



SOUTH COUNTY REGIONAL
WASTEWATER AUTHORITY

**JOINT WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE
(CITY OF GILROY, CITY OF MORGAN HILL AND VALLEY WATER)**

MINUTES

THURSDAY, APRIL 20, 2023

(Paragraph numbers coincide with agenda item numbers)

1. CALL TO ORDER

A special meeting of the Joint Water Resources Committee (City of Gilroy, City of Morgan Hill, and Valley Water) (Committee) was called to order at 9:00 a.m. at the Gilroy Council Chambers, 7351 Rosanna Street, Gilroy, CA 95020.

1.1 ROLL CALL

Committee Members in attendance via Zoom were: Hon. Gilroy Mayor Marie Blankley and Councilmember Dion Bracco; Hon. City of Morgan Hill Councilmembers Gino Borgioli; Hon. Valley Water District 3 Director Richard Santos and District 1 Director Chairperson John L. Varela. A quorum was established.

Valley Water staff in attendance: Aaron Baker, Neeta Bijoor, Walter Gonzales, Jason Gurdak, Chris Hakes, Nicole Merritt, Medi Sinaki, and Kirsten Struve.

Guest in Attendance were: Jimmy Forbis, City of Gilroy City Manager; Daryl Jordan, City of Gilroy Director of Public Works; Saeid Vaziry, South County Regional Wastewater Authority (SCRWA) Chief Environmental Engineer; and Chris Ghione, City of Morgan Hill.

Public in Attendance was: Doug Muirhead, Morgan Hill resident.

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

There was no one present who wished to speak.

3. ELECTION OF 2023 COMMITTEE CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR.

3.1 Elect the 2023 Chair and Vice-Chair.

Chairperson Varela declared nominations open for 2023 Joint Water Resources Committee Officers.

It was moved by Director Santos, seconded by Councilmember Borgioli, and voted unanimously to reelect Director Varela as Chair for the year 2023

It was moved by Director Santos, seconded by Councilmember Bracco, and voted unanimously to reelect Mayor Blankley as Vice Chairperson for the year 2023.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES.

4.1 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Councilmember Borgioli, seconded by Mayor Blankley, to approve the October 5, 2022 Joint Water Resources Committee meeting minutes as presented.

5. ACTION ITEMS.

5.1 SOUTH COUNTY WATER REUSE COLLABORATION AND IMPLEMENTATION.

Recommendation: Receive update and provide feedback on Technical Working Group discussions related to South County Water Reuse Collaborations:

- A. Interagency Agreements
- B. Master Planning Activities
- C. Recycled Water Development

Kirsten Struve, Assistant Officer, reviewed the information on this item per the agenda memo and the corresponding presentation materials contained in Attachment 1 were reviewed by staff as follows: Kirsten Struve reviewed Slide 1 through 5; Chris Gione, City of Morgan Hill Public Service Director, reviewed Slide 6 through 9; and Daryl Jordan, City of Gilroy Director of Public Works, reviewed Slide 10 through 13.

During the presentation, the Committee was informed of the following:

- Regarding the Producer-Wholesaler Agreement between the South County Regional Wastewater Authority and Valley Water, the Technical Working Group had completed revisions to the agreement to reflect current practices, regulatory directives, and legal terminologies in December 2022. The agreement was being reviewed by agency staff and their legal departments.
- Regarding the Wholesaler-Retailer Agreement between each city and Valley Water, the Technical Working Group had evaluated roles and responsibilities in January this year and uncovered uncertainties in the retailer role associated with the ongoing retail practice by SCRWA and also, if the agreement with each city should be kept separate or could be consolidated. Staff estimated that a draft could be presented for review by the Committee at the next meeting.
- Regarding the USBR grant application discussion, USBR released a grant solicitation for water recycling planning in December 2022 that would cover the cost of a feasibility study, provide a 50/50 share for these planning activities, and provide up to 24 months to develop a feasible water recycling project for possible future construction funding. Notice of award, if selected, is anticipated in June 2023 with funding available in October 2023.

