

Appendix D - Glossary

Ad Valorem Tax

A tax based on value (e.g., a property tax).

Appropriation

An appropriation is a legal authorization granted by the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors which allows Valley Water to expend cash and incur obligations for specific purposes. An appropriation is usually limited in amount and the time it may be expended.

ARRA American Recovery and Reinvestment Act

Assessment

The process of setting the official valuation of property for taxation; the valuation placed upon property as a result of this process.

Asset

A probable future economic benefit obtained or controlled by a particular entity as a result of past transactions or events. Examples of assets are cash, receivables, and equipment.

BAO Board Appointed Officer

Benefit Assessment

Determination of the benefits derived from Valley Water activities within particular watersheds and levying a proportionate share of taxes to each parcel subject to voter-approved limitations.

Bonds

Bonds are a long-term source of debt that provides a source of borrowed monies that can be used to pay for specific capital facilities. Bonds are a written promise to pay a specified sum of money at a predetermined date or dates in the future, called the maturity date(s), together with periodic interest at a specific rate.

Capital Expenditure

Capital expenditures fall into several categories. In general, they should create assets or extend the useful lives of existing assets. The work product results in a long-term benefit greater than two years and for budgeting purposes involved a major expenditure of Valley Water resources greater than \$50,000. They can be made with regard to tangible and intangible assets.

The general categories of capital expenditures are: rehabilitation, major repairs, improvements/ betterments/ upgrades, replacements, expansions/ additions, and ancillary expenditures.

Capital Projects

Projects are budgeted within the Capital budget and fall within the definition of Capital Expenditures; which means they (1) create or extend the life of an asset, (2) their work products have a useful life of greater than two years, and (3) they involve an expenditure of Valley Water resources in excess of \$50,000.

Certificates of Participation (COP)

A security in the general form of a bond, which evidences a proportionate participation in a flow of lease or other payments between two parties.

CEQA California Environmental Quality Act

CFS Cubic Feet-Per-Second

CIP Capital Improvement Program

Clean, Safe Creeks (CSC)

In November 2000, Santa Clara County voters approved the special parcel tax, the Clean, Safe Creeks and Natural Flood Protection Plan (Clean, Safe Creeks) to address community needs for enhanced stream stewardship and flood protection. The 15-year Clean, Safe Creeks Plan was replaced in its entirety by the Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program, which voters approved in 2012 (2012 Safe, Clean Water).

Cost Center

Cost Centers are separate financial accounting centers in which costs are accumulated because of legal and accounting requirements, the first two digits of a project number identifies the cost center.

COVID-19

Disease caused by novel coronavirus, which caused a pandemic in 2020.

DPR Direct Potable Reuse

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DSOD California Division of Safety of Dams

DWR State Department of Water Resources

EIA Economic Impact Analysis

EIR Environmental Impact Report

Encumbrances

Commitments related to unperformed (executory) contracts for goods or services. Encumbrances represent the estimated amount of expenditures that will result if unperformed contracts in process are completed.

Enterprise Fund

Enterprise Funds are used to account for operations including debt service (a) that are financed and operated in a manner similar to private business, where the intent of the government body is that the costs (expenses, including depreciation) of providing goods or services to the general public on an accounting basis is financed or recovered primarily through user charges; or (b) where the governing body has determined that periodic determination of revenues earned, expenses incurred, and/or net income is appropriate for capital maintenance, public policy, management control accountability, or other purposes.

EPA Environmental Protection Agency

ERP Enterprise Resource Planning

Expenditure/Expense

Decreases in net financial resources. Expenditures include current operating expenses requiring the present or future of net current assets, debt service and capital outlays, and intergovernmental grants, entitlements, and shared revenues. The major expenditure categories used by Valley Water are labor and overhead, land and structures, equipment, and debt service.

Facility

Defined as a creek, reservoir, dam, water treatment plant, pipeline, canal, etc.

FAHCE Fisheries and Aquatic Habitat Collaborative Effort

FERC Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

Fixed Assets

Fixed Assets are defined as long-lived tangible assets such as automobiles, computers and software, furniture, communications equipment, hydrologic equipment, office equipment, and other equipment, with a value of \$2,000 or more, or the combined value of like or related units (aggregate value) is greater than \$5,000 if the unit value is less than \$2,000.

Fiscal Year

A 12-month period to which the annual operating budget applies and at the end of which a government determines its financial position and the results of its operations. Valley Water's fiscal year is July 1 through June 30.

