ENVIRONMENTAL AND WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Monday, January 26, 2026

(Paragraph numbers coincide with agenda item numbers)

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Environmental and Water Resources Committee (Committee) Meeting was held on January 26, 2026, at Santa Clara Valley Water District, Headquarters Building, 5700 Almaden Expressway, San Jose, California.

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Committee Chair Charles Ice called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. A quorum was established with 10 members present.

Members in attendance were:

District 2: Chairperson Charles Ice, Edgar Echevarria, Uyen Mai
District 4: Bob Levy, Matthew Frazier
District 5: Patrick Kwok, Rachel Lam
District 6: Rebecca Gallardo, Douglas Peterson
District 7: Vice Chairperson Arthur M. Keller, Ph.D.

Members not in attendance were:
District 1: Loren Lewis
District 3: Charles Taylor
District 5: Mike Michitaka
District 7: Tess Byler

Member Mitchell Ehrlich arrived as noted below.

Board members in attendance were: Director Shiloh Ballard (District 2), and Director Nai Hsueh (District 5).

Staff members in attendance were: Aaron Baker, Henry Barrientos, John Bourgeois, Samantha Greene, Dave Leon, Ryan McCarter, Wendy Murphy, and Kirsten Struve.

Members of the public in attendance were: Tess Byler, Director Richard Santos, Malcolm Smith (Black and Veatch), Melanie Tan (Black and Veatch), and Roya Yousefalahiyeh (Black and Veatch).

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

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

3. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

3.1 ELECTION OF COMMITTEE CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

Recommendation: Elect 2026 Committee Chair and Vice Chair.

Member Ehrlich arrived at 6:03 p.m.

It was moved by Member Gallardo, seconded by Member Peterson, and unanimously carried to elect Member Levy as Chairperson.

Chairperson Levy assumed control of the meeting.

It was moved by Chairperson Levy, seconded by Member Kwok, and unanimously carried to elect Member Gallardo as Vice Chairperson.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

4.1 APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 20, 2025 ENVIRONMENTAL AND WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE MINUTES

Recommendation: Approve the minutes.

It was moved by Member Ice, seconded by Member Keller, and carried by a vote of 10-0 to approve the October 20, 2025 Committee meeting minutes as submitted. Chairperson Levy abstained.

5. REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS

5.1 RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE DESALINATION ENGINEERING FEASIBILITY STUDY

Recommendation: Receive an Update on the Desalination Engineering Feasibility Study.

Henry Barrientos reviewed the information on this item, per the attached Committee Agenda Memo, and the corresponding presentation materials contained in Attachment 1. Henry Barrientos, Kirsten Struve, Melanie Tan (Black and Veatch), and John Bourgeois were available to answer questions.

Discussion ensued relating to wastewater treatment plants, management of brine, overall feasibility options and energy use, design specifications, the regional desalination pilot facility in Contra Costa County, costs of water transportation, and potential project timelines.

The Committee received the information and took no formal action.

5.2 RECEIVE UPDATE ON ANDERSON DAM SEISMIC RETROFIT PROJECT AND INCORPORATION OF FISH AND AQUATIC HABITAT COLLABORATIVE EFFORT (FAHCE) CONSERVATION MEASURES FOR COYOTE CREEK
Recommendation: Receive update on Anderson Dam Seismic Retrofit Project and incorporation of FAHCE conservation measures for Coyote Creek.

Wendy Murphy and Samantha Greene reviewed the information on this item, per the attached Committee Agenda Memo, and the corresponding presentation materials contained in Attachment 1. Wendy Murphy, Samantha Greene, John Bourgeois, and Ryan McCarter were available to answer questions.

Discussion ensued relating to intersections of Ogier Ponds and Coyote Creek, ownership of acreage to be acquired in the feasible alternatives, potential impact on hiking trails, the future usage of Ogier Ponds, water flow through the ponds, and monitoring of Coyote Creek.

The Committee received the information and took no formal action.

5.3 REVIEW AND APPROVE 2025 ANNUAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS REPORT FOR PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD (COMMITTEE CHAIR)
Recommendation:
A. Approve the 2025 Accomplishments Report for presentation to the Board; and
B. Provide comments to the Committee Chair to share with the Board as part of the Accomplishments Report presentation pertaining to the purpose, structure, and function of the Committee.

Dave Leon and John Bourgeois reviewed the information on this item, per the attached Committee Agenda Memo, and the corresponding presentation materials contained in Attachment 1 and were available to answer questions.

It was moved by Member Keller, seconded by Member Kwok, and unanimously carried to approve the Accomplishments Report for presentation to the Board as amended to remove item number 13, which was not heard by the Committee.

5.4 REVIEW AND RECEIVE UPDATES ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL AND WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE'S WORKING GROUPS
Recommendation:
A. Review and receive updates on the Environmental and Water Resources Committee's Working Groups, and
B. Provide comments to the Board on implementation of Valley Water's mission applicable to working groups' recommendations.

Dave Leon reviewed the information on this item, per the attached Committee Agenda Memo, and the corresponding presentation materials contained in Attachments 1 and 2. Dave Leon and John Bourgeois were available to answer questions.

Member Peterson volunteered to serve on the Climate Change and Integrated Water Resources Working Group.

The Committee received the information and took no formal action.

5.5 REVIEW AND APPROVE ENVIRONMENTAL AND WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE WORK PLAN, THE OUTCOMES OF BOARD ACTION OF COMMITTEE REQUESTS, THE COMMITTEE'S NEXT MEETING AGENDA, AND RECOMMEND THE PROPOSED 2026 EWRC WORK PLAN TO THE BOARD

Recommendation: Review and Approve the Committee work plan to guide the committee's discussions regarding policy alternatives and implications for Board deliberation; and recommend the proposed 2026 EWRC Work Plan to the Board.

Dave Leon and John Bourgeois reviewed the information on this item, per the attached Committee Agenda Memo, and the corresponding presentation materials contained in Attachment 1 and were available to answer questions.

It was moved by Member Ice, seconded by Member Keller, and unanimously carried to forward the Committee work plan to the Board and delegate authority to the Chair and Vice Chair to make edits to the work plan before submittal to the Board.

6. STANDING ITEMS

6.1 DIRECTOR'S REPORTS

Director Hsueh reported that Board Chairperson Tony Estremera and Vice Chairperson Richard Santos were re-elected to serve as Chair and Vice Chair for 2026. Director Ballard thanked Members Ice and Keller for their service as Chair and Vice Chair, respectively.

6.2 MANAGER'S REPORTS

John Bourgeois thanked Members Ice and Keller for their service as Chair and Vice Chair for the previous two years.

6.3 ANNOUNCEMENTS

No announcements were made.

7. CLERK REVIEW AND CLARIFICATION OF COMMITTEE'S REQUESTS TO THE BOARD

The Committee took no action.

8. ADJOURNMENT

7.1 ADJOURN

Chairperson Levy adjourned the meeting at 7:32 p.m. to the next regular meeting on Monday, April 20, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.

Dave Leon
Assistant Deputy Clerk II

Date approved: April 20, 2026

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