

August 24, 2026, Russian River Watershed Resilience Network: Summary Meeting Notes

Action Items:

- Network members are asked to share with your organization the Executive Summary (or the full document!) of the [Russian River Watershed Resilience Plan](#).
- Please share your feedback on the high-level draft workplan by emailing AnnDuBay@sonic.net. The high-level workplan can be viewed on pages 14-20 of the meeting slides, located [here](#). It will be discussed in greater detail at the next Network meeting.

Dates to remember:

California Department of Water Resources draft Proposition 4 grant guidelines public workshops:

- Watershed Resilience Conservation Implementation, [October 12](#) (Tribal only) and [October 22](#) (general public)
- Sustainable GW grant funding for small GSAs (pumping under 10,000 AFY) and underrepresented communities technical assistance program, [September 1](#) and [September 22](#) workshops.
- [Larger groundwater solicitation](#): November 5.
- To learn more about future DWR dates and workshops, register at the link below and mark “water grants”.
https://public.govdelivery.com/landing_pages/29426/596c0629d73f8e9662447e5491dfa041

Sonoma County Farm Bureau drive through BBQ: September 23 (ordering deadline, September 16), <https://sonomafb.org/take-home-bbq/>

Russian River watershed Creek Week: September 20-26. Activities are listed on the Russian River Watershed Association website, <https://rrwatershed.org/project/creek-week/>

California Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force: October 1-2 , Fortuna, <https://wildfiretaskforce.org/north-coast-regional-meeting-2026/>

North Coast Resource Partnership quarterly meeting: October 15-16, Ukiah. Information coming soon at <https://northcoastresourcepartnership.org/north-coast-resource-partnership-quarterly-meetings/>

Russian River Confluence-R3MP Convening: Wednesday, October 29, Hopland Research Station. Information coming soon at <https://www.russianriverconfluence.org/>

Meeting Summary

NOTE: for detailed information, you can find the meeting slides at <https://russianriverwatershedresilience.org/network/> or view the meeting by going to https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/60vECqomy2dKAR5bpgKaDCPVTDAWEs9mRWTPruAOWc7taL7xty7W2eE_hxfvhKym.3YN0TLineVH6ChK5. The passcode is 8w.0m%%2

Welcome and Acknowledgement of Grant Davis' role

Grant Davis (Sonoma Water General Manager) welcomed meeting participants and thanked everyone for their ongoing participation. He reminded the Network that the hard part begins now, with Plan implementation. Grant encouraged participants to stay the course and – as he nears retirement – mentioned how much he has enjoyed getting to know and working with the participants.

Armin Munevar (Jacobs, Project Manager) thanked Grant for his leadership and his stewardship of the agency and the region.

Introductions and Project Team

Chris Delaney (Sonoma Water) noted that project team has changed a bit as the project enters an implementation phase, as follows:

Don Seymour (Sonoma Water): Will continue as Program Manager, focused on strategic issues, Don.Seymour@scwa.ca.gov

Stephen Maples (Sonoma Water): As new Project Manager, will be handling the day-to-day aspects of the project, Stephen.Maples@scwa.ca.gov

Chris Delaney (Sonoma Water): As Principal in Charge, will be stepping into an oversight role. Chris.Delaney@scwa.ca.gov

Jessica Martini Lamb (Sonoma Water): Will continue working on Tribal Engagement, Jessica.Martini.Lamb@scwa.ca.gov

Ann DuBay (consultant to Sonoma Water): Will serve as the new Network Program Manager and is your primary contact, AnnDuBay@sonic.net

Karis Johnston (Kearns & West): Will continue in her Facilitation Support capacity, KJohnston@kearnswest.com

Karen Askeland (Jacobs): Will work on Project Evaluation, Karen.Askeland@jacobs.com

Armin Munevar (Jacobs): Will continue to provide strategic and project guidance as Watershed Resiliency Strategy, Armin.Munevar@jacobs.com

Final Plan Review

Armin reported that the final plan was released to the public in July and completes the resilience pilot. Think of the Plan as Phase 1 of the effort. Go to <https://russianriverwatershedresilience.org/plan/> and please share the Plan (or the executive summary)! Armin provided an overview of the Executive Summary and the Plan chapters and Appendices. There were no questions.

Workplan & Network Calendar for 26/27

Armin noted that the project team has developed a workplan for FY 26-27, with the goals of continuing Network and Tribal engagement; refining the resilience strategies, project development and prioritization; and supporting implementation of a funding strategy. He presented a high-level overview of the workplan schedule and described that the Network will be meeting quarterly and the website will continue as the hub for the Plan and implementation tasks.

In regard to project development and prioritization, the team will be developing a comprehensive project database; working with the Network to identify lead organizations for each project in the database; helping refine projects; developing evaluation criteria in alignment with resilience goals and funding criteria; and developing a prioritization process for grant funding. **This process and conceptual prioritization criteria will be discussed in greater detail at the next Network meeting.**

Questions/comments:

Question: Was Proposition 4 specifically created to fund the watershed resiliency projects?

Response: Watershed resiliency is one element of Prop 4. There are several other elements, many which align with resiliency.

Comment: I advocate for an approach that prioritizes outcomes rather than projects. It would be good to have a strategy as new projects come online (even though not named in the Plan). Think it's really important to develop a prioritization process.

