

**080309 WAC AGENDA ITEM #6**

**MEMORANDUM**

To: Water Advisory Committee

July 29, 2008

From: Chris DeGabriele, Chair, Technical Advisory Committee

Subject: SCWA Temporary Impairment/Allocation of Water Deliveries

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On July 24, 2009, the TAC sent a letter to the Sonoma County Water Agency General Manager requesting to increase supply during peak demand periods which experience occurred during the week of July 13. A response with specific answers to the letter was requested by Friday, July 31. As of the date of this memo, a response has not yet been received. A follow up resolution of the WAC is included with this agenda item for consideration at the August 3 meeting to support the TAC request.

DRAFT

WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE SONOMA COUNTY  
WATER AGENCY RESPONSE TO THE TAC'S REQUEST TO INCREASE WATER SUPPLY  
DURING PEAK DEMAND PERIODS

WHEREAS, the Restructured Agreement for Water Supply (RA), executed on June 23, 2006, by and between the Sonoma County Water Agency (SCWA), the Cities of Cotati, Petaluma, Rohnert Park, Santa Rosa, Sonoma and Forestville, the North Marin and Valley of the Moon Water Districts and the Town of Windsor collectively known as the Water Contractors creates the Water Advisory Committee (WAC) and Technical Advisory Committee (TAC); and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the WAC is to perform the functions specified in the RA and to review all proposals set forth by the SCWA which involve a significant capital outlay for the Transmission System or any other project which would significantly change the level of service or add significantly to the operations and maintenance expense of the Transmission System or other expense to be borne by the Water Contractors. The purpose of the Technical Advisory Committee is to advise the Water Advisory Committee; and

WHEREAS, on July 24, 2009, the TAC sent a letter to SCWA (attached hereto) urgently requesting that the SCWA increase diversions during peak demand periods to assist the Water Contractor efforts and to maintain adequate water Transmission System storage; and

WHEREAS, a response to the TAC letter has not yet been received from SCWA and the potential for summer hot spells and peak demand periods remain.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Water Advisory Committee hereby requests that the Sonoma County Water Agency respond to the TAC letter and increase water supply during periods of peak demand to maintain adequate Agency reservoir storage.

ADOPTED this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of August, 2009 by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:



**NORTH MARIN  
WATER DISTRICT**

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July 24, 2009

Randy Poole  
General Manager  
Sonoma County Water Agency  
P.O. Box 11628  
Santa Rosa, CA 95404

Re: Urgent Request to Increase Supply During Peak Demand

Dear Mr. *Randy* Poole:

The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) urgently requests that the Water Agency increase production to meet demands during peak periods and maintain adequate reservoir storage during peak demands. As recently witnessed during the week of July 13<sup>th</sup>, Agency tanks were allowed to drop to levels that could have had the potential to cause operational emergencies in the cities and water districts that purchase Russian River water from the Agency.

The TAC agrees that during peak demand periods the Agency management, contractors and other agency customers should be notified to:

- Turn on emergency wells or other local sources,
- Utilize storage at an equivalent storage draw-down rate,
- Turn off parks and other large irrigation users,
- Cease deliveries to surplus customers, and
- Implement any other water conservation measures available.

The TAC also agrees that the Agency should do their part and increase diversions during peak demand periods to assist the water contractor efforts and maintain adequate system storage.

Per Agency Resolution No. 09-0474, the Agency's Board of Directors declared a temporary impairment of the Water Agency System due to budget constraints, limiting capacity to approximately 53 MGD, average day peak month. It is our understanding that the Agency is limiting pumping to no more than 53 MGD, instead of an average day peak month limit, which dangerously limits our collective ability to meet short term peak demands. The decision to limit pumping to no more than 53 MGD is inconsistent with the Agency Resolution and results in storage in the Agency's water transmission system to be reduced during peak demands, putting the Agency's and water contractors' systems at greater risk and endangering the health and safety of our communities. This should be immediately rectified.

DIRECTORS: JACK BAKER • RICK FRAITES • STEPHEN PETTERLE • DENNIS RODONI • JOHN C. SCHOONOVER

OFFICERS: CHRIS DEGABRIELE, General Manager • RENEE ROBERTS, Secretary • DAVID L. BENTLEY, Auditor-Controller • DREW MCINTYRE, Chief Engineer

While the water contractors do not have approval or oversight authority over the Agency's budget, the TAC offered to ensure that the Agency had adequate revenues to cover the costs of operating and maintaining the water system to meet the Agency's contractual obligations. In addition, the Water Advisory Committee (WAC) agreed to reduce the amount of water deliveries in the rate formula, resulting in increased water rates for the Agency. It was the WAC's understanding that increased water rates would provide the revenue necessary to operate the system to deliver 54,591 acre-feet, per the Agency's budget. However, the Agency Board of Directors unilaterally declared a temporary impairment of the distribution system due to 'budget constraints' without explaining the basis or consulting with the impacted water contractors.

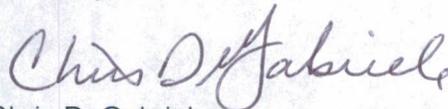
The TAC remains interested in understanding the nature of this apparent budget problem. We believe revenues from additional water sales will cover any increased cost of operating additional system components to meet peak demands. In addition, the Agency's fund balance at the end of the 08-09 fiscal year included sufficient funds that a portion could be utilized to cover the cost of operating additional system components.

In addition, the water contractors are assisting the Agency to comply with all operational and permit constraints. Water contractors continue to implement aggressive conservation programs, allowing the Agency to be in compliance with the State Board Order requiring a 25 percent reduction in Russian River diversions from June 15<sup>th</sup> – October 2<sup>nd</sup>, as compared to the same time period in 2004, and assisting with meeting the 25 percent conservation goal for Sonoma County. With respect to the minimum instream flow requirements, it is the water contractors' understanding that the minimum flow requirements are not only being met, but are greater than required in the lower Russian River. Therefore, additional water is available in the river to divert during peak demand periods. Additionally, through the efforts of all water users, urban and agricultural, and the Agency, storage levels in Lake Mendocino have been preserved to-date (see attached graph) to make supply available for the fall Chinook salmon return.

Given that Russian River environmental and permit constraints described above are being met, we request that diversions be increased to maintain adequate Agency storage during peak demand periods. If the only constraint to maintaining adequate Agency storage is budget, please provide the water contractors with a financial analysis of the additional costs anticipated for exceeding 53 MGD, and an estimate of the additional revenue from water sales in excess of 53 MGD.

This letter represents the collective view and input of the TAC. Due to the urgency of this situation and the possibility of additional heat spells this summer, please respond with specific answers to the requests made in this letter by Friday, July 31<sup>st</sup>.

Sincerely,

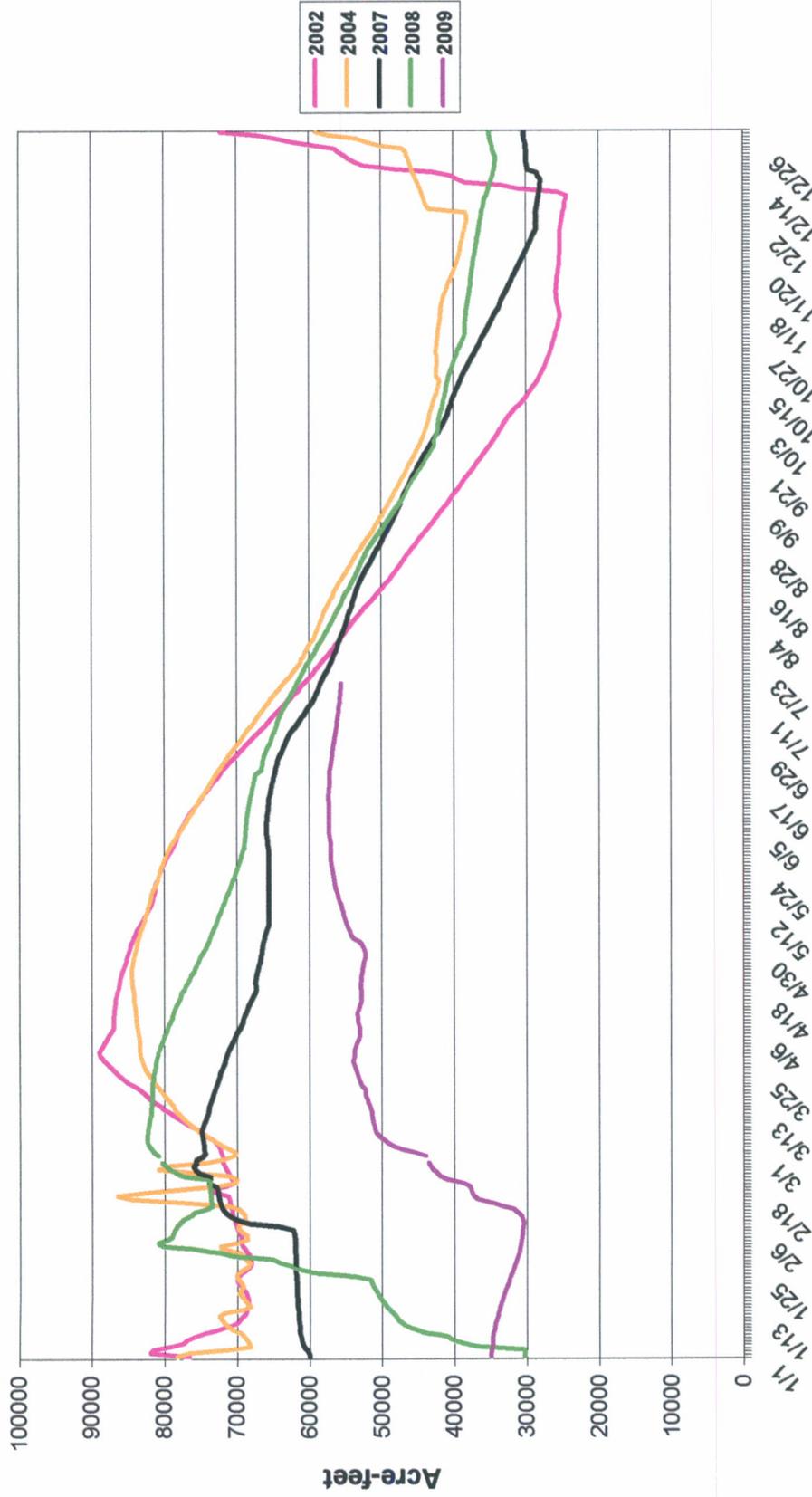


Chris DeGabriele  
Chair, Technical Advisory Committee

Randy Poole, General Manager  
July 24, 2009  
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Cc: Damien O'Bid, City of Cotati  
Mike Ban, City of Petaluma  
Darrin Jenkins, City of Rohnert Park  
Milenka Bates, City of Sonoma  
Miles Ferris, City of Santa Rosa  
Richard Burtt, Town of Windsor  
Krishna Kumar, Valley of the Moon Water District  
Paul Helliker, Marin Municipal Water District

# Lake Mendocino Storage 2002, 2004, 2007, 2008 and 2009



January through December  
(2009 Data Thru 07/20/09)