

## **DRAFT Agreement for Federal Affairs Legislative Outreach and Related Services**

This agreement (“Agreement”) is by and between **Sonoma County Water Agency, Occidental County Sanitation District, Russian River County Sanitation District, Sonoma Valley County Sanitation District, and South Park County Sanitation District** (collectively referred to as “Sonoma Water”) and **Van Ness Feldman, LLP**, a limited liability partnership (“Consultant”). The Effective Date of this Agreement is the date the Agreement is last signed by the parties to the Agreement, unless otherwise specified in Paragraph 5.1.

### **RECITALS**

- A. Consultant certifies that it is a Washington D.C. limited liability partnership duly authorized to do business in the State of California, registered with the Secretary of State of California, and represents that it is a duly qualified and registered advocacy firm, experienced in providing legislative advocacy services to individuals, agencies, and coalitions; developing and implementing legislative strategies; and preparing advocacy documents to be used in legislative efforts and related services.
- B. Consultant is experienced in obtaining and maximizing funding in the form of grants and loans for projects and programs related to watershed improvement and restoration, fisheries restoration, Endangered Species Act (ESA) compliance efforts, water supply, reliability and emergency response for flooding and water supply, renewable power and greenhouse gas reduction, climate change adaptation, and related activities; advocating for federal legislation to assist in implementation of such projects and programs; and in monitoring and proposing changes to environmental regulations that may affect such projects and programs.
- C. Sonoma Water is a California special district with responsibility for wholesale water supply, flood protection, wastewater treatment, and recycled water distribution. Sonoma Water also operates a hydroelectric plant and allows recreational use over some of its properties.
- D. Sonoma Water is involved in efforts to protect and restore endangered or threatened steelhead and salmon species in the Russian River watershed and in implementing a Biological Opinion from the National Marine Fisheries Service that requires extensive restoration and biological monitoring. Significant efforts are underway to increase renewable power production, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and provide for climate change adaptation.
- E. Sonoma Water is implementing Forecast Informed Reservoir Operations and is actively utilizing and supporting atmospheric river research for drought preparedness and water supply management purposes.

- F. Sonoma Water is coordinating coalition activities to increase education and awareness of seasonal to sub-seasonal (S2S) funding efforts in support of responding to extreme weather and climate change.
- G. Legislative tracking, legislative development, and pursuit of funding to offset costs are essential for success in fulfilling Sonoma Water’s responsibilities. Federal laws that impact Sonoma Water’s work include, but are not limited to, the Clean Water Act, the ESA, Water Resources Development Act(s), and the National Environmental Policy Act. Sonoma Water interests require coordination and communication with several federal departments, agencies and related offices including, but not limited to, the United States Army Corps of Engineers, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Agency, Office of Management and Budget, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Environmental Protection Agency, the Council on Environmental Quality, United States Geological Survey, Department of Energy, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency.
- H. Sonoma County Water Agency owns, operates, and manages Geyserville Sanitation Zone, Penngrove Sanitation Zone, and Sea Ranch Sanitation Zone (“Zones”).
- I. Sonoma County Water Agency owns Airport/Larkfield/Wikiup Sanitation Zone. Town of Windsor operates and manages Airport/Larkfield/Wikiup Sanitation Zone under contract with Sonoma County Water Agency. Airport/Larkfield/Wikiup Sanitation Zone is included in Zones as defined in Recital H.
- J. Sonoma County Water Agency owns, operates, and maintains flood protection projects and provides flood protection services for the following watersheds: Laguna de Santa Rosa/Mark West Creek (Zone 1A), Petaluma River (Zone 2A), Valley of the Moon (Zone 3A), Lower Russian River (Zone 5A), North Coastal (Zones 7A), and South Coastal (Zone 8A) (“Flood Protection Zones”).
- K. Sonoma County Water Agency operates and manages Occidental County Sanitation District, Russian River County Sanitation District, Sonoma Valley County Sanitation District, and South Park County Sanitation District (“Districts”) under contract with Districts. References to District employees are understood to be Sonoma County Water Agency employees acting on behalf of Districts.
- L. Under this Agreement, Consultant will provide legislative advocacy support for Sonoma Water interests and programs, including meeting coordination, strategy development, atmospheric river research, S2S programs, fisheries recovery, climate change and assessment, water supply and quality, and flood protection programs.

In consideration of the foregoing recitals and the mutual covenants contained herein, the parties hereto agree as follows:

## **AGREEMENT**

### **1. RECITALS**

- 1.1. The above recitals are true and correct and are incorporated herein.

**2. LIST OF EXHIBITS**

- 2.1. The following exhibits are attached hereto and incorporated herein:
  - a. Exhibit A: Scope of Work.
  - b. Exhibit B: Insurance Requirements.

**3. SCOPE OF SERVICES**

- 3.1. *Consultant’s Specified Services:* Consultant shall perform the services described in Exhibit A (Scope of Work), within the times or by the dates provided for in Exhibit A and pursuant to Article 9 (Prosecution of Work). In the event of a conflict between the body of this Agreement and Exhibit A, the provisions in the body of this Agreement shall control.
- 3.2. *Cooperation with Sonoma Water:* Consultant shall cooperate with Sonoma Water in the performance of all work hereunder. Consultant shall coordinate the work with Sonoma Water’s Project Manager. Contact information and mailing addresses:

<b>Sonoma Water</b>	<b>Consultant</b>
Project Manager: Brad Sherwood 404 Aviation Boulevard Santa Rosa, California 95403-9019 Phone: 707-547-1927 Email: Brad.Sherwood@scwa.ca.gov	Contact: Jordan A. Smith 1050 Thomas Jefferson Street, NW Washington, D.C. 20007 Phone: 202-298-1914 Email: jas@vnf.com
<b>Remit invoices to:</b>	<b>Remit payments to:</b>
Accounts Payable Same address as above or Email: ap.agreements@scwa.ca.gov	Attn: Accounts Receivable Same address as above Contact: Jordan A. Smith

- 3.3. *Performance Standard and Standard of Care:* Consultant hereby agrees that all its work will be performed and that its operations shall be conducted in accordance with the standards of a reasonable professional having specialized knowledge and expertise in the services provided under this Agreement and in accordance with all applicable federal, state and local laws, it being understood that acceptance of Consultant’s work by Sonoma Water shall not operate as a waiver or release. Sonoma Water has relied upon the professional ability and training of Consultant as a material inducement to enter into this Agreement. If Sonoma Water determines that any of Consultant’s work is not in accordance with such level of competency and standard of care, Sonoma Water, in its sole discretion, shall have the right to do any or all of the following: (a) require Consultant to meet with Sonoma Water to review the quality of the work and resolve matters of concern; (b) require Consultant to repeat the work at no additional charge until it is satisfactory; (c) terminate this Agreement pursuant to the provisions of Article 6 (Termination); or (d) pursue any and all other remedies at law or in equity.

