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## RECYCLED WATER COMMITTEE MEETING

# MINUTES

**REGULAR MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 28, 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, Hossein Ashktorab, Aaron Baker, Henry Barrientos, Lakeisha Bryant, Amy Fonseca, Alina Hare, Zachary Helsley, Brian Hopper, Girlie Jacobson, Michele King, Candice Kwok-Smith, Emelia Lamas, Nicole Merritt, Carlos Orellana, Mario Rivas, Kirsten Struve, Charlene Sun, Darin Taylor, Dave Tucker, and Zuberi White.

Public in attendance were: Molly Culton and Katja Irvin (Sierra Club), Phillippe Daniel, (Liquisti LLC.), Jan Davel (CDM Smith), Pedro Hernandez (City of San Jose), Shilpa Mehta (City of Santa Clara), and Julia Schmitt (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 July 31, 2024 Recycled Water Committee Meeting Minutes.

Recommendation: Approve the minutes.

The Committee considered the attached minutes of the July 31, 2024 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 Partnerships with the 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.

Copies of Handout 4.1-A, enclosed letter to City of San Jose Mayor Matt Mahan from Board Chairperson Hsueh was distributed to the Committee and made available to the public.

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

Kirsten Struve and Lakeisha Bryant were available to answer questions.

Public Comments:

None.

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

- The Committee confirmed a public perception poll on potable reuse is done annually and an update on the polling results will be provided at a future RWC meeting.

4.2. Consider the Draft Agenda for the September 4, 2024 Joint Recycled Water Policy Advisory Committee (JRWPAC) meeting with the Focus on the Expansion of the Purified and Recycled Water System and Development of a Potable Reuse Project.

Recommendation: Consider the draft agenda for the September 4th, 2024 JRWPAC meeting for review and provide feedback.

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

Hossein Ashktorab and Kirsten Struve were available to answer questions.

Public Comments:

None.

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

- Director Beall noted interest in a technical study regarding recycled water options for large commercial water users like server farms, colleges, or other institutions and opportunities for retrofitting buildings for recycled water and staff confirmed these topics could be addressed during the update on the expansion of the South Bay Water Recycling system provided by the City of San Jose staff at the September 4, 2024 JRWPAC meeting.
- The Committee noted that an updated press event photo would be included in the Sept. 4, 2024 JRWPAC presentation.

4.3. Discuss the Recycled Water Goal for the Water Supply Master Plan (WSMP); and Recommend to the Valley Water Board 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 up to 32,000 AFY, (Including Additional Potable and Non-Potable Reuse, Desalination, Stormwater Capture, and Other Alternative Water Supply Sources) for Inclusion in the WSMP 2050.

**Recommendation:** Recommend to the Valley Water Board a potable reuse goal of 24,000 AFY by 2035 and a long-term vision to maximize water reuse in the county up to 32,000 AFY, (including additional potable and non-potable reuse, desalination, stormwater capture, and other alternative water supply sources) for inclusion in the WSMP 2050.

Kirsten Struve reviewed the information on this item, per the attached Committee Agenda Memo, and per the information contained in Attachment 3.

Kirsten Struve was available to answer questions.

**Public Comments:**

Katja Irvin expressed a different perspective to the findings reflecting no sufficient conveyance, demand, or storage for 24,000 AFY during normal and wet years to utilize the water and noted support of reducing imported water.

Kirsten Struve confirmed that staff are continuing to review options to optimize and balance having a resilient water supply and affordable water rates; and noted that imported water expenses and securing operational flexibility for water storage may be more cost effective than the purified recycled water due to the high purified water project costs; and there are no current potable reuse agreements except with the City of Palo Alto at this time.

The Committee received the information, and noted the following:

- The Committee confirmed that the Water Supply Master Plan is updated every 5 years.
- Director Beall noted support for a larger potable reuse goal than staff's recommendation, reviewing strategies for a cost-effective water reuse program over desalination and imported water, and including the City of Palo Alto in potential project options.
- Vice Chairperson Santos noted being comfortable with staff's

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recommendation per increasing costs and support for continuing to evaluate the potable reuse goal along the way and continuing education and agreements to increase the potable reuse goal in the future.

- Chairperson Estremera noted support for keeping the potable reuse goal realistic for success with the intent to increase in the future, and the potential of collaboration on recycled water goals with other cities if they are interested.

It was moved by Vice Chairperson Santos and seconded by Chairperson Estremera and carried by majority vote that the following recommendation be approved. Director Beall voted in opposition to this item and the WSMP planning.

Recommendation: Recommend to the Valley Water Board a potable reuse goal of 24,000 AFY by 2035 and a long-term vision to maximize water reuse in the county up to 32,000 AFY, (including additional potable and non-potable reuse, desalination, stormwater capture, and other alternative water supply sources) for inclusion in the WSMP 2050.

4.4. 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 was available to answer questions.

Public Comment:  
None.

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

- The Committee confirmed support of canceling the September 25, 2024 RWC meeting and noted the October 30, 2024 RWC meeting may be rescheduled per conflict with the October RWC tour.

## 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 by majority vote the recycled water goal agenda item for the WSMP for Board consideration under Item 4.3.

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**6. Adjourn:**

6.1. Adjourn to Regular Meeting at 12:00 p.m, on September 25, 2024.

Chairperson Estremera adjourned the meeting at 12:40 p.m., to the regular meeting at 12:00 p.m. on October 30, 2024, per the cancellation of the September 25, 2024 meeting.

Nicole Merritt  
Assistant Deputy Clerk II

Date Approved: October 30, 2024

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