



SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER COMMISSION MEETING

MINUTES

**REGULAR MEETING SESSION
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10, 2024
12:00 PM**

(Paragraph numbers coincide with agenda item numbers)

1. CALL TO ORDER:

A regular meeting of the Santa Clara Valley Water District (Valley Water) Santa Clara Valley Water Commission (Commission) was called to order in the Valley Water Headquarters Building Boardroom at 5700 Almaden Expressway, San Jose, California, and by Zoom teleconference, at 12:00 p.m.

A quorum of 11 was established of Commission members present in person.

1.1 Roll Call.

Members in attendance were:

<u>Municipality</u>	<u>Representative</u>	<u>Alternate</u>
City of Cupertino	J.R. Fruen	
Town of Los Gatos		Hon. Maria Ristow
City of Milpitas	Hon. Carmen Montano	
City of Monte Sereno	Hon. Evert Wolsheimer	
City of Morgan Hill	Hon. Gino Borgioli	
City of Palo Alto	Hon. Lydia Kou	
City of San José	Hon. Domingo Candelas	
City of Santa Clara	Hon. Kathy Watanabe	
City of Saratoga	Hon. Chuck Page	
Open Space Authority Santa Clara Valley	Hon. Mike Flaughner	
Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District	Hon. Jed Cyr	

Members not in attendance were:

<u>Municipality</u>	<u>Representative</u>	<u>Alternate</u>
City of Campbell	Hon. Susan M. Landry	Hon. Elliot Scozzola
City of Cupertino		Hon. Kitty Moore
City of Gilroy	Hon. Dion Bracco	Hon. Fred Tovar
City of Los Altos	Hon. Pete Dailey	
Town of Los Altos Hills	Hon. Lisa Schmidt	
Town of Los Gatos	Hon. Rob Rennie	
City of Monte Sereno		Hon. Bryan Mekechuk
City of Morgan Hill		Hon. Yvonne Martinez-Beltran
City of Mountain View	Hon. Lucas Ramirez	Hon. Pat Showalter
City of Palo Alto		Hon. Vicki Veenker
City of San Jose		Kerrie Romanow
City of Santa Clara	Hon. Karen Hardy	
City of Saratoga		Hon. Tina Walia
City of Sunnyvale	Hon. Alysa Cisneros	Hon. Murali Srinivasan
County of Santa Clara	Hon. Sylvia Arenas	Hon. Cindy Chavez
Open Space Authority Santa Clara Valley		Hon. Helen Chapman
Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District		Hon. Yoriko Kishimoto

Valley Water Board representatives in attendance were Chairperson Nai Hsueh (District 5) and Vice Chairperson Richard Santos (District 3).

Staff members in attendance were: Jennifer Abadilla, Aaron Baker, Sam Bogale, Enrique De Anda, Andrew Gschwind, Cynthia Johnson, Michele King, Candice Kwok-Smith, Emelia Lamas, Dave Leon, Marta Lugo, Nicole Merritt, Carmen Narayanan, Metra Richert, Mario Rivas, Don Rocha, Kirsten Struve, Darin Taylor, Cheryl Togami, Gregory Williams, and Jing Wu.

Public in attendance were: Hon. Rebecca Eisenberg (Valley Water Board Member-District 7), Hon. Pete Dailey (City of Los Altos), Katja Irvin (Sierra Club), Dylan Lehmann (City of San Jose), Shilpa Mehta (City of Santa Clara), James Sylvain (City of Morgan Hill), Emily Yarsinske (City of Mountain View), and Gary Welling (City of Santa Clara).

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

Chairperson Kou 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 January 24, 2024 Santa Clara Valley Water Commission Meeting Minutes.

Recommendation: Approve the minutes.

The Commission considered the attached minutes of the January 24, 2024 meeting.

Public Comments:
None.

It was moved by Hon. Domingo Candelas and seconded by Hon. Gino Borgioli, and the minutes were unanimously approved as amended to correct/replace Hon. Susan Landry with Hon. Karen Hardy for the Election of Chairperson motion by Hon. Domingo Candelas which was subsequently withdrawn under Item 5.1.

4. REGULAR AGENDA:

4.1. Review Proposed Fiscal Year 2024-25 Groundwater Production Charges and Provide Feedback.

Recommendation: Review proposed Fiscal Year 2024-2025 groundwater production charges and provide feedback.

