

November 4, 2022

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
Loma Prieta Resource Conservation District
Private Well Owner (Non-Retail)

Representative

Russ Bonino
James Provenzano
William Cilker
Sheila Barry
Jan F. Garrod
Tim Chiala
Sandra Carrico
Peter Van Dyke
Dhruv Khanna

Representative

Mitchell Mariani

David Vanni
Brent Bonino
Trevor Garrod
Robert Long

The special meeting of the Agricultural Water Advisory Committee is scheduled to be held on **Monday, November 14, 2022, at 1:30 p.m., at Headquarters Building Boardroom, 5700 Almaden Expressway, San Jose, CA 95118.**

Enclosed are the meeting agenda and corresponding materials. Please bring this packet with you to the meeting. Additional copies of this meeting packet are available on our new website at <https://www.valleywater.org/how-we-operate/committees/board-advisory-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Members with two or more consecutive unexcused absences will be subject to rescinded membership.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., Thursday, November 10, 2022**, by contacting Ms. Glenna Brambill at 1-408-630-2408, or gbrambill@valleywater.org.

Enclosures



Agricultural Water Advisory Committee Meeting

Public and Non-presenting staff may Join Zoom Meeting:
<https://valleywater.zoom.us/j/98850905996>

Meeting ID: 988 5090 5996

One tap mobile

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Dial by your location

+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 988 5090 5996



Santa Clara Valley Water District Agricultural Water Advisory Committee Meeting

**HQ Building Boardroom
5700 Almaden Expressway
San Jose CA 95118**

SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA

**Monday, November 14, 2022
1:30 PM**

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

Jan Garrod, Chair
Peter Van Dyke, Vice Chair

BOARD REPRESENTATIVES:
Director Nai Hsueh, District 5
Director Richard P. Santos, District 3
Director John L. Varela, District 1

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)

Glenna Brambill, (COB Liaison)
Management Analyst II
gbrambill@valleywater.org
1-408-630-2408

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
SPECIAL MEETING
AGENDA**

Monday, November 14, 2022

1:30 PM

HQ Building Boardroom
5750 Almaden Expressway
San Jose CA 95118

*****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 at a video conferenced meeting, during public comment or on any item listed on the agenda, should use the “Raise Hand” tool located in the Zoom meeting link listed on the agenda, at the time the item is called. Speakers will be acknowledged by the Board 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, 98850905996#

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 Committee on any item not listed on the agenda should access the "Raise Hand" tool located in Zoom meeting link listed on the agenda. Speakers will be acknowledged by the Committee Chair in order requests are received and granted speaking access to address the Committee. Speakers comments should be limited to two minutes or as set by the Chair. The law does not permit Committee action on, or extended discussion of, any item not on the agenda except under special circumstances. If 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 Committee may take action on any item of business appearing on the posted agenda.*

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

3.1. Approval of Minutes. [22-1212](#)

Recommendation: Approve the July 11, 2022, Meeting Minutes.

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

Attachments: [Attachment 1: 07112022 Ag Wtr DRAFT Mins](#)

Est. Staff Time: 5 Minutes

4. REGULAR AGENDA:

4.1. Drought Emergency Response and Water Supply Update. [22-1213](#)

Recommendation: Receive Drought Emergency Response and Water Supply Update.

Manager: Kirsten Struve, 408-630-3138

Attachments: [Attachment 1: PowerPoint Presentation](#)

Est. Staff Time: 15 Minutes

4.2. Receive information on agriculture and groundwater recharge in response to the Farm Bureau letter dated July 7, 2022. [22-1214](#)

Recommendation: Receive information on agriculture and groundwater recharge in response to the Farm Bureau letter dated July 7, 2022.

Manager: Gregory Williams, 408-630-2867

Attachments: [Attachment 1: Farm Bureau Letter](#)
[Attachment 2: Valley Water Response](#)
[Attachment 3: PowerPoint Presentation](#)

Est. Staff Time: 45 Minutes

4.3. Review Agricultural Water Advisory Committee Work Plan, the Outcomes of Board Action of Committee Requests; and the Committee's Next Meeting Agenda. [22-1215](#)

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 Work Plan 2022](#)

Est. Staff Time: 5 Minutes

5. INFORMATION ITEM:

5.1. Review Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Board Work Plan.

[22-1216](#)

Recommendation: Review the Board's 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: Board Work Plan](#)

Est. Staff Time: 5 Minutes

6. 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.

7. REPORTS:

7.1. Director's Report

7.2. Manager's Report

7.3. Committee Member Report

7.4. Informational Links:

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

- Board Policy and Planning Committee (BPPC)

- Water Storage Exploratory Committee (WSEC)

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

- Water Conservation and Demand Management Committee (WCaDMC)

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

- Water Tracker

8. ADJOURN:

8.1. Adjourn to Regular Meeting at 1:30 p.m., on Monday, January 9, 2023.



Santa Clara Valley Water District

File No.: 22-1212

Agenda Date: 11/14/2022

Item No.: 3.1.

COMMITTEE AGENDA MEMORANDUM

Agricultural Water Advisory Committee

SUBJECT:

Approval of Minutes.

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the July 11, 2022, Meeting 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.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment 1: 07112022, Ag Water Draft Meeting Mins.

UNCLASSIFIED MANAGER:

Candice Kwok-Smith, 408-630-3193



AGRICULTURAL WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

DRAFT MINUTES

MONDAY, JULY 11, 2022

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Agricultural Water Advisory Committee was held on July 11, 2022, at Santa Clara Valley Water District, Headquarters Building Boardroom, 5700 Almaden Expressway, San Jose CA 95118.

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Committee Chair Jan Garrod called the meeting to order at 1:34 p.m.

