

10272025 WSDMC Meeting
Handout 4.1-A, Consultant Study

Re: 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.

From: Katja Irvin
Sent: Sunday, October 26, 2025 4:11 PM
To: Nai Hsueh; Shiloh Ballard; Richard Santos
Cc: Stephanie Simunic
Subject: Valley Water WSDMC 10/27/25 agenda item 4.1 comment

Dear Water Supply and Demand Management Committee,

It is good to see the progress on the Water Use Projections, Water Demand Elasticity, and Customer Affordability Study. I look forward to seeing the final report and hope there will be an opportunity for meaningful public review.

Please consider the following comments related to the staff report.

Since the Water Use Projections task has been completed, it would have been helpful to see more information to support each of the key takeaways for this task in the staff report. Please consider adding some information in the staff report for the additional public meetings this fall.

For example, one takeaway is: "Forecast-to-actual water use has been largely accurate, with reduced variance in recent years." Providing a graph and a table showing projections, actual use, and variance over the past ten years would help the Board and the public visualize the accuracy trends described in this takeaway.

Regarding affordability, one of the task objectives is: "Develop a baseline of affordability for Valley Water to inform future decision-making." Valley Water should commit to using this baseline to assess the affordability of rate increases going forward. Hopefully, this analysis can be automated to easily calculate and report affordability as part of the yearly Protection and Augmentation of Water Supplies (PAWS) report.

Sincerely,
Katja Irvin
Guadalupe Group Conservation Chair
Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter