



Mendocino County Water Caucus  
Thursday, March 23, 2023

# Russian River Water Forum (RRWF)

- A new operator of the PVP, such as a regional entity representing water interests in the Russian River watershed, could potentially assume responsibility for the project and continue water diversions.
- Will be a venue for inclusive engagement of parties with interest in water resources in the Russian River and Eel River basins
- Initial focus on identifying local solution for maintaining the Potter Valley Project diversion (Planning Group), creating leadership structure (Regional Entity)
- Will also focus on broader water resiliency issues over time

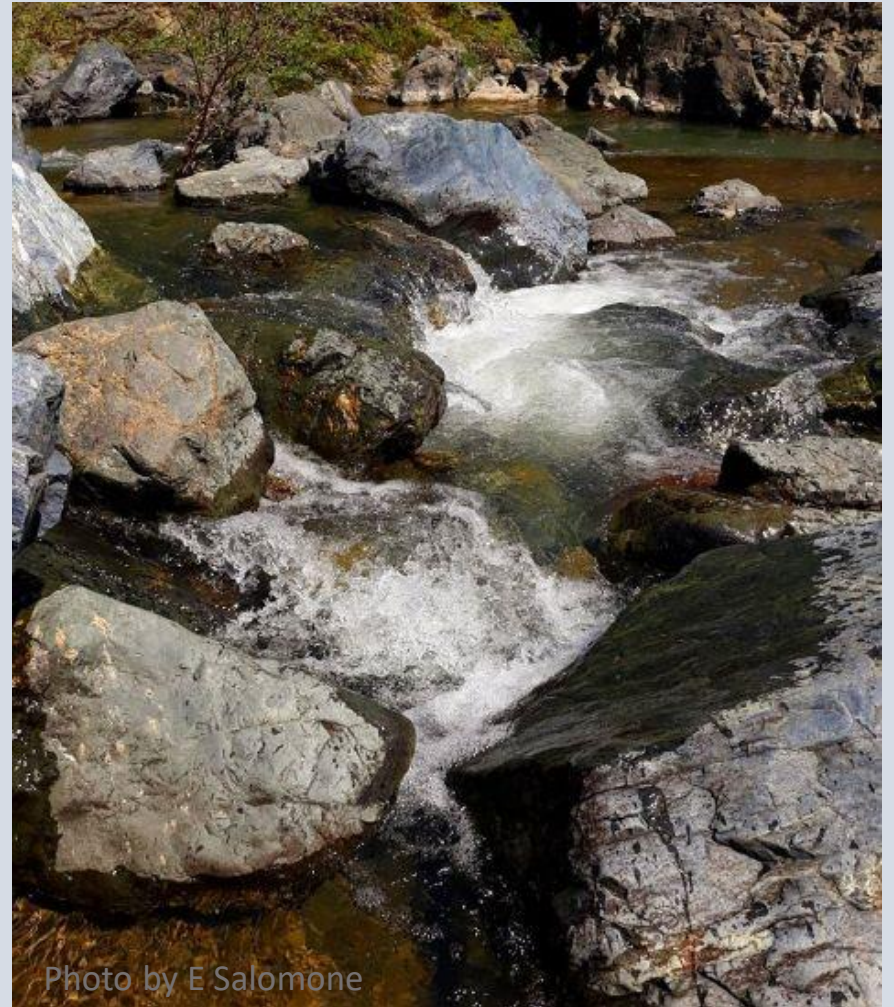


Photo by E Salomone

# Interviews with Interested Parties:

## *Public Recommendations for Water Forum*

- Broad representation, including Eel River basin and Lake County
- Leadership Council of elected officials
- Seek commitments to the process, working together across interests
- Transparency is critical for success
- Understanding that water costs will increase in order to maintain and operate the diversion and associated new infrastructure
- Perceived need for basin-wide collaboration beyond PVP diversion

# Planning Group Membership

- Lake, Humboldt, Mendocino and Sonoma county governments
- Tribal governments in Russian River and Eel River basins
- Water suppliers
- Environmental NGOs
- Agriculture interests
- Resource Conservation Districts
- Public and private recreation interests

