



Santa Clara Valley Water District Agricultural Water Advisory Committee Meeting

HQ. Bldg. Boardroom, 5700 Almaden Expressway, San Jose, California
Join Zoom Meeting: <https://valleywater.zoom.us/j/98850905996>

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

**Monday, January 5, 2026
1:30 PM**

District Mission: Provide Silicon Valley safe, clean water for a healthy life, environment and economy.

COMMITTEE:

Peter Van Dyke, Chairperson
Trevor Garrod, Vice Chairperson

BOARD REPRESENTATIVES:

Director Jim Beall
Vice Chairperson Richard P. Santos
Director John L. Varela

All public records relating to an item on this agenda, which are not exempt from disclosure pursuant to the California Public Records Act, that are distributed to a majority of the legislative body will be available for public inspection at the Office of the Clerk of the Board at the Santa Clara Valley Water District Headquarters Building, 5700 Almaden Expressway, San Jose, CA 95118, at the same time that the public records are distributed or made available to the legislative body. Santa Clara Valley Water District will make reasonable efforts to accommodate persons with disabilities wishing to attend Board of Directors' meeting. Please advise the Clerk of the Board Office of any special needs by calling (408) 265-2600.

Vincent Gin
Darin Taylor, (Staff Liaisons)

Nicole Merritt (COB Liaison)
Deputy Clerk (Committee Meetings)
nmerritt@valleywater.org
408-630-3262

Note: The finalized Board Agenda, exception items and supplemental items will be posted prior to the meeting in accordance with the Brown Act.

**Santa Clara Valley Water District
Agricultural Water Advisory Committee**

**REGULAR MEETING
AGENDA**

Monday, January 5, 2026

1:30 PM

HQ. Bldg. Boardroom, 5700 Almaden
Expressway, San Jose, California
Join Zoom Meeting:
<https://valleywater.zoom.us/j/98850905996>

*****IMPORTANT NOTICES AND PARTICIPATION INSTRUCTIONS*****

Santa Clara Valley Water District (Valley Water) Board of Directors/Board Committee meetings are held as a “hybrid” meetings, conducted in-person as well as by telecommunication, and is compliant with the provisions of the Ralph M. Brown Act.

To maximize public safety while still maintaining transparency and public access, members of the public have an option to participate by teleconference/video conference or attend in-person. To observe and participate in the meeting by teleconference/video conference, please see the meeting link located at the top of the agenda. If attending in-person, you are required to comply with Ordinance 22-03 - AN ORDINANCE OF THE SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT SPECIFYING RULES OF DECORUM FOR PARTICIPATION IN BOARD AND COMMITTEE M E E T I N G S located at <https://s3.us-west-2.amazonaws.com/valleywater.org.if-us-west-2/f2-live/s3fs-public/Or d.pdf>

In accordance with the requirements of Gov. Code Section 54954.3(a), members of the public wishing to address the Board/Committee during public comment or on any item listed on the agenda, may do so by filling out a Speaker Card and submitting it to the Clerk or using the “Raise Hand” tool located in the Zoom meeting application to identify yourself in order to speak, at the time the item is called. Speakers will be acknowledged by the Board/Committee Chair in the order requests are received and granted speaking access to address the Board.

- Members of the Public may test their connection to Zoom Meetings at: <https://zoom.us/test>
- Members of the Public are encouraged to review our overview on joining Valley Water Board Meetings at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TojJpYCxXm0>

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This agenda has been prepared as required by the applicable laws of the State of California, including but not limited to, Government Code Sections 54950 et. seq. and has not been prepared with a view to informing an investment decision in any of Valley Water's bonds, notes or other obligations. Any projections, plans or other forward-looking statements included in the information in this agenda are subject to a variety of uncertainties that could cause any actual plans or results to differ materially from any such statement. The information herein is not intended to be used by investors or potential investors in considering the purchase or sale of Valley Water's bonds, notes or other obligations and investors and potential investors should rely only on information filed by Valley Water on the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board's Electronic Municipal Market Access System for municipal securities disclosures and Valley Water's Investor Relations website, maintained on the World Wide Web at <https://emmam.srb.org/> and <https://www.valleywater.org/how-we-operate/financebudget/investor-relations>, respectively.

Under the Brown Act, members of the public are not required to provide identifying information in order to attend public meetings. Through the link below, the Zoom webinar program requests entry of a name and email address, and Valley Water is unable to modify this requirement. Members of the public not wishing to provide such identifying information are encouraged to enter "Anonymous" or some other reference under name and to enter a fictional email address (e.g., attendee@valleywater.org) in lieu of their actual address. Inputting such values will not impact your ability to access the meeting through Zoom.

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://valleywater.zoom.us/j/98850905996>

Meeting ID: 988 5090 5996

Join by Phone:

1 (669) 900-9128, 988 5090 5996#

1. CALL TO ORDER:

1.1. Roll Call.

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

Notice to the public: Members of the public who wish to address the Board/Committee on any item not listed on the agenda may do so by filling out a Speaker Card and submitting it to the Clerk or using the "Raise Hand" tool located in the Zoom meeting application to identify yourself to speak. Speakers will be acknowledged by the Board/Committee Chair in the order requests are received and granted speaking access to address the Board/Committee. Speakers' comments should be limited to three minutes or as set by the Chair. The law does not permit Board/Committee action on, or extended discussion of, any item not on the agenda except under special circumstances. If Board/Committee action is requested, the matter may be placed on a future agenda. All comments that require a response will be referred to staff for a reply in writing. The Board/Committee may take action on any item of business appearing on the posted agenda.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

3.1. Approval of October 6, 2025 Agricultural Water Advisory Committee Minutes. [25-0986](#)

Recommendation: Approve the minutes.

Manager: Wendy Ho, 408-630-3874

Attachments: [Attachment 1: 10062025 AWAC Minutes](#)

Est. Staff Time: 5 Minutes

4. REGULAR AGENDA:

4.1. Election of Chair and Vice Chair. [25-0978](#)

Recommendation: Elect 2026 Chair and Vice Chair.

Manager: Wendy Ho, 408-630-3874

Est. Staff Time: 5 Minutes

4.2. Review and Approve 2025 Annual Accomplishments Report for Presentation to the Board (Committee Chair). [25-0979](#)

Recommendation:

- A. Approve the 2025 Accomplishments Report for presentation to the Board; and
- B. Provide comments to the Committee Chair to share with the Board as part of the Accomplishments Report presentation pertaining to the purpose, structure, and function of the Committee.

Manager: Wendy Ho, 408-630-3874

Attachments: [Attachment 1: AWAC 2025 Accomplishments Report](#)

Est. Staff Time: 5 Minutes

4.3. Review and Provide Comment to the Board on Staff's Preliminary Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 - 2027 Groundwater Production Charges. [25-0980](#)

Recommendation: Review staff's preliminary Fiscal Year 2026 - 2027 Groundwater Production Charges and provide comment to the Board as appropriate.

Manager: Darin Taylor, 408-630-3068

Attachments: [Attachment 1: PowerPoint](#)

Est. Staff Time: 20 Minutes

4.4. Receive an Update on the Upper Llagas Flood Protection Project. [25-1067](#)

Recommendation: Receive project information on the Upper Llagas Flood Protection Project and the current construction status.

Manager: Bhavani Yerrapotu, 408-630-2735

Attachments: [Attachment 1: PowerPoint](#)

Est. Staff Time: 20 Minutes

4.5. Review and Discuss Resolution 17-75 Regarding the Agricultural Water Advisory Committee Membership and Provide Feedback or Recommendations to the Board. [25-0982](#)

Recommendation: Review and discuss Resolution 17-75 (PROVIDING FOR AND DEFINING THE STRUCTURE AND FUNCTION OF ADVISORY COMMITTEES TO THE SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND REPEALING RESOLUTION 15-28) as to its provisions regarding the membership of the Agricultural Water Advisory Committee (AWAC) and provide feedback or recommendations to the Board.

Manager: Wendy Ho, 408-630-3874

Attachments: [Attachment 1: Resolution 17-75](#)

Est. Staff Time: 5 Minutes

4.6. Review and Approve the Proposed 2026 Agricultural Water Advisory Committee (AWAC) Work Plan, the Outcomes of Board Action of Committee Requests, the Committee's Next Meeting Agenda; and Recommend the Proposed 2026 AWAC Work Plan to the Board. [25-0984](#)

Recommendation: Review and approve the Committee work plan to guide the committee's discussions regarding policy alternatives and implications for Board deliberation; and recommend the proposed 2026 AWAC Work Plan to the Board.

Manager: Wendy Ho, 408-630-3874

Attachments: [Attachment 1: AWAC 2026 Work Plan](#)

Est. Staff Time: 5 Minutes

5. INFORMATION ITEM:

5.1. Standing Items Report. [25-0983](#)

Recommendation: Standing Items Report

This item allows the Agricultural Water Advisory Committee to receive verbal or written updates and discuss the Board's Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Work Plan Strategies. These items are generally informational; however, the Committee may request additional information and/or provide collective input to the assigned Board Committee.

Manager: Wendy Ho, 408-630-3874

Attachments: [Attachment 1: Board Work Plan Standing Items Report](#)

[Attachment 2: FY26 Board Work Plan](#)

Est. Staff Time: 5 Minutes

6. 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.

7. REPORTS:

- 7.1. Government Affairs Report
- 7.2. Director's Report
- 7.3. Manager's Report
- 7.4. Committee Member's Report
- 7.5. Information Links:

<https://www.valleywater.org/how-we-operate/committees/board-committees>
•Board Policy and Monitoring Committee (BPMC) - formerly Board Policy and Planning Committee & Diversity and Inclusion Ad Hoc Committee
•Environmental Creek Cleanup Committee (ECCC) - formerly Homeless Encampment Committee
•Water Supply and Demand Management (WSDM) - formerly Water Storage Exploratory Committee & Water Conservation & Demand Management Committee

<https://www.valleywater.org/your-water/water-supply-planning/monthly-water-tracker>
•Water Tracker

8. ADJOURN:

- 8.1. Adjourn. The Next Regular Meeting is Scheduled at 1:30 p.m., on April 6, 2026.



Santa Clara Valley Water District

File No.: 25-0986

Agenda Date: 1/5/2026

Item No.: 3.1.

COMMITTEE AGENDA MEMORANDUM Agricultural Water Advisory Committee

Government Code § 84308 Applies: Yes No
(If "YES" Complete Attachment A - Gov. Code § 84308)

SUBJECT:

Approval of October 6, 2025 Agricultural Water Advisory Committee Minutes.

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the minutes.

SUMMARY:

A summary of Committee discussions, and details of all actions taken by the Committee, during all open and public Committee meetings, is transcribed and submitted for review and approval.

Upon Committee approval, minutes transcripts are finalized and entered into the District's historical records archives and serve as historical records of the Committee's meetings.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE IMPACT:

Approval of minutes is not subject to environmental justice analysis.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment 1: 10062025 AWAC Minutes

UNCLASSIFIED MANAGER:

Wendy Ho, 408-630-3874

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AGRICULTURAL WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING

DRAFT MINUTES

**REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2025
1:30 PM**

(Paragraph numbers coincide with agenda item numbers)

1. CALL TO ORDER:

A regular meeting of the Santa Clara Valley Water District (Valley Water) Agricultural Water Advisory Committee (AWAC) (Committee) was called to order in the Valley Water Headquarters Building Boardroom at 5700 Almaden Expressway, San Jose, California, and by Zoom teleconference, at 1:30 p.m.

1.1 Roll Call.

Committee members in attendance were District 1 Mitchell Mariani, District 3 Robert Long Jr., District 4 Sheila Barry and Brent Bonino, Santa Clara County Farm Bureau Jan Garrod, District 5 and Vice Chairperson Trevor Garrod, and Loma Prieta Resource Conservative District and Chairperson presiding, Peter Van Dyke constituting a quorum of the Committee.

District 6 Committee member Tim Chiala arrived as noted below.

Committee members who were not in attendance in person were District 1 Erin Gil and District 2 James Provenzano.

Staff members in attendance were: Jennifer Abadilla, Chanie Abuye, Gina Adriano, Antonio Alfaro, Rachael Gibson, Vincent Gin, Joshua Golka, Walter Gonzalez, Jason Gurdak, Diahann Hudson (Soleno), Kaho Kong, Cindy Kao, Candice Kwok-Smith, Nicole Merritt, Carmen Narayanan, Stephanie Simunic, Kirsten Struve, Darin Taylor, Greg Williams, Jing Wu, and Beckie Zisser.

Board Representative in attendance was: Valley Water Vice Chairperson Richard P. Santos (District 3).

Public in attendance was: Valley Water Director Rebecca Eisenberg (District 7).

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

Chairperson Peter Van Dyke 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 7, 2025, Agricultural Water Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes.

Recommendation: Approve the minutes.

The Committee considered the attached minutes of the July 7, 2025, Committee meeting.

Public Comments:

None.

It was moved by Vice Chairperson Trevor Garrod and seconded by Brent Bonino and unanimously carried that the minutes be approved.

4. REGULAR AGENDA:

4.1. Receive the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) Update.

Recommendation: Receive an update on the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA).

Jason Gurdak reviewed the information on this item, per the attached Committee Agenda, and per the information contained in Attachment 1.

Jason Gurdak was available to answer questions.

The Committee discussed the following topics: confirmed that the California's Department of Water Resources (DWR) processing time for reviewing Valley Water's Groundwater Management Plan was normal; noted North San Benito County is meeting DWR recommendations for outcome measures related to water quality and a lower subsidence threshold; noted the groundwater report reflects a healthy supply across all 3 basins totaling over 400,000 acre feet; noted groundwater levels are beginning to trend down due to reduced rainfall consistent with normal hydrologic patterns; confirmed Valley Water staff assisted with developing the North San Benito Groundwater Sustainability Plan; confirmed the challenges to groundwater quality are sea water intrusion and nitrate; and noted nitrate levels in groundwater are improving due to managed groundwater recharge and land-use practices use in Santa Clara County.

Public Comments:

None.

The Committee received and noted the information, provided feedback, and took no formal action.

4.2. Receive Update on the Semitropic Groundwater Storage Bank.

Recommendation: Receive and discuss information regarding the Semitropic Groundwater Storage Bank.

Kaho Kong reviewed the information on this item, per the attached Committee Agenda Memo, and per the information contained in Attachment 1.

Kaho Kong and Cindy Kao were available to answer questions.

The Committee discussed the following topics: confirmed Kern County Subbasin is not currently on probation and groundwater banking remains operational while State Water Board staff finalize the review of plans by the Subbasin to determine if they address identified deficiencies; confirmed the probation process if implemented would not be long term but rather intended to assist the subbasin in updating its sustainability plans to address deficiencies; confirmed that some subsidence has been identified in certain areas of the Kern County subbasin but is not one of the primary issues for exiting the probation process; noted Semitropic may implement a water budget to instruct landowners on allowable groundwater use and impose fees for additional pumping which could result in land being removed from production; and confirmed the Sustainability Plan by 2040 includes discussions relating to demand reduction and groundwater recharge projects for the Kern County subbasin.

Public Comments:
None.

The Committee received and noted the information, provided feedback, and took no formal action.

4.3. Receive Information on the Impact to the Agricultural Groundwater Production Charge Projection from the Suspension of the Pacheco Reservoir Expansion Project.

Recommendation: Receive information on the impact to the Agricultural groundwater production charge projection from the suspension of the Pacheco Reservoir Expansion Project.

Darin Taylor reviewed the information on this item, per the attached Committee Agenda Memo.

Darin Taylor and Valley Water Vice Chair Santos were available to answer questions.

The Committee discussed the following topics: noted that the suspension of the Pacheco Reservoir Expansion Project has no impact on Agricultural groundwater production charge projection; and confirmed the suspension of the Pacheco Reservoir Expansion Project means the project is not moving forward at this time.

Public Comments:
None.

The Committee received and noted the information, provided feedback, and took no formal action.

4.4. Review 2025 Agricultural Water Advisory Committee (AWAC) Work Plan, the Outcomes of Board Action of Committee Requests, and the Committee's Next Meeting Agenda.

Recommendation: Review the Committee work plan to guide the committee's discussions regarding policy alternatives and implications for Board deliberation.

The Committee considered this item without a staff presentation.

Public Comments:
None.

Nicole Merritt and Kirsten Struve were available to answer questions.

The Committee reviewed and discussed the updated Work Plan and noted support for receiving updates related to the Semitropic Groundwater Storage Bank, groundwater levels, desalination, and onsite water recycling at new development sites.

5. INFORMATION ITEM:

5.1. Standing Items Report.

Recommendation: This item allows the Agricultural Water Advisory Committee to receive verbal or written updates and discuss the Board's Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Work Plan Strategies. These items are generally informational; however, the Committee may request additional information and/or provide collective input to the assigned Board Committee.

The Committee considered this item without a staff presentation.

Public Comments:
None.

Nicole Merritt was available to answer questions.

The Committee received the information, took no formal action, noted the attached Board Work Plan standing items report.

6. 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 there were no requests to speak from the public for Items 4.1 – 4.4 and Item 5.1; confirmed Committee received, discussed, and noted updates for Items 4.1 -4.4; and noted support for future updates on Semitropic Groundwater Storage Bank, groundwater levels, and desalination.

7. REPORTS:

7.1. Federal and State Affairs Report

Beckie Zisser provided the federal verbal update, confirmed potential impacts and delays related to the government shutdown, and noted an overview of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act.

Joshua Golka provided the state verbal update.

Chairperson Peter Van Dyke noted support for follow up on impacts to Special Districts related to any changes made to Division 9.

7.2. Director's Report

Valley Water Director Santos acknowledged challenges regarding government funding.

7.3. Manager's Report

Vincent Gin shared an invitation to attend the October 9, 2025, San Luis Delta-Mendota Water Authority Board 9:30 a.m. meeting. Vincent Gin and Cindy Kao provided additional details regarding staff's collaboration to address the groundwater quality in the Kern County subbasin.

7.4. Committee Member Report

Chairperson Peter Van Dyke reported attending various state-level meetings related to Division 9, county meetings concerning proposed agricultural zoning changes which may impose restrictions on farm properties and discussed some of the challenges identified during the Pajaro Watershed and Resiliency meetings.

Tim Chiala confirmed the Farm Bureau members are attending the county meetings regarding the proposed agricultural rezoning.

Chairperson Peter Van Dyke expressed support for Valley Water staff following up on additional details related to the proposed county agricultural rezoning changes.

Chairperson Peter Van Dyke expressed support for exploring potential options for wetlands restoration on Valley Water property and for groundwater percolation in flood control projects.

Tim Chiala expressed support for an update on the Upper Llagas Creek Flood Protection project and Beckie Zisser confirmed the project is not yet complete and staff are currently pursuing federal funding.

7.5. Information Link:
Links noted on agenda.

8. ADJOURN:

8.1. Adjourn. The Next Regular Meeting is Scheduled at 1:30 p.m. on January 5, 2026.

Chairperson Peter Van Dyke adjourned the meeting at 2:29 p.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled to occur at 1:30 p.m. on January 5, 2026.

Date approved:

Nicole Merritt
Deputy Clerk
(Committee Meetings)



Santa Clara Valley Water District

File No.: 25-0978

Agenda Date: 1/5/2026

Item No.: 4.1.

COMMITTEE AGENDA MEMORANDUM Agricultural Water Advisory Committee

Government Code § 84308 Applies: Yes No
(If "YES" Complete Attachment A - Gov. Code § 84308)

SUBJECT:

Election of Chair and Vice Chair.

RECOMMENDATION:

Elect 2026 Chair and Vice Chair.

SUMMARY:

Per the Board Resolution, the duties of the Chair and Vice-Chair are as follows:

The officers of each Committee shall be a Chair and Vice-Chair, both of whom shall be members of that Committee. The Chair and Vice-Chair shall be elected by the Committee, each for a term of one year commencing on January 1 and ending on December 31 and for no more than two consecutive terms. The Committee shall elect its officers at the first meeting of the calendar year. All officers shall hold over in their respective offices after their term of office has expired until their successors have been elected and have assumed office.

The Chair shall preside at all meetings of the Committee, and he or she shall perform other such duties as the Committee may prescribe consistent with the purpose of the Committee.

The Vice-Chair shall perform the duties of the Chair in the absence or incapacity of the Chair. In case of the unexpected vacancy of the Chair, the Vice-Chair shall perform such duties as are imposed upon the Chair until such time as a new Chair is elected by the Committee.

Should the office of Chair or Vice-Chair become vacant during the term of such office, the Committee shall elect a successor from its membership at the earliest meeting at which such election would be practicable, and such election shall be for the unexpired term of such office.

Should the Chair and Vice-Chair know in advance that they will both be absent from a meeting, the Chair may appoint a Chair Pro-tempore to preside over that meeting. In the event of an unanticipated absence of both the Chair and Vice-Chair, the Committee may elect a Chair Pro-tempore to preside over the meeting in their absence.

BACKGROUND:

The District Act provides for the creation of advisory boards, committees, or commissions by resolution to serve at the pleasure of the Board.

Accordingly, the Board has established Advisory Committees, which bring respective expertise and community interest, to advise the Board, when requested, in a capacity as defined: prepare Board policy alternatives and provide comment on activities in the implementation of the District's mission for Board consideration. In keeping with the Board's broader focus, Advisory Committees will not direct the implementation of District programs and projects, other than to receive information and provide comment.

Further, in accordance with Governance Process Policy-3, when requested by the Board, the Advisory Committees may help the Board produce the link between the District and the public through information sharing to the communities they represent.

The Board may also establish Ad-hoc Committees to serve in a capacity as defined by the Board and will be used sparingly.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE IMPACT:

There are no environmental justice impacts associated with this item.

ATTACHMENTS:

None.

UNCLASSIFIED MANAGER:

Wendy Ho, 408-630-3874



Santa Clara Valley Water District

File No.: 25-0979

Agenda Date: 1/5/2026

Item No.: 4.2.

