



## **Santa Clara Valley Water District Water Supply and Demand Management Committee**

HQ. Bldg. Boardroom, 5700 Almaden Expressway, San Jose, California  
Join Zoom Meeting: <https://valleywater.zoom.us/j/92597340524>

### **REGULAR MEETING AGENDA**

**Monday, October 27, 2025  
10:00 AM**

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

**COMMITTEE OFFICERS:**

Nai Hsueh, Chairperson  
Director, District 5  
Shiloh Ballard, Vice Chairperson  
Director, District 2  
Richard Santos  
Director, District 3

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.

**STAFF LIAISONS:**

Vincent Gin  
Kirsten Struve  
Ryan McCarter  
Stephanie Simunic  
COB Liaison  
Assistant Deputy Clerk II  
[ssimunic@valleywater.org](mailto:ssimunic@valleywater.org)  
1-408-630-2408

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

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**Santa Clara Valley Water District**  
**Water Supply and Demand Management Committee**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**AGENDA**

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Monday, October 27, 2025

10:00 AM

HQ. Bldg. Boardroom,  
5700 Almaden Expressway, San Jose, California  
Join Zoom Meeting:  
<https://valleywater.zoom.us/j/92597340524>

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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>

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

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**<https://valleywater.zoom.us/j/92597340524>**  
**Meeting ID: 925 9734 0524**  
**Join by Phone:**  
**1 (669) 900-9128, 92597340524#**

**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 August 25, 2025 Water Supply and Demand Management Committee (WSDMC) Minutes.

[25-0859](#)

Recommendation: Approve the minutes.  
Manager: Candice Kwok-Smith, 408-630-3193  
Attachments: [Attachment 1: 08252025 WSDMC Minutes](#)  
Est. Staff Time: 5 Minutes

#### 4. REGULAR AGENDA:

- 4.1. Receive Information on Consultant Study Regarding Santa Clara Valley Water District's Water Use Projections, Water Demand Elasticity, and Customer Affordability Study; and Provide Comments to the Board. [25-0811](#)

Recommendation: Receive information on consultant study regarding Santa Clara Valley Water District's water use projections, water demand elasticity, and customer affordability, including study scope, objectives, and status update; provide comments to Valley Water's Board.

Manager: Darin Taylor, 408-630-3041

Attachments: [Attachment 1: PowerPoint](#)

Est. Staff Time: 45 Minutes

- 4.2. Consider Recommending to the Board to Approve Execution of an Assignment Agreement With Wheeler Ridge Maricopa Water District That Would Give Valley Water 6,234 Acre-Feet of Wheeler Ridge's Storage Capacity in Sites Reservoir For Up to \$618, 500, Which Would Increase Valley Water's Project Participation Level From 0.2% to 0.66%, Providing Valley Water a Total of 9,351 Acre-Feet Storage. [25-0934](#)

Recommendation: Consider recommending to the Board to approve execution of an assignment agreement with Wheeler Ridge Maricopa Water District that would give Valley Water 6,234 acre-feet of Wheeler Ridge's storage capacity in Sites Reservoir for up to \$618,500, which would increase Valley Water's Project participation level from 0.2% to 0.66%, providing Valley Water a total of 9,351 acre-feet of storage.

Manager: Vincent Gin, 408-630-2633

Attachments: [Attachment 1: Assignment Agreement](#)  
[Attachment 2: PowerPoint](#)

Est. Staff Time: 45 Minutes

- 4.3. Receive Safe Clean Water Conservation Program - Project A2: Water Conservation Rebates and Programs Update. [25-0857](#)

Recommendation: Receive an update on the Safe Clean Water funded conservation programs.

Manager: Kirsten Struve, 408-630-3138

Attachments: [Attachment 1: PowerPoint](#)

Est. Staff Time: 45 Minutes

- 4.4. Receive Update on Valley Water's New Water Conservation Programs, Pilots, and Partnerships and Making Conservation a California Way of Life; Provide Feedback. [25-0858](#)

Recommendation: Receive update on Valley Water's New Water Conservation Programs, Pilots, and Partnerships and Making Conservation a California Way of Life; provide feedback.

Manager: Kirsten Struve, 408-630-3138

Attachments: [Attachment 1: PowerPoint](#)  
[Attachment 2: Resolution](#)  
[Attachment 3: CalWEP Cut Sheet](#)

Est. Staff Time: 45 Minutes

- 4.5. Receive and Discuss the 2025 Water Supply and Demand Management Committee (WSDMC) Work Plan, and Provide Feedback on Upcoming Discussion Items, and Next Meeting Date. [25-0860](#)

Recommendation: Receive and discuss the 2025 WSDMC Work Plan and provide feedback on upcoming discussion items and next meeting date.

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

Attachments: [Attachment 1: 2025 WSDMC Work Plan](#)

Est. Staff Time: 10 Minutes

**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.*

**6. ADJOURN:**

- 6.1. Adjourn. The Next Special Meeting is Scheduled at 12:00 p.m., on Monday, December 8, 2025.



# Santa Clara Valley Water District

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**File No.:** 25-0859

**Agenda Date:** 10/27/2025

**Item No.:** 3.1.

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## **COMMITTEE AGENDA MEMORANDUM** **Water Supply and Demand Management Committee**

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

### **SUBJECT:**

Approval of August 25, 2025 Water Supply and Demand Management Committee (WSDMC) Minutes.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Approve the minutes.

### **SUMMARY:**

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

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

### **ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE IMPACT:**

The approval of minutes is not subject to environmental justice impact analysis.

### **ATTACHMENTS:**

Attachment 1: 08252025 WSDMC Minutes

### **UNCLASSIFIED MANAGER:**

Candice Kwok-Smith, 408-630-3193

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WATER SUPPLY AND DEMAND  
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

# DRAFT MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING  
MONDAY, AUGUST 25, 2025  
10:00 AM

(Paragraph numbers coincide with agenda item numbers)

**1. CALL TO ORDER:**

A regular meeting of the Santa Clara Valley Water District (Valley Water) Water Supply and Demand Management Committee (Committee) was called to order by Chairperson Hsueh at 10:00 a.m. in the Valley Water Headquarters Building Boardroom at 5700 Almaden Expressway, San Jose, California, and by Zoom teleconference.

**1.1. Roll Call.**

Committee members in attendance were: District 5 Director Nai Hsueh, Chairperson, District 2 Director Shiloh Ballard, Vice Chairperson, and District 3 Director Richard Santos, constituting a quorum of the Committee.

Staff members in attendance were: Chanie Abuye, Gina Adriano, Karen Adriano, Antonio Alfaro, Aaron Baker, Justin Burks, Rita Chan, Theresa Chinte, Phil Dolan, Gavin Downs, Anthony Fulcher, Andrew Garcia, Rachael Gibson, Paola Giles, Vincent Gin, Jason Gurdak, Andrew Gschwind, Victor Gutierrez, Heather Hamp, Marino Hernandez, Linh Hoang, Susana Imda, Matt Keller, Cindy Kao, Candice Kwok-Smith, Jess Lovering, Marta Lugo, Katherine Maher, Ryan McCarter, Nicole Merit, Kathy Nguyen, Julianne O'Brien, Carlos Orellana, Steve Peters, Mark Poole, Don Rocha, Desiree Sausele, Ashley Shannon, Stephanie Simunic, Kirsten Struve, Charlene Sun, Cheryl Togami, Metra Ulloa, Genevieve Yip, and Jing Wu.

Public in attendance were: Michael Bolzowski (California Water Services Company), Arthur Keller, Juan Liem (Great Oaks Water), XXX-XXX-8214.

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

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

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

### **3.1 Approval of June 23, 2025 Water Supply and Demand Management Committee (WSDMC) Minutes.**

**Recommendation: Approve the minutes.**

The Committee considered the minutes of the June 23, 2025 Water Supply and Demand Management Committee (WSDMC) meeting.

Public Comments: None.

It was moved by Director Santos, seconded by Vice Chairperson Ballard, and unanimously carried, to approve the June 23, 2025 WSDMC minutes.

## **4. REGULAR AGENDA:**

### **4.1 Receive an Update on Water Conservation Program Costs.**

**Recommendation: Receive information on Water Conservation Program Costs.**

Metra Ulloa reviewed the information on this item, per the attached Committee Agenda Memo and in the attachment and with Kirsten Struve, was available to answer questions.

The Committee discussed the following with staff input including: Program budget and rebudgeting, Program public outreach and buy-in, Water Supply Master Plan conservation goals, possibilities of obtaining state funds for the Program, capturing runoff water as an additional conservation strategy, and tracking and communication with local cities participation in the Model Water Efficient New Development Ordinance.

Public Comment: Arthur Keller stated that if not enough water is sold the price will increase, which may lead to more expensive water.

The Committee received the information and took no formal action.

### **4.2 Receive Information on Assembly Bill 130 and Senate Bill 131 as it Relates to the Implementation of Model Water Efficient New Development Ordinance (MWENDO).**

**Recommendation: Receive information on Assembly Bill 130 and Senate Bill 131 as it relates to the implementation of MWENDO.**

Genevieve Yip reviewed the information on this item, as detailed in the attached Committee Agenda Memo, and along with Antonio Alfaro and Rachael Gibson, was available to answer questions.

Staff confirmed that Valley Water did not support these bills. Staff also clarified the bills only apply to residential building standards, and that commercial building standards are not directly affected by the moratorium. Staff noted they will return with further information to the Committee regarding ongoing efforts related to water efficiency building standards for commercial development.

The Committee discussed the following with staff input including: general California Environmental Quality Act reforms relating to the bills, focusing on commercial buildings relating to MWENDO, getting to the objectives of MWENDO relating to impacting land use decisions, and Valley Water's water conservation budget.

Public Comment: Arthur Keller asked what cities participate in MWENDO and which do not. Genevieve Yip stated that Santa Clara adopted MWENDO measures and that San Jose, Gilroy, Milpitas, Mountain View, Morgan Hill, Palo Alto, Saratoga, and Sunnyvale have rules in their current building codes that align with MWENDO.

The Committee received the information and took no formal action.

#### **4.3 Review and Discuss Information on the Sites Reservoir Project.**

**Recommendation: Review and discuss the Sites Reservoir Project.**

Katherine Maher reviewed the information on this item, per the attached Committee Agenda Memo and in the attachment and was available to answer questions.

Public Comment: None.

Staff stated that last week, the California Water Commission awarded the Sites Project an additional \$219 million in Prop 1 funding through the Water Storage Investment Program (WSIP), on Friday, the Sites Authority Board authorized an early funding agreement with the California Water Commission for five percent of that amount (which is approximately \$10.5 million) that could be authorized for early funding, the Project has funding through June 2026, and at Valley Water's current 0.2 percent level of participation, Valley Water's total share of capital costs are estimated to be in the range of \$15-\$18 million, but cost could fluctuate depending on participation level.

Staff further provided information relating to the water right hearing process with the State Board, noting a status conference is scheduled for September 4, 2025, and stated the negotiations with Reclamation on their participation agreement are scheduled to start September 8 and 9, 2025. Staff noted opposition of the project from some environmental groups and support from the Governor, and that the price of the project has increased, but is still one of the lowest unit costs projects in the Water Supply Master Plan update.

The Committee received the information and took no formal action.

#### **4.4 Review and Discuss Water Supply and Demand Committee (WSDMC) Work Plan and Upcoming Discussion Items.**

**Recommendation: Review and discuss the WSDMC Work Plan and upcoming discussion items.**

Discussion ensued relating to the remaining 2025 meeting dates and redistributing items in the work plan. The Committee unanimously approved canceling the September 22, 2025 meeting and combining topics with the October 27, 2025 meeting.

Public Comment: None.

The Committee received the information and took no formal action.

**5. CLERK REVIEW AND CLARIFICATION OF COMMITTEE REQUESTS:**

None.

**6. ADJOURN:**

**6.1. Adjourn. The Next Regular Meeting is Scheduled at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, September 22, 2025.**

Chairperson Hsueh adjourned the meeting at 11:21 a.m.

Date Approved:

Stephanie Simunic  
Assistant Deputy Clerk II



# Santa Clara Valley Water District

File No.: 25-0811

Agenda Date: 10/27/2025

Item No.: 4.1.

## COMMITTEE AGENDA MEMORANDUM Water Supply and Demand Management Committee

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

### SUBJECT:

Receive Information on Consultant Study Regarding Santa Clara Valley Water District's Water Use Projections, Water Demand Elasticity, and Customer Affordability Study; and Provide Comments to the Board.

### RECOMMENDATION:

Receive information on consultant study regarding Santa Clara Valley Water District's water use projections, water demand elasticity, and customer affordability, including study scope, objectives, and status update; provide comments to Valley Water's Board.

### SUMMARY:

Santa Clara Valley Water District (Valley Water) has engaged two consultants to perform a study to validate or suggest refinements to Valley Water's current water use projections for Valley Water-managed water use, analyze water demand elasticity, and determine or address the affordability of water to residents and businesses within Santa Clara County (the Study). The majority of County residents and businesses receive water service from a retailer, while Valley Water acts as the water wholesaler. Study results may impact future Valley Water groundwater charges.

### Background:

The Financial Planning and Revenue Collection office manages long-term forecast models and the annual rate setting process for the Water Utility. Water charges are adopted annually. Based upon feedback received from the Board during previous long-term forecasting cycles, staff pursued a study to inform future rate setting cycles.

The consultants - Raftelis Financial Consultants, Inc. and Hazen and Sawyer - have been tasked to provide analyses for the following Study scope and objectives:

1. Analyze water use projections in Santa Clara County, for retailers, their direct customers, and private well owners to better determine Valley Water-managed water use projections. Valley Water-managed water use translates to revenue for the Water Utility.

- 
2. Prepare a water demand elasticity analysis to better understand how rates impact water demand.
  3. Determine the affordability of water provided by Valley Water to Santa Clara County residents and businesses now and based on future rate projections.

Valley Water staff and Valley Water's consultants both recognize that the scope of this Study presents unique challenges, one of which is obtaining detailed water usage data from non-Valley Water sources.

Staff anticipates technical memorandums for each of the three (3) analyses to be completed, followed by a final report documenting the study.

Study Updates:

**Task 1: Water Use Projections** key takeaways are:

- Valley Water's approach to projecting water use is consistent with peers
- Forecast-to-actual water use has been largely accurate, with reduced variance in recent years
- High level statistical analyses demonstrate that the current approach yields reasonable ranges for near-term demand
- Water use overall continues to trend downward
- Tools exist to refine the forecasting method, if desired

A technical memorandum for Task 1 has been drafted and will be included as part of the final Study report.

**Task 2: Water Demand Elasticity Analysis** objectives are to assess Retailer's water demand sensitivity to Valley Water's wholesale rates, and understand the effect on Retailer's customers.

Some preliminary takeaways are:

- Water use in Santa Clara County is generally inelastic with respect to price
- There is a high correlation and common trend between Valley Water and Retailer's *volumetric* rates

**Task 3: Water Affordability Analysis** objectives include identifying water utility affordability metrics for Santa Clara County. Some preliminary takeaways are:

- Based on multiple affordability indicators residential water bills are generally below threshold levels
- Based on both the Poverty Prevalence Indicator and Household Burden Indicator, nearly all Retailer water providers fall within the *Low Burden* category
- An estimated 38,500 households - *equivalent to 6.2% of Santa Clara County households* - could have water bills that are unaffordable (defined as annual water bills that total more than 2% of reported household income)

Staff plans to bring a final Study update to the Committee and to the Board as appropriate.

**ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE IMPACT:**

Further analysis is necessary to determine the environmental justice impacts associated with results of the Study. Updated environmental justice determinations will be included in future Study updates.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Attachment 1: PowerPoint

**UNCLASSIFIED MANAGER:**

Darin Taylor, 408-630-3041

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# Santa Clara Valley Water District

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**Water Use Projections, Water Demand Elasticity, and Customer  
Affordability Study**

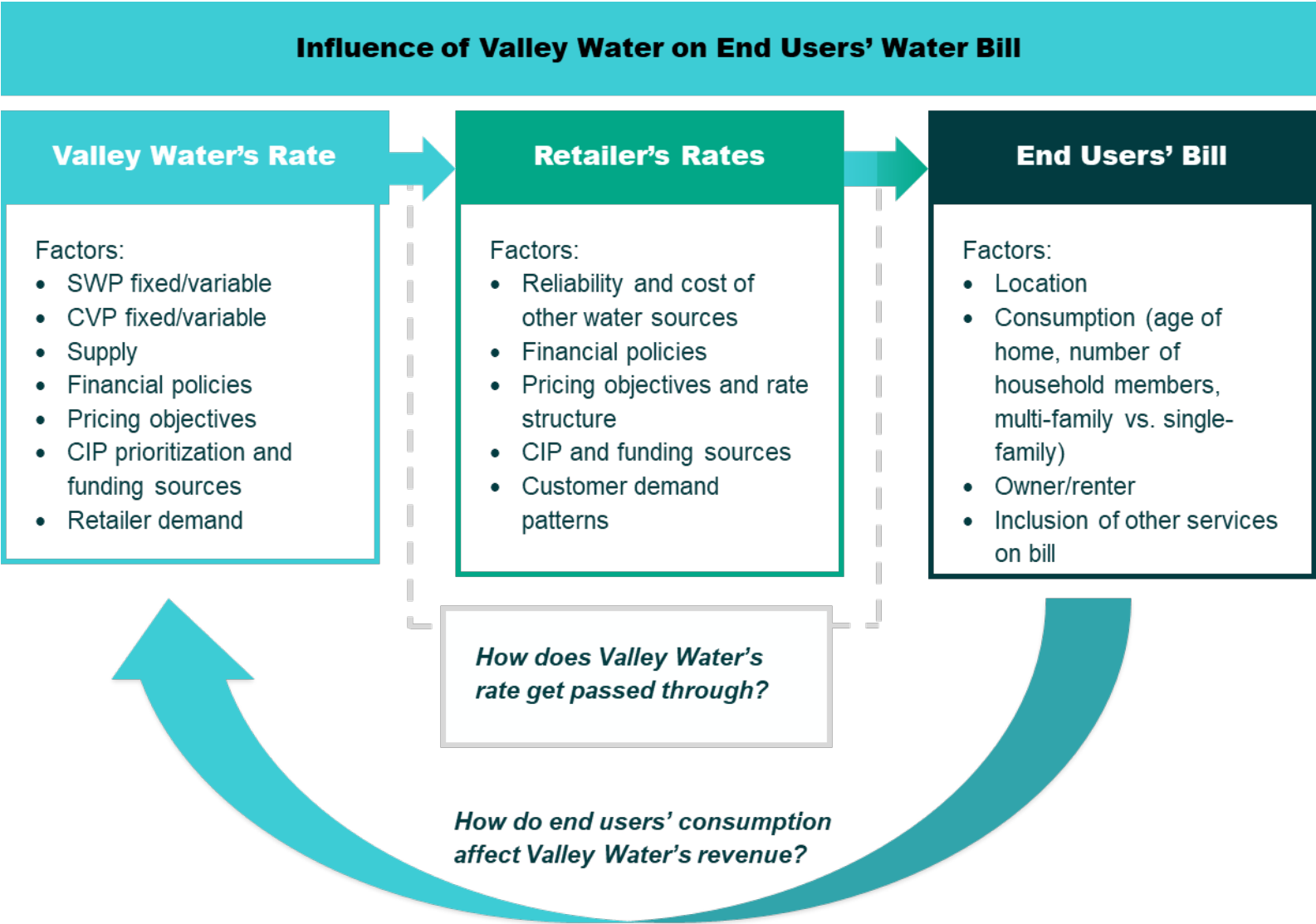
**Water Supply & Demand Management Committee**

October 27, 2025



# Project Goals

- Identify how Valley Water's rates impact water demand (elasticity) and affordability of water service in Santa Clara County
- Validate and/or refine water demand forecasting for purposes of annual rate setting and long-term capital planning



# Project Tasks

- **Task 1:** Review and Make Recommendations for Water Use Projections
- **Task 2:** Demand Elasticity Analysis
- **Task 3:** Affordability Analysis

# Task 1:

# Water Use Projections



# Task 1: Objectives

- Review the existing District-managed water demand forecast (water use projections) which informs Valley Water's ***rate setting process***
- Evaluate the performance of prior water use projections
- Analyze alternative approaches against the current approach
- Identify potential improvements to Valley Water's demand forecasting
- Consider other quantitative and qualitative tools to help inform annual demand forecasting

# Task 1: Key Findings

- Valley Water's Approach is consistent with peers
- Forecast-to-Actual water sales have been largely accurate, with reduced variance in recent years
- High level statistical analyses demonstrate that the current approach yields reasonable ranges for near-term demand
- Water sales overall continue to trend downward
- Tools exist to refine the forecasting method, if desired

# Task 2:

# Elasticity Analysis



## Task 2: Objectives

- Assess Retailer's sensitivity (water demand) to Valley Water's rates
- Understand relationship between Valley Water's rates, Retailer rates, and the effect on retail customers

# Task 2: Approach

- Use available data
  - › Valley Water sales (water supplied by source) to Retailers
  - › Valley Water (wholesale) and Retailer rates
  - › Non-Valley Water volumes supplied by source, as available
- Find the relationship on total water use using
  - › Retailer price to end customer
  - › Valley Water price (consumption-weighted)
  - › Valley Water price (consumption-weighted) and SFPUC price

# Task 2: Preliminary Findings

- Price elasticity estimates vary
- Preliminary findings suggest
  - Water use is inelastic with respect to price
  - Elasticity range in ballpark of -0.12 to -0.34, with convergence around -0.2
  - Elasticity results are reasonable compared to other similar industry studies and align with prior Valley Water elasticity study for long-term water supply planning
- High correlation between Valley Water and Retailer prices
  - Share a general common trend **volumetrically**
  - Valley Water (weighted) prices explain about 83% of variability in Retailer volumetric rates

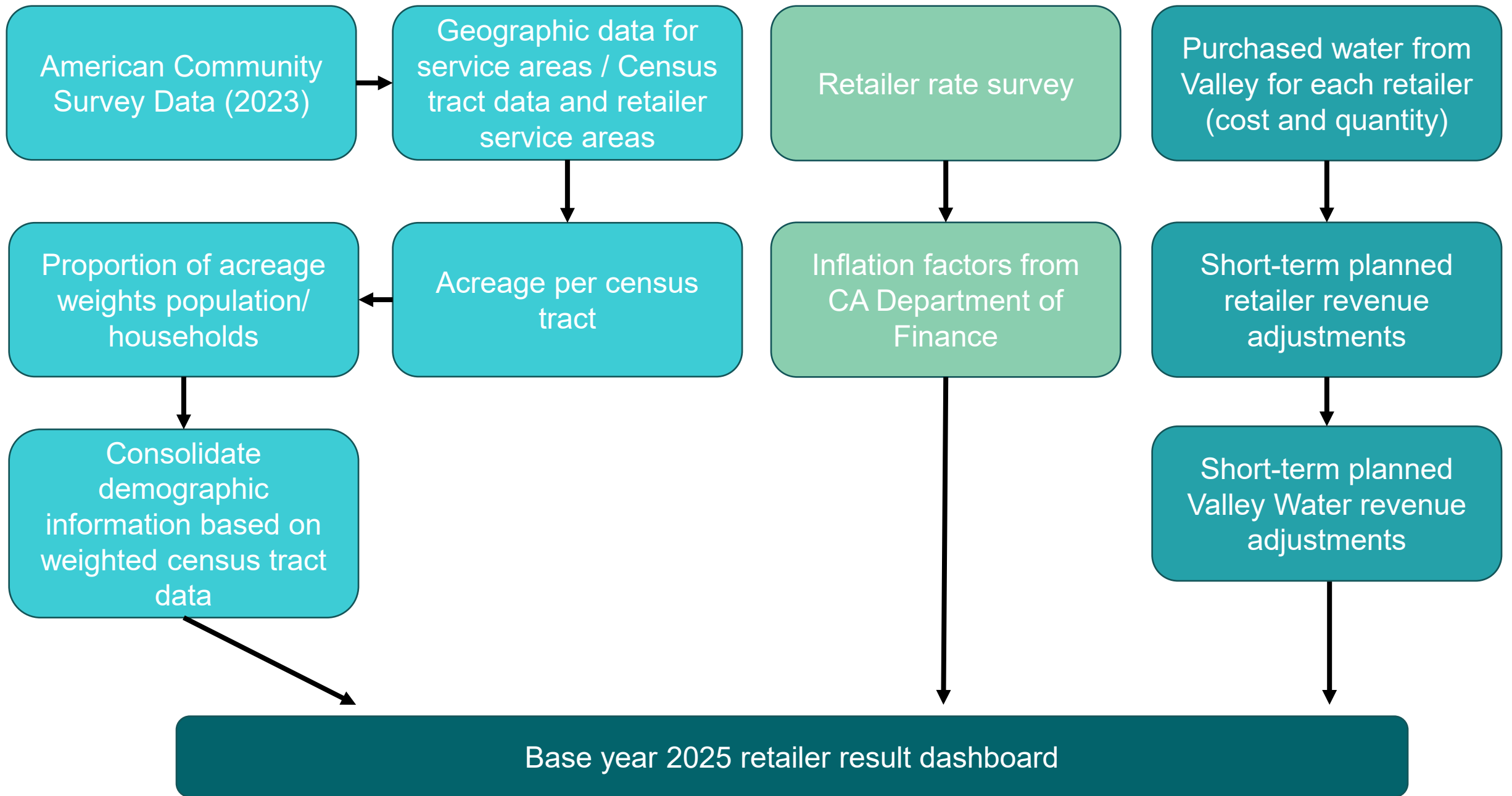
# Task 3:

# Affordability Analysis



# Task 3: Objectives

- Identify affordability metrics for Valley Water
- Provide point-in-time affordability of water for Valley Water's service area
- Develop a baseline of affordability for Valley Water to inform future decision-making



# Retailer Affordability Characteristics\*





Characteristics	North Zone	South Zones	Total Valley Water Service Area
% of Total Service Area Population	4% - 52%	3% - 5%	100%
Average Household Size	2.3 – 3.5	3.1 – 3.4	3.0
Minimum Hourly Wage	\$18.20 - \$19.00	\$18.20	\$18.30
Median Household Income (MHI)	\$120k - \$236k	\$142k - \$169k	\$169k
Lowest Quintile Income (LQI)	\$68k - \$80k	\$69k - \$112k	\$76k
Monthly Water Bill @ Essential Use (~6 HCF)	\$54 - \$98	\$45 - \$64	\$83
Monthly Water Bill @ Average Use (~8 HCF)	\$65 - \$118	\$52 - \$71	\$96











14 \*All figures are rounded

# Residential Affordability Indicators

Measurement Approaches (Metrics):		Used By
<b>MHI RI:</b> Median Household (Income) Residential Indicator	<i>Average</i> Water Bill / 50 <sup>th</sup> Percentile Household Income	California Urban Water Agencies (CUWA), California Water Association (CWA), EPA, SFPUC
<b>LQI RI:</b> Lowest Quintile Income	<i>Essential</i> Water Bill / 20 <sup>th</sup> Percentile Household Income	EPA, SFPUC
<b>HMW:</b> Hours at Minimum Wage	<i>Essential</i> Water Bill / Minimum Wage Rate	California PUC, EPA
<b>AR<sub>20</sub>:</b> Affordability Ratio	<i>Essential</i> Water Use Bill / (Total Income - Non-Discretionary Expenses <sup>1</sup> )	California PUC <sup>2</sup>
<b>HBI:</b> Household Burden Index (HBI)	<i>Average</i> Water Bill / LQI	AWWA/NACWA “New Framework”
<b>PPI:</b> Poverty Prevalence Indicator	Population at or below 200% FPL/ Total population	AWWA/NACWA “New Framework”
Essential Water Use Bill	Bill at 47 gallons per capita per day	California PUC, CWA
Average Water Use Bill	Bill at 64 gallons per capita per day	CUWA, EPA, SFPUC

# Example Calculation: AR<sub>20</sub>





AFFORDABILITY   Customer water bill (essential use)   Customer Household Income

  Customer water demand   Retailer's rates   Customer Household Income (HI)   Housing Costs   Other Utilities costs

*Essential (approximately 6 HCF)*

*CPUC Discretionary Income Definition at 20<sup>th</sup> Percentile of Income*

# Resulting Retailer Metrics – AR20, HMW, LQRI, MHRI<sup>1</sup>

Retail Metrics	North Zone	South Zones	Total Valley Water Service Area	Metric Thresholds
 <b>AR20</b>	1.4% - 3.8%	1.7% - 1.9%	<b>2.8%</b>	<b>5%</b>
 <b>HMW</b>	3.7 – 6.2	2.7 – 3.8	<b>5.3</b>	<b>4</b>
 <b>LQI RI</b>	0.8% - 1.7%	0.8% - 1.0%	<b>1.3%</b>	<b>2%</b>
 <b>MHI RI</b>	0.4% - 0.7%	0.4% - 0.5%	<b>0.6%</b>	<b>2%</b>

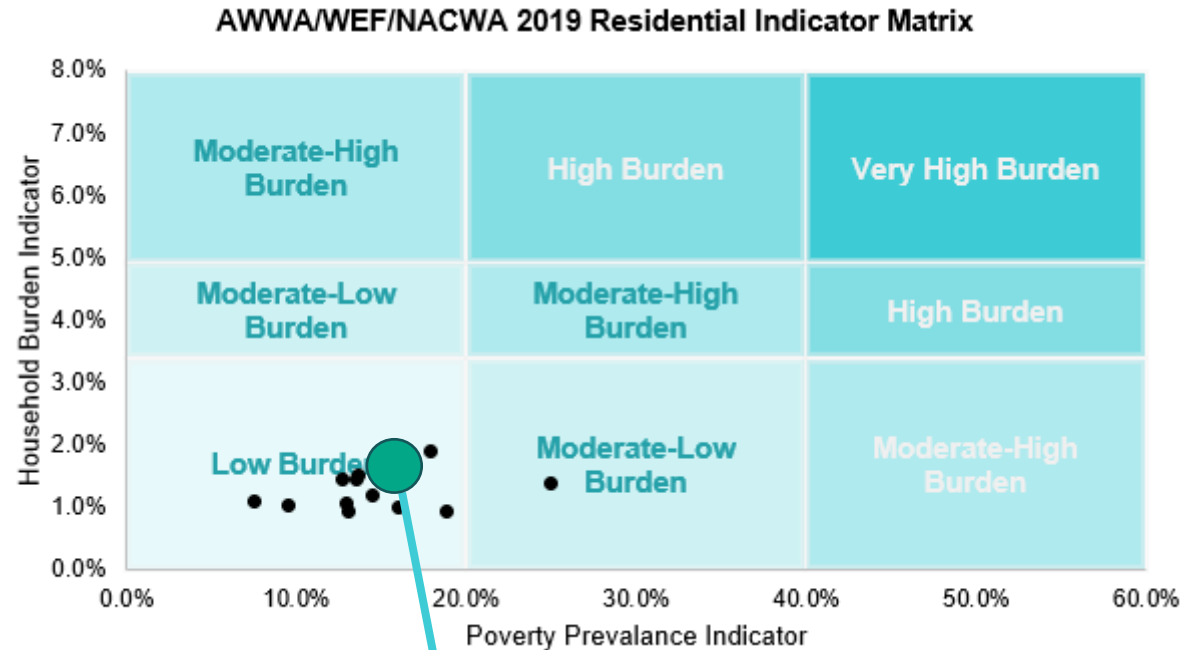
<sup>1</sup>All results shown at essential water use of 6 HCF

- AR20, LQI, and MHI are all below thresholds across the service area
- HMW is modestly above the threshold value across the service area
- Results are generally lower (water bill is less burdensome) in the South Zones

# Resulting Retailer Metrics – HBI/PPI Matrix

Retail Metrics	North Zone	South Zones	Total VW Service Area	Metric Threshold Low Burden
<b>HBI</b>	0.8% - 1.7%	0.8% - 1.0%	<b>1.3%</b>	<b>3.5%</b>
<b>PPI</b>	7.5% - 25%	13% - 19%	<b>15.7%</b>	<b>20%</b>

- HBI and PPI are both within the low burden category
  - › All but one retailer are in the Low Burden category
- Both metrics have a wider range in the North Zone than in the South Zones



Valley Water Service Area  
Result (Weighted Average)

