



Santa Clara Valley Water District Agricultural Water Advisory Committee Meeting

**Headquarters Building Boardroom
5700 Almaden Expressway
San Jose CA 95118**

**Join Zoom Meeting
<https://valleywater.zoom.us/j/98850905996>**

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

**Monday, October 7, 2024
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)
Assistant Deputy Clerk II
nmerritt@valleywater.org
1-408-630-3262

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, October 7, 2024

1:30 PM

Headquarters Building Boardroom
5700 Almaden Expressway,
San Jose, CA 95118
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 MEETINGS located at <https://s3.us-west-2.amazonaws.com/valleywater.org.if-us-west-2/f2-live/s3fs-public/Ord.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 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>

Valley Water, in complying with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), requests individuals who require special accommodations to access and/or participate in Valley Water Board of Directors/Board Committee meetings to please contact the Clerk of the Board's office at (408) 630-2711, at least 3 business days before the scheduled meeting to ensure that Valley Water may assist you.

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://emma.msrb.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 July 1, 2024 Agricultural Water Advisory Committee Minutes. [24-0867](#)

Recommendation: Approve the minutes.

Manager: Candice Kwok-Smith, 408-630-3193

Attachments: [Attachment 1: 070124 AWAC Minutes](#)

Est. Staff Time: 5 Minutes

4. REGULAR AGENDA:

4.1. Receive the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) Update. [24-0851](#)

Recommendation: Receive an update on SGMA.

Manager: Gregory Williams, 408-630-2867

Attachments: [Attachment 1: PowerPoint](#)

Est. Staff Time: 5 Minutes

4.2. Discuss Policy for Securing Agricultural Water For Food Production/Security. [24-0870](#)

Recommendation: Discuss policy for securing agricultural water for food production/security.

Manager: Vincent Gin, 408-630-2633

Attachments: [Attachment 1: Article, 090624 - U.S. House Com. Hrg. - CFWC](#)

Est. Staff Time: 5 Minutes

4.3. Review Agricultural Water Advisory Committee Work Plan, the Outcomes of Board Action of Committee Requests, the Committee's Next Meeting Agenda, and the Committee's Vacancies. [24-0868](#)

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

Manager: Candice Kwok-Smith, 408-630-3193

Attachments: [Attachment 1: AWAC 2024 Work Plan](#)

Est. Staff Time: 5 Minutes

5. INFORMATION ITEM:

5.1. Standing Items Report.

24-0607

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 2023-2024 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: Candice Kwok-Smith, 408-630-3193

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

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. Director's Report

7.2. Manager's Report: Updates - Los Vaqueros and Pacheco Reservoir Expansion Projects

7.3. Committee Member Report

7.4. 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 to Regular Meeting at 1:30 p.m., on January 6, 2024.

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Santa Clara Valley Water District

File No.: 24-0867

Agenda Date: 10/7/2024

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 July 1, 2024 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 AND EQUITY IMPACT:

Approval of minutes is not subject to environmental justice analysis.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment 1: 070124 AWAC Minutes

UNCLASSIFIED MANAGER:

Candice Kwok-Smith, 408-630-3193

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AGRICULTURAL WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

DRAFT MINUTES

**REGULAR MEETING SESSION
MONDAY, JULY 1, 2024
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 (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 Erin Gil and Mitchell Mariani, District 2 James Provenzano, District 3 Jared Mandrell, District 5 Jan Garrod, District 6 Robert Long, Santa Clara County Farm Bureau Dhruv Khanna, 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 4 Sheila Barry arrived as noted below.

Committee members not in attendance in person were District 4 Brent Bonino, District 6 Tim Chiala, and Santa Clara County Farm Bureau Dhruv Khanna.

Staff members in attendance were: Vanessa De La Piedra, Vincent Gin, Andy Gschwind, Cindy Kao, Candice Kwok-Smith, Emelia Lamas, Michael Martin, Nicole Merritt, Carmen Narayanan, Metra Richert, Mario Rivas, Desiree Sausele, Ashley Shannon, Kirsten Struve, Darin Taylor, and Tina Yoke.

Board Representatives in attendance were: Valley Water Directors Jim Beall (District 4), and Vice Chairperson Richard P. Santos (District 3).

Public in attendance were: Valley Water Directors Rebecca Eisenberg (District 7) and John L. Varela (District 1), iPhone, and Katja Irvin (Sierra Club).

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

Chairperson 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 April 8, 2024 Agricultural Water Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes.

Recommendation: Approve the minutes.

The Committee considered the attached minutes of the April 8, 2024 Committee meeting.

Public Comments:

None.

It was moved by James Provenzano and seconded by Jared Mandrell and unanimously carried that the minutes be approved.

4. REGULAR AGENDA:

4.1. Receive an Update and Provide Feedback on Valley Water's Water Supply Master Plan 2050.

Recommendation: A. Provide feedback on portfolio analysis and three water supply strategies for meeting water supply needs; and;
B. Provide feedback on proposed adaptive management framework.

Kirsten Struve reviewed the information on this item, per the attached Committee Agenda Memo, and per the information contained in Attachment 5.

Sheila Barry arrived.

Kirsten Struve, Cindy Kao, Darin Taylor, and Vanessa De La Piedra were available to answer questions.

Email from Dhruv Khanna identified as Handout 4.1-A, was distributed to the Committee and made available to the public.

Public Comments:

None.

The Committee discussed the following topics: the importance of the Semitropic water storage during drought periods, upcoming negotiations per Semitropic contract expiring in 2035, and the potential impact on Semitropic use per the State Water Board addressing Sustainable

Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) issues, status of obtaining water from Semitropic through exchange is currently working well; how Valley Water is addressing community resistance to projects through tours and education; the noted current costs being the same for the San Jose direct potable reuse and the Valley Water desalination projects due to being early in the development processes, Santa Clara County water supply project costs estimated to be higher than Orange County's due to post pandemic costs, longer pipeline required, smaller scale wastewater treatment plants provide less wastewater treated/produced, and the local sensitive bay environment regulations/brine removal; confirmed total expansion for Sisk Dam is 130,000 acre feet (AF) split among participants with Valley Water's share being 60,000 AF; confirmed about 15% of all water in the county is recycled for non-potable purposes; strategic options for exploring new ponds and expanding existing facilities for South County recharge, confirming max Llagas Subbasin and Coyote Creek recharge facility capacity as 54,000 AF/year with actual long-term average as 35,000 AF/year; confirmed Valley Water's Delta Conveyance 3.23% project participation level/obligation; confirmed model runs for water supply scenario planning included potential funding options, fish/wildlife conservation, climate change, and evaporation rate; maintaining groundwater flows/gradients; estimated max 150,000 AF operational storage in Llagas groundwater subbasin and coordinating with neighboring subbasins/well users per SGMA requirements; and confirmed Valley Water options are being explored to expand recharge and options like Flood MAR to utilize open space/smaller ponds for capture/recharge.

The Committee received the information and noted the following:

- The Committee noted interest in receiving further information regarding amount of available water in the county that goes into the wastewater system and the status of water in a possible retention pond at Butterfield Technology Park (between Alpera Lane and Monterey Road).

4.2. Review Agricultural Water Advisory Committee 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, Cindy Kao, Vanessa De La Piedra, Valley Water Board Vice Chairperson Santos and Director Beall were available to answer questions.

The Committee noted support for adding a Work Plan topic regarding the status of SGMA in the Valley and Valley Water's involvement with the underground water movement and expanding water recharge in Kern

County, receiving information about future Valley Water Board meetings, and support for ensuring rate payers understand the water rate increases.

Cindy Kao noted Valley Water is currently in communication with the State Water Board to confirm support for modifying and implementing groundwater plans to achieve sustainability and avoid potential impacts by allowing groundwater banking to float on top of a sustainable operation.

Vanessa De la Piedra confirmed that implementing an additional large amount of recharge ponds like Kern County (where groundwater basins are overdrafted) is not needed for Santa Clara County, confirmed that Valley Water's subbasins are in good shape and SGMA compliant, and referred to Valley Water's Master Plan to address current/future water needs/supplies and potential investments.

Valley Water Board Vice Chairperson Santos confirmed that the Board would be addressing the Water Resources Protection Zones Ordinance agenda item at the July 9, 2024 meeting.

5. CLERK REVIEW AND CLARIFICATION OF COMMITTEE REQUESTS:

This is an opportunity for the Clerk to review and obtain clarification on any formally moved, seconded, and approved requests and recommendations made by the Committee during the meeting.

None.

6. REPORTS:

6.1. Director's Report

Director Beall noted upcoming climate change and housing bonds and discussed potential sea level rise issues.

Valley Water Board Vice Chairperson Santos continued sea level rise discussion and confirmed the upcoming Board meeting date on July 9, 2024 and the October 11, 2024 Water Solutions Summit.

6.2. Manager's Report

Kirsten Struve noted the United States Bureau of Reclamation raised the Central Valley project allocation statewide from 40% to 50% for agriculture.

6.3. Committee Member Report

Chairperson Peter Van Dyke discussed the February 2014 Valley Water District Crop Irrigation Water Use Update, expressed concern regarding savings from revenue bonds, expressed support for agriculture and rangelands as a resource for preserving open space, concern regarding urban development's impact, and interest in an update report regarding Director Eisenberg. Darin Taylor and Valley Water Board Vice Chairperson Santos were available to answer questions.

Mitchell Mariani continued discussion regarding crop factors and noted support for consideration of rain fall; noted positive support for current construction developments retaining water on housing properties. Vanessa De La Piedra and Kirsten Struve were available to answer questions.

Jan Garrod noted Handout 4.1-A.

6.4. Information Links:
Links noted on agenda.

7. ADJOURN:

7.1. Adjourn to Regular Meeting at 1:30 p.m. on October 7, 2024.

Chairperson Van Dyke adjourned the meeting at 3:15 p.m., to the regular meeting at 1:30 p.m. on October 7, 2024.

Date approved:

Nicole Merritt
Assistant Deputy Clerk II

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Santa Clara Valley Water District

File No.: 24-0851

Agenda Date: 10/7/2024

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:

Receive the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) Update.

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive an update on SGMA.

SUMMARY:

The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) requires that a groundwater sustainability agency (GSA) managing a basin ranked as medium- or high-priority submit a groundwater sustainability plan (GSP) or Alternative to a GSP (Alternative) to the Department of Water Resources (DWR) by certain statutory deadlines. SGMA provides GSAs with various groundwater management authorities to implement GSPs or Alternatives with the goal of achieving sustainable groundwater conditions. This item presents a brief update on SGMA status for the following groundwater basins:

- Santa Clara and Llagas Subbasins in Santa Clara County, managed exclusively by Valley Water
- North San Benito Subbasin in Santa Clara and San Benito counties, primarily managed by San Benito County Water District, and
- Kern County Subbasin in Kern County, which relates to the Semitropic Water Bank and is managed by others.

Santa Clara and Llagas Subbasins

Valley Water is the exclusive GSA for the high-priority Santa Clara and Llagas subbasins, which are located entirely in Santa Clara County and have been actively sustainably managed for many decades. For initial SGMA compliance, Valley Water submitted the 2016 Groundwater Management Plan (GWMP) for the Santa Clara and Llagas subbasins to DWR as an Alternative. DWR approved the Alternative in 2019, confirming it satisfies the objectives of SGMA.

In December 2021, Valley Water submitted the 2021 GWMP to DWR as the first periodic evaluation of the approved Alternative (SGMA requires evaluations at least every five years). In June 2024,

DWR approved the 2021 GWMP, confirming it was responsive to DWR comments on the 2016 GWMP, satisfies the objectives of SGMA, and complies with related regulations. DWR provided several minor recommendations that Valley Water will integrate into the next periodic evaluation, due December 2026. Valley Water continues to submit required Water Year reports by April 1 each year. Implementation of the comprehensive groundwater management activities described in the GWMP helps Valley Water ensure continued sustainable groundwater conditions in the Santa Clara and Llagas subbasins.

North San Benito Subbasin

Valley Water is also the GSA for the small portions of the North San Benito Subbasin located in Santa Clara County. Nearly all of this medium-priority basin is in San Benito County, so the San Benito County Water District GSA leads SGMA compliance efforts (including GSP development and implementation) in coordination with Valley Water. After being adopted by the Board of Directors for both agencies, the North San Benito Subbasin GSP was submitted to DWR in January 2022. In July 2023, DWR approved the GSP, indicating it satisfies the objectives of SGMA and substantially complies with GSP regulations. The DWR assessment includes four recommendations that will need to be addressed in the first periodic evaluation, which is due by January 2027. The assessment can be viewed on the SGMA portal at sgma.water.ca.gov.

Kern County Subbasin

Semitropic Groundwater Storage Bank (Semitropic) lies within the Kern County Subbasin. In January 2022, DWR determined that the GSPs initially submitted for the subbasin in January 2020 were incomplete. Revised GSPs were submitted in July 2022, and DWR determined that the revised GSPs were inadequate and referred the subbasin to the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) in March 2023. In July 2024, State Water Board released its draft Staff Report on the Kern County Subbasin, recommending that the State Water Board designate the subbasin as probationary. The State Water Board's draft Staff Report states that board staff would need to evaluate whether water banked in groundwater banks utilizing in-lieu recharge, such as those in Semitropic, should be considered native groundwater, rather than stored imported surface water, subjected to SGMA reporting and fees.

The probationary hearing is scheduled for February 20, 2025. If the State Water Board decides to place the subbasin on probation, State Water Board may require groundwater extractors to report extractions and pay fees. The subbasin will have at least one year to fix deficiencies; if deficiencies are not fixed after at least one year, the State Water Board may implement an interim plan for the subbasin.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AND EQUITY IMPACT:

There are no environmental justice impacts associated with this item.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment 1: PowerPoint

UNCLASSIFIED MANAGER:

Gregory Williams, 408-630-2867

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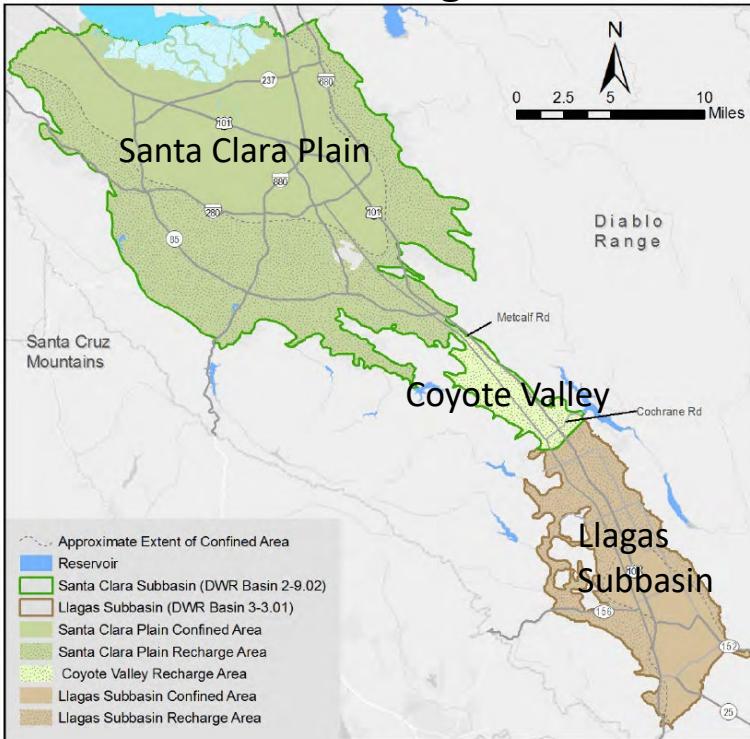
Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) Update

Agricultural Water Advisory Committee October 7, 2024

Local Basins Subject to SGMA

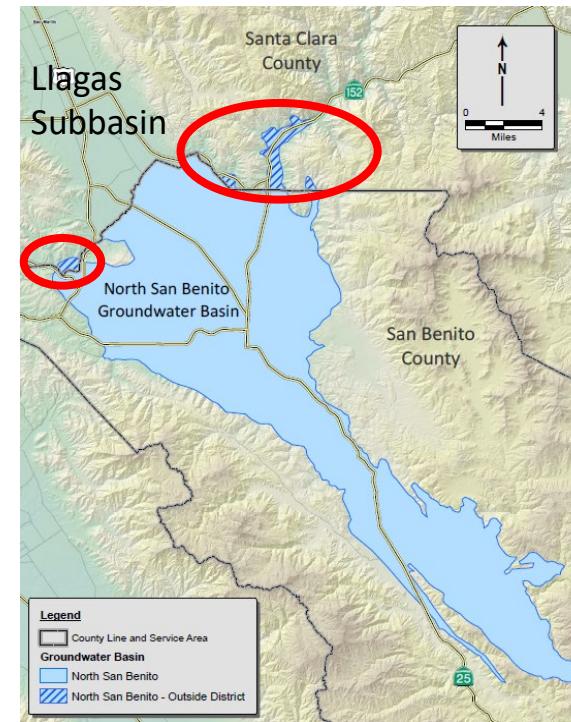
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Santa Clara and Llagas Subbasins



