

Ad Hoc Committee Quarterly Update – 1st and 2nd Quarters 2024

This report consolidates updates from Board of Supervisors Ad Hoc committees, including meetings held and staff activities conducted in the first quarter of 2024. Board Ad Hoc committee assignments are as follows:

Ad Hoc Committee	Supervisors	Staff Lead
1. Fire Services	Supervisor Rabbitt Supervisor Hopkins	Christel Querijero, CAO
2. Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems (OWTS)	Supervisor Hopkins Supervisor Rabbitt	Tennis Wick, Permit Sonoma
3. Potter Valley Project	Supervisor Gore Supervisor Rabbitt	Grant Davis, Sonoma Water
4. South Santa Rosa Annexation	Supervisor Coursey Supervisor Gorin	Christel Querijero, CAO
5. Unincorporated Governance	Supervisor Gorin Supervisor Hopkins	Christel Querijero, CAO

1. Fire Services Ad Hoc Committee

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.
Attendees: Christina Rivera, Christel Querijero, Maggie Luce (County Administrator’s Office), Robert Pittman and Kristin Horrell (County Counsel).
Meetings Held: First Quarter - none
Status First Quarter
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ During this quarter, the Ad Hoc Committee received regular updates from the Fire Services Working Group about the Fire Tax measure (Measure H). ▪ On March 29, 2024, the County Clerk officially certified the results of the March 5 Election, which included Measure H – Local Emergency Services and Disaster Response Sales Tax, which past with more than 50% of voter approval. ▪ The Board of Supervisors is scheduled to adopt the official canvass of votes on 4/16/24.
Meetings Held: Second Quarter: - 5/24/24 and 5/28/24 Supervisors Meeting with Fire Services Working Group Chiefs
Status Second Quarter
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ On <u>September 26, 2023</u>, the Board of Supervisors adopted a resolution calling a special election for March 5, 2024, on the proposed sales tax measure entitled, “Improved and Enhanced Local Fire Protection, Paramedic Services, and Disaster Response Initiative and Sales Tax Petition” (Measure H), and combining the special election with the statewide election on March 5, 2024. Measure H was passed successfully and approves a one-half of a cent per dollar sales tax on the sale and use of tangible property within Sonoma County, including both incorporated and unincorporated areas, until ended by the voters, to supplement existing funding for wildfire prevention and preparedness, paramedic services, and emergency and disaster response, raising approximately \$60,000,000 annually. ▪ The final election results for the March 5, 2024, Presidential Primary Election shows that the 2024 Measure H known as the Local Emergency Services and Disaster Response Sales Tax was approved by 61.71% of the voters and will become operative as of October 1, 2024. ▪ The Fire Services Ad Hoc Committee had one meeting during this period. Additionally, the Ad Hoc Supervisors met with the Fire Services Working Group (FSWG). At the direction of the Ad Hoc committee, staff are working with FSWG to explore loan or cash flow possibilities that may be available to Fire Districts prior to the disbursement of Measure H funds in 2025.
Upcoming Meetings: 9/26/24

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2. OWTS Ad Hoc Committee

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 July 16, 2024.
Assigned Staff: Tennis Wick (Permit Sonoma), Barbara Lee (CAO), Nathan Quarles (Permit Sonoma), and Michael Makdisi (CAO).
Meetings Held: First Quarter - none
Status First Quarter
<p>This summary is intended to keep the committee apprised of efforts during the current quarter.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Staff continued to meet with members of the Land Use Advisory Panel as a technical committee to advise the drafting of the OWTS Manual. These meetings continued into throughout February 2024. (In May 2024, staff completed and published the latest version of the OWTS Manual on the County’s website. Also included on the website are FAQs, a summary of the OWTS Manual revisions and the timeline for approval.) ▪ Staff are planning a series of community engagement forums for June 2024. These include three zoom-style meetings for the public and individual meetings for various citizen groups, regulatory agencies, and local interested organizations. ▪ The Board of Supervisor’s meeting date seeking authorization to submit the County’s Local Area Management Plan (LAMP) and OWTS Manual has been moved to July 16, 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. ▪ The next community meeting to discuss community wastewater solutions, septic systems, and related regulations will be held on Saturday, June 29, 2024, at the Monte Rio Community Center from 10am-12pm. ▪ The septic system mapping study and analysis is nearing an end, with the completion of the GIS map and report anticipated by June 2024. The result of this project is scheduled for board presentation in August 2024. ▪ Ombudsman office hours continue at the Monte Rio Community Center to assist residents understand regulations, projects and options respecting septic systems and wastewater solutions. Office hours are the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month from 2-6 pm. ▪ The contract with the Water Board to fund the Russian River Pathogen Reduction Planning Project is in the final stages of negotiation. The project is anticipated to start in June. This project will ultimately identify and develop potential projects to reduce pathogen loading from various sources of pollution, including OWTS, in the Russian River watershed, with the expectation that such projects will be eligible for future grant monies through the Water Board.
Meetings Held: Second Quarter - none
Status Second Quarter
<p>This summary is intended to keep the committee apprised of efforts during the current quarter.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Staff continued to meet with members of the Land Use Advisory Panel as a technical committee to advise the drafting of the OWTS Manual. These meetings continued into throughout February 2024. (In May 2024, staff completed and published the latest version of the OWTS Manual on the County’s website. Also included on the website are FAQs, a summary of the OWTS Manual revisions and the timeline for approval.)

