



WATER CONSERVATION AND
DEMAND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES

**SPECIAL MEETING
MONDAY, JANUARY 29, 2024
11:00 AM**

(Paragraph numbers coincide with agenda item numbers)

1. CALL TO ORDER:

A special meeting of the Santa Clara Valley Water District (Valley Water) Water Conservation and Demand Management Committee (Committee) was called to order in the Valley Water Headquarters Building Boardroom at 5700 Almaden Expressway, San Jose, California, and by Zoom teleconference, at 11:00 a.m.

1.1. Roll Call.

Committee members in attendance were District 2 Director Barbara Keegan, District 7 Vice Chairperson Rebecca Eisenberg, and District 5 Director Nai Hsueh, Chairperson presiding, constituting a quorum of the Committee.

Staff members in attendance were: Antonio Alfaro, Joseph Aranda, Meghan Azralon, Aaron Baker, Sam Bogale, Justin Burks, Vanessa De La Piedra, Philip Dolan, Samantha Greene, Heather Hamp, Linh Hoang, Matt Keller, Michele King, Candice Kwok-Smith, Jessica Lovering, Becky Manchester, Nicole Merritt, Carlos Orellana, Paola Reyes, Metra Richert, Mario Rivas, Ashley Shannon, Nicholas Simard, Kirsten Struve, Cindy Torres, Sana Wazit, Zuberi White, Jing Wu, Genevieve Yip, and Beckie Zisser.

Public in attendance were: Valley Water District 1 John L. Varela, Diane Asuncion (City of Santa Clara), Kurt Elvert and John Tang (San Jose Water), Katja Irvin (Sierra Club), and Julia Nussbaum (Stanford University).

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

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

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

3.1. Approval of December 11, 2023 Water Conservation and Demand Management Committee Meeting Minutes.

Recommendation: Approve the minutes.

The Committee considered the attached minutes of the December 11, 2023 Committee meeting.

Public Comments:
None.

It was moved by Director Keegan and seconded by Vice Chairperson Eisenberg, and unanimously carried that the minutes be approved.

4. REGULAR AGENDA:

4.1. Receive Potential Water Conservation Targets for Inclusion in the 2050 Water Supply Master Plan; and Recommend to the Valley Water Board the 126,000 Acre Feet Per Year (Option B) Water Conservation Target by 2050 for Inclusion in the Water Supply Master Plan 2050.

Recommendation: Review potential water conservation targets for inclusion in the 2050 Water Supply Master Plan; and recommend to the Valley Water Board the 126,000 acre feet per year (Option B) water conservation target by 2050 for inclusion in the Water Supply Master Plan 2050.

Metra Richert reviewed the information on this item, per the attached Committee Agenda Memo, and per the information contained in Attachment 1.

Metra Richert, Kirsten Struve, and Justin Burks were available to answer questions.

Public Comments:

Katja Irvin expressed interest in having the water conservation targets explained further, noted the jump between target options as large, requested more options to be added in between, and for the Water Storage Exploratory Committee's Work Plan to be integrated with the Water Conservation and Demand Management Committee's Work Plan.

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

- Vice Chairperson Eisenberg noted support for increasing funding and resources for water conservation, and the potential of using grant writers.
- The Committee confirmed the commercial, industrial, and institutional (CII) water share use is at 30% and residential is over 50% in the Santa Clara County.
- The Committee noted water conservation as an important topic for constituents and confirmed that Santa Clara County is in the top 10 out of

58 counties in California for using the lowest gallons of water per capita per day.

- The Committee confirmed that staff is currently working on a water conservation benchmarking study to include review of programs and rebate rates with several California agencies and 2 international agencies.
- The Committee noted the current full-time staff on the water conservation team started off as temporary staff or interns.
- The Committee confirmed that annual updates on meeting water conservation goals would be provided around the month of March.
- The Committee noted support for staff's recommendation of Option B but expressed interest in a report back with additional comprehensive rationale presented for Board analysis including further details of comparisons with other similar agencies, current water conservation performance indicators, and the implementation of option strategies.
- The Committee noted the Water Supply Master Plan will be updated on a regular basis and the water conservation targets will be modified accordingly.

4.2. Receive and Approve the Proposed Water Conservation and Demand Management Committee (WCaDMC) Committee Work Plan, the Outcomes of Board Action of Committee Requests; and the Committee's Next Meeting Agenda.

Recommendation: Receive and approve the proposed Committee Work Plan to guide the Committee's discussions regarding policy alternatives and implications for Board deliberation.

The Committee considered this Item without a staff presentation.

Nicole Merritt was available to answer questions.

Public Comments:

John Tang expressed support of Valley Water's work on water conservation and noted Valley Water and San Jose Water's continued collaboration.

Katja Irvin expressed concern regarding the Water Storage Exploratory Committee projects being missed by the public if committees are consolidated and noted the WCaDMC should be a Board Committee over an Advisory Committee.

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

- The Committee noted the long-term goals as part of the WSMP update under Item 4.1. will return on a future agenda.
- The Committee noted the possibility of the WCaDMC being consolidated with another Committee and expressed support of staff's water conservation work and its' importance to the community.

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 the Committee provided their feedback and requested a future report back with additional analysis for the water conservation targets under Item 4.1, the Committee noted the Work Plan, support of staff's water conservation work, and the possible Committee consolidation under Item 4.2, and the upcoming regular meeting on February 26, 2024 will be rescheduled.

6. Adjourn:

6.1. Adjourn to Regular Meeting at 11:00 a.m. on February 28, 2024.

Chairperson Hsueh adjourned the meeting at 12:00 p.m., to the subsequently rescheduled special meeting at 1:00 p.m. on April 22, 2024 for the Water Supply and Demand Management Committee formerly the Water Storage Exploratory Committee and the Water Conservation and Demand Management Committee.

Nicole Merritt
Assistant Deputy Clerk II

Date Approved: April 22, 2024