COMMITTEE AGENDA MEMORANDUM Agricultural Water Advisory Committee

Government Code § 84308 Applies: Yes No
(If "YES" Complete Attachment A - Gov. Code § 84308)

SUBJECT:

Review and Approve 2025 Annual Accomplishments Report for Presentation to the Board (Committee Chair).

RECOMMENDATION:

- A. Approve the 2025 Accomplishments Report for presentation to the Board; and
- B. Provide comments to the Committee Chair to share with the Board as part of the Accomplishments Report presentation pertaining to the purpose, structure, and function of the Committee.

SUMMARY:

The Accomplishments Report summarizes the committee's discussions and actions to prepare Board policy alternatives and implications for Board deliberation throughout 2024. The Committee Chair, or designee, presents the Accomplishments Report to the Board at a future Board meeting.

The Committee may provide feedback to the Committee Chair, at this time, to share with Board as part of the Accomplishments Report presentation pertaining to the purpose, structure, and function of the Committee.

BACKGROUND: Governance Process Policy-8: The District Act provides for the creation of advisory boards, committees, or commissions by resolution to serve at the pleasure of the Board.

Accordingly, the Board has established Advisory Committees, which bring respective expertise and community interest, to advise the Board, when requested, in a capacity as defined: prepare Board policy alternatives and provide comment on activities in the implementation of the District's mission for Board consideration. In keeping with the Board's broader focus, Advisory Committees will not direct the implementation of District programs and projects, other than to receive information and provide comment.

Further, in accordance with Governance Process Policy-3, when requested by the Board, the Advisory Committees may help the Board produce the link between the District and the public through information sharing to the communities they represent.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE IMPACT:

There is no environmental justice impact associated with this item.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment 1: AWAC 2025 Accomplishments Report

UNCLASSIFIED MANAGER:

Wendy Ho, 408-630-3874

2025 Accomplishments Report: Agricultural Water Advisory Committee

Update: December 2025

The annual work plan establishes a framework for committee discussion and action during the annual meeting schedule. The committee work plan is a dynamic document, subject to change as external and internal issues impacting the District occur and are recommended for committee discussion. Subsequently, an annual committee accomplishments report is developed based on the work plan and presented to the District Board of Directors.

ITEM	WORK PLAN ITEM BOARD POLICY	MEETING DATE	ACCOMPLISHMENT DATE AND OUTCOME
1	Election of Chair and Vice Chair for 2025.	January 6	Accomplished January 6, 2025: The Committee unanimously approved Peter Van Dyke to remain as the 2025 Agricultural Water Advisory Committee Chairperson and Trevor Garrod to remain as the 2025 Agricultural Water Advisory Committee Vice-Chairperson.
2	Annual Accomplishments Report.	January 6	Accomplished January 6, 2025: The Committee unanimously approved the 2024 Annual Accomplishments Report for presentation to the Board. <i>The Board received the Committee's presentation by Chairperson Peter Van Dyke and accepted the 2024 Annual Accomplishments Report at the March 11, 2025, meeting.</i>
3	Review and Comment to the Board on the Fiscal Year 2025 – 2026 Preliminary Groundwater Production Charges.	January 6 April 7	Accomplished January 6, 2025: The Committee reviewed and commented on the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Preliminary Groundwater Production Charges and took the following action: The Committee unanimously approved to receive and accept staff's preliminary report for the FY 2025-2026 groundwater production charges with the amendment to continue the pursuit of water conservation programs, studying the impact of increased rates on agriculture and the potential of freezing agricultural rates. Accomplished April 7, 2025: The Committee received and noted the information, provided feedback, and took no formal action. <i>The Board adopted the Resolutions: DETERMINING GROUNDWATER PRODUCTION CHARGES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026 and DETERMINING SURFACE WATER, TREATED WATER, AND SOUTH COUNTY RECYCLED WATER CHARGES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026 at the May 27, 2025 meeting.</i>

Yellow = Update Since Last Meeting

Blue = Action taken by the Board of Directors

Attachment 1
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2025 Accomplishments Report: Agricultural Water Advisory Committee

Update: December 2025

ITEM	WORK PLAN ITEM BOARD POLICY	MEETING DATE	ACCOMPLISHMENT DATE AND OUTCOME
4	Receive Information and Provide Feedback on the Development of Valley Water's Water Supply Master Plan 2050.	April 7 July 7	Accomplished April 7, 2025: The Committee received and noted the information, provided feedback, and took no formal action. Accomplished July 7, 2025: The Committee received and noted the information, provided feedback, and took no formal action.
5	Receive Update on One Water Plan Upper Pajaro Watershed Plan Priority Actions.	January 6	Accomplished January 6, 2025: The Committee received and noted the information, provided feedback, and took no formal action.
6	Review Climate Change and the benefits of ecosystems on Agriculture in Santa Clara County. *Receive information on the County of Santa Clara's Agricultural Outreach and Awareness Campaign.	July 7	Accomplished July 7, 2025: The Committee received and noted the information, provided feedback, and took no formal action.
7	Discuss the Potential of Forming a Subcommittee.	January 6	Accomplished January 6, 2025: The Committee received the information, took no formal action and noted the option of forming a subcommittee as needed.
8	Receive Update on Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) Compliance.	October 6	Accomplished October 6, 2025: The Committee received and noted the information, provided feedback, and took no formal action.
9	Receive Update on Semitropic Groundwater Storage Bank.	October 6	Accomplished October 6, 2025: The Committee received and noted the information, provided feedback, and took no formal action.
10	Receive Update on Valley Water's South County Managed Aquifer Recharge Activities.	April 7	Accomplished April 7, 2025: The Committee received and noted the information, provided feedback, and took no formal action.
11	Receive Update on West Valley and Lower Peninsula Watershed Master Plans.	July 7	Accomplished July 7, 2025: The Committee received and noted the information and took no formal action.

Yellow = Update Since Last Meeting

Blue = Action taken by the Board of Directors

Attachment 1
Page 2 of 4

2025 Accomplishments Report: Agricultural Water Advisory Committee

Update: December 2025

ITEM	WORK PLAN ITEM BOARD POLICY	MEETING DATE	ACCOMPLISHMENT DATE AND OUTCOME
12	Receive Information on the Annual Report Regarding the Flood Control Benefit Assessments for Fiscal Year (FY) 2025-2026.	July 7	Accomplished July 7, 2025: The Committee received and noted the information and took no formal action.
13	Receive Information on the Impact to the Agricultural Groundwater Production Charge Projection from the Suspension of the Pacheco Reservoir Expansion Project.	October 6	Accomplished October 6, 2025: The Committee received and noted the information, provided feedback, and took no formal action.
14	Standing Items Report Fiscal Year 2025 Goals and Strategies:	January 6 October 6	Accomplished January 6, 2025 and October 6, 2025: The Committee received the quarterly report on standing items for FY2025 and took no action.
15	Federal and State Affairs Report	January 6 April 7 July 7 October 6	Accomplished January 6, 2025: The Committee received the verbal update and confirmed financial assistance with the unhoused will be addressed locally through partnerships with the county or other jurisdictions to obtain federal funding. Accomplished April 7, 2025: The Committee received the verbal update and confirmed the state's insurance industry issues are a discussion topic with a focus on affordability for legislative representatives. Accomplished July 7, 2025: The Committee received the verbal update and confirmed that it may be challenging for the state to grant California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) exemptions for water projects and Chairperson Peter Van Dyke expressed support for a CEQA update at the next meeting. Accomplished October 6, 2025: The Committee received the federal verbal update, confirmed potential impacts and delays related to the government shutdown, and noted an overview of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act. The Committee received and noted the state verbal update and Chairperson Peter Van Dyke noted support for follow up on the impacts to Special Districts related to any changes made to Division 9.

Yellow = Update Since Last Meeting

Blue = Action taken by the Board of Directors

Attachment 1
Page 3 of 4

2025 Accomplishments Report: Agricultural Water Advisory Committee

Update: December 2025

ITEM	WORK PLAN ITEM BOARD POLICY	MEETING DATE	ACCOMPLISHMENT DATE AND OUTCOME
16	Review and Discuss Resolution 17-75 and the Agricultural Water Advisory Committee (AWAC) Membership.	January 6	<p>Accomplished January 6, 2025</p> <p>The Committee received the information, took no formal action and noted Chairperson Peter Van Dyke will continue working with the AWAC Committee Oversight Managers regarding a potential recommendation to the Board.</p>
17	Review of Agricultural Water Advisory Committee Work Plan, the Outcomes of Board Action of Committee Requests and the Committee's Next Meeting Agenda.	January 6 April 7 July 7 October 6	<p>Accomplished January 6, 2025:</p> <p>The Committee unanimously approved to recommend the proposed 2025 AWAC Work Plan to the Board with the amendment to add the Semitropics Groundwater Storage Bank as a separate AWAC Work Plan topic.</p> <p><i>The Board received the Committee's presentation by Chairperson Peter Van Dyke and approved the 2025 AWAC Work Plan at the March 11, 2025, meeting.</i></p> <p>Accomplished April 7, 2025:</p> <p>The Committee received and noted the Work Plan and without further discussion took no formal action.</p> <p>Accomplished July 7, 2025:</p> <p>The Committee received and noted the updated Work Plan without further discussion and took no formal action.</p> <p>Accomplished October 6, 2025:</p> <p>The Committee reviewed and discussed the updated Work Plan and noted support for receiving updates related to the Semitropic Groundwater Storage Bank, groundwater levels, desalination, and onsite water recycling at new development sites.</p>
BOARD WORK PLAN GOALS:			
<p>Integrated Water Resources Management - Goal: Efficiently manage water resources across business areas.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Water Supply – Goal: Provide a reliable, safe, and affordable water supply for current and future generations in all communities served. Natural Flood Protection – Goal: Provide natural flood protection to reduce risk and improve health and safety. Environmental Stewardship – Goal: Sustain ecosystem health while managing local water resources for flood protection and water supply. Addressing Encampment of Unsheltered People – Goal: Humanely assist in the permanent relocation of unsheltered people on Valley Water lands along waterways and at water supply and flood risk reduction facilities in order to address the human health, public safety, operational, and environmental challenges posed by encampments. Climate Change – Goal: Mitigate carbon emissions and adapt Valley Water operations to climate change impacts. Business Management – Goal: Promote effective management of water supply, flood protection, and environmental stewardship through responsive and socially responsible business services. 			

Yellow = Update Since Last Meeting

Blue = Action taken by the Board of Directors

Attachment 1
Page 4 of 4



Santa Clara Valley Water District

File No.: 25-0980

Agenda Date: 1/5/2026

Item No.: 4.3.

COMMITTEE AGENDA MEMORANDUM Agricultural Water Advisory Committee

Government Code § 84308 Applies: Yes No
(If "YES" Complete Attachment A - Gov. Code § 84308)

SUBJECT:

Review and Provide Comment to the Board on Staff's Preliminary Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 - 2027 Groundwater Production Charges.

RECOMMENDATION:

Review staff's preliminary Fiscal Year 2026 - 2027 Groundwater Production Charges and provide comment to the Board as appropriate.

SUMMARY:

Summary of Preliminary Groundwater Production Charge Analysis:

Staff has prepared the preliminary Fiscal Year 2026 - 2027 (FY 2026-27) groundwater production charge analysis for Board review. Staff is seeking Committee input on the preliminary analysis to incorporate into the development of the groundwater production charge recommendation.

The groundwater production charge reflects the benefit of District activities to protect and augment groundwater supplies and is applied to water extracted from the groundwater basin in Zones W-2, W-5, W-7, and W-8. Zone W-2 encompasses the Santa Clara groundwater subbasin north of Metcalf Road or the North County. Zone W-5 overlays the Llagas subbasin from northern Morgan Hill south to the Pajaro River. Zone W-7 overlays the Coyote Valley south of Metcalf Road to northern Morgan Hill, and W-8 encompasses the area below Uvas and Chesbro Reservoirs.

The groundwater production charge recommendation will be detailed in the Annual Report on the Protection and Augmentation of Water Supplies that is planned to be filed with the Clerk of the Board on February 27, 2026. The public hearing on groundwater production charges is scheduled to open on April 14, 2026. It is anticipated that the Board would set the FY 2026-27 groundwater production charges by May 12, 2026, that would become effective on July 1, 2026.

The FY 2026-27 groundwater production charge and surface water charge setting process will be conducted consistent with the District Act, and Board resolutions 99-21 and 12-10.

Water Usage Trend

The estimated actual District managed water use for FY 2024-25 is approximately 219,000 acre-feet (AF), which is about 3,000 AF lower than budgeted water use. Lower water use when compared to last year's budget was likely due to several factors including lower rebound from the 2023 drought than was anticipated combined with milder weather (dry but slightly cooler than usual).

Consistent with last years reduced long-term projections, adopted budget FY 2025-26 water use is 219,000 AF. The water usage forecast may be modified as necessary during the upcoming rate setting process.

The multi-year projection reflects an ongoing moderate growth in District managed water use, returning to around 230,000 AF by FY 2031-32.

Agricultural water use trends remain stable, with agricultural District-managed water use averaging around 28,000 AF per fiscal year. In FY 2026-27, around 26,800 AF is projected for total agricultural water use. This represents about 12.2% of total District-managed water use projected for FY 2026-27.

Groundwater Production Charge Projections

Staff has prepared an initial baseline groundwater production charge projection scenario for Board review. The preliminary groundwater production charge analysis includes an 8.0% increase in the FY 2026-27 Municipal & Industrial (M&I) groundwater production charge for Zone W-8 from \$464.00/AF to \$501.00/AF. The preliminary agricultural groundwater production charge assumes it will be set at approximately 9.25% of the Zone W-8 M&I rate for FY 2026-27. This translates to a groundwater production charge of about \$46.50 per acre foot for agricultural use.

Staff has prepared the following baseline scenario for Board consideration:

Baseline assumptions:

- Agricultural rates remain at 10% or less of lowest groundwater charge zone Municipal & Industrial rate
- District-managed water use projection of around 221,500 acre-feet
- Projects included in the draft FY 27-31 CIP 5-Year Plan
 - Anderson Dam Seismic Retrofit with WIFIA loan
 - Rinconada Water Treatment Plant Reliability Improvement Project
 - Santa Teresa Water Treatment Plant Infrastructure Rehabilitation Project
 - Pure Water Silicon Valley (Phase 1 Demonstration Facility & Phase 2 Full-Scale Direct Potable Reuse (DPR) Facility)
 - Dam Safety Program: Almaden, Calero, Coyote & Guadalupe
- Water rates will fund 3.23% of Delta Conveyance Project planning costs
- State Water Project (SWP) Tax (excluding Delta Conveyance Project costs) may be needed to pay for all, most, or some SWP costs
- Master Plan Project placeholders: SCADA, Water Treatment Plants & Distribution System

Of note, the majority of capital projects listed above as part of Baseline do not impact the South County Zone W-8 groundwater production charge that the agricultural rate is based upon.

The preliminary analysis does not include unfunded capital projects or additional unfunded operations cost needs identified by staff.

Open Space Credit

The Valley Water Board has historically recognized that agriculture brings value to Santa Clara County in the form of open space and local produce. To help preserve this value, the District Act limits the agricultural charge to be no more than 25% of the M&I charge. In 1999, to further its support for agricultural lands, the Board put a policy in place to further limit the agricultural groundwater production charge to no more than 10% of the M&I charge.

The agricultural community currently benefits from low groundwater charges that are equivalent to about 2% of M&I charges in North County Zone W-2, 7% of M&I charges in South County Zone W-5, 5% of M&I charges in South County Zone W-7, and 9.25% of M&I charges in South County Zone W-8. According to Section 26.1 of the District Act, agricultural water is “water primarily used in the commercial production of agricultural crops or livestock.”

The credit to agricultural water users has become known as an “Open Space Credit.” It is paid for by fungible, non-rate related revenue. To offset lost revenue that results from the difference between the adopted agricultural groundwater production charge and the agricultural charge that would have resulted at the full cost of service, Valley Water redirects a portion of the 1% ad valorem property taxes generated in the Water Utility, General and Watershed Stream Stewardship Funds.

A PowerPoint presentation will be provided at the meeting.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE IMPACT:

There are no Environmental Justice impacts associated with this item.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment 1: PowerPoint

UNCLASSIFIED MANAGER:

Darin Taylor, 408-630-3068

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Preliminary FY 2026-27 Groundwater Production Charges

Presented by: **Carmen Narayanan**, Financial Planning & Revenue Manager
Agricultural Water Advisory Committee, January 5, 2026

Topics

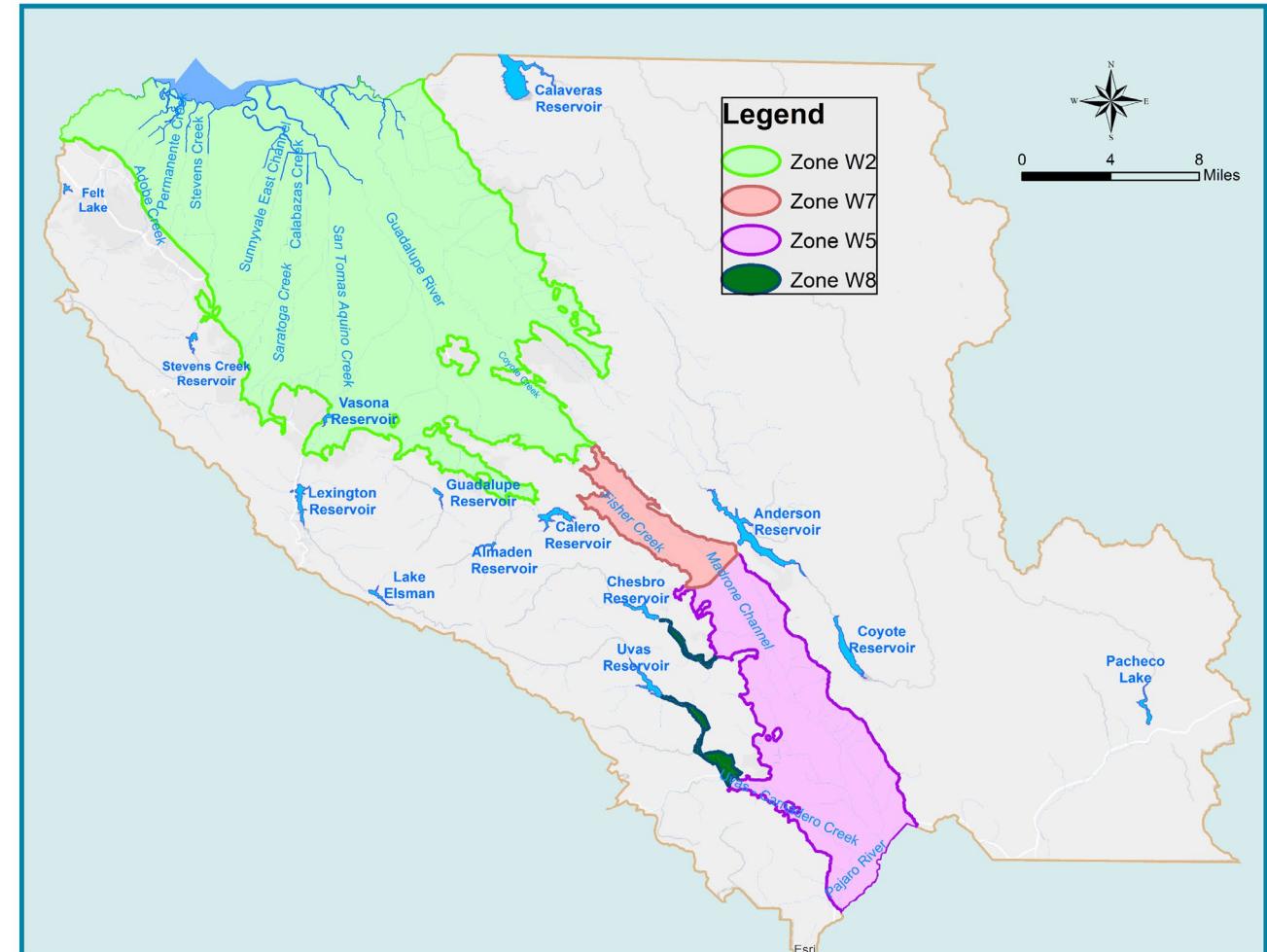
2

- **Background Information on Groundwater Charge Zones & Board's Pricing Policy**
- **Water Usage Projections**
- **Preliminary Groundwater Production Charges**
- **Schedule & Summary**

Resolution 99-21 is the Board's Pricing Policy

3

- Groundwater charges are levied within a zone for benefits received
- All water sources and water facilities contribute to common benefit within a zone regardless of cost, known as “pooling” concept
 - Helps maximize effective use of available resources
- Agricultural water charge shall not exceed 10% of M&I water charge



FY 2026-27 Rate Setting Outlook

FY 27 Baseline Case Assumptions

- Maintain Agricultural Rate set at 9.25% of lowest M&I rate (Zone W-8)
- Plan for moderate District-managed water use of 221,500 AF
 - Agricultural water use projected at 26,800 AF
- Anderson Dam Seismic Retrofit
- Master Plan projects: SCADA, Water Treatment Plants & Distribution
- Dam Safety Program: Almaden, Calero, Coyote, & Guadalupe
- Pure Water Silicon Valley *Demonstration Facility & Full-Scale Direct Potable Reuse (DPR) Facility*
- Delta Conveyance project participation *
- San Luis Reservoir: B.F. Sisk Dam Raise with up to 63 TAF Storage *
- Sites Reservoir project participation *
- SWP Tax pays for 100% of SWP costs *Excludes SWP portion of Delta Conveyance*

Note: Pacheco Reservoir Expansion Project has been eliminated from baseline case assumptions.

* Project costs are reflected as Operations & Maintenance costs.

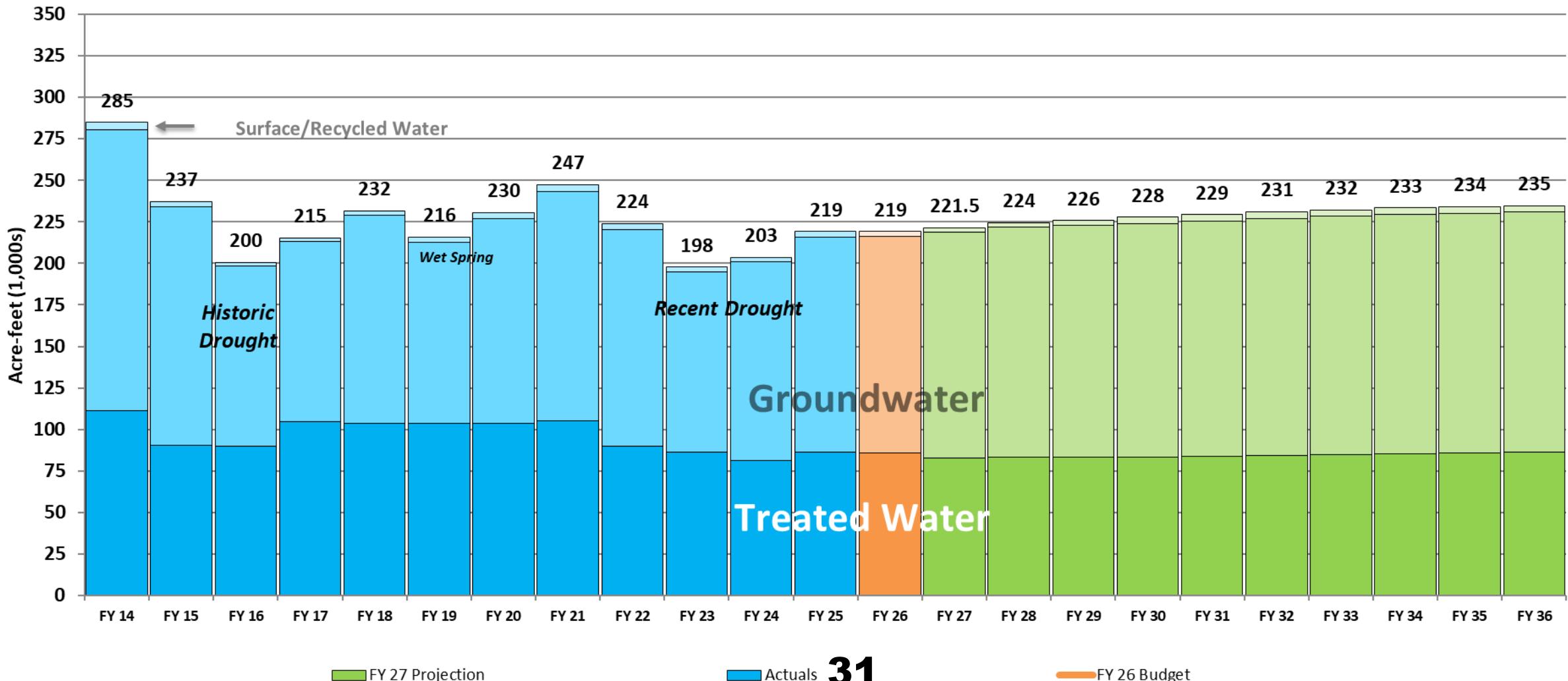
SWP: State Water Project

District Managed Water Usage

Reflects Lower Water User Projections Post 2023 Drought Rebound

5

District Managed Water Usage (TAF)

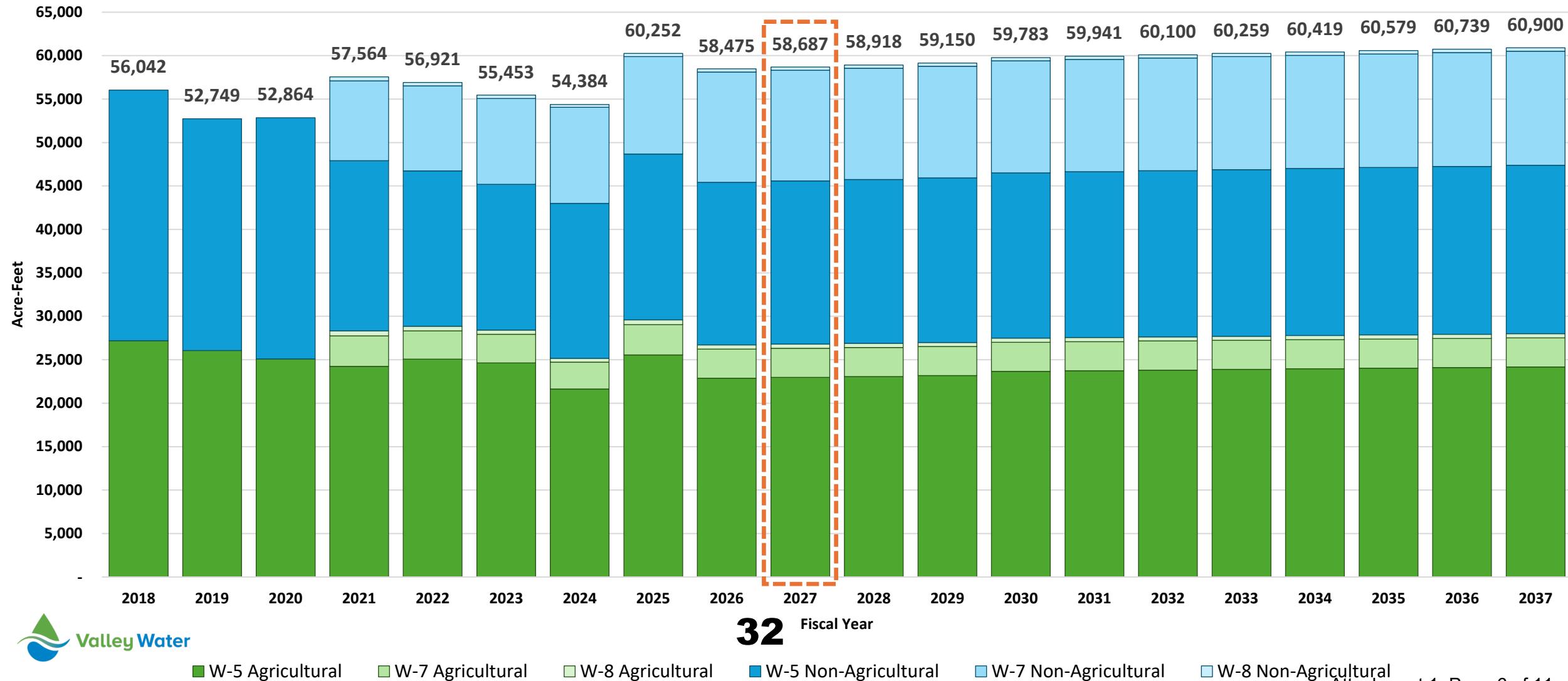


District Managed Water Usage

Agricultural Groundwater Use by Zone in South County

6

South County Groundwater Production (Acre-Feet) by Fiscal Year & Zone



32

Fiscal Year

FY 2026-27 Preliminary Groundwater Production Charge Projection

7

Municipal & Industrial Rate by Zone	FY 2025-26 GW Production Charge	FY 2026-27 Preliminary GW Production Charge	Preliminary % Increase	Increase to Average Monthly Bill (11 HCF/month)
North County W-2	\$2,450.00	\$2,673.00	9.9%* 9.1%	\$5.63
South County W-5	\$624.50	\$664.50	7.9%* 6.4%	\$1.01
South County W-7	\$834.50	\$906.50	11.2%* 8.6%	\$1.82
South County W-8	\$464.00	\$501.00	8.0%	\$0.93
Agricultural	\$43.00	\$46.50	8.0%	\$0.58**

33

* Reflects prior rate increases (%) projected during the FY2025-26 planning cycle.

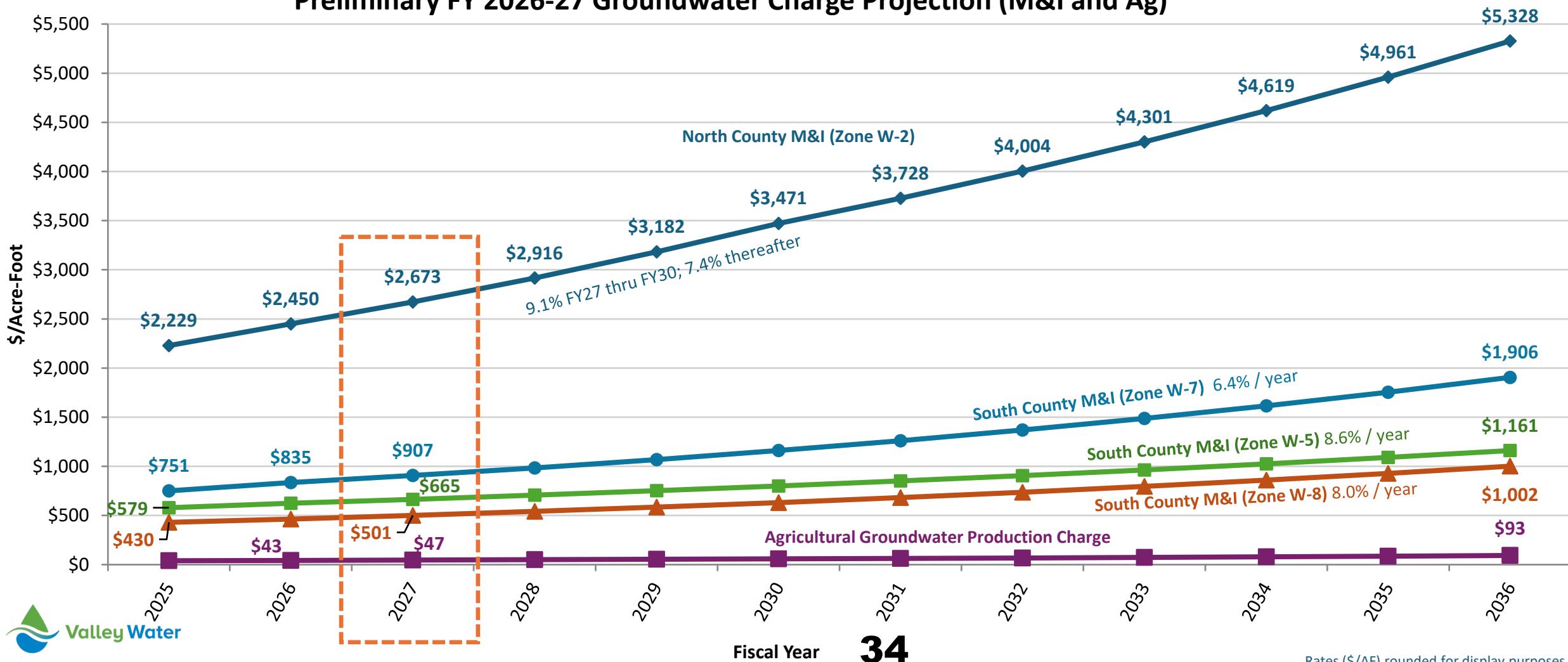
** Assumes Agricultural users who pump 2 AF of water, per acre, per year.

Preliminary Groundwater Production Charge Projection

Baseline Scenario

8

Preliminary FY 2026-27 Groundwater Charge Projection (M&I and Ag)



Rate Setting Schedule FY 2026-27

9

- Jan 5 Agricultural Water Advisory Committee
- Jan 13 Board Meeting: Preliminary Groundwater Charge Analysis
- Jan 21 Water Retailers Meeting: Preliminary Groundwater Charge Analysis
- Jan 28 Water Commission Meeting: Preliminary Groundwater Charge Analysis

- Feb 10 Board Meeting: Set time & place of Public Hearing
- Feb 27 Mail notice of public hearing and file PAWS report

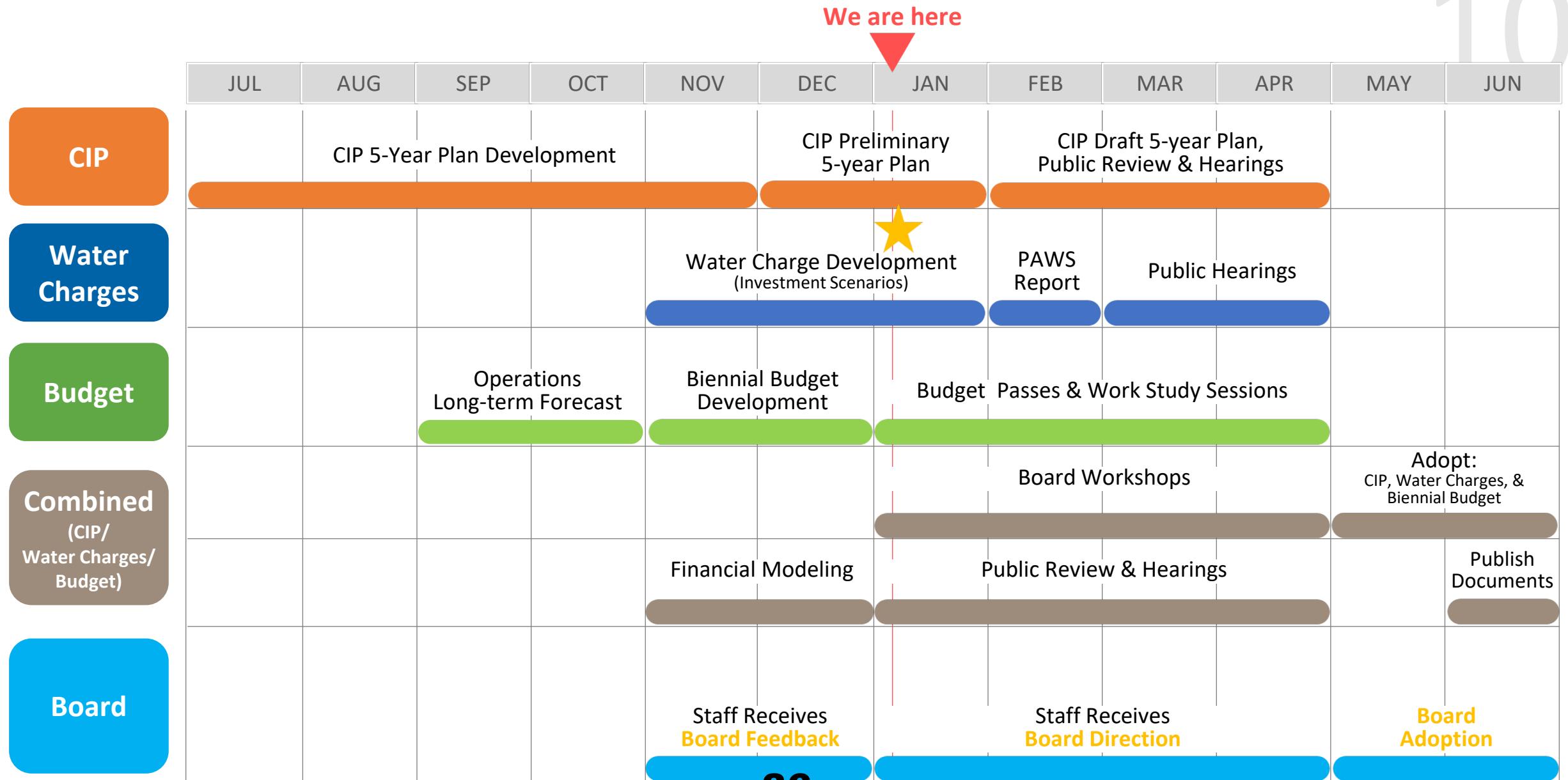
- Mar 10 Board Meeting: Budget development update
- Mar 18 Water Retailers Meeting: FY 27 Groundwater Charge Recommendation

- Apr 6 Agricultural Water Advisory Committee
- Apr 8 Water Commission Meeting
- Apr 14 Open Public Hearing
- Apr 16 Continue Public Hearing in South County
- Apr 28 Conclude Public Hearing
- Apr 29-30 Board Meeting: Budget work study session

- May 12 Adopt budget & groundwater production and other water charges

Annual CIP, Biennial Budget & Water Charges Development Timeline

10



Summary

11



COMMITTEE ACTIONS TODAY

1. Review and Comment to the Board on the Fiscal Year 2026-27 Preliminary Groundwater Production Charges

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Santa Clara Valley Water District

File No.: 25-1067

Agenda Date: 1/5/2026

Item No.: 4.4.

COMMITTEE AGENDA MEMORANDUM Agricultural Water Advisory Committee

Government Code § 84308 Applies: Yes No
(If "YES" Complete Attachment A - Gov. Code § 84308)

SUBJECT:

Receive an Update on the Upper Llagas Flood Protection Project.

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive project information on the Upper Llagas Flood Protection Project and the current construction status.

SUMMARY:

Valley Water is currently constructing the last phase of the Upper Llagas Creek Flood Protection Project (Project). This project which started way back in 1968 as a partnership with the State of California, and then later in 1999, as a partnership with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the City of Morgan Hill (City) to provide 1% flood protection to more than 1,100 residences and 500 businesses along West Little Llagas Creek, East Little Llagas Creek, and Llagas Creek. The Project, part of the renewed Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program, is approximately 13.9 miles long and is located within the cities of Morgan Hill and Gilroy, and various unincorporated areas of Santa Clara County, including San Martin.

Llagas Creek and its tributaries are part of the Uvas/Llagas Watershed, the area of land over which rain falls and then drains southward to the Pacific Ocean through Monterey County or into reservoirs for storage. The Uvas-Llagas Watershed is a 104-square-mile region that is distinguished by its agricultural lands, open space, and natural areas. Part of the larger Pajaro River Watershed, the creeks within this watershed are the only waterways in Santa Clara County that flow southward.

The Project consists of channel widening and deepening, instream improvements for wildlife and habitat, constructing box culverts, underground high flow bypass tunnel, and revegetation. The Project's mitigation elements to offset environmental impacts associated with the construction work include the following environmental elements:

- Riparian mitigation consisting of approximately 114 acres of native vegetation plantings;
- Creation of the Lake Silveira wetlands, approximately 5 acres;
- Creation of plant, fish, and wildlife habitat;

- Invasive plant removal (13.0± acres);
- In-stream complexities-woody debris (464 instream complexity features including divide logs, wing deflectors, root wads and boulder clusters);
- Turtle basking sites within the created wetlands (10 turtle basking sites);
- Tree girdling (27 invasive trees girdled for bat/owl habitat);
- Bat boxes (14);
- Upland log piles (148 locations);
- Removal of legacy trash & hardscape debris (2.3± acres of remediation); and
- In-fill native planting sites (11± acres).

The Project is being constructed in three phases (Phases 1, 2A, and 2B) and intended flood protection will only be realized after construction is completed for all of them. Staff presentation (Attachment 1) at the committee meeting will give an overview and status update of the project.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE IMPACT:

There are no Environmental Justice impacts associated with this item.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment 1: PowerPoint

UNCLASSIFIED MANAGER:

Bhavani Yerrapotu, 408-630-2735

Upper Llagas Creek Flood Protection Project

Agricultural Water Advisory Committee, January 5, 2026

Llagas Creek in 1895

Historic Ecology SFEI



Flooding History

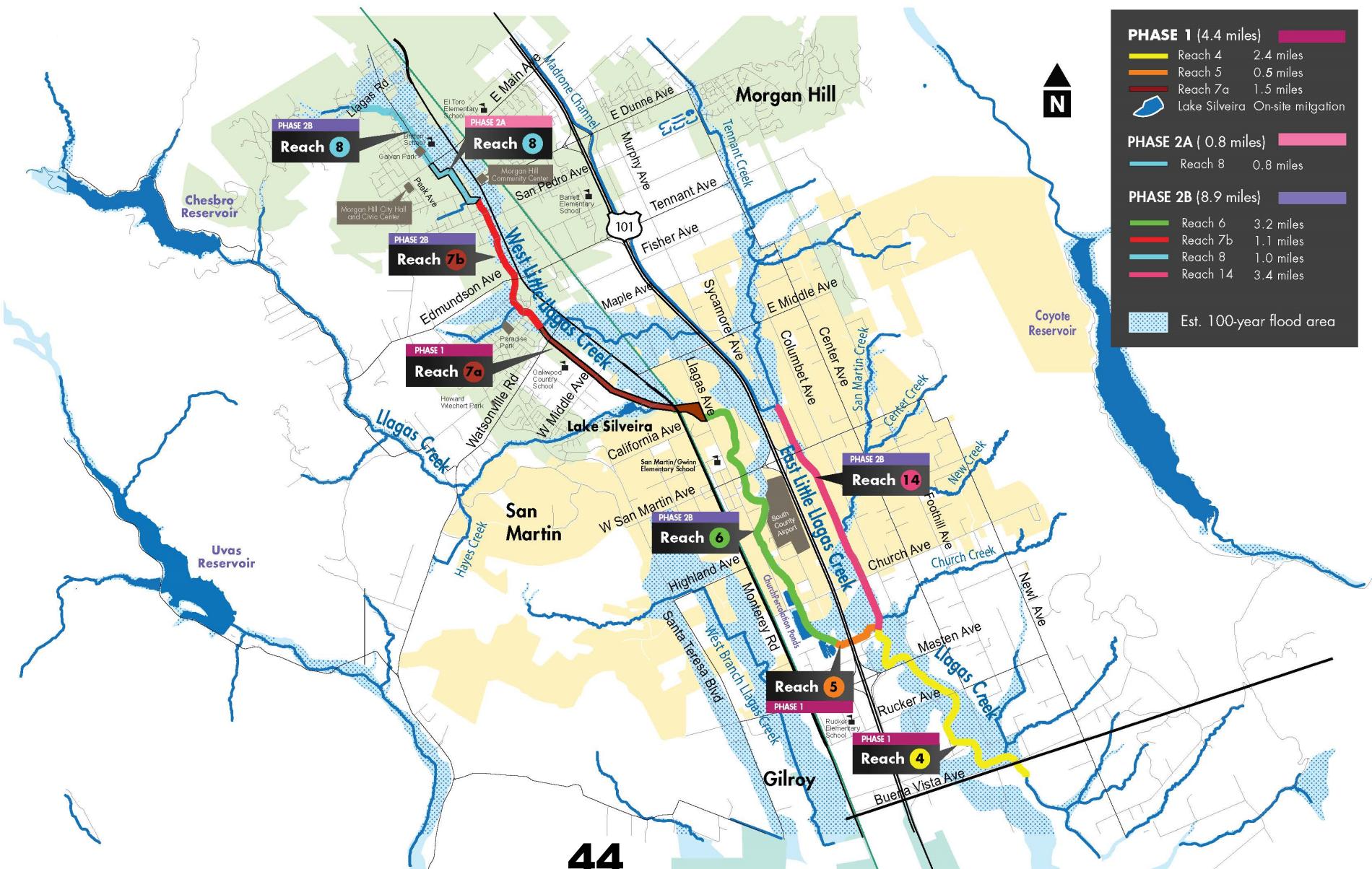
Upper Llagas Creek has experienced flooding during major storm events in 1955, 1958, 1962, 1963, 1969, 1982, 1986, 1996, 1997, 1998, 2002, 2008, 2009, 2011, and 2017.



