

June 30, 2025

MEETING NOTICE & REQUEST FOR RSVP**TO: AGRICULTURAL WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE****Jurisdiction**

District 1
District 2
District 3
District 4
District 5
District 6
District 7

Representative

Erin Gil
James Provenzano
Robert Long Jr.
Sheila Barry
Trevor Garrod
Tim Chiala
Vacant

Representative

Mitchell Mariani
Vacant
Vacant
Brent Bonino
Vacant
Vacant
Vacant

Loma Prieta Resource Conservation District
Santa Clara County Farm Bureau

Peter Van Dyke
Jan F. Garrod

The regular meeting of the Agricultural Water Advisory Committee is scheduled to be held on **Monday, July 7, 2025, at 1:30 p.m., at Headquarters Building Boardroom, 5700 Almaden Expressway, San Jose, CA 95118.**

Enclosed are the meeting agenda and corresponding materials. Additional copies of this meeting packet will be available at the meeting and on our website: www.valleywater.org/how-we-operate/committees/board-committees.

A majority of the appointed membership is required to constitute a quorum, which is fifty percent plus one. A quorum for this meeting must be confirmed at least 48 hours prior to the scheduled meeting date or it will be canceled.

Further, a quorum must be present on the day of the scheduled meeting to call the meeting to order and take action on agenda items.

Members with two or more consecutive unexcused absences will be subject to rescinded membership.

Please confirm your attendance no later than **12:00 p.m., Wednesday, July 2, 2025** by contacting Nicole Merritt at 1-408-630-3262, or nmerritt@valleywater.org.

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Santa Clara Valley Water District Agricultural Water Advisory Committee Meeting

HQ. Bldg. Boardroom, 5700 Almaden Expressway, San Jose, California
Join Zoom Meeting: <https://valleywater.zoom.us/j/98850905996>

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

**Monday, July 7, 2025
1:30 PM**

District Mission: Provide Silicon Valley safe, clean water for a healthy life, environment and economy.

COMMITTEE:
Peter VanDyke, Chairperson
Trevor Garrod, Vice Chairperson

BOARD REPRESENTATIVES:
Director Jim Beall
Vice Chairperson Richard P. Santos
Director John L. Varela

All public records relating to an item on this agenda, which are not exempt from disclosure pursuant to the California Public Records Act, that are distributed to a majority of the legislative body will be available for public inspection at the Office of the Clerk of the Board at the Santa Clara Valley Water District Headquarters Building, 5700 Almaden Expressway, San Jose, CA 95118, at the same time that the public records are distributed or made available to the legislative body. Santa Clara Valley Water District will make reasonable efforts to accommodate persons with disabilities wishing to attend Board of Directors' meeting. Please advise the Clerk of the Board Office of any special needs by calling (408) 265-2600.

Vincent Gin
Darin Taylor, (Staff Liaisons)

Nicole Merritt (COB Liaison)
Assistant Deputy Clerk II
nmerritt@valleywater.org
408-630-3262

Note: The finalized Board Agenda, exception items and supplemental items will be posted prior to the meeting in accordance with the Brown Act.

**Santa Clara Valley Water District
Agricultural Water Advisory Committee
REGULAR MEETING
AGENDA**

Monday, July 7, 2025

1:30 PM

HQ. Bldg. Boardroom, 5700 Almaden
Expressway, San Jose, California

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://valleywater.zoom.us/j/98850905996>

*****IMPORTANT NOTICES AND PARTICIPATION INSTRUCTIONS*****

Santa Clara Valley Water District (Valley Water) Board of Directors/Board Committee meetings are held as a “hybrid” meetings, conducted in-person as well as by telecommunication, and is compliant with the provisions of the Ralph M. Brown Act.

To maximize public safety while still maintaining transparency and public access, members of the public have an option to participate by teleconference/video conference or attend in-person. To observe and participate in the meeting by teleconference/video conference, please see the meeting link located at the top of the agenda. If attending in-person, you are required to comply with Ordinance 22-03 - AN ORDINANCE OF THE SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT SPECIFYING RULES OF DECORUM FOR PARTICIPATION IN BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS located at <https://s3.us-west-2.amazonaws.com/valleywater.org.if-us-west-2/f2-live/s3fs-public/Ord.pdf>

In accordance with the requirements of Gov. Code Section 54954.3(a), members of the public wishing to address the Board/Committee during public comment or on any item listed on the agenda, may do so by filling out a Speaker Card and submitting it to the Clerk or using the “Raise Hand” tool located in the Zoom meeting application to identify yourself in order to speak, at the time the item is called. Speakers will be acknowledged by the Board/Committee Chair in the order requests are received and granted speaking access to address the Board.

- Members of the Public may test their connection to Zoom Meetings at: <https://zoom.us/test>
- Members of the Public are encouraged to review our overview on joining Valley Water Board Meetings at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TojJpYCxXm0>

Valley Water, in complying with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), requests individuals who require special accommodations to access and/or participate in Valley Water Board of Directors/Board Committee meetings to please contact the Clerk of the Board’s office at (408) 630-2711, at least 3 business days before the scheduled meeting to ensure that Valley Water may assist you.

This agenda has been prepared as required by the applicable laws of the State of California, including but not limited to, Government Code Sections 54950 et. seq. and has

not been prepared with a view to informing an investment decision in any of Valley Water's bonds, notes or other obligations. Any projections, plans or other forward-looking statements included in the information in this agenda are subject to a variety of uncertainties that could cause any actual plans or results to differ materially from any such statement. The information herein is not intended to be used by investors or potential investors in considering the purchase or sale of Valley Water's bonds, notes or other obligations and investors and potential investors should rely only on information filed by Valley Water on the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board's Electronic Municipal Market Access System for municipal securities disclosures and Valley Water's Investor Relations website, maintained on the World Wide Web at <https://emma.msrb.org/> and <https://www.valleywater.org/how-we-operate/financebudget/investor-relations>, respectively.

Under the Brown Act, members of the public are not required to provide identifying information in order to attend public meetings. Through the link below, the Zoom webinar program requests entry of a name and email address, and Valley Water is unable to modify this requirement. Members of the public not wishing to provide such identifying information are encouraged to enter "Anonymous" or some other reference under name and to enter a fictional email address (e.g., attendee@valleywater.org) in lieu of their actual address. Inputting such values will not impact your ability to access the meeting through Zoom.

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://valleywater.zoom.us/j/98850905996>

Meeting ID: 988 5090 5996

Join by Phone:

1 (669) 900-9128, 988 5090 5996#

1. CALL TO ORDER:

1.1. Roll Call.

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

Notice to the public: Members of the public who wish to address the Board/Committee on any item not listed on the agenda may do so by filling out a Speaker Card and submitting it to the Clerk or using the "Raise Hand" tool located in the Zoom meeting application to identify yourself to speak. Speakers will be acknowledged by the Board/Committee Chair in the order requests are received and granted speaking access to address the Board/Committee. Speakers' comments should be limited to three minutes or as set by the Chair. The law does not permit Board/Committee action on, or extended discussion of, any item not on the agenda except under special circumstances. If Board/Committee action is requested, the matter may be placed on a future agenda. All comments that require a response will be referred to staff for a reply in writing. The Board/Committee may take action on any item of business appearing on the posted agenda.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- 3.1. Approval of April 7, 2025 Agricultural Water Advisory Committee Minutes. [25-0388](#)
- Recommendation: Approve the minutes.
- Manager: Candice Kwok-Smith, 408-630-3193
- Attachments: [Attachment 1: 04072025 AWAC Minutes](#)
- Est. Staff Time: 5 Minutes

4. REGULAR AGENDA:

- 4.1. Receive Update on The County of Santa Clara's Agricultural Outreach and Awareness Campaign - Agriculture's Impact on Water Conservation and Climate Change. [25-0299](#)
- Recommendation: Receive information on the County of Santa Clara's Agricultural Outreach and Awareness Campaign Focus Area 8, which includes agriculture's role in supporting water conservation and responding to climate change.
- Manager: Lisa Bankosh, 408-630-2618
- Attachments: [Attachment 1: Agricultural Campaign Memorandum](#)
[Attachment 2: PowerPoint](#)
- Est. Staff Time: 15 Minutes
- 4.2. Receive Information and Provide Feedback on Valley Water's Draft Water Supply Master Plan 2050. [25-0564](#)
- Recommendation: Provide feedback on the draft Water Supply Master Plan 2050.
- Manager: Kirsten Struve, 408-630-3138
- Attachments: [Attachment 1: Draft WSMP 2050](#)
[Attachment 2: PowerPoint](#)
- Est. Staff Time: 20 Minutes
- 4.3. Receive Update and Provide Feedback on West Valley and Lower Peninsula Watershed Master Plans. [25-0414](#)
- Recommendation: Receive an update on the West Valley and Lower Peninsula Watershed Master Plans and provide feedback as necessary.
- Manager: Lisa Bankosh, 408-630-2618
- Attachments: [Attachment 1: Existing Conditions Report Outline](#)
[Attachment 2: Powerpoint](#)
- Est. Staff Time: 15 Minutes

- 4.4. Receive Information on the Annual Report Regarding the Flood Control Benefit Assessments for Fiscal Year (FY) 2025-2026. [25-0533](#)

Recommendation: Receive information on the annual report regarding the Flood Control Benefit Assessments for FY 2025-2026.

Manager: Darin Taylor, 408-630-3068

Attachments: [Attachment 1: Benefit Assessment Report](#)
[Attachment 2: Resolution](#)

Est. Staff Time: 10 Minutes

- 4.5. Review 2025 Agricultural Water Advisory Committee (AWAC) Work Plan, the Outcomes of Board Action of Committee Requests and the Committee's Next Meeting Agenda. [25-0389](#)

Recommendation: Review the Committee work plan to guide the committee's discussions regarding policy alternatives and implications for Board deliberation.

Manager: Candice Kwok-Smith, 408-630-3193

Attachments: [Attachment 1: AWAC 2025 Work Plan](#)

Est. Staff Time: 5 Minutes

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.

6. REPORTS:

- 6.1. Federal and State Affairs Report
- 6.2. Director's Report
- 6.3. Manager's Report
- 6.4. Committee Member's Report

6.5. Information Links:

<https://www.valleywater.org/how-we-operate/committees/board-committees>

- Board Policy and Monitoring Committee (BPMC) - formerly Board Policy and Planning Committee & Diversity and Inclusion Ad Hoc Committee

- Environmental Creek Cleanup Committee (ECCC) - formerly Homeless Encampment Committee

- Water Supply and Demand Management (WSDM) - formerly Water Storage Exploratory Committee & Water Conservation & Demand Management Committee

<https://www.valleywater.org/your-water/water-supply-planning/monthly-water-tracker>

- Water Tracker

7. ADJOURN:

7.1. Adjourn. The Next Regular Meeting is Scheduled at 1:30 p.m., on October 6, 2025.



Santa Clara Valley Water District

File No.: 25-0388

Agenda Date: 7/7/2025
Item No.: 3.1.

COMMITTEE AGENDA MEMORANDUM Agricultural Water Advisory Committee

Government Code § 84308 Applies: Yes ☐ No ☒
(If "YES" Complete Attachment A - Gov. Code § 84308)

SUBJECT:

Approval of April 7, 2025 Agricultural Water Advisory Committee Minutes.

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the minutes.

SUMMARY:

A summary of Committee discussions, and details of all actions taken by the Committee, during all open and public Committee meetings, is transcribed and submitted for review and approval.

Upon Committee approval, minutes transcripts are finalized and entered into the District's historical records archives and serve as historical records of the Committee's meetings.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AND EQUITY IMPACT:

Approval of minutes is not subject to environmental justice analysis.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment 1: 04072025 AWAC Minutes

UNCLASSIFIED MANAGER:

Candice Kwok-Smith, 408-630-3193

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AGRICULTURAL WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING

DRAFT MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING SESSION
MONDAY, APRIL 7, 2025
1:30 PM

(Paragraph numbers coincide with agenda item numbers)

1. CALL TO ORDER:

A regular meeting of the Santa Clara Valley Water District (Valley Water) Agricultural Water Advisory Committee (AWAC) (Committee) was called to order in the Valley Water Headquarters Building Boardroom at 5700 Almaden Expressway, San Jose, California, and by Zoom teleconference, at 1:30 p.m.

1.1 Roll Call.

Committee members in attendance were District 1 Erin Gil, District 2 James Provenzano, District 5 Jan Garrod, District 5 and Vice Chairperson Trevor Garrod, and Loma Prieta Resource Conservative District and Chairperson presiding, Peter Van Dyke constituting a quorum of the Committee.

District 4 Brent Bonino and Sheila Barry arrived as noted below.

Committee members not in attendance in person were District 1 Mitchell Mariani and District 6 Tim Chiala.

Staff members in attendance were: Jennifer Abadilla, Chanie Abuye, Jason Araujo, Aaron Baker, Justin Burks, Vanessa De La Piedra, Vincent Gin, Joshua Golka, Andy Gschwind, Jason Gurdak, Marino Hernandez, Joel Jenkins, Cindy Kao, Bassam Kassab, Candice Kwok-Smith, Feliser Lee, Robert Long Jr., Ryan McCarter, Patrice McElroy, Nicole Merritt, Carmen Narayanan, Mario Rivas, Desiree Sausele, Ashley Shannon, Kirsten Struve, Nicholas Simard, Darin Taylor, and Gennifer Wehrmeyer.

Board Representatives in attendance were: Valley Water Vice Chairperson Richard P. Santos (District 3), Director Jim Beall (District 4), and Director John L. Varela (District 1).

Public in attendance were: Valley Water Director Rebecca Eisenberg (District 7), Mike Avina (Soluri Reserve, A Law Corp.), Eileen Besmer Shydowski (University of California, Agriculture and Natural Resources), and Katja Irvin (Sierra Club).

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

Chairperson Peter Van Dyke declared time open for public comment on any item not on the agenda. There was no one present who wished to speak.

Handout 2.1-A noted to be addressed by Valley Water Vice Chairperson Santos under Item 6.2 without official action.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

3.1. Approval of January 6, 2025, Agricultural Water Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes.

Recommendation: Approve the minutes.

The Committee considered the attached minutes of the January 6, 2025, Committee meeting.

Public Comments:
None.

It was moved by James Provenzano and seconded by Vice Chairperson Trevor Garrod and unanimously carried that the minutes be approved.

4. REGULAR AGENDA:

Chairperson Peter Van Dyke confirmed that Item 4.1. would be considered after Item 4.2.

Chairperson Peter Van Dyke moved the agenda to Item 4.2.

4.2. Receive Information and Provide Feedback on Valley Water's Water Supply Master Plan (WSMP) 2050.

Recommendation: Provide feedback on the development of WSMP 2050.

Brent Bonino arrived.

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

Sheila Barry arrived.

Kirsten Struve, and Vincent Gin were available to answer questions.

The Committee discussed the following topics: confirmed Plan Bay Area 2040's methodology is being used by Valley Water for water demand projections out to 2050 with the demand based on housing types; Plan Bay Area 2050 maximizes growth and was not used for the projections; noted WSMP 2050 has two bookends, one that keeps demand flat and one increasing with housing growth and climate change; noted Pacheco Reservoir Expansion project is looking for partners; confirmed Valley Water could utilize their share of water for the county directly or place in the Semitropic Water Storage District or other groundwater storage as needed from the Delta Conveyance Project investment per future Board approval for the construction phase; noted support for continued community outreach to increase awareness on the limitations of water conservation, availability of future water and water storage, and climate change, and noted Valley Water's investment in water conservation and the need to invest in water infrastructure.

Public Comments:
None.

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

Chairperson Peter Van Dyke returned the agenda to Item 4.1.

4.1. Review Proposed Fiscal Year (FY) 2025-2026 Groundwater Production Charges and Receive Committee Feedback.

Recommendation: Review proposed FY 2025-26 Groundwater Production Charges and receive Committee feedback.

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

Carmen Narayanan, Aaron Baker, and Darin Taylor were available to answer questions.

The Committee discussed the following topics: confirmed the Open Space Credit assists with keeping the agricultural rates lower through Valley Water's portion of the ad valorem property tax and noted the property taxes needed to cover the full cost of this service are reflected on Page 15 of Attachment 1; confirmed proposed 2025-2026 agricultural rate will be the same at \$43 per acre foot for all of the noted groundwater zones including North County; and noted support of the importance of ecosystem benefits, air quality, the open space credit, carbon sequestration and food production for the quality of life.

Public Comments:
None.

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

4.3. Receive an Update on Valley Water's South County Managed Aquifer Recharge Activities.

Recommendation: Receive an update on Valley Water's South County managed aquifer recharge activities.

Jason Gurdak reviewed the information on this item, per the attached Committee Agenda Memo, and per the information contained in Attachment 4.

Jason Gurdak, Kirsten Struve, Vincent Gin, Aaron Baker, and Valley Water Director Varela were available to answer questions.

The Committee discussed the following topics: confirmed the general availability for natural/local recharge and the imported or managed reservoir recharge countywide in 2024 was estimated as 40% imported and 60% local, North County was 45% imported and 55% local, and South County was 33% imported and 67% local; confirmed natural recharge is from local sources and managed recharge includes local reservoirs and imported water; noted generally a wetland is where water is discharging or coming to the land surface and the managed recharge is best where the water table is deep for groundwater storage; confirmed Valley Water staff review some environmental documents for development regarding water supply assessments and any effects on natural recharge and noted some housing development guidelines are state mandated; confirmed Valley Water staff manage aquifer recharge by conjunctive water management which allows for more water to be put back into the ground/reservoirs during the wet years to prepare for additional pumping in the dry years to keep groundwater storage consistent; noted support for Valley Water to seek a portion of the state development impact fees for groundwater recharge; confirmed Valley Water is required to follow state guidelines regarding Flood-Managed Aquifer Recharge (Flood-MAR) with large spaces for flooding and water rights as potential hurdles; noted Valley Water is working on a Flood-MAR pilot program; confirmed South County's Zone W-5 operational storage capacity is 150,000 acre feet; confirmed Church Avenue percolation ponds receive local water, require periodic repairs and a diversion structure and a fish screen are currently undergoing improvement; noted southern Coyote Valley may be promising for a new off-stream recharge pond(s) because the groundwater flows north.

Public Comments:
None.

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

- 4.4. Review 2025 Agricultural Water Advisory Committee (AWAC) Work Plan, the Outcomes of Board Action of Committee Requests, and the Committee's Next Meeting Agenda.

Recommendation: Review and approve the Committee work plan to guide the committee's discussions regarding policy alternatives and implications for Board deliberation.

The Committee considered this Item without a staff presentation.

Public Comments:
None.

Nicole Merritt was available to answer questions.

The Committee reviewed and noted the Work Plan and the upcoming July 7, 2025, 1:30 p.m. regular meeting without discussion 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.

Nicole Merritt confirmed the Committee reviewed and noted the proposed FY 2025-2026 Groundwater Production Charges and provided feedback of the importance of ecosystem benefits, air quality, the open space credit, carbon sequestration, and food production for the quality of life under Item 4.1; received, noted, and provided feedback on the WSMP 2050 and the importance of water conservation and the reclamation of water under Item 4.2; received, discussed, and noted the update on Valley Water's South County Managed Aquifer Recharge Activities under Item 4.3; and reviewed and noted the Work Plan under Item 4.4.

6. REPORTS:

6.1. Federal and State Affairs Report

Joshua Golka provided a verbal update and confirmed the state's insurance industry issues are a discussion topic with a focus on affordability for legislative representatives.