- Located entirely in Santa Clara County
- Cover about 400 square miles
- Valley Water is the exclusive groundwater sustainability agency (GSA)

North San Benito Subbasin

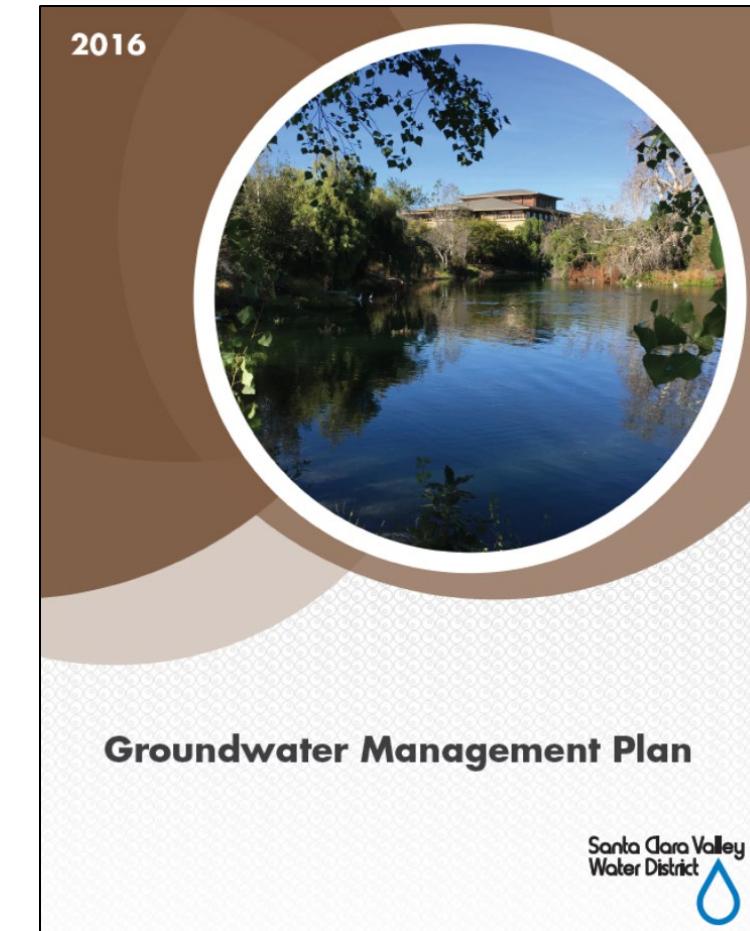


- Primarily located in San Benito County
- Valley Water is the GSA for Santa Clara County portions (5.2 square miles)
- Coordination with San Benito County Water District

Santa Clara and Llagas Subbasins – SGMA History

3

- **May 2016:** Valley Water became the Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA)
- **December 2016:** Submitted 2016 Groundwater Management Plan (GWMP) as Alternative to a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (Alternative)
- **July 2019:** Alternative approved by Dept. of Water Resources (DWR)
- **December 2021:** Submitted 2021 GWMP as first required periodic evaluation
- **June 2024:** Periodic evaluation approved by DWR
- **April 2017 to 2024:** Submitted annual Water Year reports



Santa Clara and Llagas Subbasins – SGMA Status

- Implementing 2021 GWMP recommendations
 - Improving groundwater, subsidence, and seawater intrusion monitoring and understanding
 - Improving subsidence modeling and understanding
- Evaluating DWR recommendations
 - Clarify coordination with adjacent GSAs
 - Ensure monitoring network details are consistent with DWR's Monitoring Network Module
 - Modify format of annual Water Year compliance report
- Planning for 2026 GWMP (next periodic evaluation)
 - Due December 2026

2021

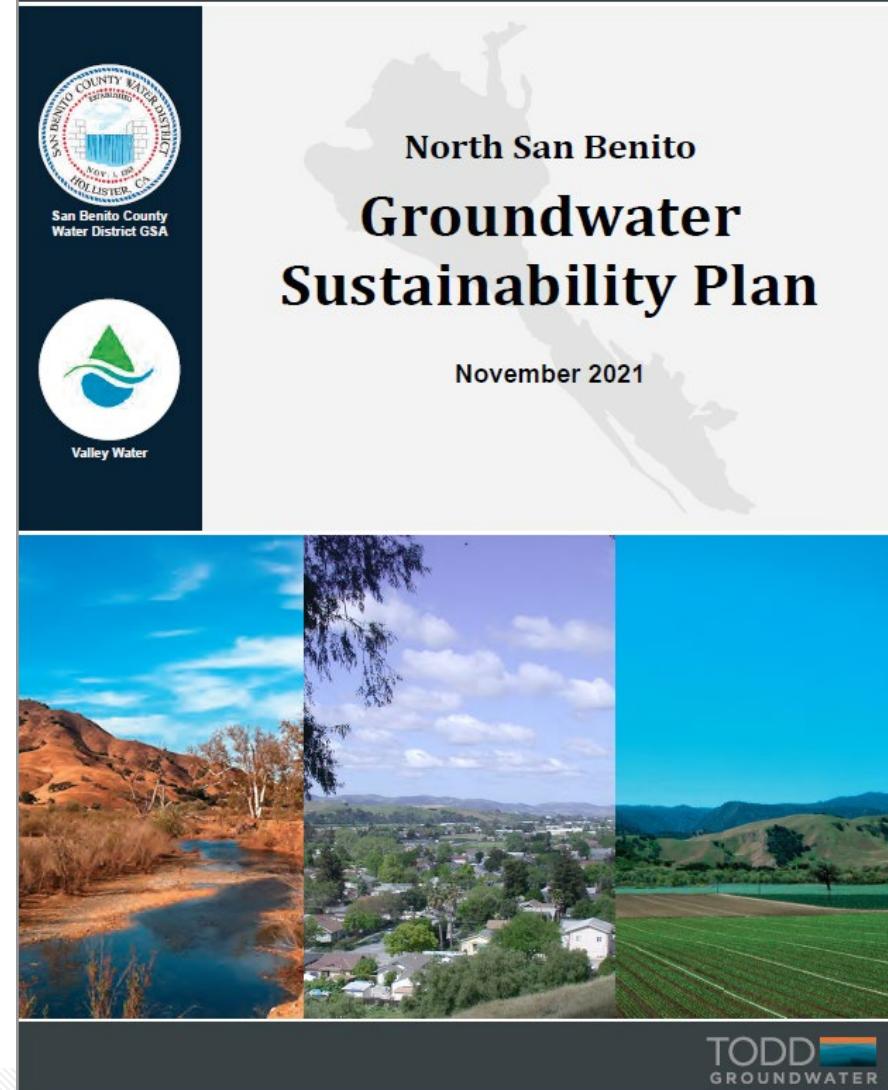


Groundwater Management Plan
for the Santa Clara and Llagas Subbasins



North San Benito Subbasin – SGMA Status

- San Benito County Water District lead GSP development with support from Valley Water
- GSP submitted in January 2022
- GSP approved by DWR in July 2023
- DWR recommendations to be addressed in the next GSP update (due by January 2027)



Kern County Subbasin – SGMA Status

- Semitropic Water Storage District is within the Kern County subbasin
- DWR referred the subbasin to State Water Board staff for intervention in March 2023
- State Water Board released its draft Staff Report in July 2024, recommending the designation of the basin as probationary
- State Water Board probationary hearing scheduled for February 20, 2025

