

**JOINT RECYCLED WATER POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
CITY OF SAN JOSÉ/SCVWD/CITY OF SANTA CLARA**

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# MINUTES

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**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2023  
11:00 AM**

(Paragraph numbers coincide with agenda item numbers)

**1. CALL TO ORDER:**

A special meeting of the Santa Clara Valley Water District (Valley Water) Joint Recycled Water Policy Advisory Committee (Committee) was called to order in the Valley Water Headquarters Building Boardroom at 5700 Almaden Expressway, San Jose, California, and by Zoom teleconference, at 11:00 a.m.

**1.1 Roll Call.**

Valley Water Board Committee members in attendance were District 4 Director Jim Beall, District 3 Director Richard Santos, and District 6 Director Tony Estremera, Chairperson presiding.

City of San José/Santa Clara members in attendance were City of San José Councilmembers David Cohen and Peter Ortiz; and City of Santa Clara Councilmember Karen Hardy constituting a quorum of the Committee.

Valley Water staff members in attendance were: Antonio Alafaro, Hossein Ashktorab, Aaron Baker, Henry Barrientos, Nastaran Basiri, Lakeisha Bryant, Rachael Gibson, Walter Gonzalez, Ashley Guerrero, Zachary Helsley, Brian Hopper, Girlie Jacobson, Michele King, Candice Kwok-Smith, Emelia Lamas, Sean Lee, Dave Leon, Marta Lugo, Becky Manchester, Carlos Orellana, Nicole Merritt, Steve Peters, Don Rocha, Michelle San Miguel, Diahann Soleno, Kirsten Struve, Charlene Sun, Darin Taylor, David Tucker and Beckie Zisser.

City of San José/Santa Clara staff members in attendance were: Erica Gamboa, Kip Harkness, Pedro Hernandez, Henry Louie, Shilpa Mehta, Nicholas Ochoa, Jeff Provenzano, Sachin Radhakrishnan, Brisa Rojas, Kerrie Romanow, Marlee Smith, Rosa Tsongtaatarii, and Gary Welling.

Public in attendance were: Paul Brown (Paul Redvers Brown Inc.), Phillippe Daniel (Liquisti LLC.), Jan Davel (CDM Smith), Jenny Gain (Brown and Caldwell), Katja Irvin (Sierra Club-Loma Prieta Chapter), Jennifer Pratt, Shane Trussell (Trussell Technologies), John Varela (Valley Water), and Paul Ward.

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

Chairperson Estremera declared time open for public comment on any item not on the agenda.

Katja Irvin expressed the Sierra Club of California's support for the Committee's mission, noted wastewater recycling and conservation as the state's main source of new water, and urged the exploration of the following: expanded outreach programs, timeline of the pilot project, initiation of the feasibility study for a larger project, and continued collaboration with the Committee.

## **3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

### **3.1 Approval of April 13, 2023 Joint Recycled Water Policy Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes.**

Recommendation: Approve the Minutes.

Public Comments:  
None.

It was moved by Director Santos, seconded by Councilmember Cohen, and was carried by majority vote, that the minutes be approved. Councilmember Hardy abstained from the vote per not being present at the meeting.

## **4. REGULAR AGENDA:**

### **4.1 Receive the Public Outreach Efforts Update in Support of the Purified Water Program and Provide Feedback.**

Recommendation: Receive information and provide feedback.

Don Rocha reviewed the information on this item, per the attached Committee Agenda Memo, and Sherilyn Tran reviewed the information contained in Attachment 1.

Sherilyn Tran was available to answer questions.

Katja Irvin suggested doing outreach for the state's direct potable reuse (DPR) regulations and the DPR pilot project to expedite the public's awareness, and facilitate the collaboration with the environmental community regarding the pilot project due to the potential expansion into the Baylands.

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

- The Committee noted that staff is currently working on increasing their outreach to the immigrant community and utilizing community engagement in multiple languages including Chinese, Vietnamese, and Spanish.
- The Committee acknowledged the 27% opposed to purified recycled water

for drinking on Page 6 of Attachment 1 and noted further education within the local communities as a vital resource.

- The Committee noted the importance of preparing public affairs outreaches for upcoming funding legislature including the possibility for future public hearings.

4.2. Receive an Update on the Partnership with Cites of San Jose and Santa Clara including a Direct Potable Reuse (DPR) Demonstration Project and Provide Feedback.

Recommendation: Receive information and provide feedback.

Kirsten Struve reviewed the information on this item, per the attached Committee Agenda Memo, and the corresponding presentation materials contained in Attachment 1 were reviewed by staff as follows: Kirsten Struve reviewed Slides 1 through 3, Marta Lugo reviewed Slide 3, and Nastaran Basiri, reviewed Slides 4 through 7.

Kirsten Struve, Nastaran Basiri, Jeff Provenzano, Aaron Baker, Marta Lugo, and Antonio Alfaro were available to answer questions.

Katja Irvin addressed the attached emailed comments and fact sheet, identified as Handout 4.2-A. Copies of the Handout were distributed to the Committee and made available to the public.

Katja Irvin expressed support for accelerating the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and permitting for the DPR demonstration project and for it to not cause any delays to the larger DPR project.

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

- The Committee confirmed the demonstration project will assist with preparing the implementation for a future full-scale DPR facility, maximize benefits for water/wastewater rate payers, and will eventually become a future visitor center for the public.
- The Committee noted the overall timeline for the DPR demonstration project if funding was secured to be generally 5 to 10 years which includes meeting/receiving approval per the pending DPR regulations, technology training, securing a location for the water, and approval from involved partners and the public.
- Chairperson Estremera requested staff to follow up on the alternatives and challenges for expanding the existing Silicon Valley Advanced Water Purification Center in place of the DPR demonstration project.
- The Committee noted their support for staff to follow up on options for accelerating the DPR demonstration project.

4.3. Receive Potential Recycled Water Use at Lake Cunningham Update and Provide Feedback.

Recommendation: Receive information and provide feedback.

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

Kirsten Struve, Henry Barrientos, and Jeff Provenzano were available to answer questions.

Sachin Radhakrishnan, addressed the letter of support from the City of San Jose Councilmember Domingo Candelas identified as Handout 4.3-A. Copies of the Handout were distributed to the Committee and made available to the public.

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

- The Committee noted the significance of continuing the joint collaboration for the restoration at Lake Cunningham and addressing the water quality issues outside of using recycled water by referring this agenda item to a future Joint Valley Water Board meeting with the City of San Jose.

**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 that no Items were approved for Board consideration; but noted under Item 4.1, the Committee supported the continued community outreach efforts for the Purified Water Program; under Item 4.2, direction to staff to follow up on options to expand the Purification Center and expedite the DPR demonstration project; and under Item 4.3, direction to staff to add this agenda item to the future Joint Board meeting with the City of San Jose.

**6. ADJOURN:**

Adjourn to Regular Meeting at 10:00 a.m. on April 18, 2024.

Chairperson Estremera adjourned the meeting at 1:01 p.m., and the Committee approved without official action to schedule the next meeting before the end of the year through the Board Scheduler which was subsequently scheduled for a special meeting at 11:00 a.m. on December 15, 2023.

Nicole Merritt  
Assistant Deputy Clerk II

Date Approved: December 15, 2023