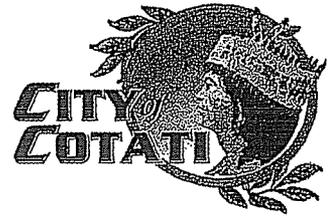


City of Cotati
Sonoma County, California



July 15, 2010

Grant Davis, General Manager
Sonoma County Water Agency
404 Aviation Boulevard
Santa Rosa, CA 95403
Via email: grant.davis@scwa.ca.gov

**SUBJECT: COMMENTS ON DRAFT WATER SUPPLY STRATEGY ACTION
PLAN, MAY 2010**

Dear Mr. Davis,

Thank you for the opportunity for the City of Cotati (City) to review and comment on the Draft Water Supply Strategy Action Plan (Action Plan). The City's October 28, 2009 letter to Chairman Kelley is also attached, as this provides the City's overall priorities and is the lens through which the Action Plan was reviewed.

1. Water Supply Strategy One - Address Dry Creek Summer Flows

- a. General. It is recommended that an immediate action be added to identify and secure outside funding for Biological Opinion-related work. This would include ensuring that the US Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) contribute their share of the Biological Opinion Costs. To increase the chances of securing the ACOE contribution in a timely manner, the City suggests that SCWA act as a coordinator in this effort by informing us of when and how we can better assist, including providing template letters, resolutions, and contact information for the appropriate officials. In parallel, it is recommended that SCWA pursues grants and any other outside funding partners to defray the cost of the projects. In these efforts, the City is ready to assist in any way possible.
- b. Immediate Action Two. This appears to be a better fit under Strategy Seven (Improve Transmission System Reliability), as these actions are generally intended to reduce peak demands. However, the water retrofit and conservation projects can reduce demand all year, but there should be a focus on outdoor water use efficiency to additionally target peak demand reductions.

2. Water Supply Strategy Two - Modify Operation of Russian River System

- a. Immediate Actions Three through Seven. Although this work with the agricultural community is apparently not funded by the Water Contractors, it is requested that the Water Contractors be given periodic updates on the status of this work, including specific initiatives that are being pursued under these actions due to the potential to affect other projects.
- b. Immediate Action Eight. This action could use further clarification to understand the goals.

3. Water Supply Strategy Four - Pursue Combined Water Supply & Flood Control Projects

- a. General. It is suggested that an action be added to utilize the USGS groundwater model to quantify and map locations of existing infiltration/inflow areas at a planning level. Specifically, the water supply benefit of Low Impact Development (LID) treatments or joint water supply/flood control project needs to be better quantified to be able to utilize these in local and regional water supply planning. Therefore, this effort may fit well under the Groundwater Management Planning process, as it exists in Sonoma Valley and Santa Rosa Plain.

4. Water Supply Strategy Six - Work With Stakeholders to Promote Sound, Information-Based Water Supply Planning Programs

- a. Immediate Action Three. It appears that this refers to Strategy 2 only.

5. Water Supply Strategy Eight - Take Advantage of Energy & Water Synergies

- a. Immediate Action Two. Currently, it is not clear what the proposed path is to achieving "Carbon Free Water". It is suggested that Water Contractors be periodically briefed on proposed actions.

6. Water Supply Strategy Nine - Implement Integrated Water Management

- a. Immediate Action Two. It is suggested that the long-term financial analysis tool be made available during the UWMP process to develop and prioritize the proposed project mix, including the potential rate impacts. In addition, the avoided-cost information should be used to compare the rate impacts of the primary water supply options (or the "no project option" i.e. conservation/local supply) to meet the projected future needs.

Ultimately, this information will be critical in selecting the best mix of regional or local projects and initiatives that preserve access to safe, reliable and affordable water for the essential needs of our customers. Additionally, this will be critical in communicating both the proposed projects and the effect of conservation on future rates.

- b. Near Term Actions One and Two. The City supports exploring alternate rate models that promote multi-year rate stability, increase operational flexibility, are more closely tied to water supply benefit, and promote more efficient use of water.
- c. Near Term Action Three. This appears to be a sub-five year tracking of water supply impacts of land use decisions. The water supply assessments conducted with General Plan updates and UWMPs should be frequent enough to track this metric.

Water Contractors Actions

Please include the following water supply efficiency projects that the City has proposed to initiate in the near term:

1. AMR Pilot Project. This project will add AMR devices to existing meters to provide water use histories, flag leaks on the customer and city side of the meters, and would allow more frequent feedback to customers on usage relative to budgets or tiers. Early identification of leaks on the customer side can help avoid high water bills and early identification of leaks on the city side can reduce unaccounted for water. If successful, the City could extend this to a system-wide deployment.
2. Water Smart Software Pilot Project. This project would provide our customers with hard copy and web-portal access to their usage information, including relative usage compared to other similar accounts, water budgets, and tiers (if adopted). The initial project would also provide information on available rebate programs and provide suggestions on the most cost-efficient methods to save water given the actual usage histories. If successful, future versions can include notifications, mobile device applications, references to contractors and products that have pre-negotiated discounts, and rewards programs to encourage water conservation and would be redeemable for local products and services.
3. Groundwater Banking Feasibility Study. This project is currently on-going in partnership with SCWA.

4. Regional Data Management Collaboration Platform. This project is currently on-going in partnership with SCWA.

Additionally, the City is interested in exploring the feasibility of joint flood control/water supply projects once funding has been identified. Potential projects areas include:

1. Headwaters of Cotati Creek.
2. Laguna de Santa Rosa at Helen Putnam Park.
3. Laguna de Santa Rosa between the City Limits and Sony Point Road.

Sincerely,


Robert Coleman-Senghor
Mayor

- c. Dianne Thompson, City Manager (via email)
Damien O'Bid, City Engineer/Director of Public Works (via email)
Technical Advisory Committee (via email)
Cotati City Council Members (via email)

Attachment: October 28, 2009 letter to Chairman Kelley