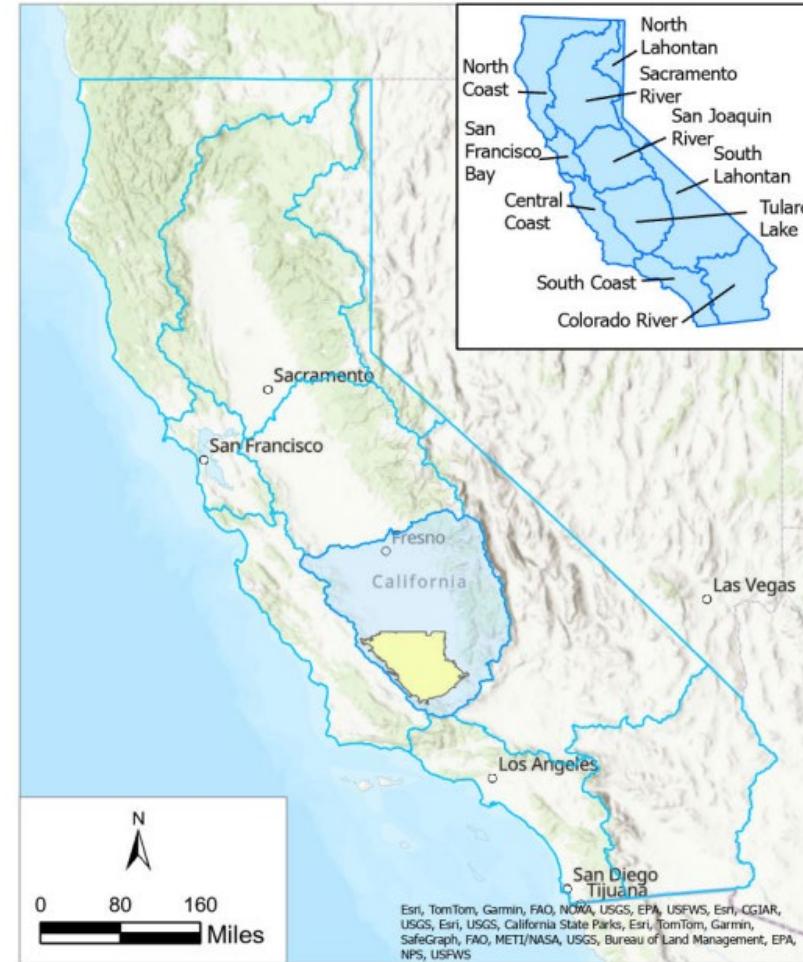


Figure 3-1
Overview of the Kern County Subbasin

*Draft Staff Report
Kern County Subbasin
July 2024*

Kern County Subbasin
Hydrologic Regions
Tulare Lake Hydrologic Region



Valley Water

Clean Water • Healthy Environment • Flood Protection

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Santa Clara Valley Water District

File No.: 24-0870

Agenda Date: 10/7/2024

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:

Discuss Policy for Securing Agricultural Water For Food Production/Security.

RECOMMENDATION:

Discuss policy for securing agricultural water for food production/security.

SUMMARY:

Agricultural Water Advisory Committee (AWAC) Member Erin Gil requested this matter be added to the October 7, 2024 Committee Agenda and this request was approved by Chairperson Peter Van Dyke.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AND EQUITY IMPACT:

This discussion agenda item is not subject to environmental justice analysis.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment 1: Article, 090624 - U.S. House Com. Hrg. - CFWC

UNCLASSIFIED MANAGER:

Vincent Gin, 408-630-2633

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CALIFORNIA FARM WATER COALITION

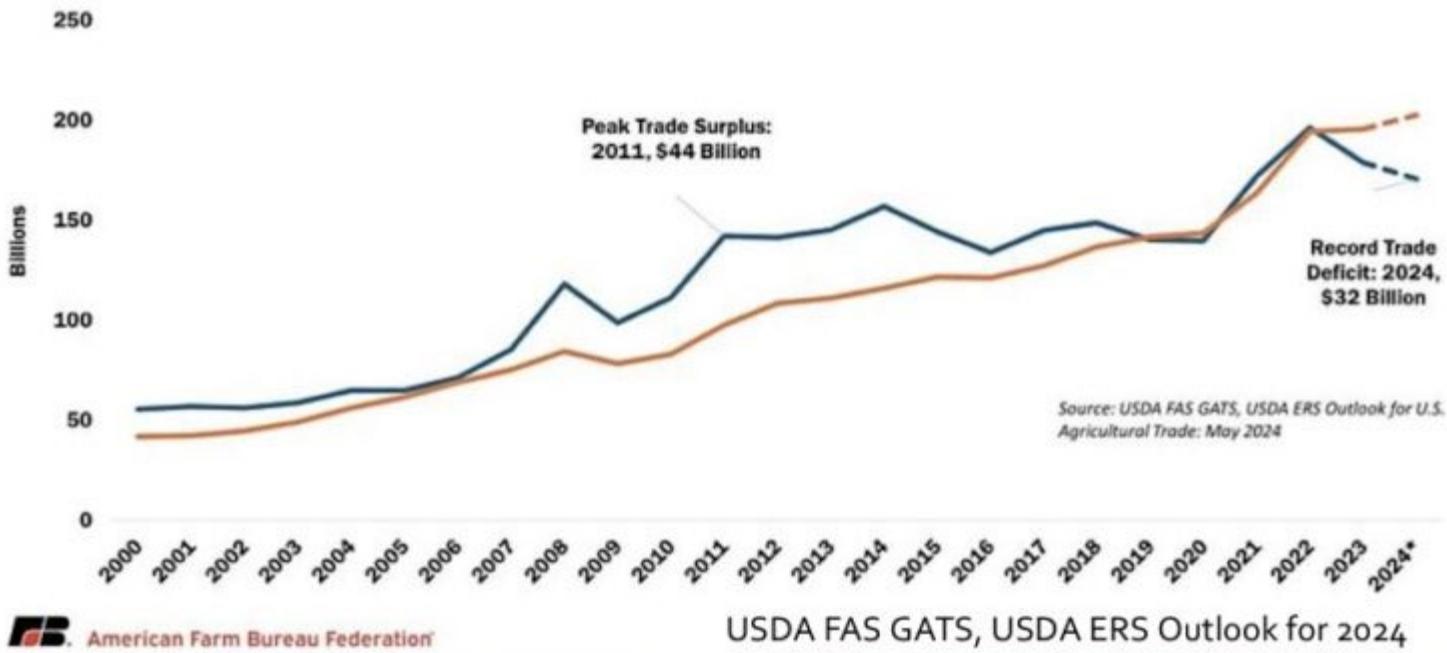
U.S. House of Representatives Committee Members Hearing

Santa Nella, CA – Today, members of the U.S. House of Representatives Natural Resources Committee held a hearing titled “Water Abundance: Opportunities and Challenges in California.”

The committee members heard from California experts on the impacts of compliance with the Endangered Species Act and associated regulatory efforts on local communities, business, and America’s food supply.

“Today’s testimony shows how broken our water supply system has become. The U.S. had an agricultural trade deficit in 2019 where, for the first time in 50 years we imported more food than we exported.” said Mike Wade, executive director of the California Farm Water Coalition. “That trend has continued in three of the last five years. When California farms don’t have water to grow our food, we’re depending on other countries to do it. That’s not good for food security or having safe, affordable food choices for the American people.”

U.S. Agricultural Trade: Exports and Imports (Fiscal Year)



Testimony heard from the experts is summarized by topic below.

Endangered Species Act (ESA) and Regulatory Burden

Ronda Lucas, a water and environmental attorney, critiqued the Endangered Species Act (ESA) for its failure to recover species despite being in effect for over 50 years.

- Lucas argued that the ESA has listed more than 1,700 species, but only 2% of those species have been recovered. She attributed this failure to bureaucratic inefficiencies and litigation that prioritize listing species over recovery.

Lucas also pointed out the ESA's negative impact on water availability in California, particularly on farmers, as unelected officials impose water scarcity measures in the name of species protection without yielding measurable benefits for the environment.

- She cited a study from 2023 showing that after 40 years and \$9 billion spent on salmon recovery efforts in the Columbia River Basin, there has been no empirical evidence of increased wild fish populations.

Jason Phillips, CEO of the Friant Water Authority, discussed how the ESA has negatively impacted water deliveries in the San Joaquin Valley.

- He highlighted that agricultural water users south of the Delta received only 50% of their water supply in a year that followed a wet winter, due to these environmental regulations.

- He remarked that regulatory actions over 30 years have failed to help struggling fish populations, while restricting water access for communities and agriculture.
- He also underscored concerns with the 2019 Biological Opinion, noting it may exacerbate water scarcity.

William Bourdeau, a San Joaquin Valley farmer, expressed frustration with how the ESA and other regulations lead to delays in water allocation announcements.

- In 2024, despite historic rainfall and snowpack, the Bureau of Reclamation initially provided only minimal water allocations. These delays had severe impacts on agricultural planning, resulting in lost contracts and idle equipment.
- Bourdeau emphasized the need for timely, transparent water management that reflects real-time conditions.

Allison Febbo, General Manager of Westlands Water District, echoed concerns about the slow, ineffective nature of the ESA's regulatory process.

- She noted that despite decades of stringent regulation, fish populations continue to decline, and water supply reliability has eroded.
- Febbo spoke on the need for reforms to improve transparency and adaptive management practices that can better respond to real-time environmental needs.



Water Scarcity and Infrastructure Challenges

Jason Phillips highlighted the inefficiency of California's current water management system, where overly conservative and ineffective regulations and lack of new infrastructure prevent water from being stored during wet years.

