



## RECYCLED WATER COMMITTEE MEETING

# MINUTES

**REGULAR MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27, 2024  
12:00 PM**

(Paragraph numbers coincide with agenda item numbers)

### **1. CALL TO ORDER:**

A regular meeting of the Santa Clara Valley Water District (Valley Water) Recycled Water 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 12:00 p.m.

#### **1.1. Roll Call.**

Committee members in attendance were District 4 Director Jim Beall, District 3 Vice Chairperson Richard P. Santos, and District 6 Director Tony Estremera, Chairperson presiding, constituting a quorum of the Committee.

Staff members in attendance were: Brandon Adriano, Gina Adriano, Karen Adriano, Hossein Ashktorab, Aaron Baker, Nastaran Basiri, Kendra Boutros, Lakeisha Bryant, James Downing, Andrew Gschwind, Jiana Escobar, Rachael Gibson, Vincent Gin, Jason Gurdak, Zachary Helsley, Lei Hong, Girlie Jacobson, Candice Kwok-Smith, Emelia Lamas, Nicole Merritt, Mario Rivas, Don Rocha, Kirsten Struve, Charlene Sun, Darin Taylor, Pariya Torkaman, David Tucker, Kristen Yasukawa, and Beckie Zisser.

Public in attendance were: Molly Culton and Katja Irvin (Sierra Club), Jan Davel (CDM Smith), Pedro Hernandez (City of San Jose), and Eric Zagol (Mott MacDonald).

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

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

#### **2.1. Election of 2024 Recycled Water Committee (RWC) Chairperson and Vice Chairperson.**

Recommendation: Nominate and elect the 2024 RWC Chairperson and Vice Chairperson.

Public Comments:  
None.

It was moved by Vice Chairperson Santos and seconded by Director Beall and unanimously carried that Chairperson Estremera remain Chairperson and Vice Chairperson Santos remain Vice Chairperson.

### **3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

#### **3.1. Approval of January 31, 2024 Recycled Water Committee Meeting Minutes.**

Recommendation: Approve the minutes.

The Committee considered the attached minutes of the January 31, 2024 Committee meeting.

Public Comments:  
None.

It was moved by Vice Chairperson Santos and seconded by Chairperson Estremera, and unanimously carried that the minutes be approved.

### **4. REGULAR AGENDA:**

#### **4.1. Receive Purified Water Program Update Including Partnerships with Cities of San Jose and Santa Clara and Provide Feedback.**

Recommendation: Receive an update and provide feedback on the following topics:

- A. Collaboration effort with the Cities of San Jose and Santa Clara;
- B. Development of a roadmap to develop needed agreements, including mutual objectives, timelines, and resources needed to complete agreements within two years; and
- C. Outreach

Kirsten Struve reviewed the information on this item, per the attached Committee Agenda Memo.

Kirsten Struve and Hossein Ashktorab were available to answer questions.

Public Comments:  
None.

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

- The Committee confirmed that the staff outreach included updates to the interested parties of the Treatment Plant Advisory Committee (TPAC).
- The Committee confirmed that the demonstration facility will break ground in 3-5 years dependent upon the modification of existing agreements, staff anticipate looking to bid on a designer in the next fiscal year and are

currently working on determining the facility's water flow up to 1 million gallons per day (MGD).

- The Committee noted that the nutrient regulations may affect recycled water projects, but that the City of San Jose has processes in place to meet the nutrient regulations and Valley Water is compensating for City staff assistance for the purified water project.
- Director Beall requested for staff outreach to schedule a pending tour request for the Silicon Valley Leadership Group to support with federal/state funding, requested for staff follow up on a concept plan snapshot, and noted interest in the upcoming Water 101 Academy for public engagement.

**4.2. Receive Purified Water Program Update Including Partnerships with Cities of Palo Alto and Mountain View and Provide Feedback.**

Recommendation:

- A. Receive an update on Purified Water Program including partnership with Cities of Palo Alto and Mountain View.
  - i. Collaboration Efforts with Cities
  - ii. Public Private Partnership
  - iii. Outreach
- B. Provide feedback on the planned activities to put the project on hold per the Board's February 27, 2024 decision, specifically.
  - i. Meet with P3 teams and cancel P3 procurement
  - ii. Put development of lease and O&M agreement on hold
  - iii. Notify regulators
  - iv. Focus resources on San Jose Purified Water Project
  - v. Update project website information
  - vi. Complete a change management memorandum (CMM) to place the project on the unfunded Capital Improvement Program (CIP) list and submit to the CIP Committee.

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

Kirsten Struve and Hossein Ashktorab were available to answer questions.

**Public Comments:**

None.

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

- The Committee noted the Palo Alto Purified Water Project being put on the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) unfunded list due to project affordability.
- The Committee confirmed the potential pipeline is being evaluated as part of the San Jose direct potable reuse (DPR) project to determine the best opportunities for capacities in the system for a 24,000-acre foot per year

facility for a new water supply with flexibility to be used for treatment plants or groundwater recharge.