# Resulting Retailer Metrics – Estimate of Affordability Impact<sup>1</sup>

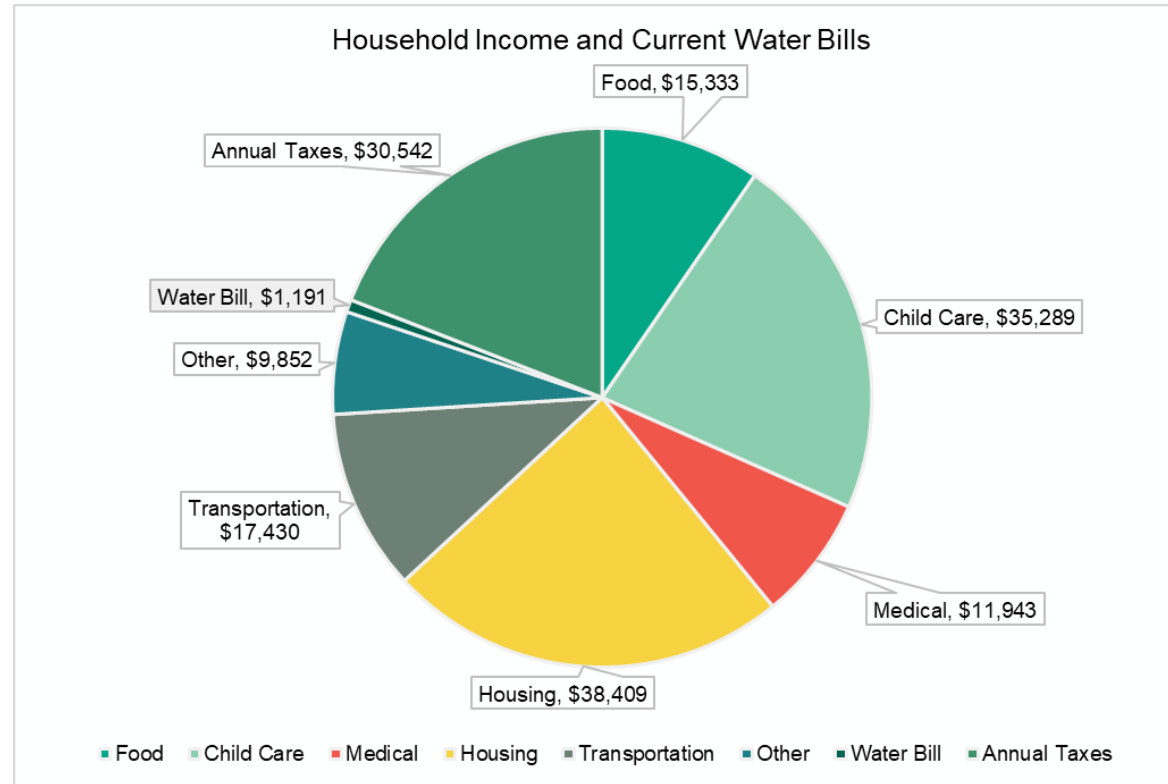
Retail Metrics	North Zone (per Retailer)	South Zones (per Retailer)	Estimated Households Valley Water Service Area <sup>2</sup>
Estimated Number of Customers with Unaffordable Water Bills	200 – 24,000	1,000 - 1,200	38,500

<sup>1</sup> Estimate of customers that could be have bills considered unaffordable

<sup>2</sup> Out of approximately 625,000 households

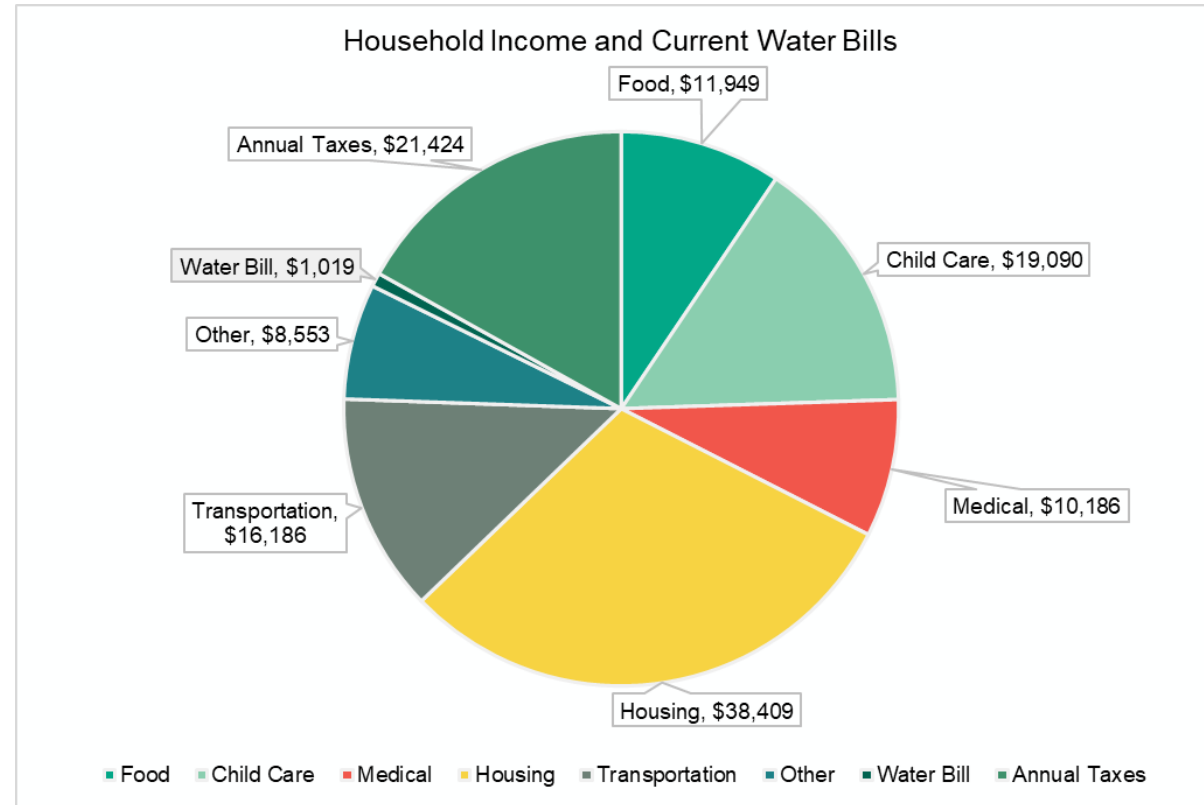
- Estimates extrapolated based on public use micro statistics (PUMS) household survey data including self reported income, water use, household size, and/or payment of a water bill
- Then, calculate bills over 2% of reported household income *and* estimated essential water use at each retailers' service area rates
- **Household water bills estimated as unaffordable across the Valley Water service area is 6.2%**

# Cost of Living and Water Affordability: 2 Adults and 2 Children



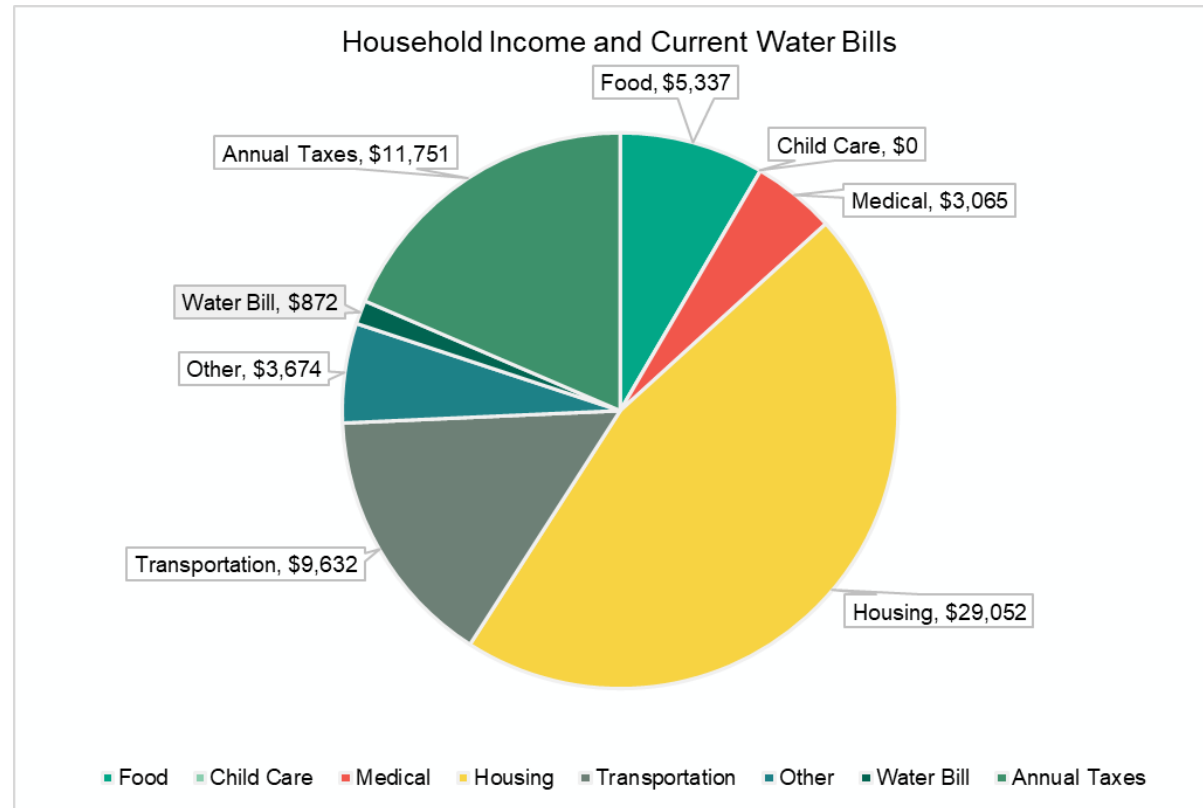
- Based on household income requirement for a two-working adult, two child household in Santa Clara County
  - Data from *MIT Living Wage Calculator* and the *United Way Real Cost Measure*
  - Household income requirement = **\$159,988**

# Cost of Living and Water Affordability: 2 Adults and 1 Children



- Based on household income requirement for a two-working adult, two child household in Santa Clara County
  - Data from *MIT Living Wage Calculator* and the *United Way Real Cost Measure*
  - Household income requirement = **\$126,816** **37**

# Cost of Living and Water Affordability: 1 Adult



- Based on household income requirement for a two-working adult, two child household in Santa Clara County
  - Data from *MIT Living Wage Calculator* and the *United Way Real Cost Measure*
  - Household income requirement = **\$63,383**

# Key Takeaways

- There is a wide range in the affordability of water service throughout Valley Water's service area, though all indicators show a relatively low burden
- The North Zone has higher results on average and a wider range of results compared to the South Zones
- Estimate of unaffordable water bills using extrapolated household survey data is estimated at 6.2% of households (38,500)
- Cost of living issues are centered around housing, childcare, healthcare, and food costs
- This analysis provides a baseline which decision makers can use to assess affordability in the future

# Next Steps

- Additional public meetings with Valley Water in Fall 2025
- Finalize elasticity analysis
  - › Additional information for Valley Water demand projections
  - › Identify any impact on affordability
- Prepare technical memorandums to document elasticity and affordability tasks and a final study report



# Santa Clara Valley Water District

File No.: 25-0934

Agenda Date: 10/27/2025

Item No.: 4.2.

## COMMITTEE AGENDA MEMORANDUM Water Supply and Demand Management Committee

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

### SUBJECT:

Consider Recommending to the Board to Approve Execution of an Assignment Agreement With Wheeler Ridge Maricopa Water District That Would Give Valley Water 6,234 Acre-Feet of Wheeler Ridge's Storage Capacity in Sites Reservoir For Up to \$618, 500, Which Would Increase Valley Water's Project Participation Level From 0.2% to 0.66%, Providing Valley Water a Total of 9,351 Acre-Feet Storage.

### RECOMMENDATION:

Consider recommending to the Board to approve execution of an assignment agreement with Wheeler Ridge Maricopa Water District that would give Valley Water 6,234 acre-feet of Wheeler Ridge's storage capacity in Sites Reservoir for up to \$618,500, which would increase Valley Water's Project participation level from 0.2% to 0.66%, providing Valley Water a total of 9,351 acre-feet of storage.

### SUMMARY:

The Sites Reservoir Project (Project) is a proposed 1.5 million acre-foot (AF), off-stream reservoir that would be located north of the Delta approximately 10 miles west of the town of Maxwell in Colusa County. The Project is designed to divert excess flows on the Sacramento River during storms and store it in Sites Reservoir, which can then be released to provide water supply during dry years. In addition to providing water supply for Project participants, the Project will provide public benefits including environmental water supply, recreation facilities, and regional flood benefits. Current members of the Sites Project Authority (Authority) and Reservoir Committee (Participants) include both Central Valley Project water agencies north of the Delta and State Water Project (SWP) water agencies south of the Delta. There is also state and federal participation in the Project through the California Department of Water Resources and U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. The Project is one of several investment options evaluated in the Water Supply Master Plan 2050 (WSMP) planning process to help ensure water supply reliability.

Valley Water currently has a 0.2% participation level in the Project, which corresponds to a storage capacity of 3,117 AF and an expected dry year yield of 690 acre-feet (AF) of water. In July 2022, Valley Water requested to be placed on the waitlist to increase its participation level in the Project up to a maximum of 2.65% participation, which corresponds to a storage capacity of 37,404 AF and an

expected dry year yield of 8,270 AF.

Valley Water currently has the opportunity to increase its participation level in the Project from 0.2% to 0.66%. Wheeler Ridge Maricopa Water Storage District (Wheeler Ridge), another Sites participant and SWP contractor, is interested in reducing its participation in the Project from 19,014 AF of storage capacity to 12,780 AF of storage capacity, a reduction of 6,234 AF. Wheeler Ridge has offered to assign 6,234 AF of storage capacity to Valley Water in exchange for Valley Water reimbursing Wheeler Ridge for their planning costs paid to date for this storage capacity, which is \$608,500. In addition, Valley Water would also reimburse Wheeler Ridge for staff and attorney costs associated with the development and execution of the Assignment Agreement, up to a maximum reimbursement of \$10,000.

Project participation is currently governed by the Reservoir Project Agreement which bases planning costs off of a participant's requested annual yield. Requested annual yield is a metric that was developed in the early stages of the project as a communication tool and is only used for setting participation levels during the planning phase of the Project. The 6,234 AF of storage capacity Wheeler Ridge is offering to assign to Valley Water corresponds to 1,000 AF of requested yield. Total planning costs to date for the Project are \$608.50 per acre-foot of requested yield, which totals \$608,500 for 1,000 AF of requested yield. Therefore, Valley Water's total costs for the assignment is approximately \$618,500, accounting for reimbursement of both the Project planning costs and for the development of the Assignment Agreement.

If Valley Water and Wheeler Ridge execute this Assignment Agreement (Attachment 1), the agreement would then be brought before the Sites Authority Board and Reservoir Committee for consent. Under the terms of the 2019 Reservoir Project Agreement, each member agency on the Reservoir Committee would need to provide written approval of the assignment for the Assignment Agreement to become effective.

If this Assignment Agreement becomes effective and Valley Water increases its participation level to 0.66%, Valley Water will still have the option to withdraw from the Project or adjust its final participation level when it makes its final participation decision.

### **Project Costs & Water Supply Benefits**

The Project capital costs are estimated to be in the range of \$6.2 billion to \$6.8 billion (in 2025 dollars), with an additional 10-15% construction contingency for change orders during construction. The overall costs including the contingency could be in the range of \$6.8 billion to \$7.8 billion. If Valley Water moves forward with the assignment, the Valley water's share of the estimated capital cost range would increase from \$15 million to \$17 million at its current 0.2% participation level to approximately \$45 million to \$51 million at the increased 0.66% participation level. Cost ranges for Valley Water's current participation level, the increased participation level if the assignment is approved, and maximum waitlisted participation level are shown in Table 1 below.

At Valley Water's existing 0.2% participation level (3,117 AF of storage), the average dry year yield is expected to be approximately 690 AF per year. If Valley Water moves forward with the assignment and increases its participation to 0.66% (9,351 AF of storage), the average dry year yield is approximately 2,070 AF per year.

Table 1. Estimated Project Costs and Water Supply Yield by Participation Level.

	<b>0.2% Participation (Existing Level)</b>	<b>0.66% Participation (After Assignment)</b>	<b>2.65% Participation (Max Waitlisted)</b>
Storage Capacity Allocation (AF)	3,117	9,351	37,404
Requested Yield (AF)	500	1,500	6,000
Modeled Average Annual Yield (AF)	380	1,140	4,550
Modeled Dry Year Annual Yield (AF)	690	2,070	8,270
Estimated Capital Costs (millions \$2025)	\$15M - \$17M	\$45M-\$52M	\$181M- \$207M
Annualized Unit Cost (\$/AF)	\$1,400/AF - \$1,800/AF		

**Next Steps**

As the Project moves towards the Investor Commitment Period, Valley Water staff will continue analyzing the Project's costs, benefits, risks, and participation terms in preparation for making a recommendation to the Board on our final participation decision through the adaptive management process of the WSMP 2050. Staff are continuing to explore other opportunities to partner with Sites participants to potentially increase our participation if analyses indicate that increased participation is beneficial. Staff anticipate returning to this Committee in early 2026 for the next update.

**ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE IMPACT:**

There is no environmental justice impact associated with this item.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Attachment 1: Assignment Agreement  
Attachment 2: PowerPoint

**UNCLASSIFIED MANAGER:**

Vincent Gin, 408-630-2633

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## ASSIGNMENT AND ASSUMPTION AGREEMENT

This Assignment and Assumption Agreement (“Assignment Agreement”) is made and entered into as of \_\_\_\_\_, 2025 (“Execution Date”), by and between **Wheeler Ridge-Maricopa Water Storage District**, a California water storage district formed and existing pursuant to Water Code section 39000, et seq. (“Assignor” or “District”), and **Santa Clara Valley Water District**, a California special district created by Legislature (“Assignee”), sometimes referred to herein collectively as the “parties” and singularly as a “party,” with reference to the following facts:

WHEREAS, Assignor is a Project Agreement Member under that certain “*SITES PROJECT AUTHORITY - 2019 RESERVOIR PROJECT AGREEMENT DATED AS OF APRIL 1, 2019 BY AND AMONG SITES PROJECT AUTHORITY AND THE PROJECT AGREEMENT MEMBERS LISTED HEREIN*” as amended from time to time (“Project Agreement”), which is attached as **Exhibit A** hereto and incorporated herein by this reference;

WHEREAS, Assignor is willing to assign its rights to 6,234 acre-feet (of Assignor’s 19,014 acre-feet) of project storage allocation (Box b of Project Agreement Exhibit, A), 1,000 acre-feet (of Assignor’s current 3,050 acre-feet) of its estimated annualized Project releases or yield (Box a of Project Agreement, Exhibit A), and 0.5902% (of Assignor’s 1.8%) of total project Agreement Member storage (Project Agreement, Exhibit A “Percent”) (hereinafter, “Amount of Participation Percentage”) of Assignor’s Participation Percentage (as defined in the Project Agreement), on the terms described in this Assignment Agreement;

WHEREAS, Assignee is also a Project Agreement Member under said Project Agreement;

WHEREAS, Section 12 of the Project Agreement provides for assignments of Sites Project Participation among Project Agreement Members as follows:

*“Section 12 Assignment; Binding on Successors. Except as otherwise provided in this Project Agreement, the rights and duties of the Project Agreement Members may not be assigned or delegated without the written consent of the other Project Agreement Members and the [Sites Project] Authority, which consent shall not be unreasonably withheld. Any attempt to assign or delegate such rights or duties in contravention of this Project Agreement shall be null and void. Project Agreement Members may assign and delegate their rights and duties under this Project Agreement to other Project Agreement Members, and they may assign, sell, trade, or exchange all or a fraction of the potential benefits (e.g. acre-feet of water supply, megawatt-hours of power) they expect to receive through their participation in this Project Agreement. Any approved assignment or delegation shall be consistent with the terms of any contracts, resolutions, indemnities and other obligations of the Authority then in effect. This Project Agreement shall inure to the benefit of, and be binding upon, the successors and assigns of the Authority and the Project Agreement Members.”; and*

WHEREAS, Assignee understands that Assignor is willing to facilitate the assignment and assumption of all rights and obligations associated with the Amount of Assignor's Participation Percentage, provided that Assignor is fully indemnified, defended, and held harmless for any claims including legal challenges arising out of or relating to the assignment and assumption, and Assignor makes no representations or warranties whatsoever regarding the validity of said assignment and assumption or the rights being assigned, or what environmental review or approvals may be required to effectuate the same.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, for valuable consideration received, the Parties hereby agree as follows:

1. Assignment and Assumption. Subject to Assignee having first obtained all necessary approvals and consents and having satisfied all required conditions precedent pertaining to the effectiveness of the subject assignment and assumption at no cost to Assignor, including, without limitation, having obtained the written consents required by Section 12 of the Project Agreement, Assignor hereby permanently assigns, transfers, conveys and delegates to Assignee all of Assignor's rights, obligations and liabilities in and to Assignor's right to 6,234 AF (of Assignor's 19,014 acre-feet) of project storage allocation (Box b of Project Agreement Exhibit, A), 1,000 acre-feet (of Assignor's current 3,050 acre-feet) of its estimated annualized Project releases or yield (Box a of Project Agreement, Exhibit A), and 0.5902% (of Assignor's 1.8%) of total project Agreement Member storage (Project Agreement, Exhibit A "Percent") ("Amount of Participation Percentage"), and Assignee hereby accepts the foregoing assignment, transfer, conveyance and delegation, and hereby assumes and agrees to perform all of Assignor's obligations and liabilities under the Project Agreement and otherwise relating to the Assignor's Amount of Participation Percentage whether arising from this or any other applicable agreement or approval concerning the Sites Project from and after the Effective Date hereof as defined immediately below.

Without limiting the scope of Assignee's obligation as described above, Assignee shall be responsible for all future Sites Project costs and any past Sites Project cost adjustments based on Amount of Participation associated with the assignment and assumption of this Amount of Participation Percentage, and Assignor shall be relieved of same but only with respect to the assignment and assumption of Assignor's Amount of Participation Percentage that is the subject of this Assignment Agreement.

2. Effective Date. This Assignment Agreement shall become effective upon the *latest* of the following events: written consent to this assignment by the other Project Agreement Members and the Sites Project Authority; and execution by both parties to this Assignment Agreement by their duly authorized representatives.
3. Payment. Assignee shall pay Assignor \$608.50 per acre-foot for the amount of its estimated annualized Project releases or yield assigned (\$608,500) minus its deposit payment within 30 days of the Effective Date. Also, upon billing by Assignor, Assignee shall reimburse Assignor for its staff and attorney costs associated with developing and executing the Assignment Agreement, which costs shall not exceed \$10,000.

4. Deposit/Time is of the Essence. Assignee shall deposit \$30 per acre-foot of the assigned Participation Percentage (\$30,000) to Assignor within 14 days of execution of this Assignment Agreement. The Deposit shall be applied toward the Payment.

Time is of the essence. The Parties shall diligently pursue the necessary approvals with a target for approval by all Project Agreement Members and by the Sites Project Authority by February 1, 2026. In the event that any Project Agreement Member or the Sites Project Authority refuses to provide a written consent to this assignment by this date, the Deposit shall be refunded in full to Assignee within 30 days thereafter unless both Parties mutually agree in writing to continue this February 1, 2026 deadline to a later date.

5. Termination. Assignee or Assignor shall have the right to terminate this Assignment Agreement upon 30 days' notice to the other party. If Assignee gives notice of terminating this Assignment Agreement, the Deposit shall be forfeited. If Assignor terminates this Assignment Agreement, the Deposit shall be refunded to Assignee within 30 days of such notice of termination.
6. Indemnification. Assignee agrees to indemnify, defend and hold harmless Assignor, and its respective officers, directors, agents, attorneys, contractors and employees from and against any and all threatened and actual claims, demands, liens, losses, injuries, damages, liabilities, causes of action, suits, judgments, expenses and costs (including but not limited to reasonable attorneys' paralegals' and expert witness fees and litigation costs, including pre-litigation and post-litigation costs) (collectively, "Claims") that are or may hereafter be incurred by Assignor that arise out of or otherwise relate (in whole or in part) to any acts or omissions associated with entry into or implementation of this Assignment Agreement, including, without limitation, the assignment and assumption of rights and obligations and liabilities associated with the Participation Percentage to Assignee, including but not limited to any Claims concerning compliance with Public Resources Code section 21000, et seq. ("CEQA"), as may be required in order for Assignor to assign its Participation Percentage for use by Assignee as provided herein.
7. Environmental Review/Legal Compliance. Assignor and Assignee acknowledge that the Sites Project Authority certified its Final Environmental Impact Report ("FEIR") and issued approval for the Sites Project on or about November 17, 2023, and that the certification and approval were upheld in a judgment issued in *Friends of the River, et al. v. Sites Project Authority, et al.*, Yolo County Superior Court, Case No. CV2023-2626, which trial court judgment was affirmed by the Third Appellate District Court of Appeals on September 20, 2024. Assignor makes no representations or warranties and expresses no opinion regarding whether the subject assignment and assumption are covered by the FEIR, exempt from CEQA review, or whether further environmental review may be required for the same. Assignee shall be solely responsible for all costs associated with determining whether any further CEQA review is required and conducting any further environmental review as may be necessary in order for the subject assignment and assumption to comply with CEQA and any other applicable law and regulations and requirements. Assignee shall act as lead agency for any CEQA compliance, if required,

unless some other public agency is required by law to act as lead agency. In the event Assignor is required to act as lead or responsible agency for any CEQA review, then Assignee shall reimburse Assignor for all costs of doing so, and, if requested by Assignor, shall enter into a separate agreement in a form acceptable to Assignor for such purpose. In the event further CEQA review is required, the Parties each retain their full and independent discretion under CEQA to consider and adopt mitigation measures and alternatives, including the alternative of not implementing the assignment and assumption of Assignee's Participation Percentage.

8. Costs of Defense of Legal Action. Without limiting Assignor's rights to be indemnified as provided in Section 6 above, in the event of any legal action by a third party to challenge implementation of this Assignment Agreement, Assignor shall cooperate in the defense thereof but shall be fully indemnified, as provided in Section 6 above, and Assignee shall, at its sole discretion, either retain counsel to represent Assignor or instead reimburse Assignor for its reasonable attorneys' fees and costs in defending itself in such litigation.
9. No Warranties. Assignor makes no representations or warranties whatsoever regarding the rights being assigned or obligations being assumed in connection with this Assignment Agreement, including, without limitation, the nature, extent or status of the Sites Project or its costs or yield, now or in the future, or what environmental review or approvals or conditions may be required to be obtained or need to be satisfied to enter into or implement this Assignment Agreement or whether it will be possible to obtain such review or approvals or satisfy such conditions.
10. Authority. The undersigned representatives of the Parties hereby represent and warrant that they are authorized to execute this Assignment Agreement.
11. Notice. Written notice may be provided by either party to the other by first-class mail, postage prepaid, to the following addresses:

Assignee: Santa Clara Valley Water District,  
5750 Almaden Expressway,  
San Jose, CA 95118,  
Attn: Cindy Kao, Imported Water Unit Manager

Assignor: Wheeler Ridge-Maricopa Water Storage District  
12109 Highway 166  
Bakersfield, CA 93313  
Attn: Sheridan Nicholas, Engineer-Manager

12. Further Assurances. Subject to Assignee reimbursing Assignor for any required costs as specified herein, each of the Parties hereto shall execute and deliver any and all additional papers, documents, and other assurances and shall do any and all acts reasonably necessary in connection with the performance of their obligations hereunder.

13. Binding Effect. All of the terms and provisions of this Assignment Agreement shall inure to the benefit of, and shall be binding upon, the parties hereto and their respective successors and assigns.
14. Governing Law; Venue. This Assignment Agreement shall in all respects be governed by the laws of the State of California.
15. Recovery of Litigation Expenses. In the event action be instituted by any Party to enforce any of the terms and provisions contained herein, the prevailing party in such action shall be entitled to its reasonable attorneys' fees, costs and expenses as may be fixed by the Court.
16. Execution in Counterparts. This Assignment Agreement may be executed in two or more separate counterparts, each of which, when so executed, shall be deemed to be an original. Such counterparts shall, together, constitute and be one and the same instrument.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, the parties have executed this and Assumption Agreement as of the Effective Date first above written.

Assignee: SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
Melanie Richardson, Interim Chief Executive Officer

Assignor: WHEELER RIDGE- MARICOPA WATER STORAGE DISTRICT

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
Sheridan Nicholas, Engineer-Manager

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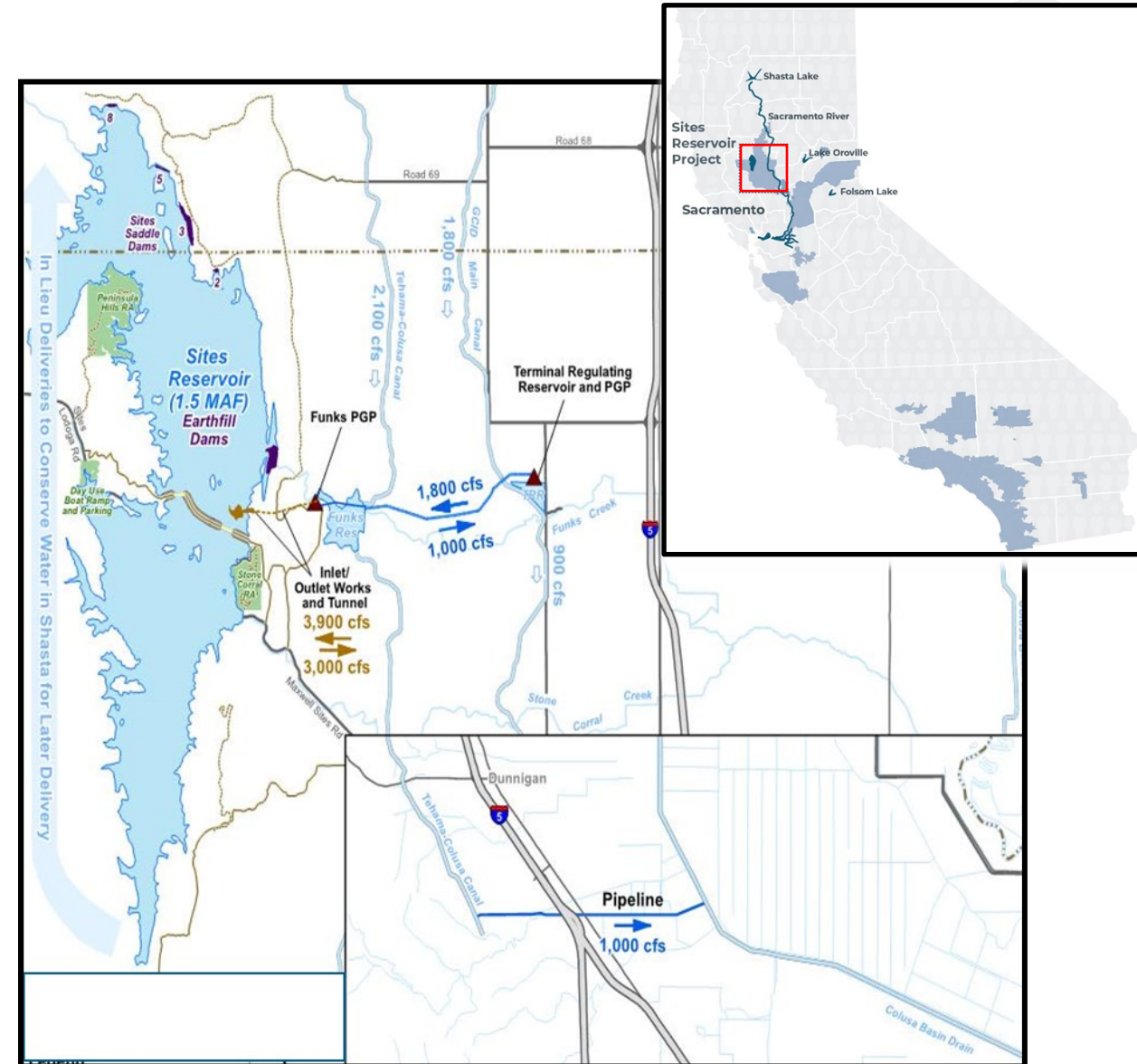


# Sites Reservoir Project Update

Water Supply and Demand Management Committee, October 27, 2025

# Project Overview

- 1.41 MAF Off-Stream Reservoir
- Diverts and stores excess flows from winter storms
- Cost range: \$6.8B-\$7.8B
- Project is fully subscribed
  - State and Federal participation
  - 22 Local Agencies (including VW)
- Waitlist to Join the Project



# Opportunity to Increase Participation Level

- Wheeler Ridge Maricopa Water Storage District is offering to assign 6,234 AF of storage space to Valley Water
- Would increase Valley Water's total storage to 9,351 AF
- Valley Water would reimburse Wheeler Ridge for:
  - \$608,500 for planning costs paid to date
  - Costs for development and execution of assignment agreement

# Opportunity to Increase Participation Level

- Sites Authority Board and Reservoir Committee members must approve the assignment
  - Plan to take to the November 21<sup>st</sup> Sites Authority Board meeting
  - Reservoir Committee member agencies provide written consent for assignment
- Assignment agreement not in effect until all approvals are received

# Project Costs & Water Supply Benefits

5

➤ Capital cost range: \$6.8 billion - \$7.8 billion (including construction contingency)

	0.2% Participation (Existing Level)	0.66% Participation (After Assignment)	2.65% Participation (Max Waitlisted)
Storage Capacity (AF)	3,117	9,351	37,404
Requested Yield (AF)	500	1,500	6,000
Modeled Average Annual Yield (AF)	380	1,140	4,550
Modeled Dry Year Annual Yield (AF)	690	2,070	8,270
Estimated Capital Costs (millions \$2025)	\$15M - \$17M	\$45M-\$52M	\$181M- \$207M
Annualized Unit Cost (\$/AF)	\$1,400/AF - \$1,800/AF		

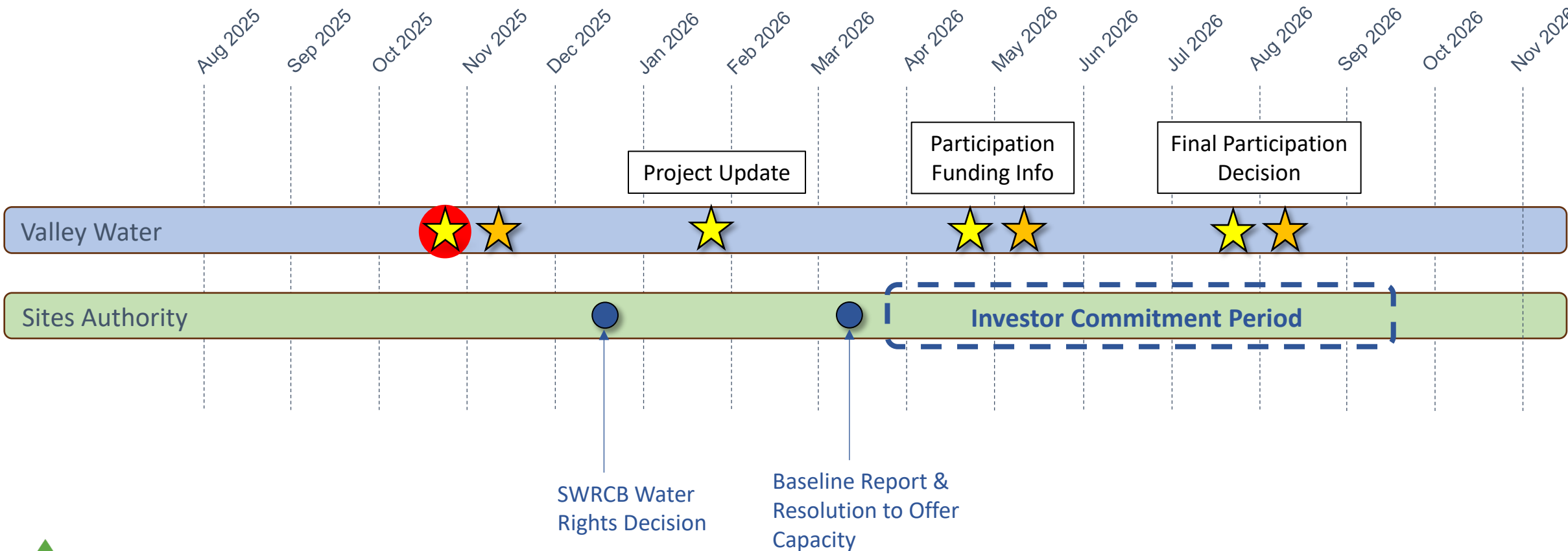
# Expected Schedule\*

\* Schedule subject to change

★ = WSDMC

★ = Full Board

6



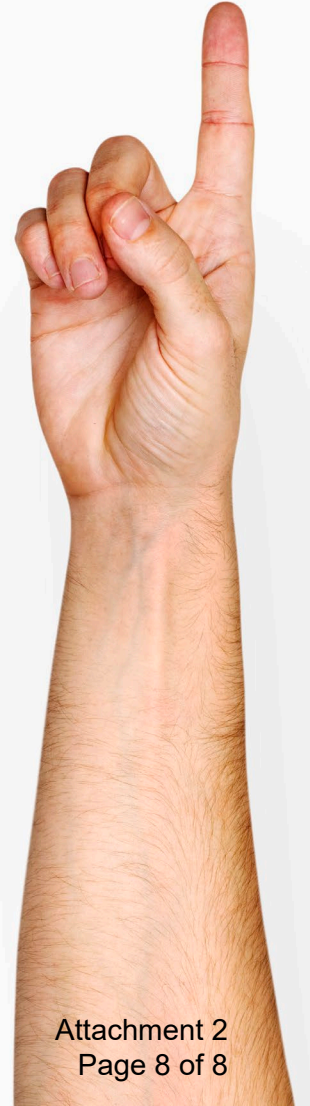
# Recommendation

Consider recommending to the Board to approve execution of an assignment agreement with Wheeler Ridge Maricopa Water District that would give Valley Water 6,234 acre-feet of Wheeler Ridge's storage capacity in Sites Reservoir for up to \$618,500, which would increase Valley Water's Project participation level from 0.2% to 0.66%, providing Valley Water a total of 9,351 acre-feet of storage

# QUESTIONS



58





# Santa Clara Valley Water District

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**File No.:** 25-0857

**Agenda Date:** 10/27/2025

**Item No.:** 4.3.

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## **COMMITTEE AGENDA MEMORANDUM Water Supply and Demand Management Committee**

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

### **SUBJECT:**

Receive Safe Clean Water Conservation Program - Project A2: Water Conservation Rebates and Programs Update.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Receive an update on the Safe Clean Water funded conservation programs.

### **SUMMARY:**

Through the 2020 voter-approved Measure S, a renewal of Santa Clara Valley Water District's (Valley Water) Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program (SCW), up to \$1 million per year is provided for water conservation program activities, including rebates, technical assistance, and public education, within the first seven (7) years of the SCW. SCW funding not only helps Valley Water meet its countywide long-term water conservation goal of 126,000 acre-feet of water per year by 2050, but these water conservation programs also increase water supply reliability, help reduce greenhouse gases, and irrigation runoff pollution to the Bay. As presented at the March 2025 Water Supply and Demand Management Committee meeting Fiscal Year 2025 (FY25), SCW provided an opportunity to enhance and create the following programs:

- Landscape Rebate Program
- Valley Water Demonstration Garden

In FY25, SCW funding continues to support the Landscape Rebate Program, allowing for the \$2 per square foot conversion rate to continue. Increasing participation in this program will help ensure Valley Water reaches its 2050 Water Conservation Goals. Funding will also be used for the design of a 26,000-square-foot demonstration garden adjacent to Valley Water's Headquarters building. A progress report on the demonstration garden was presented to this committee at the May 2025 meeting.

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## **Landscape Conversion Program Enhancements**

To increase participation in Valley Water's conservation program, SCW funding was utilized to increase the Landscape Conversion Rebate rate from \$1 per square foot (sf) to \$2 per sf. In FY25, the increased funding for the Landscape Rebate Program led to the conversion of over 960,000 sq ft of lawn, 750,000 sq ft of which was eligible for SCW funding.

## **Valley Water Demonstration Garden**

Valley Water has kicked off the design of a Demonstration Garden located at the southeast corner of Valley Water's Headquarters building, located on Almaden Expressway. The Request for Proposal for Design Services for the Demonstration Garden Project was posted on February 14, 2025, and in June 2025, the contract was awarded to BFS Landscape Architects to provide design services. The approximately 26,000 square feet garden will showcase water conservation and sustainable practices, serve as a public gathering and educational space, and emphasize Valley Water's Landscape Rebate Program (LRP) requirements. The garden will highlight a watershed approach by incorporating features such as native and climate-appropriate plants, high-efficiency irrigation systems, educational signage, and integrated rainwater capture.

As part of the contract, BFS Landscape Architects (BFS) will develop a comprehensive conceptual layout and final design for the garden. Through the design process, Staff will work with BFS to engage key internal and external stakeholders, including various Board committees and the public to gather and implement relevant feedback. BFS will also collaborate with Valley Water to plan effective educational signage to be implemented in the garden. To support long-term sustainability and functionality of the various garden elements, BFS will deliver site-specific landscape maintenance plans. The company will also provide oversight during the construction phase of the garden to ensure compliance with design specifications and verify proper installation of plants, irrigation, rainwater systems, and other elements.

The Concept Layout has been completed and highlights the overall vision, key ideas and functional relationships within the garden space. The spatial and organizational structure of the garden preserves existing trees, respects the privacy of Valley Water offices overlooking the space, highlights views to the pond to the east, buffers the display beds from the busy parking lot and road to the west, and places at its center a shaded public gathering area for educational events.

The circulation pattern through the garden preserves existing pathways and adds new pathways with benches and overlooks to the display gardens. Garden plants used will be all selected from the Valley Water's LRP Qualifying Plant List. The display gardens themselves will feature individual species with labels alongside the paths, with plant compositions behind as visual backdrops. The public gathering area will have a combination of fixed seat wall benches and movable furniture for flexibility, particularly to accommodate educational field trips. Rain barrels and a dry creek bed with a semi-riparian area will support messaging about water conservation locally and regionally.

**Next Steps**

Staff is working with BFS to solicit feedback from the public through a survey offered to past and present Landscape Rebate Program participants and a design charette, tentatively scheduled for November of 2025, to engage members of the landscape community and related stakeholders. Staff will also present to the Environmental and Water Resources Committee in January of 2026. The design is expected to be completed in Spring 2026. Upon completion of the design, Valley Water staff will develop and issue a Request for Proposal for the construction of the garden to design specifications. FY27 funding will be used for the construction of the demonstration garden.

**ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE IMPACT:**

Environmental justice impacts on local communities are expected/likely to result from implementation of the water conservation program toward meeting the long-term water conservation 2030 and 2040 goals. Water conservation offers a range of environmental justice benefits by promoting equitable access to clean water, reducing pollution, protecting ecosystems, mitigating climate change, saving costs for vulnerable communities, enhancing drought resilience, and empowering residents with knowledge and skills for sustainable water use. Valley Water provides such water conservation information in multiple languages and via various outreach techniques to reach all members of our community. Valley Water acknowledges that during drought, disadvantaged communities may be disproportionately impacted. To address these impacts, Valley Water promotes access to equitable and affordable water supplies (Water Supply Goal 2.6).

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Attachment 1: PowerPoint

**UNCLASSIFIED MANAGER:**

Kirsten Struve, 408-630-3138

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# Safe Clean Water – A2: Conservation Programs Update

Water Conservation and Demand Management Committee, October 27, 2025  
Ashley Shannon, Sr. Water Conservation Specialist

# Safe Clean Water- Conservation Program Update

- Measure S, Safe Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection
- \$1 Million per year for Water Conservation activities
- Opportunity to enhance and create Water Conservation programs and resources



# Landscape Conversion Program Enhancements

## Landscape Rebate Program

- Increase rate from \$1/sq ft to \$2/sq ft
- Over 960,000 sq ft of lawn converted in FY25
- Over 750,000 sq ft of that eligible for SCW funding



30,000 square feet of lawn conversion project featuring climate-appropriate, low-water use landscape.

# Valley Water Demonstration Garden

- Design services requested in February 2025 for an approximately 26,000 sq ft demonstration garden
- Contract awarded to BFS Landscape Architects in June 2025

Valley Water Demonstration Garden Project Map



# Valley Water Demonstration Garden

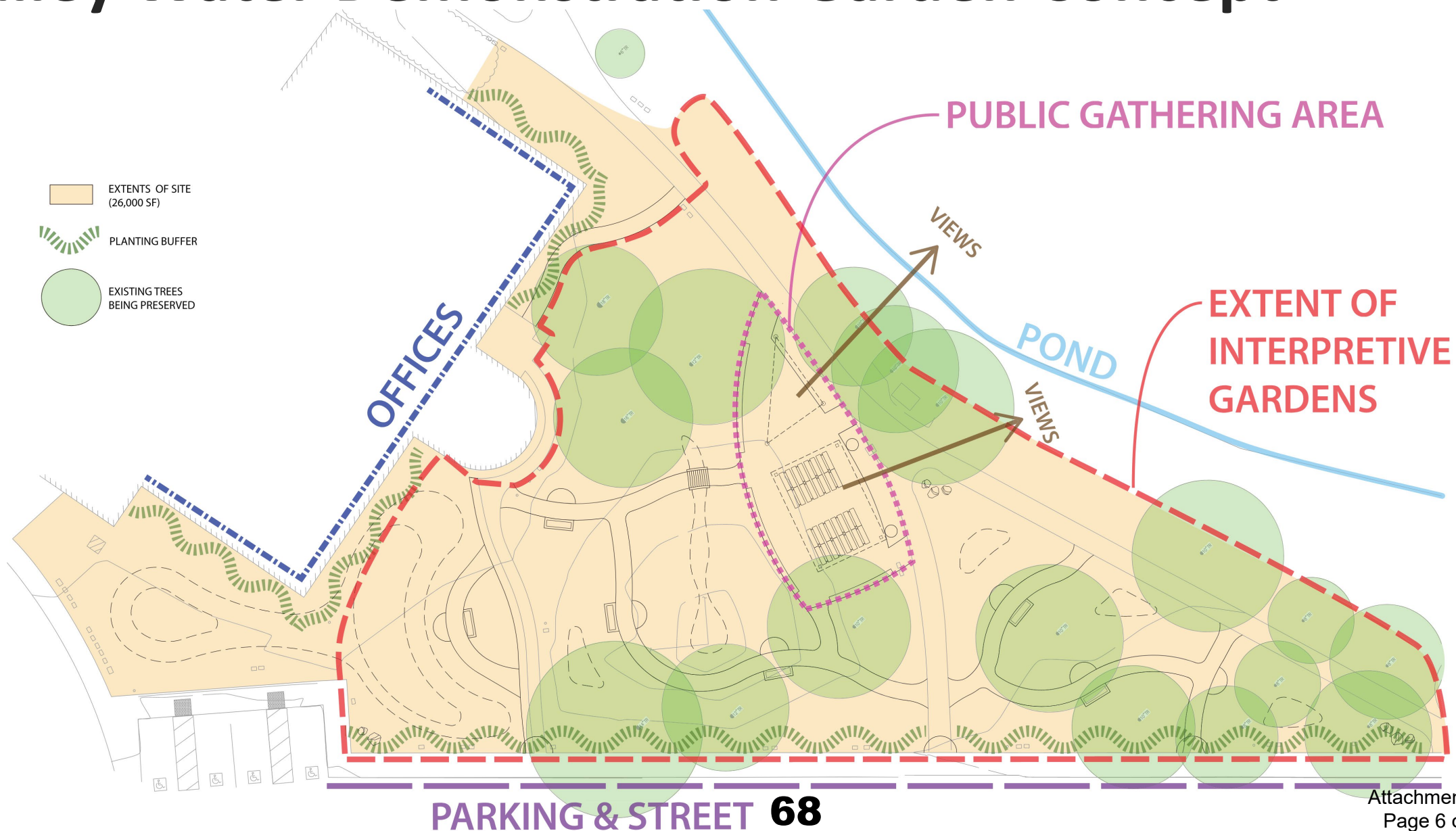
## Design services include:

- Design of sustainable demonstration garden
- Stakeholder engagement
- Construction Oversight and Quality Assurance
- Development of Comprehensive Maintenance Plans



Current site conditions.

