



SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER COMMISSION MEETING

MINUTES

**REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23, 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 12:01 p.m.

A quorum of 12 was established of Commission members present in person.

1.1 Roll Call.

Members in attendance were:

Municipality	Representative	<u>Alternate</u>
City of Cupertino	Hon. J.R. Fruen (Late)	
Town of Los Gatos		Hon. Maria Ristow
Town of Los Altos Hills	Hon. Lisa Schmidt	
City of Milpitas	Hon. Carmen Montano	
City of Monte Sereno	Hon. Evert Wolsheimer	
City of Morgan Hill	Hon. Gino Borgioli	
City of Mountain View	Hon. Lucas Ramirez (Late)	
City of Palo Alto	Hon. Lydia Kou	
City of San José	Hon. Domingo Candelas	
City of Santa Clara	Hon. Karen Hardy	
City of Saratoga	Hon. Chuck Page	
City of Sunnyvale		Hon. Murali Srinivasan
Open Space Authority Santa Clara Valley	Hon. Calvin Gill	
Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District	Hon. Jed Cyr	

Members not in attendance were:

Municipality	Representative	Alternate
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		
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. Pat Showalter
City of Palo Alto		Hon. Vicki Veenker
City of San Jose		Kerrie Romanow
City of Santa Clara		Hon. Kathy Watanabe
City of Saratoga		Hon. Tina Walia
City of Sunnyvale	Hon. Alysa Cisneros	
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 Vice Chairperson Richard Santos (District 3) and Director John Varela (District 1).

Staff members in attendance were:

Gina Adriano, Aaron Baker, Bart Broome, Roseryn Bhudsabourg, Jessica Collins, Vincent Gin, Andrew Gschwind, Cindy Kao, Bassam Kassab, Michele King, Emelia Lamas, Nicole Merritt, Carmen Narayanan, Metra Richert, Desiree Sausele, Stephanie Simunic, Kirsten Struve, Greg Tanaka, Darin Taylor, Jing Wu, and Bhavani Yerrapotu.

Public in attendance were:

Hon. Director Rebecca Eisenberg (Valley Water Board Member- District 7),
Hon. Member Sylvia Arenas and Victoria Lam (County of Santa Clara) Elizabeth Flegel,
James Sylvain (City of Morgan Hill).

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 April 10, 2024 Santa Clara Valley Water Commission Meeting Minutes.

Recommendation: Approve the minutes.

The Commission considered the attached minutes of the April 10, 2024 meeting.

Public Comments: None.

It was moved by Hon. Member Carmen Montano and seconded by Hon. Member Gino Borgioli, with abstentions from Hon. Member Maria Ristow, Hon. Calvin Gill, Hon. Evert Wolsheimer, and Hon. Murali Srinivasan, that the minutes of April 10, 2024 Santa Clara Valley Water Commission were approved as presented.

4. REGULAR AGENDA:

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

Kirsten Struve and Jing Wu reviewed the information on this item, per the attached Commission Agenda Memo; and per the information contained in the Attachments.

Hon. Members J. R. Fruen and Lucas Ramirez arrived at 12:15 p.m.

The Commission received the information, and noted the following:

- The Commission and staff discussed water projects including groundwater banking efforts in the Central Valley, Los Vaqueros Expansion project changes, and possible desalination projects.
- In response to an inquiry from Hon. Member Montano, staff stated that the residential sector uses about half of the water. Member Montano suggested incorporating that information in a future report.
- The Commission and staff discussed replacing non-functional turf options (including Valley Water's Lawn to Mulch Rebate Program); portfolio analysis based on water supply and demand projection, strategies for water supply reliability, rate impact of water supply strategies, adaptive management framework, decision points, annual reporting on project progress and triggers/metrics, and next steps.
- Hon. Member Hardy stated the abbreviations in the attachments are not user-friendly.
- Staff stated that on page 55 of the packet, the "No Partners" listed in the Pacheco box signifies there are no partners, meaning Valley Water uses all the storage, which may affect cost and supply.
- Hon. Vice Chairperson Candelas stated leaning into water conservation to the maximum extent possible given the slide relating to rate impact of water supply strategies, and this commission provides this recommendation to the Board. Discussion ensued relating to financials of water conservation.

