



RECYCLED WATER COMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES

**SPECIAL MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JULY 31, 2024
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, Antonio Alfaro, Hossein Ashktorab, Aaron Baker, Nastaran Basiri, Sam Bogale, Rachael Gibson, Walter Gonzalez, Andy Gschwind, Zachary Helsley, Girlie Jacobson, Upasana Jadeja, Michele King, Candice Kwok-Smith, Emelia Lamas, Jessica Lovering, Marta Lugo, Michael Martin, Nicole Merritt, Steve Peters, Desiree Sausele, Stephanie Simunic, Kirsten Struve, Charlene Sun, Cheryl Togami, Pariya Torkaman, Dave Tucker, Derek Woodbury, Jing Wu, Kristen Yasukawa, and Genevieve Yip.

Public in attendance were: Valley Water Director Rebecca Eisenberg, (District 7), Molly Culton and Katja Irvin (Sierra Club), Phillippe Daniel, (Liquisti LLC.), Jan Davel (CDM Smith), Patrick Ferraro (San Jose State University), Pedro Hernandez (City of San Jose), iPhone (58), Arthur Keller (Minerva Consulting), Jim Kuhl, and Scott Wheatley (AECOM).

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.

Nicole Merritt confirmed request to speak from Jim Kuhl would be on Agenda Items 3.1 and 4.2. There was no one present who wished to speak.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

3.1. Approval of May 22, 2024 Recycled Water Committee Meeting Minutes.

Recommendation: Approve the minutes.

The Committee considered the attached minutes of the May 22, 2024 Committee meeting.

Chairperson Estremera acknowledged receipt of the attached email, Handout 3.1-A.

Copies of the Handout were distributed to the Committee and made available to the public.

Nicole Merritt and Andy Gschwind were available to answer questions.

Public Comments:

Jim Kuhl reviewed the information contained in email, identified as Handout 3.1-A.

It was moved by Vice Chairperson Santos and seconded by Director Beall, and unanimously carried that the minutes be approved as amended to include Jim Kuhl's public comment to reflect the proposed comment correction noted in red on Page 1 of Handout 3.1-A.

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 on Phase 1 demonstration facility and full-scale direct potable reuse facility at the Silicon Valley Advanced Water Purification Center
- B. Technical analysis and Consultant agreements; and
- C. Outreach.

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 noted staff's great job and their support for continued community outreach through tours and education.
- The Committee confirmed the timing of the demonstration facility has not changed and noted staff looks to release the Request for Proposal (RFP)

for design early next year dependent upon lease amendment negotiations with the City of San Jose.

- The Committee confirmed that staff will include a preliminary review of the Master Plan for the full facility when staff works on the consultant agreement for the demonstration facility.
- The Committee confirmed if negotiations are completed before the end of the year that staff will continue to work towards expediting next steps for the project.

4.2. Discuss Recycled Water Goal for the Water Supply Master Plan (WSMP) and Recommend to Valley Water's Board a Water Reuse Goal for WSMP 2050.

Recommendation:

- A. Discuss foundation for prior Committee recommendation to Valley Water's Board of Directors for a potable reuse goal of 24,000 Acre Feet per Year (AFY) by 2035 and a long-term vision to maximize water reuse in the county, including additional potable and non-potable reuse, desalination, stormwater capture, and other alternative water supply sources for inclusion in the WSMP 2050;
- B. Make a recommendation on a water reuse goal for WSMP 2050 to Valley Water's Board of Directors.

Kirsten Struve reviewed the information on this item, per the attached Committee Agenda Memo. and per the information contained in Attachments 1 and 2.

Kirsten Struve, Pedro Hernandez, and Aaron Baker were available to answer questions.

Chairperson Estremera acknowledged receipt of the attached email, Handout 4.2-A.

Copies of the Handout were distributed to the Committee and made available to the public.

Public Comments:

Jim Kuhl noted costs can be decreased if the approach is an aggressive goal to design big and for the design to be completed in one shot instead of increments like the method for the Orange County's wastewater facility and Jim Kuhl's further comments are noted in Handout 4.2-A.

Arthur Keller requested if the capital costs for the Palo Alto facility would be cheaper if the pipeline went to the Cities of Palo Alto and Mountain View instead of the City of San Jose.

Kirsten Struve confirmed that the Cities of Palo Alto and Mountain View do not receive a lot of water from Valley Water making it not cost effective to have the pipeline go to those cities at this time as a potable reuse project, however for a direct potable reuse project, the pipeline could be shorter than what was envisioned for the indirect potable reuse project.

Aaron Baker confirmed that the WSMP is analyzing the Palo Alto project as a potential direct potable reuse project.

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

- Director Beall noted support for increasing the water reuse goal beyond 24,000 AFY for WSMP 2050 and expressed opposition to the WSMP if the water reuse goal is not increased.
- Director Beall requested confirmation of the AFY, capacity or percentage that is currently recycled for comparison purposes and staff confirmed it was about 11% for the non-potable system for the City of San Jose.
- Director Beall noted support for confirming long-term water reuse goals beyond the demonstration and full-scale facility with the City of San Jose.
- Director Beall confirmed desalination options are being reviewed and the Palo Alto project is included in the long-term plan for potential direct potable reuse.
- Director Beall noted advanced water purification as a federal and state funding priority and support for a higher aspirational water reuse goal.
- The Committee noted support for remaining realistic while trying to do the maximum water reuse goal, avoiding a set up for failure, encouraging balance of selling water and conservation, and Director Santos noted a potential water reuse compromise of 35,000 AFY.
- The Committee confirmed that the City of San Jose staff working with Valley Water staff are researching and reviewing future design options to maximize flow for the filtration building and the next phase of the project and addressing sea level rise issues.
- Director Beall noted support of a presentation down the road from the City of San Jose to show future modernization plans for the treatment plant and review of documentation of the past brick sewer system.
- Director Beall requested continued discussion and research on increasing water recycling and water purification through alternate options like utilizing technology, potential clustering of server farms, and confirming heavy water commercial users. Staff confirmed follow up could occur with City of San Jose at a future Joint Recycled Water Policy Advisory Committee (JRWPAC) meeting.
- The Committee noted staff's verbal recommendation of up to 48,000 AFY as a potential water reuse goal as the long-term vision and aspirational goal and requested for this agenda item to return with amended recommendation language and options for further discussion at the next August 2024 RWC meeting.

4.3. Receive and Discuss the 2024 Recycled Water Committee (RWC) 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.

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 Rachael Gibson were available to answer questions.

Public Comment:

None.

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

- The Committee confirmed the return of the water reuse goal for the WSMP under Item 4.2 at the next August 2024 RWC meeting.
- The Committee confirmed state propositions updates are brought routinely and directly to the Board.

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 approved the minutes as amended under Item 3.1; noted and provided feedback for Purified Water Program Update under Item 4.1; discussed and provided feedback of support to increase maximum reuse goal for WSMP 2050 and to return at next RWC meeting with amended recommendation language and Dir. Beall's request for follow up on increasing water recycling and water purification options per server farms and heavy water users under Item 4.2; and noted update for the 2024 RWC Work Plan and the return water reuse goal agenda item for WSMP 2050 under Item 4.3.

6. Adjourn:

6.1. Adjourn to Regular Meeting at 12:00 p.m. on August 28, 2024.

Chairperson Estremera adjourned the meeting at 1:15 p.m., to the regular meeting at 12:00 p.m. on August 28, 2024.

Nicole Merritt
Assistant Deputy Clerk II

Date Approved: August 28, 2024

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