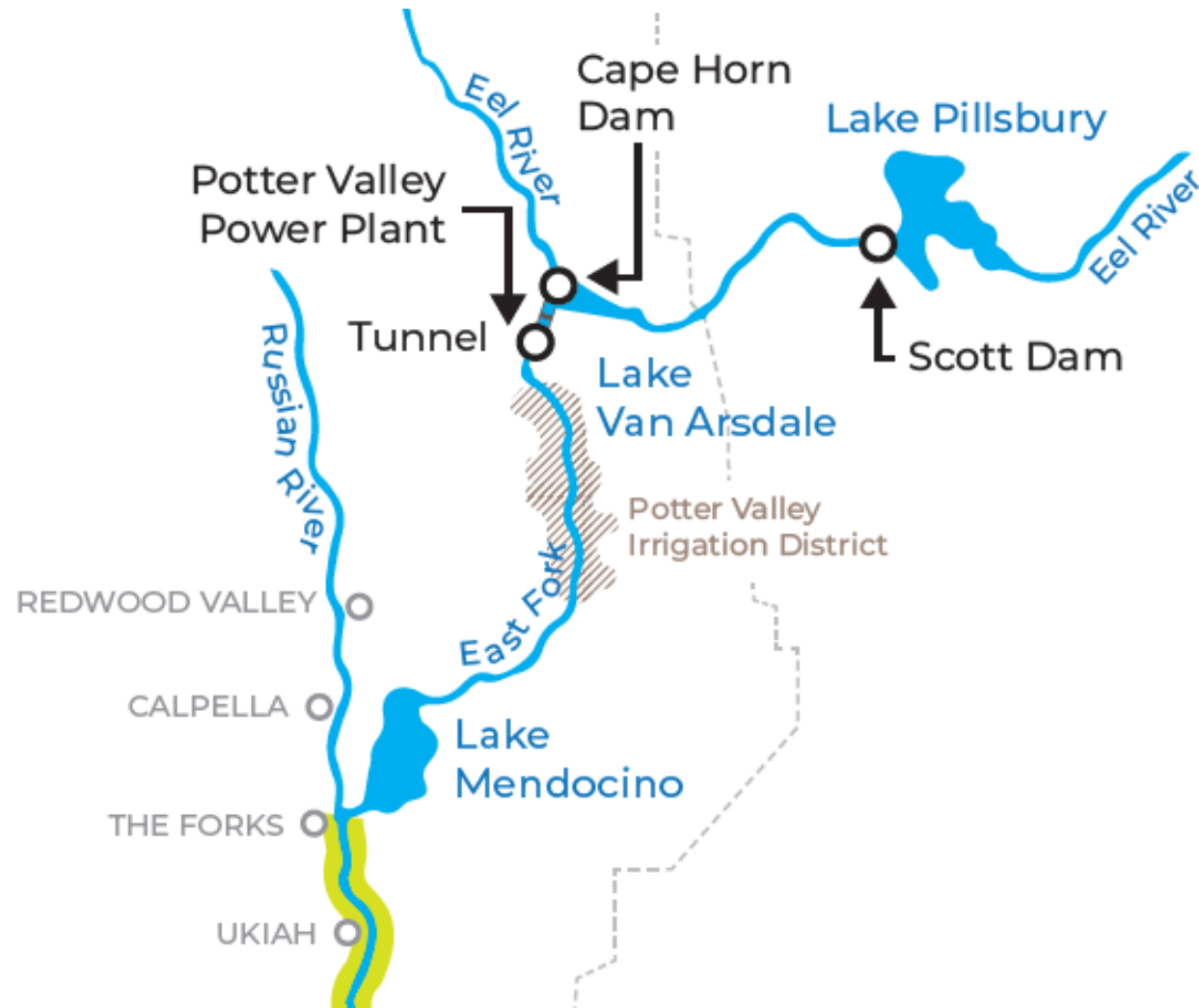
Takeaways from Tech. Briefing and PG Discussions

- Modeling conducted as part of the Huffman Ad Hoc shows that “run of the river operations” of the PVP diversion (Scott Dam removed) could, in most years, roughly match current annual water deliveries.
 - Assumes water diversions comply with Eel River flow requirements
 - Assumes Forecast-Informed Reservoir Operations at Lake Mendocino and dam releases as specified under the “Fish Flows” project

Takeaways from Tech. Briefing and PG Discussions

- Three alternatives for improved fish passage at Cape Horn Dam developed through the Ad Hoc Committee process are currently being assessed as part of DWR-funded study.
 - New Fish Ladder
 - Dam Removal with Pump Station
 - Dam Removal with Roughened Channel

Potter Valley Project Area Map



Group Discussion

Time Sensitivity of Providing Input

- Goal is to have WG review and provide input on alternatives to inform proposal to PG&E in alignment with decommissioning timeline
- Initial proposal needs to be communicated to PG&E soon to allow possibility of maintaining diversion

Discussion Questions

1. What information do you need – if any – before you can provide guidance/have an informed opinion re: the alternatives and the proposal that will be submitted to PG&E?
 - Is this information available?
2. To what extent is there currently broad support for an alternative? Could creative solution-making help address concerns and further broaden support?
3. What should be priority discussion topics for the Working Group considering the timeline?

Recap of Discussion and Next Steps

Next Steps and Future Meetings

- **Planning Group Meeting #4:** Thursday, August 3, 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. (Ukiah/Hybrid)
 - Report-out from this Working Group meeting will be on agenda
- Next Water Supply & Fisheries Working Group Meeting: TBD

Identification of Working Group Co-Chairs

[Closed session]

Co-Chair Responsibilities

- Work with facilitation team to plan Working Group meeting agendas and coordinate with presenters
- Support coordination/info sharing between Working Group and Planning Group, and across Working Groups
- Participate in report-outs during Planning Group meetings
- Communicate with Working Groups members between meetings as needed



Meeting is adjourned.

Thank you for attending!