3.4. *Assigned Personnel:*

- a. Consultant shall assign only competent personnel to perform work hereunder. In the event that at any time Sonoma Water, in its sole discretion, desires the removal of any person or persons assigned by Consultant to perform work hereunder, Consultant shall remove such person or persons immediately upon receiving written notice from Sonoma Water.
- b. Any and all persons identified in this Agreement or any exhibit hereto as the project manager, project team, or other professional performing work hereunder are deemed by Sonoma Water to be key personnel whose services were a material inducement to Sonoma Water to enter into this Agreement, and without whose services Sonoma Water would not have entered into this Agreement. Consultant shall not remove, replace, substitute, or otherwise change any key personnel without the prior written consent of Sonoma Water.
- c. With respect to performance under this Agreement, Consultant shall employ the following key personnel:

<i>Title</i>	<i>Name</i>
Principal	Jordan Smith
Principal	Nancy Macan McNally
Senior Counsel	Richard A. Agnew

- d. In the event that any of Consultant's personnel assigned to perform services under this Agreement become unavailable due to resignation, sickness, or other factors outside of Consultant's control, Consultant shall be responsible for timely provision of adequately qualified replacements.

**4. PAYMENT**

4.1. *Total Costs:* Total costs under this Agreement shall not exceed \$298,000.

4.2. *Method of Payment:* Consultant shall be paid in accordance with the following terms:

- a. *Monthly Retainer:* Commencing January 1, 2026, Sonoma Water agrees to pay Consultant a monthly retainer of \$12,000.
- b. *Expenses and Non-Reimbursable Services:* In addition, Sonoma Water agrees to reimburse Consultant's reasonable and necessary expenses, with advanced written approval from Sonoma Water, not to exceed \$10,000 for the term of the Agreement. Consultant shall not be reimbursed for unneeded messenger or express mail charges; first class or business class air travel; entertainment; normal overhead functions such as word processing or typing time, ordering records, calendaring functions, filing, indexing, proofreading or copying time, or any other procedures of a secretarial nature; meals unless on preauthorized travel; overtime; or office supplies.

- 4.3. *Invoices:* Consultant shall submit its bills in arrears on a monthly basis, based on work completed for the period, in a form approved by Sonoma Water. The bills shall show or include:
- a. Consultant name.
  - b. Agreement title and TW 25/26-071.
  - c. Sonoma Water's Project-Activity Codes:
    - i. T0080P004.
    - ii. W0085P004.
    - iii. D0025P004.
  - d. Task performed with an itemized description of services rendered by date.
  - e. Summary of work performed by subconsultants, as described in Paragraph 14.4.
  - f. List of reimbursable materials and expenses.
  - g. Copies of receipts for reimbursable materials and expenses.
- 4.4. *Quarterly Reports with Invoices:* Payment of invoices is subject to receipt of the quarterly reports required under Paragraph 2.3, of Exhibit A (Scope of Work).
- 4.5. *Timing of Payments:* Unless otherwise noted in this Agreement, payments shall be made within the normal course of Sonoma Water business after presentation of an invoice in a form approved by Sonoma Water for services performed. Payments shall be made only upon the satisfactory completion of the services as determined by Sonoma Water.
- 4.6. *Taxes Withheld by Sonoma Water:*
- a. Pursuant to California Revenue and Taxation Code (R&TC) section 18662, Sonoma Water shall withhold seven percent of the income paid to Consultant for services performed within the State of California under this Agreement, for payment and reporting to the California Franchise Tax Board, if Consultant does not qualify as: (1) a corporation with its principal place of business in California, (2) an LLC or Partnership with a permanent place of business in California, (3) a corporation/LLC or Partnership qualified to do business in California by the Secretary of State, or (4) an individual with a permanent residence in the State of California.
  - b. If Consultant does not qualify, as described in Paragraph 4.6.a, Sonoma Water requires that a completed and signed Form 587 be provided by Consultant in order for payments to be made. If Consultant is qualified, as described in Paragraph 4.6.a, then Sonoma Water requires a completed Form 590. Forms 587 and 590 remain valid for the duration of the Agreement provided there is no material change in facts. By signing either form, Consultant agrees to promptly notify Sonoma Water of any changes in the facts. Forms should be sent to Sonoma Water pursuant to Article 15 (Method and Place of Giving Notice, Submitting Bills, and Making Payments)

of this Agreement. To reduce the amount withheld, Consultant has the option to provide Sonoma Water with either a full or partial waiver from the State of California.

4.7. *Funding:*

a. Funding for this Agreement is as follows:

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Appropriation</i>
2025/2026	\$82,000
2026/2027	\$144,000
2027/2028	\$72,000

b. Availability of Funding:

- i. Funding is available for Fiscal Year 2025/2026.
- ii. Sonoma Water’s performance under this Agreement in subsequent years is contingent upon appropriation of funds by Sonoma Water’s Board of Directors. Sonoma Water shall have no liability under this Agreement if sufficient funds are not appropriated in subsequent fiscal years by Sonoma Water’s Board of Directors for the purpose of this Agreement.
- iii. If funding for this Agreement for any fiscal year is reduced or eliminated by Sonoma Water’s Board of Directors, Sonoma Water shall have the option to either terminate this Agreement in accordance with Article 6 (Termination) or offer an amendment to Consultant to reflect the reduced amount.

**5. TERM OF AGREEMENT**

5.1. *Term of Agreement:* The term of this Agreement shall be from January 1, 2026 (“Effective Date”), to December 31, 2027, unless terminated earlier in accordance with the provisions of Article 6 (Termination).

