



SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER COMMISSION MEETING

# MINUTES

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**REGULAR MEETING SESSION  
MONDAY, JANUARY 24, 2024  
12:00 PM**

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(Paragraph numbers coincide with agenda item numbers)

**1. CALL TO ORDER:**

A regular meeting of the Santa Clara Valley Water District (Valley Water) Santa Clara Valley Water Commission (Commission) was called to order in the Valley Water Headquarters Building Boardroom at 5700 Almaden Expressway, San Jose, California, and by Zoom teleconference, at 12:00 p.m.

During Chairperson Hardy's absence, the meeting was facilitated by Vice Chairperson Candelas.

Vice Chairperson Candelas moved the agenda to Item 5.5.

**5. REGULAR AGENDA:**

5.5. Receive AB 1469 Update and Discuss Encampments of Unsheltered People.

Recommendation: Receive information on the new authorities granted to Valley Water by AB 1469 Valley Water Assisting Unsheltered People.

Mark Bilski reviewed the information on this item, per the attached Commission Agenda Memo; and per the information contained in Attachment 1.

Mark Bilski and Rachael Gibson were available to answer questions.

Public Comments:  
None.

The Commission received the information, took no formal action, and noted the following:

- The Commission confirmed the low barrier navigation centers are defined as places where large volumes of the unhoused will be connected with services who are on Valley Water property.
- The Commission confirmed funding would come from the Watershed Stream Stewardship fund and the implementation plan will consist of project/funding options provided to the Valley Water Board for approval.
- The Commission confirmed that Valley Water anticipates partnering with local cities/agencies and the county regarding potential projects for the unhoused to include community outreach and relationships with the associated elected bodies.
- The Commission confirmed Valley Water’s clean-up expenditures and budget are presented at the Environmental Creek Clean Up Committee meetings.
- The Commission confirmed that Valley Water anticipates to report out on the unhoused assistance progress officially to the state every 5 years with interim reports to the committees/commissions.
- The Commission noted the importance of getting feedback from stakeholders, confirming how staffing in the navigation centers will be addressed, and inclusion of potential permanent/long term housing options.

Vice Chairperson Candelas returned the agenda to Item 1.1.

Nicole Merritt acknowledged for the record that City of Campbell Hon. Susan Landry and City of Milpitas Hon. Carmen Montano were participating remotely via Zoom per AB 2449 and all votes would be by roll call.

A quorum of 11 was established of Commission members present in person.

1.1 Roll Call.

**Members in attendance were:**

<b><u>Municipality</u></b>	<b><u>Representative</u></b>	<b><u>Alternate</u></b>
City of Campbell	Hon. Susan M. Landry: (AB2449)	
City of Los Altos	Hon. Pete Dailey	
Town of Los Altos Hills	Hon. Lisa Schmidt	
City of Milpitas	Hon. Carmen Montano: (AB2449)	
City of Monte Sereno	Hon. Evert Wolsheimer	
City of Morgan Hill	Hon. Gino Borgioli	
City of Mountain View	Hon. Lucas Ramirez	
City of Palo Alto	Hon. Lydia Kou	
City of San José	Hon. Domingo Candelas	
City of Saratoga	Hon. Chuck Page	

City of Sunnyvale	Hon. Alysa Cisneros
County of Santa Clara	Hon. Sylvia Arenas
Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District	Hon. Jed Cyr

**Members not in attendance were:**

<b><u>Municipality</u></b>	<b><u>Representative</u></b>	<b><u>Alternate</u></b>
City of Campbell		Hon. Elliot Scozzola
City of Cupertino	Hon. J. R. Fruen	Hon. Kitty Moore
City of Gilroy	Hon. Dion Bracco	Hon. Fred Tovar
Town of Los Gatos	Hon. Rob Rennie	Hon. Maria Ristow
City of Monte Sereno		Hon. Bryan Mekechuk
City of Morgan Hill		Hon. Yvonne Martinez-Beltran
City of Mountain View		Hon. Pat Showalter
City of Palo Alto		Hon. Vicki Veenker
City of San José		Kerrie Romanow
City of Santa Clara	Hon. Karen Hardy	Hon. Kathy Watanabe
City of Saratoga		Hon. Tina Walia
City of Sunnyvale		Hon. Murali Srinivasan
County of Santa Clara		Hon. Cindy Chavez
Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District		Hon. Yoriko Kishimoto
Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority	Hon. Mike Flaughner	Hon. Helen Chapman

Valley Water Board members in attendance were Chairperson Nai Hsueh (District 5) and Vice Chairperson Richard Santos (District 3).

