

Katja Irvin Public Comment on Audit Committee Agenda Item 4.1 for July 28, 2026

Subject: Receive and Discuss 2025 Water Usage and Demand Forecasting Audit Report with Management Response

Good afternoon, Chair Beall and committee members,

Thank you for the presentation and discussion about this audit. I have a few thoughts I would like to share.

To me it is unfortunate that this audit was not able to achieve audit objective 1 for the long-term water demand forecast due to the timing of this audit and the recent introduction of a new model.

The new model is a big improvement, but many people think the large differences between forecast and actual water use seen over the past 20 years for the long-term demand model will continue into the future because growth and climate assumptions have not changed.

Although peer agencies use similar assumptions, that doesn't mean those assumptions should not be examined. Historically, those peer agencies have similarly inaccurate demand forecasts. Ignoring the impact of assumptions on demand forecasts resulted in a missed opportunity for this audit.

Aside from those comments, I look forward to seeing the outcomes from this audit and I hope the responses will be useful for Valley Water and for the public.

It is of great interest and therefore I request that all the resulting products be made available to the public, including the desk procedure to document the assumptions, methodologies, data sources, etc for the Water Utility Rate Model.

Thank you for your consideration.

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