**6. TERMINATION**

6.1. *Authority to Terminate:* Sonoma Water’s right to terminate may be exercised by Sonoma County Water Agency’s General Manager.

6.2. *Termination Without Cause:* Notwithstanding any other provision of this Agreement, at any time and without cause, Sonoma Water shall have the right, in its sole discretion, to terminate this Agreement by giving 5 days written notice to Consultant.

6.3. *Termination for Cause:* Notwithstanding any other provision of this Agreement, should Consultant fail to perform any of its obligations hereunder, within the time and in the manner herein provided, or otherwise violate any of the terms of this Agreement, Sonoma Water may immediately terminate this Agreement by giving Consultant written notice of such termination, stating the reason for termination.

- 6.4. *Delivery of Work Product and Final Payment Upon Termination:* In the event of termination, Consultant, within 14 days following the date of termination, shall deliver to Sonoma Water all reports, original drawings, graphics, plans, studies, and other data or documents, in whatever form or format, assembled or prepared by Consultant or Consultant's subcontractors, consultants, and other agents in connection with this Agreement subject to Paragraph 12.11 and shall submit to Sonoma Water an invoice showing the services performed, hours worked, and copies of receipts for reimbursable expenses up to the date of termination.
- 6.5. *Payment Upon Termination:* Upon termination of this Agreement by Sonoma Water, Consultant shall be entitled to receive as full payment for all services satisfactorily rendered and reimbursable expenses properly incurred hereunder, an amount which bears the same ratio to the total payment specified in the Agreement as the services satisfactorily rendered hereunder by Consultant bear to the total services otherwise required to be performed for such total payment; provided, however, that if services are to be paid on a per-hour or per-day basis, then Consultant shall be entitled to receive as full payment an amount equal to the number of hours or days actually worked prior to termination multiplied by the applicable hourly or daily rate; and further provided, however, that if Sonoma Water terminates the Agreement for cause pursuant to Paragraph 6.3, Sonoma Water shall deduct from such amounts the amount of damage, if any, sustained by Sonoma Water by virtue of the breach of the Agreement by Consultant.

## **7. INDEMNIFICATION**

- 7.1. Except to the extent caused by the negligence of any Sonoma Party (defined below), Consultant agrees to accept all responsibility for loss or damage to any person or entity, including Sonoma County Water Agency, Occidental County Sanitation District, Russian River County Sanitation District, Sonoma Valley County Sanitation District, and South Park County Sanitation District, and to indemnify, hold harmless, and release Sonoma County Water Agency, Occidental County Sanitation District, Russian River County Sanitation District, Sonoma Valley County Sanitation District, and South Park County Sanitation District, their officers, agents, and employees (each a "Sonoma Party"), from and against any actions, claims, damages, liabilities, disabilities, or expenses, that may be asserted by any person or entity, including Consultant, that arise out of, pertain to, or relate to Consultant's or its agents', employees', contractors', subcontractors', or invitees' performance or obligations under this Agreement. Except to the extent caused by the negligence of any Sonoma Party Consultant agrees to provide a complete defense for any claim or action brought against Sonoma County Water Agency, Occidental County Sanitation District, Russian River County Sanitation District, Sonoma Valley County Sanitation District, or South Park County Sanitation District based upon a claim relating to Consultant's or its agents', employees', contractors', subcontractors', or invitees'

performance or obligations under this Agreement. Sonoma County Water Agency, Occidental County Sanitation District, Russian River County Sanitation District, Sonoma Valley County Sanitation District, and South Park County Sanitation District shall have the right to select their legal counsel at Consultant's expense, subject to Consultant's approval, which shall not be unreasonably withheld. This indemnification obligation is not limited in any way by any limitation on the amount or type of damages or compensation payable to or for Consultant or its agents, employees, contractors, subcontractors, or invitees under workers' compensation acts, disability benefits acts, or other employee benefit acts.

**8. INSURANCE**

8.1. With respect to performance of work under this Agreement, Consultant shall maintain and shall require all of its subcontractors, consultants, and other agents to maintain, insurance as described in Exhibit B (Insurance Requirements).

**9. PROSECUTION OF WORK**

9.1. Consultant is authorized to proceed immediately with the performance of this Agreement upon the Effective Date of this Agreement. Performance of the services hereunder shall be completed within the time required herein, provided, however, that if the performance is delayed by earthquake, flood, high water, or other Act of God or by strike, lockout, or similar labor disturbances, the time for Consultant's performance of this Agreement shall be extended by a number of days equal to the number of days Consultant has been delayed.

**10. EXTRA OR CHANGED WORK**

10.1. Extra or changed work or other changes to the Agreement may be authorized only by written amendment to this Agreement, signed by both parties. Changes to lengthen time schedules or make minor modifications to the scope of work, which do not increase the amount paid under the Agreement, may be executed by Sonoma County Water Agency's General Manager in a form approved by County Counsel. The parties expressly recognize that Sonoma Water personnel are without authorization to order all other extra or changed work or waive Agreement requirements. Failure of Consultant to secure such written authorization for extra or changed work shall constitute a waiver of any and all right to adjustment in the Agreement price or Agreement time due to such unauthorized work and thereafter Consultant shall be entitled to no compensation whatsoever for the performance of such work. Consultant further expressly waives any and all right or remedy by way of restitution and quantum meruit for any and all extra work performed without such express and prior written authorization of Sonoma Water.

