



BOARD POLICY AND PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES

**Tuesday, January 2, 2024
2:00 PM**

(Paragraph numbers coincide with agenda item numbers)

1. CALL TO ORDER

1.1 ROLL CALL

A special meeting of the Santa Clara Valley Water District (Valley Water) Board Policy and Planning Committee (Committee) was called to order at 2:00 p.m. on January 2, 2024.

Board Members in attendance: Director Nai Hsueh – District 5; Director Tony Estremera – District 6, constituting a quorum of the Committee. Director Rebecca Eisenberg – District 7, arrived as noted below.

Staff members in attendance: Aaron Baker, Lisa Bankosh, Mark Bilski, John Bourgeois, Rick Callender, Theresa Chinte, Chris Hakes, Brian Hopper, Michele King, Patrice McElroy, Brian Mendenhall, Carlos Orellana, Kirsten Struve, and Tina Yoke.

District 2 Director Barbara Keegan participated as an observer.

2. Time Open for Public Comment on Any Item Not on Agenda

Committee Chair Hsueh declared time open for public comment on any item not on the agenda. There was no one present who requested to speak.

3. 3.1 Approval of Minutes.

The Committee considered the November 6, 2023, meeting minutes.

Committee Chair Hsueh requested that her name be removed from the summary section for Item 4.2, as she did not present the item.

It was moved by Director Estremera, seconded by Director Hsueh, and unanimously carried, to approve the November 6, 2023, Minutes as amended, with Director Eisenberg absent.

4. REGULAR AGENDA

4.1 Election of 2024 Board Policy and Planning Committee Officers.

Committee Chair Hsueh continued this item to the next meeting of the committee.

4.2 Upper Pajaro Watershed Plan Priority Actions

Director Rebecca Eisenberg arrived during the presentation of this item.

Nicholas Mascarello, Associate Environmental Planner, reviewed the information on this item as outlined in the attached PowerPoint presentation, Attachment 1.

Committee Chair Hsueh suggested that effort should focus on action steps that are identified as data collection, establishing models, the more basic knowledge type of activities. These should be prioritized first to ensure that we have the appropriate data to use moving forward. She also suggested that when this plan is presented to the full board it would be beneficial to connect it to their decision-making process, i.e., how these master plans connect with decision making to ensure we are doing what we intended to do.

Katja Irvin, Sierra Club, Loma Prieta Chapter, expressed concern for about how the Pacheco Reservoir project is presented in the plan. She suggested that to improve stakeholder participation, they should be notified when agenda items relating to the watershed plans are scheduled.

Director Eisenberg expressed that if we are going to be true to our goals of preserving our natural environment, we wouldn't be doing projects like Pacheco Reservoir. The best way to serve our climate change impacts goals, would be not to do harm.

It was committee consensus to recommend that staff present this information to advisory committees and the full board.

4.3 Review Proposed Changes to the Board Governance Policies – Executive Limitations (EL) 3-Human Resources.

Patrice McElroy, Deputy Administrative Officer, presented information on this item as outlined in the attached memo.

Director Eisenberg expressed concern for the proposed removal of the BAO Interpretation which could identify protections for staff and asked whether the unions were made aware of these changes.

Rick Callender, Chief Executive Officer, answered that the BAO Interpretations have never been reviewed with the unions or staff prior to making changes.

Committee Chair Hsueh requested that the word "current" be inserted before budget in Item 3.7, in the Recruitment and Employment section.

It was moved by Director Estremera, seconded by Director Hsueh, that the changes be presented to the full Board for consideration, with Director Eisenberg voting no.

4.4 Review Proposed Changes to Board Governance Policies-Executive Limitations (EL) 8-Inclusion, Equal Employment Opportunity, Discrimination/Harassment Prevention, and Diversity.

Patrice McElroy presented information on this item as outlined in the attached memo.

Director Eisenberg asked if contractor/consultants are included in the language, as well as the formerly incarcerated individuals. be included in the language.

Brian Hopper, Senior Assistant District Counsel, answered that contractor/consultants are covered in Section 8.2 and that formerly incarcerated individuals is not a protected and would not be covered in this policy.

Director Estremera stated that Section 8.5.1 generally addresses Director Eisenberg's concern for formerly incarcerated individuals.

It was moved by Director Eisenberg, seconded by Director Estremera, and unanimously approved that the changes be presented to the full Board for consideration.

4.5 Review Board-Approved Committee Purpose and Draft 2024 Work Plan and Meeting Schedule.

Committee Chair Hsueh continued this item to the next meeting.

5. CLERK REVIEW AND CLARIFICATION OF COMMITTEE REQUESTS.

No Report.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Director Hsueh adjourned the meeting at approximately 3:10 p.m.

Michele L. King
Clerk of the Board

Approved: May 15, 2024

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