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July 27, 2010

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

Subject: Town of Windsor comments on SCWA Draft *Water Supply Strategy Action Plan* dated May, 2010

Dear Mr. Davis:

The Town of Windsor appreciates the opportunity to comment on the May 2010 draft of the Sonoma County Water Agency's *Water Supply Strategy Action Plan*. The Windsor Town Council has reviewed the plan and offers the following comments:

General

The Town would like to reiterate its priorities as previously submitted to Sonoma County Water Agency (the Agency) following release of the original 12 water supply strategies.

Strategy #1 – Assess Dry Creek Summer Flows

- The Town recommends the addition of another action to this strategy – to seek federal funding to help offset the costs of projects/studies required to fulfill the Biological Opinion requirements.
- Intermediate Action #2 – The Town relies on peaking operations from the Russian River water system as part of its system operations and unlike other Contractors, does not have active off-river wells to provide the necessary supplemental water supplies. Taking away the ability of the Town to use the Russian River system for meeting peak demands could result in significant infrastructure construction costs as the Town will have to construct additional storage and pumping facilities to handle the daily peaks. Furthermore, we do not yet know if the groundwater basin underlying the Town has sufficient capacity under a groundwater banking operation to meet the Town's peaking requirements. Finally, water demands within the Town of Windsor are fairly hard; possible additional conservation savings may be insufficient to offset the loss of peaking capabilities.
- Long Term Action #2 – We recommend for the Dry Creek Habitat Enhancements to set milestones for evaluating the effectiveness of work along miles 1 through 3. Should the evaluations indicate a below-expectation

success rate, the engineering analysis of the By-Pass Pipeline should be accelerated to minimize delays in beginning construction of the pipeline in the even the Habitat Enhancements are not successful.

Strategy #2 – Modify Operation of Russian River System

- Intermediate Action #8 – The purpose of this action is not clear, nor is the intended use of the data identifiable. The Town already prepares regular reports that incorporates many of these data.
- Long Term Action #1 – It is unclear why the Town is expected to participate in modifying the storage curve for Lake Pillsbury as this is outside its purview.

Strategy #3 – Evaluate Potential Climate Change Impacts on Water Supply & Flood Protection

- Intermediate Action #1 – Will the Water Contractors be expected to help pay for the cost of the climate change down-scaling model development and maintenance? Further, how does the Agency anticipate handling modeling inputs, especially as the Global Climate Modeling that has been currently completed has been inconclusive relative to the potential changes to precipitation in Northern California as a result of climate changes.
- Near Term Action #1 – What is the expected participation from the Water Contractors under this action?

Strategy #4 – Pursue Combined Water Supply & Flood Control Projects

- Intermediate Action #1 – Will other funding pathways be pursued for projects besides the green infrastructure grant? Should this be expanded to include possible Federal funding opportunities?

Strategy #5 – Develop Low Impact Development Standards

- Near Term Action #1 - We recommend changing this action to include development and implementation of a basin-wide groundwater monitoring program for compliance with new state regulations and/or combining this action with Intermediate Action #1 and including the monitoring plan development and implementation as part of the Groundwater Management Plan (GWMP) development and implementation. This program can be overseen/coordinated by the same group tasked with implementing the GWMP.

Strategy #6 – Work with Stakeholders to Promote Sound, Information-Based Water Supply Planning Programs

- No comments

Strategy #7 – Improve Transmission System Reliability

- Intermediate Action #3 – Please see response to Strategy #1, Intermediate Action #2.

Strategy #8 – Take Advantage of Energy and Water Synergies

- We feel that the SCEIP concept should be expanded to include Water Contractor solar generation at their facilities.
- Intermediate Action #2 – The Town is not sure how solar generation at Windsor facilities fits into increasing the Agency’s renewable energy portfolio. Specifically, who gets credit for solar projects completed by the Town?
- Intermediate Action #3 – Sonoma County Regional Climate Protection Authority may be the more appropriate agency to account for development of Contractor solar projects.

Strategy #9 – Implement Integrated Water Management

- Near Term Action #1 – The benefits of a base demand system to the Town are not clear. Furthermore, the Town depends on the system peaking capabilities, and loss of these abilities could result in increased infrastructure costs as the Town adds storage and pumping capacity to compensate for the loss of peaking capabilities.
- Near Term Action #3 – The Town supports development of process with Contractors to monitor impacts of land use on water supply.

Strategy #10 – Overcome Organizational Fragmentation to Promote Efficiency of Water Systems Operations and Planning

- Intermediate Action #1 – The Town is not sure what benefits a collaborative data management system will bring to the Town.
- Near Term Action #1 – The Town is not sure what benefits the AMR will have for the Town of Windsor, especially if data is being fed into the Agency’s system.
- Near Term Action #2 – The Town is not sure what benefits the collaborative platform will confer to the Town, especially as it will rely on its off-river groundwater wells (which it manages) in time of emergencies.
- Long Term Action #1 – see comments above.

We appreciate the assistance you and your staff have provided and look forward to continuing to work with you and the Agency in further development and implementation of these strategies.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sam Salmon". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Sam Salmon, Mayor

Cc: Matt Mullan
Jay Jasperse
Richard Burt
Craig Scott
Leslie Dumas

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