## 11. **CONTENT ONLINE ACCESSIBILITY**

- 11.1. *Accessibility:* Sonoma Water policy requires that all documents that may be published to the Web meet accessibility standards to the greatest extent possible and utilizing available existing technologies.
- 11.2. *Standards:* All consultants responsible for preparing content intended for use or publication on a Sonoma Water-managed or Sonoma Water-funded web site must comply with applicable federal accessibility standards established by 36 C.F.R. section 1194, pursuant to section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (29 U.S.C. § 794(d)), Sonoma Water's Web Standards & Guidelines located at <https://sonomacounty.ca.gov/Services/Web-Standards-and-Guidelines/> and Sonoma Water's Web Site Accessibility Policy located at <https://sonomacounty.ca.gov/CAO/Administrative-Policies/9-3-Website-Accessibility-Policy/>.
- 11.3. *Alternate Format:* When it is strictly impossible due to the unavailability of technologies required to produce an accessible document, Consultant shall identify the anticipated accessibility deficiency prior to commencement of any work to produce such deliverables. Consultant agrees to cooperate with Sonoma Water in the development of alternate document formats to maximize the facilitative features of the impacted document(s); e.g., embedding the document with alt-tags that describe complex data/tables.
- 11.4. *Noncompliant Materials; Obligation to Cure:* Remediation of any materials that do not comply with Sonoma Water's Web Site Accessibility Policy shall be the responsibility of Consultant. If Sonoma Water, in its sole and absolute discretion, determines that any deliverable intended for use or publication on any Sonoma Water-managed or Sonoma Water-funded Web site does not comply with Sonoma Water Accessibility Standards, Sonoma Water will promptly inform Consultant in writing. Upon such notice, Consultant shall, without charge to Sonoma Water, repair or replace the non-compliant materials within such period of time as specified by Sonoma Water in writing. If the required repair or replacement is not completed within the time specified, Sonoma Water shall have the right to do any or all of the following, without prejudice to Sonoma Water's right to pursue any and all other remedies at law or in equity:
- a. Cancel any delivery or task order;
  - b. Terminate this Agreement pursuant to the provisions of Article 6 (Termination); and/or
  - c. In the case of custom Electronic and Information Technology (EIT) developed by Consultant for Sonoma Water, Sonoma Water may have any necessary changes or repairs performed by itself or by another contractor. In such event, Consultant shall be liable for all expenses incurred by Sonoma Water in connection with such changes or repairs.

- 11.5. *Sonoma Water's Rights Reserved:* Notwithstanding the foregoing, Sonoma Water may accept deliverables that are not strictly compliant with Sonoma Water Accessibility Standards if Sonoma Water, in its sole and absolute discretion, determines that acceptance of such products or services is in Sonoma Water's best interest.

## **12. REPRESENTATIONS OF CONSULTANT**

- 12.1. *Status of Consultant:* The parties intend that Consultant, in performing the services specified herein, shall act as an independent contractor and shall control the work and the manner in which it is performed. Consultant is not to be considered an agent or employee of Sonoma Water and is not entitled to participate in any pension plan, worker's compensation plan, insurance, bonus, or similar benefits Sonoma Water provides its employees. In the event Sonoma Water exercises its right to terminate this Agreement pursuant to Article 6 (Termination), Consultant expressly agrees that it shall have no recourse or right of appeal under rules, regulations, ordinances, or laws applicable to employees.
- 12.2. *No Suspension or Debarment:* Consultant warrants that it is not presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in covered transactions by any federal department or agency. Consultant also warrants that it is not suspended or debarred from receiving federal funds as listed in the List of Parties Excluded from Federal Procurement or Non-procurement Programs issued by the General Services Administration. If Consultant becomes debarred, Consultant has the obligation to inform Sonoma Water.
- 12.3. *Statement of Economic Interests (Form 700):* Consultant shall submit a completed Fair Political Practices Commission Statement of Economic Interests (Form 700) with Sonoma Water within thirty (30) days after the Effective Date of this Agreement and each year thereafter during the term of this Agreement, or as required by state law.
- 12.4. *Taxes:* Consultant agrees to file federal and state tax returns and pay all applicable taxes on amounts paid pursuant to this Agreement and shall be solely liable and responsible to pay such taxes and other obligations, including, but not limited to, state and federal income and FICA taxes. Consultant agrees to indemnify and hold Sonoma Water harmless from any liability which it may incur to the United States or to the State of California or to any other public entity as a consequence of Consultant's failure to pay, when due, all such taxes and obligations. In case Sonoma Water is audited for compliance regarding any withholding or other applicable taxes, Consultant agrees to furnish Sonoma Water with proof of payment of taxes on these earnings.
- 12.5. *Records Maintenance:* Consultant shall keep and maintain full and complete documentation and accounting records concerning all services performed that are compensable under this Agreement and shall make such documents and

records available to Sonoma Water for inspection at any reasonable time. Consultant shall maintain such records for a period of four (4) years following completion of work hereunder.

- 12.6. *Conflict of Interest:* Consultant covenants that it presently has no interest and that it will not acquire any interest, direct or indirect, that represents a financial conflict of interest under state law or that would otherwise conflict in any manner or degree with the performance of its services hereunder. Consultant further covenants that in the performance of this Agreement no person having any such interests shall be employed. In addition, if required by law or requested to do so by Sonoma Water, Consultant shall submit a completed Fair Political Practices Commission Statement of Economic Interests (Form 700) with Sonoma Water within 30 calendar days after the Effective Date of this Agreement and each year thereafter during the term of this Agreement, or as required by state law.
- 12.7. *Statutory Compliance/Living Wage Ordinance:* Consultant agrees to comply, and to ensure compliance by its subconsultants or subcontractors, with all applicable federal, state and local laws, regulations, statutes and policies, including but not limited to the County of Sonoma Living Wage Ordinance, applicable to the services provided under this Agreement as they exist now and as they are changed, amended or modified during the term of this Agreement. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, Consultant expressly acknowledges and agrees that this Agreement is subject to the provisions of Article XXVI of Chapter 2 of the Sonoma County Code, requiring payment of a living wage to covered employees. Noncompliance during the term of the Agreement will be considered a material breach and may result in termination of the Agreement or pursuit of other legal or administrative remedies.
- 12.8. *Nondiscrimination:* Consultant shall comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws, rules, and regulations in regard to nondiscrimination in employment because of race, color, ancestry, national origin, religion, sex, marital status, age, medical condition, pregnancy, disability, sexual orientation or other prohibited basis, including without limitation, the County of Sonoma's Non-Discrimination Policy. All nondiscrimination rules or regulations required by law to be included in this Agreement are incorporated herein by this reference.
- 12.9. *AIDS Discrimination:* Consultant agrees to comply with the provisions of Chapter 19, Article II, of the Sonoma County Code prohibiting discrimination in housing, employment, and services because of AIDS or HIV infection during the term of this Agreement and any extensions of the term.
- 12.10. *Assignment of Rights:* Consultant assigns to Sonoma Water all rights throughout the world in perpetuity in the nature of copyright, trademark, patent, right to ideas, in and to all versions of the work, if any, now or later prepared by Consultant in connection with this Agreement. Consultant agrees to take such actions as are necessary to protect the rights assigned to Sonoma Water in this

Agreement, and to refrain from taking any action which would impair those rights. Consultant's responsibilities under this provision include, but are not limited to, placing proper notice of copyright on all versions of the work as Sonoma Water may direct, and refraining from disclosing any versions of the work to any third party without first obtaining written permission of Sonoma Water. Consultant shall not use or permit another to use the work in connection with this or any other project without first obtaining written permission of Sonoma Water.