- He pointed out that the Friant-Kern Canal and related systems deliver 1.2 million acre-feet of irrigation water annually to over 15,000 farms on one million acres of some of the most productive farmland in the world.
- He noted that despite abundant rainfall in recent years, water deliveries were limited to only 50% of contracted amounts due to regulatory restrictions.
- Phillips mentioned that the southern third of the Friant-Kern Canal has lost 60% of its capacity due to land subsidence caused by excessive groundwater pumping. This results in an annual loss of 100,000-300,000 acre-feet of water that could have been used for irrigation and groundwater recharge.

William Bourdeau noted that delays in water allocations due to regulatory inefficiencies create significant disruptions in agricultural supply chains.

- For instance, garlic packers, who plant in September and October, and tomato processors, who

finalize commitments in January, are unable to adjust their operations if water announcements are delayed until March. This leads to economic losses across the entire agricultural sector

Allison Febbo added that California's outdated water infrastructure, which was designed for past climate conditions, is not equipped to handle the current hydrologic variability caused by climate change. She underscored the need to repair and expand water storage facilities, conveyance systems, and groundwater management to secure water supplies for agriculture and communities

Economic and Social Impact

Ronda Lucas discussed the far-reaching social and economic impacts of regulatory droughts. She pointed to the high unemployment rates, poverty, and increased instances of respiratory illnesses, particularly asthma, as a result of dust from fallowed fields due to water shortages.

Lucas mentioned that these water shortages, caused by regulatory decisions, have led to violations of the Clean Air Act, directly harming the health of children, the elderly, and vulnerable communities.

William Bourdeau stressed that water scarcity has led to a collapse of the social fabric in farming communities.

- He highlighted the stress and mental health challenges faced by families dependent on agriculture, citing rising cases of respiratory illness, domestic violence, depression, and even suicide as indirect consequences of mismanaged water resources.
- Bourdeau also noted that the scarcity artificially inflates food prices, disproportionately affecting low-income families across the nation.

Technological Solutions and Innovation

Josh Weimer, Director of External Affairs at Turlock Irrigation District (TID), presented an optimistic outlook by detailing technological advancements that improve water management.

- He highlighted TID's investment in the Airborne Snow Observatory (ASO) and Forecast-Informed Reservoir Operations (FIRO), which have drastically improved the accuracy of water forecasting. For example, the ASO program provides snowpack measurements with 97% accuracy, allowing TID to better manage water supply and flood control during both dry and wet years. Weimer points to the benefits of these technologies during the wet year of 2023, where TID was able to pass over 2 million acre-feet of water through Don Pedro Reservoir by carefully managing early releases. This not only mitigated the risk of flooding but also generated \$20 million in hydroelectric power by efficiently using water flows.
- Weimer also emphasized TID's Hydrologic Forecasting and Analysis Model (HFAM), which provides hourly watershed conditions and enables more precise water management decisions. The model

has proven to be accurate within a 2% margin, helping TID to maximize both water storage and flood control capacity.



Testimony of:

[William Bordeau, Farmer, San Joaquin Valley](#)

[Allison Febbo, General Manager, Westlands Water District](#)

[John Herrick, South Delta Water Agency](#)

[Ronda Lucas, Water and Environmental Attorney](#)

[Jason Phillips, Chief Executive Officer, Friant Water Authority](#)

[Josh Weimer, Director of External Affairs, Turlock Irrigation District](#)

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Santa Clara Valley Water District

File No.: 24-0868

Agenda Date: 10/7/2024

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 Agricultural Water Advisory Committee Work Plan, the Outcomes of Board Action of Committee Requests, the Committee's Next Meeting Agenda, and the Committee's Vacancies.

RECOMMENDATION:

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

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 AND EQUITY IMPACT:

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

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment 1: AWAC 2024 Work Plan

UNCLASSIFIED MANAGER:

Candice Kwok-Smith, 408-630-3193

2024 Work Plan: Agricultural Water Advisory Committee

Update: September 2024

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 2024.	January 8	•Committee Elects Chair and Vice Chair for 2024. (Action)	Accomplished January 8, 2024: The Committee unanimously approved Peter Van Dyke as the 2024 Agricultural Water Advisory Committee Chairperson and Trevor Garrod as the 2024 Agricultural Water Advisory Committee Vice-Chairperson.
2	Annual Accomplishments Report.	January 8	•Review and approve 2023 Accomplishments Report for presentation to the Board. (Action) •Submit requests to the Board, as appropriate.	Accomplished January 8, 2024: The Committee unanimously approved the 2023 Annual Accomplishments Report. <i>The Board received the Committee's presentation by Chairperson Peter Van Dyke and accepted the 2023 Annual Accomplishments Report at its March 26, 2024 meeting.</i>

Yellow = Update Since Last Meeting

Blue = Action taken by the Board of Directors

Attachment 1
Page 1 of 5

2024 Work Plan: Agricultural Water Advisory Committee

Update: September 2024

3	<p>Review and Comment to the Board on the Fiscal Year 2024 – 2025 Preliminary Groundwater Production Charges.</p>	<p>January 8 April 8</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Review and comment to the Board on the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Preliminary Groundwater Production Charges. (Action) •Submit requests to the Board, as appropriate. 	<p>Accomplished January 8, 2024: The Committee reviewed and commented on the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Preliminary Groundwater Production Charges and took the following action: The Committee unanimously approved the Committee recommend to the Board to hold the agricultural groundwater rate unchanged at 36.85 per acre foot. The Committee received a motion and a second to include additional information in the presentation, but no vote was taken per staff confirmed this was a preliminary analysis agenda item and will return in April 2024 for further discussion.</p> <p>Accomplished April 8, 2024: The Committee unanimously approved to recommend to the Board to suspend any increases to the agriculture groundwater production water charges until the Board approves a consultant to conduct an updated accounting/mathematical study quantifying the ecosystem benefits including climate change, carbon sequestration, and carbon dioxide cleansing/removal.</p> <p><i>The Board approved the Resolution: DETERMINING SURFACE WATER, TREATED WATER, AND SOUTH COUNTY RECYCLED WATER CHARGES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025 at the May 14, 2024 meeting.</i></p>
4	<p>Receive Information and Provide Feedback on the Development of Valley Water's Water Supply Master Plan 2050.</p>	<p>January 8 July 1</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Receive Information and provide feedback on the development of Valley Water's Water Supply Master Plan 2050. 	<p>Accomplished January 8, 2024: The Committee received information and provided feedback on the Water Supply Master Plan 2050 and took no action.</p> <p>Accomplished July 1, 2024: The Committee received information and provided feedback on the Water Supply Master</p>

Yellow = Update Since Last Meeting

Blue = Action taken by the Board of Directors

Attachment 1
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2024 Work Plan: Agricultural Water Advisory Committee

Update: September 2024

				Plan 2050, took no action and requested information regarding wastewater in the county and a possible retention pond at Butterfield Technology Park.
5	One Water Plan Upper Pajaro Watershed Plan Priority Actions.	January 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 	<p>Accomplished January 8, 2024: The Committee received information and provided feedback on the One Water Plan and took no action. The Committee confirmed staff anticipates incorporating feedback, finalizing the plan, and presenting to the Board in 2 to 3 months.</p>
6	Review of Agricultural Water Advisory Committee Work Plan, the Outcomes of Board Action of Committee Requests and the Committee's Next Meeting Agenda.	January 8 April 8 July 1 October 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Receive and review the 2024 Board-approved Committee work plan. (Action) • Submit requests to the Board, as appropriate. 	<p>Accomplished January 8, 2024: The Committee received and reviewed the 2024 Board-approved Committee work plan and noted support for a future update on the One Water Plan and inclusion of water retention of grasslands versus brushlands; and reconfirmed request to discuss climate change and carbon sequestration at the next meeting.</p> <p>Accomplished April 8, 2024: The Committee unanimously approved the review of population growth versus water use and confirm the justification for the project capital costs when water use is flat or slightly increasing to be addressed by the future Water Supply Master Plan Update and noted support for a future Unhoused agenda item with a County update.</p> <p>Accomplished July 1, 2024: The Committee noted support for adding a Work Plan topic regarding the status of SGMA in the Valley and Valley Water's involvement with the underground water movement and expanding water recharge in Kern County, receiving information about future Valley Water Board meetings, and support for ensuring rate payers understand the water rate increases.</p>

Yellow = Update Since Last Meeting

Blue = Action taken by the Board of Directors

Attachment 1
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2024 Work Plan: Agricultural Water Advisory Committee

Update: September 2024

7	Standing Items Report Fiscal Year 2024 Goals and Strategies.	January 8 October 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Receive reports on standing items, FY2024. (Information) 	Accomplished January 8, 2024: The Committee received the report on standing items for FY 2024 and took no action.
BOARD WORK PLAN GOALS: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Integrated Water Resources Management - Goal: Efficiently manage water resources across business areas. 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. 				
8	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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •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. 	

