



BOARD POLICY AND PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES

Wednesday, January 11, 2023
12:00 PM

(Paragraph numbers coincide with agenda item numbers)

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
1.1 ROLL CALL

A special meeting of the Santa Clara Valley Water District (Valley Water) Board Policy and Planning Committee (Committee) was called to order at 12:00 p.m. on January 11, 2023.

Board Members in attendance: Director Nai Hsueh-District 5; and Director Barbara Keegan-District 2 constituting a quorum of the Committee.

Staff members in attendance: Yvonne Arroyo, Aaron Baker, Lisa Bankosh, Rechelle Blank, John Bourgeois, Rick Callender, Theresa Chinte, Rachael Gibson, Brian Hopper, Michele King, Brian Mendenhall, Kirsten Struve, Jing Wu, Tina Yoke and Sarah Young.

Arthur Keller, Vice Chair, Environmental and Water Resources Committee, and Jim Beall, Director District 4 were in attendance.

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

Committee Chair Hsueh declared time open for public comment on any item not on the agenda. There was no one present who requested to speak.

3. **3.1 APPROVAL OF MINUTES – December 5, 2022.**

The Committee considered the draft minutes from the December 5, 2022, meeting. It was moved by Director Keegan, seconded by Director Hsueh, and unanimously carried to approve the minutes as presented.

4. **Information and Action Items**

4.1 Update of the Water Resources Protection Manual.

Lisa Bankosh, Assistant Officer, presented on the update of the Water Resources Protection Manual and outreach efforts related to the Guidelines and Standards for Land Use Near Streams as outlined in the attached agenda memo and presentation.

The Committee provided the following input:

Director Keegan stated that it was always understood that this effort needed to be a dynamic process with resources allocated to keep it going in the future. It should have an adaptive

management approach and may require engagement with other public agencies again, which may require resources. Identified outcomes require decisions on resources. Perhaps creating examples of good design options near streams could be useful. Valley Water has a moral authority to speak out on behalf of the environment. We need to be consistent, clear and send a message that the environment matters to the people in Santa Clara County. By doing this, Valley Water can influence and help people understand that we look at the public's interest and it informs the decisions and actions that are taken.

Director Hsueh stated that changes will be identified as the process evolves and resources will need to be identified by the Board.

Shani Kleinhaus suggested that pumping water from the creeks should be added to the common issues identified, and connectivity for wildlife added to the objective criteria. She also suggested that consideration should be given to proactively engaging the community to see if there is knowledge of projects where Valley Water's involvement could be used in protecting the creeks, water quality and riparian corridors. Perhaps Valley Water could consider adding additional best practice guidelines for areas that might require additional setback distances. She would like to see Valley Water taking a stronger position on development in the riparian corridor.

Rani Fischer, Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society, asked about riparian area setback information and a potential model ordinance for cities.

Eileen McLaughlin stated appreciation for the presentation and ability to be educated on the subject. She acknowledged the mention of climate change and suggested that it might be relevant to ask other jurisdictions to include in their action plans whenever water is mentioned. She suggested that it could be beneficial to Valley Water to bring in experts in land use planning in relationship to our streams and reservoirs.

Arthur Keller asked about the function of the collaboration.

4.2 Climate Change Action Plan Implementation Update.

Sarah Young, Senior Project Manager, and Brian Mendenhall, Senior Water Resource Specialist, presented on update on high-priority change mitigation and adaptation actions associated with the Climate Change Action Plan implementation, as outlined in the attached agenda memorandum and presentation.

Director Keegan stated that having metrics in place which allows us to track things overtime helps the Board to live up to its responsibilities to trust but measure.

Director Hsueh expressed appreciation for the flagship metrics.

Rani Fischer asked if the metrics only measure water, or if there are other emissions measured, such as concrete from construction. Sarah Young answered that the other metric measurements are part of Scope 3.

Katja Irvin stated that the Sierra Club Action Team, along with other nonprofit organizations, are interested in reviewing and weren't aware of the plan. Outreach would be beneficial to receive meaningful input, at minimum, input on prioritization of mitigation actions and selection of mitigation metrics. The Sierra Club previously commented on the plan and requested an

implementation plan that includes budget, staff hours and defined timelines required for completion of actions. It's unclear if the Green House Gas Reduction plan includes such details that will help keep the program on track.

Lisa Bankosh provided an update on the development of the Green House Gas Reduction Plan which was one of the high priority actions that came out of the Climate Change Action Plan.

4.3 ITEM REMOVED FROM AGENDA.

4.4 2023 WORK PLAN AND MEETING SCHEDULE AND 2022 ACCOMPLISHMENTS REPORT.

Michele King, Clerk of the Board, reviewed the 2023 work plan and 2022 accomplishments report, stating that an item will be added to the 2023 work plan for review of the Board Governance Policies relating to election of the Board Chair and Vice Chair, and other policies documenting Board Chair Role, as requested by the Board.

Director Keegan suggested that providing some history about the committee and its purpose could be helpful to any new directors assigned to serve on this committee.

5. CLERK REVIEW AND CLARIFICATION OF COMMITTEE REQUESTS.

There were no formal requests from the Committee.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Director Hsueh adjourned the meeting at approximately 1:30 p.m.



Michele L. King
Clerk of the Board

Approved: February 6, 2023