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- Staff held a series of community engagement forums in late June 2024. These include three zoom-style meetings for the public and individual meetings for various citizen groups, regulatory agencies, and local interested organizations.
- The Board of Supervisor’s meeting date seeking authorization to submit the County’s Local Area Management Plan (LAMP) and OWTS Manual has been moved to August 13, 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.
- A community meeting to discuss the Monte Rio/Villa Grande community wastewater solutions pilot project, septic systems, and related regulations was held on Saturday, June 29, 2024, at the Monte Rio Community Center from 10am-12pm. This included a presentation about the alternative wastewater solutions under consideration by the contractor hired to conduct a feasibility study for the area. County staff plans to obtain input from the Board later this year about which alternative they would like to see developed as part of this ongoing effort.
- The septic system mapping study and analysis will end in July 2024, with the production of a GIS map and report. The results of this project are scheduled for board presentation in September 2024.
- Ombudsman office hours continue at the Monte Rio Community Center to assist residents understand regulations, projects and options respecting septic systems and wastewater solutions. Office hours are the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month from 2-6 pm. The Ombudsman has also begun working with the Fitch Mountain Association and presented information about septic systems and related rules and policies during their annual membership meeting on July 14, 2024.
- The contract negotiation with the Water Board to fund the Russian River Pathogen Reduction Planning Project is complete. The execution of the contract is expected in July 2024, with a retroactive start date of June 1. This project will ultimately identify and develop potential projects to reduce pathogen loading from various sources of pollution, including OWTS, in the Russian River watershed, with the expectation that such projects will be eligible for future grant monies through the Water Board. The RFP for this project went out in June, and the solicitation will end on August 16, 2024.

Upcoming Meetings: None. Future meetings are not anticipated.

3. Potter Valley Project Ad Hoc Committee

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.

Attendees: Grant Davis, Pam Jeane, and Don Seymour (Sonoma Water), Cory O’Donnell and Adam Brand (County Counsel). Other attendees: as needed subject matter support may also be provided as consultants

Meetings Held: First and Second Quarters - none

Status: Meetings will be scheduled as needed and will not be scheduled on a regular schedule.

Upcoming Meeting: None Scheduled

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4. South Santa Rosa Annexation Ad Hoc Committee

Purpose and Scope
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.
Participants: Christel Querijero, Lead, Robert Pittman and Lisa Pheatt, County Counsel, Tennis Wick and Scott Orr, Permit Sonoma, Erick Roeser and Brooke Koop, Auditor-Controller-Treasurer-Tax Collector
Meetings Held: First and Second Quarters - none
Status
Further discussion has been delayed pending progress on the City of Santa Rosa’s development of a South Santa Rosa Specific Plan. However, County and City staff have been in communication regarding the next steps for coordinating County support for the City’s work related to the Santa Rosa Specific Plan.
Upcoming Meetings
No Meetings are scheduled.

5. Unincorporated Governance Ad Hoc Committee

Purpose and Scope
The Unincorporated Governance Ad Hoc committee will focus on the acquisition or improved delivery of specific types of governance services that are either lacking or insufficient in the unincorporated areas.
Attendees: Christina Rivera, Christel Querijero, Maggie Luce (CAO), and Robert Pittman (County Counsel).
Meetings Held: First Quarter - 1/18/24
Status First Quarter
The Ad Hoc committee met on 1/18/24, where they confirmed their recommendations to bring to the full Board of Supervisors on 2/6/24. On 2/6/24 the Board directed staff to submit Program Change Requests for five Unincorporated Governance work efforts for funding consideration during the upcoming June Budget Hearings. The funding considerations are for the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Regional Enhanced Infrastructure Financing Districts: \$650,000 2. New County Service Area Zone of Benefit for parks and plazas: \$148,000 3. Municipal Advisory Council Best Practice Implementation & Knowledge Sharing: \$25,000 4. Enhance outdoor recreation facilities at public schools: \$50,000 5. Current County services inventory \$50,000
Meetings Held: Second Quarter - none
Status Second Quarter
At the June Budget Hearings, the Board of Supervisors approved \$150,000 for District Formation work, including exploration of creating a menu of District Formation activities that are available to communities throughout the County’s unincorporated areas. This menu may include, but is not limited to, activities associated with County Service Area 41, Community Services Districts, and Enhanced Infrastructure Financing Districts.
Upcoming Meetings: 7/17/24