



STREAM PLANNING AND OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

MINUTES

**SPECIAL MEETING AND SITE VISIT (IN-PERSON ONLY) AGENDA
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 11, 2025
11:00 A.M.**

(Paragraph numbers coincide with agenda item numbers)

1. CALL TO ORDER:

A special meeting of the Santa Clara Valley Water District (Valley Water) Stream Planning and Operations Committee (SPOC) was called to order in the Valley Water Headquarters Building Boardroom at 5700 Almaden Expressway, San Jose, California, and by Zoom teleconference, at 11:00 a.m.

1.1 Roll Call.

Committee members in attendance were District 1 Director John Varela, Vice Chairperson presiding, District 2 Director Shiloh Ballard, and Director 6 Director Tony Estremera, constituting a quorum of the Committee.

Staff members in attendance were: Jason Araujo, Aaron Baker, John Bourgeois, Joe Chavez, Samantha Green, Andrew Gschwind, Mohammad Hussaini, Susana Inda, Leslie Layng, Dave Leon, Nicole Merritt, Carlos Orellana, Lisa Porcella, Don Rocha, Breanne Roderick, Dipankar Sen, Stephanie Simunic, and Sarah Young.

Public in attendance were: None.

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

Vice Chairperson Varela declared time open for public comment on any item not on the agenda. There was no one who wished to speak.

Vice Chairperson Varela moved the agenda to Item No. 4.

4. COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

4.1 Election of 2025 Stream Operations and Planning Committee (SPOC) Chairperson and Vice Chairperson.

Recommendation: Nominate and elect the SPOC Chairperson and Vice Chairperson.

On a motion from Vice Chairperson Varela, seconded by Director Estremera, Director Ballard was nominated a Committee Chairperson and Director Estremera as Vice Chairperson. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairperson Ballard moved the agenda to Item No. 3.

3. CLOSED SESSION:

Chairperson Ballard confirmed that the Committee would adjourn to Closed Session to consider Items 3.1 and 3.2.

3.1 CLOSED SESSION CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL 25-0545

Pending Litigation Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1)
San Francisco Baykeeper v. Santa Clara Valley Water District
Santa Clara County Superior Court Case Number 22CV403523

3.2 CLOSED SESSION CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL 25-0546

Pending Litigation Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1)
In re: Santa Clara Valley Water District Water Rights Change Petitions
For Licenses 6943, 11791, 2205, 2206, 2207, 2208, 2209, 6944, 2837, and
5729, State Water Board, Administrative Hearings Office
Protestants: San Francisco Baykeeper; California Trout; Northern California
Council, Fly Fishers International; California Department of Fish & Wildlife

3.3 District Counsel Report on Closed Session.

Upon return to Open Session, Board Committee members Ballard, Estremera, Varela and staff were present.

Susana Inda, District Council, reported that regarding Items 3.1 and 3.2, the Committee met in Closed Session with all members participating and took no reportable action.

Chairperson Ballard moved the agenda to Item No. 5.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

5.1. Approval of August 20, 2024 Stream Planning Operations Committee (SPOC) Minutes.

Recommendation: Approve the minutes.

The Committee considered the attached minutes of the August 20, 2024 Committee meeting.

Public Comments: None.

It was moved by Director Varela, and seconded by Vice Chairperson Estremera, and unanimously carried that the August 20, 2024 minutes be approved.

6. REGULAR AGENDA:

6.1. Review Stream Planning and Operations Committee (SPOC) Work Plan, the Outcomes of Board Action of Commission Requests; and the Commission's Next Meeting Agenda.

Recommendation: **A. Review the Stream Planning and Operations Committee's Board-assigned Purpose, and;**
 B. Review the draft 2025 Stream Planning and Operations Committee's Work Plan and incorporate any new tasks.

Public Comments: None.

The Committee received the information, took no formal action, and without discussion noted the SPOC Outcomes of Board Action of Commission Requests; and the Commission's next meeting agenda.

6.2. Tour of Uvas Creek, Bolsa Road Fish Passage Improvements Site.

Recommendation: **There is no staff recommendation associated with this item. The tour of the Uvas Creek, Bolsa Road Fish Passage Improvements Project Site is for informational purposes only and no action is requested to be taken by the Committee at this time.**

Lisa Porcella reviewed the information on this item, per the attached Committee Agenda Memo, and the corresponding presentation contained in Attachment 1 and was available to answer questions.

Public Comments: None.

Chairperson Ballard recessed the meeting at Valley Water Headquarters at 11:56 a.m. The Committee departed Valley Water for a tour of Uvas Creek, Bolsa Road Fish Passage Improvements Project Site in Gilroy, California.

The Committee reconvened 12:50 p.m. at the Project Site in Gilroy. Two of the Committee members were in attendance, Chairperson Ballard and Director Varela. Valley Water Senior Project Manager Dipankar Sen and Senior Biologist Lesley Layng provided information relating to the fish barrier remediation and geomorphic restoration, improved fish passage channel length, riffles and pools, and flora and fauna on the project site. Utility Maintenance Manager Jason Araujo provided update on associated reservoir

release operations and flow conditions of the creek and highlighted the importance of instream recharge function of this creek.

Staff further noted the American Public Works Association Silicon Valley Chapter recognized the Project as a public works project that demonstrated excellence in its planning, design, construction and efforts between various stakeholders, and stood out for its excellence in restoring passage for federally threatened steelhead trout and for restoring the creek's natural functions and its bed and bank stability.

The Committee received the information about the project, thanked staff for their efforts, and took no formal action.

7. CLERK REVIEW AND CLARIFICATION OF COMMITTEE REQUESTS

None.

8. ADJOURN:

8.1 Adjourn.

Chairperson Ballard adjourned the meeting at 2:09 p.m.

Date Approved: November 18, 2025

Stephanie Simunic
Assistant Deputy Clerk II