# Planning Group

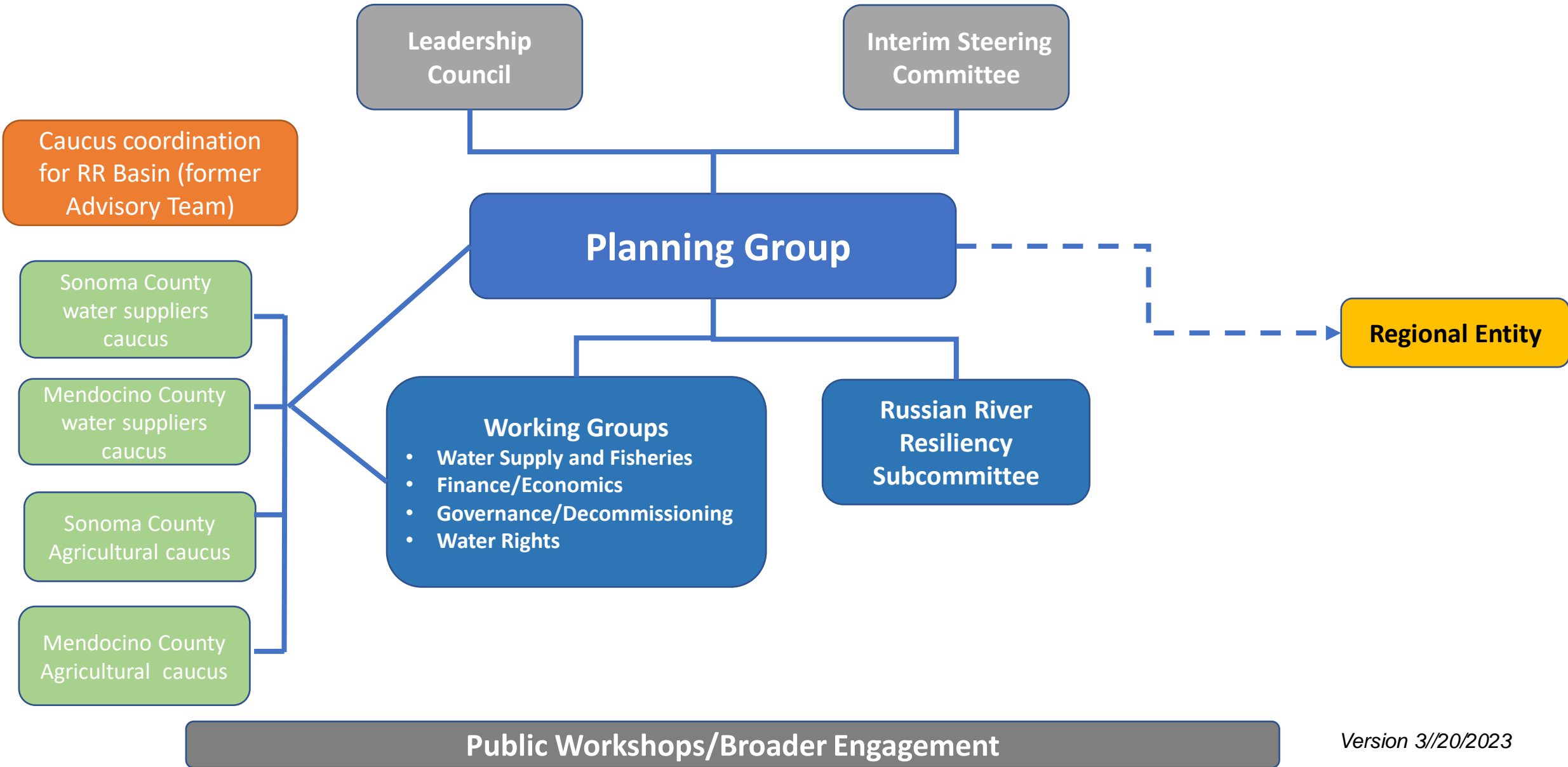
## *Details*

- **Focus on sharing information and identifying and evaluating water supply options and then project alternatives**
  - Planning Group will not vote/decide on an alternative
- **Aim for as much alignment as possible, but consensus is not required**
- **Alternatives with analysis of interests will be shared with Leadership Council**
  - Document converging and diverging views, rationale
- **Each interest category responsible for identifying interests relevant to potential options or alternatives**
  - Caucusing during and between Planning Group meetings

# Planning Group Caucusing

- Limited number of seats per category; other parties can attend Planning Group meetings
- Caucusing during Planning Group sessions
- Planning Group members responsible for organizing/facilitating caucus discussions outside Planning Group
- Need caucus group members on the Planning Group's working teams:
  - Water Supply and Fisheries
  - Finance and Economics
  - Governance and Decommissioning
  - Water Rights

# DRAFT: Russian River Water Forum Structure with RR Water Caucus



# Working Teams

## *Tentative Scope*

- Water Supply and Fisheries
  - Review existing reports and answer key questions
  - Prepare and evaluate solution options for the Planning Group
  - Present potential solution packages to the Planning Group and Leadership Council
- Finance and Economics
  - Evaluate costs of various options developed by the Water Supply and Fisheries Team
  - Identify potential funding options for capital modifications and ongoing O&M
  - Prepare estimates of water supply reliability rates
- Governance and Decommissioning
  - Evaluate governance and organizational options for a regional entity
  - Engage with PG&E
- Water Rights
  - Increase understanding of water rights impacts from PVP changes
  - Identify options to address water rights impacts



# Leadership Council

- Purpose: consider options and alternatives from the Planning Group.
- Method: receive & share information, build understanding, and strive for consensus.
- Membership: Tribal governance, County (Sonoma, Mendocino, Lake, Humboldt), State, and Federal elected officials and staff.
- Outcome: Provide information and recommendations to their respective governments and constituents.

# Questions and Discussion

- Questions?
- Potential impacts from loss of PVP diversion
- Interest and capacity to participate in the Planning Group and/or on the Working Teams

