

**RECYCLED WATER COMMITTEE MEETING**

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# MINUTES

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**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22, 2023  
12:00 PM**

(Paragraph numbers coincide with agenda item numbers)

**1. ROLL CALL.**

A regular meeting of the Santa Clara Valley Water District (Valley Water) Recycled Water Committee (Committee) was called to order at 12:00 p.m. on March 22, 2023, at the Headquarters Building Boardroom, 5700 Almaden Expressway, San Jose, CA 95118 and via Zoom teleconference.

**1.1. Roll Call**

Committee members in attendance were District 4 Director Jim Beall, District 3 Director Richard Santos, and District 6 Director Tony Estremera, constituting a quorum of the Committee.

Staff participating were Gina Adriano, Emmanuel Aryee, Hossein Ashktorab, Aaron Baker, Henry Barrientos, Rick Callender, Anthony Fulcher, Vincent Gin, Samantha Greene, Chris Hakes, Lei Hong, Girlie Jacobson, Jessica Lovering, Tony Ndah, Carlos Orellana, Leslie Orta, Melanie Richardson, Mario Rivas, Don Rocha, Medi Sinaki, Kirsten Struve, Charlene Sun, Dave Tucker, and Hannah Young.

Guests in attendance were Phillippe Daniel, John Davel, Pat Ferraro, Susan Hinton, Charlie Liu, and Sanjay Reddy.

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

Chairperson Estremera 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 February 22, 2023 Recycled Water Committee Minutes.**

Recommendation: Approve the Minutes.

It was moved by Director Santos, seconded by Director Beall to approve the minutes of February 22, 2023, as presented.

**4. ACTION ITEMS:**

#### **4.1 Receive Update on Purified Water Program including Partnership with Cities of San Jose and Palo Alto.**

Recommendation: Receive updates and provide feedback on the following topics:  
A. Collaboration with the City of Palo Alto and Other Partners;  
and  
B. Outreach Efforts on Purified Water.

Kirsten Struve, Assistant Officer, reviewed the information on this item, per the attached Committee agenda memo.

The Committee received the following information:

- A sign was installed on the proposed project site at the former Los Altos Treatment Plant to let the public know about the purified water project.
- The most significant pipeline realignment was in Mountain View and no longer through the NASA property.
- Staff is working with the Palo Alto Fire Department on required codes for chemical storage at the treatment facility.
- The funding agreement that would be agendaized at a future City of Palo Alto council meeting would be a consent item on funding for city staff collaboration with Valley Water.
- Palo Alto's Planning process required the council to hear about the project at an upcoming council meeting. The council has three newly elected members since Valley Water presented the Purified Water Project to their council at their September 12, 2022 meeting. An update was being planned to update the council on the Purified Water Project.

The Committee made the following requests of staff:

- Chairperson Estremera requested that, as an agency effort, staff prepare a letter to be signed by Chair of Valley Water Board and addressed to the City of San Jose mayor and council, to support the expansion and continuing negotiations with recycled water; and added that this request would also be brought up with the Board Chair.
- Chairperson Estremera requested that staff come back with a report on Lake Cunningham related to environmental water quality issue and include information to the planned letter to the City of San Jose on how Valley Water could assist. Melanie Richardson, Assistant Chief Executive Officer, stated that the water quality analysis done for the Lower Silver Creek and Lake Cunningham flood protection would be provided to this Committee as a background as well as a staff presentation at a future Committee meeting.

Pat Ferraro, of undisclosed affiliation, suggested that Valley Water increase its marketing effort on non-potable water and encourage connection to purple pipes. Kirsten Struve mentioned that purple pipe was initiated to meet wastewater regulatory requirements in the 1990's and would be included in the discussion of the next item on Joint Recycled Water Policy Advisory Committee.

The Committee noted the information without taking a formal action.

Chairperson Estremera moved the agenda to Item 4.3. Item 4.2 was not discussed.

#### **4.3 Update on Desalination as a Potential Water Supply Source in Santa Clara County.**

Recommendation: Receive updates and information on desalination as a potential water supply in Santa Clara County and provide feedback to staff.

Henry Barrientos, Senior Water Resources Specialist, reviewed the information on this item, per the attached Committee agenda memo and the information contained in Attachment 1.

The Committee received information on the Environmental Feasibility Study (Feasibility Study) for the development of a 10 MGD seawater desalination project as an alternative water supply in the county with the study estimated to be completed by the end of April 2023. The Committee also received information regarding siting for a desalination facility as well as the CPV water exchange with Contra Costa Water District, and ongoing collaboration between Valley Water and the Bay Area Regional Desalination Project, and potential partnership with SFPUC.

The Committee requested that staff come back with a more in depth and updated information on energy cost as it relates to each water supply option on Slide 3 of Attachment 1, as well as according to use of water, and source energy; and that staff provide the Committee a copy of the Feasibility Study when available.

#### **4.4 Discuss the 2023 Recycled Water Committee Work Plan, Upcoming Discussion Items, and Next Meeting Date.**

Recommendation: Receive information on the 2023 Recycled Water Committee Work Plan and provide feedback on upcoming discussion items and next meeting date.

Chairperson Estremera confirmed the next meeting date on April 26, 2023.

Kirsten Struve recapped the work plan items as follows:

- Formal letter to San Jose Council to discuss expansion and move quickly. This could also be discussed at the Joint Recycled Water Policy Advisory Committee and the Environmental and Transportation & Environmental Committee of the City of San Jose;
- Bring back information on Silver Creek, Lake Almaden recycled water consideration, and streamflow augmentation to help answer if recycled water could be used for Lake Cunningham.
- Bring back desalination item as well as SFPUC partnership and energy use.

Director Beall reported on state budget and legislative proposals for funding water treatment facilities. Director Santos reported on meeting with downtown developers that indicated support for recycled water.

#### **5. ADJOURN.**

Chairperson Estremera adjourned the meeting at 1:10 p.m. to the next meeting scheduled to occur at 12:00 p.m. on April 26, 2023. Subsequently, the April 26, 2023 date was cancelled. The next meeting of this Committee would be on May 24, 2023.

Eva M. Sans  
Assistant Deputy Clerk II

Approved: May 24, 2023