FOCP Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Order Compliance Project

Fund

A fiscal and accounting entity with a self-balancing set of accounts in which cash and other financial resources, all related liabilities and residual equities, or balances, and changes therein, are recorded and segregated to carry on specific activities or attain certain objectives in accordance with special regulations, restrictions or limitations.

General Fund

A fund used to account for major operating revenues and expenditures, except for those financial transactions that are required to be accounted for in another fund. General Fund revenues are derived primarily from property and other taxes.

Grants

Contributions or gifts of cash or other assets from another government entity to be used or expended for a specified purpose, activity, or facility.

HVAC Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning

IPR Indirect Potable Reuse

JPA Joint Power Authority

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KPI

Each project under the Safe, Clean Water Program has Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) that define the deliverables that are Valley Water's commitment to the voters. Safe, Clean Water Projects may have multiple KPIs and each KPI may result in separate or multiple projects within the Capital Improvement Program.

LERRD Lands, Easements, Rights-of-Way, Relocation, and Disposal

Levy

(1. Verb) To impose taxes, special assessments, or service charges for the support of government activities;
(2. Noun) The total amount of taxes, special assessments, or service charges imposed by a government agency.

Long-Term Debt

Debt with a maturity date of more than one year after the date of issuance.

Measure S

In November 2020, voters in Santa Clara County overwhelmingly approved Measure S, a renewal of Valley Water's Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program (Safe, Clean Water Program) that voters had approved in 2012. Unlike the first two special parcel taxes, which were set to sunset in 15-years from the date of implementation, the renewed Safe, Clean Water Program will continue until repealed by voters or until the Board determines the funding is no longer needed.

MGD Million Gallons per Day

One-Percent Flood or 100-Year Flood

Has a 1% chance of occurring in a given year. Valley Water projects are usually designed for the 1% flood, a national standard established by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

Operating Expenditure

Operating expenditures are system costs required for the daily process of providing water and watershed management services, including the administrative and overhead costs to support these services.

Operating expenditures are costs necessary to maintain the systems in good operating condition. This includes the repair and replacement of minor components. The American Waterworks Association (AWWA) says that these components should be smaller than a retirement unit; a retirement unit is a readily separable and separately useful item that is part of a larger assembly. The benefit and life of such repairs should be less than two years. Any repairs that recur on an annual basis are considered operating activities of a maintenance nature.

Operating expenditures are often separated into fixed and variable costs for purposes of understanding operating leverage and structuring service charge rates.

Operations

Expenditures required for the daily process of providing water and watershed management services, including the administrative and overhead costs to support these services. Operations include work that is generally of an ongoing or recurring nature. Any Valley Water work that is not a project is, by definition, an Operation. Operations, although recurring, require close coordination and a high degree of management oversight; however, they can be accomplished without the application of the full range of tools and processes used for managing projects.

P3 Public Private Partnership

Projects

At Valley Water, a project is any undertaking which has (1) a beginning and an ending, and (2) is a one-time occurrence. Projects can require expenditure of capital or operating funds and, at Valley Water, are called Capital or Operating Projects, accordingly. Project usually, but not always, relate to a Valley Water facility or facilities (a creek, a reservoir, a dam, a water treatment plant, a pipeline, etc.). Projects may include studies, design, construction, maintenance, or implementation of systems such as a Records Management or Financial Management System.

Revenue

Monies Valley Water receives in exchange for services or sales provided. Revenue items include water sales, property

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tax revenues, benefit assessment revenues, interest income, intergovernmental reimbursement, and other.

Revenue Bonds

Bonds, whose principal and interest are payable exclusively from earnings of an enterprise fund. In addition to a pledge of revenues, such bonds sometimes contain a mortgage on the enterprise fund's property.

Reserve

An account used to indicate that a portion of a fund's assets are legally restricted for a specific purpose and is, therefore, not available for general appropriation.

SCADA

Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition

SCRWA

South County Regional Wastewater Authority

Safe, Clean Water (SCW)

In November 2012, Santa Clara County voters approved the Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program (2012 Safe, Clean Water) to address water supply, flood protection and environmental stewardship priorities. In 2020, voters approved the renewal of the Safe, Clean Water Program, replacing the 2012 Safe, Clean Water Program in entirety and is set to begin in FY 2021-22. Unlike the first two special parcel taxes, which were set to sunset in 15-years from the date of implementation, the renewed Safe, Clean Water Program will continue until repealed by voters or until the Board determines the funding is no longer needed.

SMP Stream Maintenance Program

WIFIA Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act

WTP Water Treatment Plant

WQL Water Quality Lab