

# Climate Workshop Planning Ad-Hoc Committee Quarterly Update

October – December 2023

## Purpose and Scope

The Climate Workshop Planning Ad Hoc was established on January 24, 2023 for the duration of the 2023 calendar year. The Ad Hoc will meet with CARD and staff of key County departments/agencies to plan the content and format of the Board's Summer Workshop (August 2023) and will develop recommendations for the Board of Supervisors pertaining to climate action planning based on the Winter Workshop (December 2023).

## Ad Hoc Members

Supervisor Gorin  
Supervisor Hopkins

## Attendees

### County Staff

- Barbara Lee, CAO, CARD Director
- Cory O'Donnell, Chief Deputy County Counsel
- Simone Albuquerque, CAO, CARD Analyst
- As-needed subject matter support may also be provided by other departments and staff

### Other

- As-needed subject matter support may also be provided by community members

## Meetings Held

5/30/2023

6/29/2023

11/1/2023

12/11/23 (*Half day Board Workshop on the Climate Resilience Comprehensive Action Plan*)

## Status

The Climate Workshop Planning Ad Hoc Committee members hosted the November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023, Climate Resilience Town Hall meeting. At that meeting, Supervisor Hopkins moderated a panel of government partners in climate resilience work that included the County's Climate Action and Resiliency Division (CARD), the Regional Climate Protection Authority (RCPA), and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission's Bay Area Regional Energy Network (BayREN). Supervisor Gorin facilitated a panel of community partners including the Gold Ridge Resource Conservation District, FireSafe Sonoma, Sonoma Ecology Center, the Building Decarbonization Coalition, and the Sonoma County Bicycle Coalition. CARD staff did a brief presentation on the ongoing work toward the Climate Resilience Comprehensive Action Plan and facilitated an interactive poll during which attendees gave input on their priorities for climate resilience work by the County.

**Upcoming Meetings** The Climate Ad Hoc was not renewed for 2024 and there are no upcoming meetings.

# Fire Services Ad Hoc Committee Quarterly Update

October – December 2023

## Purpose and Scope

The Fire Services Ad Hoc Committee will provide direction to staff on activities to increase revenue to support efforts to create more efficient, effective, and sustainable fire services.

## Ad Hoc Members

Supervisor David Rabbitt  
Supervisor Lynda Hopkins

## Attendees

County Administrator's Office

- Christina Rivera, County Administrator
- Christel Querijero, Deputy County Administrator
- Maggie Luce, Administrative Analyst III

County Counsel

- Robert Pittman, County Counsel
- Kristin Horrell, Deputy County Counsel

## Meetings Held

10/19/23 Ad Hoc meeting

### Agenda items:

- Fire District Funding Requests
- CSA 40 Annexation Status Update
- Upcoming Meeting Schedule

### Direction to staff:

- Pause considerations on one-time funding requests from Fire Districts until after the outcome of the potential sales tax measure
- Continue working toward goal of annexing remaining areas of CSA 40
- Schedule next Ad Hoc meeting after the results of the potential sales tax measure

## Status

The Fire Services Ad Hoc Committee met once during this period. Additionally, the Ad Hoc has remained in contact with the Fire Services Working Group in support of their work on the Fire Tax measure, anticipated to be on the March 2024 ballot.

## Upcoming Meetings

4/28/24 –Ad Hoc meeting

# Healthy Forests Ad-Hoc Committee Quarterly Update

October - December 2023

## Purpose and Scope

The purpose of the Healthy Forests Ad Hoc is to consolidate and coordinate the efforts of County departments/agencies to reach collective goals that protect and improve the conditions of our forests and natural landscapes while reducing the risk of wildfire throughout the county. The Ad Hoc will recommend actions for full Board consideration that can be taken in vegetation management, land protection and ecosystem services to ensure the ecological functions of our forested and natural landscapes are stable and improving over time. The Ad Hoc will provide input on department/agency activities such as the Vegetation Management Grant Program, Federally-funded wildfire resiliency efforts, parcel and landscape level planning tools, and strategic approach to protect communities and better manage our natural resources using the best available data to support these goals.

