



CITY OF PETALUMA

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July 27, 2010

Grant Davis, Interim General Manager
Sonoma County Water Agency
404 Aviation Blvd.
Santa Rosa, CA 95406

RE: SCWA May 2010 Draft Water Supply Strategy Action Plan

Mr. Davis:

Thank you for presenting to the City Council on June 21, 2010 and providing the City the opportunity to comment on the Water Supply Strategy Action Plan. The City Council and City DWR&C staff have reviewed the plan and offer the following general comments:

1. The levels of action have excessive subjective variables attached and are not consistent throughout the planning process. *Immediate Action* items have a different set of "because" issues than do the other two action levels. For the document to be more relevant it is suggested that benchmark objectives or constraints be consistent across the three levels. (e.g. Funding is the topic for *Immediate Action* #4, *Near-term Action* #2, and *Long-term Action* #3).
2. The action descriptions are sporadic and lack a clear methodology in terms of descriptive construction. It is difficult to evaluate the action if the description is vague or non-existent.
3. Status for a number of items does not reflect the current status of the project. If the document is intended to be a living publication, it should have current up-to-date descriptions and status.

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4. "Strategy" items should have a specific goal associated, which should be identified.
5. "Action" items should be tied to specific goals, those items should be prioritized for the whole plan to provide continuity and guidance throughout the process. This would allow the Agency to maintain focus on the most important core functions and not sidetrack to ancillary functions. This would also allow prioritization of funding allocations by the Board of Supervisors.
6. Water Supply Strategy Five is misidentified in the text, page 13, as "Water Smart Development Standards" (WSD) but as "Low Impact Development Standards" (LID) in the Summary of Immediate Actions Chart, page 33. Overall the actions contained within the strategic items do not sort well or in some cases seem to belong to the assigned strategic item. We recommend rethinking the sorting and assignment of the action items to better reflect the primary level of strategic work and its associated strategic goal.
7. Overall the actions contained within the strategic items do not sort well or in some cases seem to belong to the assigned strategic item. We recommend rethinking the sorting and assignment of the action items to better reflect the primary level of strategic work and its associated strategic goal.
8. There are items throughout the document that are not truly "actions" specifically. They are generally located in the near and long term categories. As this is an "Action Plan" these items may better serve if they were removed and assigned appropriately when the true action is known and quantifiable. This would give readers a better feel for the work and relevant timing issues as well as allow for funding planning to occur.

More Specifically:

- S2.IA5.A – Page 9: This action while important does not preclude Ag users from using the water. It is understood that this information will provide predictive operation of the Upper portion of the Russian River. However, the refinement of the predictive tools beyond what is currently available does not warrant the effort or expense at this time. This item should be moved to Long-term status and await a time when this type of resolution is necessary.

- S2.IA6.A – Page 9: The City of Healdsburg is also a permitted Dry Creek User and should be addressed as an involved party.
- S3.IA1.A – Page 11: This action neglects the Petaluma River Watershed. Given that this watershed is mentioned in other strategic actions, and its interrelation to regional operations, it should be added to the work effort.
- S4.NTA1.A – page 12: Action seems like a place holder for an action. While it does identify future work it fails to meet the needed degree of specificity to warrant or qualify as a near-term action. It may be more appropriate to add implemented projects when they happen as opposed to this placeholder.
- S6.NTA1.A – page 15: This action assumes, wrongly, that entities other than the Agency will not move forward to become the Groundwater Elevation Monitoring Entity. The City of Petaluma City Council has already indicated its intent to assume the responsibility as the GEME in the Petaluma watershed. The action should be amended to reflect the collaboration between Sonoma County as an entity and the cities within the watersheds.
- S7.IA1.A – page 16: This action items seems to be taking the place of the Capital Improvement Plan. Is it the intent of the Agency to defer infrastructure planning decisions to the Contractors as implied by this action and others in this document as a whole?
- S7.IA2.A – page 16: Missing Status
- S7.IA3.A – page 16: This action is connected to 5 other strategies and is not temporally aligned with the other Near Term and Long Term Designations with similar designations. This action should be removed from this Strategy. While related to reliably, this is an oblique reference. This action is better defined and established in Strategy 1.
- S7.NTA1 – page 17: This action item seems unnecessary as it is currently located in S10 and is merely a placeholder. This could make updates to the document difficult. Actions that are broad in nature or redundant, as this one is, should be connected to the Strategy with the greatest portion of the work effort or directive force.
- S8.NTA1.B - page 19: SCIEP is not part of the Agency's core mandate. The Agency should focus its efforts on making itself more energy efficient.
- S8.LTA1.A – page 19: These projects are being addressed in other areas and at a higher action tier that is more appropriate to the Agency's need.

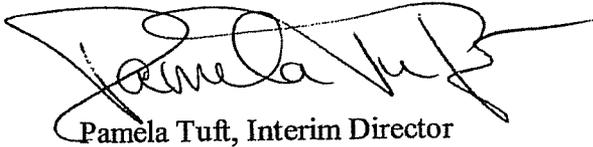
- S8.LTA1 – page 19: Please provide a better definition of what this action effort entails and create the necessary nexus for “Reliability, Natural Hazard, and Expansion Projects” in taking advantage of Energy & Water Synergies. While we have no doubt it is understood by SCWA staff, the item fails to make that clear. Timing of this action seem disharmonious with other similar items, See S7.IA5.A
- S9.NTA1.A – Page 20: As indicated by the status this action is already being addressed and should be moved to an Immediate Action.
- S9.NTA4.A&B – page 20: This item’s status is TBD and the renegotiation of the Restructured Agreement is not anticipated in the next 3 years. This item should possibly be moved to Long term until actions can be defined temporally.
- S10.IA1.A - page 22: The water and power efficiencies mentioned in this item are assumed and should not be mentioned. These increases will not occur unless control of the mentioned cities systems is turned over to the Agency. The Data Management System (DMS) will only identify current and known inefficiencies within the Agency’s system and help tighten their operations.
- S10.IA1.B – page 22: The installation of AMR meters will not by themselves improve operations nor will they increase water efficiency. This item should state only the fact that it is to install AMRs in support of the DMS system.
- S10.NTA2.A –page 22: Emergency response systems are currently in place through the County’s Emergency Services Department and Local ICS Emergency Operation Centers. This item seems to be a redundant action, outside the purview of the Agency except with regard to water supply. Add Sonoma County Fire and Emergency Services Department to the involved parties.
- S10. LTA1.A – page 23: The crafter of this item should have a more defined idea as to what the additional models are; these should be identified. The point of this action is to expand the base plan and make it more comprehensive. The project description should clearly identify the action for the reader.

Specific Actions that we would like to collaborate with the Agency are:

- Cotati Pipeline to Corona Vault
- Willowbrook/Lichau Detention ponds
- Denman Flat Detention and recharge
- Adobe Creek Sedimentation basins
- Penngrove Sanitary pump station upgrade

Thank you again for allowing us to play a constructive role in your planning process. We look forward to expanding our working relationship with the Agency and are committed to supporting the other Contractors as we move forward with this work effort.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pamela Tuft". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "P" and "T".

Pamela Tuft, Interim Director
Water Resources and Conservation

Cc: John Brown, City Manager
Remleh Scherzinger, Engineering Manager
Ann Dubay, Sonoma County Water Agency
Chris DeGabriele, North Marin Water District