6.2. Director's Report

Valley Water Director Varela noted support for looking at the impacts on water rates, projects, and cost of doing business per the upcoming Valley Water Board budget review and the recent government funding changes and reductions, interest in including South County garlic and mushroom producers at AWAC meetings, and for AWAC Members to attend the San Luis Delta Mendota Water Authority and Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) Board meetings.

Valley Water Vice Chairperson Santos noted the importance of taking action and support for the AWAC members for their continued farming

contributions and to engage with legislative representatives.

Valley Water Board Vice Chairperson Santos acknowledged AWAC Member Robert Long's contributions and the receipt of the letter from Valerie Long identified as Handout 2.1- A and read it into the record.

Copies of the Handout were distributed to the Committee and made available to the public.

6.3. Manager's Report

Aaron Baker expressed support for the feedback from the AWAC members and for filling AWAC's vacancies.

Vincent Gin provided a verbal update on the increased imported water allocation by the state and federal government.

6.4. Committee Member Report

Jan Garrod expressed support for the Valley Water Board to keep in mind the stationary crop earnings despite increasing expenses throughout the years.

Sheila Barry noted a workshop on April 17, 2025, at Martial Cottle Park in San Jose with Valley Water regarding the benefits and drawbacks of ground squirrels.

Chairperson Peter Van Dyke noted a vacancy on the Loma Prieta Resource Conservation Board, confirmed working with Vincent Gin and Darin Taylor regarding the review of the Advisory Committee Resolution 17-75 to increase AWAC membership, noted Robert Long Jr.'s AWAC application and confirmed the status of the Sierra Nevada snowpack being at the 96%-98% average mark.

6.5. Information Links:

Links noted on agenda.

8. ADJOURN:

8.1. Adjourn in Memory of Robert Long. The Next Regular Meeting is Scheduled at 1:30 p.m. on July 7, 2025.

Chairperson Peter Van Dyke adjourned the meeting in memory of AWAC Member Robert Long at 3:11 p.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled to occur at 1:30 p.m. on July 7, 2025.

Date approved:

Nicole Merritt
Assistant Deputy Clerk II



Santa Clara Valley Water District

File No.: 25-0299

Agenda Date: 7/7/2025

Item No.: 4.1.

COMMITTEE AGENDA MEMORANDUM Agricultural Water Advisory Committee

Government Code § 84308 Applies: Yes ☐ No ☒
(If "YES" Complete Attachment A - Gov. Code § 84308)

SUBJECT:

Receive Update on The County of Santa Clara's Agricultural Outreach and Awareness Campaign - Agriculture's Impact on Water Conservation and Climate Change.

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive information on the County of Santa Clara's Agricultural Outreach and Awareness Campaign Focus Area 8, which includes agriculture's role in supporting water conservation and responding to climate change.

SUMMARY:

The County of Santa Clara and the Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority completed the Santa Clara Valley Agricultural Plan (Plan) in 2018. To support implementation, the County of Santa Clara and the University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE) hired Julie Morris as the Agricultural Liaison in 2020. Julie Morris will present on the implementation of the Plan's Focus Area 8: Branding Education and Awareness Strategy, and how the Plan discusses agriculture's role in supporting climate resilience. Attached are a memorandum and a presentation provided by Julie Morris.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AND EQUITY IMPACT:

The County's Agricultural Outreach and Awareness Campaign is not subject to Valley Water's environmental justice analysis. However, the outreach campaign contributes to environmental justice by promoting the value of local agriculture. The agricultural sector provides vital employment opportunities for the region's farmworkers, many of whom come from historically marginalized communities. This campaign supports the economic sustainability of these jobs while raising awareness about the skilled nature of agricultural work.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment 1: Agricultural Campaign Memorandum

Attachment 2: PowerPoint

UNCLASSIFIED MANAGER:

Lisa Bankosh, 408-630-2618

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COMMITTEE AGENDA MEMORANDUM
Agricultural Water Advisory Committee

Government Code § 84308 Applies: Yes ☐ No ☒
(If "YES" Complete Attachment A – Gov. Code § 84308)

SUBJECT:

Ag. Outreach and Awareness "Ag Campaign Letter; Ag. Plan Focus Area 8 Summary.

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive report on Santa Clara Valley Agricultural Plan, Focus Area 8: Agricultural Outreach and Awareness Campaign

SUMMARY:

The County of Santa Clara and the University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE) hired an Agricultural Liaison in 2020 to assist in implementing the Santa Clara Valley Agricultural Plan. Focus Area 8 of this plan emphasizes the need for a comprehensive branding, education, and awareness strategy to ensure that "the region's working lands are not only preserved, but understood, identifiable, and valued."

The proposed Santa Clara Valley Agricultural Outreach & Awareness Campaign is a 12-month comprehensive marketing and educational initiative designed to preserve and promote the region's agricultural heritage and working landscapes, which are often overshadowed by the area's dominant technology sector. This campaign directly addresses Focus Area 8's goal of creating "*a positive feedback loop between land use policy, conservation easements, and economic development strategies for a catalytic effect.*" We plan to include water conservation efforts as part of our messaging.

A key component of this campaign will be highlighting the critical role agriculture plays in water resource management and conservation in our drought-prone region. Despite being in Silicon Valley, Santa Clara County maintains valuable agricultural lands that provide essential ecosystem services, including capturing water, flood control, and water quality improvements to local streams. The campaign will educate the county's 1.9 million residents about how agriculture promotes these benefits, creating greater understanding and support for agricultural preservation. Although nitrate contamination continues to be a concern, there are other efforts underway – streambank plantings, for example – that create a filter effect on local streams and waterways.

UCCE has identified Waltz Creative, an experienced marketing firm with extensive agricultural campaign experience, to develop and implement this initiative. Their comprehensive proposal includes development of a distinctive regional brand identity, multi-channel promotional materials (billboards, radio, social media), educational initiatives on agriculture's economic and environmental benefits, and organization of a Farm-to-Table launch event to connect urban and rural communities. Santa Clara Valley

Water District will be credited on signage along Highway 101 and other campaign materials.

The proposed \$200,000 funding from partners would support four integrated components:

- 1) Regional brand identity development;
- 2) Multi-channel promotional materials creation;
- 3) Educational materials development highlighting water conservation benefits; and
- 4) Community engagement events connecting urban residents with agricultural practices. This investment would leverage existing partnerships with the Santa Clara Valley Water District to promote farmers as water conservation stewards.

This campaign aligns with Objective 11 of the Agricultural Plan to "develop and launch a Santa Clara Valley Agriculture Campaign" and Objective 12 to "build a local constituency that is informed about and supportive of regional agriculture." The campaign represents a strategic opportunity to create greater awareness and appreciation for agriculture's vital role in water resource management and conservation in Santa Clara County.

AGRICULTURE and CLIMATE RESILIENCE

The Santa Clara Valley Agricultural Plan also discusses agriculture's role in supporting climate resilience. Santa Clara Valley's agricultural lands serve as critical carbon sinks, with properly managed working landscapes sequestering carbon in soils and vegetation. Agricultural lands can also act as a buffer to climate change impacts -- such as flooding and wildfire - that disproportionately affect environmentally disadvantaged communities.

The educational components of this campaign will demonstrate how sustainable agricultural practices and responsible water management enhance soil health, reduce erosion, and improve biodiversity, all of which create natural resilience to extreme weather events. By raising awareness of the value of small, regenerative farms we hope to further support & increase sustainable land management practices and reduce the usage of harmful nitrates and pesticides that pollute our groundwater and waterways.

By connecting agricultural water conservation practices with community resilience, the campaign will illustrate how a thriving agriculture sector can support equitable access to clean water resources and natural green spaces that mitigate urban heat island effect.

Santa Clara County Agricultural Outreach & Awareness Campaign

*Valley Water Agricultural Advisory Committee
July 7, 2025*

*Presented by:
Julie Morris, Agricultural Liaison*



The Challenge: Agriculture Under Pressure in Silicon Valley

- **1.9 million residents** depend on regional water supply
- Agricultural lands face conversion pressure from development
- Public lacks awareness of **agriculture's water quality and conservation role**
- Need to bridge urban-rural understanding gap

Santa Clara Valley Agricultural Plan: Focus Area 8
*Educate the community about the value of
agriculture*

Project Overview: Multi-Faceted Outreach Campaign

Goal: Demonstrate the interconnected relationship between agriculture and water security in Silicon Valley

Key Focus Areas:

- Groundwater recharge through agricultural lands
- Flood protection services from farmland: *Critical for managing increased storm intensity from climate change*
- Water quality improvement via agricultural buffers
- Reducing nitrates through regenerative practices

Climate Resilience: These natural water management systems become increasingly valuable as climate change brings more variable precipitation patterns and extreme weather events to Santa Clara Valley.

Climate Action Through Agriculture: Santa Clara Valley Solutions

Carbon Sequestration:

- Agricultural soils can store significant amounts of atmospheric carbon
- Cover cropping and no-till practices enhance soil carbon storage
- Agroforestry systems provide additional carbon capture through trees

Greenhouse Gas Reduction:

- Local food production reduces transportation emissions
- Efficient irrigation systems minimize energy use
- Composting programs reduce methane from organic waste

Climate Adaptation:

- Drought-resistant crop varieties reduce water demand
- Diverse farming systems increase resilience to weather extremes
- Natural infrastructure provides flood and heat management

***Valley Impact:** Santa Clara Valley agriculture can sequester an estimated 50,000+ tons of CO₂ annually while providing essential ecosystem services that help communities adapt to climate change.*

Attachment 2: Page 4 of 10

Strategic Reach: Targeting 500,000+ Daily Commuters

Primary Audience:

- Highway 101 & 280 corridor travelers
- Santa Clara County's 1.9 million residents
- Families, professionals, environmental advocates

Strategic Approach:

- Billboard/signage placement in agricultural areas
- QR codes linking to Valley Water resources
- Visual connection between farmland and water benefits

Campaign Components: Comprehensive Multi-Channel Strategy

Physical Presence:

- Strategic highway corridor signage
- Farm Tours Trail development
- Farm-to-Table launch event

Digital Engagement:

- Social media campaigns featuring water-smart farms
- Interactive website with educational resources
- Radio advertising emphasizing water benefits

Community Outreach:

- School presentation programs
- Partnership with restaurants & institutions

Water Security Benefits:

How Agriculture Protects Our Water Supply

Groundwater Recharge:

- Agricultural irrigation enhances aquifer replenishment
- Soil acts as natural filtration system

Flood Protection:

- Farmland provides natural stormwater retention
- Reduces urban flood risk downstream

Water Quality Enhancement:

- Agricultural buffers filter runoff
- Prevents contamination of drinking water sources

Timeline: Putting the Ag Plan into Action

This project implements the Santa Clara Valley Agricultural Plan
(approved by Board of Supervisors, 2018)

Phase 1: Planning & Design (Months 1-3)

- Stakeholder workshops, brand development

Phase 2: Outreach & Community Participation (Months 4-6)

- Campaign launch, signage installation

Phase 3: Implementation (Months 7-18)

- Events, tours, educational programming

Phase 4: Evaluation & Closeout (Months 19-24)

- Performance analysis, recommendations

Alignment w/ Valley Water: Supporting Safe, Clean Water Goals

Safe, Clean Water for Healthy Life:

- Educate about agricultural water filtration benefits
- Promote sustainable water use practices

Safe, Clean Water for Healthy Environment:

- Highlight farmland's role in habitat preservation
- Demonstrate natural groundwater recharge systems

Safe, Clean Water for Healthy Economy:

- Showcase cost-effective natural infrastructure
- Quantify economic value of preserved farmland



Thank you!

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www.centralcoastfarms.org

Attachment 2:
Page 10 of 10



Santa Clara Valley Water District

File No.: 25-0564

Agenda Date: 7/7/2025

Item No.: 4.2.

COMMITTEE AGENDA MEMORANDUM Agricultural Water Advisory Committee

Government Code § 84308 Applies: Yes ☐ No ☒
(If "YES" Complete Attachment A - Gov. Code § 84308)

SUBJECT:

Receive Information and Provide Feedback on Valley Water's Draft Water Supply Master Plan 2050.

RECOMMENDATION:

Provide feedback on the draft Water Supply Master Plan 2050.

SUMMARY:

The Water Supply Master Plan (WSMP) is Santa Clara Valley Water District's (Valley Water) guiding document for long-term water supply investments to ensure water supply reliability for Santa Clara County. Updated approximately every five years, this long-range plan assesses projected future county-wide demands and evaluates and recommends water supply and infrastructure projects to meet those demands to achieve Valley Water's level of service goal through the planning horizon. Valley Water's level of service goal, as established in Board Ends Policy E2, is to "Meet 100 percent of annual water demand during non-drought years and at least 80 percent of demand in drought years."

Valley Water has developed the WSMP 2050 to evaluate and respond to changing conditions such as severe drought, reductions in imported water supplies, shifting water demands, and concerns about affordability. The WSMP 2050 addresses both existing and emerging challenges and identify strategies to maintain the reliable water supply system for Santa Clara County through 2050. The WSMP 2050 planning effort spanned two years with four updates to this committee. The resulting draft WSMP 2050 is attached (Attachment 1). This memorandum summarizes the key aspects of the draft WSMP 2050 and recommendations.

Planning Goal

Valley Water's mission is to provide a safe and reliable water supply now and in the future. To that end and consistent with Board Ends Policies, the planning goals of the WSMP 2050 are to:

- Ensure reliability and sustainability of the existing water supply system
- Diversify water supplies to meet the Level of Service goal
- Minimize the risk of shortage and disruption

- Maintain affordable water rates through cost-effective water supply investments and management

Planning Approach

The WSMP 2050 analyzes four alternative futures based on the combination of demand projections and forecasted imported water supplies. This approach is intended to account for uncertainty in forecasted future demand and supply and provide an adaptive framework for decision-making.

- A. Stable Demand and Moderately Impacted Imports
- B. Stable Demand and Severely Impacted Imports
- C. High Demand and Moderately Impacted Imports
- D. High Demand and Severely Impacted Imports

The stable demand assumes demands stay flat at 2030 levels through 2050 at 330,000 acre-feet per year (AFY), while the high demand is projected to be 350,000 AFY by 2050. Demand projections assume Valley Water achieves its long-term conservation goals. Agricultural demand in Santa Clara County has been generally consistent over the last twenty years at approximately 25,000 AFY and is assumed to stay at this level over the planning horizon. The imported water baseline supply scenarios were selected from the Department of Water Resources (DWR) modeling. The moderately impacted imports scenario represents imported water deliveries with small impact from climate change, while the severely impacted imports scenario represents significantly impacted deliveries, particularly during droughts.

Need for Investment

Under each of the four future conditions, water supply needs under the baseline condition were assessed using modeling analysis, to serve as a basis for identifying projects and programs for potential investment. The baseline condition assumes completion of local dam seismic retrofits by 2035, achieving long-term water conservation goals, maintaining Valley Water assets, and expanding recycled water use.

Valley Water's current system and sources of water supply can meet demands during wet and normal years, but **extended droughts remain the biggest water supply challenge**. Under all four potential 2050 futures, Valley Water will experience water shortages if relying only on existing supplies and infrastructure during multi-year droughts. The shortages may start as early as 2030. In 2050, the average shortage over a six-year drought could be as much as 70,000 AFY, depending on the projected demand and imported water supply conditions. These shortages are large and without additional investments, it means Valley Water will have a reduced service level, and therefore less water available to the community. A reduced level of service could have an immediate and real impact on residents and businesses, billions of dollars in economic losses, and could adversely and chronically affect economic development in the county. Valley Water needs to invest in new projects to address those shortages to ensure long-term water supply reliability for the county.

Water Conservation and Reuse Goals

As part of this plan development, Valley Water developed water conservation and reuse goals to address future shortages. The established water conservation goal for 2050 is 126,000 AFY, which is

considered ambitious but implementable and balances benefits with affordability concerns.

The goal for water reuse is to develop 24,000 AFY of potable reuse by 2035, with a long-term vision to maximize water reuse in the county up to 32,000 AFY by 2050. The inclusion of a 2035 goal with the long-term vision promotes a phased approach that accounts for uncertainty with future demand and wastewater availability while balancing affordability and risk of overinvestment.

Water Supply Strategy

Valley Water considers and evaluates a broad range of projects in the WSMP 2050 to address future water supply needs, including alternative supply projects, local and imported surface supply projects, storage projects, and recharge projects. The projects were evaluated using a number of criteria, including supply benefit, cost, reliability, likelihood of success, environmental impacts, jurisdiction and partnership, and public acceptance.

The water supply strategies were developed through portfolio analysis and evaluation. To help outline investment options and present tradeoffs, three potential investment strategies were developed - **lower cost, local control, and diversified**, and one representative portfolio for each strategy was selected and summarized in Table 1, along with the total lifecycle cost in 2025 dollars and expected supply or storage benefits.

Table 1 Multiple Strategies for Water Supply Reliability

STRATEGY	PROJECTS	COST (BILLION)	ADDED BENEFITS
LOWER COST	San José Direct Potable Reuse	\$4.6	38,000 AFY supply
	Delta Conveyance Project		314,000 AF storage
	B.F Sisk Dam Raise		Additional system flexibility
	Groundwater Banking (250,000 AF)		
	South County Recharge		
LOCAL CONTROL	San José Direct Potable Reuse	\$6.7	32,000 AFY of supply
	Palo Alto Potable Reuse		290,000 AF storage
	Pacheco without Partners		Additional system flexibility
	Groundwater Banking (150,000 AF)		
	South County Recharge		
DIVERSIFIED	San José Direct Potable Reuse	\$5.9	38,000 AFY supply
	Delta Conveyance Project		505,000 AF storage
	B.F Sisk Dam Raise		Additional system flexibility
	Pacheco with Partners		
	Groundwater Banking (350,000 AF)		
	South County Recharge		

Each strategy represents a pathway to future water supply reliability, but with tradeoffs:

- **Lower Cost** - Focuses on affordability and minimizing costs, with a mix of supply and storage projects. However, it has high risks, as all major projects require partnership and institutional

agreements to be successful.

- **Local Control** - Focuses on the projects in the County that Valley Water exercises more control. However, it has the highest cost, as it includes the three most expensive projects being considered (two potable reuse projects and Pacheco).
- **Diversified** - Focuses on diversifying the existing system with a diverse set of projects. However, it has a relatively high cost and more institutional complexity since it includes more projects. This strategy can also meet the high demand for the worst-case future condition.

The three strategies serve as the basis for developing an adaptive management framework. Each strategy includes South County Recharge to help improve water supply reliability for urban and agricultural users in South County.

Adaptive Management

Since there are different strategies to achieve future water supply reliability and given uncertainty in project development and future supply and demand conditions, an adaptive management approach was developed to provide the Board with flexibility and the ability to make incremental investment decisions. The adaptive framework includes a roadmap and annual reporting. The roadmap outlines near- and mid-term actions and defines indicators and conditions to guide project decisions. The annual reporting tracks project progress and provides up-to-date information to help inform decision-making.

The roadmap includes recommended actions at different timelines, especially immediate actions as the starting point of the adaptive management framework:

- **Now** - focus on the **Lower Cost** strategy, which includes San Jose Potable Reuse, B.F. Sisk Dam Raise, Delta Conveyance Project, Groundwater Banking, and South County Recharge; Continue planning for Pacheco and Sites; Continue the Desalination feasibility study; Continue implementing conservation programs.
- **Near-term (2-3 years)** - Assess success/progress on project planning and implementation; Make project funding, participation, or go/no-go decisions based on indicators, new information, and actual conditions; Continue planning for other projects.
- **Mid-term (5 years)** - Assess progress on project implementation; Update demand projections and water supply outlook; Update WSMP

Annual reporting through the Monitoring and Assessment Program (MAP) will be a critical component of the adaptive management framework. A standard MAP report will be devised to track key elements of the WSMP, including progress on projects, conditions of indicators, and whether any adjustments are recommended. The timing of the MAP will be aligned with the annual Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Five-Year Plan and water rate-setting cycle to support related decision-making.

Next Steps

Staff will address comments, finalize the plan, and bring the final plan for Board adoption in the Fall.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AND EQUITY IMPACT:

The Water Supply Master Plan addresses water supply equity by ensuring a cost-effective, high-quality supply is available for all of Santa Clara County, including disadvantaged communities.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment 1: Draft WSMP 2050

Attachment 2: PowerPoint

UNCLASSIFIED MANAGER:

Kirsten Struve, 408-630-3138

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Please go to following link
to review the full document:

<https://www.valleywater.org/your-water/water-supply-planning/water-supply-master-plan>



Valley Water

DRAFT

Water Supply Master Plan 2050

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Water Supply Master Plan 2050

Agricultural Water Advisory Committee, July 07, 2025

37

Water Supply Needs and Challenges

2

Multi-year droughts

Climate change impact

Aging infrastructure

Affordability



Needs and Purpose of WSMP

- Guiding document for long-term water supply investments
- Address existing and emerging challenges and identify strategies to maintain the reliable water supply system
- Adapt to changing conditions

Planning Goals to Achieve Level of Service 4

Meet 100% of annual water demand during non-drought years and at least 80% of demand in drought years – **Board Policy E.2-2.1**



System reliability



Reduced shortage risk



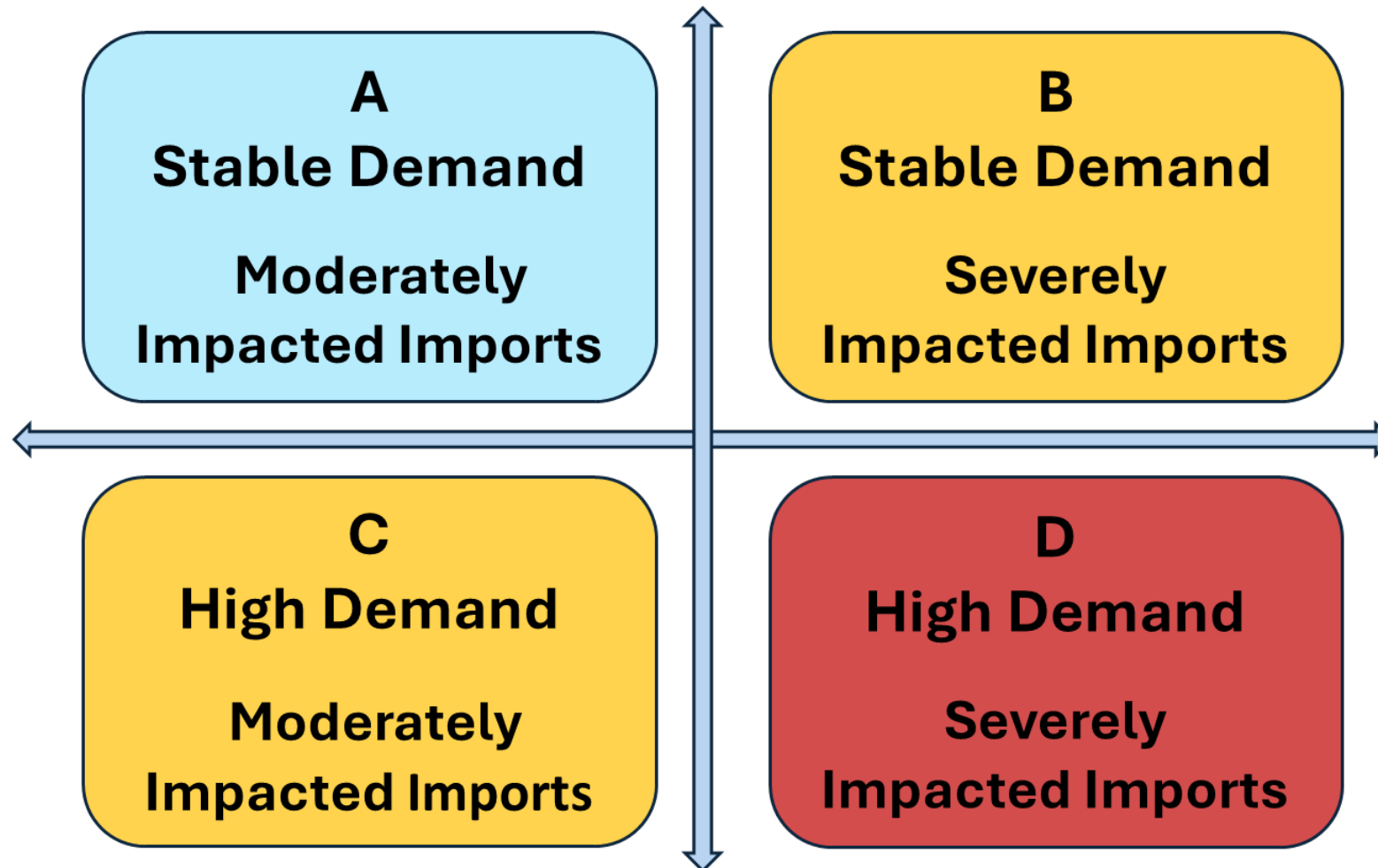
Supply diversification



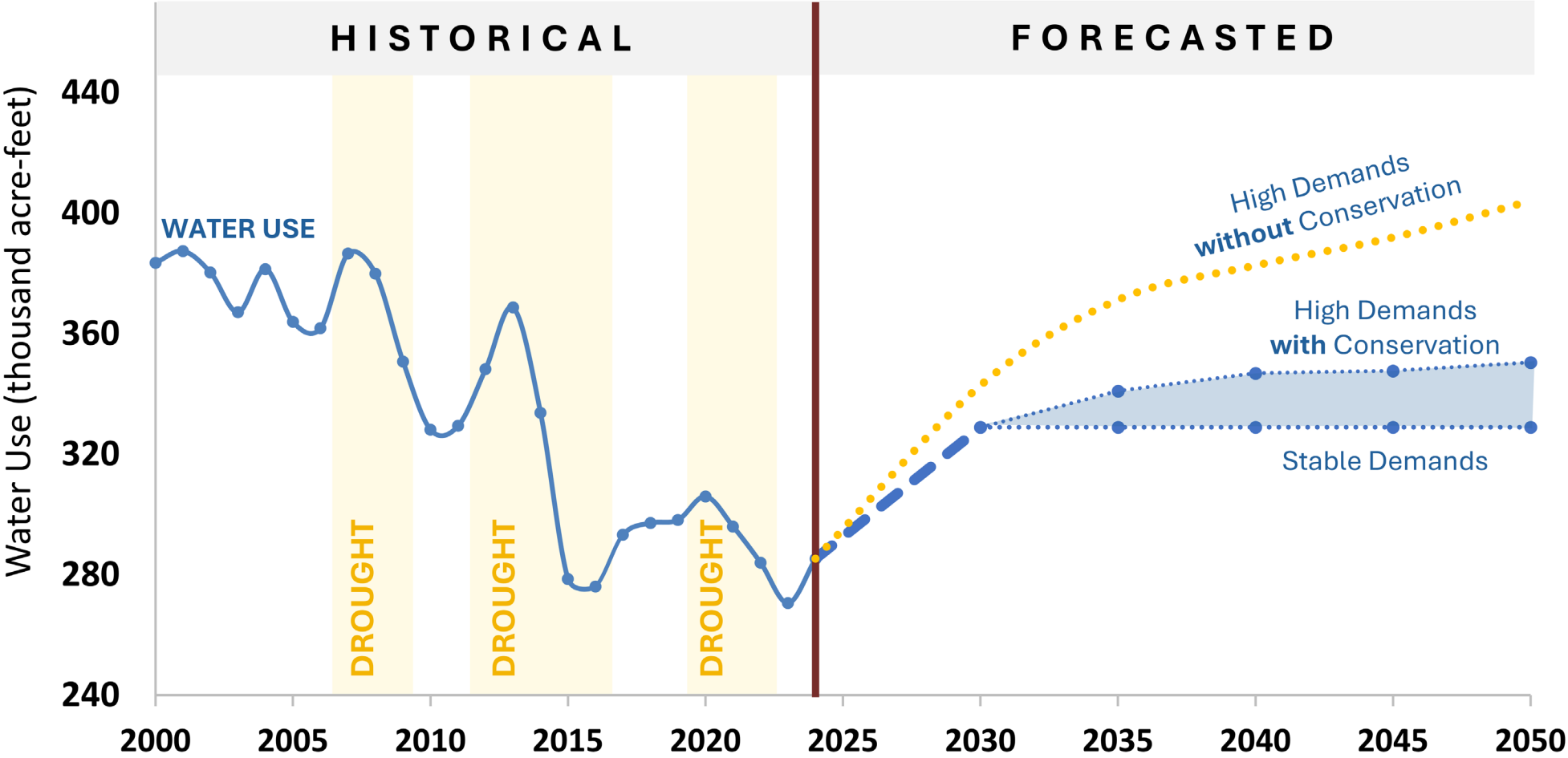
Affordable rates

Planning for Multiple Future Conditions

5



Historical and Forecasted Demand



Demand modeling integrates historic water use trends, housing and economic growth, climate change, and post-drought water use rebound. **42**

Imported Water Supply

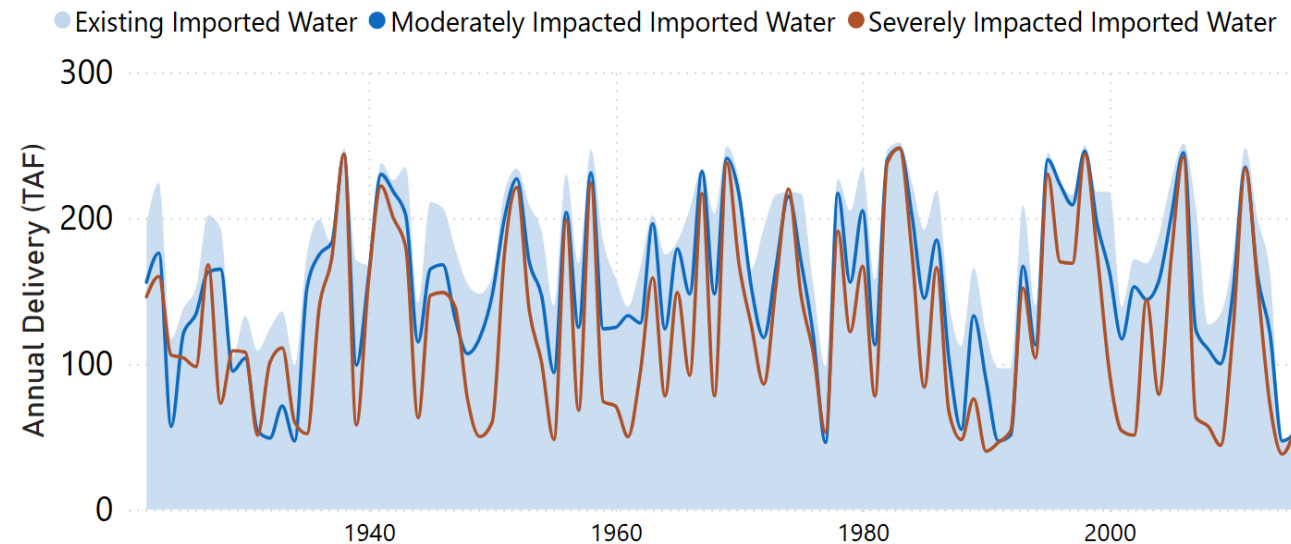
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Two imported water scenarios

- Moderately impacted imports
- Severely impacted imports

Climate change considered

Future Projected SWP and CVP Imported Water



Baseline Assessment - Assumptions

8

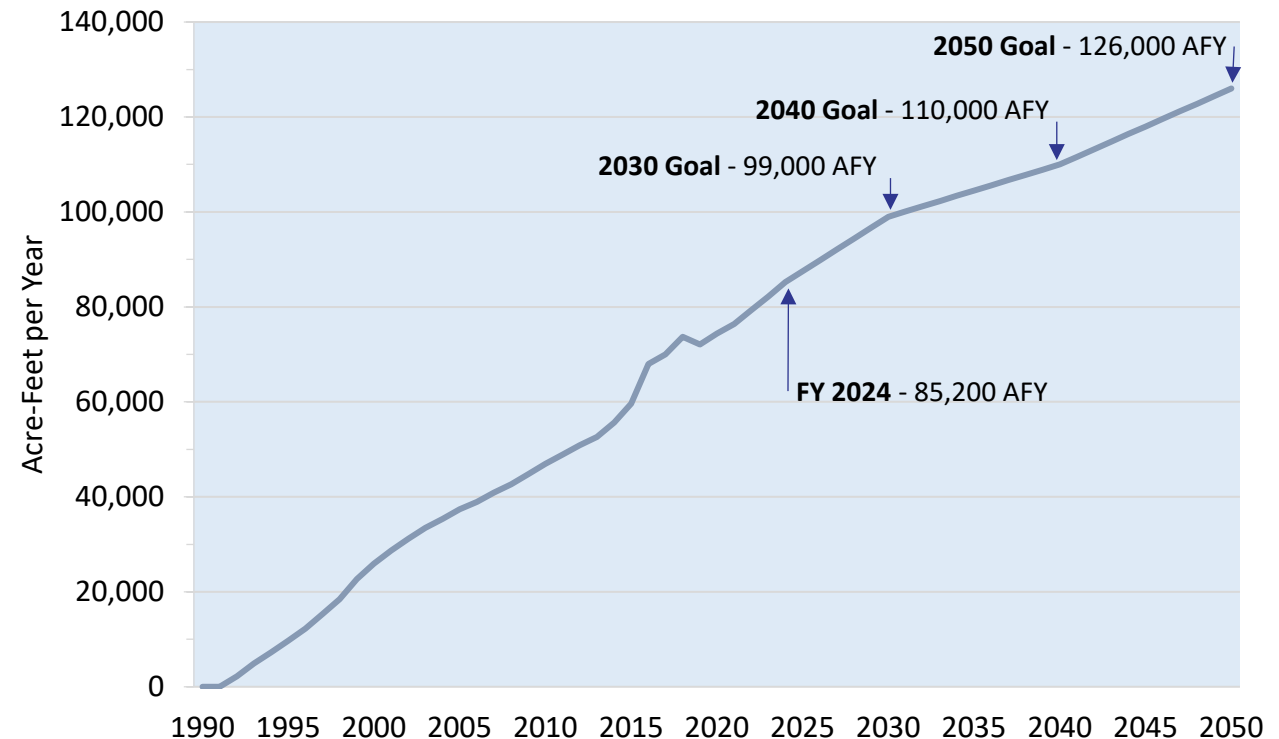
Achieve long-term conservation goals

Complete dam seismic retrofits by 2035

Maintain Valley Water assets

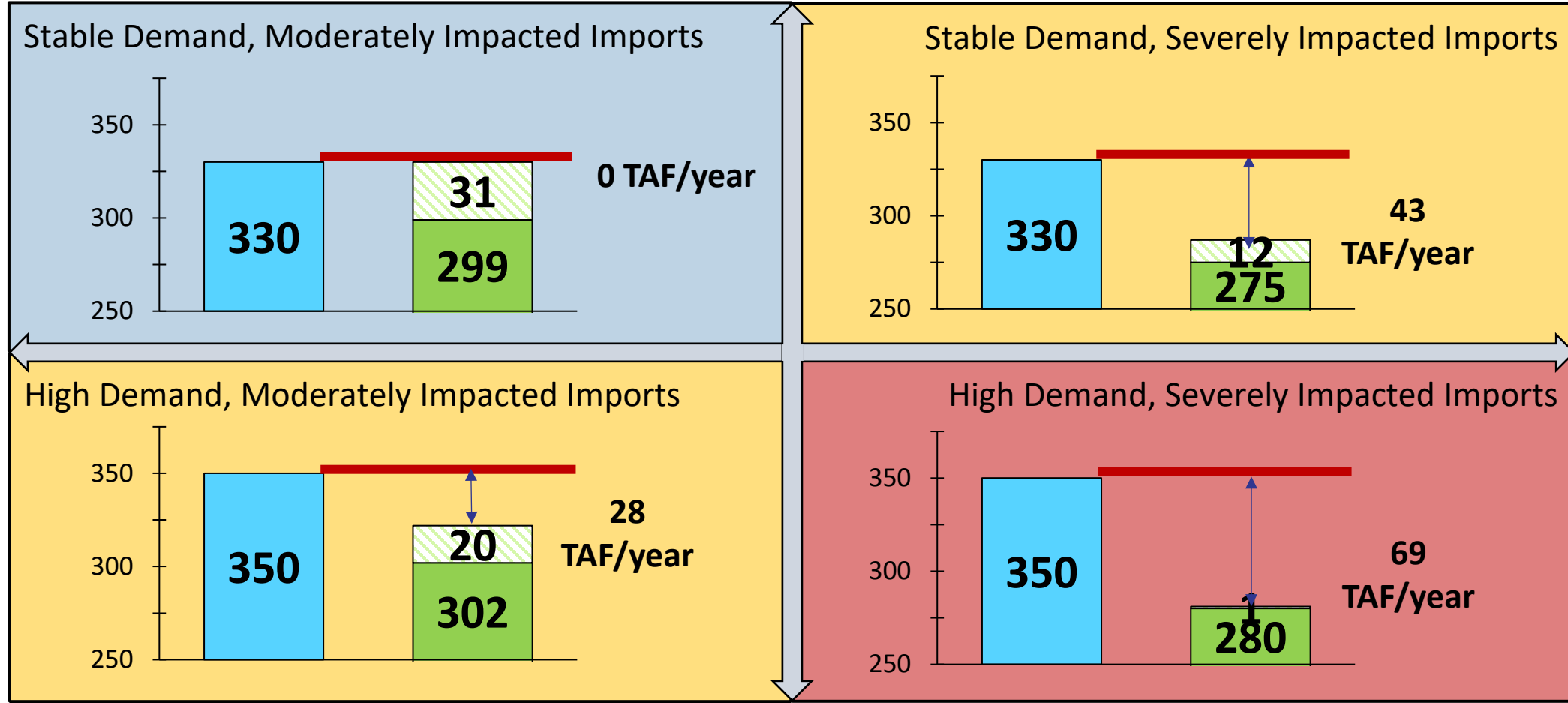
Recycled water use

Water Conservation Savings Progress



Baseline Assessment – Drought in 2050

9



■ Demand

■ Supply

■ Semitropic

45

Needs for Investment

10

- Potential impacts of lower level of service
 - Quality of life
 - Economic impact
 - Irrigation for parks and trees
 - Agricultural production
 - Subsidence
- Billions in economic losses



Project Options Grouped by Primary Benefits

Alternative Supply

Palo Alto Potable Reuse
San José Direct Potable Reuse
Refinery Recycled Water Exchange
Local Seawater Desalination

Surface Supply

Delta Conveyance Project
Sites Reservoir

Storage

Pacheco Reservoir Expansion
Groundwater Banking
B.F. Sisk Dam Raise

Recharge

Coyote Valley Recharge Pond
Butterfield Channel Managed Aquifer Recharge
Madrone Channel Expansion
San Pedro Ponds Improvement Project

Cost of Major Supply Projects

All costs are in 2025 dollars

Project	Average Annual Supply (AF)	Capital Cost (Million)	Annual O&M (Million)	Present Value (PV) Lifecycle Cost* (Million)	Lifecycle Cost PV/Yield PV (\$/AF)	Annualized Unit Cost (\$/AF)
Palo Alto Potable Reuse	8,000	\$800	\$13.2	\$1,740	\$11,620	\$10,300
San José Direct Potable Reuse	24,000	\$2,190	\$31.1	\$2,980	\$7,120	\$5,880
Local Seawater Desalination	24,000	\$2,190	\$31.1	\$2,980	\$7,120	\$5,880
Refinery Recycled Water Exchange	8,000	\$260	\$9.5	\$470	\$2,900	\$2,760
Delta Conveyance Project	14,000	\$670	\$1.8	\$780	\$2,800	\$1,950
Sites Reservoir	5,000	\$150	\$0.7	\$140	\$1,280	\$1,090



Lifecycle of 50 years for DCP and Sites, and 30 years for all other projects

Cost of Storage Projects

13

All costs are in 2025 dollars

Project	Storage (AF)	Capital Cost (Million)	Annual O&M (Million)	PV Lifecycle Cost (Million)	Lifecycle Cost PV/Storage Capacity (\$/AF)
B.F. Sisk Dam Raise	60,000	\$450	\$1.9	\$540	\$8,960
Pacheco Reservoir Expansion	140,000	\$2,208	\$2.6	\$1,820	\$12,970
Groundwater Banking	350,000	\$290	\$2.9	\$380	\$1,100

Lifecycle of 50 years for storage projects

Conservation and Potable Reuse Goals

14



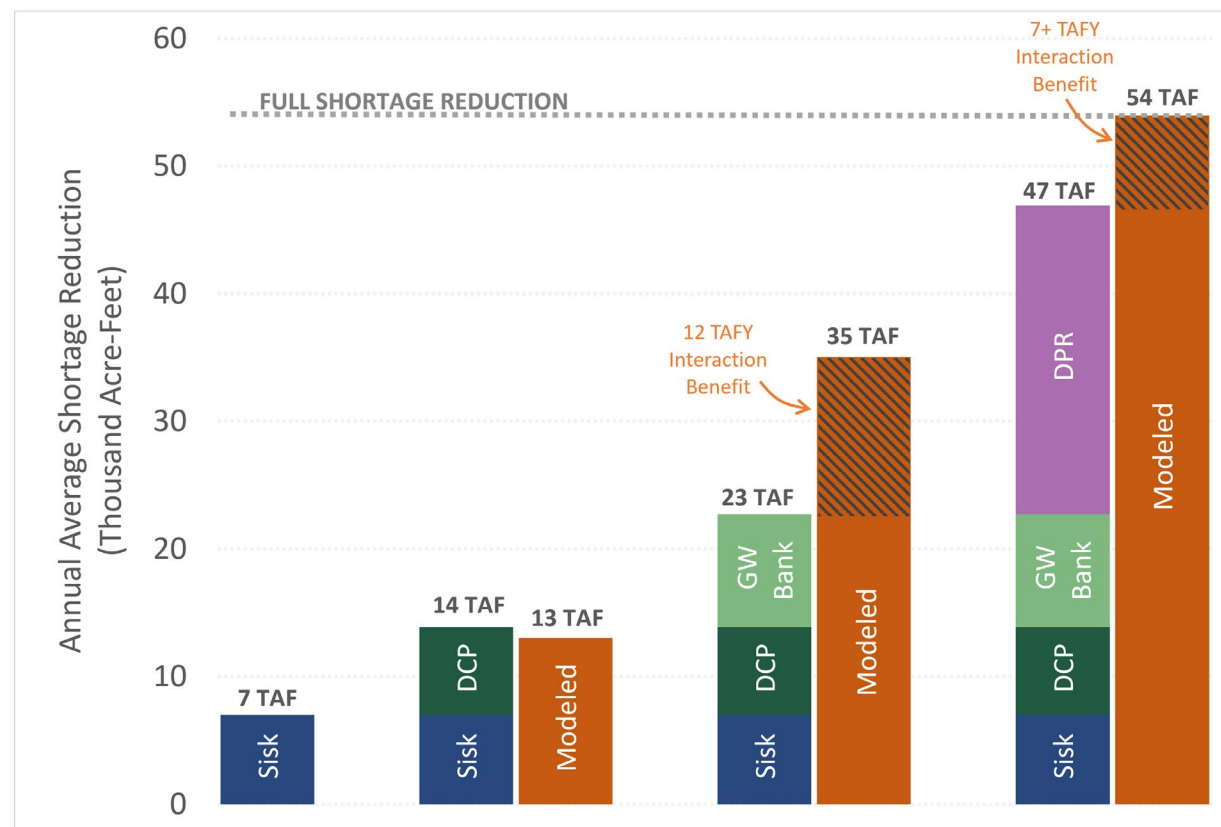
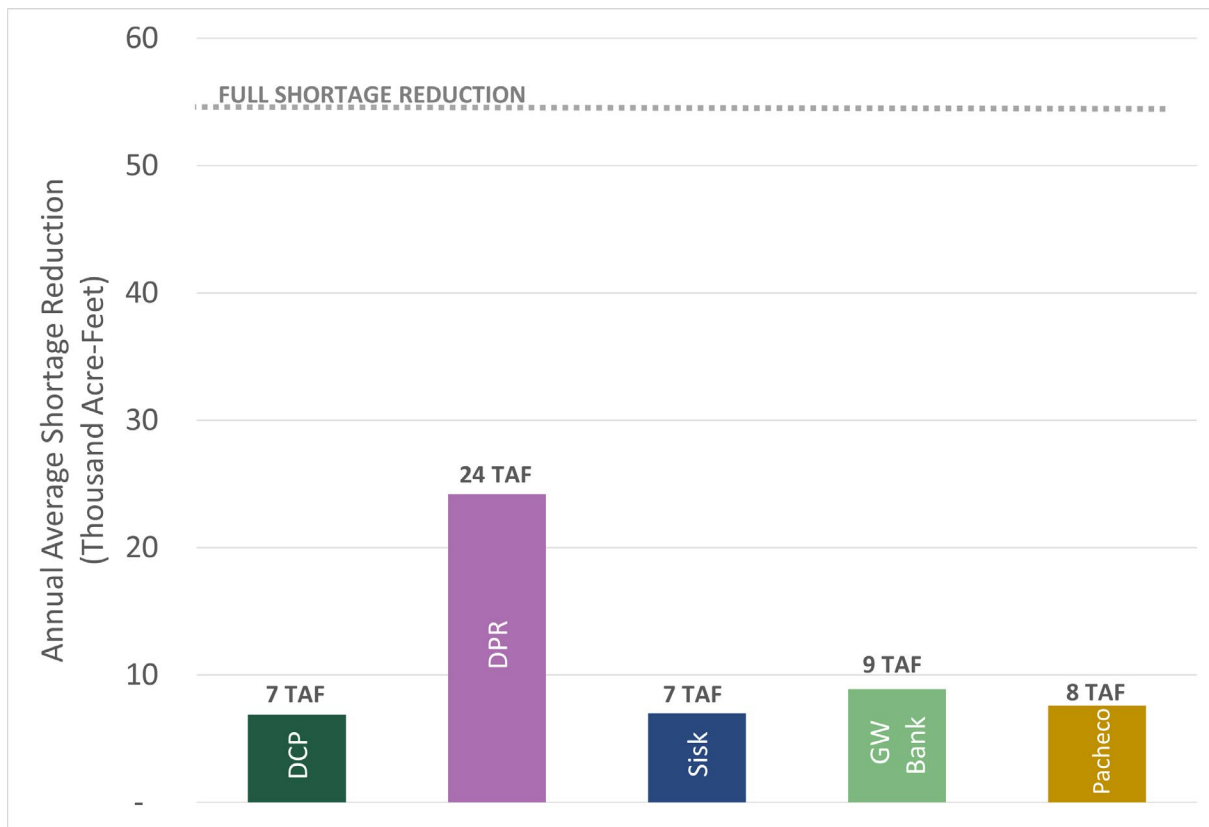
- Water conservation goal
 - 126,000 AFY by 2050



- Potable reuse goal
 - 24,000 AFY by 2035
 - Long-term vision to maximize water reuse up to 32,000 AFY by 2050

Portfolio Analysis

15

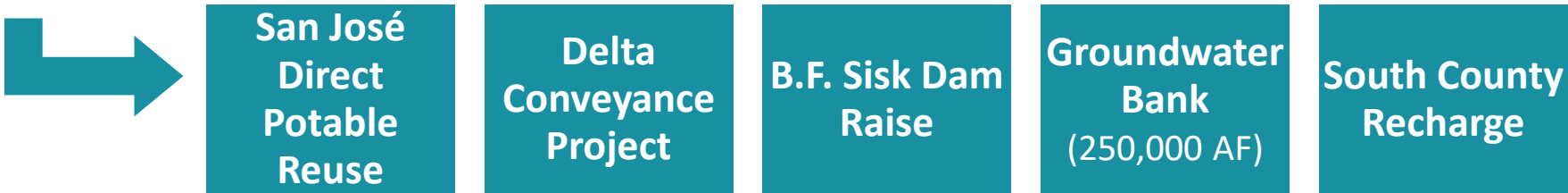


- Average annual shortage reduction during a six-year drought in 2050, stable demand and severely impacted imports
- Lower cost strategy
- Pacheco is shown with partners

Strategies for Water Supply Reliability

16

Lower Cost (\$4.6 Billion)



Local Control (\$6.7 Billion)



Diversified (\$5.9 Billion)



Adaptive Management

- Planning under deep uncertainty
 - Projects still evolving
 - Uncertainty with forecasted future supply and demand
- Adaptive management framework to provide flexibility for making incremental investment decisions
- Roadmap and annual reporting

Adaptive Management Roadmap

NOW

- Focus on Lower Cost Portfolio
- Continue planning for other projects (Pacheco, Sites)
- Start Desal feasibility study
- Continue implementing conservation programs

NEAR-TERM (2-3 YEARS)

- Assess progress on project planning and implementation
- Make project decisions based on triggers, new information, and actual conditions
- Continue planning for other projects

MID-TERM (5 YEARS)

- Assess progress on project implementation
- Update demand projections and water supply outlook
- Update WSMP

Annual MAP report

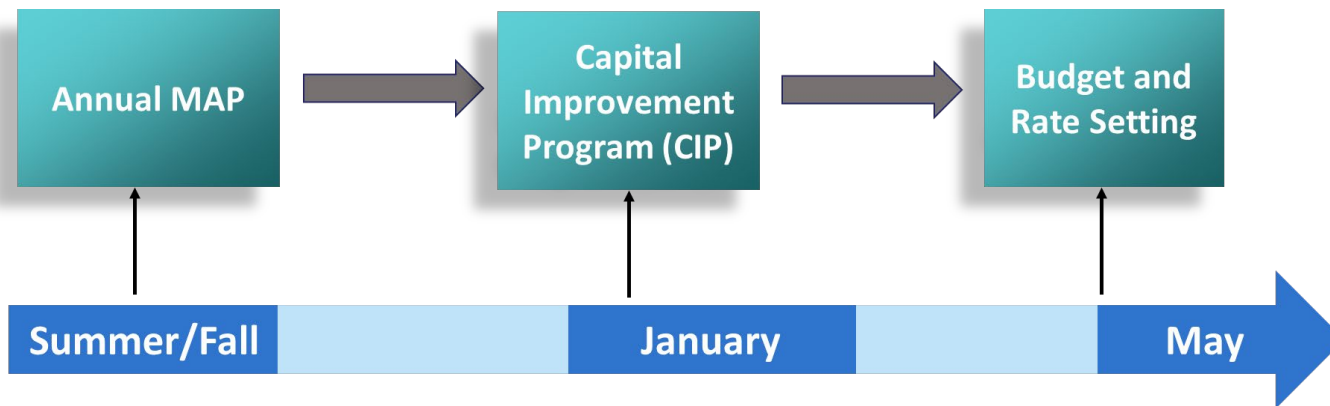
INDICATORS



Sisk negotiation
DPR project progress
Project decisions

Annual Reporting for Adaptive Process

- Track project progress
- Report conditions of indicators
- Recommend actions as needed



- **Indicators**

- Sisk negotiation
- DPR project progress
- Upcoming project decisions
- Groundwater Bank negotiation
- Regulatory and permitting issues
- Annual supply
- Annual water use
- Conservation progress
- Growth trend/demand
- Regional agreements and decisions by other agencies

Plan Organization

Executive Summary

- 1 – Introduction
- 2 – Water Supply System
- 3 – Water Supply Challenges
- 4 – Water Supply Needs Assessment
- 5 – Project Options
- 6 – Water Supply Strategies
- 7 – Adaptive Management
- 8 – Stakeholder Outreach

LIST OF APPENDICES

- A - Potable Reuse Goal
- B - 2050 Conservation Goal
- C - Demand Model Development
- D - Water Supply Modeling
- E - Water Shortage Impacts
- F - Cost Analysis Method and Assumptions
- G - Additional Portfolios

Next Steps

- Stakeholder outreach
- Plan finalization
- Plan adoption in the Fall

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Santa Clara Valley Water District

File No.: 25-0414

Agenda Date: 7/7/2025

Item No.: 4.3.

COMMITTEE AGENDA MEMORANDUM Agricultural Water Advisory Committee

Government Code § 84308 Applies: Yes ☐ No ☒
(If "YES" Complete Attachment A - Gov. Code § 84308)

SUBJECT:

Receive Update and Provide Feedback on West Valley and Lower Peninsula Watershed Master Plans.

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive an update on the West Valley and Lower Peninsula Watershed Master Plans and provide feedback as necessary.

SUMMARY:

Valley Water is developing Watershed Master Plans for the West Valley and Lower Peninsula watersheds. The Watershed Master Plans are Santa Clara Valley Water District's (Valley Water's) public planning process to identify watershed management needs in each of Santa Clara County's five watersheds and identify actions that Valley Water and others may take to address them. These plans draw from and align with existing plans and policies, but also seek new opportunities to reflect community values, improve watershed health, and integrate environmental stewardship into everything Valley Water does. This memo will provide an overview of the process that is being used to prepare these plans and an update on their status.

Background

Valley Water's Watershed Master Planning, previously referred to as One Water, consists of: 1) a countywide framework to develop the vision, goals, and objectives used across all watersheds, and 2) Watershed Master Plans specific to each of the five watersheds located within Santa Clara County. In March 2022, the Board of Directors adopted the One Water Countywide Framework and Coyote Watershed Plan. In April 2024, the Board of Directors adopted the Guadalupe Watershed Plan and the Upper Pajaro Watershed Plan. Valley Water is now developing the final two plans.

Planning is based on five measurable objectives addressing water supply, water quality, flood risk, natural ecosystems, and climate change. A set of metrics and specific targets are identified for each objective. Then, actions that aid in meeting those targets are identified (Priority Actions). For water supply and climate change objectives, the Watershed Master Plans incorporate information from the Water Supply Master Plan, Climate Change Action Plan, Asset Management Plans, and other

relevant planning documents to identify Priority Actions. For water quality, flood risk, and natural ecosystems objectives, Priority Actions are identified through an analysis of existing watershed conditions, gap identification using metric and target data, external stakeholder outreach, and expert staff review.

The planning process builds stakeholder and regulatory support for Valley Water's watershed management through an extensive public engagement process. Draft Watershed Master Plans, including Priority Actions, are vetted through an executive steering committee and then presented to the Agricultural Water Advisory Committee and other relevant Board Committees and Advisory Committees before each Watershed Master Plan is considered by the full Board for adoption.

Status

Staff has begun development of the West Valley and Lower Peninsula Watershed Plans. Work is underway on the existing conditions report, flood vulnerability assessment, and metrics development for each watershed. The existing conditions reports thoroughly analyze and synthesize past and present conditions at a watershed scale. Then using the conditions analysis, they identify challenges and opportunities for watershed management. The West Valley and Lower Peninsula Watersheds are likely to present unique challenges and opportunities in that the lower watersheds are highly urbanized and channelized systems.

The flood vulnerability assessments utilize a procedure that was developed as a part of the Guadalupe and Upper Pajaro Watershed Master Plans. The procedure incorporates hydraulic modeling and spatial data of physical hazards, statistical hazards, and social vulnerabilities to assess flood vulnerability in the watershed. Physical hazards include flood extent for the 25-year (4%) return interval storm, as well as locations where water is deep or fast-moving. Statistical hazards include locations of recurring floods identified by the Field Information Team (FIT) program. Social vulnerability includes the location of underserved communities and critical facilities. A spatial overlay of these data creates a map that identifies the extent and severity of vulnerability to flooding and allows staff to identify and prioritize potential projects that can help mitigate it. Initial flood modeling on the West Valley and Lower Peninsula Watersheds is nearly complete.

In March 2025, Valley Water started the public engagement process. Valley Water presented an introduction to the plans and accepted early feedback on March 4 to our community network, a diverse group of stakeholders throughout the watersheds, and on March 5 to the Los Altos Chamber of Commerce. The community network is made up of 12 main cohorts that represent diverse interest areas such as environmental justice, conservation, stewardship, agriculture, recreation, and more. At the March 4 meeting, there were 63 attendees outside of Valley Water staff, including representatives from cities, community groups, regulatory agencies, environmental nonprofits, and academic institutes. On April 21, 2025, Valley Water presented an overview of the process for preparing these plans and a progress update on their development to the Environmental and Water Resources Committee (EWRC).

Questions from the engagement kick-off meetings have focused on the scope and inclusion of factors such as stream health, recreation, sea level rise, and water quality. There were also questions related to plan development process and public engagement opportunities. Early feedback indicated there was a general interest on improving ecological health of the urbanized channels and on reducing

flood risk. Valley Water will continue to involve the community network and Valley Water's committees throughout the development of the plans.

Next Steps

Valley Water expects to complete the draft Existing Conditions Report and collect preliminary data to address metrics by November 2025. It is anticipated that this item will return to the Agricultural Water Advisory Committee by early 2026 to receive input on metric and target data for the West Valley and Lower Peninsula Watershed Plans.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AND EQUITY IMPACT:

The Watershed Master Planning process directly addresses equity and environmental justice by providing for targeted outreach to environmental justice communities, returning decision-making power to the historically underrepresented. The Framework also incorporates a protocol for flood protection planning to address the health and safety of the most vulnerable, prioritizing actions that reduce flood risk in disadvantaged communities, and reporting progress through an environmental justice metric. Finally, the planning process is objective and data-driven, ensuring transparency and equity.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment 1: Existing Conditions Report Outline

Attachment 2: PowerPoint

UNCLASSIFIED MANAGER:

Lisa Bankosh, 408-630-2618

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WEST VALLEY AND LOWER PENINSULA WATERSHED SETTING REPORTS

Report Outline - **DRAFT**

Prepared for
Santa Clara Valley Water District

January 2025



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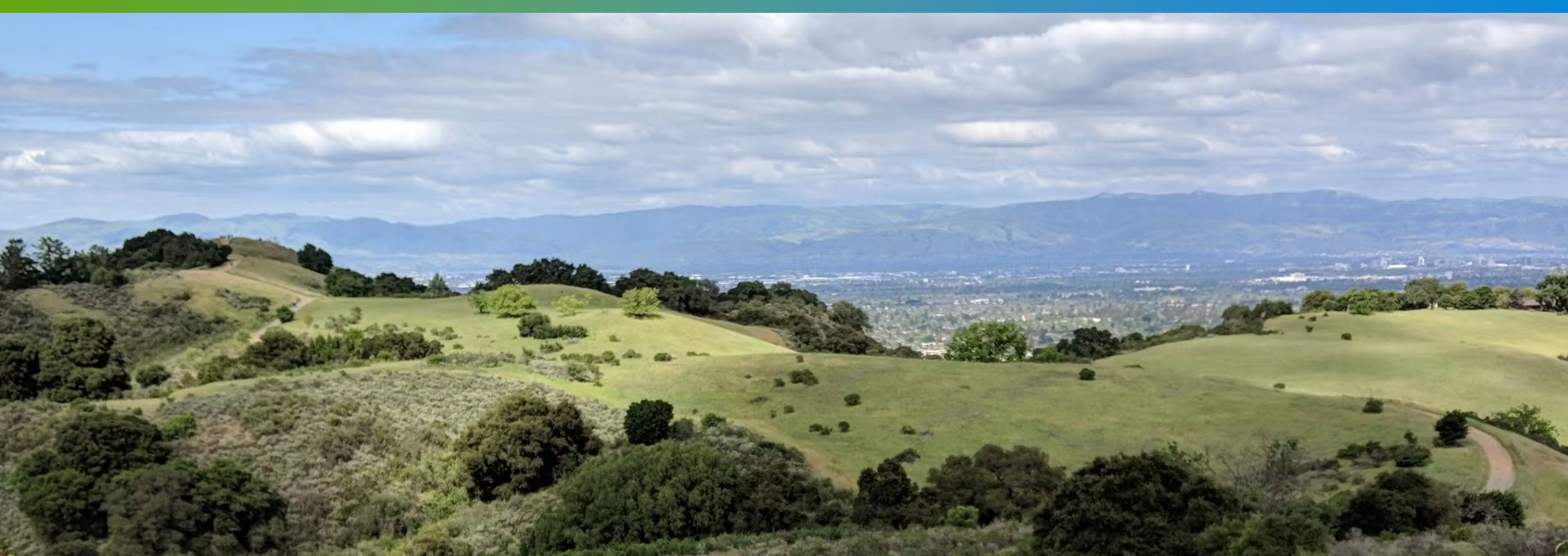
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Appendices

Appendix A. [Title]	Error! Bookmark not defined.
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Lower Peninsula and West Valley Watershed Master Plans

Presented by: **Heidi Williams**, Water Resources Planning and Policy Unit
Agricultural Water Advisory Committee, July 7, 2025

Agenda

- Receive an overview of Watershed Master Planning
- Receive an update on the status of West Valley and Lower Peninsula Watershed Plans
- Discuss Next Steps



What is Watershed Master Planning?

Water Supply



Natural Ecosystems



Water Quality



Climate Change



Flood Risk Reduction



Why it Matters

Vision: Managing Santa Clara County water resources holistically and sustainably to benefit people and the environment in a way that is informed by community values

Guiding doc for watershed management

Reflection of community values

Path for multi-benefit solutions

Springboard for project partnerships

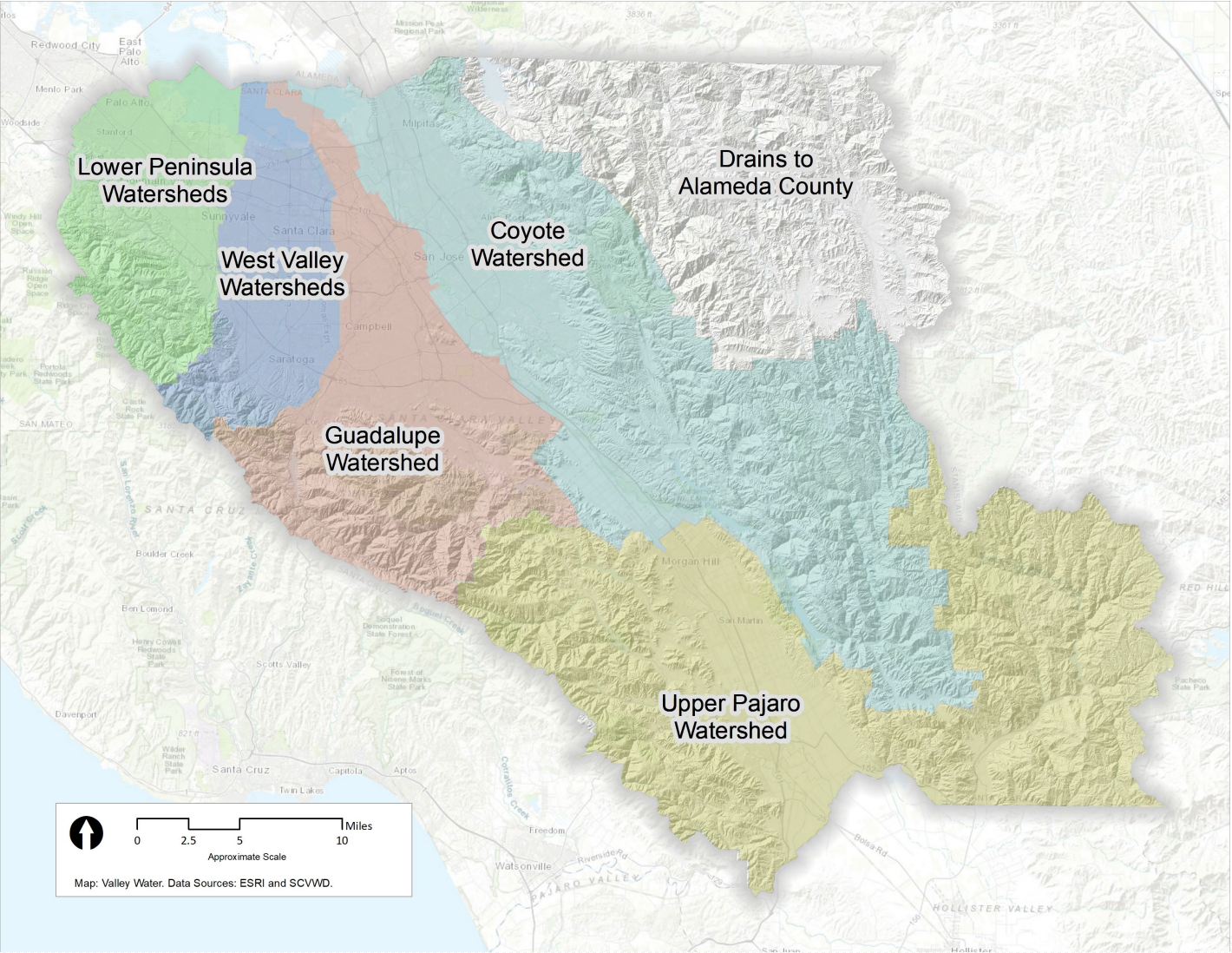
Tool for decision makers

Informational resource on the watersheds

Countywide Framework

5

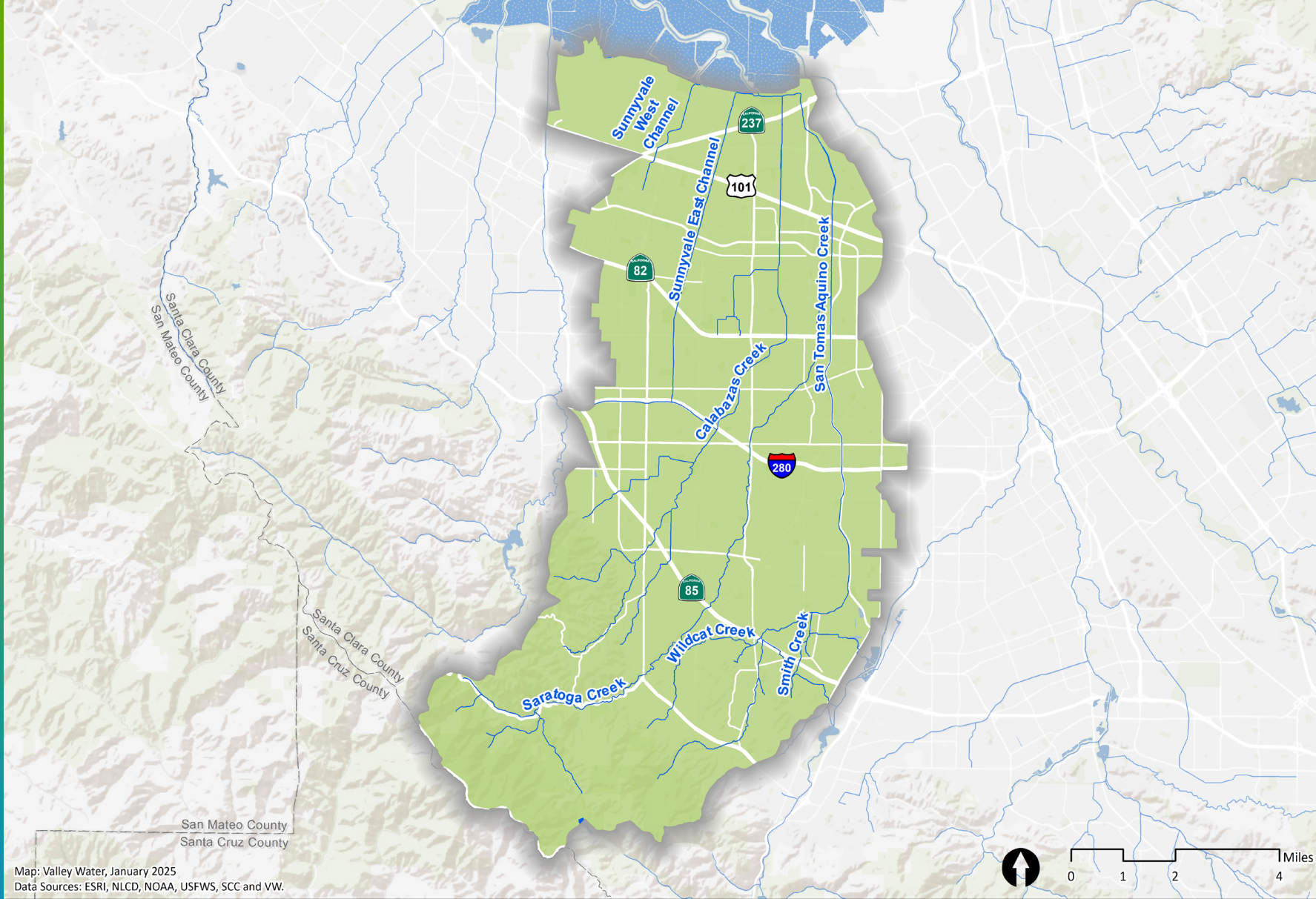
valleywater.org





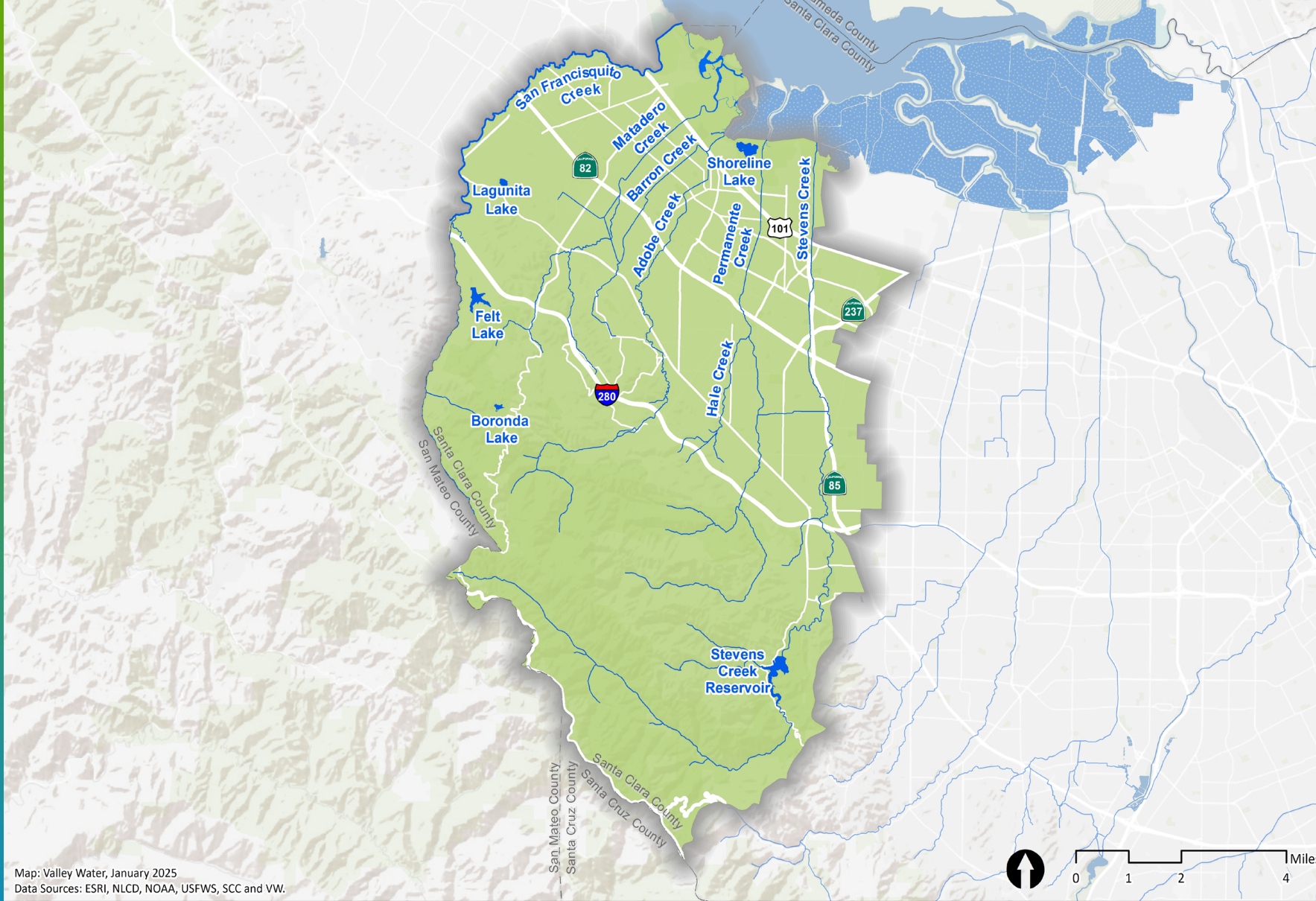
West Valley

- 85 sq miles
- Highly urban and channelized
- Select areas support native rainbow trout
- Waterways connect to Guadalupe Slough in south San Francisco Bay



Lower Peninsula

- 98 sq miles
- Highly urban and channelized
- Several streams supports native steelhead
- Valley Water is part of San Franciscoquito Creek Joint Powers Authority



-  Salt Pond
-  Water Bodies
-  Creeks
-  Lower Peninsula Watershed

Key Elements of Plan

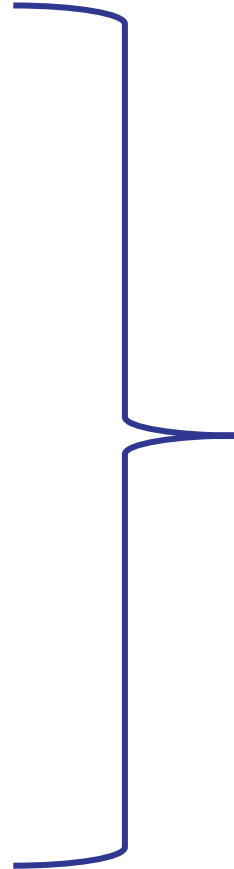
Setting

+

Metrics

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Priority Actions



Watershed Master Plan

9

valleywater.org

Setting Element

- Summarizes existing conditions of the watershed
- Based on the in-depth Existing Conditions Report
- Identifies Challenges and Opportunities for Watershed Management



Objectives, Metrics, and Targets Element 11



Objective A
Protect and Maintain
Water Supplies



Objective B
Protect and Improve Surface
and Ground Water Quality



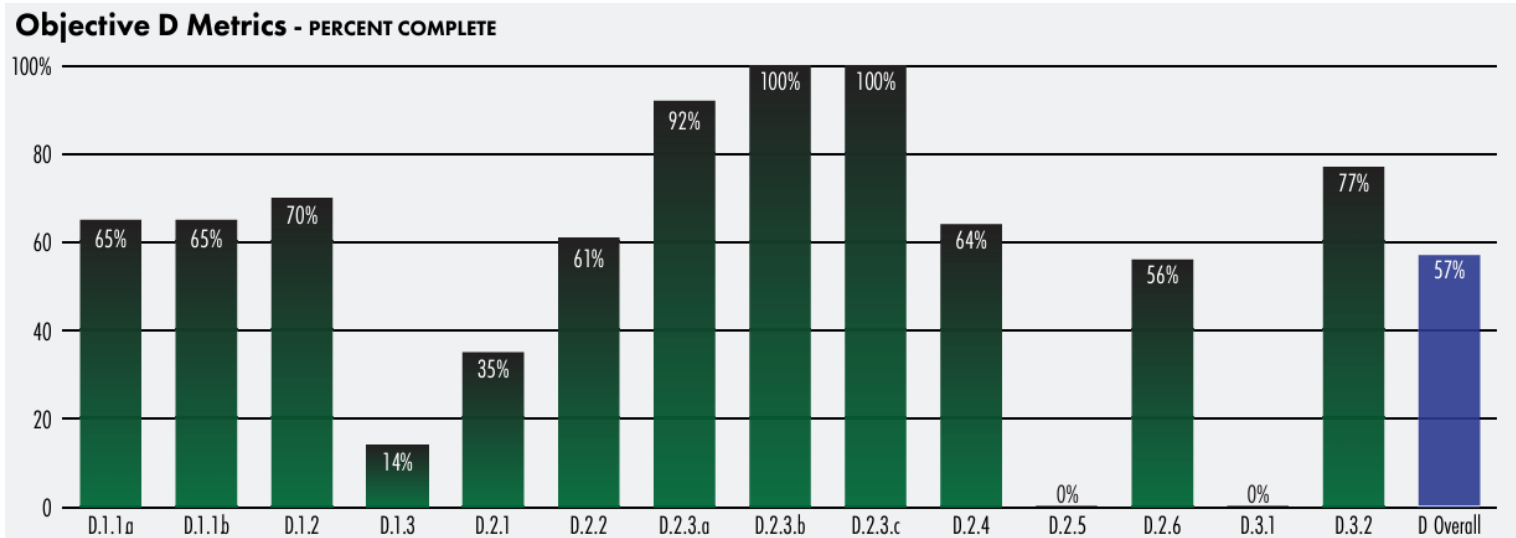
Objective C
Reduce Flood Risk



Objective D
Protect, Enhance and
Sustain Natural Ecosystems



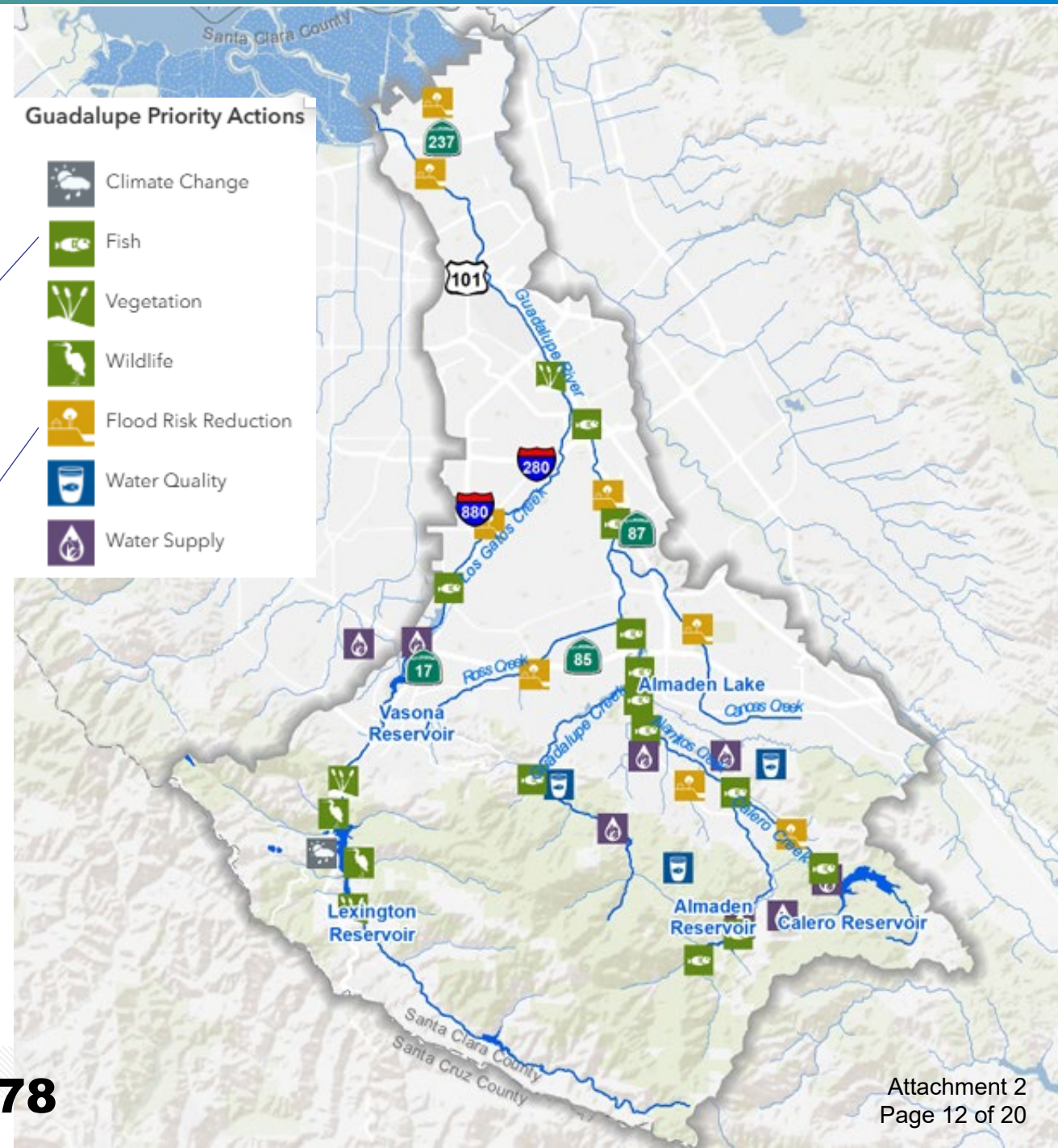
Objective E
Mitigate and Adapt to
Climate Change



Priority Actions Element

Ecology Example: Gravel Augmentation and Large Woody Debris Placement- identifies specific locations for steelhead habitat

Flood Risk Example: Lower Guadalupe Project - provides natural flood protection for residents and businesses



Community Network

List of Groups to Engage

Agricultural/Ranching

Economic Vitality & Sustainability

Educational Institutions

Tribes/ Environmental Justice

Environmental Org./Stewardship

Governing Bodies - Regulatory Agencies

Municipalities/Land Use Agencies

Open Space Conservation/Recreation

Residents/Community-Based Org.

Special Joint Organizations/Coalitions

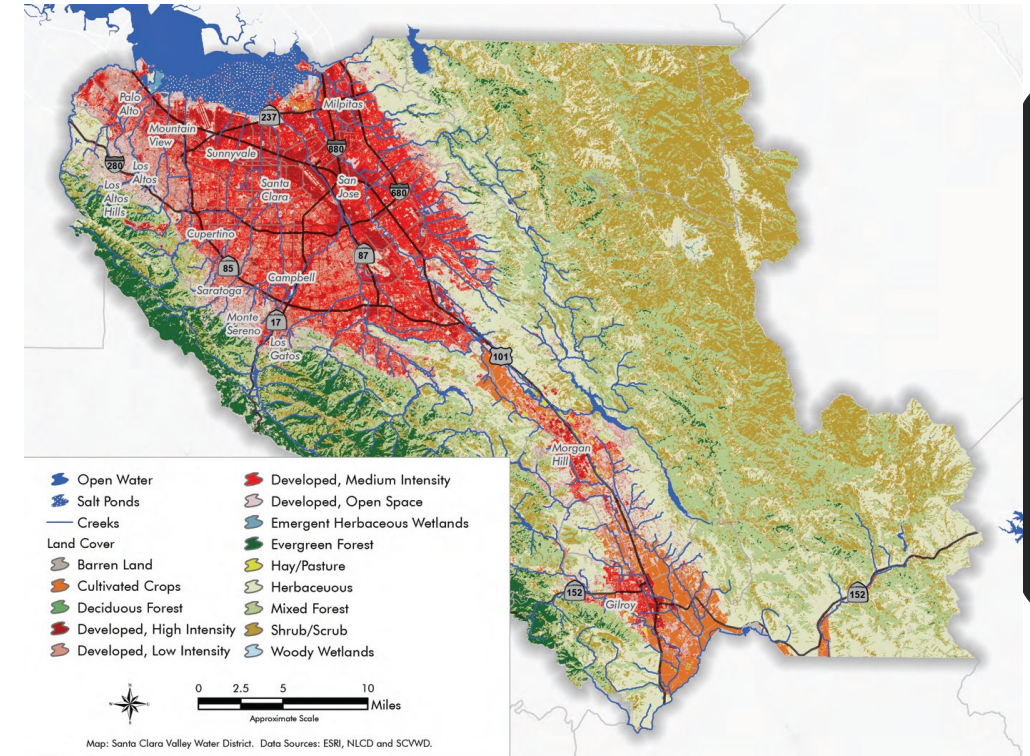
Subject Matter Experts/Research & Data

Water Resource Agencies / Special Districts

Existing Conditions Report

14

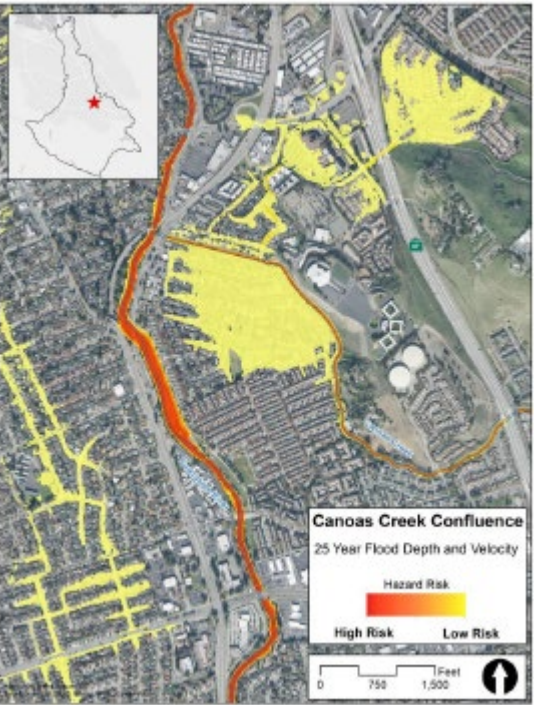
- Sections on climate change, land use, ecology, water supply, water quality, and flood risk
- Each section will describe:
 - Past, present, and future conditions
 - Challenges and opportunities



Flood Vulnerability Assessment

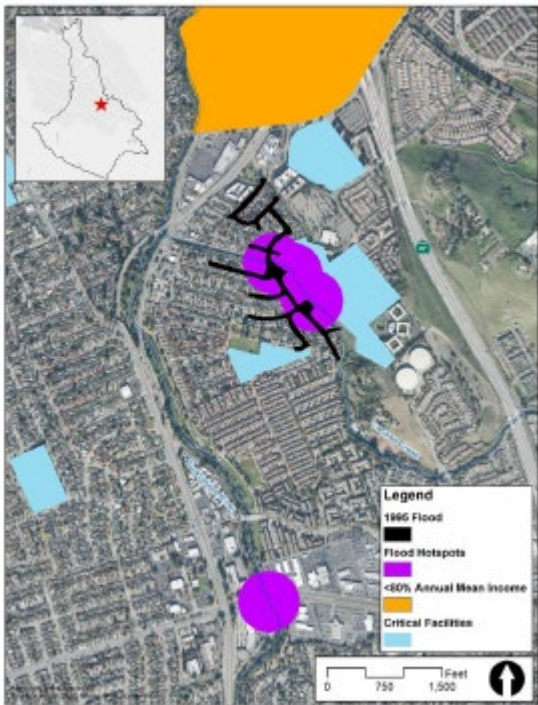
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Physical



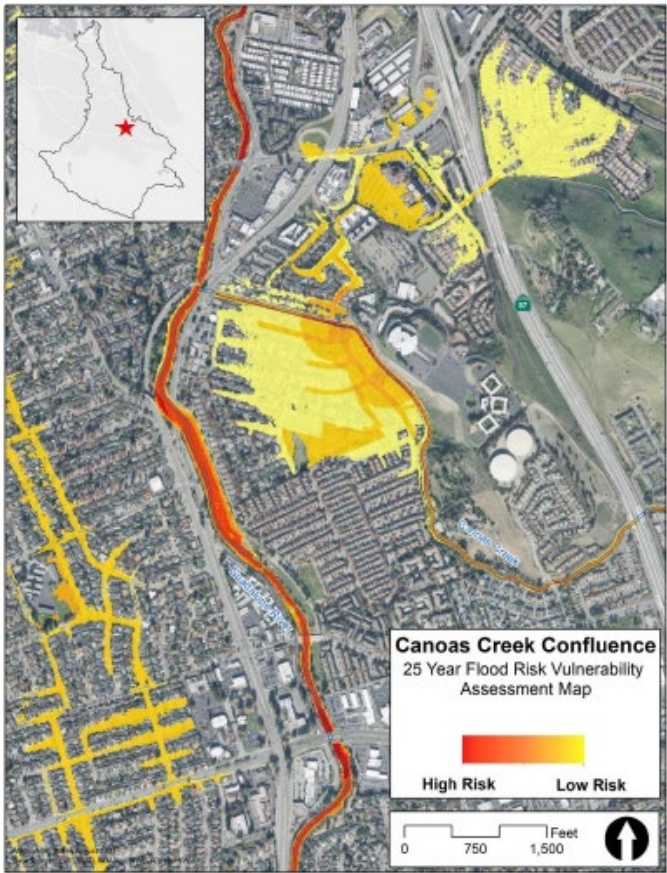
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Statistical and Social



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Combined Vulnerability Map



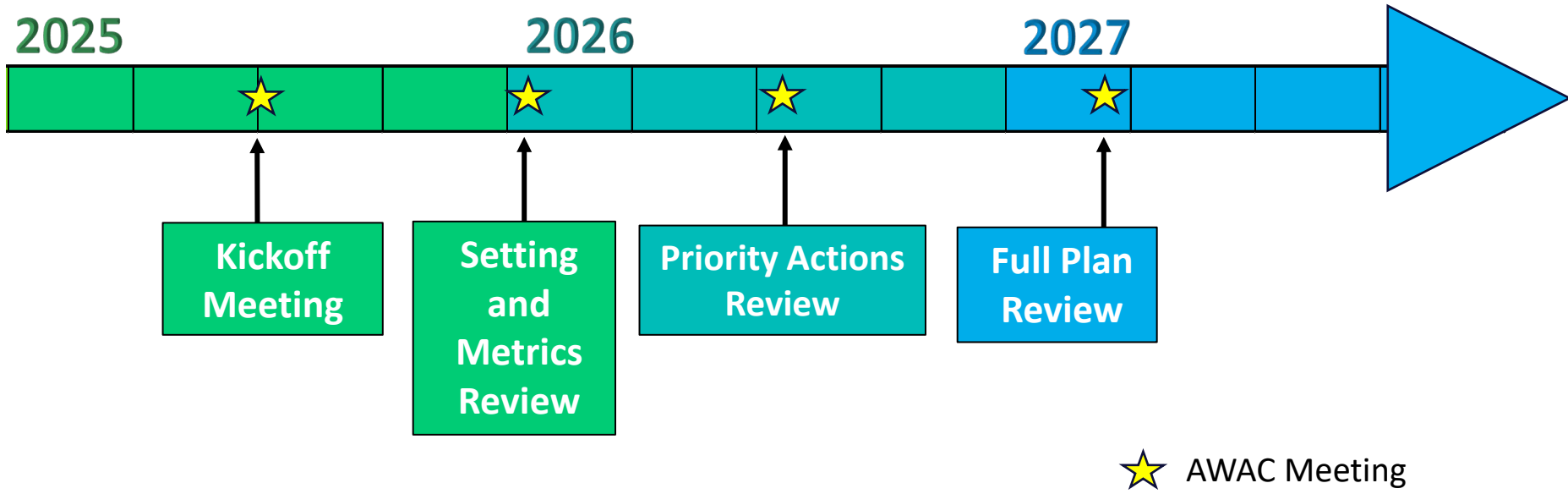
Community Network Meeting

16

- Kick off meeting on March 4, 2025
- Over 60 attendees represented cities, community groups, regulatory agencies, environmental groups, academic institutes, etc.
- Interest in improving watershed ecological health and flood risk reduction.



Project Schedule



Next Steps

- Return to AWAC Jan 2026 for input on Existing Conditions and Metrics
- Return to AWAC July 2026 for input on Priority Actions



Discussion

What agricultural related issues within the watersheds should the plans cover?

What agricultural groups should we engage in the community network?

Any questions?



QUESTIONS





Santa Clara Valley Water District

File No.: 25-0533

Agenda Date: 7/7/2025

Item No.: 4.4.

COMMITTEE AGENDA MEMORANDUM Agricultural Water Advisory Committee

Government Code § 84308 Applies: Yes ☐ No ☒
(If "YES" Complete Attachment A - Gov. Code § 84308)

SUBJECT:

Receive Information on the Annual Report Regarding the Flood Control Benefit Assessments for Fiscal Year (FY) 2025-2026.

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive information on the annual report regarding the Flood Control Benefit Assessments for FY 2025-2026.

SUMMARY:

The Flood Control Benefit Assessment program was last approved by voters in 1986 and 1990 to provide flood protection for Santa Clara County (SCC) through the construction of flood protection facilities and increased maintenance in five (5) flood control zones within SCC: Northwest, North Central, Central, East and South.

The voter-approved benefit assessments program authorized use of flood control benefit assessments to meet qualified long-term debt obligations associated with outstanding Certificates of Participation until such obligations are retired. The proceeds of the Certificates have been or will be used to plan, design and build flood protection facilities to reduce flood damage. Since June 30, 2000, benefit assessments levied within a zone have been limited to the annual revenue requirements necessary to meet 1.25 times any outstanding debt service in each flood control zone.

Benefit assessments are no longer levied in the South zone because debt obligations were paid off in FY 2012-13.

Benefit assessments are scheduled to sunset in FY 2029-30 once all debt obligations are met.

See Attachment 1 for full debt service schedule by zone, benefit assessments by land use category and zone, and a map of the flood control zones.

Each year, Staff recommends setting benefit assessments at a level to meet annual debt obligations.

A public hearing was held on May 27, 2025, public comments were received, and the Board adopted the Resolution *ESTABLISHING LAND USE CATEGORIES, CONFIRMING A LEVY OF BENEFIT ASSESSMENTS TO MEET DULY AUTHORIZED DEBT OBLIGATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026 IN FLOOD CONTROL ZONES OF SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH RESOLUTION NOS. 86-54, 86-55, 86-56, 86-57, AND 90-7, AND AUTHORIZING A PROCEDURE FOR CORRECTING ASSESSMENTS* (see Attachment 2).

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AND EQUITY IMPACT:

There are no Environmental Justice and Equity impacts associated with this item.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment 1: Benefit Assessment Report

Attachment 2: Resolution

UNCLASSIFIED MANAGER:

Darin Taylor, 408-630-3068

FLOOD CONTROL BENEFIT ASSESSMENTS

FOR FISCAL YEARS

2025-2026
Through
2029-2030

April 2025



SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

FLOOD CONTROL BENEFIT ASSESSMENTS
FOR FISCAL YEARS
2025-2026
Through
2029-2030

prepared by

Jennifer Abadilla
Senior Management Analyst

And

Carmen Narayanan
Financial Planning and Revenue Manager

Under the Direction of

Chris Hakes
Chief Operating Officer – Watershed Operations

April 2025

VALLEY WATER BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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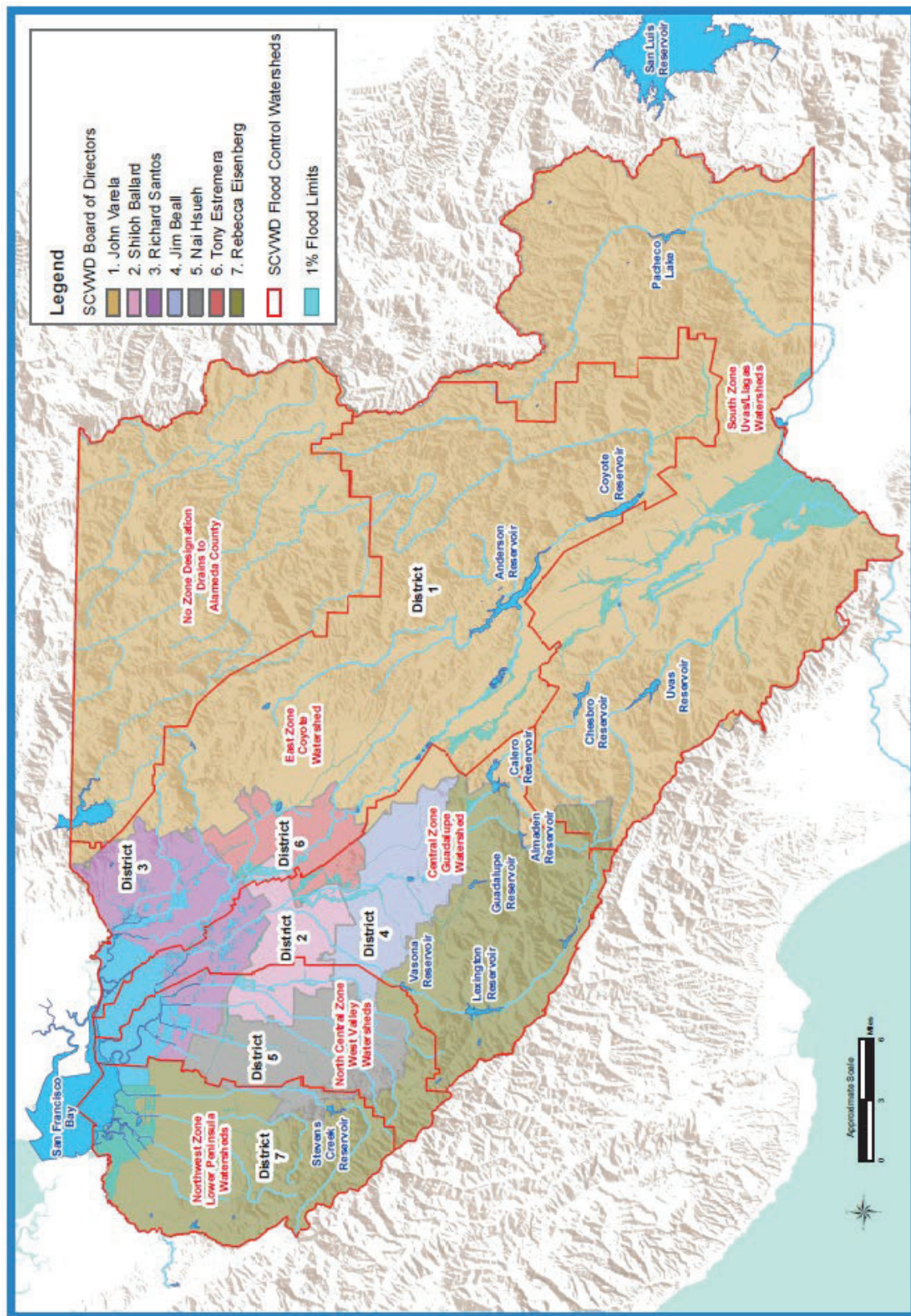
INTRODUCTION/SUMMARY

This Flood Control Benefit Assessment report is prepared in accordance with voter-approved Santa Clara Valley Water District (Valley Water) Resolutions. It presents annual revenue requirements for fiscal years 2025-26 through 2029-30 for each of the five flood control zones throughout Valley Water (see map on page 2 for zone locations). Commencing on July 1, 2000, Valley Water benefit assessments are limited to pay qualified debt obligations and covenants only.

The qualified debt obligations in each of the zones are for debt service and associated covenants of outstanding Certificates of Participation (long-term financing instruments similar to bonds). The proceeds from these long-term debt obligations have been or will be used to plan, design and build flood protection facilities. Major projects partially financed with debt proceeds include Calabazas Creek from Guadalupe Slough to Miller Avenue, Coyote Creek from San Francisco Bay to Montague Expressway, Adobe Creek upstream of El Camino Real, Matadero Creek, Llagas Creek and the Guadalupe River projects.

This report serves as the base report for the Public Hearings on flood control benefit assessments for FY 2025-26 and subsequent fiscal years until 2029-30.

Information on the flood control benefit assessment for an individual parcel as well as the initial detailed Valley Water reports describing the need for supplemental flood control revenue from benefit assessments are available for review through the Clerk of the Board at Valley Water's office located at 5700 Almaden Expressway, San Jose, California.



GIS themes are for illustration and general analysis purposes only and are not accurate to surveying or engineering standards. Information is not guaranteed to be accurate, current, or complete and use of this information is your responsibility.

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BACKGROUND

INITIATION OF BENEFIT ASSESSMENT PROGRAM

After passage of Proposition 13 in 1978, revenue for Valley Water flood control activities was significantly decreased. The State Legislature recognized the vital public safety service furnished by local flood control districts and passed Assembly Bill 549 (Frazee) in 1979. This legislation authorized flood control districts to levy benefit assessments to help fund flood control programs. The law permitted flood control benefit assessments to be spread according to the proportional storm water runoff from each parcel of property within the assessed area and required voter approval to continue such levy after the first year. On June 9, 1981, following a Public Hearing, the Board of Directors (Board) adopted a 10-year flood control benefit assessment program and levied assessments for one year beginning with 1981-82. They put the issue of continuing the benefit assessments for nine more years on the June 8, 1982, ballot for all zones. The measure was overwhelmingly approved by the voters.

REVISED BENEFIT ASSESSMENTS TO ACCELERATE CONSTRUCTION (1986 & 1990)

Following major floods and flood damage in 1982, 1983, and 1986, the Board reviewed the effectiveness of the benefit assessments and found that unless additional funding was made available, many of the needed flood protection projects would not be completed until well past the year 2010. The Board, with recommendations from the Flood Control Zone Advisory Committees, went to the electorate on November 4, 1986, in four zones, the Northwest, Central, East, and South to 1) increase benefit assessment rate limits so construction of flood protection projects could be accelerated, 2) extend the benefit assessment program to the year 2000, 3) use benefit assessments to meet duly authorized debt obligations beyond the year 2000 until retired, and 4) meet flood damage costs to Valley Water facilities from flood disasters. The voters approved the benefit assessment measures in each of these zones. On June 5, 1990, voters approved a similar measure in the North Central zone.

Pursuant to the 1986 and 1990 voter approved benefit assessment programs described above, as of July 1, 2000, benefit assessment rates are determined solely by each zone's long-term debt obligations. Valley Water cannot increase annual debt obligations supported by benefit assessments in excess of amounts in place on July 1, 2000 unless a new measure is approved by voters.

DEBT OBLIGATION REFUNDING (2003)

In February, 2003, Valley Water refinanced a portion of the outstanding 1994A Series Certificates of Participation to take advantage of a favorable interest rate market. Valley Water realized cost savings in three of the 5 watershed zones; Central, East and North Central. In the Central and North Central zones, the Board determined that the best use of the savings was to increase the amount of debt while maintaining the yearly debt service at the current level. The additional debt was used to supplement voter approved projects in those zones. Savings achieved in the East

zone were not eligible to fund projects, but instead were used to reduce debt service and the associated benefit assessments. Table 1 reflects the change to the benefit assessment debt obligation in the East zone, a reduction of roughly \$130,000 per year beginning in 2004. The refinancing resulted in slight insignificant changes to the debt obligation in all other zones.

DEBT OBLIGATION REFUNDING (2004)

The remaining portion of the 1994A Certificates of Participation (COP's) became eligible for refunding on November 3, 2003. Since the remaining portion was allocated to the advance refunding of the Series 1988 and Series 1990 COP's, tax law requires that a ten year period of time elapse prior to the second advance refunding, marked by November 3, 2003 in this case. In January, 2004, Valley Water refinanced this remaining portion of the outstanding 1994A Series Certificates of Participation to again take advantage of the favorable interest rate market. Valley Water realized cost savings in two of the 5 watershed zones; Northwest and South. In the Northwest zone, the Board determined that the best use of the savings was to increase the amount of debt while maintaining the yearly debt service at the current level. The additional debt was used to supplement voter approved projects in that zone.

Savings achieved in the South zone were not eligible to fund projects, but instead were used to shorten the term over which the debt service would be paid and associated benefit assessments would be collected. Table 1 on the following page reflects the change to the benefit assessment debt obligation in the South zone, in which the debt obligation is paid off by the year 2013 instead of 2024. The refinancing resulted in slight insignificant changes to the debt obligation in all other zones.

DEBT OBLIGATION REFUNDING (2007)

In February, 2007 Valley Water refinanced the outstanding portion of the 2000 Series Certificates of Participation to take advantage of a favorable interest rate market. Valley Water realized cost savings in four of the 5 watershed zones; Northwest, North Central, Central, and East. No debt was issued for the South zone under the 2000 Series debt issuance; therefore, the South zone was not affected by the refunding. In the four affected zones, the Board determined that the best use of the savings was to increase the amount of debt while maintaining the yearly debt service at the current level. The additional debt was used for voter approved projects in each zone.

There was a one-time reduction in the benefit assessment debt obligation for each of the four affected zones in FY 2008 as shown on Table 1. This one-time reduction was a result of the issuance of the 2007A Refunding Certificates of Participation that refinanced the 2000 Series Certificates of Participation. Upon analyzing the results of the refunding, Bond Counsel determined that \$1.1M was available to pay down principal in the affected zones. In FY 2009 and beyond, Table 1 reflects slight immaterial changes to the benefit assessment debt obligation in the four affected zones due to the refinancing. Table 1 also shows the End of Year Principal balance schedule in aggregate for all zones.

DEBT OBLIGATION REFUNDING (2012)

In November, 2012 Valley Water refinanced the outstanding portion of the 2003A Series Certificates of Participation to take advantage of a favorable interest rate market. Valley Water realized cost savings in three of the 5 watershed zones; North Central, Central, and East. In the three affected zones, the Board determined that the best use of the savings was to increase the amount of debt while maintaining the yearly debt service at the current level. The additional debt will be used for voter approved projects in each zone. The refinancing resulted in slight insignificant changes to the debt obligation in the three affected zones which are reflected in Table 1.

DEBT OBLIGATION REFUNDING (2017)

In March, 2017 Valley Water refinanced the outstanding portion of the 2004A and 2007A Series Certificates of Participation to take advantage of a favorable interest rate market. Valley Water realized cost savings in four of the 5 watershed zones; Northwest, North Central, Central, and East. In the four affected zones, the Board determined that the best use of the savings was to increase the amount of debt while maintaining the yearly debt service at the current level. The additional debt will be used for voter approved projects in each zone. The refinancing resulted in slight insignificant changes to the debt obligation in the four affected zones which are reflected in Table 1.

ONE TIME ADJUSTMENT TO BENEFIT ASSESSMENT DEBT OBLIGATION (2021)

There was a one-time reduction in the benefit assessment debt obligation for three zones in FY 2021 as shown on Table 1. This one-time reduction was caused by \$1.1M excess debt service reserve funds resulting from decreased reserve requirements identified in FY 2019. For FY 2021 only, Table 1 reflects reductions to the benefit assessment debt obligation for the North Central, Central and East zones totaling \$1.1M. Table 1 also shows the End of Year Principal balance schedule in aggregate for all zones.

REDUCTION TO BENEFIT ASSESSMENT DEBT OBLIGATION (2023)

There was a reduction in the benefit assessment debt obligation for three zones in FY 2024 as shown on Table 1. This slight reduction is due to utilizing \$5M in debt service reserve funds that are mandated per bond covenants. These funds covered the final 2012A Series Certificates of Participation debt service payment in FY 2024 and result in overall lower debt service payments through FY 2030. Table 1 also shows the End of Year Principal balance schedule in aggregate for all zones.

Table 1
Flood Control Benefit Assessment
Debt Obligation Schedule*
& End of Year Principal Balance

Fiscal Year	Northwest Zone	North Central Zone	Central Zone	East Zone	South Zone	End of Year Principal Balance
	(Lower Peninsula)	(West Valley)	(Guadalupe)	(Coyote)	(Uvas-Llagas)	
2005	\$4,683,279	\$2,961,469	\$6,266,733	\$4,685,927	\$762,874	\$185,260,000
2006	\$4,688,707	\$2,968,562	\$6,284,527	\$4,693,154	\$765,050	\$177,940,000
2007	\$4,693,280	\$2,972,291	\$6,293,598	\$4,698,526	\$766,599	\$170,310,000
2008	\$4,149,940	\$2,811,030	\$6,118,061	\$4,209,282	\$767,821	\$170,200,000
2009	\$4,694,211	\$2,977,909	\$6,309,876	\$4,701,353	\$769,058	\$161,485,000
2010	\$4,688,957	\$2,973,939	\$6,300,769	\$4,697,090	\$767,773	\$152,440,000
2011	\$4,667,239	\$2,948,775	\$6,237,262	\$4,669,012	\$758,733	\$143,160,000
2012	\$4,676,487	\$2,958,686	\$6,261,490	\$4,682,321	\$761,825	\$133,440,000
2013	\$4,680,768	\$2,964,455	\$6,276,483	\$4,686,768	\$764,034	\$123,100,000
2014	\$4,322,174	\$2,502,568	\$5,277,998	\$4,206,085	\$0	\$115,045,000
2015	\$4,305,891	\$2,500,054	\$5,227,748	\$4,203,840	\$0	\$106,690,000
2016	\$4,078,738	\$2,277,005	\$4,594,928	\$3,970,919	\$0	\$99,060,000
2017	\$4,082,042	\$2,278,317	\$4,598,392	\$3,973,371	\$0	\$91,040,000
2018	\$4,078,867	\$2,277,292	\$4,597,191	\$3,970,971	\$0	\$82,655,000
2019	\$4,079,626	\$2,277,340	\$4,598,072	\$3,971,383	\$0	\$73,850,000
2020	\$2,731,842	\$2,277,595	\$4,598,761	\$3,972,284	\$0	\$65,705,000
2021	\$2,735,024	\$2,037,986	\$3,995,628	\$3,725,522	\$0	\$57,170,000
2022	\$2,734,901	\$2,279,421	\$4,599,256	\$3,975,980	\$0	\$48,260,000
2023	\$2,730,584	\$2,231,223	\$4,480,020	\$3,923,421	\$0	\$38,955,000
2024	\$2,731,941	\$819,513	\$950,695	\$2,459,231	\$0	\$29,235,000
2025	\$2,731,077	\$819,254	\$910,590	\$2,458,454	\$0	\$24,940,000
2026	\$2,732,804	\$819,772	\$911,166	\$2,460,008	\$0	\$20,425,000
2027	\$2,731,817	\$819,476	\$910,837	\$2,459,120	\$0	\$15,685,000
2028	\$2,732,927	\$819,809	\$911,207	\$2,460,119	\$0	\$10,710,000
2029	\$2,733,298	\$819,920	\$911,330	\$2,460,453	\$0	\$5,485,000
2030	\$2,732,681	\$819,735	\$911,124	\$2,459,897	\$0	\$0

*Based on debt service and requirements associated with debt covenants for the 2012A, and 2017A Series Certificates of Participation.

FLOOD CONTROL BENEFIT ASSESSMENTS

GENERAL PROVISIONS

State law allows the benefit assessments to be based on the proportionate amount of storm water runoff from each privately-owned parcel of property.

Consistent with this provision, Valley Water's Board has, with voter approval, established five benefit assessment land use categories, A through E, for parcels assessed within Valley Water's five flood control zones. These benefit assessment land use categories are as follows:

Land Use Category	Land Use
A	Commercial and industrial
B	Apartments, schools, and churches
C	Single family residential and small multiples (2-4 units), condominiums, and townhouses
D	Vacant land presently utilized for farming, vineyards, and crops
E	Urban: Nonutilized agricultural land, grazing land, salt ponds, undisturbed vacant land, and parcels used exclusively as well sites located in urban areas Rural: Non-utilized agricultural land, grazing land, undisturbed vacant land and parcels used exclusively as well sites located in rural areas

The assessment for an individual parcel in a given land use category is computed by multiplying the area of the parcel in acres by the appropriate assessment rate. If the computed assessment is less than the minimum assessment amount, the minimum assessment is used.

BENEFIT ASSESSMENT RATES FOR EACH ZONE

Each of the five flood control zones has an individual set of benefit assessment rates to meet respective debt obligations. These debt obligations, consisting of debt service payments and requirements associated with debt covenants are shown for all zones for each fiscal year in Table 1. Actual rates will be determined once annual land use information is received from the County Assessor in July. Historical rates for fiscal year 2024-25 are shown in Table 2. Expected rates for FY 2025-26 are shown in Table 3. South Zone's debt obligation has been paid off and therefore the expected rates are zero.

FY 2024-25 BENEFIT ASSESSMENT RATES

Table 2 below shows the benefit assessment rates levied in fiscal year 2024-25.

Table 2

FY 2024–25. Assessments by Category and Zone

Land Use Categories	Flood Control Zones				
	Northwest (Lower Peninsula)	North Central (West Valley)	Central (Guadalupe)	East (Coyote)	South (Uvas-Llagas)
A - Commercial, Industrial					
Rate (\$/Acre)	\$212.25	\$37.62	\$33.34	\$103.03	\$0.00
Minimum Assessment ⁽¹⁾	\$53.06	\$9.41	\$8.34	\$25.76	\$0.00
B - Apartment, Schools, Churches					
Rate (\$/Acre)	\$159.19	\$28.22	\$25.01	\$77.27	\$0.00
Minimum Assessment ⁽¹⁾	\$39.80	\$7.05	\$6.25	\$19.32	\$0.00
C - Single Family Residential, Small Multiples (2-4 units), Condominiums, and Townhouses					
Rate (\$/Acre)	⁽²⁾	⁽²⁾	⁽²⁾	⁽²⁾	⁽²⁾
Minimum Assessment ⁽¹⁾	\$26.53	\$4.70	\$4.17	\$12.88	\$0.00
D - Utilized Agriculture					
Rate (\$/Acre)	\$1.33	\$0.24	\$0.21	\$0.64	\$0.00
Minimum Assessment ⁽¹⁾	\$13.27	\$2.35	\$2.08	\$6.44	\$0.00
E Urban - Non-utilized Agricultural, grazing Land, Salt Ponds, Well Site in Urban Areas					
Rate (\$/Acre)	\$0.40	\$0.07	\$0.06	\$0.19	\$0.00
Minimum Assessment ⁽¹⁾	\$3.98	\$0.71	\$0.63	\$1.93	\$0.00
E Rural - Non-utilized Agricultural, Grazing Land, Well Sites in Rural Areas					
Rate (\$/Acre)	\$0.05	\$0.01	\$0.01	\$0.02	\$0.00
Minimum Assessment ⁽¹⁾	\$3.98	\$0.71	\$0.63	\$1.93	\$0.00
(1) The minimum assessments shown for Categories A, B, and C apply to parcels 1/4 acre or less in size. Category C parcels larger than 1/4 acre pay the minimum assessment for the first 1/4 acre and the remaining acreage is assessed at the Category D rate. For Category D, the minimum assessment applies to parcels less than 10 acres. The minimum assessment for Group E urban parcels is the amount charged for 10 acres of urban undeveloped land; the minimum assessment for Group E rural parcels is the same as E urban but applies to parcels of 80 acres or less. (2) Residential land in excess of 1/4 acre is assessed at the D rate.					

EXPECTED FY 2025-26 BENEFIT ASSESSMENT RATES

Table 3 shows the expected benefit assessment rates to be levied in fiscal year 2025-26.

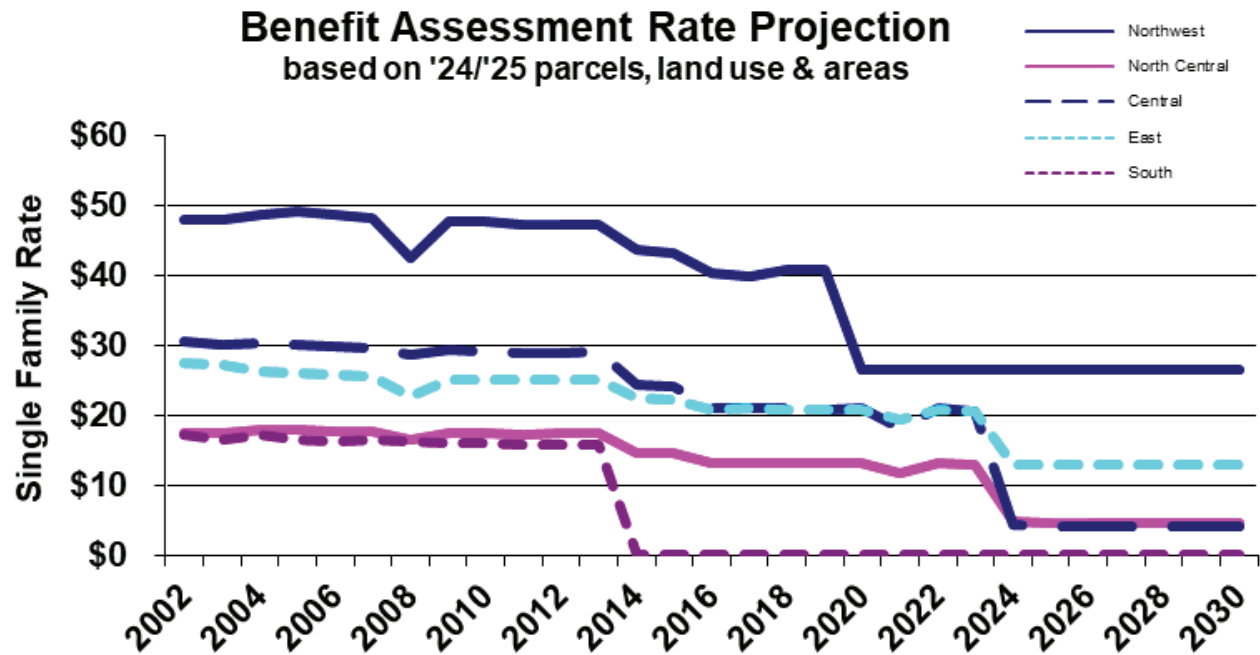
Table 3

Expected FY 2025–26 Assessments by Category and Zone

Land Use Categories	Flood Control Zones				
	Northwest (Lower Peninsula)	North Central (West Valley)	Central (Guadalupe)	East (Coyote)	South (Uvas-Llagas)
A - Commercial, Industrial					
Rate (\$/Acre)	\$212.38	\$37.65	\$33.36	\$103.09	\$0.00
Minimum Assessment ⁽¹⁾	\$53.10	\$9.41	\$8.34	\$25.77	\$0.00
B - Apartment, Schools, Churches					
Rate (\$/Acre)	\$159.29	\$28.24	\$25.02	\$77.32	\$0.00
Minimum Assessment ⁽¹⁾	\$39.82	\$7.06	\$6.26	\$19.33	\$0.00
C - Single Family Residential, Small Multiples (2-4 units), Condominiums, and Townhouses					
Rate (\$/Acre)	⁽²⁾	⁽²⁾	⁽²⁾	⁽²⁾	⁽²⁾
Minimum Assessment ⁽¹⁾	\$26.55	\$4.71	\$4.17	\$12.89	\$0.00
D - Utilized Agriculture					
Rate (\$/Acre)	\$1.33	\$0.24	\$0.21	\$0.64	\$0.00
Minimum Assessment ⁽¹⁾	\$13.27	\$2.35	\$2.09	\$6.44	\$0.00
E Urban - Non-utilized Agricultural, grazing Land, Salt Ponds, Well Site in Urban Areas					
Rate (\$/Acre)	\$0.40	\$0.07	\$0.06	\$0.19	\$0.00
Minimum Assessment ⁽¹⁾	\$3.98	\$0.71	\$0.63	\$1.93	\$0.00
E Rural - Non-utilized Agricultural, Grazing Land, Well Sites in Rural Areas					
Rate (\$/Acre)	\$0.05	\$0.01	\$0.01	\$0.02	\$0.00
Minimum Assessment ⁽¹⁾	\$3.98	\$0.71	\$0.63	\$1.93	\$0.00
(1) The minimum assessments shown for Categories A, B, and C apply to parcels 1/4 acre or less in size. Category C parcels larger than 1/4 acre pay the minimum assessment for the first 1/4 acre and the remaining acreage is assessed at the Category D rate. For Category D, the minimum assessment applies to parcels less than 10 acres. The minimum assessment for Group E urban parcels is the amount charged for 10 acres of urban undeveloped land; the minimum assessment for Group E rural parcels is the same as E urban but applies to parcels of 80 acres or less. (2) Residential land in excess of 1/4 acre is assessed at the D rate.					

PROJECTED BENEFIT ASSESSMENT RATES

A graph of projected benefit assessment rates, assuming the same parcels with the same land use and areas that existed in FY 2024-2025, is shown below. This graph indicates how the rates will decrease over time as various series of Certificates of Participation are retired.



Note: Actual rates will likely be lower as parcels are developed in the future

ASSESSMENT ROLLS AND COLLECTION

The Benefit Assessment Act of 1982 provides that benefit assessments may be levied and collected by the County Tax Collector at the same time and in the same manner as the general tax levy.

Following adoption of the benefit assessment Resolution for 2025-26 and subsequent years, Valley Water will prepare a separate assessment roll identifying each parcel of land subject to flood control benefit assessment for each flood control zone. For each parcel, the roll will list the assessor parcel number, owner's name, County land use code, Valley Water land use category, flood control zone, acreage and flood control benefit assessment based on the annual revenue requirement. This information will be available for review at Valley Water through the Clerk of the Board. Extractions from the benefit assessment roll showing parcel number and assessment amount will be forwarded to the County Tax Collector in early August to facilitate County collection of the flood control benefit assessments on the annual property tax bills.

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS
SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT**

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-37

ESTABLISHING LAND USE CATEGORIES, CONFIRMING A LEVY OF BENEFIT ASSESSMENTS TO MEET DULY AUTHORIZED DEBT OBLIGATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026 IN FLOOD CONTROL ZONES OF SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH RESOLUTION NOS. 86-54, 86-55, 86-56, 86-57, AND 90-7, AND AUTHORIZING A PROCEDURE FOR CORRECTING ASSESSMENTS

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Directors of the Santa Clara Valley Water District (Valley Water) as follows:

FIRST: In accordance with the requirements of law and of the terms of Valley Water Resolutions 86-54, 86-55, 86-56, 86-57, and 90-7, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Valley Water has caused a written report to be prepared and filed for the fiscal year 2025–26, setting forth the annual amounts to be collected through benefit assessment rates in each established flood control zone of Valley Water, pursuant to a voter-approved program.

SECOND: Upon receiving and filing the report, the Clerk of the Board gave notice of a Hearing on the same by posting at least three copies of the notice in each established flood control zone of Valley Water and by publication pursuant to Section 6066 of the Government Code.

THIRD: The Board, having heard the matter as scheduled or as postponed or duly continued, does hereby:

- A. Fix and establish land use categories for each parcel of land to be assessed in Valley Water as follows:
 - Group A: Land used for commercial or industrial purposes.
 - Group B: Land used for apartments or institutional purposes such as churches and schools.
 - Group C: The first 0.25 acre of a parcel of land used for single- and multiple-family residences up to four units, and each townhouse or condominium unit in a complex.
 - Group D:
 - (1) Disturbed agricultural land, including irrigated land, orchards, dairies, field crops, golf courses, and similar uses.
 - (2) The portion of land, if any, in excess of 0.25 acre of a parcel used for single-family residential purposes.
 - Group E: Vacant, undisturbed land (1) in urban areas and (2) in rural areas including dry farmland, grazing and pastureland, forest and brushland, salt ponds, and parcels used exclusively as well sites.
- B. Levy, fix, and establish flood control benefit assessments for fiscal year 2025–26 commencing July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026, on each parcel of real property in each established flood control zone of Valley Water, at the benefit assessment rates and minimum charges for each of the established land use categories to raise sufficient proceeds to meet duly authorized debt obligations of each flood control zone as follows:

Flood Control Benefit Assessments to be Collected in 2025–2026

Flood Control Zone	Debt Obligation
Northwest	\$2,732,804
North Central	\$819,772
Central	\$911,166
East	\$2,460,008
South	\$0

Establishing Land Use Categories, Confirming a Levy of Benefit Assessments to Meet Duly Authorized Debt Obligations for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 in Flood Control Zones of Santa Clara Valley Water District, in Accordance With Resolution Nos. 86-54, 86-55, 86-56, 86-57, and 90-7, and Authorizing a Procedure for Correcting Assessments

Resolution No. 2025-37

- C. The actual 2025–2026 rates shall be determined by the CEO or his designee, once updated parcel land use and area information is received from the Santa Clara County Assessor's Office. These rates shall be used to prepare the benefit assessments for each parcel and shall be submitted to the Santa Clara County Tax Collector for collection.

FOURTH: Benefit assessments found to be in error and that result in an over assessment to property owners may be corrected by a check or checks drawn upon the appropriate Benefit Assessment Fund upon approval by the Chief Financial Officer and pursuant to procedures approved by Valley Water's CEO and District Counsel.

FIFTH: Paragraph D of the SECOND section of Resolutions 86-54, 86-55, 86-56, 86-57, and 90-7 are hereby amended to provide as follows:

Upon receiving and filing the report the Clerk of the Board shall fix a time, date and place for a Hearing on the report, preceded by notice published pursuant to Section 6066 of the California Government Code and by posting the notice as provided by law.

SIXTH: The Clerk of the Board shall file certified copies of this Resolution with both the Tax Roll Control Office of County of Santa Clara and with the Recorder of said County.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Directors of the Santa Clara Valley Water District by the following vote on May 27, 2025:

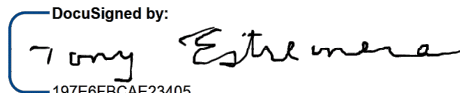
AYES: Directors Santos, Varela, Ballard, Beall, Eisenberg, Estremera

NOES: None.

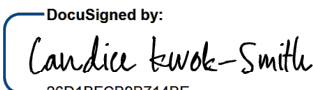
ABSENT: Director Hsueh

ABSTAIN: None.

SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

DocuSigned by:

197E6FBCAE23405...
TONY ESTREMER
Chair, Board of Directors

ATTEST: CANDICE KWOK-SMITH

DocuSigned by:

26D1BFCEB9B714BF...
Clerk, Board of Directors

Establishing Land Use Categories, Confirming a Levy of Benefit Assessments to Meet Duly Authorized Debt Obligations for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 in Flood Control Zones of Santa Clara Valley Water District, in Accordance With Resolution Nos. 86-54, 86-55, 86-56, 86-57, and 90-7, and Authorizing a Procedure for Correcting Assessments

Resolution No. 2025-37



I hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of the original thereof on file in my office.

DATED: May 27, 2025

DocuSigned by:
Candice Kwok-Smith
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CANDICE KWOK-SMITH
Clerk, Board of Directors
Santa Clara Valley Water District

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Santa Clara Valley Water District

File No.: 25-0389

Agenda Date: 7/7/2025

Item No.: 4.5.

COMMITTEE AGENDA MEMORANDUM Agricultural Water Advisory Committee

Government Code § 84308 Applies: Yes ☐ No ☒
(If "YES" Complete Attachment A - Gov. Code § 84308)

SUBJECT:

Review 2025 Agricultural Water Advisory Committee (AWAC) Work Plan, the Outcomes of Board Action of Committee Requests and the Committee's Next Meeting Agenda.

RECOMMENDATION:

Review the Committee work plan to guide the committee's discussions regarding policy alternatives and implications for Board deliberation.

SUMMARY:

The attached Work Plan outlines the topics for discussion to be able to prepare policy alternatives and implications for Board deliberation. The work plan is agendized at each meeting as accomplishments are updated and to review any work plan assignments by the Board.

BACKGROUND:

Governance Process Policy-8:

The District Act provides for the creation of advisory boards, committees, or commissions by resolution to serve at the pleasure of the Board.

Accordingly, the Board has established Advisory Committees, which bring respective expertise and community interest, to advise the Board, when requested, in a capacity as defined: prepare Board policy alternatives and provide comment on activities in the implementation of the District's mission for Board consideration. In keeping with the Board's broader focus, Advisory Committees will not direct the implementation of District programs and projects, other than to receive information and provide comment.

Further, in accordance with Governance Process Policy-3, when requested by the Board, the Advisory Committees may help the Board produce the link between the District and the public through information sharing to the communities they represent.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AND EQUITY IMPACT:

The review of the Committee Work Plan is not subject to environmental justice analysis.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment 1: AWAC 2025 Work Plan

UNCLASSIFIED MANAGER:

Candice Kwok-Smith, 408-630-3193

2025 Work Plan: Agricultural Water Advisory Committee

Update: June 2025

The annual work plan establishes a framework for committee discussion and action during the annual meeting schedule. The committee work plan is a dynamic document, subject to change as external and internal issues impacting the District occur and are recommended for committee discussion. Subsequently, an annual committee accomplishments report is developed based on the work plan and presented to the District Board of Directors.

ITEM	WORK PLAN ITEM BOARD POLICY	MEETING DATE	INTENDED OUTCOME(S) (Action or Information Only)	ACCOMPLISHMENT DATE AND OUTCOME
1	Election of Chair and Vice Chair for 2025.	January 6	Committee Elects Chair and Vice Chair for 2025. (Action)	<u>Accomplished January 6, 2025</u> The Committee unanimously approved Peter Van Dyke to remain as the 2025 Agricultural Water Advisory Committee Chairperson and Trevor Garrod to remain as the 2025 Agricultural Water Advisory Committee Vice-Chairperson.
2	Annual Accomplishments Report.	January 6	- Review and approve 2024 Accomplishments Report for presentation to the Board. (Action) - Submit requests to the Board, as appropriate.	<u>Accomplished January 6, 2025</u> The Committee unanimously approved the 2024 Annual Accomplishments Report for presentation to the Board. <i>The Board received the Committee's presentation by Chairperson Peter Van Dyke and accepted the 2024 Annual Accomplishments Report at the March 11, 2025 meeting.</i>
3	Review and Comment to the Board on the Fiscal Year 2025 – 2026 Preliminary Groundwater Production Charges.	January 6 April 7	- Review and comment to the Board on the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Preliminary Groundwater Production Charges. (Action) - Submit requests to the Board, as appropriate.	<u>Accomplished January 6, 2025</u> The Committee reviewed and commented on the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Preliminary Groundwater Production Charges and took the following action: The Committee unanimously approved to receive and accept staff's preliminary report for the FY 2025-2026 groundwater production charges with the amendment to continue the pursuit of water conservation programs, studying the impact of increased rates on agriculture and the potential of freezing agricultural rates.

Yellow = Update Since Last Meeting

Blue = Action taken by the Board of Directors

Attachment 1
Page 1 of 5

2025 Work Plan: Agricultural Water Advisory Committee

Update: June 2025

ITEM	WORK PLAN ITEM BOARD POLICY	MEETING DATE	INTENDED OUTCOME(S) (Action or Information Only)	ACCOMPLISHMENT DATE AND OUTCOME
	Review and Comment to the Board on the Fiscal Year 2025 – 2026 Preliminary Groundwater Production Charges. (continued)			Accomplished April 7, 2025 The Committee received and noted the information, provided feedback, and took no formal action.
4	Receive Information and Provide Feedback on the Development of Valley Water's Water Supply Master Plan 2050.	April 7 July 7	•Receive Information and provide feedback on the development of Valley Water's Water Supply Master Plan 2050.	Accomplished April 7, 2025 The Committee received and noted the information, provided feedback, and took no formal action.
5	Receive Update on One Water Plan Upper Pajaro Watershed Plan Priority Actions.	January 6	•Receive information about development of the One Water Upper Pajaro Watershed Plan. • Review and provide input on One Water Upper Pajaro Watershed Plan Priority Actions	Accomplished January 6, 2025 The Committee received and noted the information and took no formal action.
6	Receive an update of Valley Water's activities of the Unhoused and information on how enforcement of violations of companies are handled within the County.	TBD	•Receive an update of Valley Water's activities of the Unhoused and information on how the enforcement of violations of companies are handled within the County. •Board is requesting the committee give more detailed information on this item for the Board's consideration.	

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Blue = Action taken by the Board of Directors

Attachment 1
Page 2 of 5

2025 Work Plan: Agricultural Water Advisory Committee

Update: June 2025

ITEM	WORK PLAN ITEM BOARD POLICY	MEETING DATE	INTENDED OUTCOME(S) (Action or Information Only)	ACCOMPLISHMENT DATE AND OUTCOME
7	Review Climate Change and the benefits of ecosystems on Agriculture in Santa Clara County. *Receive information on the County of Santa Clara's Agricultural Outreach and Awareness Campaign	July 7	•Discuss how climate change impacts the benefits of ecosystems on agriculture within Santa Clara County.	
8	Discuss the Potential of Forming a Subcommittee.	January 6	•Discuss the potential of forming an AWAC subcommittee per the Committee's approval at the January 9, 2023 meeting.	<u>Accomplished January 6, 2025</u> The Committee received the information, took no formal action and noted the option of forming a subcommittee as needed.
9	Receive Update on Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) Compliance.	October 6	•Receive update on SGMA compliance and Semitropic banking.	
10	Receive Update on Semitropic Groundwater Storage Bank.	October 6	•Receive update on Semitropic Groundwater Storage Bank.	
11	Receive an Update on Valley Water's South County Managed Aquifer Recharge Activities.	April 7	•Receive update on Valley Water's South County managed aquifer recharge activities.	<u>Accomplished April 7, 2025</u> The Committee received and noted the information, provided feedback, and took no formal action.
12	Receive Update on West Valley and Lower Peninsula Watershed Master Plans.	July 7	•Receive update on West Valley and Lower Peninsula Watershed Master Plans.	
13	Receive Information on the Annual Report Regarding the Flood Control Benefit Assessments for Fiscal Year (FY) 2025-2026.	July 7	•Receive information on the annual report regarding the Flood Control Benefit Assessments for FY 2025-2026.	

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Blue = Action taken by the Board of Directors

Attachment 1
Page 3 of 5

2025 Work Plan: Agricultural Water Advisory Committee

Update: June 2025

ITEM	WORK PLAN ITEM BOARD POLICY	MEETING DATE	INTENDED OUTCOME(S) (Action or Information Only)	ACCOMPLISHMENT DATE AND OUTCOME
14	Standing Items Report Fiscal Year 2025 Goals and Strategies.	January 6 October 6	•Receive reports on standing items, FY2025.	Accomplished January 6, 2025 The Committee received the quarterly report on standing items for FY2025 and took no action.
15	Federal and State Affairs Report	January 6 April 7 July 7 October 6	• Receive update.	Accomplished January 6, 2025 The Committee received the verbal update and confirmed financial assistance with the unhoused will be addressed locally through partnerships with the county or other jurisdictions to obtain federal funding. Accomplished April 7, 2025 The Committee received the verbal update and confirmed the state's insurance industry issues are a discussion topic with a focus on affordability for legislative representatives.
16	Review and Discuss Resolution 17-75 and the Agricultural Water Advisory Committee (AWAC) Membership.	January 6	•Review and discuss Reso. 17-75 and the AWAC Membership plan. (Action) •Submit requests to the Board, as appropriate.	Accomplished January 6, 2025 The Committee received the information, took no formal action and noted Chairperson Peter Van Dyke will continue working with the AWAC Committee Oversight Managers regarding a potential recommendation to the Board.

Yellow = Update Since Last Meeting

Blue = Action taken by the Board of Directors

Attachment 1
Page 4 of 5

2025 Work Plan: Agricultural Water Advisory Committee

Update: June 2025

15	Review of Agricultural Water Advisory Committee Work Plan, the Outcomes of Board Action of Committee Requests, the Committee's Next Meeting Agenda.	January 6 April 7 July 7 October 6	•Receive and review the 2025 Board-approved Committee work plan. (Action) •Submit requests to the Board, as appropriate.	<u>Accomplished January 6, 2025</u> The Committee unanimously approved to recommend the proposed 2025 AWAC Work Plan to the Board with the amendment to add the Semitropics Groundwater Storage Bank as a separate AWAC Work Plan topic. <i>The Board received the Committee's presentation by Chairperson Peter Van Dyke and approved the 2025 AWAC Work Plan at the March 11, 2025 meeting.</i> <u>Accomplished April 7, 2025</u> The Committee received and noted the Work Plan and the upcoming July 7, 2025, 1:30 p.m. regular meeting without discussion and took no formal action.
BOARD WORK PLAN GOALS: 1. Integrated Water Resources Management - Goal: Efficiently manage water resources across business areas. 2. Water Supply – Goal: Provide a reliable, safe, and affordable water supply for current and future generations in all communities served. 3. Natural Flood Protection – Goal: Provide natural flood protection to reduce risk and improve health and safety. 4. Environmental Stewardship – Goal: Sustain ecosystem health while managing local water resources for flood protection and water supply. 5. Addressing Encampment of Unsheltered People – Goal: Humanely assist in the permanent relocation of unsheltered people on Valley Water lands along waterways and at water supply and flood risk reduction facilities in order to address the human health, public safety, operational, and environmental challenges posed by encampments. 6. Climate Change – Goal: Mitigate carbon emissions and adapt Valley Water operations to climate change impacts. 7. Business Management – Goal: Promote effective management of water supply, flood protection, and environmental stewardship through responsive and socially responsible business services.				

Yellow = Update Since Last Meeting

Blue = Action taken by the Board of Directors

Attachment 1
Page 5 of 5

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