October 13, 2009

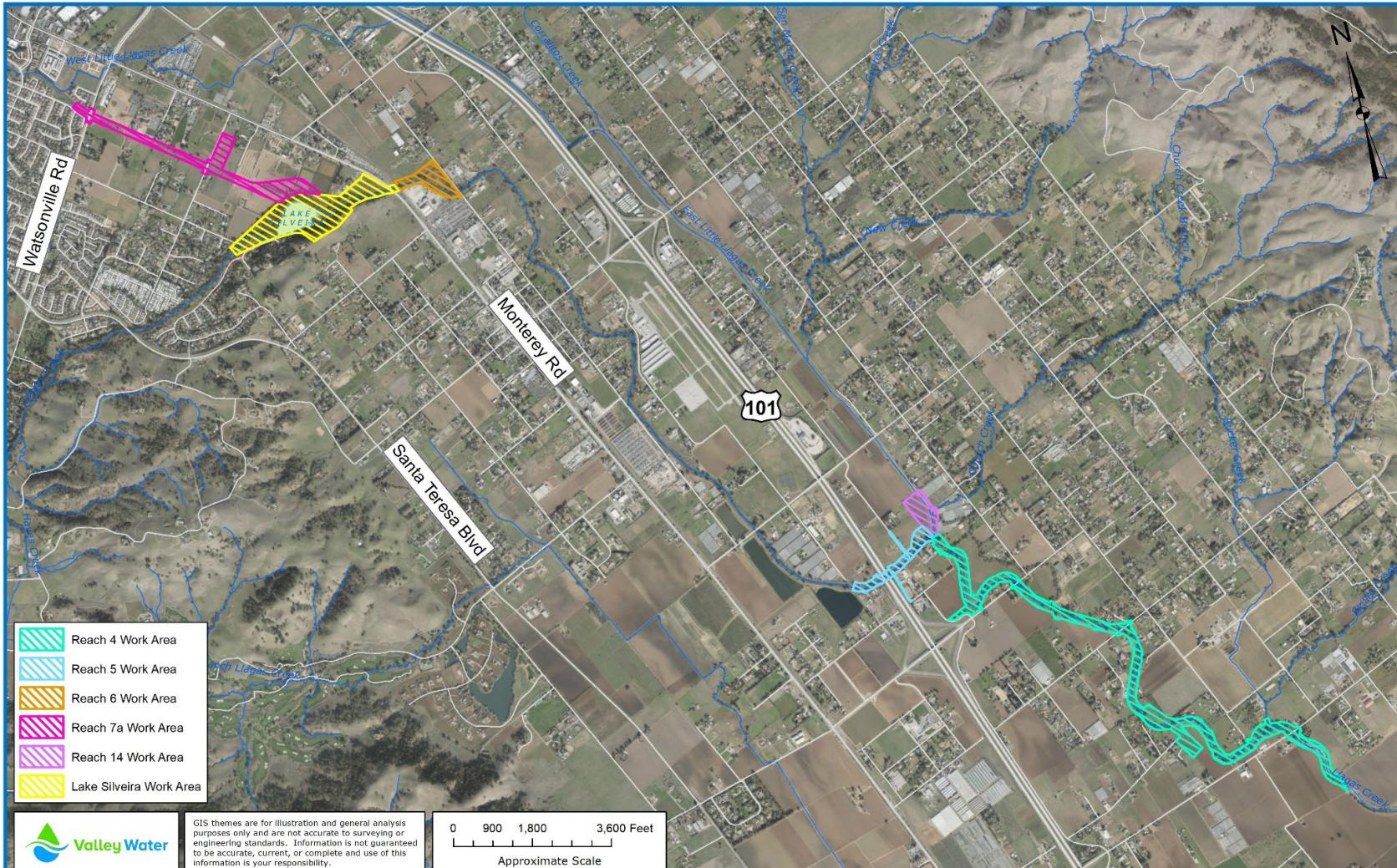


Upper Llagas Creek Flood Protection Project



Phase 1: Construction Cost ~\$78M

Construction began September 2, 2019 and was completed May 2022, which included a 3-year native revegetation establishment period



Phase 1

Project Elements



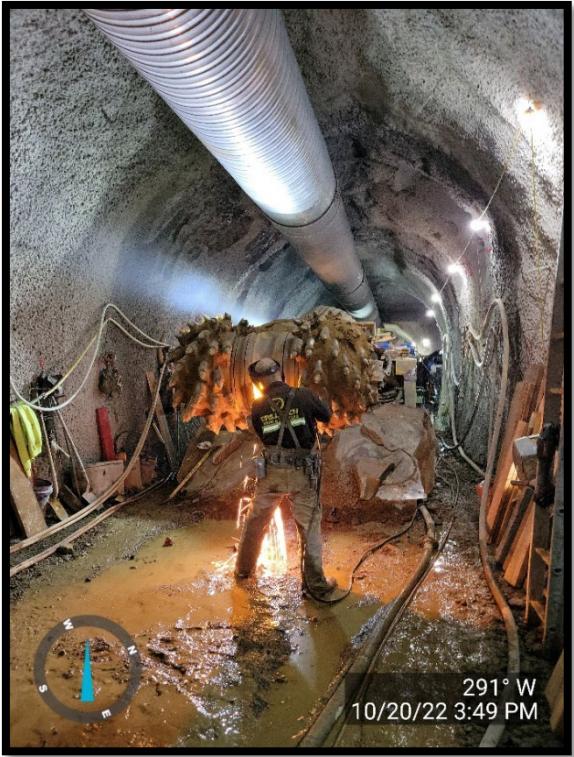
Phase 2A: Construction Cost ~\$51M

Construction began June 21, 2021 and was completed May 2024



Phase 2A

High flow bypass tunnel and box culverts Morgan Hill

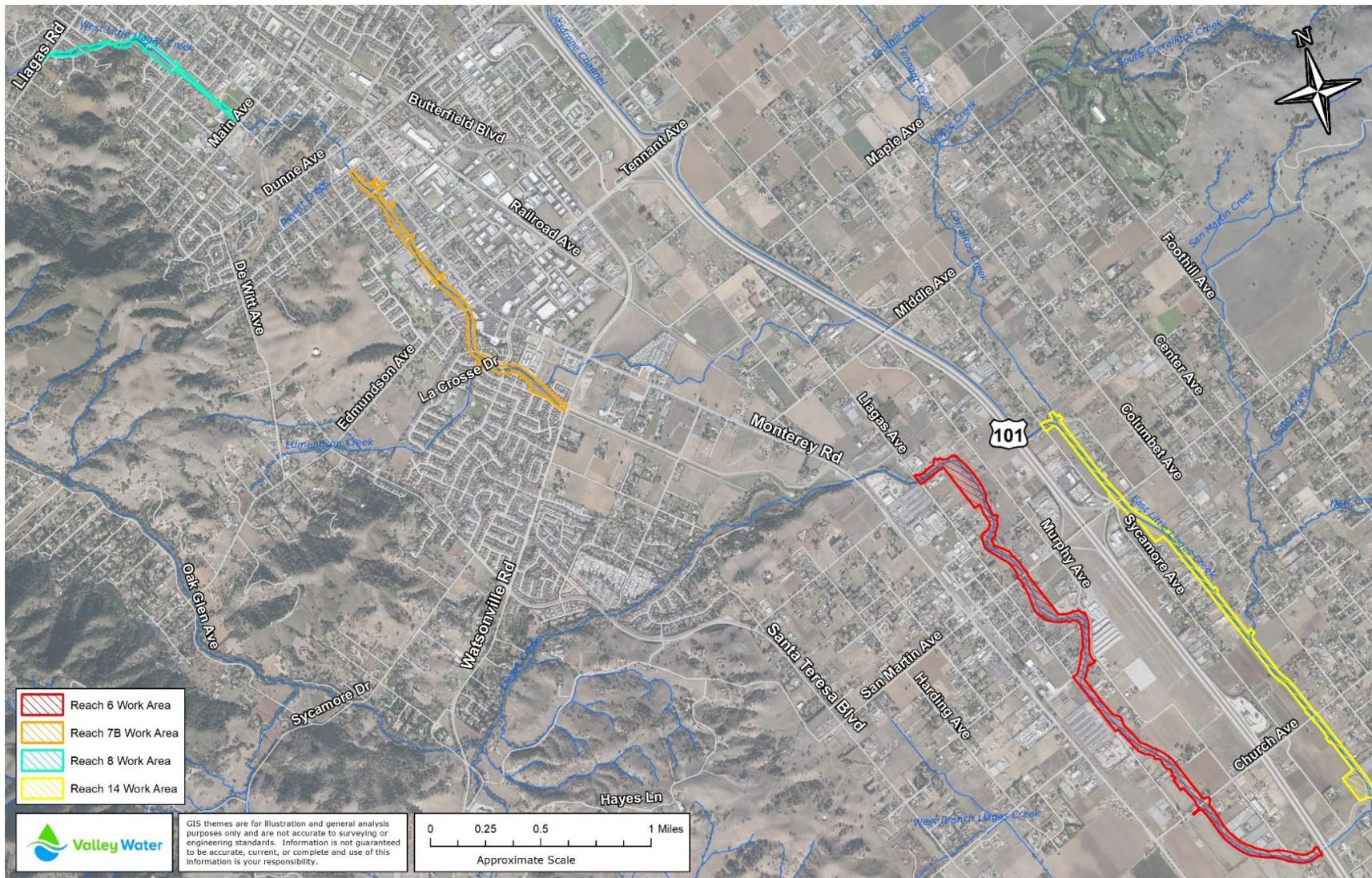


High flow
bypass tunnel
and box culvert
construction



Phase 2B: Contract Award ~\$129M

Construction began September 9, 2024 with a March 2027 construction end date followed by a 3-year native vegetation establishment period.

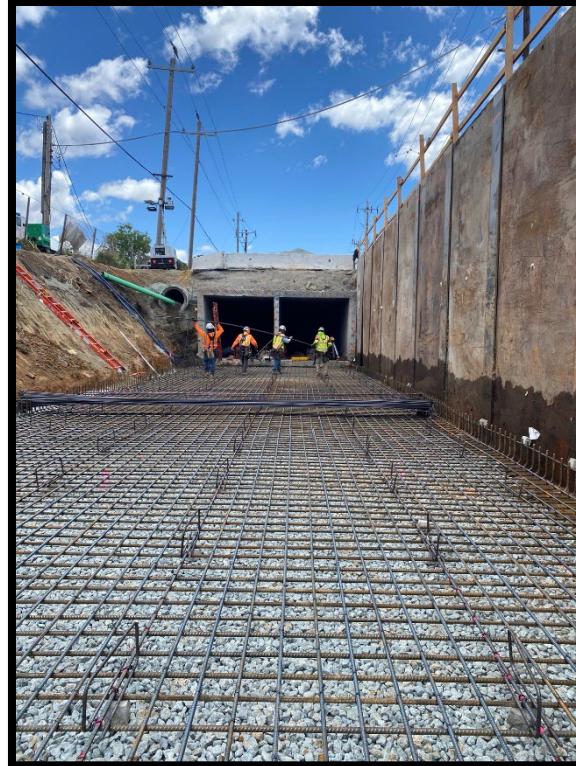


Phase 2B

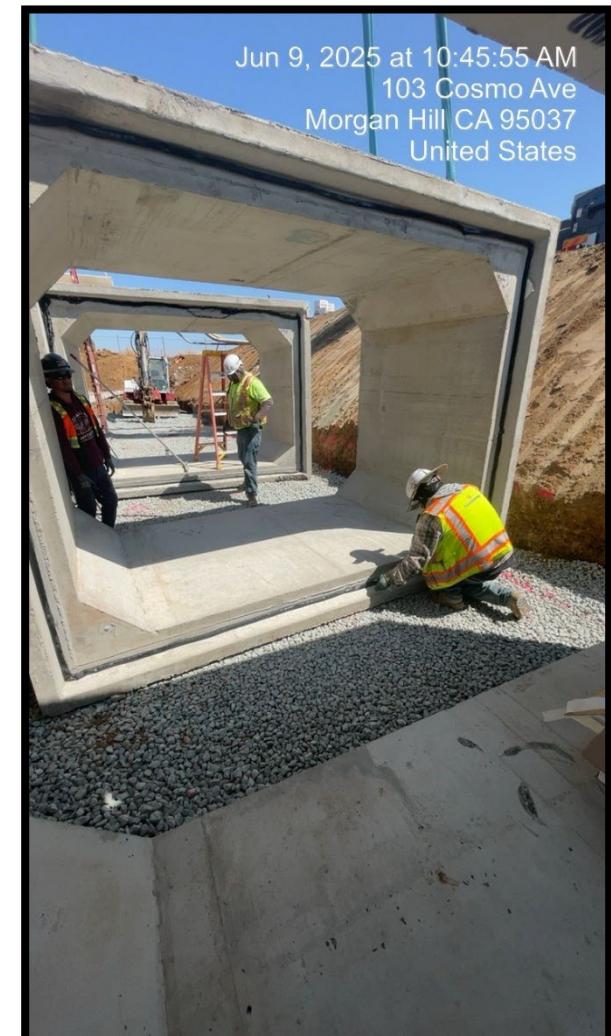
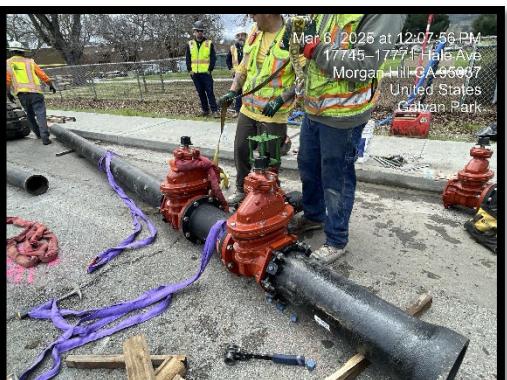
Underground and utility work



Utility Relocations



Inlet Weir Structure and Double Box Culvert



Storm Drain Improvements

Phase 2B

Channel Improvements



Channel
excavation



Invasive Species Removal



Planting
Preparation

Phase 2B

Reach 6 Drone Footage October 2025



Compensatory Mitigation

Lake Silveira August 2019



Lake Silveira

On-site Compensatory Mitigation



October 2023



August 2025

Phase 1

Construction of a 5.1-acre vegetated bench



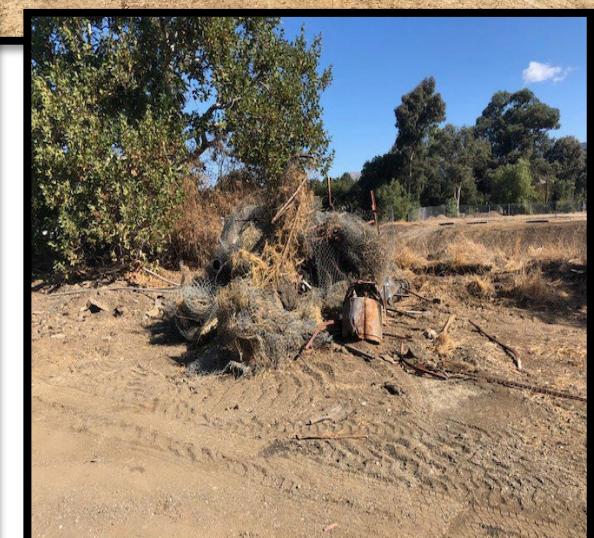
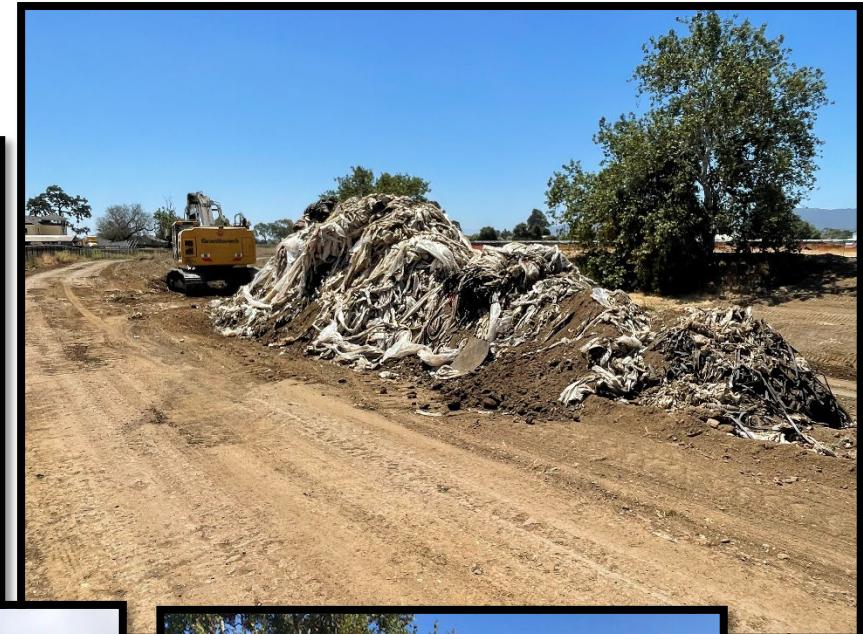
Former Nature Quality
vegetable washing ponds,
San Martin



A 5.1-acre Sycamore
Woodland bench

Other Community Benefits

Trash and Debris collected in Llagas Creek



Riparian and Wetland Mitigation

Environmental and Community benefits

- ❖ Phase 1 – 54.97 acres of riparian mitigation
- ❖ Phase 2B – 60+ acres of riparian mitigation
- ❖ Lake Silveira includes 1.93 acres of wetland vegetation
- ❖ Phase 1 – Removed 13 acres of invasive blackberry
- ❖ Phase 2B – Removed 4.5+ acres of invasive Arundo Donax (Giant Reed)
- ❖ Constructed habitat for migratory birds, western pond turtles, native fish (Central Coast Steelhead), nesting birds, and more
- ❖ Robust monitoring program for mitigation plantings, habitat features, water quality, channel morphology, and native fish



QUESTIONS?





Valley Water

Clean Water • Healthy Environment • Flood Protection

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Santa Clara Valley Water District

File No.: 25-0982

Agenda Date: 1/5/2026

Item No.: 4.5.

COMMITTEE AGENDA MEMORANDUM **Agricultural Water Advisory Committee**

Government Code § 84308 Applies: Yes No
(If "YES" Complete Attachment A - Gov. Code § 84308)

SUBJECT:

Review and Discuss Resolution 17-75 Regarding the Agricultural Water Advisory Committee Membership and Provide Feedback or Recommendations to the Board.

RECOMMENDATION:

Review and discuss Resolution 17-75 (PROVIDING FOR AND DEFINING THE STRUCTURE AND FUNCTION OF ADVISORY COMMITTEES TO THE SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND REPEALING RESOLUTION 15-28) as to its provisions regarding the membership of the Agricultural Water Advisory Committee (AWAC) and provide feedback or recommendations to the Board.

SUMMARY:

BACKGROUND:

Governance Process Policy-8:

The District Act provides for the creation of advisory boards, committees, or commissions by resolution to serve at the pleasure of the Board.

Accordingly, the Board has established Advisory Committees, which bring respective expertise and community interest, to advise the Board, when requested, in a capacity as defined: prepare Board policy alternatives and provide comment on activities in the implementation of the District's mission for Board consideration. In keeping with the Board's broader focus, Advisory Committees will not direct the implementation of District programs and projects, other than to receive information and provide comment.

Further, in accordance with Governance Process Policy-3, when requested by the Board, the Advisory Committees may help the Board produce the link between the District and the public through information sharing to the communities they represent.

Recently, members of the AWAC have requested that the membership requirements of the AWAC,

set forth in Resolution 17-75, be revisited, and possibly changed or updated.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE IMPACT:

The review of Resolution 17-75 and the AWAC Membership is not subject to environmental justice analysis.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment 1: Resolution 17-75

UNCLASSIFIED MANAGER:

Wendy Ho, 408-630-3874

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER
DISTRICT

RESOLUTION 17- 75

PROVIDING FOR AND DEFINING THE STRUCTURE AND FUNCTION OF
ADVISORY COMMITTEES TO THE SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND REPEALING RESOLUTION 15-28

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Directors of the Santa Clara Valley Water District as follows:

There have been established as advisory to the Santa Clara Valley Water District (District) Board of Directors (Board), in accordance with the District Act, the following committees (hereafter "Committees"), which shall continue in accordance with the provisions of this resolution:

1. Agricultural Water Advisory Committee (established by the District Act, which states " . . . The Board shall create an advisory committee consisting of farmers to represent users of agricultural water.");
2. Environmental and Water Resources Committee;
3. Santa Clara Valley Water Commission; and
4. Santa Clara Valley Water District Youth Commission.

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 This resolution sets forth the purpose, activities, and membership guidelines of the Committees.
- 1.2 The Committees are established to assist the Board with policy review and development, provide comment on activities in the implementation of the District's mission for Board consideration, and to identify Board-related issues pertaining to the following:
 - 1.2.1 **Agricultural Water Advisory Committee:** agricultural water supply and use and groundwater production charges.
 - 1.2.2 **Environmental and Water Resources Committee:** water supply, flood protection, and environmental stewardship.
 - 1.2.3 **Santa Clara Valley Water Commission:** water supply, flood protection, and environmental stewardship.
 - 1.2.4 **Santa Clara Valley Water District Youth Commission:** public policy, education, outreach, and all matters impacting the Santa Clara County youth and the water district.

- 1.3 In accordance with Governance Process Policy-8, the specific duties of the Committees are to:
 - 1.3.1 Provide input on policy alternatives for Board deliberation.
 - 1.3.2 Provide comment on the activities in the implementation of the District's mission for Board consideration.
 - 1.3.3 Produce and present to the Board an Annual Accomplishments Report summarizing the outcomes of the Committee's annual Board-approved work plan.
 - 1.3.4 Further, in accordance with Governance Process Policy-3, when requested by the Board, the Advisory Committees may help the Board produce the link between the District and the public through information sharing to the communities they represent.
- 1.4 In carrying out these duties, the Committee members bring to the District their respective expertise and the interests of the communities they represent.

2. MEMBERSHIP

- 2.1 Committee membership shall consist of the following:

Agricultural Water Advisory Committee

- 2.1.1 The Agricultural Water Advisory Committee shall be comprised of 16 members who are farmers and reside or do business, as determined by the Board, within Santa Clara County.
- 2.1.2 The Agricultural Water Advisory Committee shall also be comprised of one member who owns a private well (non-retail) within Santa Clara County.
- 2.1.3 Each Director may nominate up to two farmers who reside and/or farm within the nominating Director's district. In the event that a Director is unable to nominate a farmer from his/her district, the Director may nominate a farmer from anywhere within Santa Clara County.
- 2.1.4 The Loma Prieta Resource Conservation District and the Santa Clara County Farm Bureau may each nominate one representative for appointment as long as the nominee is a farmer who resides or does business, as determined by the Board, within Santa Clara County.
- 2.1.5 The Agricultural Water Advisory Committee does not have alternate members.

Environmental and Water Resources Committee

- 2.1.6 Effective July 1, 2015, the Environmental and Water Resources Committee shall be comprised of 21 At-Large members, who reside or do business, as determined by the Board, within Santa Clara County.
- 2.1.7 Effective July 1, 2015, each Director may nominate up to three at-large members.

Santa Clara Valley Water Commission

- 2.1.8 The Santa Clara Valley Water Commission shall be comprised of 18 elected representatives: one from each City and Town in Santa Clara County, the County of Santa Clara, the Santa Clara County Open Space Authority, and the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District. Each elected representative may have at least one alternate who may be another elected official or staff person from the same jurisdiction.
- 2.1.9 All municipal representatives and alternates to the Santa Clara Valley Water Commission shall be appointed by their perspective agency.

Santa Clara Valley Water District Youth Commission

- 2.1.10 The Santa Clara Valley Water District Youth Commission shall be comprised of 21 Board-appointed members who reside and attend high school in Santa Clara County.
- 2.1.11 Each Director may nominate up to three at-large members of the Santa Clara Valley Water District Youth Commission.
- 2.2 Members and alternates (where applicable) of the Agricultural Water Advisory Committee, Environmental and Water Resources Committee, and Santa Clara Valley Water Commission serve a two-year renewable term that begins upon appointment, or January 1 if a renewed appointment, and expires on December 31 of the year following appointment. Term of office for Committee members and alternates who are appointed mid-year shall begin upon appointment and run through December 31 of the year following appointment.
- 2.3 Members of the Santa Clara Valley Water District Youth Commission serve a two-year renewable term that begins upon appointment, or September 1 if a renewed appointment, and expires on August 31 of the year following appointment. Term of office for Committee members and alternates who are appointed mid-term shall begin upon appointment and run through August 31 of the year following appointment.
- 2.4 Board appointed Committee members shall be held over until they are reappointed or successors are appointed by the Board.
- 2.5 Municipal appointed Committee members shall be held over until they are reappointed or successors are appointed by the County of Santa Clara and each City and Town therein.

- 2.6 Board member nominee appointments to Committees shall be subject to a majority vote of a quorum of the Board.
- 2.7 Following two or more consecutive unexcused absences, the Board may choose to remove a Board appointee. An unexcused absence is defined as failure to notify the District at least 48 hours in advance that the member will not attend the meeting.
- 2.8 Nothing in this resolution affects the eligibility of any current member of any Committee to serve out his or her current term, as long as the member continues to meet the eligibility criteria in effect when he or she was appointed to the Committee.

3. **OFFICERS AND DUTIES**

- 3.1 The officers of each Committee shall be a Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson, both of whom shall be members of that Committee. The Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson shall be elected by the Committee.
- 3.2 The term of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the Agricultural Water Advisory Committee, Environmental and Water Resources Committee, and Santa Clara Valley Water Commission is one year commencing on January 1 and ending on December 31 and for no more than two consecutive terms. The Agricultural Water Advisory Committee, Environmental and Water Resources Committee, and Santa Clara Valley Water Commission shall elect their officers at the first meeting of the calendar year. All officers shall hold over in their respective offices after their term of office has expired until their successors have been elected and have assumed office.
- 3.3 The term of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson for the Santa Clara Valley Water District Youth Commission shall commence on September 1 and end on August 31 of the following year. However, the term of the first Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the Santa Clara Valley Water District Youth Commission will commence at the Santa Clara Valley Water District Youth Commission's first meeting and end on August 31 of the following year.
- 3.4 The Chairperson of each Committee shall have the following authority and duties:
 - (a) Preside at all meetings of the Committee;
 - (b) Facilitate productive meetings in accordance with posted Agenda and the Ralph M. Brown Act (open meeting law);
 - (c) Add items to the committee agenda;
 - (d) Invite speakers for any agendized item;
 - (e) Manage speaker time limits;

- (f) Facilitate communication of committee comments, requests, and recommendations to the Board of Directors;
- (g) Report to the committee on decisions of the Board of Directors which impact the committee's activities; and
- (h) Perform other such duties as the Committee may prescribe consistent with the purpose of the Committee.

3.5 The Vice-Chairperson shall perform the duties of the Chairperson in the absence or incapacity of the Chairperson. In case of the unexpected vacancy of the Chairperson, the Vice-Chairperson shall perform such duties as are imposed upon the Chairperson until such time as a new Chairperson is elected by the Committee.

3.6 Should the office of Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson become vacant during the term of such office, the Committee shall elect a successor from its membership at the earliest meeting at which such election would be practicable and such election shall be for the unexpired term of such office.

3.7 Should the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson know in advance that they will both be absent from a meeting, the Chair may appoint a Chairperson Pro-tempore to preside over that meeting. In the event of an unanticipated absence of both the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson, the Committee may elect a Chairperson Pro-tempore to preside over the meeting in their absence.

4. MEETINGS

- 4.1 Meetings of the Committees shall be open and public and called in accordance with the Ralph M. Brown Act, Government Code Sections 54950 and following. Such meetings shall be held at the District Headquarters or such other place and time within Santa Clara County as the Board may designate.
- 4.2 Special meetings may be called by the Board and conducted in accordance with Section 54956 of the Government Code.
- 4.3 Committees shall convene four times per year or more often, as authorized by the Board, except for the Agricultural Water Advisory Committee, which shall convene at least once a year, or more often, as authorized by the Board.
- 4.4 The Board approves and sets all Committee annual work plans and meeting agendas. Committee meeting agendas will be considered pre-approved by the Board once it has approved each of the annual Advisory Committee work plans. Modifications to meeting agendas will be considered by the Board, or Board Chair, as needed, through a review of the pre-approved work plans when it receives and considers Committee policy recommendations, comments, and requests, staff recommended modifications, and requests by members of the public. The Board may also initiate modifications to pre-approved work plans at any time.

- 4.5 Notices of each meeting, together with an agenda, the draft minutes of the preceding meeting, and supporting meeting materials, shall be provided to the Committee members no less than ten business days in advance.
- 4.6 Any Committee meeting in which all items on the Agenda are informational, excluding the approval of meeting minutes, will be cancelled and notification sent from the Clerk of the Board at least ten days prior to the scheduled meeting date.
- 4.7 A majority of the appointed members of the Committee or their alternates is required to constitute a quorum for the purposes of conducting its business and exercising its powers and for all other purposes. If the Clerk of the Board, or his/her designated representative (Clerk), has been notified at least two business days in advance of a scheduled meeting that a quorum will not be present, the Clerk will cancel the meeting and notice the membership of the cancellation.
- 4.8 In the event that a Committee meeting is cancelled due to the lack of a quorum, upon concurrence of the Committee Chair and the Board Representative, the Committee meeting may be re-scheduled or re-convened to a specified date, time, and place.
- 4.9 In the event a quorum of the Committee is not present at the scheduled start time of the meeting, or is lost during the meeting, at the discretion of the Chair of each Advisory Committee, individual Committee members present in the room may proceed to hear informational agenda items, including any staff reports. No action shall be taken on any agenda item when a quorum does not exist. No official record of statements made by individual Committee members, staff, or members of the public will be created. However, if a quorum is achieved at any time, action items may be heard, discussed, and voted upon.
- 4.10 Except for such actions to adjourn, action of the Committee may be taken only upon the affirmative vote of not less than a majority of the appointed members or their alternates present. The voting on all matters shall be by voice vote unless a roll call vote is called for by any member of the Committee. Only appointed Committee members or appointed alternates (who are sitting in an appointed member's stead) may vote on a matter.
- 4.11 Discussion on any agenda item by either Committee members or by any member of the general public may be limited, at the discretion of the Chairperson, to such length of time as the Chairperson may deem reasonable under the circumstances.
- 4.12 The Committee may adjourn any regular or special meeting to a time and place specified in the order of adjournment.

5. **SUB-COMMITTEES**

- 5.1 Subcommittees of Board Advisory Committees will not be recognized. However, less than a quorum of Committee members may meet informally outside of meetings in accordance with Ralph M. Brown Act requirements.

**PROVIDING FOR AND DEFINING THE STRUCTURE AND FUNCTION OF
ADVISORY COMMITTEES TO THE SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND REPEALING RESOLUTION 15-28**

RESOLUTION 17- 75

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Resolution No. 15-28 is hereby repealed.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Directors of Santa Clara Valley Water District by the following vote on

AYES: Directors T. Estremera, R. Santos, N. Hsueh, G. Kremen,
L. LeZotte, J. Varela

NOES: Directors None

ABSENT: Directors B. Keegan

ABSTAIN: Directors None

SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT


JOHN L. VARELA

Chair/Board of Directors

ATTEST: MICHELE L. KING, CMC



Clerk/Board of Directors

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Santa Clara Valley Water District

File No.: 25-0984

Agenda Date: 1/5/2026
Item No.: 4.6.

COMMITTEE AGENDA MEMORANDUM Agricultural Water Advisory Committee

Government Code § 84308 Applies: Yes No
(If "YES" Complete Attachment A - Gov. Code § 84308)

SUBJECT:

Review and Approve the Proposed 2026 Agricultural Water Advisory Committee (AWAC) Work Plan, the Outcomes of Board Action of Committee Requests, the Committee's Next Meeting Agenda; and Recommend the Proposed 2026 AWAC Work Plan to the Board.

RECOMMENDATION:

Review and approve the Committee work plan to guide the committee's discussions regarding policy alternatives and implications for Board deliberation; and recommend the proposed 2026 AWAC Work Plan to the Board.

SUMMARY:

The attached Work Plan outlines the topics for discussion to be able to prepare policy alternatives and implications for Board deliberation. The work plan is agendized at each meeting as accomplishments are updated and to review any work plan assignments by the Board.

BACKGROUND:

Governance Process Policy-8:

The District Act provides for the creation of advisory boards, committees, or commissions by resolution to serve at the pleasure of the Board.

Accordingly, the Board has established Advisory Committees, which bring respective expertise and community interest, to advise the Board, when requested, in a capacity as defined: prepare Board policy alternatives and provide comment on activities in the implementation of the District's mission for Board consideration. In keeping with the Board's broader focus, Advisory Committees will not direct the implementation of District programs and projects, other than to receive information and provide comment.

Further, in accordance with Governance Process Policy-3, when requested by the Board, the

Advisory Committees may help the Board produce the link between the District and the public through information sharing to the communities they represent.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE IMPACT:

The review and approval of the Committee Work Plan is not subject to environmental justice analysis.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment 1: AWAC 2026 Work Plan

UNCLASSIFIED MANAGER:

Wendy Ho, 408-630-3874

2026 Work Plan: Agricultural Water Advisory Committee

Update: December 2025

The annual work plan establishes a framework for committee discussion and action during the annual meeting schedule. The committee work plan is a dynamic document, subject to change as external and internal issues impacting the District occur and are recommended for committee discussion. Subsequently, an annual committee accomplishments report is developed based on the work plan and presented to the District Board of Directors.

ITEM	WORK PLAN ITEM BOARD POLICY	MEETING DATE	INTENDED OUTCOME(S) (Action or Information Only)	ACCOMPLISHMENT DATE AND OUTCOME
1	Election of Chair and Vice Chair for 2026.	January 5	Committee Elects Chair and Vice Chair for 2026. (Action)	
2	Annual Accomplishments Report.	January 5	Review and approve 2025 Accomplishments Report for presentation to the Board. (Action) Submit requests to the Board, as appropriate.	
3	Review and Discuss Resolution 17-75 and the Agricultural Water Advisory Committee (AWAC) Membership.	January 5	Review and discuss Reso. 17-75 and the AWAC Membership plan. (Action) Submit requests to the Board, as appropriate.	
4	Receive an Update on the Upper Llagas Flood Protection Project.	January 5	Receive update.	

Yellow = Update Since Last Meeting

Blue = Action taken by the Board of Directors

2026 Work Plan: Agricultural Water Advisory Committee

Update: December 2025

ITEM	WORK PLAN ITEM BOARD POLICY	MEETING DATE	INTENDED OUTCOME(S) (Action or Information Only)	ACCOMPLISHMENT DATE AND OUTCOME
5	Review and Comment to the Board on the Fiscal Year 2026 – 2027 Preliminary Groundwater Production Charges.	January 5 April 6	Review and comment to the Board on the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Preliminary Groundwater Production Charges. (Action) Submit requests to the Board, as appropriate.	
6	Standing Items Report Fiscal Year 2026 Goals and Strategies.	January 5 October 5	Receive reports on standing items, FY2026.	
7	Government Affairs Report	January 5 April 6 July 6 October 5	Receive update.	
8	Review and Approve the Proposed 2026 Agricultural Water Advisory Committee (AWAC) Work Plan and Recommend the Proposed 2026 AWAC Work Plan to the Board. Review and Discuss Outcomes of Board Action of Committee Requests, and the Committee's Next Meeting Agenda.	January 5 April 6 July 6 October 5	Review and approve the proposed 2026 Committee work plan and recommend the proposed 2026 AWAC Work Plan to the Board. (Action) Review and discuss outcomes of Board action of Committee requests, and the Committee's next agenda. And submit requests to the Board, as appropriate.	
9	Receive Update on Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) Compliance.	April 6 July 6 October 5	Receive update on SGMA compliance and Semitropic banking.	

Yellow = Update Since Last Meeting

Blue = Action taken by the Board of Directors

2026 Work Plan: Agricultural Water Advisory Committee

Update: December 2025

ITEM	WORK PLAN ITEM BOARD POLICY	MEETING DATE	INTENDED OUTCOME(S) (Action or Information Only)	ACCOMPLISHMENT DATE AND OUTCOME
10	Receive an Update on Valley Water's South County Managed Aquifer Recharge Activities.	April 6	Receive update on Valley Water's South County managed aquifer recharge activities.	
11	Receive Update on West Valley and Lower Peninsula Watershed Master Plans.	July 6	Receive update on West Valley and Lower Peninsula Watershed Master Plans.	
12	Receive Update on One Water Plan Upper Pajaro Watershed Plan Priority Actions.	July 6	Receive information about development of the One Water Upper Pajaro Watershed Plan. Review and provide input on One Water Upper Pajaro Watershed Plan Priority Actions.	
13	Receive Update on Valley Water's Water Supply Master Plan (WSMP) Monitoring and Assessment Program.	October 5	Receive update on Valley Water's WSMP Monitoring and Assessment Program.	
14	Receive Update on Semitropic Groundwater Storage Bank.	October 5	Receive update on Semitropic Groundwater Storage Bank.	

Yellow = Update Since Last Meeting

Blue = Action taken by the Board of Directors

BOARD WORK PLAN GOALS:

1. **Integrated Water Resources Management** - Goal: Efficiently manage water resources across business areas.
2. **Water Supply** – Goal: Provide a reliable, safe, and affordable water supply for current and future generations in all communities served.
3. **Natural Flood Protection** – Goal: Provide natural flood protection to reduce risk and improve health and safety.
4. **Environmental Stewardship** – Goal: Sustain ecosystem health while managing local water resources for flood protection and water supply.
5. **Addressing Encampment of Unsheltered People** – Goal: safeguard water resources and facilities from encampment impacts.
6. **Extreme Weather Events** – Goal: Mitigate carbon emissions and adapt Valley Water operations to extreme weather events.
7. **Business Management** – Goal: Promote effective management of water supply, flood protection, and environmental stewardship through responsive and socially responsible business services.

Yellow = Update Since Last Meeting

Blue = Action taken by the Board of Directors

2026 Work Plan: Agricultural Water Advisory Committee

Update: December 2025

ITEM	WORK PLAN ITEM BOARD POLICY	MEETING DATE	INTENDED OUTCOME(S) (Action or Information Only)	ACCOMPLISHMENT DATE AND OUTCOME
Tentative Work Plan Items Below				
	Receive Information on the Annual Report Regarding the Flood Control Benefit Assessments for Fiscal Year (FY) 2025-2026.	July 6	Receive information on the annual report regarding the Flood Control Benefit Assessments for FY 2025-2026.	
	Receive an update of Valley Water's activities of the Unhoused and information on how enforcement of violations of companies are handled within the County.	TBD	Receive an update of Valley Water's activities of the Unhoused and information on how the enforcement of violations of companies are handled within the County. Board is requesting the committee give more detailed information on this item for the Board's consideration.	
	Review Climate Change and the benefits of ecosystems on Agriculture in Santa Clara County. *Receive information on the County of Santa Clara's Agricultural Outreach and Awareness Campaign.	TBD	Discuss how climate change impacts the benefits of ecosystems on agriculture within Santa Clara County.	
	Receive Information on the Impact to the Agricultural Groundwater Production Charge Projection from the Suspension of the Pacheco Reservoir Expansion Project.	TBD	Receive on the impact to the Agricultural Groundwater Production Charge Projection from the suspension of the Pacheco Reservoir Expansion Project.	

Yellow = Update Since Last Meeting

Blue = Action taken by the Board of Directors

10062025 Committee Update Requests:

- Semitropic Groundwater Storage Bank
- Groundwater levels
- Desalination
- Onsite water recycling at new developments

Yellow = Update Since Last Meeting

Blue = Action taken by the Board of Directors



Santa Clara Valley Water District

File No.: 25-0983

Agenda Date: 1/5/2026

Item No.: 5.1.

COMMITTEE AGENDA MEMORANDUM Agricultural Water Advisory Committee

Government Code § 84308 Applies: Yes No
(If "YES" Complete Attachment A - Gov. Code § 84308)

SUBJECT:
Standing Items Report.

RECOMMENDATION:
Standing Items Report

This item allows the Agricultural Water Advisory Committee to receive verbal or written updates and discuss the Board's Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Work Plan Strategies. These items are generally informational; however, the Committee may request additional information and/or provide collective input to the assigned Board Committee.

SUMMARY:
The Agricultural Water Advisory Committee was established to assist the Board with policy review and development, provide comment on activities in the implementation of Valley Water's mission, and to identify Board-related issues.

On January 2022, the Board of Directors approved aligning the Board Advisory Committees' agendas and work plans with the Board's yearly work plan.

The new agenda format will allow regular reports on the Board's priorities from the Board's committees and/or Board committee representative and identify subjects where the committees could provide advice to the Board on pre-identified subjects in a timely manner to meet the Board's schedule and distribute information/reports that may be of interest to committee members.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE IMPACT:
The Standing Items Report is not subject to environmental justice analysis.

