



SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT (VALLEY WATER)
WATER STORAGE EXPLORATORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2023

(Paragraph numbers coincide with agenda item numbers)

A regular meeting of the Water Storage Exploratory Committee (Committee) was held on December 8, 2023, at Santa Clara Valley Water District, 5700 Almaden Expressway, San Jose CA 95118.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Water Storage Exploratory Committee was called to order by Committee Chair Director Nai Hsueh at 10:00 a.m.

1.1 ROLL CALL

Valley Water Board Members in attendance were: Committee Chair Director Nai Hsueh (District 5), Committee Vice Chair Director Richard P. Santos (District 3), and Director Rebecca Eisenberg (District 7-arrived at 11:08 a.m.).

Valley Water Staff in attendance were: Gabriel Alcantar, Antonio Alfaro, Emmanuel Aryee, Aaron Baker, Sandra Benavidez, Glenna Brambill, Andrew Garcia, Vincent Gin, Andrew Gschwind, Christopher Hakes, Cindy Kao, Candice Kwok-Smith, Emelia Lamas, Dave Leon, Jessica Lovering, Kathleen Low, Ryan McCarter, Julianne O'Brien, Carlos Orellana, Melih Ozbilgin, Steve Peters, James Randol, Melanie Richardson, Diahann Soleno, Charlene Sun, Kirsten Struve, Darin Taylor, Gregory Williams, Jing Wu, and Beckie Zisser.

Public in attendance were: Gavin Downs, Jakob Evans, Ted Feldsher, Meg Giberson, Bob Green, Jeffrey Hare, Katja Irvin (Sierra Club-Loma Prieta Chapter), Manny James ID/RD1606, Hon. Steve Jordan, Doug Muirhead, Osha Meserve ((Stop Pacheco Dam Coalition). Mary Paasch, John Tang (San Jose Water Company-SJW Co), Catherine Tompkinson.

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

There were no public comments received.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3.1 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Committee Vice Chair Director Richard P. Santos, second by Committee Chair Director Nai Hsueh, and by unanimous vote carried to approve the minutes of the October 13, 2023, meeting of the Water Storage Exploratory Committee with the following corrections: Agenda Item 4.1.

Public Comment: Katja Irvin (Sierra Club-Loma Prieta Chapter), noted that including the environmental impacts mitigation makes sense, need to know what or will not be included, have a comparison of the project's costs (comparing the right items (apples to apples). The last two items on the agenda memo list are a higher priority because they may result in some changes, and what are the unique requirements.

The Water Storage Exploratory Committee took no formal action, however, agreed to have Committee member Director Rebecca Eisenberg review the Board agenda memo regarding her suggested discussion topics when the memo is ready.

4. REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS

4.1 CONSIDER FOLLOW-UP TOPICS FROM THE AUGUST 22, 2023, BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING REGARDING THE PACHECO RESERVOIR EXPANSION PROJECT

Ryan McCarter and Julianne O'Brien reviewed the materials as outlined in the agenda item and was available to answer questions as needed.

The Water Storage Exploratory Committee discussed the following: Delta issues, water Supply/water storage, finding local water with cost, when the original dam was built, recharging of aquifer, San Luis Reservoir, setting priorities for water supply with benefits state-wide, climate change, evaporation issues, full transparency, wetlands information be included for Board discussion, flood protection, and financial information coming back to the committee for review.

Public Comments:

Katja Irvin noted her observations, expanded water storage values not based on hydrology and climate for 2030, and suggested connecting the emergency supply more with the clearer timeframe and changing values. She also submitted a handout in advance with her concerns and questions and thanked staff for addressing those during the meeting.

Osha Meserve (Stop Pacheco Dam Coalition) noted that presentation slides promoting the dam do not reflect updated information, added that Valley Water should explore what other agencies such as Metropolitan Water District (MWD) are doing. She suggested going to the Board for full disclosure and raised questions on Low Point's additional water supply, water quality problems, intake issues and keeping it full, with additional questions on restoration fisheries and wetlands, Prop 1 funding, challenges, and downstream issues.

Aaron Baker was available to answer questions.

The Water Storage Exploratory Committee took no formal action.

4.2 REVIEW WATER STORAGE EXPLORATORY COMMITTEE WORK PLAN AND THE COMMITTEE'S NEXT MEETING AGENDA

Committee Chair Director Nai Hsueh reviewed the materials as outlined in the agenda item.

The Water Storage Exploratory Committee took no formal action.

5. CLERK REVIEW AND CLARIFICATION OF COMMITTEE REQUESTS

Glenna Brambill noted there were no formal action items for Board consideration.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Committee Chair Director Nai Hsueh adjourned the meeting at 12:07 p.m. to the January 12, 2024, meeting.

Glenna Brambill
Board Committee Liaison
Office of the Clerk of the Board

Approved: April 22, 2024

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