Staff members in attendance were: Brandon Adriano, Aaron Baker, Justin Burks, Roseryn Bhudsabourg, Mark Bilski, Jennifer Codianne, Rachael Gibson, Walter Gonzalez, Samantha Greene, Christopher Hakes, Heather Hamp, Candice Kwok-Smith, Dave Leon, Nicole Merritt, Carmen Narayanan, Kathy Nguyen, Carlos Orellana, Metra Richert, Melanie Richardson, Kirsten Struve, Darin Taylor, Cheryl Togami, Nadia Webster, Jing Wu, Genevieve Yip, and Beckie Zisser.

Public in attendance were: Hon. Rebecca Eisenberg (Valley Water Board Member-District 7), Elizabeth Flegel (City of Mountain View), Katja Irvin (Sierra Club), Nancy Le, Hon. Rob Rennie (Town of Los Gatos), Hon. Murali Srinivasan (City of Sunnyvale), and Gary Williams (City of Santa Clara).

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

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

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

3.1. Approval of October 25, 2023 Santa Clara Valley Water Commission Meeting Minutes.

Recommendation: Approve the minutes.

The Commission considered the attached minutes of the October 25, 2023 meeting.

Public Comments:  
None.

It was moved by Hon. Lucas Ramirez and seconded by Hon. Chuck Page and the minutes were approved by majority roll call vote.

Yeas: S. Landry, P. Dailey, L. Schmidt, C. Montano, E. Wolsheimer, G. Borgioli, L. Ramirez, L. Kou, D. Candelas, C. Page, A. Cisneros, Jed Cyr.

Nays: None.

Abstains: S. Arenas.

Recuses: None.

Absent: J.R. Fruen, K. Moore, D. Bracco, F. Tovar, R. Rennie, M. Ristow, K.Hardy, K. Watanabe, M. Flaughner, Helen Chapman.

Summary: 12 Yeas; 0 Nays; 1 Abstains; 10 Absent.

#### **4. CONSENT CALENDAR:**

It was moved by Hon. Lucas Ramirez and seconded by Hon. Chuck Page and unanimously approved for the Commission to approve the 2023 Annual Accomplishments Report for Presentation to the Board as contained under Item 5.2; and review the Santa Clara Valley Water Commission Work Plan as contained under Item 5.6 under one motion and by roll call vote.

The 2023 Commission Accomplishments Report was accepted at the March 26, 2024 Valley Water Board meeting.

Public Comments:  
None.

Yeas: S. Landry, P. Dailey, L. Schmidt, C. Montano, E. Wolsheimer, G. Borgioli, L. Ramirez, L. Kou, D. Candelas, C. Page, A. Cisneros, S. Arenas, Jed Cyr.

Nays: None.

Abstains: None.

Recuses: None.

Absent: J.R. Fruen, K. Moore, D. Bracco, F. Tovar, R. Rennie, M. Ristow, K.Hardy, K. Watanabe, M. Flaughner, Helen Chapman.

Summary: 13 Yeas; 0 Nays; 0 Abstains; 10 Absent.

#### **5. REGULAR AGENDA:**

5.1. Election of Chairperson and Vice Chairperson

Recommendation: Elect 2024 Chairperson and Vice Chairperson.

The Commission considered this Item without a staff presentation.

Public Comments:  
None.

It was moved by Hon. Domingo Candelas for Hon. Karen Hardy to remain as the 2024 Chairperson. The motion did not receive a second initially and Hon. Domingo Candelas withdrew the motion for Hon. Karen Hardy to remain as the 2024 Chairperson.

It was moved by Hon. Carmen Montano and seconded by Hon. Chuck Page for Hon. Lydia Kou to become the 2024 Chairperson and Domingo Candelas remain as the 2024 Vice Chairperson as a substitute motion and was carried by majority roll call vote.

Yeas: S. Landry, L. Schmidt, C. Montano, E. Wolsheimer, G. Borgioli,  
L. Ramirez, L. Kou, D. Candelas, C. Page, A. Cisneros, S. Arenas,  
Jed Cyr.

Nays: P. Dailey

Abstains: None.

Recuses: None.

Absent: J.R. Fruen, K. Moore, D. Bracco, F. Tovar, R. Rennie, M. Ristow,  
K. Hardy, K. Watanabe, M. Flaughner, Helen Chapman.

Summary: 12 Yeas; 1 Nays; 0 Abstains; 10 Absent.

Chairperson Lydia Kou moved the agenda to Item 5.3.

5.3. Receive Information and Provide Feedback on the Development of Valley Water's Supply Master Plan 2050.

Recommendation: Provide feedback on the development of Water Supply Master Plan 2050.

Kirsten Struve reviewed the information on this item, per the attached Commission Agenda Memo, and per the information contained in Attachment 3.

Kirsten Struve, Melanie Richardson, and Samantha Greene were available to answer questions.

Public Comments:  
None.

The Commission received the information, took no formal action, and noted the following:

- The Commission confirmed surface and groundwater storage is being utilized by Valley Water to capture stormwater for active water recharge programs and collaboration with the local cities.

- The Commission noted interest in a Pacheco extension project update and confirmed the next update was scheduled for the Valley Water's Board meeting on February 13, 2024.
- The Commission confirmed the Water Supply Master Plan 2040 is available online, noted Plan 2050 is still being developed, and water retailers are included in the development process.
- The Commission noted that the future growth of households are considered for projections per water supply over population numbers.
- The Commission noted interest in further promotion of Valley Water's water conservation programs with rain gardens and rain barrels, and rebates/cost shares with select cities.

5.4. Review and Provide Comment to the Board on Staff's Preliminary Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Groundwater Production Charges.

Recommendation: Review staff's preliminary Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Groundwater production charge analysis; provide Comment to the Board as desired.

Carmen Narayanan reviewed the information on this item, per the attached Commission Agenda Memo, and per the information contained in Attachment 1.

Carmen Narayanan, Darin Taylor, Kirsten Struve, Vice Chairperson Santos, and Chairperson Hsueh were available to answer questions.

Hon. Sylvia Arenas left the meeting and did not return.

Public Comments:  
None.

The Commission received the information, took no formal action, and noted the following:

- The Commission confirmed the Palo Alto project replenishes the groundwater which benefits the North County zone and the San Jose project is for direct potable reuse of raw water for treatment plants.
- The Commission confirmed alternatives are being reviewed by Valley Water to assist with keeping water rates financially feasible, noted some projects may be postponed, and a consultant will do an affordability study to assist with an analysis on the increased financial impacts on the community within the year.
- The Commission noted the importance of softening the water rates for residents and balancing it with flood and environmental protections.
- The Commission confirmed the projected debt interest is assisting with smoothing out and lowering the water rate projections for residents and expressed interest in confirming what percentage of the rate increase is allocated for paying down the debt.

- The Commission noted Valley Water’s participation in a Water Rate Assistance Program and partnership with Sacred Heart, and expressed interest in further details at the April 2024 Water Commission meeting and to have information forwarded to city staffs for community outreach.
- The Commission requested the inclusion of a map for the noted county zones in the presentation for this Item.

Chairperson Lydia Kou moved the agenda to Item 6.1.

**6. INFORMATION ITEM:**

6.1. Standing Items Report.

Recommendation: This item allows the Santa Clara Valley Water Commission to receive verbal or written updates and discuss the Board's Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Work Plan Strategies. These items are generally informational; however, the Commission may request additional information and/or provide collective input to the assigned Board Commission.

The Commission considered this Item without a staff presentation.

Public Comments:  
None.

Vice Chairperson Santos introduced Director Nai Hsueh as the 2024 Chairperson for the Valley Water Board.

The Commission received the information, took no formal action, and noted the attached Board Work Plan standing items report.

**7. CLERK REVIEW AND CLARIFICATION OF COMMISSION 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 Commission during the meeting.*

None.

**8. REPORTS:**

8.1. Director’s Report  
None.

8.2. Manager’s Report  
None.

8.3. Commission Member Report  
Hon. Carmen Montano requested staff follow up for collaboration with City of Milpitas once AB 1469 implementation plan is in place under Item 5.5.

8.4. Information Links:  
Links noted on agenda.

**9. ADJOURN:**

9.1. Adjourn to Regular Meeting at 12:00 p.m. on April 10, 2024.

Chairperson Lydia Kou adjourned the meeting at 1:52 p.m., to the special meeting at 12:00 p.m. on April 10, 2024.

Date approved: April 10, 2024

Nicole Merritt  
Assistant Deputy Clerk II