ATTACHMENTS:
Attachment 1: Board Work Plan Standing Items Report
Attachment 2: FY26 Board Work Plan

UNCLASSIFIED MANAGER:
Wendy Ho, 408-630-3874

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FY2025-2026 BOARD WORK PLAN – STANDING ITEMS REPORT

July-December 2025

INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT GOAL: Efficiently manage water resources across business areas.	
Objective 1:	Protect and maintain existing assets and infrastructure and advance new projects.
Updates:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On August 29, 2025, Valley Water's Board of Directors held a Special Workshop focused on its Capital Improvement Program. The goal of the workshop was to engage in constructive dialogue on the current challenges in executing Valley Water's Capital Improvement Program, identify these challenges, their impacts, any financial gaps, and possible strategies related to each of Valley Water's three primary revenue funding sources. In October 2025 Valley Water started work on a project to inspect and repair the West Pipeline, one of the key parts of our water delivery network. Built in 1966, the West Pipeline carries treated drinking water from the Rinconada Water Treatment Plant in Los Gatos to local water retailers serving communities in Campbell, Cupertino, Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, Los Gatos, Mountain View, Santa Clara, Saratoga, Sunnyvale, and West San Jose. Crews will repair 25 sections along 2.8 miles of the West Pipeline, from More Avenue in Los Gatos to Cox Avenue in Saratoga. The work began in late October 2025 and will continue through April 2026. On November 12, 2025, staff presented to the Board updates to the process for prioritizing Capital Improvement Program projects to better align project prioritization with risk to public health and safety, strategic goals, and financial feasibility, ensuring that limited funding is directed toward the most critical and impactful projects. On December 9, 2025 the Board accepted the work as complete for the Santa Clara Conduit Inspection and Rehabilitation Project - Phase 2, as part of the 10-Year Pipeline Inspection and Rehabilitation Project. The Santa Clara Conduit (SCC) consists of approximately 22 linear miles of primarily 96-inch prestressed concrete cylinder pipe (PCCP). It conveys raw water from the Bifurcation structure near Casa De Fruta Parkway and Pacheco Pass Highway to the Coyote Pumping Plant in Morgan Hill. In the summer of 2025, Valley Water completed a major upgrade to the Coyote Percolation Dam located in San Jose on Coyote Creek. Valley Water replaced the old flashboard dam with a state-of-the-art inflatable bladder dam. This modern system provides greater control, allowing us to raise or lower the dam to adapt to changing creek conditions. This enables us to maintain recharge operations during low flows and safely pass higher volumes of water during storms. This project also included a revamped fish passage and construction of a new operations control building.
Objective 2:	Improve internal capacity to negotiate and acquire regulatory permits.
Updates:	

Objective 3:	Educate and engage the community, elected officials and interested parties on our management of water resources in Santa Clara County.
Updates:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On August 19, 2025, Valley Water held a joint meeting with the City of San Jose Mayor and Councilmembers. The meeting included updates and discussion on the Ourified Water Project, the Anderson Dam Seismic Retrofit Project and Coyote Creek Flood Protection Project and the Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program. In August 2025 Valley Water was recognized by the National Association of Flood & Stormwater Management Agencies (NAFSMA) for its efforts in promoting public awareness about flooding and emergency preparedness during the past winter season. Winning NAFSMA's second-place award for Excellence in Communications underscores Valley Water's commitment to ensuring that residents in high-risk flood areas know the potential dangers, have signed up for alerts, and can find locations to obtain free sandbags in emergencies. On September 23, 2025 the Board directed staff to send a letter to cities in Santa Clara County encouraging participation in water conservation programs and promoting water use efficiency, and specifically encouraging participation in the Model Water Efficient New Development Ordinance (MWENDO). On November 25, 2025, the Board adopted a Resolution recognizing the City of Santa Clara for being the first City to adopt Model Water Efficient New Development Ordinance (MWENDO) Measures. By adopting MWENDO measures through the City's Rules and Regulations, the City demonstrates a proactive approach to maximizing water efficiency, water conservation, and enhancing resilience to local challenges such as climate variability, drought, and potential growth in water demand.

WATER SUPPLY GOAL: Provide a reliable, safe, and affordable water supply for current and future generations in all communities served.	
Objective 1:	Explore and pursue diversified, sustainable and cost-effective water storage opportunities.
Updates:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On August 26, 2025, the Board of Directors voted to suspend development of the Pacheco Reservoir Expansion Project. The decision followed a staff update that identified several challenges, including rising costs, longer timelines for environmental reviews, uncertainty in regulations, and complex permitting processes.
Objective 2:	Secure existing water supplies and water supply infrastructure
Updates:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the summer of 2025, Valley Water completed a major upgrade to the Coyote Percolation Dam located in San Jose on Coyote Creek. Valley Water replaced the old flashboard dam with a state-of-the-art inflatable bladder dam. This modern system provides greater control, allowing us to raise or lower the dam to adapt to changing creek conditions. This enables us to maintain recharge operations during low flows and safely pass higher volumes of water during storms. This project also included a revamped fish passage and construction of a new operations control building. On November 12, 2025 the Board adopted the Water Supply Master Plan 2050 (WSMP). The WSMP is Valley Water's guiding document for long-term water supply investments to ensure water supply reliability for Santa Clara County. Updated approximately every five years, this long-range plan assesses projected future county-wide demands and evaluates and recommends water supply and infrastructure projects to meet those demands to achieve Valley Water's level of service goal through the planning horizon. The plan has been updated to address existing and emerging challenges, like climate change and changes in water demand and supply.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On December 9, 2025 the Board accepted the work as complete for the Santa Clara Conduit Inspection and Rehabilitation Project - Phase 2, as part of the 10-Year Pipeline Inspection and Rehabilitation Project. The Santa Clara Conduit (SCC) consists of approximately 22 linear miles of primarily 96-inch prestressed concrete cylinder pipe (PCCP). It conveys raw water from the Bifurcation structure near Casa De Fruta Parkway and Pacheco Pass Highway to the Coyote Pumping Plant in Morgan Hill. In October 2025 Valley Water started work on a project to inspect and repair the West Pipeline, one of the key parts of our water delivery network. Built in 1966, the West Pipeline carries treated drinking water from the Rinconada Water Treatment Plant in Los Gatos to local water retailers serving communities in Campbell, Cupertino, Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, Los Gatos, Mountain View, Santa Clara, Saratoga, Sunnyvale, and West San Jose. Crews will repair 25 sections along 2.8 miles of the West Pipeline, from More Avenue in Los Gatos to Cox Avenue in Saratoga. The work began in late October 2025 and will continue through April 2026.
Objective 3:	Lead purified water efforts with committed partners.
Updates:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On September 12, 2025, Valley Water hosted the National Water Research Institute (NWRI) Independent Advisory Panel for a workshop focused on the Pure Water Silicon Valley Project. Staff presented on purified water public outreach efforts and the plans and considerations for the future. In 2025, staff hosted 1,591 members of the public through 86 in-person tours of the Silicon Valley Advanced Water Purification Center. Since the Purification Center opened in 2014, staff have hosted 21,451 members of the public through 988 tours, including recurring in-person public and private group tours, VIP tours, special events, and virtual tours. Valley Water is the first agency to bottle purified water for outreach purposes under new regulations established in 2017, the second agency in California, and third in the nation to bottle purified water for outreach and demonstration purposes as part of its comprehensive education program. In 2025, staff distributed 11,064 bottles at Purification Center tours, Valley Water events, community events, and through industry partners. All the purified water bottles were distributed before they expired in October 2025, and staff distributed a total of nearly 16,000 bottles between 2024 and 2025 which has been a great success. Staff are in the process of producing additional purified water bottles for distribution in 2026.
Objective 4:	Complete the Anderson Dam Seismic Retrofit Project.
Updates:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On July 8, 2025, the Board Accept the Work as Complete for the Coyote Percolation Dam Replacement Project. The Coyote Percolation Dam Replacement Project (Project) is one of several Anderson Dam Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Order Compliance Projects (FOCP), which are a set of interim risk reduction measures required prior to the construction and operation of the Anderson Dam Seismic Retrofit Project. The objective of this Project is to minimize the adverse impacts of groundwater recharge and increased creek flow velocity on aquatic resources by replacing the existing steel flashboard dam with a rubber bladder dam. The Project entailed the construction of a new dam foundation and rubber dam, a new control building to house the rubber dam air blowers, constructed erosion protection, and fish passage improvements to the existing fish ladder and downstream dam section.

Objective 5:	Make water conservation a California way of life in Santa Clara County.
Updates:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On September 23, 2025 the Board directed staff to send a letter to cities in Santa Clara County encouraging participation in water conservation programs and promoting water use efficiency, and specifically encouraging participation in the Model Water Efficient New Development Ordinance (MWENDO). On November 25, 2025, the Board adopted a Resolution recognizing the City of Santa Clara for being the first City to adopt Model Water Efficient New Development Ordinance (MWENDO) Measures. By adopting MWENDO measures through the City's Rules and Regulations, the City demonstrates a proactive approach to maximizing water efficiency, water conservation, and enhancing resilience to local challenges such as climate variability, drought, and potential growth in water demand.

NATURAL FLOOD PROTECTION	
GOAL: Provide Natural Flood Protection to reduce risk and improve health and safety.	
Objective 1:	Protect people and property from flooding in all regions of the County by applying a comprehensive, integrated watershed management approach that balances environmental quality, environmental justice, sustainability, and cost.
Updates:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On September 18, 2025, Valley Water carefully relocated an 18,000-pound pedestrian bridge in Morgan Hill to make room for major flood protection improvements along West Little Llagas Creek, ensuring both safety and continued trail access for the community. On September 25, 2025 Valley Water in collaboration with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the California State Coastal Conservancy, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, marked the completion of Reaches 1 through 3 levees of the South San Francisco Bay Shoreline Phase I Project—a major milestone in the region's effort to protect vulnerable communities and critical infrastructure from coastal flooding and sea-level rise. The milestone marks the construction of two miles of engineered coastal flood protection levee north of State Route 237, between Alviso Marina County Park and Don Edwards Wildlife Refuge. Additionally, this initial phase lays the groundwork for restoring 3,000 acres of tidal wetlands, a vital ecological buffer and habitat for endangered species. On October 3, 2025 the Coyote Creek Flood Management Measures Project (CCFMMMP) was awarded the 2025 Outstanding Flood Management Project Award from the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) San Francisco Section. The award recognized the CCFMMMP for demonstrating excellence in its design and construction, specifically for its use of the hydraulic press-in method for the installation of sheet piles to lower construction noise and vibration to minimize impacts to local residents and businesses as well as staying on a tight schedule despite several setbacks. In October 2025, Valley Water completed its annual Stream Maintenance Program (SMP) work for 2025 throughout Santa Clara County. Under the SMP, work occurs annually to reduce the risk of flooding and fire, keep our creeks healthy, and improve the environment. As part of Valley Water's SMP work, crews have been trekking into streams to remove sediment build-up, manage vegetation, clear trash and debris, and stabilize banks eroded during high water flows. The SMP ensures streams with completed flood protection projects continue functioning and protecting homes, businesses, schools, and highways. On October 28, 2025, the Board received an update on the San Francisquito Creek Flood Protection Project from the San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority *(SFCJPA) and approved of a portion of Valley Water's Fiscal Year 2025-2026 annual member contribution to the SFCJPA operating budget for "Capital Expenditures".

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On October 30, 2025 Valley Water's Office of Emergency Services (OES) hosted its annual Winter Preparedness Workshop for external agencies that included the County of Santa Clara, City of San Jose, City of Palo Alto, City of Milpitas, City of Morgan Hill and many others. The purpose of the workshop is to inform agency partners of Valley Water preparedness efforts for the Winter season. On November 12, 2025, the Board received its annual Winter Preparedness Briefing which provides information regarding various measures Valley Water has taken to prepare for the Winter season including its flood awareness campaign and community outreach, emergency action planning and coordination with local agencies.
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ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP GOAL: Sustain ecosystem health while managing local water resources for flood protection and water supply.	
Objective 1:	Plan and design projects with multiple benefits, including protecting ecosystem functions, enhancing habitat, and improving connectivity in all regions of the County.
Updates:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the summer of 2025, Valley Water completed a major upgrade to the Coyote Percolation Dam located in San Jose on Coyote Creek. Valley Water replaced the old flashboard dam with a state-of-the-art inflatable bladder dam. This modern system provides greater control, allowing us to raise or lower the dam to adapt to changing creek conditions. This enables us to maintain recharge operations during low flows and safely pass higher volumes of water during storms. This project also included a revamped fish passage and construction of a new operations control building. On September 18, 2025, Valley Water carefully relocated an 18,000-pound pedestrian bridge in Morgan Hill to make room for major flood protection improvements along West Little Llagas Creek, ensuring both safety and continued trail access for the community. On September 25, 2025 Valley Water in collaboration with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the California State Coastal Conservancy, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, marked the completion of Reaches 1 through 3 levees of the South San Francisco Bay Shoreline Phase I Project—a major milestone in the region's effort to protect vulnerable communities and critical infrastructure from coastal flooding and sea-level rise. The milestone marks the construction of two miles of engineered coastal flood protection levee north of State Route 237, between Alviso Marina County Park and Don Edwards Wildlife Refuge. Additionally, this initial phase lays the groundwork for restoring 3,000 acres of tidal wetlands, a vital ecological buffer and habitat for endangered species. In November 2025, Valley Water partnered with Trout Unlimited to remove Pickell's Dam, once a century-old barrier on Little Arthur Creek that no longer served a purpose but continued to block steelhead migration and disrupt the creek's natural process. Located about a mile upstream from Uvas Creek, the barrier cut off more than three miles of spawning habitat for South-Central California Coast Steelhead, a species listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. Valley Water funded, permitted and provided biological support for the project, while Trout Unlimited, a national nonprofit with expertise in habitat restoration, managed design and implementation. The National Marine Fisheries Service, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band also played key roles in the effort.

Objective 2:	Protect creeks, bay, and other aquatic ecosystems from threats of pollution and degradation.
Updates:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On September 20, 2025 Valley Water joined forces with the Creek Connections Action Group to remove litter and debris from creeks across Santa Clara County. The effort reflects a shared commitment to protecting the environment, supporting healthy ecosystems and preventing trash from entering our waterways and ultimately, the San Francisco and Monterey bays. Local cleanups were part of the larger effort organized by the California Coastal Commission. This year's cleanups in Santa Clara County saw an incredible turnout: 1,911 volunteers, 56 cleanup sites, 76.15 miles of waterways cleaned, and approximately 30,885 pounds of trash and recyclables collected.
Objective 3:	Complete and implement the Fisheries and Aquatic Habitat Collaborative Effort (FAHCE) agreement.
Updates:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On November 18, 2025 Valley Water held a Stream Planning and Operations Committee (SPOC) Meeting and received an update from staff on FAHCE implementation activities that have occurred since the last regular SPOC meeting on August 20, 2024 including stakeholder and adaptive management meetings, the completion of the first Annual Monitoring Report, and the release of a public outreach video On September 11, 2025, Valley Water revised and redistributed to the Adaptive Management Team (AMT) a Draft Annual Report of the implementation of FAHCE-Plus flow measures at Lexington, Calero, Guadalupe, Almaden, and Stevens Creek reservoirs in accordance with the adaptive management framework outlined in the Fish Habitat Restoration Plan. On October 2, 2025, Valley Water received a first-place STAR Award from the California Association of Public Information Officials (CAPIO) for the video, "A Story of Resilience," showcasing the FAHCE program. The video highlights Valley Water's biologists as they monitor Central California Coast steelhead. The video shows the team collecting critical data on fish populations, using electrofishing and tagging to track juvenile steelhead as they migrate from local creeks through San Francisco Bay to the Pacific Ocean. The video has reached over 75,000 views on Valley Water's social media platforms.

ADDRESSING ENCAMPMENTS OF UNSHELTERED PEOPLE GOAL: Safeguard water resources and facilities from encampment impacts.	
Objective 1:	Protect waterways and facilities from encampment impacts while collaborating with community partners and supporting regional efforts to reduce homelessness.
Updates:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In November 2025, Valley Water worked in collaboration with City of Gilroy officials and law enforcement as well as local unhoused advocates to clear two large encampments in Gilroy that were impacting critical access to nearby creeks. Having safe access to waterways is important as Valley Water prepares for the winter storm season. Additionally, the safety of Valley Water staff who regularly work along County waterways remains a top priority for the agency.
Objective 2:	Protect the safety of Valley Water staff, residential neighbors, and unsheltered individuals by working independently and in partnership with law enforcement agencies.
Updates:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In November 2025, Valley Water worked in collaboration with City of Gilroy officials and law enforcement as well as local unhoused advocates to clear two large encampments in Gilroy that were impacting critical access to nearby creeks. Having safe access to waterways is important as Valley Water prepares for the winter storm season. Additionally, the safety of Valley Water staff who regularly work along County waterways remains a top priority for the agency.

EXTREME WEATHER EVENTS

GOAL: Mitigate carbon emissions and adapt Valley Water operations to extreme weather events.

Objective:	Address future impacts of extreme weather events to Valley Water's mission and operations.
Updates:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">On June 9, 2025, Valley Water's Board Policy and Monitoring Committee received an update on Valley Water's Draft Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan (GHGRP), including baseline emissions inventory, emissions forecast, emissions reduction measures for achieving carbon neutrality by 2045, and stakeholder input received on the Draft GHGRP.

BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

GOAL: Promote effective management of water supply, flood protection, and environmental stewardship through responsive and socially responsible business services.

Objective 1:	Maintain budgeted staffing levels and expertise, prioritize the safety of our staff, and build and sustain a collaborative working environment for all staff and partners while ensuring fair employment.
Updates:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">On December 10, 2025 Valley Water Human Resources staff gave a presentation to the Board Policy and Monitoring Committee on the agency's commitment and efforts to creating equitable hiring opportunities for U.S. military veterans, including implementing a Veteran Hiring Pledge, publishing a dedicated Valley Water Veteran career page, instituting a Veteran preference at the application stage, and targeted outreach to veterans groups.
Objective 2:	Provide affordable and cost-effective level of services.
Updates:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">On October 30, 2025, Valley Water hosted its Procurement "Meet the Primes" event in the Water Quality Lab parking lot. The two-hour event brought together more than 100 businesses, including prime consultants and contractors, sub-consultants, sub-contractors, and suppliers. The purpose of the event was to create a direct connection between small and diverse businesses and Valley Water staff, while also promoting collaboration among vendors. This initiative supports Valley Water's ongoing commitment to expanding access to contracting and to strengthening the vendor community that supports our projects and programs.On November 11, 2025 the Board received information from two consultants who together performed a study to validate or suggest refinements to Valley Water's current water use projections for Valley Water-managed water use, analyze water demand elasticity, and determine or address the affordability of water to residents and businesses within Santa Clara County. The study showed Valley Water's approach to projecting water use is consistent with peers and based on multiple affordability indicators, residential water bills are generally below threshold levels.On December 9, 2025 the Board approved the proposed audit topics and auditor assignments for the 2026 Annual Audit Plan, including the development of the 2026 Risk Assessment, evaluating Valley Water's infrastructure maintenance programs, conducting a Pacheco Reservoir Expansion Project closeout audit, and evaluating the investigations process.

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Valley Water

FY 2025-26

Board Work Plan

Chair's Message

At the Santa Clara Valley Water District, we are entrusted to deliver clean, safe water, protect our communities from flooding, and care for the environment that sustains Santa Clara County's two million residents and businesses.

As your elected representatives, our objective is to keep water rates as affordable as possible while supporting the economic vitality and quality of life that defines Silicon Valley. The Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Board Work Plan serves as our strategic roadmap for achieving these goals in the year ahead.

This year's work plan outlines key actions and milestones for several high-priority water supply and flood protection projects, including the Anderson Dam Seismic Retrofit Project, the South San Francisco Bay Shoreline Project, the Upper Llagas Creek Flood Protection Project, and the Coyote Creek Flood Protection Project. It also highlights our progress toward long-term investments in water reliability, most notably through the anticipated completion of the Water Supply Master Plan 2050, which will serve as a guiding framework for ensuring a resilient water supply for generations to come.

We also remain committed to addressing the complex challenge of encampments along our waterways. In partnership with local agencies and community partners, we are taking a coordinated approach that includes enforcing the Water Resources Protection Zone Ordinance, pursuing the development of interagency Memoranda of Agreement, and conducting large-scale trash cleanups on Valley Water lands.

While our primary role as a Board is to set policy, we are equally dedicated to overseeing the effective implementation of these efforts—ensuring that resources are allocated efficiently, responsibilities are clear, and all actions align with our Governance Policies.

It is an honor to serve as Board Chair this year. Together, we will continue building on our shared mission to provide safe, secure, and sustainable water resources for all who live and work in Santa Clara County.



Tony Estremera
Board Chair
Santa Clara Valley Water District



Valley Water

Founded in 1929, the Santa Clara Valley Water District (Valley Water) is the primary water resources agency for Santa Clara County, with key water supply, water quality, flood protection, and environmental stewardship responsibilities.

Valley Water Mission

Provide Silicon Valley safe, clean water for a healthy life, environment, and economy.

Values

1. Valley Water is entrusted to serve the public by carrying out its mission for the benefit of the community.
2. Valley Water is committed to providing excellent service to all customers.
3. All individuals are unique and important, and will be treated with fairness, dignity, and respect.
4. Valley Water takes pride in its work and is accountable to carry out its responsibilities safely with honesty and integrity.
5. Initiative, leadership, personal development, and training are vital for continuous improvement.
6. Open communication, cooperation, and teamwork are shared responsibilities and essential to the successful performance of Valley Water's work.
7. Valley Water is committed to creating an inclusive work environment, which reflects and supports the diversity of the community and enriches our perspectives.
8. Valley Water strives to support a work culture and workplace environment that attracts and retains superior employees empowered to make decisions about, and take responsibility for, how they do their jobs.
9. Valley Water is committed to its employees and supports market-based competitive compensation that is equitable and rewards accomplishment and encourages high performance.
10. Valley Water is committed to sustaining a healthy work-life balance for its employees and places a high value on all the things that provide enrichment and fulfillment, including work and career, health and fitness, family and relationships, spirituality, community service, hobbies and passions, intellectual stimulation, rest and recreation.

Board of Directors

The Santa Clara Valley Water District Board of Directors (Board) is comprised of seven members, each elected from equally-divided districts. Specific job outputs of the Board include connecting with the community in Santa Clara County, developing policies to further Valley Water's mission, and monitoring the performance of the organization.

The Board governs with an emphasis on outward vision, encouragement of diversity in viewpoints, strategic leadership more than administrative detail, and proactivity rather than reactivity.

The Board meets twice a month on the second and fourth Tuesday. All meetings are conducted in accordance with the Brown Act.



John L. Varela
District 1



Shiloh Ballard
District 2



Richard Santos
Vice Chair, District 3



Jim Beall
District 4



Nai Hsueh
District 5



Tony Estremera
Chair, District 6



Rebecca Eisenberg
District 7

Board Committees

The Board of Directors has established Board Committees and Board Advisory Committees to assist in performing its job. Committees meet regularly and are conducted in accordance with the Brown Act.