# Valley Water Demonstration Garden Concept



# Valley Water Demonstration Garden Concept

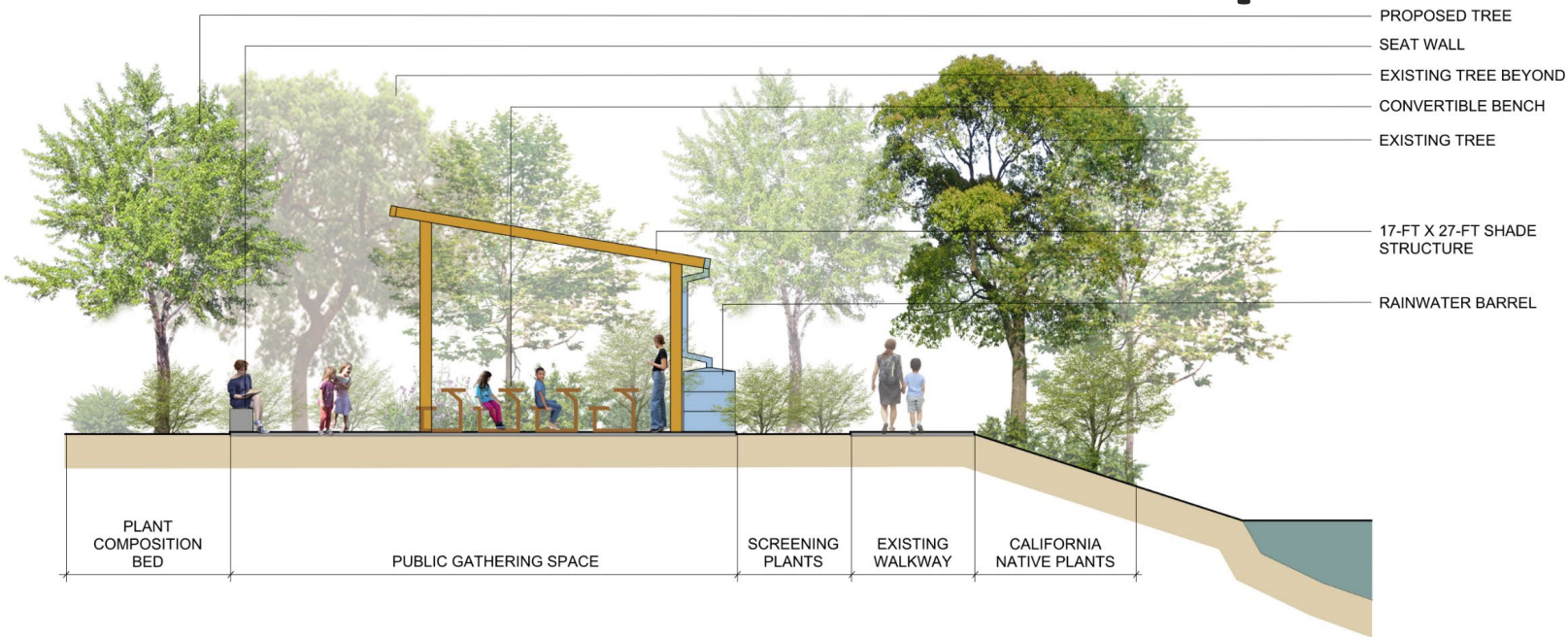
- EXISTING TREE
- PROPOSED SHADE TREE
- PROPOSED ORNAMENTAL TREE
- INTERPRETIVE GARDENS
  - DISPLAY GARDEN BEDS
  - PLANT COMPOSITION BEDS
  - ROCK GARDENS
  - STORMWATER GARDEN
  - CALIFORNIA NATIVE GARDEN
  - EVERGREEN SCREENING PLANTS 30"-36" HIGH
  - BUFFER PLANTS 24"-30" HIGH
- OTHER AREAS
  - ENTRANCE PLANTING (AFTERNOON SUN)
  - ENTRANCE PLANTING (SHADE)
  - RIVER ROCK BEDS
  - SEATING FURNITURE

- 1 FABRIC SHADE STRUCTURE
- 2 STEEL-ROOFED SHADE STRUCTURE
- 3 RAINWATER BARRELS

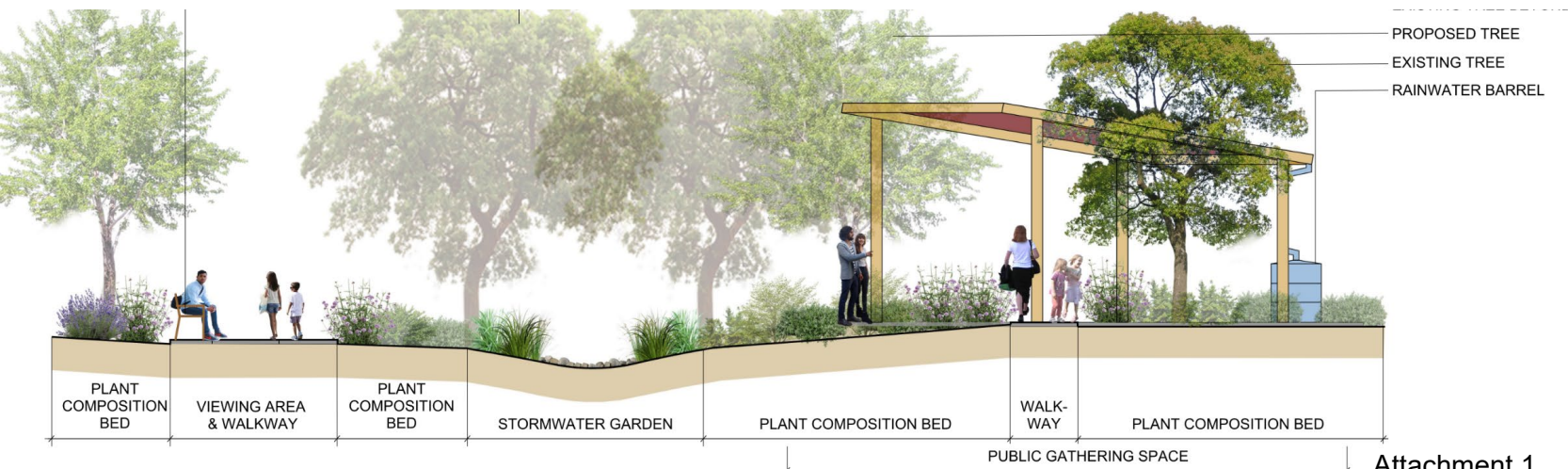


# Valley Water Demonstration Garden Concept

Section A –  
Public Gathering Space



Section B –  
Display Gardens



# Next Steps

## Demo Garden:

- Public outreach survey
- Design Charette
- Design completion Spring 2026

## FY26-FY28 SCW Funding:

- Landscape Rebate Program
- Valley Water Demonstration Garden Construction

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# Santa Clara Valley Water District

**File No.:** 25-0858

**Agenda Date:** 10/27/2025

**Item No.:** 4.4.

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## **COMMITTEE AGENDA MEMORANDUM** **Water Supply and Demand Management Committee**

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

### **SUBJECT:**

Receive Update on Valley Water's New Water Conservation Programs, Pilots, and Partnerships and Making Conservation a California Way of Life; Provide feedback.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Receive update on Valley Water's New Water Conservation Programs, Pilots, and Partnerships and Making Conservation a California Way of Life; provide feedback.

### **SUMMARY:**

This memo provides an integrated update on California's new long-term water-use efficiency regulations, Valley Water's water conservation programs, and partnerships with retailers and interested community members and groups. These efforts support compliance with state requirements, advance local conservation goals, and promote equitable outcomes across Santa Clara County.

### **Making Water Conservation a Way of Life**

Valley Water has provided a robust water conservation program to our community since 1992. Valley Water's Water Supply Master Plan outlines long-term conservation goals that the program aims to achieve through 2050. On June 13, 2023, the Board approved Resolution 23-52 Calling for Water Conservation as a Way of Life in Santa Clara County (Attachment 2). This Resolution directly supports the State's "Making Conservation a California Way of Life Regulation," which was first proposed in 2018 in Senate Bill 606/Assembly Bill 1668 and was unanimously adopted by the State Water Resources Control Board (State Board) on July 3, 2024 (Conservation Framework).

The adopted Conservation Framework implements quantitative water-use efficiency standards and qualitative performance measures which urban water suppliers must comply with, including retailer-specific water budgets referred to as Urban Water Use Objectives (UWUOs), performance measures for commercial, industrial, institutional (CII) accounts, and annual reporting. Additional details are provided in Attachment 3, a resource developed by the California Water Efficiency Partnership

(CalWEP).

Though Valley Water is not directly impacted by the Conservation Framework, Valley Water plays a support role to the county's water retailers by providing resources and programs to aid in their compliance.

By leveraging and marketing Valley Water's water conservation rebates, resources, and technical services, Valley Water supports water retailers with State regulatory compliance while increasing progress towards meeting our long-term water conservation goals. Staff continue to actively pursue local, regional, and statewide partnerships to assist with initial implementation of the Conservation Framework as detailed below.

## **Partnerships**

1. Valley Water partnerships with local water retailers play a crucial role in achieving our long-term water conservation goals. These partnerships leverage resources, coordinate funding for rebate programs, and ensure consistent messaging to the public, especially in times of drought. Valley Water's partnerships with retailers to promote water conservation include:
  - Cost-sharing agreements: To increase participation in Valley Water's rebate programs and to encourage water conservation through Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) and Water Use Reports, Valley Water has entered into cost-sharing agreements with several cities and water retailers, currently including:
    - o City of Gilroy
    - o City of Milpitas
    - o City of Morgan Hill
    - o City of Mountain View
    - o City of Palo Alto
    - o City of Santa Clara
    - o San Jose Municipal Water System
  - Outreach collaboration: Valley Water's Office of Communications works with water retailers to cross-promote our water conservation programs in English, Spanish, Mandarin, and Vietnamese. Our multilingual advertising campaigns target diverse populations through digital and social media channels. Valley Water also shares a partner toolkit for our water conservation campaigns, featuring our ads, digital banners, animations, and suggested messaging for social media platforms.
  - Committee engagement: To collaborate and coordinate with water retailers, Valley Water facilitates a Quarterly Water Retailer Meeting and several corresponding Subcommittees. Through the Water Conservation and Communications retailer subcommittees specifically, Valley Water staff works with retailers to promote water conservation programs, develop consistent conservation and drought messaging, discuss local and state regulations and reporting requirements, and build inter-agency

relationships.

- **Reporting:** Valley Water works closely with retailers to provide them with water conservation program participation data and to receive data needed for demand forecast modeling. To assist retailers with their various reporting needs, including retailers in our county who are required to do year-end reporting to Bay Area Water Supply and Conservation Agency (BAWSCA), Valley Water provides detailed water conservation program participation data to all retailers in the county.
2. Valley Water entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with BAWSCA to host a series of workshops to support regional water retailers' understanding of and compliance with water efficiency related state regulations, including the various components of the Conservation Framework and the state's ban on the use of potable water for irrigating non-functional turf at CII properties. This workshop series is a continuation of a partnership between Valley Water and BAWSCA to provide regulatory compliance support to regional water retailers.
  3. Valley Water continues to engage in and collaborate with California Water Efficiency Partnership (CalWEP) to develop regulatory compliance tools and resources to benefit water retailers throughout the state. Valley Water is a funding partner for the development of the AB 1572 non-functional turf toolkit intended to equip water retailers and agencies with resources that promote consistent approaches, guidelines, and outreach messaging for the various interested community groups and members.

### **New and Enhanced Water Conservation Programs and Pilots**

Staff continue to look for ways to enhance existing programs or develop new water conservation programs to support retailers' achieving state-mandated water conservation regulations and the Board's long-term water conservation goals. Below is an update of new and enhanced programs since the last update at the March 2025 Water Supply and Demand Management Committee (WSDMC):

1. **Direct Retrofit Indoor Plumbing (DRIP) Program:** Staff secured a vendor for an updated indoor direct installation program in August 2025. The new contract includes program enhancements, with a focus on CII and multifamily properties, particularly those in disadvantaged communities (DAC). Single-family properties will now have the opportunity to participate, provided they meet specific eligibility criteria, such as being located in a DAC, residing in areas with historically low program participation, or having occupants or owners enrolled in income-based assistance programs. Additionally, single-family properties may apply for upgraded fixtures or clothes washer retrofits based on need and program budget. Other enhancements may include expanded services for high-density properties, such as leak detection support and the integration of Point-of-Use Monitoring leak detection devices. Enhancements were identified through incorporating relevant findings from the Leak Assessment and Repair Pilot and Toilet Repair and Retrofit Pilot with Richard Heath and Associates, Inc., which concluded in August 2023.
2. **eCart Program:** Staff secured a vendor for Water Conservation Devices Online Shopping Cart

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(eCart) Order Fulfillment Services in April 2025. The eCart offers free water conservation devices to our community.

3. Landscape Direct Installation Program: Staff secured a Program Administrator for this contract in July 2024. This program, offered to low-income residents in Santa Clara County, replaces the Our City Forest Lawn Busters program, which expired at the end of Fiscal Year 2024. The new Landscape Direct Installation Program is intended to prioritize eligible applicants currently on the Lawn Busters waitlist and will offer landscape conversion, graywater laundry to landscape, irrigation equipment upgrades, rainwater capture, and urban tree planting. Staff, in collaboration with the Program Administrator, have worked to create an online application portal, an internal tracking database, and participant agreement package in anticipation of the launch of the program. However, in September of 2025, due to difficulties securing a C-27 contractor that could work under Valley Water's framework, the Program Administrator pulled out of the contract. As a result, Valley Water will be bringing the program in-house and is currently exploring options for how this can be structured.
4. Demonstration Garden: Valley Water staff have awarded a contract for the design of an approximately 26,000 square foot demonstration garden at its Headquarters facility at Almaden Expressway. Details about this item will be included in the A2 Safe Clean Water update at today's meeting.
5. Nursery Outreach Pedestal Signs: Valley Water's Nursery Outreach Program developed nursery outreach pedestal signs intended to replace or add to our rack card displays at these local nurseries. The pedestal signs have descriptions and QR codes that link to the Landscape Rebate Program Application, list of low water-use plants, Graywater Rebate Program application, Valley Water Irrigation Scheduling Tool, and Water Wise Outdoor Survey Request form. Thirty of these signs have been delivered to local nurseries and to water retailers for display at their facilities, including cobranded signs created in partnership with the City of Palo Alto.
6. Benchmark Study: Staff are continuing efforts to finalize a program-led benchmarking study to evaluate and compare Valley Water conservation programs with those of peer agencies, resulting in quantitative and qualitative data. This effort will help improve awareness of peer agencies' programs and what program parameters may lead to increased program participation.
7. Large Landscape Program: Valley Water executed an agreement for an updated Large Landscape Program. The Large Landscape Program offers free surveys to eligible Commercial, Industrial, and Institutional (CII) sites, evaluating irrigation systems and landscape water management, and offering recommendations for efficiency improvements. Valley Water awarded the contract to Waterfluence, the same vendor Valley Water has used since 2013. The new contract offers program enhancements that focus on tools to support regulatory compliance, data analytics, and automation, including for AMI, integration with other Valley Water program interfaces, and increased capability to target messaging to the hard-to-reach CII sectors.

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Small-scale pilot programs help inform the development of larger-scale programs by evaluating the feasibility and potential costs/benefits. Below is an update on pilot programs since the last update at the March 2025 Committee meeting:

1. Leak Detection and Repair Certification: A leak incentive program is part of the 2040 Water Supply Master Plan's "No Regrets" package of water conservation programs (along with AMI). Objective resources to help customers find qualified professionals to fix leaks once a customer receives a leak notification, whether through AMI or other means, are lacking. Without a list of qualified professionals with the skills and training to fix leaks, a leak incentive program would be challenging to design and implement. This pilot is a key component in developing new resources and ultimately new programs to help customers repair leaks.

As a result of this pilot, CalWEP is coordinating with Valley Water and BAWSCA to transform our training framework into a first-of-its-kind training program in California. As part of this effort, CalWEP has tentatively secured the International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials (IAPMO) to host the training focused on indoor leaks. CalWEP is securing interest from additional agency partners in the Bay Area, by partnering with other agencies, the costs to Valley Water to offer this unique training will be reduced. Outdoor leak detection and repair certification training will be evaluated in the future. Valley Water will be hosting the first training on November 4, 2025.

2. Commercial Water Efficiency Training: Valley Water, in partnership with CalWEP, hosted a local Commercial Water Efficiency Training on September 3-4, 2025, in Sunnyvale. The training equipped participants with the knowledge and tools to conduct water audits at commercial facilities. Topics covered included assessments of bathroom and kitchen sinks, pre-rinse spray valves, commercial dishwashers, toilets, pools, cooling towers, laundry facilities, landscape irrigation systems, and more. This event also provided a valuable opportunity to share information and resources from Valley Water's conservation program. Attendees included representatives from Valley Water service area retailers such as Morgan Hill, Milpitas, Santa Clara, and Sunnyvale, as well as neighboring agencies including the Contra Costa Water District, Alameda County Water District, City of Fairfield, Mid-Peninsula Water District, and the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission. The workshop was well received, drawing over 20 participants and helping to strengthen regional efforts in water efficiency and conservation.
3. Water Savings Analysis of Water Conservation Programs: Valley Water is procuring services for a water savings analysis of the Commercial Indoor Water Survey Pilot Program and DRIP.

