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RECYCLED WATER COMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES

**SPECIAL MEETING
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2024
11:00 AM**

(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 11:00 a.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, Roselyn Bhudsabour, Sam Bogale, Lakeisha Bryant, Jiana Escobar, Melissa Garcia, Rachael Gibson, Zachary Helsley, Linh Hoang, Brian Hopper, Girlie Jacobson, Candice Kwok-Smith, Ava Mattis, Nicole Merritt, Carlos Orellana, Mario Rivas, Kirsten Struve, Charlene Sun, Darin Taylor, Dave Tucker, Nadia Webster, Zuberi White, Kristen Yasukawa, and Beckie Zisser.

Public in attendance were: Valley Water Director Shiloh Ballard (District 2), Valley Water Director Rebecca Eisenberg (District 7), Jenny Gain (Brown and Caldwell), Phillippe Daniel, (Liquisti LLC.), Jan Davel (CDM Smith), Pedro Hernandez (City of San Jose), Katja Irvin (Sierra Club), Arthur Keller (Minerva Consulting), Nick Lazarakis, Todd Reynolds, and Rachelle Thompson, (Kennedy Jenks), Jessica Polksy-Sanchez and Sianna Ziegler (EMC Research), Brian Pecson and Shane Trussell (Trussell Tech), Karen, and Malcolm S.

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 October 30, 2024 Recycled Water Committee Meeting Minutes.

Recommendation: Approve the minutes.

The Committee considered the attached minutes of the October 30, 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 (DPR) facility at the Silicon Valley Advanced Water Purification Center;
- B. Actively Engage in DPR; 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 and noted the information and took no formal action.

4.2. Receive Update on the Purified Water Public Outreach and 2024 Public Perception Poll and Provide Feedback.

Recommendation: Receive information and provide feedback on the:

- A. 2024 public outreach highlights for the Purified Water Program; and
- B. Results from the 2024 public perception poll.

Kristen Yasukawa reviewed the information on this item, per the attached Committee Agenda Memo and the information contained in Attachment 1, and Jessica Polsky-Sanchez reviewed the information contained in Attachment 2.

Kristen Yasukawa, Jessica Polsky-Sanchez, 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:

- The Committee noted support of staff's continued outreach work and the potential of including court officials and school administrators in future public engagement.
- The Committee noted that the drought may be a factor in the changes in the polling results and noted support for reaching out to news journalists.
- The Committee noted support of the survey and continued public education using simple cost comparative terms with purified water versus bottled water.
- The Committee confirmed the change of the polling group from registered voters to residents did not have a significant impact on the current polling results.
- The Committee confirmed that the polling environment had an increase in negativity which may have played a role in the downward polling trends in addition to the trend of increased cost sensitivity.
- The Committee confirmed these polling results were on track with other surveys done in California, and Director Beall noted interest in reviewing the survey polling results from the other parts of California.
- The Committee noted support of providing public outreach that includes examples of what the costs would be without purified water.

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:

- The Committee noted staff is currently working on the 2025 RWC Work Plan and confirmed the upcoming Joint Recycled Water Policy Advisory Committee (JRWPAC) regular meeting in April 2025 with a special meeting to be scheduled if there is an early completion of the agreements.
- The Committee noted support of the JRWPAC receiving the presentation for Item 4.2.
- The Committee noted support of having a presentation on the topic of onsite reuse of recycled water for large water users like server farms and continuing the discussion of having a tour of the desalination plants in Southern California.

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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 TBD per Committee.

Chairperson Estremera adjourned the meeting at 11:55 a.m., to the next TBD special meeting which was subsequently canceled with the next regular meeting scheduled to occur at 12:00 p.m. on February 26, 2025.

Nicole Merritt
Assistant Deputy Clerk II

Date Approved: February 26, 2025