



SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER COMMISSION MEETING

# MINUTES

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**REGULAR MEETING**  
**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 22, 2025**  
**12:00 PM**

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(Paragraph numbers coincide with agenda item numbers)

**1. CALL TO ORDER:**

A regular meeting of the Santa Clara Valley Water District (Valley Water) Santa Clara Valley Water Commission (Commission) was called to order by Hon. Vice Chairperson Candelas in the Valley Water Headquarters Building Boardroom at 5700 Almaden Expressway, San Jose, California, and by Zoom teleconference, at 12:07 p.m.

A quorum of 11 was established of Commission members present in person.

1.1 Roll Call.

**Members in attendance were:**

**Municipality**

**Representative**

**Alternate**

City of Campbell

Hon. Member Terry Hines

City of Cupertino

Hon. Member Lian Chao

City of Los Altos

Hon. Member Pete Daily

Town of Los Gatos

Hon. Member Rob Rennie

City of Mountain View

Hon. Member Lucas Ramirez

City of Palo Alto

Hon. Member Keith Reckdahl

City of San José

Hon. Member Domingo Candelas

City of Santa Clara

Hon. Member Karen Hardy

City of Saratoga

Hon. Member Chuck Page (Late)

City of Sunnyvale

Hon. Member Murali Srinivasan

County of Santa Clara

Hon. Member Sylvia Arenas (Late)

Open Space Authority

Santa Clara Valley

Hon. Member Calvin Gill

Midpeninsula Regional

Open Space District

Hon. Member Jed Cyr

**Members not in attendance were:**

<b><u>Municipality</u></b>	<b><u>Representative</u></b>	<b><u>Alternate</u></b>
City of Campbell		Hon. Member Elliot Scozzola
City of Cupertino		Hon. Member Kitty Moore
City of Gilroy	Hon. Member Dion Bracco	Hon. Member Terence Fugazzi
City of Los Altos Hills	Hon. Member Stanley Mok	
Town of Los Gatos		Hon. Member Maria Ristow
City of Milpitas	Hon. Member Carmen Montano	Hon. Member Gary Barbadillo
City of Monte Sereno	Hon. Member Lisa Shannon	Hon. Member Bryan Mekechuk
City of Morgan Hill	Hon. Member Yvonne Martinez-Beltran	
City of Mountain View		Hon. Member Pat Showalter
City of Palo Alto		Hon. Member Vicki Veenker
City of San José		Hon. Member Lori Mitchell
City of Santa Clara		Hon. Member Suds Jain
City of Saratoga		Hon. Member Tina Walia
City of Sunnyvale	Hon. Member Alysa Cisneros	
County of Santa Clara		Hon. Member Betty Dương
Open Space Auth. SCV	Hon. Member Mike Flaughner	
Midpeninsula Regional OSA		Hon. Member Yoriko Kishimoto

Valley Water Board Representatives in attendance were Vice Chairperson Richard Santos (District 3) and Director John Varela (District 1). Director Nai Hsueh (District 5) arrived at 12:39 p.m. during Item 4.3.

Staff members in attendance were: Gina Adriano, Aaron Baker, Roseryn Bhudsabourg, Rita Chan, Enrique De Anda, Gavin Downs, Rachael Gibson, Andrew Gschwind, Candice Kwok-Smith, Emelia Lamas, Nicole Merritt, Carmen Narayanan, Max Overland, Michelle San Miguel, Desiree Sausele, Stephanie Simunic, Kirsten Struve, Darin Taylor, Jing Wu, and Genevieve Yip.

Public in attendance were: Valley Water Director Rebecca Eisenberg (District 7), Elizabeth Flegel, Katja Irvin, (Sierra Club), Victoria Lam, (County of Santa Clara), Larry Lang, Nancy Le, Brendan McCarthy, and Tee.

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

Vice Chairperson Candelas 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 23, 2024 Santa Clara Valley Water Commission Meeting Minutes.

Recommendation: Approve the minutes.

The Commission considered the attached minutes of the October 23, 2024 meeting.

Public Comments: None.

It was moved by Hon. Member Ramirez, seconded by Hon. Member Hardy, and carried by a vote of 10-0 to approve the October 23, 2024 Santa Clara Valley Water Commission Meeting Minutes approved as submitted. Hon. Member Gill abstained.

#### **4. REGULAR AGENDA:**

##### **4.1 Election of Chair and Vice Chair.**

Hon. Member Page nominated Hon. Member Daily for Chairperson, seconded by Hon. Member Ramirez. Hon. Vice Chairperson Candelas nominated Hon. Member Hardy for Vice Chairperson, seconded by Hon. Member Chao.

Public Comments: None

Both motions were considered concurrently and approved unanimously by a vote of 11-0.

##### **4.2. Review and Approve 2024 Annual Accomplishments Report for Presentation to the Board (Commission Chair).**

The Commission received the report without a staff presentation. Staff confirmed that an upcoming tour of the purified water plant is pending scheduling.

Public Comments: None

Hon. Member Rennie and Hon. Member Arenas arrived at 12:19 p.m.