Members in attendance were:

Jurisdiction

District 1

District 2

District 3

District 4

District 5

District 6

District 7

Loma Prieta Resource Conservation District

Private Well Owner (Non Retail)

Representative

Mitchell Mariani*

James Provenzano

William Cilker

David Vanni

Sheila Barry

Brent Bonino*

Jan Garrod

Robert Long

Sandra Carrico

Peter Van Dyke

Dhruv Khanna

Members not in attendance were:

Jurisdiction

District 1

District 5

District 6

Representative

Russ Bonino

Michael Miller

Tim Chiala

*Committee Members arrived as indicated below.

Board members in attendance were: Director Nai Hsueh (District 5), Board Alternate, Director Richard P. Santos (District 3), and Director John L. Varela (District 1), Board Representatives.

Staff members in attendance were Antonio Alfaro, Aaron Baker, Lisa Bankosh, Neeta Bijoor, Rechelle Blank, John Bourgeois, Glenna Brambill, Clelia Busadas, Justin Burks, Usha Chatwani, Vanessa De La Piedra, Vincent Gin, Samantha Greene, Jason Gurdak, Candice Kwok-Smith, Brian Mendenhall, Carmen Narayanan, Metra Richert, Don Rocha, Ashley Shannon, Kirsten Struve, Darin Taylor, and Damaris Villalobos-Galindo.

Public in attendance was: Director Linda J. LeZotte (Valley Water District 4).

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

There was no one present who wished to speak.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3.1 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Peter Van Dyke, second by David Vanni and carried by unanimous vote approved the April 4, 2022, Agricultural Water Advisory Committee meeting minutes, as presented.

*Brent Bonino arrived at 1:36 p.m.

*Mitchell Mariani arrived at 1:39 p.m.

4. ACTION ITEMS:

4.1 Drought Emergency Response and Water Supply Update

Neeta Bijoor reviewed the materials as outlined in the agenda.

The Agricultural Water Advisory Committee discussed the following: imported water, enforcement, incentives for landscape replacement, public supply wells, permitted wells, comparative data on water usage, SGMA impacts, housing/population growth and water conservation.

Aaron Baker, Vanessa De La Piedra and Samantha Greene were available to answer questions.

The Agricultural Water Advisory Committee took no action.

4.2 ONE WATER – UPPER PAJARO RIVER WATERSHED PLAN – INFORMATION ON PLAN SCOPE, OVERVIEW AND STAKEHOLDER FEEDBACK

Damaris Villalobos-Galindo reviewed the materials as outlined in the agenda

The Agricultural Water Advisory Committee discussed the following: open space/cattle lands, drought and climate change, impacts of loss lands, water yields, absence of water concerns, funding ways to move water, desalination, and look at long range pipeline needs.

Aaron Baker and Brian Mendenhall were available to answer questions.

The Agricultural Water Advisory Committee took no action.

4.3 REVIEW AGRICULTURAL WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE WORK PLAN, THE OUTCOMES OF BOARD ACTION OF COMMITTEE REQUESTS; AND THE COMMITTEE'S NEXT MEETING AGENDA

Glenna Brambill reviewed the materials as outlined in the agenda.

The Agricultural Water Advisory Committee took the following action:

The Agricultural Water Advisory Committee unanimously approved asking that the Board consider adding "Request to recognize growers as land-use stewards, contributors to groundwater recharge" to their October agenda for an in-depth discussion.

5. INFORMATION ITEMS:

5.1 STANDING ITEMS REPORT

No report was made.

6. CLERK REVIEW AND CLARIFICATION OF COMMITTEE REQUESTS TO THE BOARD

Glenna Brambill reported there was one action item for Board consideration.

Agenda 4.3:

The Agricultural Water Advisory Committee took the following action: by

The Agricultural Water Advisory Committee unanimously approved asking that the Board consider adding "Request to recognize growers as land-use stewards, contributors to groundwater recharge" to their October agenda for an in-depth discussion.

7. REPORTS

7.1 Director's Report

Director John L. Varela reported on:

- Water Conservation messaging (outreach)
- On-going drought issues and concerns
- Water Supply-sustainable drinking water

7.2 Manager's Report

None.

7.3 Committee Member Reports

None.

7.4 Informational Link Reports

Links were provided in the Committee's agenda packet.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Committee Chair Jan Garrod adjourned the meeting at 3:35 p.m. to the regular meeting on Monday, October 3, 2022, at 1:30 p. m.

Glenna Brambill
Board Committee Liaison
Office of the Clerk of the Board

Approved:



Santa Clara Valley Water District

File No.: 22-1213

Agenda Date: 11/14/2022

Item No.: 4.1.

COMMITTEE AGENDA MEMORANDUM

Agricultural Water Advisory Committee

SUBJECT:

Drought Emergency Response and Water Supply Update.

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive Drought Emergency Response and Water Supply Update.

SUMMARY:

Drought Conditions

On June 9, 2021, the Board adopted Santa Clara Valley Water District (Valley Water) Resolution 21-68 which declared a water shortage emergency condition pursuant to California Water Code §350, called for water use reduction of 15% compared to 2019, and urged the County of Santa Clara (County) to proclaim a local emergency. The County ratified its proclamation of a drought emergency on June 22, 2021. Valley Water Resolution 22-20 amended Valley Water Resolution 21-68 on April 12, 2022, to call for no more than 2 days of irrigation in a week for ornamental lawns and prohibit excessive runoff, midday irrigation, and irrigation after rainfall. On May 24, 2022, the Board pursuant to Water Code §375 adopted Ordinance 22-02 to enforce these restrictions. Ordinance 22-02 went into effect on June 1, 2022, and was amended on September 13, 2022, to include the State's watering ban on watering non-functional turf at Commercial, Industrial, and Institutional (CII) properties.

In 2022, Santa Clara County (County) and the State of California entered the third year of drought, and experienced the driest January, February and March on record. Valley Water's Federal and State imported water allocations were drastically reduced to historic lows. On March 28, 2022, Governor Gavin Newsom issued Executive Order N-7-22 to call on local water suppliers to move to at least Stage 2 of their water shortage contingency plans. The U.S. Drought Monitor Report from October 13, 2022, indicates that the county is in primarily severe drought, with the eastern edges in extreme drought. The northern Sierra Nevada snowpack, a primary source of Valley Water's imported water, is well below normal in 2022. Staff will provide updates regarding latest drought conditions.

Despite ongoing drought conditions, groundwater levels are stabilizing or increasing in some areas of the county because of recent increases in managed recharge (made possible by emergency imported water supplies) and ongoing water conservation by the community. Other areas in the county continue to have declines in water levels, although recharge with emergency supplies and conservation are helping to limit these declines. Eight dry wells have been reported during the current drought through September 2022. This is 0.1% of our 6,000 water supply wells in the county. These are all domestic wells used for household water supply. Of the seven wells with known locations, all

are at or near the foothills where well yield is usually less reliable, particularly in drought. With drought conditions expected to continue, water use reduction is essential to minimize the risk of resumed subsidence in North County and additional wells going dry, particularly in South County. Conservation is an important strategy to help reach the Board's 15% call for water use reduction and mitigate against negative impacts.

Water Conservation Outreach and Programs

Valley Water's "Say Yes" water conservation campaign continues on a variety of media including TV, radio, print, social media, billboards, and banners. Valley Water hosts webinars to educate the community on drought proofing yards and continues its Speakers Bureau program.

Following the Valley Water Board's amendment to the existing water waste enforcement ordinance to allow Valley Water to enforce the State of California's ban against watering decorative or non-functional turf on CII properties, Valley Water has been conducting messaging on the ban to CII properties. Information about the CII outdoor watering ban was distributed electronically to various community leaders and other stakeholders. Information about water conservation resources and programs available to all residents and businesses in Santa Clara County was also included in the message.

Additionally, Valley Water staff and Directors continue to attend the Board of Directors meetings for the Santa Clara County Farm Bureau and report out on issues of mutual interest as needed. Staff submits a column on behalf of Chair Pro Tem Varela to the Santa Clara Valley Farm Bureau every other month. During the past few years, the columns have often included messaging about drought and conservation.

Valley Water is continuing to see high participation rates in water conservation programs.

Countywide Water Use Reduction

Valley Water's water savings call of 15% compared to 2019 was exceeded in August 2022, for the second month in a row. Countywide water savings was 16% in August 2022 compared to August 2019. Our water conservation programs, our enforcement program launched in June, and our increased public outreach have all been effective in helping us achieve these savings. Countywide water savings was 13% in September 2022 compared to September 2019. A dramatic heat wave in September 2022 is a likely contributor to water savings decreasing compared to July and August 2022.

Santa Clara County's cumulative water savings from June 2021 - September 2022 is 6%, compared to 2019.

Water Waste Enforcement

Valley Water's Water Waste Program is continuing its educational mission while enforcing mandatory outdoor water use restrictions. Valley Water is addressing these complaints and coordinating with water retailers and municipalities on enforcement efforts. Over 1,500 water waste complaints were

received since enforcement of Ordinance 22-02 was launched in June. Runoff continues to be the most common complaint. As of October 13, 2022, 34 complaints were received related to the ban against watering CII non-functional turf. Enforcement has been successful as there have been only three complaints of water waste following the first complaint, which suggests that people are addressing their water waste following the first complaint.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment 1: PowerPoint Presentation

UNCLASSIFIED MANAGER:

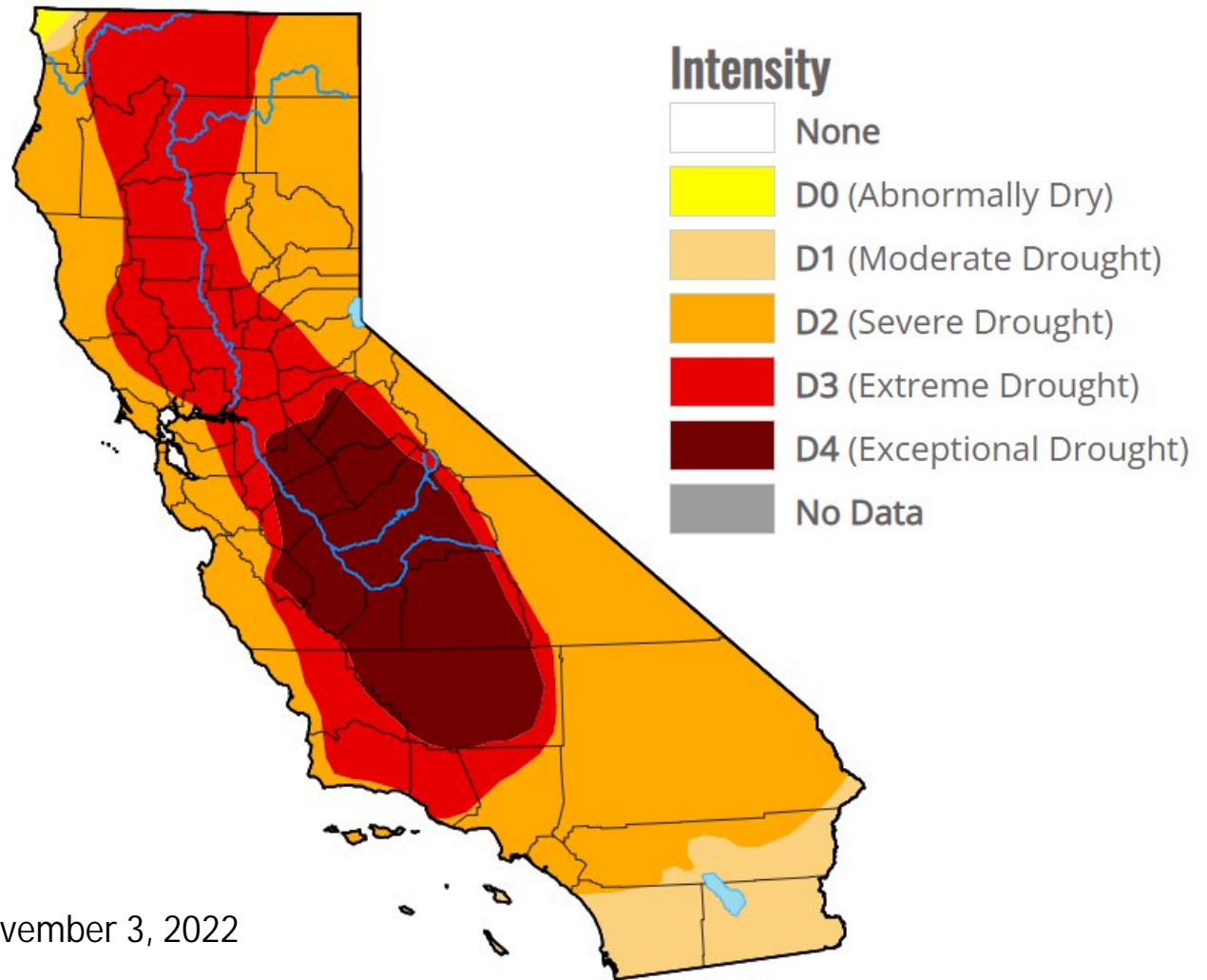
Kirsten Struve, 408-630-3138



Drought Emergency Response and Water Supply Update

Agricultural Water Advisory Committee
November 14, 2022

Drought Status

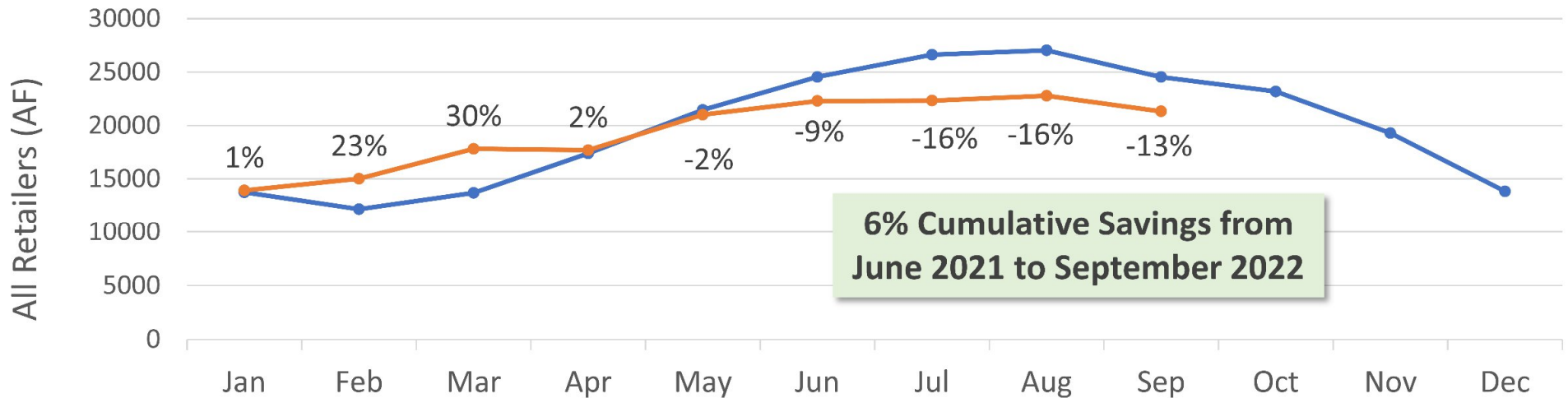


Data source: U.S. Drought Monitor, November 3, 2022

Countywide Water Savings

— 2019 — 2022

The percent increase (+) or percent decrease (-) in water use from 2019 to 2022 is shown for each month.

