



RECYCLED WATER COMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES

**REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, MAY 24, 2023
12:00 PM**

(Paragraph numbers coincide with agenda item numbers)

1. CALL TO ORDER:

A regular 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 12:00 p.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, Gina Adriano, Hossein Ashktorab, Aaron Baker, Henry Barrientos, Nasi Basiri, Lakeisha Bryant, Anthony Fulcher, Vincent Gin, Walter Gonzalez, Andrew Gschwind, Alina Hare, Zachary Helsley, Candice Kwok-Smith, Girlie Jacobson, Elise Latedjou-Durand, Jessica Lovering, Marta Lugo, Nicole Merritt, Tony Ndah, Carlos Orellana, Leslie Orta, Don Rocha, Medi Sinaki, Saira Singh, Kirsten Struve, Darin Taylor, Sherilyn Tran, David Tucker, Tina Yoke and Beckie Zisser.

Guests in attendance were: Arthine Cossey vanDuyne (WaterFunder LLC), Phillippe Daniel (Liquisti LLC), Jan Davel (CDM Smith), Nicole Harvie (San Jose Municipal Water System), Arthur Keller (Minerva Consulting), Shilpa Mehta (City of Santa Clara - Water and Sewer Utilities), and Jeff Provenzano (City of San Jose – Water Resources).

Public in attendance was: Susan Hinton.

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 March 22, 2023 Recycled Water Committee Meeting Minutes.

Recommendation: Approve the minutes.

The Committee considered the attached minutes of the March 22, 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 San Jose and Palo Alto and Outreach Efforts on Purified Water.

Recommendation: Receive an update 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 reviewed the information on this item, per the attached Committee Agenda Memo, and per the information contained in Attachments 1 and 2.

Kirsten Struve was available to answer questions.

Public Comments:
None.

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

- The Committee noted that a response was received from Mayor Mahan regarding a future San Jose project and will be included in the RWC agenda packet for June 2023.

- The Committee confirmed the funding agreement for Palo Alto staff was \$500,000 for 2 years which is similar to Valley Water's agreement with the City of San Jose.
- The Committee confirmed the Palo Alto City Council has provided a draft timeline for agreements to be in the third quarter and the P3 Partners are still interested in the project.

4.2. Receive South Santa Clara County Water Reuse Collaboration Update.

Recommendation: Receive South Santa Clara County Water Reuse Collaboration Update including an update on the Technical Work Group's (TWG) discussions 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 and Kirsten Struve were available to answer questions.

Public Comments:
None.

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

- The Committee confirmed speculated projects cost for 2015 Master Plan Agreement as a little under \$100 million with 40% associated with recycled water system and 60% for treatment plant upgrades.
- The Committee confirmed the 2015 Master Plan cost sharing as South County partners pay for all costs associated with the South County Regional Wastewater Authority treatment plant facility and the pipeline infrastructure is paid for by Valley Water.
- The Committee requests staff to schedule a briefing for Director Beall regarding a comparison of where South County's water comes from regarding groundwater, recycled water, and imported water, their associated costs, and what communities are served.
- The Committee confirmed that there have been no large changes to the Agreements since the 1999 - Agreements except for integrating the Joint Water Resources Committee structure into the Agreement and the regulatory structure of water reuse.
- The Committee confirmed the cost for the South County feasibility study will be shared between Valley Water and the Cities of Gilroy and Morgan Hill (via staff hours) if the grant is awarded to Valley Water.
- The Committee confirmed that there will be another JRWPAC meeting held in Aug./Sep. 2023. As such, there'd be additional Technical Working Group (TWG) meetings to prepare and coordinate for the upcoming JRWPAC.

- The Committee wants staff to follow up on researching grant criteria elements to identify which will benefit Valley Water the most in preparation for a potential state water bond blending with the Bureau of Reclamation Grant program.

4.3. Receive Bottling Purified Demonstration Water and On-Site Purified Water Tasting at the Silicon Valley Advanced Water Purification Center Update.