Board Committees:

- Board Audit Committee
- Board Policy and Monitoring Committee
- Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Committee
- Environmental Creek Cleanup Committee
- Joint Recycled Water Advisory Committee with the City of Sunnyvale
- Joint Recycled Water Policy Advisory Committee with the Cities of San Jose and Santa ClaraJoint Recycled Water Policy Committee with the Cities of Palo Alto, East Palo Alto, and Mountain View
- Joint Water Resources Committee with the Cities of Morgan Hill and Gilroy

- Recycled Water Committee
- San Felipe Division Reach One Committee
- Stream Planning and Operations Committee (SPOC)
- Water Supply and Demand Management Committee

Board Advisory Committees:

- Agricultural Water Advisory Committee
- Environmental and Water Resources Committee
- Santa Clara Valley Water Commission
- Santa Clara Valley Water District Youth Commission



Purpose of the Board Work Plan

The purpose of the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Board Work Plan is to inform the public, community and stakeholders about the Board's strategic focus and how it supports Valley Water's mission and long-term goals and objectives.

To perform its job, the Board adheres to established Board Governance Policies. Included in the Board Governance Policies are Ends Policies, which are long-term goals and objectives for each of Valley Water's core business areas (Water Supply, Natural Flood Protection, Water Resources Stewardship, and Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation).

Every year, the Board conducts planning sessions to evaluate their goals, objectives, challenges, and opportunities, and identifies the specific areas requiring tactical engagement for the upcoming fiscal year. The Board outlines their focus areas and process for monitoring progress in the Board Work Plan.

Throughout the year, the Board provides input, direction, and oversight on Valley Water's budget, Capital Improvement Program, and other program plans and master plans to ensure there is funding and support to accomplish Valley Water's mission. Strategy implementation is monitored by the Board through Executive Limitation requirements, staff-developed programs and plans, assigned Board Committee work, and Board Appointed Officer performance evaluations.



FY 2025-26 Board Work Plan Goals



Integrated Water Resources Management



Water Supply



Natural Flood Protection

GOAL:

Efficiently manage water resources across business areas.

GOAL:

Provide a reliable, safe, and affordable water supply for current and future generations in all communities served.

GOAL:

Provide natural flood protection to reduce risk and improve health and safety.



Environmental Stewardship

GOAL:

Sustain ecosystem health while managing local water resources for flood protection and water supply.



Addressing Encampments of Unsheltered People

GOAL:

Safeguard water resources and facilities from encampment impacts..



Extreme Weather Events

GOAL:

Mitigate carbon emissions and adapt Valley Water operations to extreme weather events.



Business Management

GOAL:

Promote effective management of water supply, flood protection, and environmental stewardship through responsive and socially responsible business services.



INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

GOAL: *Efficiently manage water resources across business areas.*

Objective 1	Protect and maintain existing assets and infrastructure and advance new projects.
Challenge/ Opportunity	The maintenance of Valley Water's infrastructure is crucial to ensuring we continue to provide safe, clean water and critical flood protection for our communities. Timely maintenance is the most cost-effective investment, whereas deferred maintenance disproportionately increases costs and may result in unplanned outages and failures. In addition, there is a list of assets that are reaching the end of their design life and will require significant recapitalization.
FY26 Tactics	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Finalize the Wildfire Risk Assessment and Modeling Framework Project to delineate wildfire risk profiles associated with Valley Water land rights and High-Value Resources and Assets and establish a primary decision-making tool for the identification and implementation of fuel load reduction projects.Advance high-priority infrastructure renewal projects identified through asset management planning efforts by initiating new Capital or Small Capital Projects, or by conducting work as part of ongoing operations and maintenance projects.Plan, manage, and expediently execute adopted Capital program and projects, and deliver through project completion.
Monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Board Policy and Monitoring CommitteeCapital Improvement Program Committee
Related Staff Plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Watershed Master PlansWatershed Asset Management PlanCountywide Water Reuse Master Plan (CoRe Plan)Water Supply Master PlanSafe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection ProgramWater Treatment Plant Master Plan Implementation ProjectDistribution System Master Plan Implementation ProjectSCADA Master Plan Implementation ProjectWater Utility Five-Year Operations and Maintenance and Asset Renewal PlansDistrict-wide Asset Management PlanSan Felipe Division Reach 1 FY24 Asset Condition ReportCapital Improvement Program (CIP) Five-Year Plan





Objective 2	Improve internal capability to negotiate and acquire regulatory permits.
Challenge/ Opportunity	Valley Water continues to face increased project costs and extended timelines due to sometimes conflicting regulatory mandates from external agencies. Valley Water continues to pursue legislative and administrative solutions to resolve regulatory and permitting issues at the federal and state levels. Efforts should focus on staff capability and expertise, and the ability to negotiate effectively and build positive relationships with key regulatory agencies.
FY26 Tactics	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Continue to pursue efforts at the state and federal level to expedite permit review.▪ Keep local, state, and federal legislators up to date on critical projects in case escalation is necessary.▪ Continue to foster relationships at all levels within regulatory agencies and maintain an open dialogue with environmental and other interested parties.▪ Seek regulatory and environmental community network support during the planning phase of CIP projects, during watershed master planning, and through direct coordination at environmental community network meetings.▪ Continue to work with the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) under the terms of our Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), as well as the State Water Resources Control Board as applicable, to ensure that they protect water supply and water quality interests consistent with their authority.
Monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Board Policy and Monitoring Committee▪ Capital Improvement Program Committee▪ Stream Planning and Operations Committee▪ Water Supply and Demand Management Committee
Related Staff Plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Watershed Master Plans▪ Capital Project Planning Studies (e.g. Ogier Ponds, San Tomas Calabazas Creek-Marsh Reconnection, Guadalupe Tasman – I-880, Shoreline Planning Studies)





Objective 3	Educate and engage the community, elected officials and interested parties on our management of water resources in Santa Clara County.
Challenge/ Opportunity	A reliable supply of clean water is necessary for the social, economic, and environmental wellbeing of Santa Clara County. Valley Water must effectively communicate with the public on our management of water resources around several key issues including: the cost of water, the public perception of costs of different types of water, how to effectively implement our water supply strategies into the future, as well as our flood protection and environmental stewardship efforts.
FY26 Tactics	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Continue to apply strategies for effective community/partner engagement and education.Continue increasing efforts to educate the public about the mix of different types of water in Valley Water's portfolio, as well as our flood protection and environmental stewardship efforts.Engage directly with local government jurisdictions through strategic meetings.Continue engagement with cities on flood plain management and emergency action plansDirectly involve the Valley Water Board of Directors, local area partners, retailers, and the public with the development of the Water Supply Master Plan 2050. Share the plan widely at the phase where project alternatives are considered, key issues such as the cost of water, reliability of our infrastructure, and strategies for implementing different improvement projects with varying levels of service will be explained through public meetings.Engage the community in water resources management through the Watershed Master Planning Process.Ensure robust outreach and engagement of interested parties as it relates to the CIP.Engage elected officials with an annual VIP Water Walk Tour, including but not limited to, a legislative briefing as part of the program..
Monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Board of DirectorsCapital Improvement Program CommitteeRecycled Water Committee
Related Staff Plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Water Supply Master PlanWatershed Master PlansCountywide Water Reuse Master PlanWater Treatment Plant Master PlanDistribution System Master Plan





WATER SUPPLY

GOAL: *Provide a reliable, safe, and affordable water supply for current and future generations in all communities served.*

Objective 1	Explore and pursue diversified, sustainable and cost-effective water storage opportunities.
Challenge/ Opportunity	Half of Santa Clara County's water supply is imported from outside the county. During years when water is plentiful, Valley Water may not be able to take advantage of these supplies due to limitations in existing storage and transmission infrastructure as well as regulatory constraints. Having a diverse portfolio of storage and supply options helps Valley Water be resilient. Therefore, Valley Water is evaluating whether diversifying its storage portfolio could help maximize our use of storage and stored water recovery under future conditions. Water storage in reservoirs also provides environmental, recreational, and incidental flood risk reduction benefits. Challenges include influencing project development to ensure important benefits are realized, determining the appropriate level of participation for Valley Water in collaborative water storage projects and prioritizing projects within funding constraints. In addition, Valley Water is evaluating water supply projects, such as direct potable reuse, regional/state projects, and water conservation.
FY26 Tactics	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Explore opportunities to develop new surface and groundwater storage projects that help Valley Water meet future water supply needs and provide resiliency to extreme weather events.Finalize the Water Supply Master Plan 2050 to provide information on participation levels, water supply benefits and costs of various portfolios to support water supply project and partnership decisions, as well as cost of water shortage.Identify and secure appropriate participation levels for projects and make decisions about partnerships informed by the Water Supply Master Plan 2050 and water affordability analyses.Evaluate Valley Water's continued participation in water storage projects at project-specific milestones and as part of the Water Supply Master Plan process, annual MAP updates, and bi-annual budget development.
Monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Water Supply and Demand Management CommitteeRecycled Water CommitteeCIP Committee
Related Staff Plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Water Supply Master PlanAnnual Monitoring and Assessment Program (MAP) Updates





WATER SUPPLY

Objective 2	Secure existing water supplies and water supply infrastructure
Challenge/ Opportunity	<p>The Water Supply Master Plan's "Ensure Sustainability" strategy includes securing existing water supplies and infrastructure. Valley Water's local and imported water supplies are vulnerable to extreme weather events, droughts, earthquakes, and regulatory requirements that may restrict the amount of available water.</p>
FY26 Tactics	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Participate in and influence decisions regarding the Delta Conveyance Project.Participate in regional water supply resilience efforts.Build and maintain effective partnerships to increase resiliency.Complete and implement infrastructure master plans and asset management plans.Partner with the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) to ensure reliability of the South Bay Aqueduct.Continue environmental planning & permitting process and advance the design of the Calero Dam Seismic Retrofit ProjectContinue environmental planning & permitting process and advance the design of the Guadalupe Dam Seismic Retrofit Project
Monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Water Supply and Demand Management Committee (Groundwater)CIP Committee (infrastructure projects)
Related Staff Plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Water Supply Master PlanGroundwater Management PlanInfrastructure and Asset Management Plans



WATER SUPPLY

Objective 3	Lead Purified Water Efforts with committed partners.
Challenge/ Opportunity	Recycled and purified water is a drought resilient, locally controlled water supply important to long-term sustainability. Purified water is advanced treated wastewater that has been treated further using reverse osmosis and other advanced treatment to make it fit for drinking. Valley Water is pursuing direct potable reuse which would use this purified water in the raw water supply or directly serve it to customers. Implementation challenges include securing wastewater supply contractual agreements with wastewater agencies, available land, stringent regulatory requirements, and implementation costs.
FY26 Tactics	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Continue developing Pure Water Silicon Valley, including initiating design for a demonstration facility, validation of a full-scale facility as a validated CIP project, and completion of a project charter and exclusive negotiation agreement for land for the full-scale facility by FY26.Implement the Countywide Water Reuse Master Plan.Develop a Comprehensive Water Reuse Agreement or amend the existing agreements for South County to advance water reuse and its production, distribution, and wholesaling in South County.Continue to pursue recycled water grant funding, and complete project-specific feasibility studies to advance federal grant opportunities.Continue working with the Palo Alto Regional Wastewater Facility and City of Sunnyvale on recycled and purified water projects.Continue to expand communications strategies to increase public awareness and acceptance of the Purified Water Program.Increase outreach to interested parties such as elected officials, chambers of commerce, environmental groups, and community organizations to increase support for the expansion of purified water for potable reuse.
Monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Recycled Water CommitteeJoint Recycled Water Advisory Committee with the City of SunnyvaleJoint Recycled Water Policy Advisory Committee with the Cities of San Jose and Santa ClaraJoint Recycled Water Policy Committee with the cities of Palo Alto, East Palo Alto and Mountain ViewJoint Water Resources Committee with Cities of Morgan Hill and Gilroy
Related Staff Plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Water Supply Master PlanCountywide Water Reuse Master Plan





Objective 4	Complete the Anderson Dam Seismic Retrofit Project.
Challenge/ Opportunity	<p>As our largest reservoir, Anderson serves not only as a critical water supply facility, but also supports Valley Water's mission of flood protection and environmental stewardship. Given the reservoir's critical importance to ensuring safe, clean water for our communities and to protect public safety, it is imperative that the Anderson Dam Seismic Retrofit Project (ADSRP) move forward expeditiously. This includes the reconstruction of the Dam and completion of the interim risk reduction measures resulting from the February 20, 2020, directive from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC).</p>
FY26 Tactics	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Maintain the Anderson Reservoir level in compliance with the FERC mandate.• Continue the construction on the Anderson Dam Tunnel Project (ADTP).• Complete the design documents of the ADSRP.• Continue the procurement process for ADSRP; award the Construction Management Services contract and advertise the Construction contract.• Continue to work with appropriate regulatory agencies to advance the ADSRP.• Pursue necessary permits for ADSRP construction.• Continue to educate and engage the public, key partners, decision makers, and elected officials of the project progress and construction timeline.• Coordinate ADSRP operations with the Fisheries and Aquatic Habitat Collaborative Effort (FAHCE).• Compile lessons learned during the construction of the ADTP to inform ADSRP and future capital project delivery.
Monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Capital Improvement Program Committee.• Stream Planning and Operations Committee
Related Staff Plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program• Fish Habitat Restoration Plan• Coyote Feasibility Study• Water Supply Master Plan• Capital Improvement Program• Ogier Ponds Feasibility Study





WATER SUPPLY

Objective 5	Make water conservation a California way of life in Santa Clara County.
Challenge/ Opportunity	<p>Droughts are a recurring feature of California's climate and may intensify with extreme weather events. Water conservation is an essential component in providing a reliable water supply and Valley Water has set an aggressive water conservation goal for annual water savings of 99,000 acre-feet (AF) by 2030 and 110,000 AF by 2040, and 126,000 AF by 2050. As Valley Water faces challenges from extreme weather events and drought, water conservation will continue to be amongst the most cost-effective tools for efficiently meeting current and future demands while mitigating droughts. By implementing the guiding principles in the Board's resolution calling for conservation as a way of life on June 13, 2023, Valley Water will continue encouraging water conservation as a life-long habit and seek to keep drought-level participation and engagement in conservation programs.</p>
FY26 Tactics	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Continue achieving water savings from the public and minimize water use rebound increasing to pre-drought levels through continued water waste restriction enforcement, year-round educational outreach, media campaigns and effective water conservation campaigns to encourage conservation as a way of life.Increase collaboration with our retailer partners to promote Valley Water's water conservation programs and to obtain needed data to better target programs.Engage and support private-sector organizations, local, state, and federal agencies that promote water conservation.Increase participation of local businesses and corporations so they may partake in conservation efforts and programs, including compliance with new restrictions on watering CII nonfunctional turf through continued partnerships with: (1), BAWSCA to host a series of workshops to support regional water retailers' compliance with water efficiency related state regulations, including the Conservation Framework and the ban on irrigating non-functional turf; and (2), CalWEP to provide funding for and collaborate on the development of a non-functional turf toolkit intended to equip water retailers with resources that promote consistent approaches, guidelines, and outreach messaging for the various stakeholder groups affected by the banEnsure water conservation programs are available to all sectors of the community and support renters, seniors, and U.S. veterans.Develop and implement a Drought Response Plan with support and input from our retailer partners and the broader community.Continue to pursue the "no regrets" package, which addresses advanced metering infrastructure, Graywater Rebate Program expansion, leak repair incentives, and stormwater capture (agricultural land recharge, stormwater recharge, rain barrel rebates, and rain garden rebates).Continue to advocate with cities to promote Valley Water's water conservation programs to residents and businesses and renew and develop additional cost-share agreements with cities for Valley Water's various conservation programs.
Monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Water Supply and Demand Management Committee
Related Staff Plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Water Conservation Strategic PlanStormwater Resource PlansWater Supply Master PlanSafe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program



NATURAL FLOOD PROTECTION

GOAL: *Provide natural flood protection to reduce risk and improve health and safety.*

Objective 1	<p>Protect people and property from flooding in all regions of the County, by applying a comprehensive, integrated watershed management approach that balances environmental quality, environmental justice, sustainability, and cost.</p>
Challenge/ Opportunity	<p>Valley Water is challenged to sustain ecosystem health while managing local water resources for flood protection and water supply. By using an integrated approach to planning and design, there is an opportunity to create flood protection projects with multiple benefits, while ensuring schools, senior centers, and group homes for youth and individuals with disabilities, etc., are all represented.</p>
FY26 Tactics	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Strengthen partnerships with the county and local municipalities to improve collaboration and coordination on flood protection projects and areas that are subject to flooding.• Finalize Subsequent Environmental Impact Report (SEIR) for the Stream Maintenance Program 2026-2036 (SMP-3).• Complete Flood Vulnerability Assessments for the Lower Peninsula and West Valley Watersheds to address risks to health and safety and locations where infrastructure is no longer meeting the design level of service.• Ensure active participation by county and local municipal governments in the watershed master planning process.• Complete construction of Reaches 1-3 of the Shoreline Phase I Project and pursue funding alternatives for Reaches 4-5 to provide 100-year coastal flood risk management, ecosystem restoration, recreational opportunities, and resiliency for sea level rise.• Continue construction for Upper Llagas Creek Flood Protection Project Phase 2B and work with NRCS to identify additional funding beyond the \$80M for the project secured in FY25.• Continue construction for the Palo Alto Flood Basin Project, a repair project to replace six hydraulic flap gates and includes seismic retrofit and rehabilitation work.• Advance the Sunnyvale East/West Channels Project into construction to provide 100-year storm water flood protection.• Work with USACE to design the Upper Guadalupe River Project for 100-year flood protection, while also evaluating smaller-scale interim projects, developing an implementation strategy, and pursuing potential grant funding.• Continue to partner with the San Francisquito Joint Powers Authority (JPA) on the San Francisquito Creek upstream 101 Project.• Determine what policy role Valley Water should play with the San Francisquito Creek JPA, including determining what entity should be responsible for ongoing operations and maintenance.• Continue design and construction of the Coyote Creek Flood Protection Project and ongoing plant maintenance of Coyote Creek Flood Management Measures Project.
Monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Capital Improvement Program Committee• Board Policy and Planning Committee• Safe Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program Independent Monitoring Committee
Related Staff Plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Watershed Master Plans• Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program• CIP Five-Year Plan• Stream Maintenance Program



ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

GOAL: *Sustain ecosystem health while managing local water resources for flood protection and water supply.*

Objective 1	Plan and design projects with multiple benefits, including protecting ecosystem functions, enhancing habitat, and improving connectivity in all regions of the County.
Challenge/ Opportunity	Valley Water's projects and programs require integrated planning to ensure capital improvements, operations, and maintenance activities are balanced with environmental stewardship goals. Valley Water strives to protect and restore habitats to support native species throughout Santa Clara County.
FY26 Tactics	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Continue to develop West Valley and Lower Peninsula watershed master plans, including appropriate metrics to monitor Valley Water's impacts on and benefit to the environment.Complete Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Reduction Plan as part of the Extreme Weather Events Action Plan implementation.Complete the Planning Study Report for the Calabazas/San Tomas Aquino (STA) Creek-Marsh Connection Project (Creek-Marsh Connection Project).Complete the Ogier Ponds Separation from Coyote Creek Planning Study Report.Complete the Moffett Fish Ladder Planning Study Report and continue design for the preferred alternative.Begin construction of Pond A4 Resilient Habitat Restoration Project Phase 1, including staging area construction and initial mudflat creation.Continue to develop and build on partnerships with environmental organizations and tribal communities when developing projects.
Monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Board Policy and Monitoring CommitteeCapital Improvement CommitteeStream Planning and Operations Committee
Related Staff Plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Watershed Master PlansGreenhouse Gas Reduction PlanExtreme Weather Events Action PlanCIP Five-Year Plan





ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

Objective 2	Protect creeks, bay, and other aquatic ecosystems from threats of pollution and degradation.
Challenge/ Opportunity	Valley Water continues to coordinate with local cities and agencies to improve the health of our local waterways, including pollution prevention and addressing threats to water quality. Opportunities exist to further collaborate with the County, cities, and social services agencies on encampment management efforts and to develop long-term solutions for unhoused individuals to keep our creeks clean.
FY26 Tactics	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Continue efforts to protect the ecosystem and water quality of our water bodies and the integrity of our infrastructure. Such efforts include preventing stormwater pollution, increased implementation of green stormwater infrastructure, addressing mercury pollution, encampment clean ups, and other efforts under Safe Clean Water B and F priorities.Continue to manage the Portable Toilet Facility Program to reduce bio-waste discharges into the waterways.Continue partnerships and investments on a regional scale such as the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration and Santa Clara Valley Urban Runoff Pollution Prevention Program (SCVURPPP).Continue opportunities for volunteers to support cleanup efforts and events.Support legislative efforts to eliminate or reduce waste entering waterways.Pursue MOAs with local agencies and the County to holistically manage encampments on waterways.
Monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Environmental Creek Cleanup Committee
Related Staff Plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Watershed Master PlansSanta Clara Valley Urban Runoff Pollution Prevention ProgramStormwater Resource PlanSafe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program





ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

Objective 3	Complete and implement the Fisheries and Aquatic Habitat Collaborative Effort (FAHCE) agreement.
Challenge/ Opportunity	For over 25 years, Valley Water has been working to resolve compliance challenges and disagreements surrounding fish, wildlife, water quality, and other beneficial uses in Coyote Creek, Guadalupe River, and Stevens Creek watershed areas. Challenges to fully implementing the FAHCE agreement include obtaining federal and state permits from multiple regulatory agencies, refining and processing water rights change petitions, the technical complexity of the fisheries impacts analysis, coordination with other ongoing related projects, and managing expectations of interested parties.
FY26 Tactics	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Continue to implement the FAHCE Plus flow measures.Continue to implement feasibility studies, monitoring activities, and planning for various fish passage and habitat improvements as identified in existing Settlement Agreement.Continue fisheries monitoring program.Continue to support an adaptive management program that encompasses all three creeks.Continue coordination with the ADSRP project.Continue to plan and design phase 1 non-flow measures at Ogier Ponds and Moffett Fish Ladder.
Monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Stream Planning and Operations Committee
Related Staff Plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none">FAHCE Annual Monitoring ReportFish Habitat Restoration Plan for Coyote Creek, Guadalupe River, and Stevens Creek WatershedsSeismic Retrofit Programs for Dam SafetyAquatic habitat restoration plans/feasibility studies/site-specific improvements affecting all three watersheds (e.g., Countywide Large Woody Debris Program)Collaborative agreements for in-stream habitat improvements (e.g., collaboration with County Parks)Watershed Master PlansOgier Ponds Planning Study Report