- The Committee confirmed the Palo Alto project will likely be modeled as a direct potable reuse back up project on the Water Supply Master Plan.
- The Committee confirmed support of maintaining ongoing partnerships and good relationships with Palo Alto, Mountain View, and Sunnyvale and noted continuing funding of Palo Alto's salt removal facility per the 2019 joint agreement to expand their non-potable recycled water use. The Committee also supported staff's wrap up activities.

4.3. Consider the Draft Agenda for the April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024 Joint Recycled Water Policy Advisory Committee with the Cities of San Jose and Santa Clara and Provide Feedback.

Recommendation:

- A. Consider the draft agenda for the April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024, Joint Recycled Water Policy Advisory Committee for review, which includes coordination on the Silicon Valley Advanced Water Purification Center and building strong collaborative relationships with San Jose and Santa Clara; and
- B. Provide feedback and recommendations to staff as necessary

Hossein Ashktorab reviewed the information on this item, per the attached Committee Agenda Memo.

Hossein Ashktorab, Kirsten Struve, and Rachael Gibson were available to answer questions.

Public Comments:  
None.

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

- The Committee confirmed that amending agreements will be possible for fast tracking the process for the demonstration facility and then staff will work on new agreements and negotiations for the future larger project.
- The Committee confirmed support of resolving potential obstacles or disputes at future joint meetings to streamline project processes and noted staff's confirmation of no current potential issues.
- The Committee confirmed that staff is continuing to evaluate stormwater purification options via the RWC Work Plan and the Water Supply Master Plan and has lead development of stormwater resource plans in the North and South Counties to assist cities in receiving funding for their stormwater capture projects.
- The Committee noted the External Affairs staff's confirmation of follow up on providing talking points to the Committee regarding stormwater for public outreach.
- The Committee noted that stormwater purification is on the RWC Work Plan and stormwater capture is on the Water Conservation and Demand Management Committee's Work Plan which is now called the Water Supply and Demand Management Committee.

4.4. Receive Update on the Recycled Water Goal for the Water Supply Master Plan 2050; and Recommend to Valley Water's Board a Potable Reuse Goal.

Recommendation: A. Receive information and provide feedback on potential water reuse goal update; and  
B. Recommend to Valley Water's Board a potable reuse goal of 24,000 Acre Feet per Year (AFY) by 2035 as well as a long term vision to maximize water reuse in the county for inclusion in the Water Supply Mast Plan 2050.

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

Zachary Helsley, Hossein Ashktorab, and Kirsten Struve were available to answer questions.

Public Comments:

None.

The Committee received the information, and noted the following:

- Director Beall noted support for a more aggressive approach to maximize potable and non-potable recycled water in the County.
- The Committee noted staff are currently working on the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of the desalination project and an update will be provided at the next RWC meeting.

It was moved by Director Beall and seconded by Chairperson Estremera and unanimously carried as amended to recommend to Valley Water's Board a potable reuse goal of 24,000 Acre-feet per Year (AFY) by 2035 as well as a long-term vision to maximize water reuse in the county for inclusion in the Water Supply Master Plan 2050. This long-term vision includes additional potable and non-potable reuse, desalination, stormwater capture, and other alternative water sources.

4.5. Receive and Accept the 2024 Proposed Recycled Water Committee Work Plan, And Provide Feedback on Upcoming Discussion Items, and 2024 RWC Meeting Schedule.

Recommendation: Receive and accept the 2024 proposed RWC Work Plan, and provide feedback on upcoming discussion items and the 2024 RWC meeting schedule.

Kirsten Struve reviewed the information on this item, per the attached Committee Agenda Memo, and per the information contained in Attachment 2.

Kirsten Struve, Hossein Ashktorab, and Nicole Merritt were available to answer questions.

The Committee received the information, and noted the following:

- The Committee noted support of removing monthly updates on Item 1.2, the Update on Purified Water Program with the Cities of Palo Alto and Mountain View from the 2024 RWC Work Plan to be added back on as needed per any salt removal facility updates.
- The Committee noted support of notifying city staff of Director Beall's interest regarding stormwater to prepare for the upcoming Joint Recycled Water Policy Advisory Committee with the Cities of San Jose and Santa Clara.
- The Committee noted staff's upcoming desalination update at the next RWC meeting will have additional information to address the public's questions and concerns.
- The Committee confirmed support of the cancellation of the April 2024 RWC meeting per staff's request.

Director Beall left the meeting and did not return.

Public Comment:  
None.

The Committee noted support of staff's recommendations and accepted the 2024 RWC Work Plan as amended per removal of monthly updates on Item 1.2 and the 2024 meeting schedule as amended per cancellation of the regular April 2024 meeting by consensus without official action.

**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.*

None.

**6. Adjourn:**

6.1. Adjourn to Regular Meeting at 12:00 p.m. on April 24, 2024.

Chairperson Estremera adjourned the meeting at 1:10 p.m., to the regular meeting at 12:00 p.m. on May 22, 2024 per the Committee supporting the cancellation of the April meeting.

Nicole Merritt  
Assistant Deputy Clerk II

Date Approved: May 22, 2024