- Hon. Member Hardy stated that she feels strongly about potable reuse, and it makes the most sense, and discussion ensued relating to potable and non-potable water reuse.
- Hon. Member Srinivasan emphasized tracking “Key Triggers” on packet page 62.
- In response to an inquiry from Hon. Member Schmidt, Staff Jing Wu stated the source used for the populations projections is from the Association of Bay Area Governments, and Staff Kirsten Struve added the demand projections for the low bookend does not include projections as it is simply held flat, it is the high demand bookend which includes household growth and climate change.
- Hon. Member Ristow thanked staff for the presentation, stated that she understands the need to plan for housing and that it will likely be infill housing and not have the same impact on infrastructure, so the same landscaping demands/concerns about changing behavior won’t likely occur. She further stated that she hears complaints from constituents relating to repeating messaging about conservation and increasing rates, that both those things can be true, that if there is an increased number of households, if the water use is minimal in a multi-family home, used primarily for hygiene and cleaning and not landscaping, she views that as more rate payers to cover the fixed cost and the usage won’t proportionately increase. She further stated her favor of potable reuse water vs. desalination and noted the importance of storage options including rainwater capture and dam building projects. She noted the longer large projects take the bigger the fiscal impact will be to build them, but the projects can affect ratepayers.
- Hon. Member Hardy noted cities with overall water use per capita and stated Palo Alto uses the most and suggested a cost analysis.
- Hon. Member Gill introduced himself to the Commission as replacing Hon. Member Chapman (alternate) of the Open Space Authority, and applauded reports staff provided.
- The Commission discussed rainwater capture and conservation. Hon. Chairperson Kou stated her concern about pumping stormwater water into the bay and losing that water. She further stated that she hears from constituents related to questioning rate increases regarding water conservation. In response to her inquiry relating to population numbers from the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) vs those numbers from the Department of Finance, Jing Wu stated that the Department of Finance population numbers only go until 2030, but the Water Supply Master Plan 2050 needs the projection into 2050. Valley Water reviewed both sets of numbers and they are fairly close to each other.
- The Commission discussed whether recycled water can be used in fire hydrants. Kirsten Struve stated that water is potable water, which must be flushed out of the hydrant, typically goes down storm drains, that recycled water is considered wastewater and only used in accordance with regulations and cannot be used for firefighting except for special circumstances. Vice Chairperson Santos and Director Varela stated that Valley Water Directors and staff continually meet with the

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<https://www.valleywater.org/how-we-operate/committees/board-advisory-committees>

firefighting community and forestry service to discuss issues, ensure firewater water availability is upgraded and emphasized the importance of dams. Director Varela further commended a flyover that he, Vice Chairperson Santos and CEO Rick Callender did of Santa Clara County with Cal Fire.

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.

The Committee considered this Item without a staff presentation. Stephanie Simunic reminded the Commission that elections will occur at the next meeting, and stated Board member representatives Vice Chairperson Santos and Director John Varela were available to answer questions.

Public Comment: None.

- Hon. Member Hardy requested the Commission attend the Purified Water Plant for a tour and will attend the Anderson Dam tour on November 7, 2024.
- In response to an inquiry from Hon. Member Cyr, Aaron Baker provided an update on Anderson Dam retrofit and tunnel project, stating the tunnel has been drilled, is going through the abutment phase and the next phase is the dam coming down in thirds and going up in thirds, the permitting process continues, and the current completion schedule is 2032 as the dam is being rebuilt in place.
- In response to an inquiry from Hon. Member Srinivasan relating to why Sunnyvale potable reuse is not included in strategic priorities, Kirsten Struve stated that Valley Water is working with all their wastewater partner agencies on recycled water, Valley Water staff recently had a meeting with Sunnyvale staff on expanding potable reuse areas, but it is not a defined project yet.
- In response to an inquiry from Hon. Chairperson Kou relating to why Palo Alto's recycled water facility is not in the CIP Plan, Kirsten Struve stated that it was put on the unfunded list due to affordability concerns, but that decision might be revisited in the future and the project is still listed in the Water Supply Master Plan. Chairperson Kou stated that land is scarce and the importance of it being preserved for future use, which Valley Water staff thanked her and agreed.
- Vice Chairperson Santos and Director Varela discussed the importance of jurisdictions working together relating to water conservation.

5. CLERK REVIEW AND CLARIFICATION OF COMMISSION REQUESTS:

Stephanie Simunic confirmed the Committee approved the April 10, 2024 meeting minutes and received the information of Item 4.1, relating to Valley Water's Water Supply Master Plan 2050.

6. ADJOURN:

6.1. Adjourn to Regular Meeting at 12:00 p.m. on January 22, 2025.

Chairperson Lydia Kou adjourned the meeting at 1:22 p.m., to the next regular meeting at 12:00 p.m. on January 22, 2025.

Date approved: January 22, 2025

Stephanie Simunic
Assistant Deputy Clerk II