Response: At next meeting will be sharing the resilience criteria, which are outcome-based.

Funding Update

Brad Elliott (Sonoma Water) highlighted federal grant opportunities, all from the Bureau of Reclamation, as follows:

- Cooperative watershed management program. Three funding rounds: October, February 2027 and then 2028. Max award: \$300K. No cost share requirement.
- Applied science grants: Funding round closes 4/13/27. Max award: \$400K. 50% cost share requirement.
- Drought response program: Funding round closed but will likely have another round next year. Potential amount: \$500K-\$1.5M. 50% cost share.

Ann Marie Ore (California Department of Water Resources) discussed Prop 4 grant funding.

- **Watershed Resilience Conservation Implementation.** \$60M. Expect the draft guidelines to be released in early September. Concept proposals submitted first (early 2027) followed by full application (early 2027); awards in mid-late 2027. Webinars during comment period: 10/12 (Tribal only) and 10/22 (general public).
- **Sustainable groundwater funding.** [Draft guidelines](#) have been released for \$3.5M for small GSAs and \$6.5M for underrepresented communities technical assistance program. Workshops to be held on 9/1 and 9/22. Comment period closes 9/30 with guidelines published in October.
- **Larger groundwater solicitation.** Draft PSP and guidelines should be released in September; general public workshop, 11/5; guidelines released early 2027.
- **Watershed Resilience Planning.** DWR is thinking about the pilots as part of this. DWR doesn't have information about what this will look like yet. Generally thinking that draft PSP will be released by December; final PSP by April 2027. Concept solicitation (October 2027) and full application (end of 2027).

Tribal Comments or Reflections (Optional)

No comments.

Related Project Updates & Discussion

Karen Gaffney provided the following written statement:

The [North Coast Resource Partnership \(NCRP\)](#) is moving forward multiple initiatives, including:

- [Regional Climate Resilience Plan:](#) with funding from the Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation, NCRP and its partners are developing a regional climate resilience plan that will include: spatial data and information about climate vulnerabilities and solutions; a landscape scale, spatially explicit multi-benefit project portfolio; Tribal, county, city, NGO, RCD and other partner priorities; strategies related to innovative and stable funding including refined thinking on risk and insurance financing. NCRP has been meeting with North Coast Tribes and counties, and expects to hold multiple community workshops in the coming months on regional datasets, regional priorities and projects, and innovative financing opportunities.
- [Updating the Vision for North Coast Resilience:](#) NCRP is updating this adaptive shared regional vision plan to reflect new information, data, and partner priorities. This updating will include interactive meetings with partners, starting with the NCRP quarterly meeting on October 15-16 (described below)
- [Regional Capacity Grants:](#) NCRP recently awarded over \$2 million in capacity grants to partners in the region, including Tribes, NGOs, RCDs and watershed groups. Grant awards ranged from \$50,000-200,000 and are intended to directly support the capacity of organizations to develop and implement a multi-objective portfolio of landscape scale projects focused on wildfire and climate resilience.

- [Technical Assistance](#): The NCRP has an ongoing focus on providing modest technical assistance awards to organizations needing support for developing and implementing projects. These awards take the form of consultant time to support the requesting entity (a Tribe, county, NGO, RCD, agency, or other eligible organization) with expertise related to grant development, mapping, environmental compliance, or other categories of need. To date, technical assistance investments of approximately \$2 million have leveraged over \$85 million in on-the-ground implementation funding in the North Coast region.
- [CAL FIRE Forest Health Pilot](#): NCRP is partnering with CAL FIRE to test innovations in forest health with partners leading large scale, multi-benefit projects
- [California Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force meeting on October 1-2 in Fortuna CA](#): NCRP is co-hosting this meeting, and encourages Watershed Network participation, including in the Resource Fair and Tours.

For more information on any of the above, contact Karen Gaffney:
kgaffney@northcoastresourcepartnership.org

Andy Rodgers provided an update on the [Russian River Watershed Association](#), which is a coalition of 11 cities, counties and special districts in the watershed that have come together to coordinate regional programs for clean water, habitat restoration, and watershed enhancement. Its member agencies pay fees and adopt an annual budget. In FY 26-27 the Board has allocated resources for staff support for the Resilience project.

TJ VanderYacht provided an update on the [Russian River Confluence](#), which is a collaboration of partners dedicated to creating a generational shift in restoring, renewing, and celebrating the future of the Russian River watershed. The Confluence is focused on relationship building and convening; bringing people together; aggregating data and people. The Confluence now has a charter and is building out strategic plans. Trying to keep tabs on who is doing what. Hosting a watershed convening on 10/29 with R3MP. Hopland Research Center.

Matt St. John provided an update on the [Russian River Regional Monitoring Program](#) (R3MP), which is science-based planning effort convened by public agencies and watershed stakeholders to develop a coordinated regional monitoring program for the Russian River watershed. It's managed by San Francisco Estuary Institute. The monitoring plan is completed, along with a RR aquatic resources mapping project, in collaboration with county. It's working on a RR telemetry study and a transition plan. Interested in adding water quality parameters to the flow monitoring. Moving from planning to implementation phase, with an implementation workgroup for the monitoring plan, also will be convening a funding workgroup. Co-hosting the convening event.