



JOINT WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE (CITY OF GILROY, CITY OF MORGAN HILL AND VALLEY WATER)

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING SESSION
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3, 2024
9:00 AM

(Paragraph numbers coincide with agenda item numbers)

1. CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Joint Water Resources Committee (City of Gilroy, City of Morgan Hill, and Valley Water) (Committee) was called to order at 9:00 a.m. at the South County Regional Wastewater Authority (SCRWA), 1500 Southside Drive, Gilroy, CA 95020.

1.1 ROLL CALL

Committee Members in attendance were: City of Gilroy Mayor and Vice Chairperson Marie Blankley and City of Gilroy Councilmember Dion Bracco; City of Morgan Hill Councilmember Rene Spring; Valley Water District 3 Director Richard Santos and Valley Water District 1 Director John L. Varela, Chairperson presiding, constituting a quorum of the Committee.

Valley Water staff in attendance: Aaron Baker, Walter Gonzales, Nicole Merritt, Carlos Orellana, Kirsten Struve, Dave Tucker, and Jing Wu.

SCRWA and City of Morgan Hill staff in attendance: Saeid Vaziry, SCRWA Environmental Programs Manager and Chris Ghione, Morgan Hill Public Services Director.

Public in Attendance was: Doug Muirhead.

2. TIME OPEN FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON ANY ITEM NOT ON THE AGENDA.

Chairperson Varela declared time open for public comment on any item not on the agenda. There was no one present who wished to speak.

2.1. Election of 2024 Committee Chair and Vice-Chair.

Recommendation: Elect the 2024 Chair and Vice-Chair.

Public Comment:
None.

The Committee deferred this item to the April 2024 JWRC meeting to allow for the approval of the Valley Water Board's 2024 Board Committee Member Appointments.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

3.1. Approval of October 4, 2023 Joint Water Resources Committee Meeting Minutes.

Recommendation: Approve the minutes.

The Committee considered the attached minutes of the October 4, 2023 Committee meeting.

Public Comments:

None.

It was moved by Director Santos and seconded by Council Member Spring and unanimously carried that the minutes be approved.

4. REGULAR AGENDA:

4.1. Receive Water Supply Master Plan (WSMP) 2050 and South County Opportunities Update and Collaboration and Implementation Update and Provide Feedback.

Recommendation: Receive update and provide feedback on the development of Valley Water's WSMP 2050.

Kirsten Struve reviewed the information on this item per the attached Committee agenda memo and per the information contained in Attachment 3.

Kirsten Struve was available to answer questions.

Public Comments:

Doug Muirhead expressed support of Valley Water's approach of providing multiple future options and noted concern for a potential bottleneck in canals when buying imported water from the federal/state projects during a drought.

The Committee received the information, took no formal action, and noted the following:

- The Committee confirmed there are 3 additional dams outside of South County in addition to the Anderson Dam identified to be retrofitted by Valley Water per federal/state mandates.
- Councilmember Spring expressed interest in confirming how Valley Water plans to keep water rates affordable per the upcoming projects, inflation, and potential limits on water conservation.
- The Committee confirmed that Valley Water will do everything possible to maintain the current water rate structure with a potential marginal increase from 8% to 10.5%.
- Vice Chairperson Blankley supported confirming the expenditures from Valley Water's dam projects to understand how those costs will translate to water rates for South County constituents.

- The Committee noted Valley Water's partnership for imported water through the federal/state water projects, water banking with the Semitropic Water Storage District, importing water from the snowpack, and cleaning incoming water from per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are outside factors contributing to the water rates.
- The Committee noted that environmental impacts and agencies are considered by Valley Water when planning future capital improvement projects.
- The Committee confirmed WSMP 2050 will be reviewed/monitored annually and fully updated every 5 years with Valley Water Board approval.
- The Committee confirmed staff will do a 30-year financial projection per water infrastructure modeling and state input to prepare for the costs associated with WSMP 2050 to be updated as needed and Valley Water will continue to work closely with federal and state legislators to ensure funding.
- The Committee noted Valley Water's 2024-2025 budget information may be finalizing through April 2024 and requested staff to provide an update at the next JWRC meeting.

4.2. Receive South County Water Reuse Collaboration and Implementation Update and Provide Feedback.

Recommendation: Receive update and provide feedback on Technical Working Group discussions related to South County Water Reuse Collaborations.

Dave Tucker reviewed the information on this item per the attached Committee agenda memo and the corresponding presentation materials contained in Attachment 1 were reviewed as follows: Dave Tucker reviewed Slides 1 through 6 and Chris Ghione reviewed Slides 7 through 11.

Dave Tucker and Chris Ghione were available to answer questions.

Public Comments:

Doug Muirhead expressed support for the master plan report update being available to the public to provide feedback, further information on the projection for the water flows going into SCRWA, and potential research into shallow subsurface for artificial groundwater recharge.

The Committee received the information, took no formal action, and noted the following:

- The Committee noted the receipt of the United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) planning grant of \$330,000 for South County to fund a feasibility study, which is the first step to receiving federal funding for future water reuse expansion.
- The Committee confirmed SCRWA is currently using every drop of recycled water in the summer as 40% goes to agriculture which could be increased with additional available water storage.
- The Committee noted a draft master plan report is currently available for agency feedback and the full feasibility study may take up to 2 years to evaluate the feasible water reuse options and associated costs/constraints to confirm the best projects for reuse options and associated costs/constraints to confirm the best projects for South County.

- The Committee noted that the City of Morgan Hill utilized state grant funding for stormwater basins and Valley Water continues to work with the agricultural community to assist with capturing storm water for South County groundwater recharge.
- Councilmember Spring and Vice Chairperson Blankley requested staff follow up on further information on the USBR Title XVI water recycling, desalination, and purification funding program which was provided by Dave Tucker on January 4, 2024.

4.3. Review and Accept the Joint Water Resources Committee 2024 Proposed Work Plan, and Confirm the Next Meeting Date.

Recommendation: A. Review and accept the Joint Water Resources Committee 2024 Proposed Work Plan; and
B. Confirm the next meeting date.

The Committee considered this Item without a staff presentation.

Public Comments:
None.

The Committee expressed support for having meetings start as 8:30 a.m. for future JWRC regular meetings.

5. CLERK REVIEW AND CLARIFICATION OF COMMITTEE REQUESTS.

This is an opportunity for the Clerk to review and obtain clarification on any formally moved, seconded, and approved requests and recommendations made by the Committee during the meeting.

Nicole Merritt confirmed there were no items for Board consideration and noted the Committee deferred the election of the 2024 Committee Chair and Vice Chair under Item 2.1; requested staff follow up on the status of Valley Water's 2024-2025 budget under Item 4.1; requested staff follow up on further information on the USBR Title XVI funding program under Item 4.2; and confirmed support for have upcoming JWRC meetings start at 8:30 a.m. under Item 4.3.

Councilmember Springer requested staff follow up at a future meeting to have a presentation on any new or upcoming laws that may impact the JWRC.

6. ADJOURN:

6.1. Adjourn to Regular Meeting at 9:00 a.m. on April 3, 2024.

Chairperson Varela adjourned the meeting at 10:03 a.m. to the regular meeting to be scheduled at 8:30 a.m. on April 3, 2024.

Approved: April 3, 2024

Nicole Merritt
Assistant Deputy Clerk II