Carmen Narayanan reviewed the information on this item, per the attached Commission Agenda Memo; and per the information contained in Attachment 1.

Carmen Narayanan, Darin Taylor, Aaron Baker, Board member representatives Chairperson Hsueh, and Vice Chairperson Santos were available to answer questions.

Public Comments:
Valley Water Director Rebecca Eisenberg noted concern regarding not having ability to speak on the amendment to the motion.

The Commission received the information, and noted the following:

- The Commission noted Valley Water's efforts to provide long-range, smooth, and stable water rate projections to water retailers and the available online monthly water tracker report at valleywater.org.
- The Commission confirmed the shifting of the Safe, Clean Water Program funding for the Pacheco Reservoir expansion project plan did not affect the water rate projections.
- The Commission noted Valley Water's cost saving measures of a staff hiring freeze, cost cutting budget measures, the Capital Improvement Committee's support of projected rates, continued review of the Water Supply Master Plan 2050 for prioritizing long term projects, and backing off from the Palo Alto purified water project for future evaluation.
- The Commission confirmed the State Water Project (SWP) tax per

household is levied on all parcels in Santa Clara County and pays for the SWP costs for imported water from the Delta.

- The Commission noted concern for rate payers absorbing rate increases and long-range rate affordability, and confirmed Valley Water's plans to engage a consultant to conduct a water demand, elasticity, and affordability study for Santa Clara County for next fiscal year's rate setting cycle.
- The Commission confirmed the ground water rate in the North County Zone W-2 is higher than the South County Zone W-8 is due to the infrastructure and the cost of the benefits provided within that zone per Pages 3 and 5 on Attachment 1 and further detailed information is available at valleywater.org per the Protection and Augmentation of Water Supplies (PAWS) report.
- The Commission noted the two major drivers for the projected rate increases are the capital projects for the Rinconada Water Treatment Plant and the Anderson Dam.

It was moved by Hon. Gino Borgioli and seconded by Hon. Maria Ristow that the Committee approve to endorse the recommendation to the Board for the proposed Fiscal Year 2024-25 Groundwater production charges.

Hon. Kathy Watanabe requested to amend the motion to include the language for Valley Water to continue to explore options to reduce water rates and Hon. Domingo Candelas noted support for this amendment.

Hon. Gino Borgioli accepted the amendment to the motion, but the second was withdrawn by Hon. Maria Ristow per support for endorsing the motion without the proposed amendment and noted the possible increase of project delays and additional costs.

The motion was subsequently seconded by Hon. Domingo Candelas, and the motion was carried by majority vote that the Committee approved to endorse the recommendation to the Board for the proposed Fiscal Year 2024-25 Groundwater production charges with the amendment for Valley Water to continue to explore options to reduce water rates.

Hon. Domingo Candelas left the meeting and did not return.

- 4.2. Review Santa Clara Valley Water Commission Work Plan, the Outcomes of Board Action of Commission Requests; and the Commission's Next Meeting Agenda.

Recommendation: Review Santa Clara Water Commission Work Plan, the outcomes of Board action of Commission requests; and the Commission's next meeting agenda.

The Committee considered this Item without a staff presentation.

Nicole Merritt and Board member representatives Chairperson Hsueh, and Vice Chairperson Santos were available to answer questions.

Public Comments:

Valley Water Director Rebecca Eisenberg noted support for the Water Commission to meet more often, the appointment of interested Water Commissioners who attend scheduled meetings, a future agenda item regarding water expenses affecting North County, and interest in future Water Commission meeting discussions.

The Commission received the information, noted Rachael Gibson as the Board assigned staff support contact, and took no formal action.

5. CLERK REVIEW AND CLARIFICATION OF COMMISSION 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 Commission during the meeting.

Nicole Merritt confirmed Committee approval of January minutes with amendment under Item 3.1; the Committee approval of endorsement of groundwater production charges with amendment under Item 4.1; and noted Work Plan under Item 4.2.

6. ADJOURN:

6.1. Adjourn to Regular Meeting at 12:00 p.m. on July 24, 2024.

Chairperson Lydia Kou adjourned the meeting at 1:22 p.m., to the regular meeting at 12:00 p.m. on July 24, 2024.

Date approved: 10-23-24

Nicole Merritt
Assistant Deputy Clerk II