Yellow = Update Since Last Meeting

Blue = Action taken by the Board of Directors

Attachment 1
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2024 Work Plan: Agricultural Water Advisory Committee

Update: September 2024

9	Review Climate Change and the benefits of ecosystems on Agriculture in Santa Clara County.	April 8	•Discuss how climate change impacts the benefits of ecosystems on agriculture within Santa Clara County.	<u>Accomplished April 8, 2024:</u> The Committee received the information, took no formal action, and noted potential of banning fake grass/turf, pro-farming programs, and federal funding for climate smart practices.
10	Discuss the Potential of Forming a Subcommittee.	April 8	•Discuss the potential of forming an AWAC subcommittee per the Committee's approval at the January 9, 2023 meeting.	<u>Accomplished April 8, 2024:</u> The Committee received the information, took no formal action, and noted support for an AWAC subcommittee to promote productivity and communication. No specific purpose was confirmed for the Subcommittee at this time and support was noted for a Committee survey to confirm potential topics.
11	Receive Update on Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) Compliance and Semitropic banking.	October 7	•Receive update on SGMA compliance and Semitropic banking.	
12	Discuss Policy for Securing Agricultural Water for Food Production/Security.	October 7	•Discuss policy for securing agricultural waters for food production/security.	

Yellow = Update Since Last Meeting

Blue = Action taken by the Board of Directors

Attachment 1
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Santa Clara Valley Water District

File No.: 24-0607

Agenda Date: 10/7/2024

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 2023-2024 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 AND EQUITY IMPACT:

The Standing Items Report is not subject to environmental justice analysis.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment 1: Board Work Plan Standing Items Report

UNCLASSIFIED MANAGER:
Candice Kwok-Smith, 408-630-3193

FY2023-2024 BOARD WORK PLAN – STANDING ITEMS REPORT

June 2024

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 January 9, 2024, the Board received an informational update on the Draft Fiscal Year 2025-2029 (FY25-29) Water Utility and Watersheds Operations & Maintenance and Asset Renewal Plans. The Five-Year Water Utility and Watersheds Operations & Maintenance and Asset Renewal Plans (Plans) identify and document the resources needed for operations and maintenance activities and asset replacements and rehabilitations for the next five fiscal years, 2025 to 2029. The Plans forecast the resources needed for operator labor, energy and supplies, preventive and corrective maintenance, and engineering and environmental staff support. Additionally, the Plans forecast asset renewal projects that involve the replacement or rehabilitation of equipment or systems to extend their service life. On May 13, 2024 the Board approved the Fiscal Year (FY) 2026-2030 Five-Year Capital Improvement Program (CIP). The CIP Five-Year Plan describes Valley Water's capital investment priorities. Valley Water's CIP Final FY 2026-30 Five-Year Plan includes 73 capital projects to be funded, which are categorized as follows: 37 Water Supply, 15 Flood Protection, 13 Water Resources Stewardship, 3 Buildings and Grounds, and 5 Information Technology, for a total cost of \$9.570 billion.
Updates:	<p>Objective 2: Improve internal capacity to negotiate and acquire regulatory permits.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In September 2023, Valley Water hosted an environmentally-focused stakeholders Meeting of a diverse cross-section of environmental leaders to discuss how we can best work together to better accomplish mutually beneficial projects and shared goals, including climate resiliency, environmental stewardship, and potential areas for partnership associated with Valley Water's key projects and priorities. On June 12, 2024 Valley Water hosted an environmentally-focused stakeholders meeting and presented on Baylands restoration projects, which included updates to the San Francisco Bay Shoreline Project, the Calabazas/San Tomas Aquino Creek-Marsh Connection Project, and the Pond A4 Resilient Habitat Restoration efforts. Participants engaged Valley Water directors and staff with questions about the projects and provided feedback on discussion items for the next meeting.
Updates:	<p>Objective 3: Educate the community, elected officials and external stakeholders on our management of water resources in Santa Clara County.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On April 15-17, 2024, Valley Water Board Chair Nai Hsueh led senior staff on Valley Water's annual spring trip to Washington, DC, to advocate for funding and policies that benefit Santa Clara County residents. Over the span of two and a half days, the group held more than 15 meetings with agency officials, Members of Congress, and key committee staff. The spring trip is timed to coincide with the release of the President's budget and the kickoff of the annual appropriations process. Key priorities included funding for critical projects like the Anderson Dam Seismic Retrofit and continued federal investment in the South San Francisco Bay Shoreline Project. On April 30 and May 1, 2024, Valley Water Vice Chair Santos and Director Estremera led senior staff in a series of 19 meetings with state legislators and Newsom Administration officials. Several priority issues were discussed, including AB 2409 (Papan) Permitting Transparency, Valley Water's Climate Resilience Bond priorities, the

	<p>FY 2024-25 State Budget, the Anderson Dam Seismic Retrofit Project, the South San Francisco Bay Shoreline Project, and numerous other state policy issues regarding water supply, flood protection, and environmental stewardship for the people of Santa Clara County.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On May 10, 2024, Valley Water hosted a news conference to highlight our progress on the Anderson Dam Tunnel Project, which included guiding media members and elected officials on a tour inside the tunnel. Director Varela provided remarks during the news conference, along with County Supervisors Sylvia Arenas and Cindy Chavez, Morgan Hill Mayor Mark Turner, and Jean Cohen, Executive Officer of the South Bay Labor Council. The event garnered widespread media attention, with KCBS radio, Morgan Hill Times, Morgan Hill Life, Mercury News, CBS, KTVU, NBC, ABC and Univision sending representatives. Valley Water's Water 101 Academy program held a graduation ceremony on June 4, where 18 participants received certificates of completion and officially became Water Ambassadors. In FY24, Valley Water's Education Outreach Program presented to: 9,813 students and 440 educators in 80 schools, and 900 members of the public.
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<p style="text-align: center;">WATER SUPPLY</p> <p style="text-align: center;">GOAL: Provide a reliable, safe, and affordable water supply for current and future generations in all communities served.</p>	
Objective 1:	Pursue new and diversified water supply and storage opportunities.
Updates:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In October 2023, Valley Water closed on a \$92 million Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) planning and design loan with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for the Pacheco Reservoir Expansion Project, at an interest rate of 5.08%. Total principal and interest cost for the loan is currently projected at \$285.7 million. The WIFIA loan is projected to save Valley Water \$45 million over the life of the loan, as compared to issuing long-term debt in the capital markets. Execution of the loan does not commit the Board to take any definitive action with regard to the project. No interest costs will be incurred until the loan is drawn upon, which is not anticipated to occur in Fiscal Year's 2024 or 2025. On December 8, 2023, the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) reached a significant milestone by releasing the final Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Delta Conveyance Project, the State of California's proposed plan to improve the infrastructure that carries water through the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. Valley Water will review the final EIR and use it as one of many pieces of information to help inform decisions regarding the project. On June 25, 2024, staff provided the Board an update on the Delta Conveyance Project including updated project costs and benefit-cost analysis.
Objective 2:	Secure existing water supplies and water supply infrastructure
Updates:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On April 10, 2024, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) established Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) for six per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). Valley Water conducted voluntary quarterly monitoring from 2020 to 2021, at its three drinking water treatment plants, which serve seven local water retailers. None of the six PFAS regulated under the new EPA rule were detected in Valley Water's treated water. Water supplied by Valley Water continues to meet all federal and state regulatory requirements, including the new PFAS drinking water limits, and is safe to drink. Currently, Valley Water does not anticipate a significant impact to its treatment plant operations.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On June 25, 2024, the Board was given an update on Valley Water's Water Supply Master Plan 2050, 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.
Objective 3:	Lead purified water efforts with committed partners.
Updates:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Valley Water secured \$680,429 in grant awards from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) Water Recycling and Desalination Planning Fund. \$299,180 in grant funding will support the South County Water Reuse Program Feasibility Study Project and \$381,249 will support the San José-Santa Clara Purified Water Program Feasibility Study. On October 4, 2023 Valley Water hosted a ribbon cutting for the South County Recycled Water Pipeline Project at the South County Regional Wastewater Authority. For the past five years Valley Water and the cities of Palo Alto and Mountain View have successfully collaborated on the expansion of potable reuse in Santa Clara County, starting with the execution of the 2019 Agreement. Due to affordability issues related to Capital Improvement Program (CIP) cost increases and declining wastewater flows, Valley Water's Board decided on February 27, 2024, to move the Palo Alto Purified Water Project to the unfunded list. The efforts with our city partners as well as regulatory agencies will be helpful as Valley Water moves forward with a Direct Potable Reuse (DPR) project with the Cities of San Jose and Santa Clara. On March 23, 2024, Valley Water received final approval from the California Department of Public Health, after receiving approval from the California Division of Drinking Water in February 2024, allowing for distribution of 16,000 bottles of purified water for education and outreach purposes. Valley Water is the first agency to bottle purified water for outreach purposes under new regulations established in 2017 and would be the second agency in the State of California and third in the nation to bottle purified water as part of their comprehensive outreach and education program.
Objective 4:	Complete the Anderson Dam Seismic Retrofit Project.
Updates:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On February 20, 2024, the Anderson Dam Seismic Retrofit Project (ADSRP) reached a major regulatory milestone with submittal of an application to surrender the Anderson Dam Hydroelectric Project No. 5737 exemption (surrender petition) to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). The construction of the Diversion Outlet Structure slabs and walls was successfully completed in April 2024 and the construction of the Diversion Outlet Structure roofs was completed in June 2024. In February 2024, Valley Water achieved a significant project construction milestone with the completion of the excavation of the 24-foot diameter Low-Level Outlet Tunnel. In August 2024, an 8-foot diameter Micro-Tunnel Boring Machine was launched to advance the lake tap for the stage 1 diversion, completing the tunneling operations for the Anderson Dam Tunnel Project.

Objective 5:	Making water conservation a California way of life in Santa Clara County.
Updates:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In October 2023, Valley Water was awarded WaterSense Partner of the Year by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. This is a competitive national award recognizing agencies that have gone above and beyond to promote an ethic of water efficiency to conserve water resources for future generations. As a first-time applicant, Valley Water won the award thanks to our outstanding water conservation programs and the collaboration and outreach efforts with our partners in the community to save water during our record-breaking drought in 2022. In January 2024, Valley Water's Conservation Team launched the Landscape Design Assistance Program to provide residential Landscape Conversion Rebate applicants with input from a professional Valley Water-approved landscape designer during a one-to-two-hour on-site consultation for proposed front yard lawn conversion projects. It is anticipated that this program will increase overall participation in the Landscape Rebate Program. Valley Water's Water Conservation team hosted its 8th annual Landscape Summit (Summit) on February 29, 2024, offered as a hybrid in-person and virtual event. The annual Summit, launched in 2017 in collaboration with Valley Water's Landscape Committee, is a forum for landscape professionals to learn about water issues in the county and California as a whole, and how water conservation relates to the landscaping industry. It is also an opportunity for Valley Water to get valuable feedback from the landscape community, and for attendees to collaborate and exchange ideas. This year's summit, themed "A Changing Landscape," hosted nearly 170 attendees, 90 of whom attended in person.

NATURAL FLOOD PROTECTION	
GOAL: Provide Natural Flood Protection to reduce risk and improve health and safety.	
Objective 1:	Protect people and property from flooding by applying a comprehensive, integrated watershed management approach that balances environmental quality, sustainability, and cost.
Updates:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In September 2023, Valley Water completed emergency construction on Regnart Creek in Cupertino to help stabilize the creekside so stormwater could safely flow downstream and away from the surrounding neighborhood in preparation for the upcoming rainy season. On April 9, 2024, the Board held a formal public hearing approving changes to projects under the Safe, Clean Water Program that will result in additional funding being allocated to the Sunnyvale East and West Channels Project. With this additional funding, Valley Water can construct both phases of the project without delay. Through FY24 Q3, Valley Water completed 2,053.63 acres of in-stream vegetation management to reduce flood risk along 155.77 miles of streams throughout the county using an integrated combination of mechanical, hand labor, and herbicide methods, and removed approximately 54,452 cubic yards of sediment on 22 projects from various creeks throughout the county to maintain design capacity.
Objective 2:	Provide flood protection equitably in all regions of the County, prioritizing disadvantaged communities.
Updates:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On October 25, 2023, Valley Water hosted a news conference for California Flood Preparedness Week to promote our Stream Maintenance Program and Get Flood Ready campaign and highlight our partnerships with the City of San José and other agencies. On November 13, 2023, Valley Water and the City of San José held a joint news conference to outline storm emergency plans, the partnership between the two agencies, and our collaboration on the Coyote Creek Flood Measures Management Project. A

	<p>toolkit with flood preparedness resources was shared with partner agencies and government officials.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On November 16, 2023, Valley Water provided a Winter Preparedness Workshop to the Santa Clara County Operational Area Council that acknowledges efforts to support flood readiness throughout the year. Valley Water will continue to work with regional partners to support storm-related response as needed. Valley Water's annual Flood Awareness Campaign was launched with the delivery of the flood mailer to 48,000 homes and businesses in the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Special Flood Hazard Area. In January 2024, Valley Water concluded a successful 2023 work season under its Stream Maintenance Program (SMP) for sediment removal, bank protection, animal damage management, vegetation management, and mitigation. In total, Valley Water completed 11 bank stabilization projects, 23 sediment removal projects, 1 animal damage management project, 1 minor maintenance project, 117 vegetation management projects, and 6 mitigation projects (5 of which were carried over from the previous year). Management of SMP mitigation sites, vegetation management, including Invasive Plant Management and Revegetation mitigation projects, continue along various creeks throughout the county.
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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, equitably in all regions of the county.
Updates:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On February 15, 2024, the State Coastal Conservancy (SCC) Board approved \$5 Million in grant funding to cover a portion of construction costs for the Pond A4 Resilient Habitat Restoration Project (Pond A4 RHR Project). In April 2023, Valley Water's Board approved the inclusion of Phase 1 of Pond A4 RHR Project in the Capitol Improvement Program's (CIP's) FY2024-28 Five-Year Plan. The Pond A4 RHR Project will convert open water to ecologically valuable mudflats and shallow water habitats for shorebirds at Pond A4, a former salt production pond acquired by Valley Water in 2000. The Pond A4 RHR Project will beneficially re-use sediment removed from local creeks by Valley Water's Stream Maintenance Program (SMP) to build an enhanced shoreline habitat, thereby also supporting intent of Safe Clean Water Project D3, which is to increase SMP sediment reuse to support restoration projects. Grant funding of \$5 Million from the State Coastal Conservancy would cover Phase 1 construction costs for access road and staging area improvements and the initial three-year (FY2026 to FY2028) costs of Phase 2 habitat construction, which is expected to last 15 yrs. On March 26, 2024, the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) provided an update to the Board on USACE partnership projects for FY2024. USACE is currently partnering with Valley Water on planning, design, and/or construction of six flood protection projects that aim to protect homes, schools, and businesses in Santa Clara County including: South San Francisco Bay Shoreline Phase I Construction, South San Francisco Bay Shoreline Phase II Study, South San Francisco Bay Shoreline (Sunnyvale) Study, Upper Guadalupe River Re-Evaluation Study, Berryessa Creek Construction, and San Francisquito Creek Contributed Authorities Program Section 205 Study. On April 9, 2024, the Board Adopted the One Water Guadalupe Watershed Plan and the One Water Upper Pajaro Watershed Plan. One Water is Valley Water's public planning process to identify watershed management needs and identify actions to address them. Watershed actions are then combined with water supply actions into a comprehensive 30-year plan through an extensive public engagement process.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On May 15, 2024, Valley Water's Bolsa Road Fish Passage Improvements Project was awarded the 2024 Project of the Year Award from the American Public Works Association (APWA) Silicon Valley Chapter. The APWA Silicon Valley Chapter recognized the Bolsa Road Fish Passage Improvements Project as a public works project that demonstrated excellence in its design and construction. It was noted for its excellence in restoring the passage for endangered steelhead trout, in addition to restoring the geomorphic functions and stability, following decades long incision of Uvas creek.
Objective 2:	Protect creeks, bay, and other aquatic ecosystems from threats of pollution and degradation.
Updates:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Through Valley Water's Adopt-A-Creek cleanup program, total Cleanup Numbers in FY24: 1,908 Volunteers, 164 miles cleaned and 55,459 pounds of trash & recyclables removed. On May 18, 2024, Valley Water, in partnership with the Creek Connections Action Group, coordinated another successful cleanup event as part of the 32nd Annual National River Cleanup Day. There were 42 cleanup sites throughout the county where 690 volunteers cleaned 66 miles of creeks, shoreline, and natural areas, removing approximately 17,255 pounds of litter. Valley Water Youth Commissioners and staff hosted a cleanup site at the Guadalupe River behind Valley Water Headquarters.
Objective 3:	Complete and implement the Fisheries and Aquatic Habitat Collaborative Effort (FAHCE) agreement.
Updates:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On August 8, 2023, Valley Water's Board of Directors certified the Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Fish and Aquatic Habitat Collaborative Effort (FAHCE). The EIR details how Valley Water proposes to release water from our reservoirs to balance water supply needs while also providing habitat for steelhead in Stevens Creek and both steelhead and Chinook salmon in the Guadalupe watershed. The document also details how plants, wildlife, fisheries and water supply will be affected under different scenarios for operations and what we can do to enhance the various benefits. On May 13, 2024, Valley Water's Stream Planning and Operations Committee conducted a tour of the fish barrier removal site at Singleton Road and the Percolation Pond Fish Ladder Installation Site.

