

Meeting Summary

Russian River Water Forum

Working Group: Water Rights & Water Management

Meeting #2

Zoom

August 21, 2023, 10:00 am to 11:00 am

Summary

The Russian River Water Forum held the second meeting of the Water Rights & Water Management Working Group via Zoom. The meeting was facilitated by Kearns & West. Presentation slides and a recording of the meeting are available on the project [website](#).

The meeting objectives were as follows:

- Confirm proposed Work Product, including the level of analysis
- Identify existing water rights analyses and other relevant resources
- Identify core team for Work Product draft
- Schedule recurring meetings for the Water Rights & Water Management Working Group

The meeting agenda and a list of attendees are in Appendices A and B. The meeting had a total of 24 attendees.

The next section provides a summary of the takeaways and action items from the meeting.

Takeaways

- It will be helpful to follow up with the Planning Group to confirm endorsement of the proposed Work Product and seek specific guidance on emergent questions or issues (see next bullet).
- Question for Planning Group: The Work Product is conceived as a general, educational presentation for water users. Assuming a scenario that includes continued diversion and ownership/operation of the diversion by a regional entity, to what extent should the Work Product address the legal issues around potentially changing PVP's power production water rights into consumptive water rights? Should the Work Product explore legal substance and process details, or simply acknowledge that this issue has been identified as potentially relevant?
- Further discussion is needed to clarify how the Work Product will address Tribal water rights and Tribal beneficial uses. The question is similar: should the Work Product explore legal substance, or simply acknowledge that this issue has been identified as potentially relevant? This may also

be an appropriate question for the Planning Group to address. Save California Salmon has been working on the issue of Tribal beneficial uses.

- Working Group members would like to be updated about progress on the draft Work Product more frequently than the monthly Working Group calls; these updates and reviews could occur via email.
- Participants endorsed a proposal to form a core team to prepare a draft Work Product. There was extensive discussion about who might have experience and availability to be part of the core team. The following is a summary of outcomes from the discussion organized into task roles.
 - Core team members:
 - Co-chairs (David Taber, Phil Williams)
 - Kristin Peer
 - Tribal beneficial uses and Tribal water rights
 - Nikcole Whipple
 - Brenda Tomaras
 - Reviewers:
 - Adriane Garayalde
 - Matt Clifford
 - Follow-up needed:
 - Letty Belin and Redgie Collins (regarding Eel River analysis)
 - Erica Costa (suggested as a potential contributor but was not present at meeting)

Action Items

- **K&W** to schedule a follow-up meeting with the Working Group co-chairs this week re: next steps for the Work Product.
- **Co-Chairs** to follow up individually with:
 - Chris Shutes re: question of PG&E power production water rights
 - Adriane Garayalde to share information from the water sharing partnership, connecting with SWRCB
 - Glen Spain re: NMFS Eel River minimum flow analysis
 - CalTrout re: Eel River flow analysis
- **Co-chairs:** Follow up with Erica Costa re: availability to participate in the core group, Berkey Williams past work summarizing Upper Eel River water rights.
- **K&W** to follow up re: scheduling next Water Rights Working Group call.
- **K&W/co-chairs** to follow up with Core Team volunteers and schedule first working meeting.

Appendix A: Meeting Agenda

Time	Topic
10:00 a.m.	Welcome, Introductions, Agenda Review
10:10 a.m.	Report-out on discussion of proposed Work Product at Aug. 17 Planning Group meeting
10:20 a.m.	Discussion of appropriate (useful, feasible) level of analysis for summary Work Product
10:35 a.m.	Identify core team for Work Product development
10:45 a.m.	Identify existing water rights analyses and other relevant resources to inform the Work Product
10:55 a.m.	Identify times for recurring meetings
11:00 a.m.	Adjourn

Appendix B: List of Attendees

Working Group Members		
Full Name	Organization	Attendance
Adam Gaska	Redwood Valley County Water District	Absent
Adriane Garayalde	Agriculture Landowner, Russian River Confluence	Present
Alicia Hamann	Friends of the Eel River	Absent
Angle Lynn Slater	Lake Pillsbury Alliance	Absent
Brandon Axell	Mendocino County Farm Bureau	Absent
Brenda L. Tomaras	Lytton Rancheria	Present
Chris Shutes	California Sportfishing Protection Alliance	Present
Cliff Paulin	pvid iwpc	Absent
Curtis Berkey	Berkey Williams Law	Absent
Dakota Perez	Pinoleville Pomo Nation	Absent
David Taber	Palomino Lakes Mutual Water Company	Present
Eddie Crandell	Lake County Board of Supervisors	Absent
Elizabeth Salomone	Russian River Flood Control and Water Conservation Improvement District	Absent
Erica Costa	Berkey Williams Law	Absent
Frank Lynch	Lake Pillsbury Alliance	Present
Glenn McGourty	Mendocino County Board of Supervisors	Present
Jaime Neary	Russian Riverkeeper	Present
Janet Pauli	Potter Valley Irrigation District, Inland Water and Power Commission	Present
Jeanne Zolezzi	Russian River Flood Control and Water Conservation Improvement District	Present
John Nagle	Sonoma Resource Conservation District	Absent
Kristin Peer	BKS Law Firm	Present
Laurel Marcus	California Land Stewardship Institute	Present
Letty Belin	California Trout	Present

Luis Santana	Robinson Rancheria	Absent
Mary Grace Pawson	City of Rohnert Park, TAC Member	Absent
Matt Clifford	Trout Unlimited	Present
Mike Harty	Kearns & West	Present
Mike Thompson	Sonoma Water	Absent
Nikcole Whipple	Save California Salmon, Edtrust Justice Fellow, Round Valley Indian Tribes	Present
Pam Bacigalupi	Agriculture Landowner	Absent
Pam Jeane	Sonoma Water	Present
Patrick Sullivan	Lake County	Absent
Peter Chevalier	Agriculture Landowner	Absent
Phil Williams	City of Ukiah	Present
Redgie Collins	CalTrout	Absent
Robert Pennington	County of Sonoma	Absent
Ryan Bezerra	Sonoma Water	Absent
Scott Shapiro	Downey Brand	Absent
Sean White	City of Ukiah	Absent
Ted Hernandez	Wiyot Tribe	Absent
Terri McCartney	Pinoleville Pomo Nation, MLSTEP	Absent
Terry Crowley	City of Healdsburg	Present
Todd Schram	Sonoma Water	Present
Tyler Nelson	Agriculture Landowner	Absent
Tyrone Mitchell	Yokayo Tribe of Indians	Absent
Vivian Helliwell	Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations	Present

Other Attendees		
Full Name	Organization	Attendance
Andy Colonna	PCFFA	Present
Ann Marie Ore		Present
Don Seymour	Sonoma Water	Present
Glen Spain	PCFFA	Present