## **NEXT STEPS:**

The Conservation Framework will improve statewide water use efficiency over the coming decades to help our communities become more resilient to future droughts and climate change through decreasing water waste and increasing water-use efficiency. Valley Water is well-suited to leverage existing programs, develop support resources, and explore new opportunities to capitalize on how

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the Conservation Framework's requirements may directly increase participation in Valley Water's water conservation programs. Staff will continue offering pilot programs to test new approaches to help with Conservation Framework compliance, particularly those that help us serve the hard-to-reach CII sector. Increased demand for resources is anticipated for both Valley Water programs and for our water retailers' programs to succeed in this new regulatory landscape.

This alignment between statewide regulations, Valley Water policies, and Valley Water's water conservation programs is anticipated to directly benefit our progress to meet or exceed our long-term water conservation goals. Through Valley Water's sustained engagement and investment in Conservation Framework compliance, we will continue to demonstrate Valley Water's commitment to being a water conservation leader locally, statewide, and beyond.

**ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE IMPACT:**

Environmental justice impacts on local communities are expected/likely to result from implementation of the water conservation program toward meeting the long-term water conservation goals. Water conservation offers a range of environmental justice benefits by promoting equitable access to clean water, reducing pollution, protecting ecosystems, mitigating climate change, saving costs for vulnerable communities, enhancing drought resilience, and empowering residents with knowledge and skills for sustainable water use. Valley Water provides such water conservation information in multiple languages and via various outreach techniques to reach all members of our community. Valley Water acknowledges that during drought, disadvantaged communities may be disproportionately impacted. To address these impacts, Valley Water promotes access to equitable and affordable water supplies (Water Supply Goal 2.6).

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Attachment 1: PowerPoint  
Attachment 2: Resolution No 23-52  
Attachment 3: CalWEP Cut Sheet

**UNCLASSIFIED MANAGER:**

Kirsten Struve, 408-630-3138



# Update on Valley Water New Programs, Pilots, and Partnerships and Making Conservation a California Way of Life.

Water Supply and Demand Management Committee, October 27, 2025

Ashley Shannon, Senior Water Conservation Specialist

# Framework Elements



3 Key Components of *Making Conservation a Way of Life*  
Regulation:

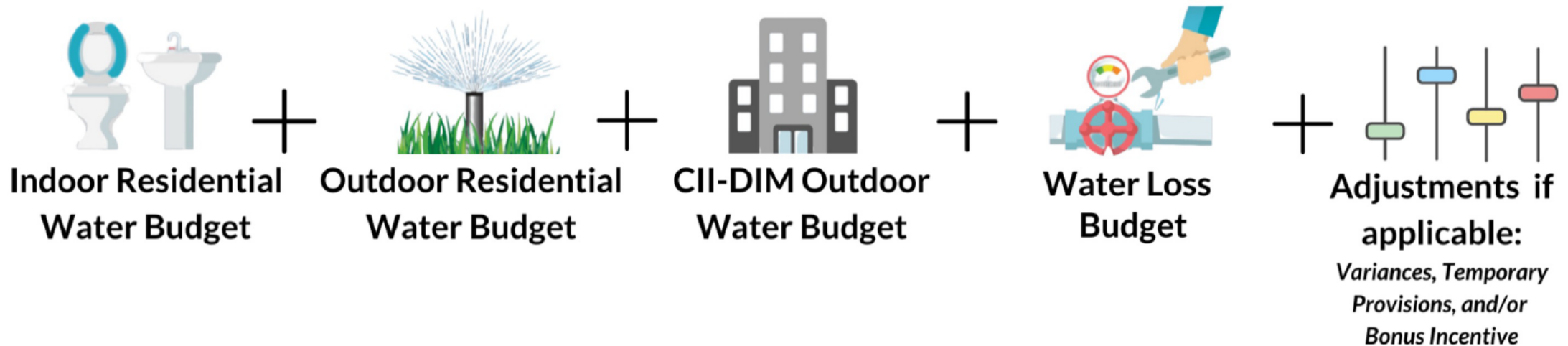
- 1) Water Use Objective
- 2) Commercial, Industrial, Institutional (CII) Performance Measure
- 3) Annual Reporting

# Water Conservation Guiding Principles

- Valley Water's Calling for Water Conservation as a Way of Life in Santa Clara County (Resolution 23-52) identifies Guiding Principles to support long-term conservation
- Guiding Principles that align with Conservation Framework:
  - Guiding Principles 1-4 to make it easier for the community to conserve through partnerships, education, and working with the CII community
  - Guiding Principles 6 and 8 to support legislative efforts and land-use agency coordination to promote water conservation
  - Guiding Principles 10 and 11 to utilize data to inform programs as well as to promote equitable and affordable approaches to water conservation

# Urban Water Use Objective

**Providers cannot exceed the SUM of the standards**



**\*Agriculture and indoor CII not part of objective, though indoor CII is covered by Performance Measures.**

# Partnerships: Retailers

- Cost-sharing agreements with 7 local water retailers and cities
  - Water Conservation Rebate Programs
  - Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI)
  - Water Use Reports
- Outreach Collaboration
- Committee Engagement
- Reporting

# Partnerships

- Bay Area Water Supply and Conservation Agency (BAWSCA)
  - Conservation Framework regional workshop series
- California Water Efficiency Partnership (CalWEP)
  - AB 1572 Non-functional Turf Toolkit

**PUBLIC PROPERTIES**

## LESS LAWN MORE EFFICIENCY

**A New Look for [Name of Our City/County]**

You are going to be seeing a new, more colorful and water-wise look for the landscapes around our government buildings and properties. We're going to remove sections of lawn that serve no purpose and replace them with stunning, water-wise landscapes filled with native plants and plants more suited for our climate.

*Toyon *Heteromeles arbutifolia*, California native*

We are developing low-water-use and native plant gardens, adding more shade trees, and creating more vibrant and sustainable landscapes.

**The New Law**

A new statewide law—AB 1572—requires local governments, counties, special districts, and other public agencies to stop watering lawns that serve no recreational or community purpose at public properties by January 1, 2027.

The law does not apply to parks, soccer fields, and baseball diamonds, to cemeteries or other areas where people gather.

**Why Was This Law Passed**

Drought is a way of life in California, and periods of drought are becoming more frequent and intense as the climate continues to warm. By transforming areas of lawn that serve no purpose into water-wise landscapes, California can save millions of gallons of drinking water a year. This will help strengthen California's ability to endure future droughts and protect this precious resource, so that it's always available when you need it.

**How Will This Impact You**

AB 1572 applies to properties owned by state and local public agencies, commercial, industrial, institutional properties, and non-residential HOA common areas. It does not apply to single-family or multi-family residential properties, but we hope you'll be inspired by the beautiful water-wise landscapes and do the same at your home.

*Photo by Mountain View Water District*

*Photo by Christine Kohn*

# New and Enhanced Programs

- Direct Retrofit Indoor Plumbing (DRIP) Program
  - New contract August, 2025
- eCart Program
- Nursery Outreach Pedestal Signs
  - 30 signs throughout the county



# New and Enhanced Programs

- Landscape Direct Install Program
  - Online application portal, an internal tracking database, and participant agreement package
  - Valley Water will bring program in-house
- Demonstration Garden
- Benchmark Study
- Large Landscape Program
  - Contracted awarded to Waterfluence
  - Enhanced tools support regulatory compliance

# Pilots

- Leak Detection and Repair Certification
  - November 2025
- Commercial Water Efficiency Training
  - September 2025
- Water Savings Analysis of Water Conservation Programs
  - Water savings analysis of the Commercial Indoor Water Survey Pilot Program and DRIP



**FREE Leak Detection & Repair Training for Plumbing Professionals**

**COURSE FEATURES**

- Key elements of water-efficient plumbing design.
- Methods to prevent leaks with smart design and durable materials.
- Hands-on training with tools and techniques to detect common plumbing leaks.

Upon course completion, you'll earn a Leak Detection & Repair certificate. You also have the chance to take an optional test that, should you pass, will add your name to our new customer-facing directory of Leak Repair Elite contractors.

**COMPLIMENTARY LUNCH**

**November 4, 2025 | 8am–5pm**

**Valley Water Headquarters**  
5750 Almaden Expressway  
San Jose, CA 95118

**REGISTER NOW:** 



For questions, contact [Cristina@calwep.org](mailto:Cristina@calwep.org) or visit <http://bit.ly/46cf46b>

\*A free IAPMO account is needed in order to register\*



# Next Steps

Staff will continue offering pilot programs to test new approaches to help with Conservation Framework compliance, particularly those that help us serve the hard-to-reach CII sector

Through Valley Water's sustained engagement and investment in Conservation Framework compliance, we will continue to demonstrate Valley Water's commitment to being a water conservation leader locally, statewide, and beyond.

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT**

**RESOLUTION NO. 23-52**

**CALLING FOR WATER CONSERVATION AS A WAY OF LIFE IN SANTA CLARA COUNTY**

WHEREAS, locally and across California, severely dry conditions resulted in a historic multi-year drought beginning in 2020; and

WHEREAS, on June 9, 2021, the Board of Directors (Board) of the Santa Clara Valley Water District (Valley Water) adopted Resolution 21-68 in response to drought, which declared a water shortage emergency condition pursuant to California Water Code §350 and called for mandatory water use reduction of 15 percent as compared to 2019 water use; and

WHEREAS, as of March 16, 2023, Santa Clara County is no longer in drought conditions according to the U.S. Drought Monitor, and Valley Water's local and imported water supplies are above average in 2023; and

WHEREAS, on April 11, 2023, the Board adopted Resolution 23-24, which rescinded Resolutions 21-68 and 22-20 and called for voluntary water conservation of 15 percent as compared to 2019 water use; and

WHEREAS, continuing the progress and momentum of community water use reductions and water use efficiency to make water conservation a way of life will improve long-term water supply reliability and help maintain groundwater levels in Santa Clara County; and

WHEREAS, increasing long-term water conservation efforts is critical to Santa Clara County's resilience to droughts, which are a reoccurring phenomenon for the county and state, and which may be intensified with climate change; and

WHEREAS, through its current Ends Policy E-2.4, the Board established a water supply policy to increase regional self-reliance through water conservation by focusing Valley Water's efforts on maximizing utilization of all demand management tools, and incentivizing water conservation and water use efficiency; and

WHEREAS, the State of California is developing a regulatory framework for Making Water Conservation a California Way of Life, and Valley Water will align with this effort as appropriate; and

WHEREAS, by making small changes in daily habits, residents and businesses in our county can make a big difference in ensuring sufficient water for current and future generations; and

WHEREAS, Valley Water has been and continues to be a leader in water conservation by short-term savings during drought years as well as innovative, comprehensive programs currently resulting in permanent countywide savings of more than 80,000 acre-feet per year; and

WHEREAS, Valley Water's Water Conservation Strategic Plan determined that Valley Water's conservation programs comprehensively address all sectors of the community and there remains a significant potential to further increase conservation, particularly from the multifamily residential, commercial, industrial, and institutional sectors, and that prioritizing outdoor water conservation has the greatest potential for significant, long-term water savings; and

## Calling for Water Conservation as a Way of Life in Santa Clara County Resolution No. 23-

WHEREAS, Valley Water's Agricultural Baseline Study determined growers in Santa Clara County to be highly efficient and Valley Water should continue promoting and enhancing its water conservation programs and services for growers, including the Agricultural Mobile Irrigation Lab; and

WHEREAS, the Water Supply Master Plan includes long-term water conservation targets for saving 99,000 acre-feet of water per year by 2030, and 109,000 acre-feet by 2040.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the Santa Clara Valley Water District hereby:

1. Commits Valley Water to being a leader in the effort to make water conservation a way of life in Santa Clara County to ensure a sustainable water future for our communities. Making water conservation a way of life means adopting and supporting permanent changes that reduce water use and implementing best practices developed by Valley Water through the Water Conservation Strategic Plan as well as by other organizations. This requires a commitment from all sectors of our community to make and support permanent changes that ensure water is not wasted and is used efficiently. Water conservation tools should be accessible to all sectors of the community through an equitable, collaborative and inclusive approach. Disadvantaged communities in particular face disproportionate water challenges and economic stresses, and Valley Water commits to ensuring those communities are aware of and have access to Valley Water's water conservation programs. Making water conservation a way of life is critical to the long-term economic and environmental sustainability of Santa Clara County, which is prone to multi-year droughts and resulting water shortages. Valley Water commends the Santa Clara County community for its efforts thus far to reduce water use and seeks to engrain the behavioral changes associated with those efforts by the residents, businesses, organizations, institutions, and farmers in our community to help ensure sustainable water supplies in the face of climate change. Valley Water will ensure adequate funding and resources for water conservation efforts and aggressively pursue funding from external sources. In order to make the foregoing vision a reality, the Board adopts the Long-Term Water Conservation as a Way of Life Guiding Principles set forth in Section 2 below.
2. Declares that water conservation must be a way of life in Santa Clara County and to that end, adopts the Long-Term Water Conservation as a Way of Life Guiding Principles, as shown below. These guiding principles are intended to guide Valley Water staff's efforts towards making water conservation a way of life in Santa Clara County. By adhering to the following guiding principles, Valley Water seeks to lead our community's efforts for promoting long-term water conservation.

**Guiding Principle No. 1 – Make it easier for all members of our community, including disadvantaged community members, to conserve water.** Valley Water provides water conservation programs, resources, and services to all sectors of our community for both indoor and outdoor conservation and water-efficient landscape practices. Programs will or may include landscape and stormwater rebate programs, graywater programs, water waste enforcement, water surveys and audits, landscape water budgets, water-saving devices, and reports on water use for single and multi-family residences and the commercial, industrial, and institutional (CII) sector; and water-efficient technologies for the CII sector. Valley Water is committed to strategic continuous improvement of its water conservation program offerings through a data-informed approach and through benchmarking with other agencies.

**Guiding Principle No. 2 – Partner with outside organizations to promote Water Conservation as a Way of Life.** Valley Water will partner with water retailers, the County, cities, schools, businesses, non-profit organizations, and other organizations to promote Water Conservation as a Way of Life; provide a uniform message to our community; and ensure multiple resources are leveraged. Valley Water will work with our partners on uniform permanent restrictions to ensure water is used efficiently and is not wasted.

**Guiding Principle No. 3 – Educate the community about the importance of water conservation.** Valley Water will continue its multilingual educational efforts on water conservation, including year-round promotion and messaging of its indoor and outdoor water conservation programs and water conservation habits, tips, and practices; providing the community with relevant data about their water use through reports on water use and advanced metering infrastructure; providing water waste education and enforcement, including water educational programs for schools.

**Guiding Principle No. 4 – Work with the local CII community to ensure efficient water use.** Promote programs targeted towards the CII sector and assist small and large businesses as appropriate in adopting water-efficient technologies and landscapes.

**Guiding Principle No. 5 – Work with the local agricultural community to ensure efficient irrigation of crops.** Valley Water will continue targeted water conservation services geared towards the agricultural community, such as irrigation scheduling assistance and water auditing. We will continue to collaborate with the Santa Clara County Farm Bureau and Agricultural Water Advisory Committee to ensure efficient irrigation practices in our community.

**Guiding Principle No. 6 – Support Federal and State legislative efforts that promote water conservation.** Valley Water will continue to support federal and state efforts to increase water use efficiency, improve integration of water conservation in land use decision-making processes, and advocate for water conservation funding, pursuant to the Legislative Guiding Principles annually reviewed and adopted by the Board. The Board's annual review of the Legislative Guiding Principles will help ensure Valley Water remains a leader as water conservation practices and principles evolve into the future.

**Guiding Principle No. 7 – Support local policy efforts that promote water conservation.** Valley Water will continue to support local efforts to increase water conservation, pursuant to the Legislative Guiding Principles and by promoting adoption of more stringent water-use efficiency codes, such as those in the Model Water Efficient New Development Ordinance, which includes requirements for increased water conservation including infrastructure to allow for the use of alternative water sources and on-site reuse, ensuring water-wise features are included in new development, and advocating for retrofit of existing developments.

**Guiding Principle No. 8 – Coordinate with land-use agencies to promote water conservation.** Valley Water will coordinate with land-use agencies to help ensure water conservation is addressed in local ordinances, land-use planning, and general plans as a method of assessing adequate water supply.