The Ad Hoc Committee will propose specific strategies to leverage and utilize the remaining funds from the PG&E Settlement Funds to best protect our communities and landscapes from large scale wildfires and improve the health of our natural resources. This Ad Hoc presented its recommendations for full Board review on January 10, 2023. The Board approved the recommendations and has authorized the Healthy Forests Ad Hoc Committee continue to work through 2023.

## Ad Hoc Members

Supervisor James Gore  
Supervisor Lynda Hopkins

## Attendees

### County Staff

- Ag + Open Space (lead)
- Permit Sonoma
- Sonoma Water
- Regional Parks
- Climate Action and Resiliency Division
- UC Cooperative Extension
- County Administrator's Office
- County Counsel
- As-needed subject matter support may also be provided by other departments and staff

## Meetings Held

10/2/2023 –The Healthy Forests Ad Hoc committee and staff met to discuss proposed changes to the Vegetation Management Grant Program for 2024 and current staffing needs.

**Status**

The Ad Hoc Committee met with staff to discuss revised approach to the Vegetation Management Grant Program and future funding needs to support wildfire resilience. Staff proposed an amount of \$4 million to fund three different funding tracks. The Ad Hoc committee questioned the need for three tracks and supporting projects that Permit Sonoma may be the lead. Also, the amount was discussed in terms of what would be left in the PG&E Settlement funds. In addition, staff proposed extending the Vegetation Management Coordinator position for another 3 years and adding 0.5 FTE Administrative Aide on a time-limited position to support the vegetation management program overall. This position would be covered by the PG&E Settlement Funds. The other 0.5 FTE Admin. Aide would be used and paid through Measure F funding and service Ag + Open Space’s mission and activities.

The initial proposed actions and further discussion with CAO staff led to the Board of Supervisors approving \$2 million for the Vegetation Management Grant Program on November 7, 2023. Ag + Open Space will use two tracks to provide funding to a wide range of projects. One track will use the standard Request for Proposals process that has been used since 2021 offering \$1 million of grant funding to this track. Ag + Open Space will offer additional grant funding through the Resilient Forests and Watersheds workshop series. This series of workshops will provide technical support to high-risk communities and collaborative efforts to maximize participation by local landowners and community organizations interested in supporting wildfire resilience projects throughout the region.

The Board of Supervisors approved a 2 year extension to the Vegetation Management Coordinator position through October 2026. Also, a 0.5 FTE Administrative Aide position was approved through October 2026 to support the County’s vegetation management program activities. Ag + Open Space staff will continue to look for new funding opportunities and report on the success of these efforts each year.

**Upcoming Meetings:** The Health Forests Ad Hoc was not renewed for 2024; there are no upcoming meetings.

<b>Fiscal Update</b>		
<b>Project</b>	<b>Board Date</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Allocate \$25M PGE Settlement Funds to Vegetation Management	10/6/2020	\$25,000,000
<i>2021 Vegetation Management Grant program</i>	3/23/2021	-\$3,725,494
Santa Rosa Junior College Funding – Professional Development Program	3/23/2021	-\$500,000
Vegetation Management Coordinator Salary & Benefits (3 years)	3/23/2021	-\$660,000
Permit Sonoma staffing for CEQA support	7/13/2021	-\$300,000
Conditionally Approved Projects (\$3,000,000 set aside only \$2,000,000 needed to fund Grant Agreements)	7/13/2021; updated 4/19/22	-\$2,000,000
<i>2022 Vegetation Management Grant program</i>	4/19/2022	-\$3,300,000
Technical & Planning Assistance for community grants	4/19/2022	-\$500,000
<i>2023 Vegetation Management Grant program</i>	1/10/2023	-\$3,000,000
<i>Community Outreach and Education</i>	1/10/2023	-\$600,000
<i>Data Planning Mapping and Prioritization</i>	1/10/2023	-\$150,000
<i>Organizational Structure and Funding</i>	1/10/2023	-\$400,000
<i>Programmatic and Administrative Support</i>	1/10/2023	-\$290,000
<i>2024 Vegetation Management Grant program</i>	11/07/2023	-\$2,000,000
<i>Staffing Request: Veg. Mgt. Coordinator + 0.5 Administrative Aide</i>	11/07/2023	-\$604,038
<b>Vegetation Management Allocations To Date:</b>		<b>-\$18,029,532</b>
<b>Remaining Balance:</b>		<b>\$6,970,468</b>

