



RECYCLED WATER COMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES

**SPECIAL MEETING
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2023
10:00 AM**

(Paragraph numbers coincide with agenda item numbers)

1. CALL TO ORDER:

A special meeting of the Santa Clara Valley Water District (Valley Water) Recycled Water Committee (Committee) was called to order in the Valley Water Headquarters Building Boardroom at 5700 Almaden Expressway, San Jose, California, and by Zoom teleconference, at 10:00 a.m.

1.1. Roll Call.

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

Staff members in attendance were: Brandon Adriano, Karen Adriano, Antonio Alfaro, Hossein Ashktorab, Aaron Baker, Henry Barrientos, Lakeisha Bryant, Jiana Escobar, Vincent Gin, Andrew Gschwind, Walter Gonzalez, Zachary Helsley, Girlie Jacobson, Candice Kwok-Smith, Emelia Lamas, Marta Lugo, Becky Manchester, Nicole Merritt, Mike Potter, Melanie Richardson, Don Rocha, Medi Sinaki, Diahann Soleno, Kirsten Struve, Charlene Sun, David Tucker, and Beckie Zisser.

Public in attendance were: Phillippe Daniel (Liquisti LLC), Jan Davel (CDM Smith), Joseph Foster, Pedro Hernandez (City of San Jose), Katja Irvin (Sierra Club), Arthur Keller (Minerva Consulting), Shane Trussell (Trussell Technologies), and Kate Worrell.

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 who wished to speak.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

3.1. Approval of October 27, 2023 Recycled Water Committee Meeting Minutes.

Recommendation: Approve the minutes.

The Committee considered the attached minutes of the October 27, 2023 Committee meeting.

Public Comments:
None.

It was moved by Vice Chair Santos and seconded by Director Beall, and unanimously carried that the minutes be approved.

4. REGULAR AGENDA:

- 4.1. Receive Purified Water Program Update Including Partnerships with Cities of Palo Alto/Mountain View and San Jose/Santa Clara and Provide Feedback.

Recommendation: Receive an update and provide feedback on the following topics:

- A. Collaboration effort with partners
 - Cities of Palo Alto and Mountain View
 - Cities of San Jose and Santa Clara
- B. Public Private Partnership
- C. Outreach

Kirsten Struve reviewed the information on this item, per the attached Committee Agenda Memo and per the information contained in Attachment 1.

Kirsten Struve was available to answer questions.

Public Comments:

Arthur Keller inquired if there is protection from flooding and earthquake liquefaction.

Kirsten Struve confirmed that the source water pump station noted in Attachment 1 and the proposed purification center will have flood walls and liquefaction is addressed in the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) document.

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

- The Committee noted staff's participation in Palo Alto City Council meetings, councilmembers' attendance on Valley Water tours, and a future committee meeting to be scheduled with the cities of Palo Alto and Mountain View for continued engagement opportunities.
- The Committee noted staff currently working on confirming if the schedule of the approval of agreements will remain in February 2024.
- Director Beall requested staff to put on a future agenda the status of possible federal and state funding for projects.

- 4.2. Receive Update on Valley Water's Efforts to Actively Engage on Direct Potable Reuse (DPR) Regulations and Provide Feedback.

Recommendation: Receive update and provide feedback on DPR regulatory developments.

Hossein Ashktorab reviewed the information on this item, per the attached Committee Agenda Memo, and per the information contained in Attachment 1.

Hossein Ashktorab and Kirsten Struve were available to answer questions.

Public Comments:
None.

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

- Director Beall encouraged staff to continue to consider options of expediting projects to further save money through state regulations.
- The Committee noted DPR regulations expected to become effective in Spring 2024 around February or March and staff's confirmation to continue to work on this item promptly.

4.3. Receive an Update on the Water Supply Master Plan Potable Reuse Goal and Potential Amount of Wastewater Available for Water Reuse.

Recommendation: Receive an update on the Water Supply Master Plan Potable Reuse Goal and Potential Amount of Wastewater Available for Water Reuse.

Zachary Helsley reviewed the information on this item, per the attached Committee Agenda Memo, and per the information contained in Attachment 1.