ADDRESSING ENCAMPMENTS OF UNSHELTERED PEOPLE

GOAL: *Safeguard water resources and facilities from encampment impacts.*

Objective 1	Protect waterways and facilities from encampment impacts while collaborating with community partners and supporting regional efforts to reduce homelessness.
Challenge/ Opportunity	Valley Water is challenged to protect waterways, water supply facilities, and flood risk reduction infrastructure from the impacts of encampments, which include discharge of trash, debris, biowaste, and other hazardous materials, soil erosion, and wildfire risks, as well as damage to flood protection infrastructure and environmental mitigation sites. Opportunities exist to collaborate with local governments, service providers, and unsheltered people to reduce these impacts and to support regional efforts that provide housing and services for unsheltered individuals.
FY26 Tactics	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Continue large scale trash cleanups on Valley Water lands to reduce encampment-generated pollution.▪ Enforce the Water Resources Protection Zones (WRPZ) Ordinance to address high-priority health, safety, and environmental hazards.▪ Provide outreach on Encampment Condition Guidelines to promote safer practices.▪ Continue management of the Portable Toilet Facility Program to reduce bio-waste discharges.▪ Continue to provide waste receptacles in heavily impacted encampment areas as needed.▪ Continue to support the provision of outreach services through the agreement with the Santa Clara County Office of Supportive Housing.▪ Continue geospatial mapping of encampments on Valley Water lands to monitor intervention effectiveness.▪ Explore joint committees, MOAs, or other partnerships with agencies to address encampments collaboratively.▪ Coordinate with agency and private partners on land use opportunities to support emergency or transitional housing.▪ Explore state legislation and policy opportunities to support the expansion of housing and service options for unsheltered individuals.▪ Pursue state and federal grants with local partners in support of efforts to develop low-barrier navigation centers, supportive housing, transitional housing, and affordable housing.▪ Pursue rehabilitation and restoration of encampment-related environmental impacts under the Stream Maintenance Program (SMP).
Monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Environmental Creek Cleanup Committee
Related Staff Plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Water Resources Protection Zones Ordinance Implementation Plan



ADDRESSING ENCAMPMENTS OF UNSHELTERED PEOPLE

Objective 2	Protect the safety of Valley Water staff, residential neighbors, and unsheltered individuals by working independently and in partnership with law enforcement agencies.
Challenge/ Opportunity	There are serious safety concerns for staff, residential neighbors, and unsheltered individuals in and around encampments on Valley Water lands. Hazards include threats, aggressive behavior, exposure to weapons and dangerous animals, wildfire from campfires, solar panels, and propane tanks, and flood risks that can cause serious injury or death. Opportunities exist to expand the use of technology and strengthen collaborations with law enforcement agencies, the District Attorney's Office, and local municipalities to improve incident response and manage risks to enhance safety for all.
FY26 Tactics	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Utilize geospatial tracking and critical event notifications to provide staff with real-time security advisories.Continue working with local law enforcement to support staff safety, including maintaining the Stream Stewardship Law Enforcement agreement with San Jose Police Department.Collaborate with law enforcement and the Santa Clara County District Attorney's Office to enforce WRPZ Ordinance prohibitions, especially for high priority violations that impact safety.Pursue restraining orders against individuals who threaten staff.Continue weed abatement and fuel reduction work around encampments to reduce wildfire risks.Pursue MOAs with local municipalities and the County to improve incident response and address activities that threaten the safety of staff and the public.
Monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Environmental Creek Cleanup Committee
Related Staff Plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Water Resources Protection Zones Ordinance Implementation Plan

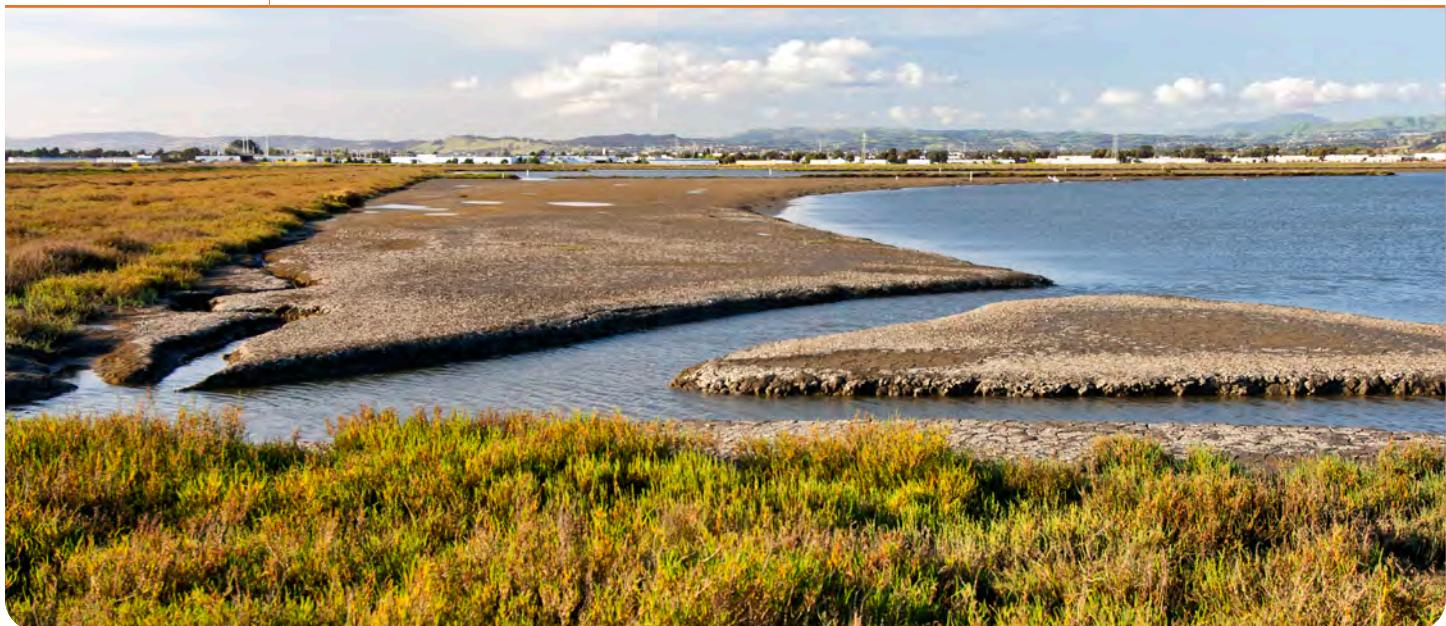




EXTREME WEATHER EVENTS

GOAL: *Mitigate carbon emissions and adapt Valley Water operations to extreme weather events.*

Objective 1	Address future impacts of extreme weather events to Valley Water's mission and operations.
Challenge/ Opportunity	Valley Water's ability to fulfill its mission will be challenged in the future by warmer temperatures, changing precipitation patterns, reduced snowpack, and rising sea levels. Valley Water has been working on greenhouse reduction efforts since 2008 and many adaptation actions over the past decade; however, with adoption of the Extreme Weather Events Action Plan there is an opportunity for greater impact.
FY26 Tactics	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Finalize Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Reduction Plan which updates GHG inventory methodology to include all Valley Water activities and identifies specific, measurable actions to reduce emissions and streamline CEQA for future capital projects.Continue to monitor progress on adaptation actions as identified in the Extreme Weather Events Action Plan and support high priority projects such as the South San Francisco Bay Shoreline project.Ensure incorporation of environmental justice (EJ) considerations into planning and processes to support mitigation of carbon emissions and impact from extreme weather events.Complete Valley Water carbon sequestration program to offset emissions from capital projects.
Monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Board Policy and Monitoring Committee
Related Staff Plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Extreme Weather Events Action PlanGreenhouse Gas Reduction Plan





BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

GOAL: Promote effective management of water supply, flood protection, and environmental stewardship through responsive and socially responsible business services.

Objective 1	Maintain appropriate staffing levels and expertise, prioritize the safety of our staff, and build and sustain a collaborative working environment for all staff and partners while ensuring fair employment.
Challenge/ Opportunity	The Board recognizes that Valley Water's workforce is the critical component to providing clean, safe drinking water, effective flood protection, and environmental stewardship. The Board therefore remains committed to supporting the recruitment of capable employees with knowledge and subject matter expertise, investing in staff training to meet changing skills and capacity needs, developing the necessary policies and guidance that strengthen employee safety, and establishing Valley Water as an employer of choice.
FY26 Tactics	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Continue to implement initiatives that will expand hiring outreach to individuals that are disabled or have health conditions/impairments, military veterans, and formerly incarcerated individuals, with an emphasis on hiring from the local region.Continue to implement next generation and career pathways program to provide internal and external development for professional growth.Advance the development of a skilled trades apprenticeship program.Maximize the safety of staff working in creeks, encampments, and Valley Water facilities, and continue to promote health & safety guidance to protect staff from public health emergencies and environmental impacts.
Monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Board Policy and Monitoring Committee
Related Staff Plans	





BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

Objective 2	Provide affordable and cost-effective level of services.
Challenge/ Opportunity	<p>The Board understands its responsibility to regularly evaluate and monitor Valley Water's financial status to ensure the level of services provided are reasonable and cost effective. As such, driving continual improvement efforts are key to delivering affordable and effective services while controlling expectations regarding what Valley Water can achieve and what it can afford to do. In addition, the affordability of water continues to be a major issue faced by communities across the nation. The Board has an opportunity to raise issues around water affordability at local and statewide levels and advocate for changes that benefit all communities.</p>
FY26 Tactics	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Complete 3-4 Board-initiated or management-initiated performance audits, or other performance improvement efforts, benchmarking studies, or best practice implementations.▪ Establish Valley Water as a statewide leader in conversations around water affordability.▪ Continue to seek and obtain grants and funding from federal, state and other sources.▪ Continue to fund a residential water rate assistance program.
Monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Board Audit Committee
Related Staff Plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Operating and Capital Budget▪ Board and Management Audit Reports



Appendix A

Board Governance Policies/Ends Policies

The Board has adopted **Board Governance Policies** which describe how the board conducts its business, what they have directed the Board Appointed Officers (BAO) to accomplish, and constraints on the BAOs that establish prudent and ethical boundaries within which all activity and decisions must take place.

Ends Policies, also referred to as **Long Term Goals and Objectives**, provide direction to the BAOs to accomplish Valley Water's mission.

A full list of the Board Governance Policies can be found here:

<https://www.valleywater.org/how-we-operate/board-governance-policies>

Ends Policy E-1: Mission and General Principles

In implementing Board directions, staff will be guided by the following general principles:

- 1.1. An integrated, socially equitable, and balanced approach in managing a sustainable water supply, effective natural flood protection, and healthy watersheds is essential to the future of all communities served.
- 1.2. Effective public engagement by Valley Water is achieved through transparent, open communication that informs and generates participation among all communities, including disadvantaged communities, communities of color, and communities with limited English proficiency, as well as other key stakeholders.
- 1.3. Collaboration with government, academic, private, non-governmental, and non-profit organizations, as well as diverse and disadvantaged communities is integral to accomplishing the Valley Water mission.
- 1.4. A net positive impact on the environment and providing benefits equitably across all communities is required in order to accomplish the Valley Water mission.
- 1.5. Recognize that Valley Water operations and services are critical to the economic vitality of Silicon Valley, ensuring that economic benefits are equitable for all communities that we serve.
- 1.6. As standard practice, all work products shall be visually pleasing, sustainable, cost-effective, culturally appropriate, equitable across all communities, and reflect the characteristics of the surrounding urban setting and natural habitat using appropriate materials, colors, shapes, art works, vegetation, and surface treatments. This includes the naming of facilities in a manner that is respectful of all diverse communities.
- 1.7. Valley Water is committed to environmental justice and shall provide for the fair treatment and meaningful engagement of all people regardless of race, color, gender identity, disability status, national origin, tribe, culture, income, immigration status, or English language proficiency, with respect to the planning, projects, policies, services, and operations of Valley Water. Environmental Justice is achieved when all people receive:
 - equitable consideration in the planning and execution of flood protection, water supply, safe drinking water, water resources stewardship projects, and protection from environmental and health hazards, and
 - equal access to Valley Water's decision-making process.

Ends Policy E-2: Water Supply Services

Valley Water provides a reliable, safe, and affordable water supply for current and future generations in all communities served.

GOAL

- 2.1. Meet 100 percent of annual water demand during non-drought years and at least 80 percent of demand in drought years.

GOAL

- 2.2. Protect and sustain the county's existing, diverse water supplies.

Objectives

- 2.2.1. Manage groundwater to ensure sustainable supplies and avoid land subsidence.
- 2.2.2. Aggressively protect groundwater from the threat of contamination.
- 2.2.3. Protect imported water supplies and associated contracts and partnerships.
- 2.2.4. Protect and manage local surface water supplies and associated water rights.
- 2.2.5. Deliver reliable, high quality drinking water from water treatment plants.

GOAL

- 2.3. Protect and maintain existing water infrastructure.

Objectives

- 2.3.1. Plan for infrastructure maintenance and replacement to reduce risk of failure.
- 2.3.2. Prioritize funding for maintenance and replacement of existing water infrastructure over investments in new infrastructure.
- 2.3.3. Prepare for and respond effectively to water utility emergencies.

GOAL

- 2.4. Increase regional self-reliance through water conservation and reuse.

Objectives

- 2.4.1. Maximize utilization of all demand management tools.
- 2.4.2. Incentivize water use efficiency and water conservation.
- 2.4.3. Promote, protect and expand potable and non-potable water reuse.
- 2.4.4. Promote stormwater capture and reuse.

GOAL

- 2.5. Manage water resources using an integrated, science-based approach.

Objectives

- 2.5.1. Plan for future water supply needs.
- 2.5.2. Promote efficient and reliable operation of water supply systems.
- 2.5.3. Promote water supply projects with multiple benefits, including environmental stewardship and flood protection.
- 2.5.4. Invest in and rely on science to support planning and decision-making.
- 2.5.5. Build and maintain effective partnerships to achieve water supply goals.

GOAL

- 2.6. Promote access to equitable and affordable water supplies.

Objectives

- 2.6.1. Promote equal access to clean, safe, and affordable water supply across all communities served.
- 2.6.2. Maintain affordable water rates through cost-effective water supply investments and management.
- 2.6.3. Continue customer assistance and incentive programs.

Ends Policy E-3: Natural Flood Protection

Natural flood protection is provided to reduce risk and improve health and safety for residents, businesses, and visitors, now and into the future.

GOAL

- 3.1. Maintain flood protection facilities to design levels of protection.

Objectives

- 3.1.1. Prioritize maintenance of existing facilities over construction of new capital projects.
- 3.1.2. Inspect and maintain facilities on a regular basis.
- 3.1.3. Perform maintenance using maintenance guidelines updated on a regular basis.

GOAL

- 3.2. Assist people, businesses, schools, and communities to prepare for, respond to, and recover from flooding through equitable and effective engagement.

Objectives

- 3.2.1. Develop, maintain, and communicate emergency action plans.
- 3.2.2. Develop, maintain, and communicate flood information to the community.

- 3.2.3. Provide expertise in flood forecasting and flood warning systems to municipalities.
- 3.2.4. Provide expertise to encourage public agencies to reduce flood risk and protect floodplain benefits.

GOAL

- 3.3. Increase the health and safety of residents countywide by reducing community flood risk.

Objectives

- 3.3.1. Provide equitable, timely, and achievable flood protection for health and safety.
- 3.3.2. Protect people and property from flooding by applying a comprehensive, integrated watershed management approach that balances environmental quality, sustainability, and cost.

Ends Policy E-4: Water Resources Stewardship

Water resources stewardship protects and enhances ecosystem health.

GOAL

- 4.1. Use a science-based, inclusive approach to protect Santa Clara County's watersheds and aquatic ecosystems for current and future generations.

Objectives

- 4.1.1. Develop and share data to support resilient ecosystems and healthy populations of native species.
- 4.1.2. Monitor stream, reservoir, and Bay ecosystem health.
- 4.1.3. Use data to prioritize and equitably implement actions to reduce pollution, restore endangered species habitat, and enhance ecosystem function.

GOAL

- 4.2. Sustain ecosystem health while managing local water resources for flood protection and water supply.

Objectives

- 4.2.1. Plan and design projects with multiple benefits, including protecting ecosystem functions, enhancing habitat, and improving connectivity, equitably in all regions of the county.
- 4.2.2. Operate Valley Water facilities to balance water supply, flood protection, and ecosystem sustainability.

GOAL

- 4.3. Encourage inclusive, sustainable management of water resources in the Bay-Delta and its watersheds to protect imported water supply.

Objectives

- 4.3.1. Meet future water supply demand through diverse and coordinated water supply planning.
- 4.3.2. Promote holistic ecosystem management through science-based decision-making.
- 4.3.3. Actively engage in the protection of source water quality through collaboration and funding.

GOAL

- 4.4. Prevent and address pollution of local streams, reservoirs, and the Bay, equitably across all communities. Protect waterbodies from pollution and degradation.

Objectives

- 4.4.1. Encourage stormwater capture, treatment, and reuse.
- 4.4.2. Prepare and respond to spills and dumping that threaten local waterways.
- 4.4.3. Collaborate with agencies and nonprofits to address homelessness and its impacts to Santa Clara County Waterways.

GOAL

- 4.5. Engage the community to promote watershed stewardship by providing meaningful engagement in Valley Water programs for all people regardless of race, color, gender identity, disability status, national origin, tribe, culture, income, immigration status, or English language proficiency.

Objectives

- 4.5.1. Provide appropriate and equal public access to Valley Water's streamside and watershed lands.
- 4.5.2. Engage and educate the community in stream and watershed protection.
- 4.5.3. Build partnerships to protect and enhance watersheds and aquatic ecosystems.

Ends Policy E-5: Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation

Valley Water is carbon neutral and provides equitable, climate-resilient water supply, flood protection, and water resource stewardship to all communities in Santa Clara County. This will be accomplished through the implementation of the Climate Change Action Plan.

GOAL

5.1. Minimize greenhouse gas emissions from Valley Water's operations.

Objectives

- 5.1.1. Expand the use of clean technology in vehicles, equipment, and buildings, and develop carbon-efficient construction and service delivery practices.
- 5.1.2. Optimize energy use and expand renewable energy portfolio.
- 5.1.3. Incentivize low carbon practices, projects, and efforts by employees, contractors, and partners.

GOAL

5.2. Adapt Valley Water's assets and operations to reduce climate change impacts.

Objectives

- 5.2.1. Improve the resiliency of Santa Clara County's water supply to drought and other climate change impacts.
- 5.2.2. Provide equitable protection from sea level rise and flooding, prioritizing disadvantaged communities.
- 5.2.3. Improve ecosystem resiliency through water resources stewardship.
- 5.2.4. Prepare for climate-related emergencies and provide equal access to information and services, particularly to disadvantaged communities.

Ends Policy E-6: Encampments of Unsheltered People

Valley Water is committed, through a regional approach, to address the human health, safety, operational and environmental challenges posed by encampments of unsheltered people on Valley Water lands along waterways and at water supply and flood risk reduction facilities.

GOAL

6.1. Achieve a functional zero level of unsheltered people on Valley Water lands along waterways and at water supply and flood risk reduction facilities.

Objectives

- 6.1.1. Actively participate in a collaborative regional approach with the County, cities, and other service providers to support their efforts in addressing the challenges posed by encampments of unsheltered people.
- 6.1.2. Increase the level of service for encampment cleanup efforts based on need and resource availability.
- 6.1.3. Identify Valley Water lands for regional partners to use for housing or other services for unsheltered people.

Appendix B

Staff Program Plans and Master Plans

Program plans and master plans are developed by staff to achieve the Board's long-term goals and objectives in relation to Valley Water's mission and overall business management.

Below is a list of program and master plans that have been referenced in the Board Work Plan. Other plans not listed below can be obtained by contacting the Office of the Clerk of the Board at **(408) 630-2277** or **clerkoftheboard@valleywater.org**.

- Board Audit Reports
<https://www.valleywater.org/board-audit-committee-audit-reports>
- Capital Improvement Program
<https://www.valleywater.org/how-we-operate/five-year-capital-improvement-program>
- Countywide Water Reuse Master Plan
<https://www.valleywater.org/your-water/recycled-and-purified-water>
- Groundwater Management Plan
<https://www.valleywater.org/your-water/where-your-water-comes/groundwater/sustainable>
- Ogier Ponds Feasibility Study
<https://www.valleywater.org/project-updates/ogier-ponds-coyote-creek-separation-project>
- Operating and Capital Budget
<https://www.valleywater.org/how-we-operate/financebudget>
- Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program
<https://www.valleywater.org/safe-clean-water-and-natural-flood-protection-program>
- Santa Clara Valley Urban Runoff Pollution Prevention Program
<https://scvurppp.org/>
- Stormwater Resource Plan
<https://scvurppp.org/swrp/>
- Water Conservation Strategic Plan
<https://www.valleywater.org/droughtsaving-water/studies-and-reports>
- Water Supply Master Plan
<https://www.valleywater.org/your-water/water-supply-planning/water-supply-master-plan>
- Water Utility Infrastructure Master Plan
<https://www.valleywater.org/project-updates/water-utility-infrastructure-master-plan-implementation-projects>

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Valley Water

Clean Water • Healthy Environment • Flood Protection

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