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RECYCLED WATER COMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES

**SPECIAL MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JULY 30, 2025
12:00 PM**

(Paragraph numbers coincide with agenda item numbers)

1. CALL TO ORDER:

A special 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: Gina Adriano, Karen Adriano, Hossein Ashktorab, Aaron Baker, Rita Chan, Jiana Escobar, Rachael Gibson, Joshua Golka, Candice Kwok-Smith, David Leon, Nicole Merritt, Mark Poole, Mario Rivas, Ray Ruiz, Kirsten Struve, Charlene Sun, Darin Taylor, David Tucker, Jing Wu, Kristen Yasukawa, Genevieve Yip, and Tina Yoke.

Public in attendance were: Valley Water District 7 Director Rebecca Eisenberg, Jan Davel (CDM Smith), and Pedro Hernandez (Carollo Engineers).

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 present who wished to speak.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

3.1. Approval of June 25, 2025, Recycled Water Committee Meeting Minutes.

Recommendation: Approve the minutes.

The Committee considered the attached minutes of the June 25, 2025 Committee meeting.

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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 Partnership with the Cities of San Jose and Santa Clara.

Recommendation: Receive an update on the Demonstration Facility and Full-Scale Direct Potable Reuse (DPR) Facility at the Silicon Valley Advanced Water Purification Center, including DPR engagement and outreach as related to the August 19, 2025, Joint Valley Water Board and San Jose City Council meeting.

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

Kirsten Struve was 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 City of Santa Clara is included in the partnership with Valley Water and the City of San Jose, and that the exclusive negotiating agreement would be presented for approval to both the City Councils.

4.2. Receive Update on the Expansion of Non-Potable Recycled Water Use.

Recommendation: Receive and discuss information on the potential for expanding non-potable recycled water use in the County.

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

Hossein Ashktorab, Kirsten Struve, Aaron Baker, 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 staff are working closely with the cities to ensure the future expansion of non-potable recycled water consistent with Valley Water's Water Supply Master Plan 2050 (WSMP) and the Countywide Water Reuse Master Plan (CoRe Plan) which includes input from wastewater agencies, retailers, regulators, and stakeholders.

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- The Committee expressed interest in the Association of the Bay Area Governments' policies, retrofitting buildings, and recognized the potential benefits of the planning process including provisions for non-potable recycled water and water conservation.
- The Committee confirmed that 17,000-acre feet (ACF) of non-potable recycled water is currently being used, and the need will increase to 23,000 ACF per the WSMP 2050 based on an expansion agreement with the City of San Jose and San Jose Water.
- The Committee noted that any additional expansion outside of the WSMP 2050 will be included in an annual update and observed that pipeline construction costs are increasing, while non-potable recycled water demand remains low and stable.
- The Committee confirmed that non-potable recycled water rate is approximately \$105 per ACF less than potable water for areas served by South Bay Water Recycling (SBWR); however, this figure does not account for pipeline and system expansion costs or other infrastructure requirements.
- The Committee confirmed that responsibility for pipeline construction costs varies by location within the county with the new pipeline in South County being funded partially by grants, Valley Water, and developers whereas pipelines within city limits are primarily funded by developers and the cities themselves.
- The Committee noted that the City of San Jose is updating its recycled water master plan and operates the wholesaler, SBWR, which is collaborating with water retailers to expand the system.
- The Committee noted that staff continue to coordinate with the Cities of Palo Alto, Mountain View, and Sunnyvale to explore opportunities for network expansion; however, prior studies have determined that, considering the associated costs, for Valley Water, enhancing the base supply is presently more cost-effective than establishing a separate supplemental supply.
- The Committee confirmed that staff are working on finishing up the final purple pipe project for now in South County.
- The Committee confirmed that staff provide feedback as needed regarding recycled water and water conservation when cities send in their environmental reports and water assessments and noted the Cities of Santa Clara and San Jose have various requirements for recycled water for heavy water users and new developments and encourage water conservation to the water retailers.
- Director Beall expressed interest in continuing to explore potable and non-potable water recycling and water conservation options and to address these discussion topics at the upcoming joint meeting with the City of San Jose and the Board.
- Director Beall confirmed that Valley Water has Resolution 23-52, CALLING FOR WATER CONSERVATION AS A WAY OF LIFE IN SANTA CLARA COUNTY and Ordinance 23-02, ENFORCEMENT MEASURES FOR WATER CONSERVATION IN SANTA CLARA COUNTY and expressed support for staff continuing to work with the local cities regarding the Model Water Efficient New Development Ordinance (MWENDO).

4.3. Receive and Discuss the 2025 Recycled Water Committee (RWC) Work Plan, and Provide Feedback on Discussion Items, and the Next Meeting Date.

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Recommendation: Receive and discuss the 2025 RWC Work Plan and provide feedback on upcoming discussion items and the next meeting date.

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 Nicole Merritt were available to answer questions.

Public Comment:
None.

The Committee received the information, took no formal action, and noted without further discussion, the updated RWC Work Plan, the 12:00 p.m. RWC regular meeting on September 24, 2025, and confirmed their support for the 12:00 p.m. RWC special meeting on October 29, 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.

None.

6. Adjourn:

- 6.1. Adjourn. The Next Regular Meeting is Scheduled at 12:00 p.m. on September 24, 2025.

Chairperson Estremera adjourned the meeting at 12:38 p.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled to occur at 12:00 p.m. on September 24, 2025.

Nicole Merritt
Assistant Deputy Clerk II

Date Approved: September 24, 2025