Zachary Helsley and Kirsten Struve were available to answer questions.

Public Comments:
Arthur Keller inquired if the purification facility would be in Palo Alto or San Jose.

Katja Irvin inquired about the status of desalination and noted the importance of community outreach within the environmental community.

Kirsten Struve confirmed the purification facility would be in Palo Alto and that pipes in urbanized areas are expensive, and it would not be a cost-effective to send Palo Alto purified water to San Jose.

Kirsten Struve confirmed a current preliminary feasibility study on desalination, follow up on a consultant, continuing community outreach, and the inclusion of desalination in the Water Supply Master plan as a project modeled at 24,000-acre feet per year, but noted purified water project is the more environmentally friendly option for that amount of water.

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

- Director Beall requested for staff to follow up on exploring stormwater for purified water production on a future agenda.

4.4. Receive Information on Recycled Water Activities and Projects Associated with Valley Water's Distribution Portion of the South County Recycled Water System, as well as Recent Master Planning Updates with South County Partners and Provide Feedback.

Recommendation: Receive information on recycled water activities and projects associated with Valley Water's distribution portion of the South County recycled water system, as well as recent master planning updates with South County Partners, and provide feedback.

David Tucker reviewed the information on this item, per the attached Committee Agenda Memo, and per the information contained in Attachment 1.

David Tucker, Kirsten Struve, Hossein Ashktorab, Aaron Baker, and Melanie Richardson were available to answer questions.

Public Comments:
None.

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

- The Committee noted that recycled water storage is a critical need for South County especially for the summertime when all the recycled water is used.
- Director Beall requested staff follow up on exploring the property benefits for developers of installed larger pipelines.
- Director Santos requested staff follow up on exploring potential options of buying South County property for a treatment plant to decrease costs and increase water supply and flexibility of source water.
- Director Beall requested staff follow up on identifying parcels or properties in South County owned by Valley Water for the potential use for assistance with the unhoused and noted stormwater capture as a public safety topic per flooding; and Director Santos supported the importance of an alternate emergency flood plan for the unhoused which staff confirmed should all be addressed by the Environmental Creek Clean Up Committee.

4.5. Receive an Update on the 7th Independent Advisory Panel Meeting for an Evaluation of Valley Water's Purified Water Program.

Recommendation: Receive information on the 7th meeting of the Independent Advisory Panel for an evaluation of Valley Water's Purified Water Program.

Medi Sinaki reviewed the information on this item, per the attached Committee Agenda Memo, and per the information contained in Attachment 1.

Medi Sinaki was available to answer questions.

Public Comments:
None.

The Committee received and noted the information and took no formal action.

4.6. Receive and Discuss the 2023 Recycled Water Committee Work Plan, Upcoming Discussion Items, and Upcoming Meeting Date.

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

The Committee considered this Item without a staff presentation.

Kirsten Struve and Aaron Baker were available to answer questions.

Kirsten Struve confirmed follow up on modifying language on the 2024 RWC work plan to assist with including stormwater capture for purification purposes.

Aaron Baker confirmed the Committee member requests for federal and state funding for projects, and water service availability analysis for South County will be included on the 2024 RWC work plan.

Nicole Merritt confirmed a scheduling conflict with the upcoming RWC meeting on January 24, 2024 and noted the next special meeting would occur on January 31, 2024 at 12:00 p.m.

The Committee received and noted the information and took no formal action.

5. CLERK REVIEW AND CLARIFICATION OF COMMITTEE 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 Committee during the meeting.

None.

6. Adjourn:

6.1. Adjourn to Regular Meeting at 12:00 p.m. on January 24, 2024.

Nicole Merritt confirmed a scheduling conflict with the upcoming RWC meeting on January 24, 2024 and noted the next special meeting would occur on January 31, 2024 at 12:00 p.m.

Chairperson Estremera adjourned the meeting at 11:28 a.m., to the special meeting at 12:00 p.m. on January 31, 2024.

Nicole Merritt
Assistant Deputy Clerk II

Date Approved: January 31, 2024

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