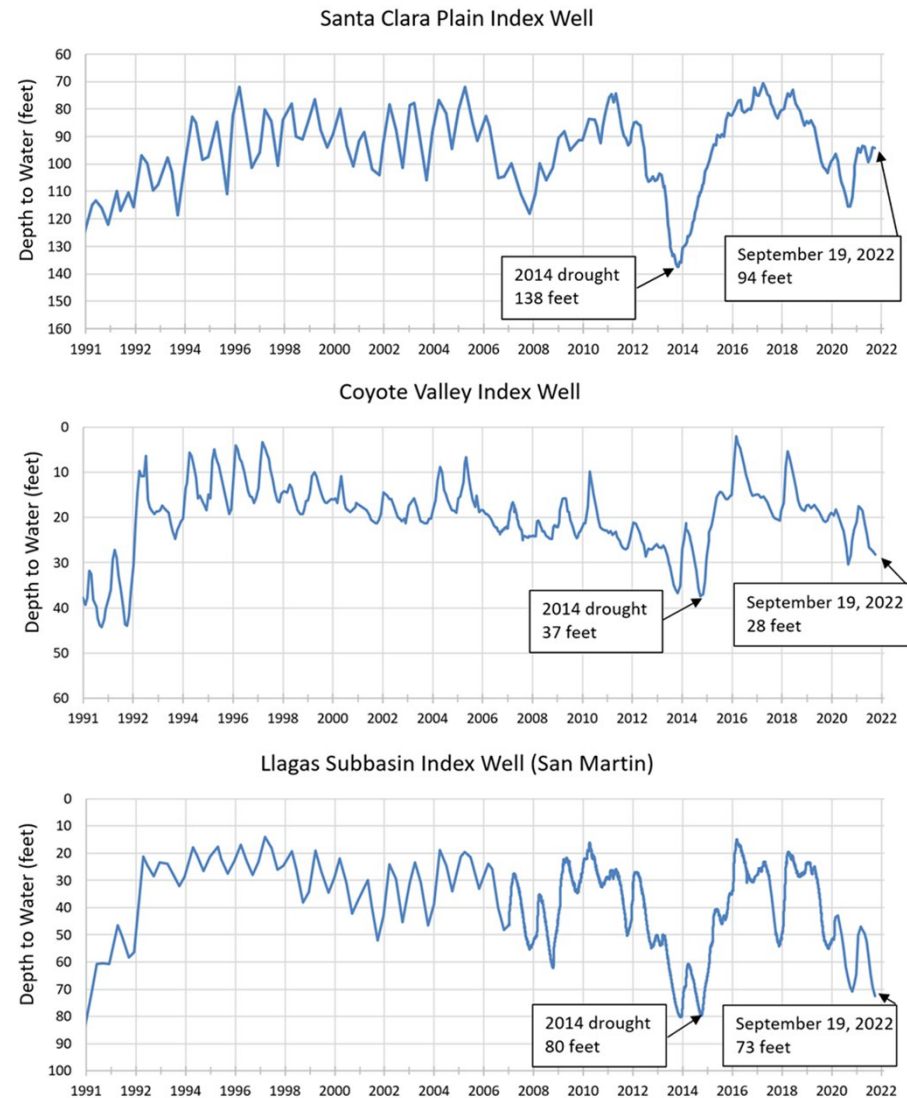


Historically Low 2022 Imported Water Allocations

- State Water Project - 5% and minimum Human Health and Safety needs
- Central Valley Project - Public Health and Safety only, 0% for Ag
- Semitropic water bank withdrawals
- Emergency transfers

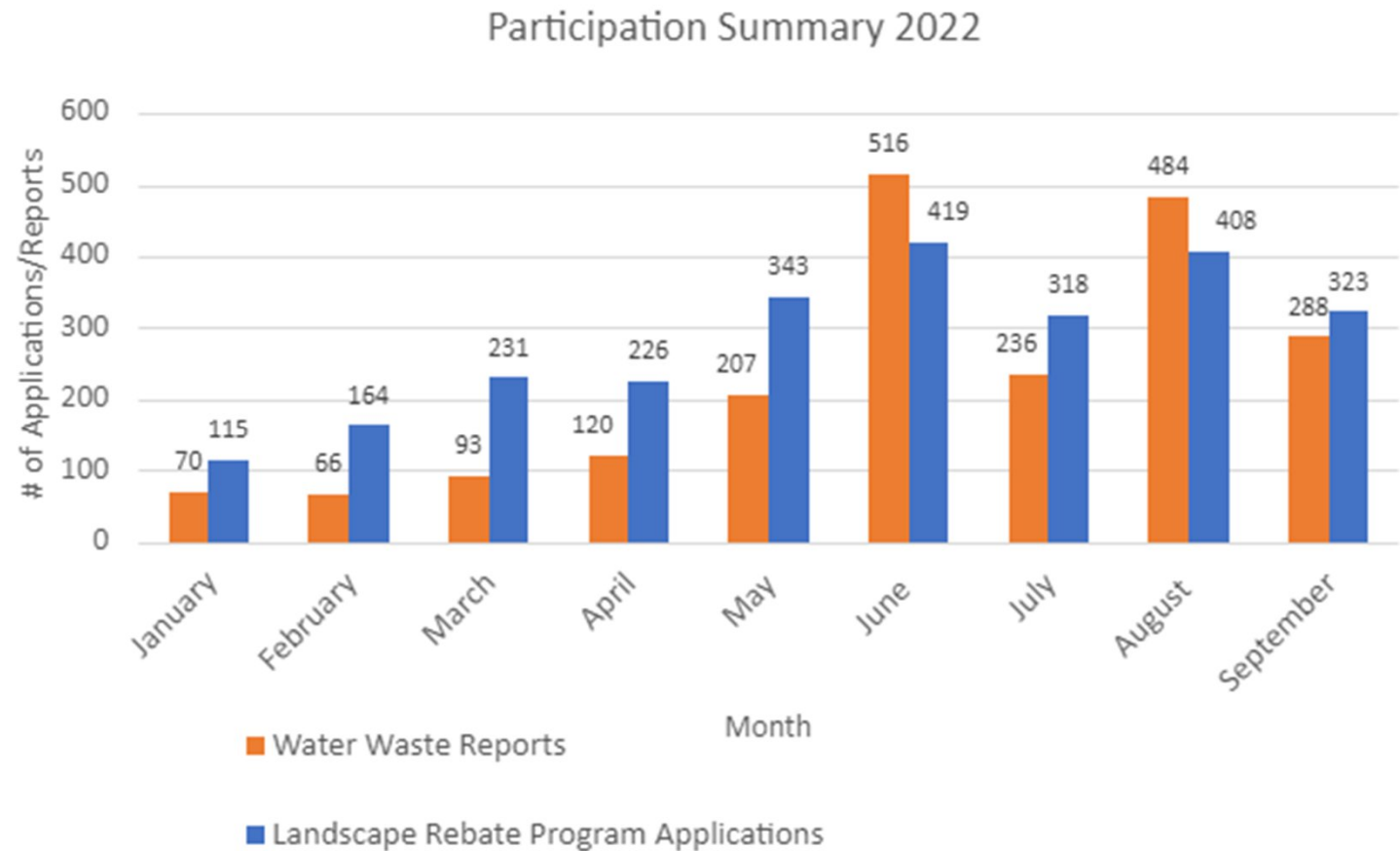
Groundwater

- Managed recharge is healthy due to emergency imported water
- Projected to be 96% of long-term average
- Water levels have increased in North County
- South County water levels declining but remain above 2014 levels



Water Conservation

- Participation remains high
- E-cart
 - Almost 10,000 orders



Drought and Conservation Outreach



- Messaging on TV, radio, print, social media, and more
- Farm Bureau Outreach
- Educational outreach

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Santa Clara Valley Water District

File No.: 22-1214

Agenda Date: 11/14/2022

Item No.: 4.2.

COMMITTEE AGENDA MEMORANDUM

Agricultural Water Advisory Committee

SUBJECT:

Receive information on agriculture and groundwater recharge in response to the Farm Bureau letter dated July 7, 2022.

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive information on agriculture and groundwater recharge in response to the Farm Bureau letter dated July 7, 2022.

SUMMARY:

In a July 7, 2022, letter to the Santa Clara Valley Water District (Valley Water) Board of Directors (Board), the Santa Clara County Farm Bureau (Farm Bureau) expressed concern that Valley Water “is not providing due consideration to - and appropriately recognizing and rewarding - the contributions of farmlands to groundwater recharge.” The letter noted decreased agricultural water use and requested that Valley Water use the Santa Clara County Drainage Manual (Drainage Manual) to calculate the amount of recharge occurring on farmlands and rangelands and to consider eliminating agricultural groundwater production charges if that amount exceeds agricultural groundwater pumping (Attachment 1).

On August 23, 2022, the Board approved the July 11, 2022, recommendation from the Agricultural Water Advisory Committee to add this topic to the next Committee agenda for in-depth discussion. Valley Water’s response to the Farm Bureau on September 28, 2022 (Attachment 2) and this memo provide additional information on the Drainage Manual, groundwater recharge, and agricultural use to support Committee discussion.

The Drainage Manual helps engineers design storm drainage systems for development projects by providing methods to calculate expected runoff based on 10-year and 100-year storms. Designing for these larger, less frequent storms helps ensure facilities can capture peak runoff to prevent flooding. Because these storms are predicted to occur every ten or one hundred years, the runoff calculations represent very wet conditions rather than average or dry conditions.

The Drainage Manual does not provide methods to calculate groundwater recharge, which is not equivalent to (and is much smaller than) runoff. In a U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) study comparing recharge rates, only 4 to 18% of precipitation was estimated to recharge groundwater in areas with annual precipitation similar to Santa Clara County. Using numerical groundwater flow models that are calibrated to measured groundwater levels, Valley Water estimates that about 10 to 15% of local precipitation recharges water supply aquifers.

Groundwater recharge is highly variable by location and time and depends on rainfall timing, volume, and intensity; evapotranspiration; soil type and moisture; land use; and other factors. Geology also affects recharge; principal water supply aquifers are replenished within the recharge areas of groundwater basins. These are areas of the valley floor with permeable sediments (sands and gravels) and no significant clay layers at depth. Groundwater recharge areas cover only 16% of the total land area in Santa Clara County, so precipitation falling on most land within the county does not benefit principal water supply aquifers via natural infiltration.

Within Santa Clara County, most farmland is concentrated in the valley floor of South County and most grazing is in the foothills outside the groundwater basins. Based on land use data from the California Department of Conservation and Valley Water mapping of groundwater recharge areas, only about 40% of South County agricultural lands overlie a groundwater recharge area. Using the related area, average annual precipitation in Gilroy, and assuming 25% of precipitation recharges groundwater, natural recharge on South County farmlands is about 7,000 acre-feet per year. It should be noted that the recharge rate used in this calculation is conservative and likely overestimates average recharge.

Countywide agricultural pumping over the last twenty years has been relatively stable, with an annual average of 26,000 acre-feet. In 2021, agricultural pumping was about 28,000 acre-feet, the highest annual volume reported in over ten years. Therefore, water use data does not indicate an active decline in agriculture. South County agricultural pumping averages over 25,000 acre-feet per year, accounting for about half of all groundwater pumped in the area and exceeding the conservative estimate of natural recharge on farmland by more than three times.

Valley Water's managed recharge continues to be vital to address the imbalance between natural recharge and groundwater pumping by municipal, agricultural, and domestic users. Our groundwater charges are based on the cost of service for activities needed to protect and augment groundwater supplies. Because groundwater basins are shared, interconnected systems, all well users within a given groundwater benefit zone share the costs for activities benefiting those areas.

The Valley Water Board of Director's pricing policy acknowledges benefits provided by agricultural lands, including additional infiltration. To help preserve agricultural lands and these benefits, the pricing policy limits the rate paid by agricultural pumpers to 10% of the lowest rate paid by other groundwater users (South County Zone W-8).

Valley Water appreciates the agricultural community's willingness to proactively increase groundwater recharge on agricultural lands. We will continue to engage the Agricultural Water Advisory Committee and Farm Bureau on our preliminary feasibility study of Flood-MAR to help determine which open space and agricultural lands may be suitable for recharging groundwater with stormwater, evaluate stormwater availability, and explore financial incentives.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment 1: Farm Bureau Letter

File No.: 22-1214

Agenda Date: 11/14/2022
Item No.: 4.2.

Attachment 2: Valley Water Letter
Attachment 3: PowerPoint

UNCLASSIFIED MANAGER:
Gregory Williams, 408-630-2867



605 Tennant Ave., Suite H, Morgan Hill, CA 95037
(408) 776-1684
info@santaclarafarmbureau.org
www.sccfarmbureau.org

July 7, 2022

John Varela, Chair Pro Tem
Valley Water Board of Directors
5750 Almaden Expressway
San Jose, CA 95118-3686

RE: Request to recognize growers as land-use stewards, contributors to groundwater recharge

Dear Chair Pro Tem Varela and Members of the Board of Directors:

The Santa Clara County Farm Bureau has continuing concern that Valley Water is not providing due consideration to -- and appropriately recognizing and rewarding -- the contributions of farmlands to groundwater recharge. Specifically, we refer to the Santa Clara County Drainage Manual (the "Manual"). Since 2007, the Manual has been the engineering basis for calculating increased run-off caused by the elimination of farmlands and other undeveloped raw land when the farmlands or other undeveloped lands are built up with non-permeable surfaces - asphalt, cement, roof tops etc.

As you know, Santa Clara County, since the latter half of the last century, has permitted and prospered from the rapid consumption of farmland by our cities and municipalities for residential, retail, industrial and other commercial uses ("M&I Uses"). The Manual measures increased run-off from M&I Uses which is also the measurement of water that would otherwise not-run-off and instead percolate into the ground and replenish our aquifers during the rainy season.

As farmlands have decreased, the water consumption by farmers has also decreased. Meanwhile, using its own accounting-driven (as opposed to engineering-driven) methodologies, Valley Water has, over the past decade, roughly doubled the agricultural groundwater production charges levied on the farmers who remain in business. This is counterproductive to the County's policies to preserve what remains of farming in the County; and it is an outcome that does not give credit to the reality that, just as on lands and reservoirs owned by Valley Water, rainwater on farmlands and range lands also contributes to aquifer recharge.

Our Santa Clara County Farm Bureau is deeply concerned that **accounting-driven methodologies for groundwater production charges has increasingly led to results that diverge from reality** -- the reality that vast volumes of groundwater recharge occurs on farmlands and range lands (farmlands and range lands in active use and fallow or vacant) -- and such recharge is reduced by M&I Uses as set forth in the engineering calculations specified in the Manual.

We respectfully ask you now to require your staff to calculate and provide a mathematical answer using *the Manual to determine the actual amount of groundwater recharge that occurs today on Santa Clara County's farmlands and range lands (actively farmed, used by cattle or simply fallow or otherwise vacant and undeveloped)*. If it turns out that this amount of recharge exceeds the amount of groundwater being pumped by our county's farmers and range landowners, Valley Water should consider eliminating agricultural groundwater production charges for farming and livestock land uses.

In addition, we continue to reiterate our willingness to work proactively and enthusiastically with Valley Water to *increase* the amount of groundwater recharge on farmlands and range lands -- over and above current recharge -- when the rain does fall in our county.

We ask that Valley Water, as requested above, thus join us in changing the public's and some of Valley Water's own misperception of farmers and ranchers as water-use villains and instead recognize us as land-use stewards, and massive contributors to and proponents of groundwater recharge.

Respectfully submitted,



Erin Gil
President

BOARD OF DIRECTORS[John L. Varela](#) / Chair Pro Tem (District 1)[Barbara F. Keegan](#) (District 2)[Richard P. Santos](#) (District 3)[Linda J. LeZotte](#) (District 4)[Nai Hsueh](#) (District 5)[Tony Estremera](#) (District 6)[Gary Kremen](#) (District 7)**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**[Rick L. Callender, Esq.](#)**CLERK OF THE BOARD**[Michele L. King, CMC](#)***Sent via email***

September 28, 2022

Erin Gil, President
Santa Clara County Farm Bureau
605 Tennant Avenue, Suite H
Morgan Hill, CA 95037

Subject: Request to Recognize Growers as Land-Use Stewards, Contributors to Groundwater Recharge

Dear President Gil:

Thank you for your letter and for the Santa Clara County Farm Bureau's willingness to work proactively with the Santa Clara Valley Water District (Valley Water) to increase the amount of groundwater recharge on farmlands and range lands. The Valley Water Board of Directors emphatically agrees with the Farm Bureau on the importance of agriculture in Santa Clara County and welcomes discussions on groundwater recharge opportunities, especially those presented by agricultural land.

To address the issues raised in your letter, we feel it is important to clarify the application of the Santa Clara County Drainage Manual in calculating groundwater recharge. The drainage manual provides a framework and methodology to help design storm drainage and flood control systems for development projects based on runoff levels for 10-year and 100-year storms. Further, stormwater runoff is not equal to groundwater recharge, as only a portion of runoff infiltrates the ground—with only a fraction of that water reaching the water table. Because the purpose of the manual is to prepare for these rare storms and does not represent average runoff conditions or infiltration to groundwater, the drainage manual is not the right tool to properly assess groundwater recharge.

We are conducting a preliminary feasibility study of Flood-Managed Aquifer Recharge (Flood-MAR) to help determine which open space and agricultural lands may be suitable for recharging groundwater with stormwater, evaluate where stormwater is available, and explore financial incentives. I hope that the results and information gained will allow our agency to work with the Farm Bureau to develop innovative approaches to groundwater recharge.