- 12.11. *Ownership of Work Product:* All reports, drawings, graphics, plans, and studies, in their final form and format, assembled or prepared by Consultant or Consultant's subcontractors, consultants, and other agents in connection with this Agreement, shall be the property of Sonoma Water. Consultant shall deliver such materials to Sonoma Water upon request in their final form and format. Such materials shall be and will remain the property of Sonoma Water without restriction or limitation. Document drafts, notes, and emails of Consultant and Consultant's subcontractors, consultants, and other agents shall remain the property of those persons or entities.
- 12.12. *Authority:* The undersigned hereby represents and warrants that the undersigned has authority to execute and deliver this Agreement on behalf of Consultant.
- 12.13. *Nondisclosure of Confidential Information:* While doing the work required by this Agreement, Consultant may have access to technical information and materials pertaining to Sonoma Water's sensitive information or data determined by Sonoma Water to be confidential ("Confidential Information"). The Confidential Information may include confidential or proprietary information or trade secrets exempt from disclosure under provisions of the California Public Records Act. In consideration of disclosure by Sonoma Water of Confidential Information to Consultant, Consultant and its agents shall hold any material or information designated by Sonoma Water as Confidential in strict confidence and shall not disclose it or otherwise make it available, in any form or matter whatsoever, to any person or entity without the prior written consent of Sonoma Water, except as may be ordered by a court of law. Immediately upon receipt of any request or demand for disclosure of any Confidential Information within the scope of this Agreement, Consultant shall give Sonoma Water written notice and a copy of the request and the time period, if any, within which Consultant is required to respond to the request. Upon termination of this Agreement, Consultant shall return Confidential Information in its possession, including copies, to Sonoma Water. Consultant's obligation to maintain material and information designated as Confidential in strict confidence shall survive completion of work under this Agreement and termination of this Agreement and, as provided for in Paragraph 12.11, Consultant agrees not to disclose or discuss any information gathered, discovered, or generated in any way through this Agreement without the express written permission of Sonoma Water.

12.14. *Zone Liability:* The term “Zone” or “Zones” as used in this Paragraph 12.14 shall mean any applicable Sanitation Zone or Flood Protection Zone, as described in Recital H, Recital I, and Recital J of this Agreement. To the extent any work under this Agreement relates to Zone activities, Consultant shall be paid exclusively from Zone funds. Consultant agrees that Consultant shall make no claim for compensation for Consultant’s services against other funds available to Sonoma County Water Agency and Consultant expressly waives any right to be compensated from other funds available to Sonoma County Water Agency. In addition, Consultant acknowledges that West’s Annotated California Codes Water Code Appendix Chapter 53-8 provides that certain judgments or claims against Sonoma County Water Agency based on causes of action arising from Zone activities may be made only from funds of those Zones.

12.15. *District Liability:* Districts are separate legal entities from Sonoma County Water Agency, operated under contract by Sonoma County Water Agency. To the extent any work under this Agreement relates to District activities, Consultant shall be paid exclusively from District funds. Consultant agrees that it shall make no claim for compensation for Consultant’s services against Sonoma County Water Agency funds and expressly waives any right to be compensated from other funds available to Sonoma County Water Agency.

### **13. DEMAND FOR ASSURANCE**

13.1. Each party to this Agreement undertakes the obligation that the other's expectation of receiving due performance will not be impaired. When reasonable grounds for insecurity arise with respect to the performance of either party, the other may, in writing, demand adequate assurance of due performance and until such assurance is received may, if commercially reasonable, suspend any performance for which the agreed return has not been received. “Commercially reasonable” includes not only the conduct of a party with respect to performance under this Agreement, but also conduct with respect to other agreements with parties to this Agreement or others. After receipt of a justified demand, failure to provide within a reasonable time, but not exceeding thirty (30) days, such assurance of due performance as is adequate under the circumstances of the particular case is a repudiation of this Agreement. Acceptance of any improper delivery, service, or payment does not prejudice the aggrieved party's right to demand adequate assurance of future performance. Nothing in this Article 13 limits Sonoma Water’s right to terminate this Agreement pursuant to Article 6 (Termination).

### **14. ASSIGNMENT AND DELEGATION**

14.1. *Consent:* Neither party hereto shall assign, delegate, sublet, or transfer any interest in or duty under this Agreement without the prior written consent of the other, and no such transfer shall be of any force or effect whatsoever unless and until the other party shall have so consented.

- 14.2. *Subcontracts*: Notwithstanding the foregoing, Consultant may enter into subcontracts with the subconsultants specifically identified herein. If no subconsultants are listed, then no subconsultants will be utilized in the performance of the work specified in this Agreement.
- 14.3. *Change of Subcontractors or Subconsultants*: If, after execution of the Agreement, parties agree that subconsultants not listed in Paragraph 14.2 will be utilized, Consultant may enter into subcontracts with subconsultants to perform other specific duties pursuant to the provisions of this Paragraph 14.3. The following provisions apply to any subcontract entered into by Consultant other than those listed in Paragraph 14.2:
- a. Prior to entering into any contract with subconsultant, Consultant shall obtain Sonoma Water approval of subconsultant.
  - b. All agreements with subconsultants shall (a) contain indemnity requirements in favor of Sonoma Water in substantially the same form as that contained in Article 7 (Indemnification), (b) contain language that the subconsultant may be terminated with or without cause upon reasonable written notice, and (c) prohibit the assignment or delegation of work under the agreement to any third party.
- 14.4. *Summary of Subconsultants' Work*: Consultant shall provide Sonoma Water with a summary of work performed by subconsultants with each invoice submitted under Paragraph 4.3. Such summary shall identify the individuals performing work on behalf of subconsultants and the total amount paid to subconsultant, broken down by the tasks listed in the Scope of Work.

