



AGRICULTURAL WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

# MINUTES

---

**REGULAR MEETING SESSION**  
**MONDAY, JULY 1, 2024**  
**1:30 PM**

---

(Paragraph numbers coincide with agenda item numbers)

**1. CALL TO ORDER:**

A regular meeting of the Santa Clara Valley Water District (Valley Water) Agricultural Water Advisory 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 1:30 p.m.

**1.1 Roll Call.**

Committee members in attendance were District 1 Erin Gil and Mitchell Mariani, District 2 James Provenzano, District 3 Jared Mandrell, District 5 Jan Garrod, District 6 Robert Long, Santa Clara County Farm Bureau Dhruv Khanna, District 5 and Vice Chairperson Trevor Garrod, and Loma Prieta Resource Conservative District and Chairperson presiding, Peter Van Dyke constituting a quorum of the Committee.

District 4 Sheila Barry arrived as noted below.

Committee members not in attendance in person were District 4 Brent Bonino, District 6 Tim Chiala, and Santa Clara County Farm Bureau Dhruv Khanna.

Staff members in attendance were: Vanessa De La Piedra, Vincent Gin, Andy Gschwind, Cindy Kao, Candice Kwok-Smith, Emelia Lamas, Michael Martin, Nicole Merritt, Carmen Narayanan, Metra Richert, Mario Rivas, Desiree Sausele, Ashley Shannon, Kirsten Struve, Darin Taylor, and Tina Yoke.

Board Representatives in attendance were: Valley Water Directors Jim Beall (District 4), and Vice Chairperson Richard P. Santos (District 3).

Public in attendance were: Valley Water Directors Rebecca Eisenberg (District 7) and John L. Varela (District 1), iPhone, and Katja Irvin (Sierra Club).

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

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

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**3.1. Approval of April 8, 2024 Agricultural Water Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes.**

Recommendation: Approve the minutes.

The Committee considered the attached minutes of the April 8, 2024 Committee meeting.

Public Comments:  
None.

It was moved by James Provenzano and seconded by Jared Mandrell and unanimously carried that the minutes be approved.

**4. REGULAR AGENDA:**

**4.1. Receive an Update and Provide Feedback on Valley Water's Water Supply Master Plan 2050.**

Recommendation: A. Provide feedback on portfolio analysis and three water supply strategies for meeting water supply needs; and;  
B. Provide feedback on proposed adaptive management framework.

Kirsten Struve reviewed the information on this item, per the attached Committee Agenda Memo, and per the information contained in Attachment 5.

Sheila Barry arrived.

Kirsten Struve, Cindy Kao, Darin Taylor, and Vanessa De La Piedra were available to answer questions.

Email from Dhruv Khanna identified as Handout 4.1-A, was distributed to the Committee and made available to the public.

Public Comments:  
None.

The Committee discussed the following topics: the importance of the Semitropic water storage during drought periods, upcoming negotiations per Semitropic contract expiring in 2035, and the potential impact on Semitropic use per the State Water Board addressing Sustainable

Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) issues, status of obtaining water from Semitropic through exchange is currently working well; how Valley Water is addressing community resistance to projects through tours and education; the noted current costs being the same for the San Jose direct potable reuse and the Valley Water desalination projects due to being early in the development processes, Santa Clara County water supply project costs estimated to be higher than Orange County's due to post pandemic costs, longer pipeline required, smaller scale wastewater treatment plants provide less wastewater treated/produced, and the local sensitive bay environment regulations/brine removal; confirmed total expansion for Sisk Dam is 130,000 acre feet (AF) split among participants with Valley Water's share being 60,000 AF; confirmed about 15% of all water in the county is recycled for non-potable purposes; strategic options for exploring new ponds and expanding existing facilities for South County recharge, confirming max Llagas Subbasin and Coyote Creek recharge facility capacity as 54,000 AF/year with actual long-term average as 35,000 AF/year; confirmed Valley Water's Delta Conveyance 3.23% project participation level/obligation; confirmed model runs for water supply scenario planning included potential funding options, fish/wildlife conservation, climate change, and evaporation rate; maintaining groundwater flows/gradients; estimated max 150,000 AF operational storage in Llagas groundwater subbasin and coordinating with neighboring subbasins/well users per SGMA requirements; and confirmed Valley Water options are being explored to expand recharge and options like Flood MAR to utilize open space/smaller ponds for capture/recharge.

The Committee received the information and noted the following:

- The Committee noted interest in receiving further information regarding amount of available water in the county that goes into the wastewater system and the status of water in a possible retention pond at Butterfield Technology Park (between Alpera Lane and Monterey Road).

4.2. Review Agricultural Water Advisory Committee Work Plan, the Outcomes of Board Action of Committee Requests; and the Committee's Next Meeting Agenda.

Recommendation: Review the 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.

Public Comments:  
None.

Nicole Merritt, Cindy Kao, Vanessa De La Piedra, Valley Water Board Vice Chairperson Santos and Director Beall were available to answer questions.

The Committee noted support for adding a Work Plan topic regarding the status of SGMA in the Valley and Valley Water's involvement with the underground water movement and expanding water recharge in Kern

County, receiving information about future Valley Water Board meetings, and support for ensuring rate payers understand the water rate increases.

Cindy Kao noted Valley Water is currently in communication with the State Water Board to confirm support for modifying and implementing groundwater plans to achieve sustainability and avoid potential impacts by allowing groundwater banking to float on top of a sustainable operation.

Vanessa De la Piedra confirmed that implementing an additional large amount of recharge ponds like Kern County (where groundwater basins are overdrafted) is not needed for Santa Clara County, confirmed that Valley Water's subbasins are in good shape and SGMA compliant, and referred to Valley Water's Master Plan to address current/future water needs/supplies and potential investments.

Valley Water Board Vice Chairperson Santos confirmed that the Board would be addressing the Water Resources Protection Zones Ordinance agenda item at the July 9, 2024 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. REPORTS:**

**6.1. Director's Report**

Director Beall noted upcoming climate change and housing bonds and discussed potential sea level rise issues.

Valley Water Board Vice Chairperson Santos continued sea level rise discussion and confirmed the upcoming Board meeting date on July 9, 2024 and the October 11, 2024 Water Solutions Summit.

**6.2. Manager's Report**

Kirsten Struve noted the United States Bureau of Reclamation raised the Central Valley project allocation statewide from 40% to 50% for agriculture.

**6.3. Committee Member Report**

Chairperson Peter Van Dyke discussed the February 2014 Valley Water District Crop Irrigation Water Use Update, expressed concern regarding savings from revenue bonds, expressed support for agriculture and rangelands as a resource for preserving open space, concern regarding urban development's impact, and interest in an update report regarding Director Eisenberg. Darin Taylor and Valley Water Board Vice Chairperson Santos were available to answer questions.

Mitchell Mariani continued discussion regarding crop factors and noted support for consideration of rain fall; noted positive support for current construction developments retaining water on housing properties. Vanessa De La Piedra and Kirsten Struve were available to answer questions.

Jan Garrod noted Handout 4.1-A.

- 6.4. Information Links:  
Links noted on agenda.

**7. ADJOURN:**

- 7.1. Adjourn to Regular Meeting at 1:30 p.m. on October 7, 2024.

Chairperson Van Dyke adjourned the meeting at 3:15 p.m., to  
the regular meeting at 1:30 p.m. on October 7, 2024.

Date approved: October 7, 2024

Nicole Merritt  
Assistant Deputy Clerk II