- On the South County Master Planning, the consultant and City of Morgan Hill staff continued to work on integrating new infrastructures for the existing recycled water facilities. Assumptions on the hydraulic evaluations of existing recycled water distribution and potential for new customers to set the baseline were being reviewed as well as refinements to the capital improvement program.
- In response to a Committee inquiry on the “new infrastructure” referred to in the Master Plan, VW and City staff mentioned that new infrastructure could refer to additional water storage to allow recycled water to be more available during the summer months and allowing for increased storage during non-peak times; or could also refer to pump station upgrades to provide increased pressure to push recycled water to new customer connections.
- In response to another inquiry on where the new infrastructure connections would be, staff confirmed that options included from the north to the south, or from SCRWA to the developing business areas in Glen Loma Ranch in Gilroy. Staff also added in Valley Water’s updated Core Plan, there were options for bringing recycled water from San Jose to south county. Another option that was in the South County Water Reuse Master Plan was to take non-potable recycled water for distribution to Morgan Hill. VW and staff from both cities had continued discussion of all these options to determine which would have the greatest feasibility of working. Staff estimated that they could bring this to the Committee for consideration in a couple of months.
- On the South County Pipeline Project, City of Gilroy staff mentioned that the two-month schedule delay in construction due to materials availability would not affect the overall project completion date and provided a month-to-month work accomplishment from November 2022 to February 2023 on the pipeline extension. As to milestones, Phase 2A micro tunnel and pipeline installation on Uvas Creek, and Phase 1B pipeline installation were completed in December; SCRWA waste water well treatment plant connection and pipeline installation and Phase 1B, Phase 2A, and Phase 2B of the pipeline were installed or completed in March, while upcoming work were street pavings on the streets of Luchesa and curve-to-curve replacement from Rossi to Monterey Highway. Staff estimated that they could get these done in July or August.

The Committee requested without taking formal action that staff explore the potential of capturing natural water flow from the hills before it is discharged to the ocean via the Pajaro River, whether the Pacheco Expansion Project goes through or not, and direct it back to South County for reuse.

Doug Muirhead, a Morgan Hill resident, expressed frustration over the progress of recycled water coming to the City of Morgan Hill since he first advocated for it at the last drought, and mentioned about Mayor Turner speaking at a Senior Advisory Committee meeting about recycled water for Morgan Hill. Chairperson Varela acknowledged the enthusiasm of the city mayor for recycled water and encouragement the mayor shared with City of San Jose officials.

5.2 SANTA CLARA COUNTY DROUGHT CONDITIONS

Recommendation: Receive an update on water conservation efforts and latest actions relevant to the overall drought emergency response and provide feedback to staff.

Neeta Bijoor, Senior Water Specialist, reviewed the information on this item, per the attached Committee Agenda Memo, and per the information contained in Attachment 1, and shared Valley Water Board's action at its April 11, 2023 meeting as follows:

- End of the declaration of water shortage emergency conditions (Resolution 21-68).
- End of the call for 15% mandatory countywide water use reduction. The mandatory 15% reduction was replaced with a voluntary 15% water use reduction compared to 2019.
- Continued enforcement of water restrictions including the 2-day watering limit for decorative residential turf.

The Committee noted and requested the following without taking formal action.

- Allocation of imported water significantly increased as the state's snowpack triple in average. Five percent increase in State Water Project, 100% increase from Municipal and Industrial Central Valley Project, and 80% increase from Agricultural Central Valley Project.
- Valley Water's drought and conservation outreach had been promoting water conservation as a way of life.
- City of Morgan Hill had been providing a larger rebate to anyone in the city that would improve their landscape through the Valley Water Program. In response to the story shared by Councilmember Borgioli on what seemed to be an example of water waste at a commercial site, Chris Ghione offered to address the concern to the city's Environmental Programs team. Staff mentioned that the Committee would be emailed Valley Water's communications that had contact information to report water waste. Chairperson Varela requested that staff would include information on Valley Water's landscape rebate program in the email communication.

Chairperson Varela reminded everyone that the next drought could be around the corner; that every single reservoir in the state was at capacity; that there was no place for that water to go; and requested from each city to write a support letter to encourage Valley Water's Board of Directors to build the Pacheco Dam Expansion project. Subsequently, both letters were provided and published as Handouts 2.2A and 2.2B at the April 26, 2023 meeting when the final Valley Water budget was discussed.

Doug Muirhead expressed frustration over the reduced frequency of meetings for the year and suggested to schedule additional meetings in addition to the next one in August and the final meeting in October 2023.

5.3 REVIEW AND ACCEPT THE JOINT WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE 2022 ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORT, 2023 PROPOSED WORK PLAN, AND NEXT MEETING DATE.

- Recommendation:
- A. Review and Accept the JWRC 2022 Accomplishment Report
 - B. Review and accept the 2023 Proposed Work Plan
 - C. Confirm next meeting date.

Chairperson Varela announced that the next meeting would be scheduled by the Board Scheduler for August 2023.

6. CLERK REVIEW AND CLARIFICATION OF COMMITTEE REQUESTS.

None.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Committee Chair Director Varela adjourned the meeting at 10:00 a.m. to a special meeting in August 2023 to be scheduled by the Board Scheduler. Subsequently, after the meeting, the Chair approved a cancellation of an August 2023 meeting to October 4, 2023,

Submitted by:

Eva Sans
Assistant Deputy Clerk II
Office of the Clerk of the Board

Approved: October 4, 2023

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