



SOUTH COUNTY REGIONAL
WASTEWATER AUTHORITY

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

MINUTES

**REGULAR MEETING SESSION
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2, 2025
8:30 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 Councilmember Dion Bracco; City of Morgan Hill Councilmembers Yvonne Martinez Beltran and Soraida Iwanaga; Valley Water District 3 Director Richard Santos and Valley Water District 1 Director John L. Varela, Chairperson presiding, constituting a quorum of the Committee.

JWRC Alternate in attendance was: Valley Water District 5 Director Nai Hsueh.

Valley Water staff in attendance were: Hossein Ashktorab, Aaron Baker, Walter Gonzalez, Andy Gschwind, Cecil Lawson, Nicole Merritt, Kirsten Struve, Dave Tucker, and Jing Wu.

SCRWA, City of Gilroy, and City of Morgan Hill staff in attendance were: City of Gilroy Utilities Director Heath McMahon, and City of Morgan Hill Public Services Director Chris Ghione.

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.

Kirsten Struve expressed condolences for the passing of SCRWA Environmental Programs Manager Saeid Vaziry. The Committee took a moment of silence.

2.1. Election of 2025 Committee Chairperson and Vice Chairperson.

Recommendation: Election of 2025 Committee Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson.

Public Comment:
None.

It was moved by Director Santos and seconded by Councilmember Martinez Beltran and unanimously carried that Chairperson Varela remain Chairperson and Councilmember Dion Bracco would become Vice Chairperson.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

3.1. Approval of June 5, 2024, Joint Water Resources Committee Meeting Minutes.

Recommendation: Approve the minutes.

The Committee considered the attached minutes of the June 5, 2024, Committee meeting.

Public Comments:
None.

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

4. REGULAR AGENDA:

4.1. Receive Information and Provide Feedback on Valley Water's Water Supply Master Plan (WSMP) 2050.

Recommendation: Provide feedback on the development of the WSMP 2050.

Jing Wu reviewed the information on this item per the attached Committee agenda memo, and per the information contained in Attachment 4.

Jing Wu, Kirsten Struve, and Hossein Ashktorab were available to answer questions.

Public Comments:

Doug Muirhead expressed support of reviewing the water conservation and potable reuse goals as a graph or step chart and addressing the difference of characteristics like subsidence between North and South County.

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

- The Committee confirmed that the water demands are currently stable and imported water supplies are doing well, and the presentation reflects future projections for 2050.
- The Committee confirmed the resident's cost of shortage is defined as the dollar amount that water users would be willing to pay to avoid the shortage per Page 15 of Attachment 4.
- The Committee confirmed the B.F. Sisk Dam project is raising the dam to accommodate more water storage and noted Valley Water is in good shape with current supplies of groundwater and water storage.

- The Committee noted the Landscape Rebate Program for residents and businesses to upgrade their landscapes for water conservation, support of reviewing 2025 water expenses, and the status update on the Pacheco Reservoir Expansion Project.
- The Committee confirmed Valley Water staff are currently in the process of a desalination engineering feasibility study to be completed by the end of the calendar year with the previous desalination environmental feasibility study showing challenges but still feasible.
- The Committee noted that climate change will decrease water supplies regardless of demand being stable and the significance of staff continuing to evaluate the options for potable/non-potable, desalination, and water conservation.

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

Recommendation: Receive an update and provide feedback on South County water reuse collaboration and implementation.

David Tucker reviewed the information on this item per the attached Committee agenda memo, and per the information contained in Attachment 1.

David Tucker was available to answer questions.

Public Comments:
None.

The Committee received the information, took no formal action, and without discussion noted support of staff's work on the South County feasibility and master planning processes and the update on the recycled water (Phase 1C) pipeline segment construction.

4.3. Review and Accept Joint Water Resources Committee 2025 Proposed Work Plan; and Confirm the Next Meeting Date.

Recommendation: A. Review and accept Joint Water Resources Committee 2025 Proposed Work Plan; and
B. Confirm the next meeting date.

The Committee considered this Item without a staff presentation.

Public Comments:
None.

The Committee received and accepted the JWRC 2025 Work Plan and noted support for following the SCRWA 2025 meeting schedule with the next regular meeting date scheduled at 8:30 a.m. on June 4, 2025.

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 re-elected Director Varela as the 2025 Chairperson and elected Councilmember Dion Bracco as the 2025 Vice Chairperson under Item 2.1; received, noted, and provided feedback on WSMP 2050 under Item 4.1; received, noted, and provided feedback on South County Water Reuse Collaboration Update under Item 4.2; and accepted the JWRC 2025 Work Plan and noted support to follow SCRWA meeting schedule under Item 4.3.

6. ADJOURN:

6.1. Adjourn to TBD Meeting per Committee.

Chairperson Varela adjourned the meeting at 9:44 a.m. in memory of former Gilroy Mayor and Valley Water Director Don Gage. The next regular meeting scheduled at 8:30 a.m. on June 4, 2025, was subsequently canceled with the next regular meeting scheduled to occur at 8:30 a.m. on October 1, 2025.

Approved: October 1, 2025

Nicole Merritt
Assistant Deputy Clerk II