It was moved by Hon. Member Ramirez, seconded by Hon. Member Candelas, and approved by a unanimous vote of 13-0, that the 2024 annual Accomplishments Report be presented to the Board.

##### **4.3 Receive Information and Provide Feedback on Valley Water's Development of its Water Supply Master Plan 2050.**

Jing Wu reviewed the information on this item, per the attached Commission Agenda Memo; and per the information contained in the Attachments.

Director Hsueh arrived at 12:39 p.m.

The Commission discussed the following with staff input: Valley Water

efforts to provide robust public information to cities and retailers relating to water conservation and rates, the irrigation schedule for water savings and educational material, Valley Water's drought plan that includes using historical data, Valley Water Board of Directors receiving updates on the Pacheco Reservoir Expansion project, which are published on the project's website, the ongoing Valley Water desalination feasibility project study, the Recycled Water Committee input on the Board Adopted Potable Reuse Goals of 2035, and lower cost options under strategies for water supply reliability.

Public Comments: None

The Commission received the information and took no formal action.

4.4 Review and Provide Comment to the Board on Staff's Preliminary Fiscal Year 2025 - 2026 Groundwater Production Charges.

Carmen Narayanan reviewed the information on this item, per the attached Commission Agenda Memo; and per the information contained in the Attachments.

The Commission discussed the following with staff input: Valley Water's desire to work with public officials relating to outreach regarding rate projections, the water demand, elasticity, and affordability study for Santa Clara County for next fiscal year's rate setting cycle, different geographic groundwater rates that include benefits provided within zones, updating infrastructure and climate change impacts, receipt and pursuit of grants and other funding, staff's research into the open space credit relating to agricultural water charges, water rate projections relating to debt financing, rebound rate of preliminary FY 25-26 water charges, Water Supply Master Plan 2050 projections including scenarios for annual groundwater rate setting and costs if water use increases or decreases, water portfolios, and the wholesale water costs.

Public Comments: None

Hon. Member Candelas left his seat at 1:33 p.m.

Hon. Member Arenas made requests for a separate briefing with her on Valley Water groundwater rates and information relating to staffing and efficiencies as they relate to Valley Water's budget.

The Commission received the information, took no formation action and noted concern for rate payers absorbing rate increases and how that will impact long-range rate affordability.

4.5 Review and Approve the Proposed 2025 Santa Clara Valley Water Commission Work Plan, the Outcomes of Board Action of Commission

Requests; and the Commission's Next Meeting Agenda, and Recommend the Proposed 2025 Water Commission Work Plan to the Board.

The Commission discussed the following with staff input: Valley Water's Watershed Division handles unhoused issues, the Water Resource Protection Zones Ordinance took effect last year and outreach has started to all 15 cities and the County; the Recycled Water Committee receives desalination updates that can be shared with the Commission; the July meeting can be moved to August to accommodate a Valley Water facility tour, and information relating to creek usage for trails of pedestrians and bikes to requesting Commission members.

The Committee requested that staff add the following to the 2025 work plan or include the information in an existing item:

- Information relating to flood control.
- Information relating to desalination plans within the Water Supply Master Plan 2050.
- Community outreach/messaging of groundwater rates.

It was moved by Vice Chairperson Hardy, seconded by Hon. Member Ramirez, and approved by a unanimous vote of 12-0, the Proposed 2025 Commission Work Plan, the Outcomes of Board Action of Commission Requests; the Commission's Next Meeting Agenda, and Recommend the Proposed 2025 Water Commission Work Plan to the Board.

## **5. INFORMATIONAL ITEM(S):**

### **5.1 Standing Items Report.**

Stephanie Simunic noted the materials as outlined in the agenda attachments and was available to answer questions.

Public Comments: None

The Commission received the information and took no formal action.

## **6. CLERK REVIEW AND CLARIFICATION OF COMMISSION REQUESTS:**

Stephanie Simunic confirmed the following:

- The Commission approved Hon. Member Daily as Chairperson and Hon. Member Hardy as Vice Chairperson.
- Item 4.4 was received. Hon. Member Arenas made requests for a separate briefing with her on Valley Water groundwater rates and information relating to staffing and efficiencies as they relate to Valley Water's budget.
- Item 4.5 was received with additions to the work plan.

**7. REPORTS:**

7.1. Directors Report  
No report was received.

7.2. Managers Report  
Rachael Gibson provided water bottles containing purified water from the Advanced Water Purification Center to the Commission.

7.3. Committee Member Report  
Hon. Member Hines stated that his company has a small contract for IT outsourcing services with South County Regional Wastewater Authority, also known as SCRWA.

7.4. Informational Links  
Links noted on agenda.

**8. ADJOURN**

Adjourn to Regular Meeting at 12:00 p.m. on January 22, 2025.

Chairperson Daily adjourned the meeting at 2:08 p.m. to the next regular meeting at 12:00 p.m. on April 9, 2025.

Stephanie Simunic,  
Assistant Deputy Clerk II

Date approved: April 9, 2025