# Living Wage Ad Hoc Committee Quarterly Update

October - December 2023

## Purpose and Scope

The Living Wage Ad Hoc Committee will provide input to staff on potential updates, previously determined by the Board, to the County's Living Wage Ordinance (LWO).

## Ad Hoc Members

Supervisor Lynda Hopkins  
Supervisor David Rabbitt

## Attendees

County Administrator's Office  
○ Christel Querijero, Deputy County Administrator  
○ Yvonne Shu, Principal Analyst  
Human Resources  
○ Janell Crane, Director  
Public Infrastructure  
○ Monique Chapman, Deputy Director  
County Counsel  
○ Jeremy Fonseca, Deputy County Counsel IV

## Meetings Held

11/9/23

- Confirmed direction received at 9/12/23 Board meeting to explore, in a separate effort from living wage, a potential labor neutrality or labor peace ordinance
- Confirmed direction received at 10/24/23 Board meeting to explore how seasonal workers at the Fair could be covered under the County's living wage rate

## Status

Staff will present options for inclusion of Fair seasonal workers under the living wage ordinance at the Board's 3/26/24 meeting; a first read may occur.

## Upcoming Meetings

The Living Wage Ad Hoc was not renewed for 2024; there are no upcoming meetings.

## Moorland Annexation Ad Hoc Committee Quarterly Update

October - December 2023

Purpose and Scope
<p>The purpose of this Ad Hoc is to explore potential City of Santa Rosa annexation areas. The Ad Hoc will be prioritizing the Moorland annexation, but the Ad Hoc may continue to explore the other unincorporated pockets with the City of Santa Rosa. The Ad Hoc will work with staff to develop the scope of a potential Moorland Annexation project to bring back to the Board of Supervisors. Furthermore, the Ad Hoc will provide direction to staff in relation to working with the City of Santa Rosa on this project.</p>

Ad Hoc Members	Participants
Supervisor Chris Coursey Supervisor Lynda Hopkins	<u>County Staff</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• County Administrator's Office<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Christel Querijero, Deputy County Administrator</li><li>○ Maggie Fleming, Administrative Analyst III</li></ul></li><li>• County Counsel<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Robert Pittman, County Counsel</li><li>○ Lisa Pheatt, Deputy County Counsel</li></ul></li><li>• Permit Sonoma<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Tennis Wick, Director</li><li>○ Scott Orr, Deputy Director of Planning</li></ul></li><li>• Auditor-Controller-Treasurer-Tax Collector<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Erick Roeser, Auditor-Controller-Treasurer-Tax Collector</li><li>• Brooke Koop, Assistant Auditor-Controller-Treasurer-Tax Collector</li></ul></li></ul>

Meetings Held
No meetings were held this quarter.

Status
The Ad Hoc did not meet during the fourth quarter. Further discussion has been delayed pending progress on the City of Santa Rosa's development of a South Santa Rosa Specific Plan. County and City staff have been in communication regarding next steps for coordination for County staff to support the City's work related to the Santa Rosa Specific Plan. No other meetings have been scheduled.

Upcoming Meetings
TBD

## OWTS Ad Hoc Committee Quarterly Update

October - December 2023

### Purpose and Scope

The purpose of the Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems (OWTS) Ad Hoc is to consider input and recommendations received from OWTS stakeholders, including other public entities (e.g., water quality control boards, fish and wildlife agencies, etc.) and community members regarding the OWTS regulations. Received input will be reviewed by Permit Sonoma staff and County Counsel to: (i) revise the Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems (OWTS) regulations; and (ii) evaluate potential options. Permit Sonoma anticipated bringing the revised Manual to the Board of Supervisors in January 2023, however, delays have changed this date to June 4, 2024.

### Ad Hoc Members

Supervisor Hopkins  
Supervisor Rabbitt

### Assigned Staff

Tennis Wick: Lead  
Barbara Lee, CAO Climate Deputy  
Nathan Quarles, Deputy Director  
Michael Makdisi, Analyst/Ombudsman

### Meetings Held

There were no meetings held this quarter.

### Status

The Board of Supervisor's meeting date seeking authorization to submit the County's Local Area Management Plan (LAMP) and OWTS Manual was moved to June 4, 2024. The LAMP is the County's application to the State of California to regulate the discharges of domestic waste within the County. The OWTS Manual is the technical support document for the LAMP application.

Update on the OWTS Manual: Permit Sonoma staff has met with two separate constituent groups, the Land Use Advisory Panel (LUAP) and the Lower Russian River Citizen's Advisory Group. Technical meetings with LUAP are planned to continue through February 2024. Upon completion of a revised draft manual, based on the input from these two constituent groups, the revised draft manual will be published, and public outreach will occur in March and April 2024.

An emerging issue is to include a new system type for Leaching Beds. Staff are not confident a new OWTS Manual section can be drafted and included in this iteration of the OWTS Manual.

Staff and LUAP are creating a process to create edits and/or addendums to the OWTS Manual as standalone items as compared to bundling numerous changes that would then need to come back before the Board. The idea is with single issue edits, the OWTS Manual can be approved through Permit Sonoma's Director. Leaching Beds may be one of the first issues to utilize this process.



The Clean Water Ombudsman provided an update on several topics including the septic system mapping study, acceptance of 319(h) grant monies, office hours and feedback from the community.

The septic system mapping study will be completed by mid-2024. It is anticipated the mapping study will be presented in August 2024. This item will provide an opportunity to discuss wastewater opportunities.

A resolution to accept 319(h) grant funding will be presented to the Board in February 2024. The grant monies will go towards funding a project to evaluate potential wastewater solutions with respect to septic systems.

The Ombudsman now has established office hours, which are now active in Monte Rio. His feedback from the community included interest in how septic regulations (OWTS Manual) and the Russian River TMDL will affect them. He also heard that some business owners with septic systems, who are trying to get ahead of the issue, are having difficulty connecting to the sanitary sewer due to being outside of the services area's district or outside an urban service area.

Operational Permit (OPR) Program Update: The County graduated over 3,000 systems out of the OPR program. There are currently 1,233 systems remaining in the system. Staff continue to conduct inspections and review of self-monitoring data. There are approximately 40 landowners not in compliance with the OPR regulations for non-payment of fees, preventing access to conduct inspections and/or non-submittal of self-monitoring reports. Staff are now pursuing enforcement on these 40.

#### **Upcoming Meetings**

February 1, 2024 – Quarterly Ad Hoc meeting to discuss progress of updated OWTS Manual  
May 2024 – Status on the LAMP and OWTS Manual within a month of the June 4, 2024 Board meeting

## Potter Valley Project Ad-Hoc Committee Quarterly Update

October – December 2023

### Purpose and Scope

The purpose of the Potter Valley Project Ad Hoc is to work with Sonoma Water staff to explore options related to the future of the Potter Valley Project (Project) and Russian River water supply reliability and resiliency. The Ad Hoc will recommend options for full Board consideration.

In addition to working with staff, the Ad Hoc may engage with various stakeholders, as appropriate, in Sonoma, Mendocino, Humboldt, and Lake counties, as well as state, federal and tribal representatives, to formulate its recommendations.

### Ad Hoc Members

Supervisor Gore  
Supervisor Rabbitt

### Attendees

#### Sonoma Water Staff

- Grant Davis, Sonoma Water General Manager
- Pam Jeane, Sonoma Water Assistant General Manager
- Don Seymour, Sonoma Water Deputy Chief Engineer
- Cory O'Donnell, Chief Deputy County Counsel, Natural Resources + Resiliency
- Adam Brand, Chief Deputy County Counsel, Infrastructure
- As-needed support may also be provided by other staff

#### Other

- As-needed subject matter support may also be provided by consultants

### Meetings Held

10/16/2023: Ad Hoc Meeting  
11/20/2023: Ad Hoc Meeting  
12/18/2023: Ad Hoc Meeting

### Status

The Ad Hoc members met with staff once in October, once in November and once in December.

The October meeting included a discussion about the draft (revised) proposal that was being prepared pursuant to PG&E's announcement that it would accept proposals for possible inclusion in their Preliminary Draft License Surrender Application and Conceptual Decommissioning Plan (Draft Surrender Application) for the Project. Progress on drafting of a Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement to form a regional entity, and the agenda for an upcoming Closed Session was also discussed.

The November meeting included a discussion of staff's initial review of PG&E's Draft Surrender Application, formation of the regional entity called the Eel-Russian Project Authority, and initial progress on implementing the revised proposal submitted to PG&E in early November.

The December meeting included a review of staff's comments on PG&E's Draft Surrender Application, a discussion of logistics for the first Eel-Russian Project Authority meeting, and continued work on the engineering design for Project options under a grant from the California Department of Water Resources.

Additional meetings are expected to be scheduled as-needed and will not be scheduled on a regular schedule.

<b>Upcoming Meetings</b>
None scheduled

## Procurement Ad Hoc Committee Quarterly Update

October - December 2023

### Purpose and Scope

The Procurement Ad Hoc will receive information and provide feedback to staff throughout the countywide procurement review

### Ad Hoc Members

Supervisor David Rabbitt  
Supervisor James Gore

### Staff

Christel Querijero, County Administrator's Office  
Yvonne Shu, County Administrator's Office  
Monique Chapman, Public Infrastructure  
Tambra Curtis, County Counsel

### Meetings Held

10/2/23 Ad Hoc

- Received a briefing from the consultant on needs assessment recommendations

### Status

The consultant presented a gap analysis and needs assessment at the October 17, 2023, Board of Supervisors' meeting, and the Board directed staff to prioritize which projects/areas to examine first.

### Upcoming Meetings

The Procurement Ad Hoc was not renewed for 2024; there are no upcoming meetings.

# Project Labor Agreement Ad Hoc Committee Quarterly Update

October - December 2023

## Purpose and Scope

The purpose of the Project Labor Agreement (PLA) Ad Hoc Committee is to explore updates to the County's PLA policy, which was originally approved in 2014. Based on stakeholder input, the Ad Hoc will identify policy areas within the existing PLA for potential updates to meet the following goals: increasing local job creation, supporting training and internship opportunities in the building trades, avoiding costly labor disruptions or work stoppages, ensuring adequate health, welfare and retirement benefits for workers, ensuring that the use of a PLA does not increase County project costs, and supporting the County's commitment to achieving racial equity.

## Ad Hoc Members

Supervisor Lynda Hopkins  
Supervisor David Rabbitt

## Attendees

County Administrator's Office

- Christel Querijero, Deputy County Administrator
- Yvonne Shu, Principal Analyst

Public Infrastructure

- Johannes Hoevertsz, Director

County Counsel

- Adam Brand, Chief Deputy County Counsel

## Meetings Held

No Ad Hoc meetings were held during this period.

## Status

The Board approved a PLA policy update at their 9/12/23 meeting. The proposed PLA agreement is scheduled to go to the Board 5/21/24.

## Upcoming Meetings

The Project Labor Agreement Hoc was not renewed for 2024; there are no upcoming meetings.

## Public Art Policy Ad Hoc Committee Quarterly Update

October – December 2023

### Purpose and Scope

The purpose of the Public Art Policy Review Ad Hoc is to explore options for expanding public art in the community. Creative Sonoma's original work plan, approved by the Board of Supervisors (Agenda Item Number: 47, June 24, 2014) includes a recommendation to consider enacting a percent for art ordinance. In FY2020, Creative Sonoma received grant funding that facilitated hiring a consultant to develop a public art plan and a percent-for-art ordinance for Board consideration. Prior to hiring the consultant, Creative Sonoma staff held one-on-one briefings with the Supervisors, after which the consultant was hired.

Subsequently, Supervisor Gore created the Public Art Policy Review Ad Hoc to work with Creative Sonoma staff to guide the work of the consultant. The process will include stakeholder interviews and community engagement activities designed to collect a wide range of input into the plan.

### Ad Hoc Members

Supervisor Susan Gorin  
Supervisor David Rabbitt

### Attendees

- Creative Sonoma
- County Administrator's Office
- County Counsel Representative
- Public Art Consultant (Todd Bressi) as necessary
- As-needed subject matter support may also be provided by other departments and staff

### Meetings Held

No Ad Hoc meetings were held during this period.

### Status

Last quarter, three documents were drafted for the Ad Hoc's review: Public Art Policy, Public Art Plan, Public Art Procedures manual. Presentation to the full Board of Supervisors was scheduled for 2023 but was continued to July 16, 2024. The Ad Hoc was not continued to 2024, and upon presentation to the Board, staff will incorporate recommendations, if any, and return to the Board for final approval.

### Upcoming Meetings

None planned.

# Unincorporated Governance Ad Hoc Committee Quarterly Update

October – December 2023

## Purpose and Scope

The Unincorporated Governance Ad Hoc will focus on the acquisition or improved delivery of specific types of governance services that are either lacking or insufficient in the unincorporated areas.

## Ad Hoc Members

Supervisor Susan Gorin  
Supervisor Lynda Hopkins

## Attendees

County Administrator's Office

- Christina Rivera, County Administrator
- Christel Querijero, Deputy County Administrator
- Maggie Fleming, Administrative Analyst III

County Counsel

- Robert Pittman, County Counsel

Other

- Bert Whitaker, Director of Regional Parks
- Johannes Hoevertsz, Director of Sonoma County Public Infrastructure

## Meetings Held

10/16/23 Ad Hoc meeting/Internal Staff Bike Lane Round Table

- Updates from Department Heads on current bike lane activities/strategies
- Q&A with Ad Hoc & Department staff to increase awareness about strategies to increase bike lanes

Direction provided to staff:

- Confirmation that staff will bring Bike & Pedestrian Lane workshop to the Board of Supervisors in March 2024

11/9/23 Ad Hoc meeting

- Update on Countywide Enhanced Infrastructure Financing District Policy

Direction provided to staff:

- Staff to present information on the Countywide Enhanced Infrastructure Financing District Policy at Municipal Advisory Council meetings

## Status

The Ad Hoc committee participated in two meetings this quarter, including a roundtable conversation with Sonoma County Public Infrastructure and Regional Parks about bike and pedestrian paths. Staff continued to work with the Ad Hoc to develop a recommended work plan to present to the Board of Supervisors in February 2024.

## Upcoming Meetings

1/18/24 Ad Hoc meeting

2/6/24 Board of Supervisors Meeting to discuss Ad Hoc committee's recommendations