## Calling for Water Conservation as a Way of Life in Santa Clara County Resolution No. 23-

**Guiding Principle No. 9 – Periodically reevaluate Valley Water’s long-term water conservation targets.** Valley Water will periodically reevaluate its long-term water conservation targets during each Water Supply Master Plan update cycle to ensure its conservation targets are appropriate and achievable.

**Guiding Principle No. 10 – Utilize data and studies to inform conservation programs and explore innovative technologies to ensure efficient water use.** Valley Water will use data and studies, including studies on approaches and best practices to 1) inform the development and targeting of conservation programs, 2) evaluate, implement, and promote technologies that enable efficient water use and onsite re-use, and 3) embrace sustainable alternatives where available.

**Guiding Principle No. 11 – Promote equitable and affordable approaches to Water Conservation as a Way of Life.** Valley Water will ensure that water conservation opportunities, outreach, and education are available to all sectors of our community, including renters, seniors, United States veterans, and those from disadvantaged communities.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Directors of the Santa Clara Valley Water District by the following vote on June 13, 2023:

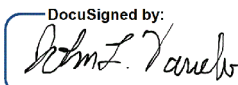
AYES: Directors Santos Estrella, Eiseberg, Sue Eegan, and a

NOES: Directors one

ABSENT: Directors one

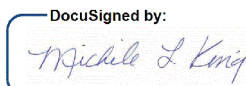
ABSTAIN: Directors one

## SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

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JOHN L. VARELA  
 Chair, Board of Directors

ATTEST: MICHELE L. KING, CMC

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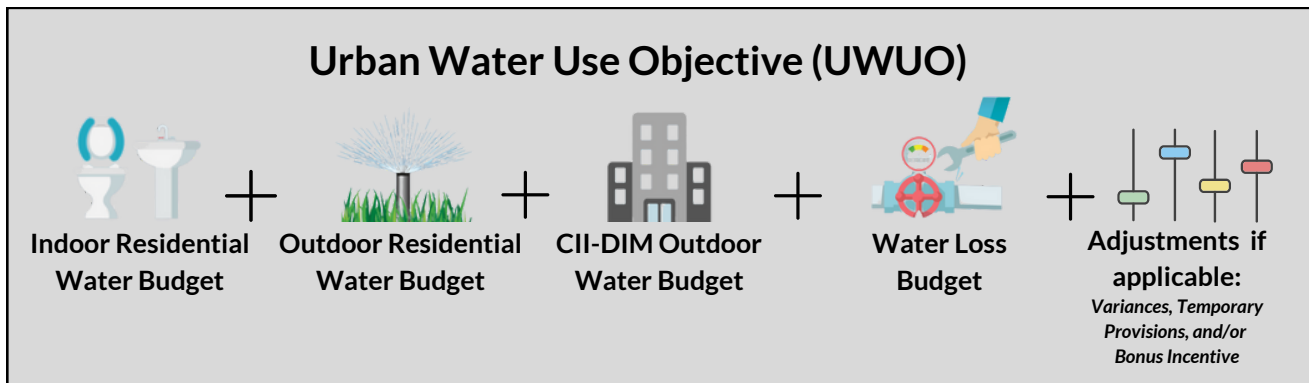
Clerk, Board of Directors

# Making Conservation a California Way of Life

**NOTE: DETAILS SUBJECT TO CHANGE PENDING STATE WATER BOARD RULEMAKING**

## Overview

SB 606 and AB 1668, signed in 2018 are intended to “Make Water Conservation a California Way of Life.” In total, three water use standards (indoor residential, outdoor residential, and outdoor commercial, industrial and institutional (CII-DIM)), one water loss standard, and a variety of adjustments are used to calculate each urban water supplier’s overall budget. The sum of these is known as an **Urban Water Use Objective (UWUO)**.

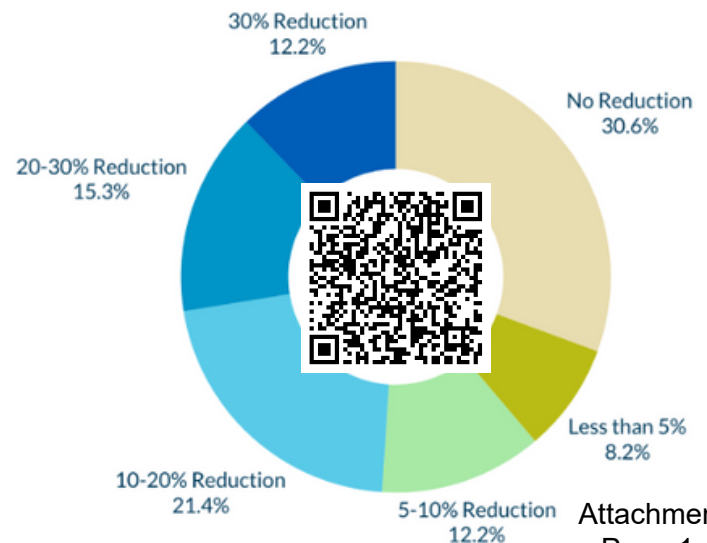


Adjustments to an UWUO can be made via variances, temporary provisions, and/or a bonus incentive for potable reuse, where applicable per supplier. A variance or temporary provision must receive prior approval by submitting a request to the State Water Board.

In addition to the UWUO, every urban supplier will need to comply with a set of CII performance measures. These performance measures are intended to enable water-usage benchmarking per CII classification category as well as establish BMPs for indoor and outdoor CII water use regardless of CII-DIM status. Even if an agency meets its UWUO, it will still need comply with the CII Performance Measures.

## Provisional Data

In March 2024, the State Water Board released updated provisional data for every urban water supplier in the state used for their Water Use Objective Exploration Tool. The chart to the right shows projections for reductions needed by water suppliers in 2040 based on the State’s provisional data. **(Note the provisional data does not include potential variances that suppliers may be able to utilize to adjust their UWUO.)**



# Making Conservation a California Way of Life

## STANDARDS CHEAT SHEET

### Indoor Residential Water Budget

$$\text{Indoor Residential Water Budget (gal/yr)} = \text{Indoor Residential Standard} \times \text{Population} \times 365 \text{ days}$$

The **Indoor Residential Standard** is the maximum allowed indoor water use measured in gallons per capita per day (GPCD). It is intended to represent efficient use. The Indoor Residential Standard will decrease over time.

#### *Indoor Residential Standard by year*

Compliance Year	Allowable GPCD
2020-2024	55
2025-2029	47
2030 onward	42

### Outdoor Residential Water Budget

In the most general terms, the outdoor water budget consists of a supplier's residential landscape area, multiplied by an efficiency standard and a climate factor that's reflective of a supplier's unique service area conditions.

The annual outdoor water budget is calculated as follows:

$$\text{Outdoor Residential Water Budget (gal/yr)} = \text{LAM} \times \text{LEF} \times (\text{ETo} - \text{Peff}) \times 0.62$$

Factor	Definition
<b>LAM</b>	<p>Landscape Area Measurement includes the following landscape types:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Irrigable-Irrigated (II),</li> <li>◦ Irrigable-Not-Irrigated (INI) – up to 20% until LAM data is updated,</li> <li>◦ Special Landscape Areas (SLA), and</li> <li>◦ New Construction</li> </ul> <p>Aggregate data provided by DWR for all designations except for new landscapes installed beginning 1/1/2019.</p>
<b>LEF</b>	Outdoor Residential Standard or landscape efficiency factor (unitless).
<b>ETo</b>	Reference Evapotranspiration (inches per year). Provided annually by DWR.
<b>Peff</b>	Effective Precipitation (inches per year). Capped at 25% of total precipitation or a lower value generated by the Cal-SIMETAW model. Provided by DWR.
<b>0.62</b>	Conversion Factor to generate units in gallons per year.



### Outdoor Residential Water Budget (cont.)

The LEF is an efficiency factor determined by the State Water Board. It is proposed to decrease overtime as presented in the table below.

Compliance Start Date	Irrigable-Irrigated (II)	Irrigable-Not - Irrigated (INI)	Special Landscape Areas (SLA)	New Construction (post 1/1/2019)*
July 1, 2025	0.80	0.80 until LAM data updated	1.0	0.55
July 1, 2035	0.63	N/A assumes LAM data updated	1.0	0.55
July 1, 2040	0.55	N/A assumes LAM data updated	1.0	0.55

\*For new homes built after the DWR Landscape Area Measurement (LAM) data was generated, the water budgets should be calculated with an LEF of 0.55.

Example landscape types with associated LEFs from least efficient to most efficient.



Source: Adapted from State Water Resources Control Board Public Workshop October 4, 2023

### Outdoor Commercial, Industrial, and Institutional Water Budget

CII Residential Water Budget (gal/yr) = ((DIM LA - DIM SLA) x LEF) + (DIM SLA x 1.0) x (ET<sub>o</sub>-P<sub>eff</sub>)x 0.62

Factor	Definition
DIM LA	Landscape Area Measurement includes the following landscape types: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Irrigable-Irrigated (II) of connections served by dedicated irrigation meters</li> </ul>
DIM SLA	Landscape Area Measurement for CII Special Landscape Area includes the following landscape: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Edible plants</li> <li>Recreation</li> <li>Recycled water</li> <li>Slopes with live vegetation</li> <li>Ponds or lakes for sustaining wildlife</li> <li>Plant collections, botanical gardens, and arboretums</li> <li>Public pools</li> <li>Cemeteries (build before 2015)</li> </ul>

## Outdoor Commercial, Industrial, and Institutional (CII) Water Budget (cont.)

Factor	Definition
LEF	Outdoor CII Standard or landscape efficiency factor (unitless).
ET <sub>o</sub>	Reference Evapotranspiration (inches per year). Provided annually by DWR.
P <sub>eff</sub>	Effective Precipitation (inches per year). Capped at 25% of total precipitation or a lower value generated by the Cal-SIMETAW model. Provided by DWR.
0.62	Conversion Factor to generate units in gallons per year.

DWR is currently mapping water agencies CII landscape area. This project is expected to be completed in the next couple years. **Agencies can choose to generate their own CII landscape area measurements or wait and utilize the dataset provided by DWR as a technical resource for measuring their CII landscape area. Suppliers must distinguish CII-MUM area from CII-DIM area.** Starting July 1st 2028, suppliers will use total Irrigated Irrigable (II) square footage for all DIMs. The CII-DIM LEF is proposed to decrease overtime as presented in the table below

Compliance Start Date	Irrigable-Irrigated (II)	Special Landscape Areas (SLA)	New Construction (post 1/1/2019)*
July 1, 2025	0.80	1.0	0.45
July 1, 2035	0.63	1.0	0.45
July 1, 2040	0.45	1.0	0.45

*\*Applies to CII-DIM accounts subject to MWELO. See 23 CCR Section 495 (b)(6)*

## Water Loss Budget

The **water loss standard** is the maximum allowable “real” water loss measured in gallons per connection per day for each supply system in an urban water supplier’s service area. Therefore, a supplier could have multiple water loss standards. The standards are intended to represent cost effective real water loss. Real losses can be defined as the volume of annual leakage due to physical water leakage in a supplier’s distribution system.

The water loss standard is derived by entering a supplier’s system-specific validated baseline water loss audit data and other related data into the Water Loss Economic Model (Model) developed by the State Water Board. The Model calculates the water loss standard based on water use, system characteristics, and economic cost data. The State Water Board provides initial water loss standards for each applicable supplier’s systems on their [water loss website](#). For about half of the State’s urban water suppliers’ systems, the Model cannot calculate a cost-effective water loss standard. In these cases, a supplier’s impacted systems’ water loss standard will revert to baseline loss (average of 2017-2020 water loss audit real loss).

The water loss standard is used to calculate the annual maximum allowed water loss volume (in gallons) per system. This maximum is referred to as the **water loss budget**. The annual water loss budget is calculated using Equation 2. For suppliers with multiple systems the total water loss budget is equal to the sum all of water loss budgets per system.



## Equation 2: Annual Water Loss Budget

**Water Loss Budget (gal/yr) = Water Loss Standard x (C or M) x days in the year**

Where,

*C = Number of total service connections*

*M = Length of the distribution system in miles*

### It is important to note the following as it relates to the water loss standard:

- The water loss standard is unique in that it was originally regulated under prior and independent 2015 legislation – Senate Bill 555 (Wolk, Chapter 679, Statutes of 2015). Therefore, compliance can be enforced individually for water loss, unlike other standards within the Framework legislation.
- Water loss standards apply to systems with more than 200 connections. Systems with under 200 connections are not subject to a water loss standard if conditions in Water Code Section 980 (ddd) are met.
- The State Water Board cannot issue a notice or order to a supplier under the Framework legislation for exceeding the UWUO due solely to water loss budget overages if the State is already taking enforcement action under SB 555. The water loss standard guidelines and requirements are complex with many caveats not covered in this cut sheet. Therefore, it is recommended that a supplier review the entire regulation text for a complete understanding.

## Commercial, Industrial, and Institutional (CII) Performance Measures

All urban water suppliers will also be required to meet a list of performance measures. These performance measures are intended to enable water-usage benchmarking per CII classification category as well as establish BMPs for indoor and outdoor CII water use regardless of CII-DIM status. A simplified rundown of the CII Performance Measures are as follows:

Action	Compliance Start Date
Classification of CII properties to align with ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager categories plus 4 additional categories	2027
Deploy Best Management Practices (BMPs) for top water CII users (three possible track options are provided for suppliers.)	2039
DIM installation or in-lieu technologies on large landscapes (threshold = 1/2 acre landscape. Note this includes identifying and measuring CII-MUM landscapes that meet or exceed this threshold.	2039

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# Santa Clara Valley Water District

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**File No.:** 25-0860

**Agenda Date:** 10/27/2025

**Item No.:** 4.5.

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## **COMMITTEE AGENDA MEMORANDUM** **Water Supply and Demand Management Committee**

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

### **SUBJECT:**

Receive and Discuss the 2025 Water Supply and Demand Management Committee (WSDMC) Work Plan, and Provide Feedback on Upcoming Discussion Items, and Next Meeting Date.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Receive and discuss the 2025 WSDMC Work Plan and provide feedback on upcoming discussion items and next meeting date.

### **SUMMARY:**

Under direction of the Clerk, Work Plans are used by Board Committees to increase Committee efficiency, provide increased public notice of intended Committee discussions, and enable improved follow-up by staff. Work Plans are dynamic documents managed by Committee Chairs and are subject to change.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE IMPACT:**

The Committee's Work Plan is not subject to environmental justice impact analysis.

### **ATTACHMENTS:**

Attachment 1: 2025 WSDMC Work Plan

### **UNCLASSIFIED MANAGER:**

Candice Kwok-Smith, 408-630-3193.

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Task	Agenda Item	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	Nov/ Dec
<b>FY 25 Drought Preparation</b>												
1.1	Drought Response Plan					✕	✕					X
<b>FY 23 WSMP Strategy 1: Secure Existing Supplies - 99,000 AF Conservation by 2030</b>												
2.1	Water Conservation Savings Model/Annual Water Conservation Savings			X								
2.2	Water Conservation as a Way of Life recommendations (including water waste restrictions)										X	
2.3	New Programs (Lawn Busters, Pilot programs, landscape design assistance, demonstration garden, + affordability discussion/supporting underserved communities)			X							X	
2.5	SCW Funding (LRP & Demo Garden)			X							X	
2.6	Collaboration with Retailers+outreach, including Renters/Landlords	X									X	
2.7	Water Use Demand, Elasticity, and Rate Affordability Study				X						X	
<b>FY 24 WSMP Strategy 2: Increase Water Conservation (109,000 AF) and Stormwater Capture (1,000 AF) by 2040</b>												
3.1	Investments in no-regrets package, including stormwater resource plan						X					
3.2	Stormwater Capture/ FloodMAR						X					
3.3	Find opportunities to ensure new development has improved water wise features (MWENDO, land use coordination)								X			
3.4	Water Conservation Program Costs								X			
<b>FY 24 WSMP Strategy 3 Optimize the Use of Existing Supplies and Infrastructure (SGMA/groundwater management and storage projects)</b>												
4.1	Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) - annual update										✕	X
4.2	South County Recharge										✕	X
4.3	Los Vaqueros Reservoir Expansion Project	X										
4.4	Sites Reservoir Expansion						X		X		X	✕
4.5	BF Sisk Dam Raise	X		X			✕					
4.6	Groundwater Banking Opportunities				X							
4.7	Semitropic Groundwater bank			X								X
4.8	Pacheco Reservoir Expansion Project	X			X						X	

CANCELED

\*Red item added.

✕ - Item Moved or Deleted

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