<p style="text-align: center;">ADDRESSING ENCAMPMENTS OF UNSHELTERED PEOPLE</p> <p>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.</p>	
Objective 1:	Collaborate with agencies and other service providers to address the challenges posed by encampments and their impacts to waterways, water supply, and flood risk reduction facilities, including supporting the provision of outreach, counseling, transitional or affordable housing, or other services by these agencies and service providers.
Updates:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On August 22, 2023, the Valley Water Board of Directors adopted a framework to address the effects of homelessness along waterways and work toward achieving a "functional zero" level of encampments of unsheltered individuals and additional resources to support an enhanced level of service for Valley Water's encampment cleanup operations. On September 26, 2023, the Valley Water Board of Directors adopted a new Board Ends Policy "E-6: Encampments of Unsheltered People" that provides a vision and framework for addressing the broad impact of unsheltered people living in encampments on Valley Water land. In September 2023, CA Governor Newsom signed AB 1469 (Kalra) Valley Water Assisting Unsheltered People. The bill amended Valley Water's District Act to allow flexibility to use Valley Water land and the existing ad valorem property tax to assist

	<p>unsheltered people, including contracting for services or providing low-barrier navigation centers, supportive housing, transitional housing, affordable housing, or other facilities. These facilities would be operated by a city, the County, or a non-profit with the appropriate expertise to provide shelter and services that can improve outcomes for unsheltered people and enable compliance with federal case law requiring a legitimate offer of shelter before relocating unsheltered people living on public lands.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In FY24 through Q3, Valley Water managed 2,886.96 acres and removed 751.58 tons of trash, debris, and hazardous pollutants generated from encampments to reduce the amount of these pollutants entering streams.
Objective 2:	Collaborate with the County and municipal partners to secure the safety of unsheltered people living on Valley Water lands along waterways and at water supply and flood risk reduction facilities, as well as secure the safety of residential neighbors and Valley Water staff.
Updates:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On August 22, 2023, the Valley Water Board of Directors adopted a framework to address the effects of homelessness along waterways and work toward achieving a “functional zero” level of encampments of unsheltered individuals and additional resources to support an enhanced level of service for Valley Water’s encampment cleanup operations. • On September 26, 2023, the Valley Water Board of Directors adopted a new Board Ends Policy “E-6: Encampments of Unsheltered People” that provides a vision and framework for addressing the broad impact of unsheltered people living in encampments on Valley Water land. • In September 2023, CA Governor Newsom signed AB 1469 (Kalra) Valley Water Assisting Unsheltered People. The bill amended Valley Water’s District Act to allow flexibility to use Valley Water land and the existing ad valorem property tax to assist unsheltered people, including contracting for services or providing low-barrier navigation centers, supportive housing, transitional housing, affordable housing, or other facilities. These facilities would be operated by a city, the County, or a non-profit with the appropriate expertise to provide shelter and services that can improve outcomes for unsheltered people and enable compliance with federal case law requiring a legitimate offer of shelter before relocating unsheltered people living on public lands. • In FY24, through Q3, Valley Water provided \$124,250 to San José Police’s Secondary Employment Program to support staff safety during encampment cleanups.

<p style="text-align: center;">CLIMATE CHANGE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">GOAL: Mitigate carbon emissions and adapt Valley Water operations to climate change impacts.</p>	
Objective:	Address future impacts of climate change to Valley Water’s mission and operations.
Updates:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On September 7, 2023, the Valley Water Board Policy and Planning Committee received an update on Valley Water’s Climate Change Action Plan including information on the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan and implementation of climate change adaptation actions. • In October 2023, Valley Water released a Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP) annual implementation update, the first progress update and summary of actions since the initial adoption of the CCAP by Valley Water’s Board of Directors in 2021.

BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

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

Objective 1:	Incorporate racial equity, diversity, and inclusion throughout Valley Water as a core value.
Updates:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In October 2023, Valley Water was the recipient of the first-ever Environmental Justice Award from the Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies (AMWA), an organization of the largest publicly-owned drinking water systems nationwide. The Environmental Justice Award was created to recognize member utilities that commit to advancing equity and justice in their communities. The award is recognition of the work Valley Water has done over the years to incorporate environmental justice and equity into its work both internally as an organization and in the greater community.• On October 10, 2023, the Valley Water Board of Directors approved updates to the guidelines for naming/renaming district-owned lands, facilities and amenities.• On January 9, 2024, the Board adopted a resolution to declare Valley Water's 2024 Monthly Cultural Observances Calendar, which includes 25 cultural month observances for 2024. This approach allows Valley Water to further streamline the acknowledgment process and facilitate efforts to honor cultural months beyond the adoption of a resolution.• On March 19, 2024, Chairwoman Quirina Geary of Tamien Nation, conducted training for 12 staff members from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, State Coastal Conservancy, and Valley Water for the South San Francisco Bay Shoreline Phase 1 Project (Project). The cultural sensitivity training provided insight into Tamien Nation traditional cultural practices and what to look for during construction/excavation on the Project, and procedures to be taken when potential tribal cultural resources/remains are discovered. No cultural artifacts have been found at the site since start of construction.• On April 2, 2024, Valley Water's Board of Directors participated in a Board Governance and Diversity Training. Specifically, the training focused on understanding best practices of diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging (DEIB), implicit/explicit bias, implementing DEIB best practices in Board leadership, developing a shared understanding of Board governance, and strengthening Board communication. The desired outcomes of the training included: a better understanding of diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging, as well as agreeing on strategies for improved Board operations.
Updates:	<p>Objective 2: Maintain appropriate staffing levels and expertise while prioritizing the safety of our staff.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• On February 16, 2024, Valley Water's Security Office hosted a meeting of the Association of Threat Assessment Professionals (ATAP) Northern California chapter at Valley Water's headquarters. This gathering brought together ATAP members from across the Greater Bay Area, including those assigned to Valley Water's own Security team. The meeting's attendees represented a diverse group of professionals, including law enforcement officers, prosecutors, mental health experts, corporate security specialists, and others engaged in threat and violence risk assessment. This event demonstrates the commitment for continued development of threat assessment capabilities, and the ongoing effort to protect Valley Water employees and facilities.• In the Spring of 2024, Valley Water has launched a first-of-its-kind apprenticeship program for Instrumentation and Controls Technicians (I&C Techs) in the water industry. This program is designed to create a pipeline of qualified, skilled I&C Technicians by taking individuals with no prior experience and training them to journey-level workers. Thanks to a partnership with BAYWORK, a network of water and wastewater agencies in the San Francisco Bay Area, this apprenticeship is registered with the U.S. Department of Labor, making it one of the only registered I&C Tech apprenticeships in the Bay Area.

Objective 3:	Provide affordable and cost-effective level of services.
Updates:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In September 2023, CA Governor Newsom signed AB 939 (Pellerin) Smart Financing for Valley Water Infrastructure. The bill amends the District Act to add the financial flexibility needed to help Valley Water adapt to climate change by fixing the revenue bond authority and authorizing general obligation bonds. • The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) has awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting to Santa Clara Valley Water District for its annual comprehensive financial report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2022. The report has been judged by an impartial panel to meet the high standards of the program. The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management. • On January 9, 2024, the Board accepted the Santa Clara Valley Water District Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023. • On March 26, 2024 staff presented to the Board long-range financial planning models for the Water Utility Enterprise Fund, the Watersheds Stream Stewardship Fund, and the Safe, Clean Water Fund. The long range financial forecasts ranged from 30 to 45 years, in part to demonstrate the long-term impact of various capital investment funding methods. • On May 30, 2024, Valley Water hosted a Procurement Open House (Open House) at the Valley Water Headquarters to provide diverse area businesses an opportunity to connect with Valley Water staff, discuss upcoming procurement opportunities, and learn about Valley Water's Small Business Enterprise (SBE) ordinance, that was adopted by the Board in September 2023. Close to 200 diverse businesses actively participated in the Open House.

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