**15. METHOD AND PLACE OF GIVING NOTICE, SUBMITTING BILLS, AND MAKING PAYMENTS**

- 15.1. *Method of Delivery*: All notices, bills, and payments shall be made in writing and shall be given by personal delivery, U.S. Mail, courier service, or electronic means. Notices, bills, and payments shall be addressed as specified in Paragraph 3.2.
- 15.2. *Receipt*: When a notice, bill, or payment is given by a generally recognized overnight courier service, the notice, bill, or payment shall be deemed received on the next business day. When a copy of a notice, bill, or payment is sent by electronic means, the notice, bill, or payment shall be deemed received upon transmission as long as (1) the original copy of the notice, bill, or payment is deposited in the U.S. mail and postmarked on the date of the electronic transmission (for a payment, on or before the due date), (2) the sender has a written confirmation of the electronic transmission, and (3) the electronic transmission is transmitted before 5 p.m. (recipient's time). In all other instances, notices, bills, and payments shall be effective upon receipt by the recipient. Changes may be made in the names and addresses of the person to whom notices are to be given by giving notice pursuant to this Article 15.

## 16. **MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS**

- 16.1. *No Bottled Water:* In accordance with Sonoma Water Board of Directors Resolution No. 09-0920, dated September 29, 2009, no Sonoma Water funding shall be used to purchase single-serving, disposable water bottles for use in Sonoma Water facilities or at Sonoma Water-sponsored events. This restriction shall not apply when potable water is not available.
- 16.2. *No Waiver of Breach:* The waiver by Sonoma Water of any breach of any term or promise contained in this Agreement shall not be deemed to be a waiver of such term or promise or any subsequent breach of the same or any other term or promise contained in this Agreement.
- 16.3. *Construction:* To the fullest extent allowed by law, the provisions of this Agreement shall be construed and given effect in a manner that avoids any violation of statute, ordinance, regulation, or law. The parties covenant and agree that in the event that any provision of this Agreement is held by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, void, or unenforceable, the remainder of the provisions hereof shall remain in full force and effect and shall in no way be affected, impaired, or invalidated thereby. Consultant and Sonoma Water acknowledge that they have each contributed to the making of this Agreement and that, in the event of a dispute over the interpretation of this Agreement, the language of the Agreement will not be construed against one party in favor of the other. Consultant and Sonoma Water acknowledge that they have each had an adequate opportunity to consult with counsel in the negotiation and preparation of this Agreement.
- 16.4. *Consent:* Wherever in this Agreement the consent or approval of one party is required to an act of the other party, such consent or approval shall not be unreasonably withheld or delayed.
- 16.5. *No Third-Party Beneficiaries:* Except as provided in Article 7 (Indemnification), nothing contained in this Agreement shall be construed to create and the parties do not intend to create any rights in third parties.
- 16.6. *Applicable Law and Forum:* This Agreement shall be construed and interpreted according to the substantive law of California, regardless of the law of conflicts to the contrary in any jurisdiction. Any action to enforce the terms of this Agreement or for the breach thereof shall be brought and tried in Santa Rosa or in the forum nearest to the City of Santa Rosa, in the County of Sonoma.
- 16.7. *Captions:* The captions in this Agreement are solely for convenience of reference. They are not a part of this Agreement and shall have no effect on its construction or interpretation.
- 16.8. *Merger:* This writing is intended both as the final expression of the Agreement between the parties hereto with respect to the included terms and as a complete and exclusive statement of the terms of the Agreement, pursuant to

Code of Civil Procedure section 1856. Each Party acknowledges that, in entering into this Agreement, it has not relied on any representation or undertaking, whether oral or in writing, other than those which are expressly set forth in this Agreement. No modification of this Agreement shall be effective unless and until such modification is evidenced by a writing signed by both parties.

- 16.9. *Survival of Terms:* All express representations, waivers, indemnifications, and limitations of liability included in this Agreement will survive its completion or termination for any reason.
- 16.10. *Time of Essence:* Time is and shall be of the essence of this Agreement and every provision hereof.
- 16.11. *Counterpart; Electronic Signatures:* The parties agree that this Agreement may be executed in two or more counterparts, each of which shall be deemed an original, and together which when executed by the requisite parties shall be deemed to be a complete original agreement. Counterparts may be delivered via electronic means, or other transmission method, and any counterpart so delivered shall be deemed to have been duly and validly delivered, be valid and effective for all purposes, and shall have the same legal force and effect as an original document. This Agreement, and any counterpart, may be electronically signed by each or any of the parties through the use of any commercially available digital and/or electronic signature software or other electronic signature method in compliance with the U.S. federal E-SIGN Act of 2000, California's Uniform Electronic Transactions Act (Cal. Civil Code § 1633.1 et seq.), or other applicable law. By its use of any electronic signature below, the signing party agrees to have conducted this transaction and to execution of this Agreement by electronic means.

/

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have executed this Agreement as of the date last signed by the parties to the Agreement.

Approved:

TW 25/26-071

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Brad Sherwood  
Assistant General Manager  
Business Services & External Affairs  
Division

Reviewed as to funds:

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Sonoma County Water Agency  
Division Manager - Administrative  
Services

Approved as to form:

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Cory Wurtzel O'Donnell  
Chief Deputy County Counsel

Insurance Documentation is on file with  
Sonoma Water

Date/TW Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

**Sonoma County Water Agency, Occidental  
County Sanitation District, Russian River  
County Sanitation District, Sonoma Valley  
County Sanitation District, and South Park  
County Sanitation District**

**Van Ness Feldman, LLP**, a limited liability  
partnership

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Grant Davis  
General Manager  
Authorized per Boards of Directors Action  
on February 24, 2026

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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# Exhibit A