Recommendation: Receive information and provide feedback on staff's efforts to develop a project that bottles advanced purified water for demonstration and outreach purposes.

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

Hossein Ashktorab, David Tucker, and Kirsten Struve were available to answer questions.

Public Comments:

Susan Hinton expressed support for the use of aluminum bottles for the purified water for its uniqueness and encouragement to reuse the aluminum bottle, the use of large water bottles with paper cups advertising purified water available to try in hotels, and purified water bottles handed out at events with food while ensuring the collection of the purified water bottles were recycled, and any remaining purified water were used for plants afterwards.

Arthur Keller expressed concern about the purified water bottle packaging stating, "this bottle is made up to fifty percent recycled plastic" instead of "at least fifty percent recycled plastic."

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

- The Committee noted the challenges of using alternatives in place of plastic bottles including limited available bottlers for a once-a-year event for 1,000 gallons of 8-ounce bottles, the importance of having a bottle that is clear to see the purified water and ensuring safety with bottle transportation.
- The Committee requested staff to follow up with the bottler company regarding the purified water bottle packaging comment from Arthur Keller.

4.4. Receive Potential Amount of Available Wastewater for Water Reuse Update.

Recommendation: Receive information and provide feedback.

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

Zachary Helsley, Kirsten Struve, and David Tucker were available to answer questions.

Public Comments:
None.

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

- The Committee confirmed the current wastewater status of the following treatment plants: South County diverts available wastewater to Valley Water for wholesale distribution with more wastewater during the winter months available, changing wastewater availability in Palo Alto, plant expansion ongoing in Sunnyvale, and good potential for wastewater from San Jose/Santa Clara.

4.5. Receive the Joint Recycled Water Policy Advisory Committee (City of San Jose/Valley Water/City of Santa Clara) Meeting of April 13, 2023 Update.

Recommendation: Receive information regarding the April 13, 2023 Joint Recycled Water Policy Advisory Committee (City of San Jose/Valley Water/City of Santa Clara) meeting, and provide feedback.

Kirsten Struve reviewed the information on this item, per the attached Committee Agenda Memo.

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

- The Committee requested staff to follow up with scheduling the next JRWPAC in August or September 2023.

4.6. Receive Upcoming 7th Independent Advisory Panel Meeting for Evaluation of the Purified Water Program and Related Efforts Update.

Recommendation: Receive information on the 7th meeting of the Independent Advisory Panel for evaluation of the Santa Clara Valley Water District's Purified Water Program and related efforts update.

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

Medi Sinaki and Kirsten Struve were available to answer questions.

Public Comments:

None.

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

- The Committee confirmed that the San Jose/Santa Clara facility can be increased to 10 million gallons per day without expanding the footprint and discussed the need to find approved uses for additional water due to the wait for direct potable reuse regulations.
- The Committee requested staff to continue to follow up with the independent advisory panel to obtain overall Master Plan strategic long-term options for recycling and purifying water.

4.7. Receive and 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 discussions items and next meeting date.

The Committee considered this Item without a staff presentation.

Public Comments:

None.

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

- The Committee noted the Urban Runoff Study with Stanford University to be addressed at the RWC June 2023 meeting.
- The Committee noted staff is working on scheduling a Joint Recycled Water Committee meeting with the Cities of Palo Alto, East Palo Alto, and Mountain View.
- The Committee requested staff to research the potential upcoming state water bond to ensure Valley Water can get a fair share of the grant funding and report back at the RWC August 2023 meeting.

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 June 28, 2023.

Chairperson Estremera adjourned the meeting at 1:40 p.m., to the regular meeting at 12:00 p.m. on June 28, 2023, which was subsequently rescheduled to a special meeting at 10:00 a.m. on June 28, 2023.

Nicole Merritt
Assistant Deputy Clerk II

Date Approved: June 28, 2023

THIS PAGE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK