



RECYCLED WATER COMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES

**REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, MAY 22, 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, Antonio Alfaro, Hossein Ashktorab, Aaron Baker, Henry Barrientos, Nastaran Basiri, Lakeisha Bryant, Rita Chan, Jiana Escobar, Rachael Gibson, Walter Gonzalez, Zachary Helsley, Lei Hong, Brian Hopper, Diahann Hudson, Girlie Jacobson, Michele King, Emelia Lamas, Marta Lugo, Nicole Merritt, Carlos Orellana, Leslie Orta, Stephanie Simunic, Kirsten Struve, Charlene Sun, Darin Taylor, Kristen Yasukawa, and Beckie Zisser.

Public in attendance were: Valley Water Director Rebecca Eisenberg, (District 7), C, Phillippe Daniel, (Liquisti LLC.), Jan Davel (CDM Smith), Jason, Jeff, Pedro Hernandez (City of San Jose), iPhone (58), Katja Irvin (Sierra Club), Arthur Keller (Minerva Consulting), Jim Kuhl, Eileen McLaughlin (Citizens Committee to Complete the Refuge), Shilpa Mehta (City of Santa Clara), XXX-XXX-3025, and XXX-XXX-8150.

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.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

3.1. Approval of March 27, 2024 Recycled Water Committee Meeting Minutes.

Recommendation: Approve the minutes.

The Committee considered the attached minutes of the March 27, 2024 Committee meeting.

Public Comments:
None.

It was moved by Vice Chairperson Santos and seconded by Director Beall, 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
- C. Update on consultant agreements; and
- D. Outreach

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

Kirsten Struve was available to answer questions.

Public Comments:

Arthur Keller requested confirmation if the San Jose project area was subject to flooding per sea level rise and how the perfluoroalkyl/polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) can be removed from recycled water.

Kirsten Struve confirmed the project area is in a flood plain and would need protections to meet flood standards, and noted staff has completed many studies confirming the purification process removes PFAS and are currently working to address the reverse osmosis (RO) concentrate.

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

- The Committee confirmed the significance of hiring new staff with the City of San Jose to assist with the modification of agreements, obtaining data/information, and working with regulators regarding DPR.
- The Committee noted continued support for expediting timelines, and execution of agreements, and noted staff's goal to be in the design phase by next year for the demonstration facility.
- The Committee noted support for a response letter to the City of San Jose Mayor Matt Mahan regarding Valley Water's investment and support for accelerating the San Jose Purified Water project.

4.2. Receive an Update on Valley Water's Efforts to Actively Engage in Direct Potable Reuse (DPR.)

Recommendation: Receive an update on DPR regulations and DPR Workshop.

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

Hossein Ashktorab was available to answer questions.

Public Comments:

None.

The Committee received the information, took no formal action, and noted the successful DPR workshop hosted by Valley Water on May 10, 2024.

4.3. Receive South Santa Clara County Water Reuse Collaboration Update and Provide Feedback.

Recommendation: Receive an update and provide feedback on South Santa Clara County Water Reuse Collaboration.

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

Hossein Ashktorab and Kirsten Struve 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 2024 Plan Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Recommendations map noted on Page 4 of 7 in Attachment 1 is contained within the City of Gilroy limits and the urban areas service boundary except for the service at the South County Wastewater Authority (SCRWA) facility.
- Director Beall requested for the general plan map to be overlayed on the 2024 CIP Recommendations map on Page 4 to clarify the urban planning regulation and growth boundaries.
- The Committee noted support for any financing to be a collaboration effort and for the continued positive partnership in South County.

4.4. Receive the Desalination Engineering Feasibility Study Update.

Recommendation: Receive an update on the procurement process for a desalination engineering feasibility study and discuss next steps.

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

Henry Barrientos and Kirsten Struve were available to answer questions.

Public Comments:

Jim Kuhl supports using Orange County Wastewater to Potable Water Recycling Facility's and Carlsbad Desalination Plant's as 'Best In Class' benchmarks for project comparative performance assessments. The projected capital investment cost and operating cost for Valley Water's proposed Palo Alto Potable Reuse and San Jose Direct Potable Reuse Projects are excessively high for a very low capacity output and should be compared to the relevant benchmark for a technical and financial justification assessment.

Eileen McLaughlin expressed interest in being involved to provide stakeholder feedback and to review past reports and noted support of workshops for desalination outreach.

Katja Irvin expressed support for outreach for the desalination feasibility study to include feedback from various environmental groups.

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

- The Committee confirmed the regional project with Contra Costa County is still a potential back up project, but water rights issues are an obstacle.
- The Committee confirmed some of the other local areas evaluating potential desalination options are the North Bay: Marin County and Monterey County.
- The Committee noted the planning is continuing for the upcoming desalination plants tour and confirmed the inclusion of the community and stakeholder outreach component for the desalination feasibility study.

4.5. Receive Update on the Bottling Purified Water Tasting Station at the Silicon Valley Advanced Water Purification Center.

Recommendation: Receive information on efforts to bottle advanced purified water for demonstration and outreach purposes.

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

Zachary Helsley was available to answer questions.

Public Comments:

None.

The Committee received the information, took no formal action, and noted appreciation for staff's work to produce 16,000 bottles of purified water, and staff's efforts to receive approval from the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and the State Water Resources Control Board Division of Drinking Water (DDW) to distribute the bottles of purified water for education and outreach purposes.

4.6. Receive Update on Federal and State Grant Opportunities for Recycled Water Projects.

Recommendation: Receive an update on federal and state grant opportunities for recycled water projects.

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

Marta Lugo, Antonio Alfaro, and Beckie Zisser were available to answer questions.

Public Comments:

None.

The Committee received and noted the information and took no formal action.

4.7. Receive and Discuss the 2024 Proposed Recycled Water Committee Work Plan, And Provide Feedback on Upcoming Discussion Items, and Upcoming Meeting Date.

Recommendation: Receive information on the 2024 RWC Work Plan, and provide feedback on upcoming discussion items and next meeting date.

The Committee considered this item without a staff presentation.

Kirsten Struve was available to answer questions.

Public Comment:

None.

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

- The Committee noted support for staff's request to cancel the RWC June 26, 2024 regular meeting.

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 June 26, 2024.

Chairperson Estremera adjourned the meeting at 1:34 p.m., to the special meeting at 12:00 p.m. on July 31, 2024 per the Committee supporting the cancellation of the June meeting.

Nicole Merritt
Assistant Deputy Clerk II

Date Approved: July 31, 2024

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