## Scope of Work

### 1. TASKS

- 1.1. Coordination and Advocacy:
  - a. Coordinate S2S precipitation forecasting coalition efforts, policies and funding requests, consistent with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) 2020 report to Congress pursuant to the Weather Research and Forecasting Innovation Act.
  - b. Advocate for passage of the Weather Act Reauthorization Act, which includes language authorizing \$50.3 million for each of fiscal years 2026 through 2030 to carry out pilot projects on S2S, one of which is focused on western precipitation.
  - c. Support annual federal appropriations for S2S initiatives.
- 1.2. Work with state, local agencies, and other interested parties to maintain and increase, if possible, federal funding for those programs that support atmospheric river research, S2S programs, fisheries recovery, climate change and assessment, water supply and quality, and flood protection programs. Assist Sonoma Water in promoting the preparation of recovery plans and identification of reasonable and effective recovery goals for salmonids listed in Sonoma Water's service area. In addition, assist Sonoma Water in monitoring and providing input to modifications for federal environmental regulation and rulemaking. Work includes, but is not limited to, the following:
  - a. Coordinating meetings, as necessary, with other Sonoma Water consultants and interested parties working in Washington, D.C., in support of fishery recovery funding programs; ESA compliance; invasive species prevention; Advanced Quantitative Precipitation Information; S2S forecasting programs; water quality protection and safe medicine disposal; and research, monitoring, and scientific study including, but not limited to, meetings with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Geological Survey, NOAA, National Marine Fisheries Service, and U.S. Department of Agriculture.
  - b. Assisting in the development of strategies to obtain federal funding for planning, programs, and project implementation that further Sonoma Water's goals in increasing water supply reliability and in emergency response for impacts to Sonoma Water's infrastructure and operations.
  - c. Coordinating, on a continuous basis, the sharing of funding and legislative information related to the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund among congressional contacts, district and administration staff, and Sonoma Water consultants.

- d. Assisting in the development of strategies, legislation, and funding opportunities that further the recovery of listed salmonid populations in Sonoma Water's service area and the broader evolutionarily significant units where these species are listed and of initiatives that support recovery of listed salmonid populations.
- e. Assisting in the development of strategies to obtain federal funding for restoration and assisting Sonoma Water in monitoring the status, availability, and eligibility for Sonoma Water's efforts for such funding opportunities.
- f. Providing periodic updates via email, facsimile, or verbally to Sonoma Water regarding proposed modifications to federal environmental regulations and rulemakings related to Sonoma Water activities.
- g. Preparing strategy, advocacy papers, and correspondence; providing written and oral testimony for congressional committees; contacting administration officials, members of congress, and congressional and committee staff; and preparing legal research, drafting, and case-making services as necessary to the efforts to maximize Sonoma Water's opportunities for restoration funding and the efforts to provide input to modifications to federal environmental regulations and rulemaking as described herein.
- h. Ensuring to the extent possible that authorization or guidance language for federal appropriations for environmental restoration, invasive species prevention programs, water quality protection, recovery planning, and other efforts noted above to the maximum extent possible, for optimal eligibility for Sonoma Water's restoration efforts.
- i. Ensuring to the extent possible that authorization and funding is provided for in federal legislation to support assessment and modeling of climate change, response to climate change, development of alternative energy sources, emergency response and water supply reliability programs, related research and scientific study, and to enhance resource sustainability.
- j. Ensuring to the extent possible authorization and implementation of the Russian River Biological Opinion continues and is supported by federal parties involved.
- k. Coordinating efforts with other Sonoma Water consultants who are providing federal legislation and funding support services to maximize efficiency and avoid any duplication of effort, as directed by Sonoma Water's General Manager or Project Manager.

## **2. REPORTS AND STRATEGIC PLANNING**

### **2.1. Regular Communication:**

- a. Provide copies of correspondence and other related documents generated with respect to work performed under this Agreement to Sonoma Water's General Manager and Project Manager. Provide copies of schedules for legislative meetings arranged by Consultant with Sonoma Water staff.

- b. Provide oral or email reports of activities performed under this Agreement at least every two weeks. Contact Sonoma Water’s General Manager or Project Manager to report activities for each two-week period.
- 2.2. Monthly Conference Calls: Coordinate a monthly conference call and prepare agendas prior to each call as directed by and with input from Sonoma Water’s General Manager and Project Manager. Monthly call participants will include other Sonoma Water consultants, Sonoma Water staff, and other interested parties as directed and approved by Sonoma Water. Document and distribute tasks and follow up after each call via email. Call frequency may vary pending direction from Sonoma Water’s General Manager or Project Manager.
- 2.3. Quarterly Reports: Prepare quarterly written reports of activities performed under this Agreement, including a description of activities performed for Sonoma Water during that quarter, and the agencies and congressional offices contacted on Sonoma Water’s behalf. Separately describe work performed under each funding or legislative proposal for each quarterly written report.
- 2.4. Annual Meeting: Meet via teleconference or in person with appropriate Sonoma Water staff and other Sonoma Water consultants as determined by Sonoma Water’s Project Manager at least once per year for the term of the Agreement to develop a federal legislative outreach strategy for the upcoming calendar years. Prepare documentation for the components of the strategy to be implemented by Consultant under this Agreement, and coordinate with Sonoma Water’s Project Manager and other Sonoma Water consultants as directed to compile such documentation into annual plans.
- 2.5. Annual Summary Report: Prepare Summary Reports of efforts made over each calendar year to document work and successes in funding, legislation, and opportunities identified related to efforts made under this scope of work.

**3. DELIVERABLES**

- 3.1. Prepare deliverables and submit to Sonoma Water by the dates shown in the table below.

<b>Deliverable</b>	<b>Due Date</b>
Correspondence and other related documents	Within 7 calendar days of being produced
Oral or written (email) activity report	The first and third Friday of each month for the term of the Agreement
Monthly Conference Call Agenda	Within 1 calendar day prior to each conference call
Monthly Conference Call Notes and Minutes	Within 7 calendar days of each conference call

Quarterly Reports	Within two weeks of the last day of the months of March, June, September, and December for each year under this Agreement
Compiled Federal Legislative Outreach Strategy	Within 7 calendar days of the meeting
Annual Summary Report	By January 31 of each year under this Agreement

- 3.2. Acceptance of Deliverables: Following Sonoma Water approval and prior to Sonoma Water’s acceptance of work under this Agreement, submit the final approved deliverable to Sonoma Water in accordance with the date listed for this deliverable.
- 3.3. In addition to the requirements above, if any, submit one electronic copy in PDF format (emailed, on USB flash drive, or via internet) of each final deliverable to Sonoma Water.
- 3.4. Comply with requirements of Article 11 (Content Online Accessibility).
- 3.5. Include Agreement title and TW 25/26-071 on first page or cover of each deliverable.

