



For full meeting record, please review meeting videos at:
<https://www.valleywater.org/how-we-operate/committees/board-committees>

RECYCLED WATER COMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES

**SPECIAL MEETING
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 30, 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: Brandon Adriano, Gina Adriano, Emmanuel Aryee, Hossein Ashktorab, Aaron Baker, Henry Barrientos, Nastaran Basiri, Rita Chan, Jiana Escobar, Melissa Garcia, Rachael Gibson, Vincent Gin, Walter Gonzalez, Brian Hopper, Girlie Jacobson, Michele King, Candice Kwok-Smith, Emelia Lamas, Ava Mattis, Nicole Merritt, Carlos Orellana, Max Overland, Kirsten Struve, Darin Taylor, Kristen Yasukawa, and Tina Yoke.

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), Anya Kaufmann (Trussell Tech), Dan Lopez (Black & Veatch), Eileen McLaughlin (Citizens Committee to Complete the Refuge), Shilpa Mehta and Lawrence Tam (City of Santa Clara), and Dawn Taffler (Kennedy Jenks).

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 August 28, 2024 Recycled Water Committee Meeting Minutes.

Recommendation: Approve the minutes.

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The Committee considered the attached minutes of the August 28, 2024 Committee meeting.

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.

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 and confirmed that an update can be provided at a future meeting regarding the available federal and state funding opportunities.

Public Comments:

None.

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

- The Committee noted support of monitoring Valley Water's portion of the project costs/data, a political tour with elected officials, and an update at a future meeting on the available opportunities for federal and state funding.

4.2. Receive Update on the Desalination Engineering Feasibility Study.

Recommendation: Receive an update on the Desalination Engineering Feasibility study.

Henry Barrientos reviewed the information on this item, per the attached Committee Agenda Memo.

Henry Barrientos, Kirsten Struve, Hossein Ashktorab, and Dan Lopez were available to answer questions.

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Public Comments:

Eileen McLaughlin expressed interest in knowing what could happen to the aquifers and concern regarding water quality issues, wetlands/wildlife, and potential of contaminants in the brine.

Henry Barrientos, Hossein Ashktorab, and Dan Lopez noted this study will be comprehensive and will evaluate all aspects of the environmental sensitivities of the South Bay including evaluation of nature-based solutions such as horizontal levees for discharge of brine.

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

- The Committee confirmed staff are using the California Ocean Plan as a guiding document along with previous Valley Water and other local and state agency related work for feasibility of potential Bay Area locations, and also considering groundwater flows and noted an ongoing groundwater study that may also provide further insight.
- The Committee confirmed the study will include looking at locations with sufficient flow, sea water intake and brine discharge, consideration of seasonal dry/wet periods and environmental sensitive areas. The Committee asked about use of salt ponds, selling the salt/brine, and working with other agencies. Staff noted Valley Water's participation in the recent Bay Area Regional Desalination Project (BARDP). Valley Water will be looking into various options for managing the brine.
- The Committee noted interest in reviewing other Bay Area or state desalination reports, a BARDP partnership update, and a cost comparison to purified water that includes the environmental positive and negative impacts.
- The Committee noted that Valley Water is working with the study's consultant to plan efforts to engage environmental and community stakeholders for feedback.

4.3. Receive and Discuss the 2024 Recycled Water Committee (RWC) Work Plan, Potential Tours, 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:

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- The Committee reconfirmed interest in an update on the federal/state grant funding opportunities and a political tour with newly elected officials, and noted to continue the potential Committee member tour discussion for the next 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 Special Meeting at 11:00 a.m. on December 13, 2024.

Chairperson Estremera adjourned the meeting at 12:45 p.m., to the special meeting at 11:00 a.m. on December 13, 2024.

Nicole Merritt
Assistant Deputy Clerk II

Date Approved: December 13, 2024