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## Exhibit B

### Insurance Requirements

With respect to performance of work under this Agreement, Consultant shall maintain and shall require all of its subcontractors, consultants, and other agents to maintain insurance as described below unless such insurance has been expressly waived by the attachment of a *Waiver of Insurance Requirements*. Any requirement for insurance to be maintained after completion of the work shall survive this Agreement.

Sonoma Water reserves the right to review any and all of the required insurance policies and/or endorsements, but has no obligation to do so. Failure to demand evidence of full compliance with the insurance requirements set forth in this Agreement or failure to identify any insurance deficiency shall not relieve Consultant from, nor be construed or deemed a waiver of, its obligation to maintain the required insurance at all times during the performance of this Agreement.

#### 1. INSURANCE

- 1.1. Workers Compensation and Employers Liability Insurance
  - a. Required if Consultant has employees as defined by the Labor Code of the State of California.
  - b. Required if Consultant has employees.
  - c. Workers Compensation insurance with statutory limits as required by the Labor Code of the State of California.
  - d. Employers Liability with minimum limits of \$1,000,000 per Accident; \$1,000,000 Disease per employee; \$1,000,000 Disease per policy.
  - e. Required Evidence of Insurance: Certificate of Insurance.
  - f. If Consultant currently has no employees as defined by the Labor Code of the State of California, Consultant agrees to obtain the above-specified Workers Compensation and Employers' Liability insurance should employees be engaged during the term of this Agreement or any extensions of the term.
- 1.2. General Liability Insurance
  - a. Commercial General Liability Insurance on a standard occurrence form, no less broad than Insurance Services Office (ISO) form CG 00 01.
  - b. Minimum Limits: \$1,000,000 per Occurrence; \$2,000,000 General Aggregate; \$2,000,000 Products/Completed Operations Aggregate. The required limits may be provided by a combination of General Liability Insurance and Commercial Excess or Commercial Umbrella Liability Insurance. If Consultant maintains higher limits than the specified minimum limits, Sonoma Water requires and shall be entitled to coverage for the higher limits maintained by Consultant.

- c. Any deductible or self-insured retention shall be shown on the Certificate of Insurance. If the deductible or self-insured retention exceeds \$100,000 it must be approved in advance by Sonoma Water. Consultant is responsible for any deductible or self-insured retention and shall fund it upon Sonoma Water's written request, regardless of whether Consultant has a claim against the insurance or is named as a party in any action involving Sonoma Water.
  - d. Sonoma County Water Agency, Occidental County Sanitation District, Russian River County Sanitation District, Sonoma Valley County Sanitation District, and South Park County Sanitation District, their officers, agents, and employees, shall be endorsed as additional insureds for liability arising out of operations by or on behalf of Consultant in the performance of this Agreement.
  - e. The insurance provided to the additional insureds shall be primary to, and non-contributory with, any insurance or self-insurance program maintained by them.
  - f. The policy definition of "insured contract" shall include assumptions of liability arising out of both ongoing operations and the products-completed operations hazard (broad form contractual liability coverage including the "f" definition of insured contract in Insurance Services Office form CG 00 01, or equivalent).
  - g. The policy shall cover inter-insured suits between the additional insureds and Consultant and include a "separation of insureds" or "severability" clause which treats each insured separately.
  - h. Required Evidence of Insurance: Certificate of Insurance.
- 1.3. Automobile Liability Insurance
- a. Minimum Limit: \$1,000,000 combined single limit per accident. The required limit may be provided by a combination of Automobile Liability Insurance and Commercial Excess or Commercial Umbrella Liability Insurance.
  - b. Insurance shall cover all owned autos. If Consultant currently owns no autos, Consultant agrees to obtain such insurance should any autos be acquired during the term of this Agreement or any extensions of the term.
  - c. Insurance shall cover hired and non-owned autos.
  - d. Required Evidence of Insurance: Certificate of Insurance.
- 1.4. Standards for Insurance Companies
- a. Insurers, other than the California State Compensation Insurance Fund, shall have an A.M. Best's rating of at least A:VII.
- 1.5. Documentation
- a. The Certificate of Insurance must include the following reference:  
TW 25/26-071.

- b. All required Evidence of Insurance shall be submitted prior to the execution of this Agreement. Consultant agrees to maintain current Evidence of Insurance on file with Sonoma Water for the entire term of this Agreement and any additional periods if specified in Sections 1.1, 1.2, or 1.3 above.
- c. The name and address for mailing Additional Insured endorsements and Certificates of Insurance is: Sonoma County Water Agency, Occidental County Sanitation District, Russian River County Sanitation District, Sonoma Valley County Sanitation District, and South Park County Sanitation District, 404 Aviation Boulevard, Santa Rosa, California 95403-9019.
- d. Required Evidence of Insurance shall be submitted for any renewal or replacement of a policy that already exists, at least ten (10) days before expiration or other termination of the existing policy.
- e. Consultant shall provide immediate written notice if: (1) any of the required insurance policies is terminated; (2) the limits of any of the required policies are reduced; or (3) the deductible or self-insured retention is increased.
- f. Upon written request, certified copies of required insurance policies must be provided within thirty (30) days.

1.6. Policy Obligations

- a. Consultant's indemnity and other obligations shall not be limited by the foregoing insurance requirements.

1.7. Material Breach

- a. If Consultant fails to maintain insurance which is required pursuant to this Agreement, it shall be deemed a material breach of this Agreement. Sonoma Water, at its sole option, may terminate this Agreement and obtain damages from Consultant resulting from said breach. Alternatively, Sonoma Water may purchase the required insurance, and without further notice to Consultant, Sonoma Water may deduct from sums due to Consultant any premium costs advanced by Sonoma Water for such insurance. These remedies shall be in addition to any other remedies available to Sonoma Water.