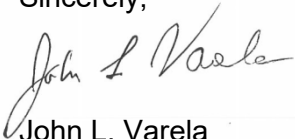
With regards to the Farm Bureau's concern regarding price increases, I want to assure you that Valley Water follows the industry standard rate-setting methodology, which is based on cost-of-service principles. Our Board's pricing policy acknowledges that agricultural lands provide open space benefits, which include additional infiltration. To support the preservation of these lands, the pricing policy limits the rate that agricultural pumpers pay to one-tenth of the lowest rate paid by other groundwater pumpers.

Our Board recently voted to bring forth this topic for robust discussion and would like to continue to engage the Farm Bureau to address concerns of mutual interest. We appreciate the opportunity to foster these collaborative efforts and I would like to invite you to join us at the next Agricultural Water Advisory Committee on November 14, 2022, where we will have the opportunity to discuss these issues

of critical importance and hope that you can participate in these conversations. Additional information about this Board Advisory Committee, including the published agenda as well as the teleconference, videoconference, and in-person details for the next meeting, will be posted on <https://www.valleywater.org/how-we-operate/committees/board-advisory-committees>.

Thank you again for your proactive communication with Valley Water, and we look forward to continuing conversation and collaboration with the Farm Bureau as we seek solutions for the challenges that come with managing water supplies for all residents of Santa Clara County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John L. Varela", is written over a light gray rectangular background.

John L. Varela
Chair Pro Tem

cc: Board of Directors (7), R. Callender, R. Gibson
gy:jh
0927a-l
C-22-0114



Agriculture and Groundwater Recharge

Agricultural Water Advisory Committee
November 14, 2022



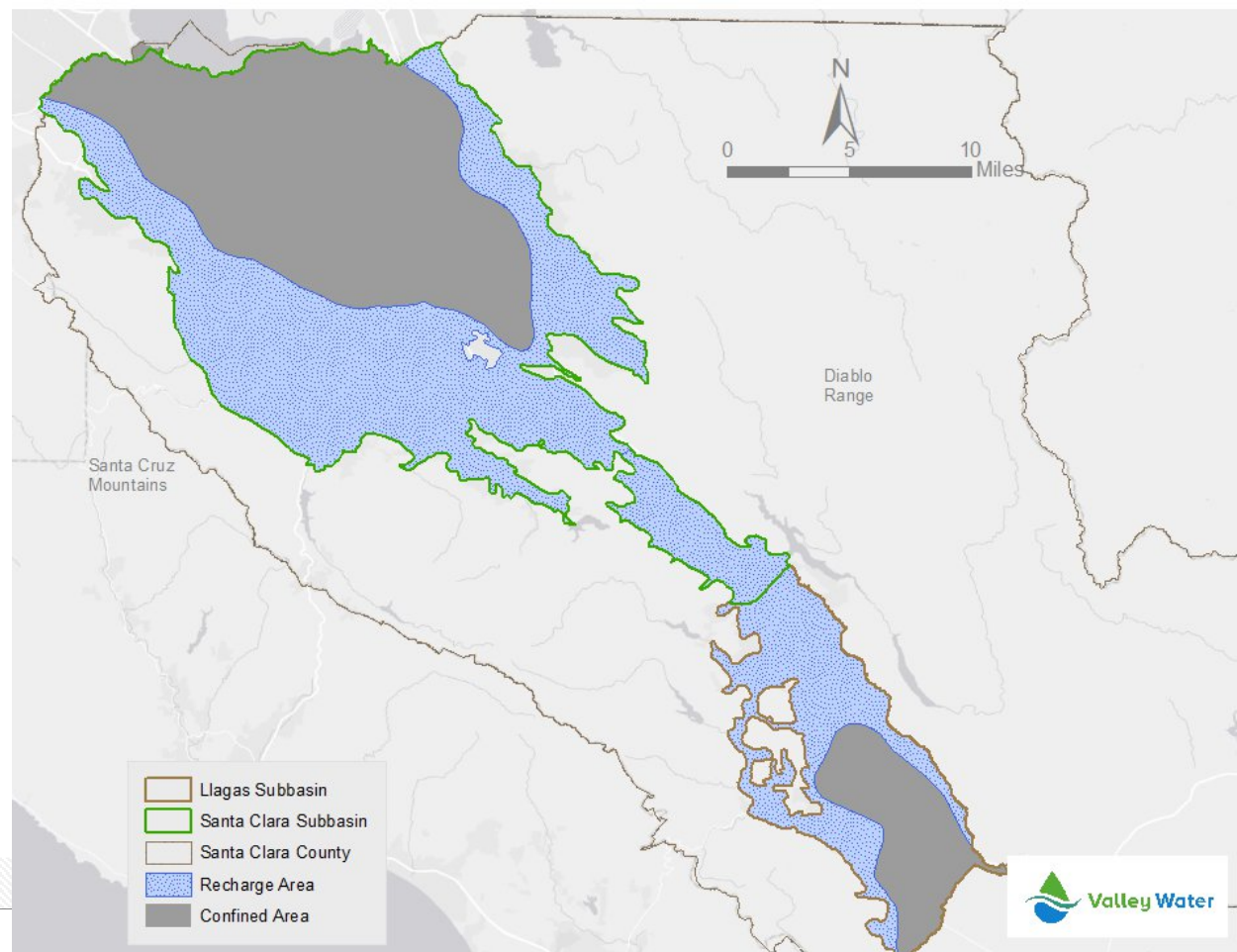
Farm Bureau Letter (July 7, 2022)

- Concerned Valley Water not providing appropriate credit for ag contribution to groundwater recharge
- Noted decreased ag water use consumption due to decreased farmland
- Requested use of Santa Clara County Drainage Manual to calculate recharge occurring on farmlands and range lands

Groundwater Recharge Areas

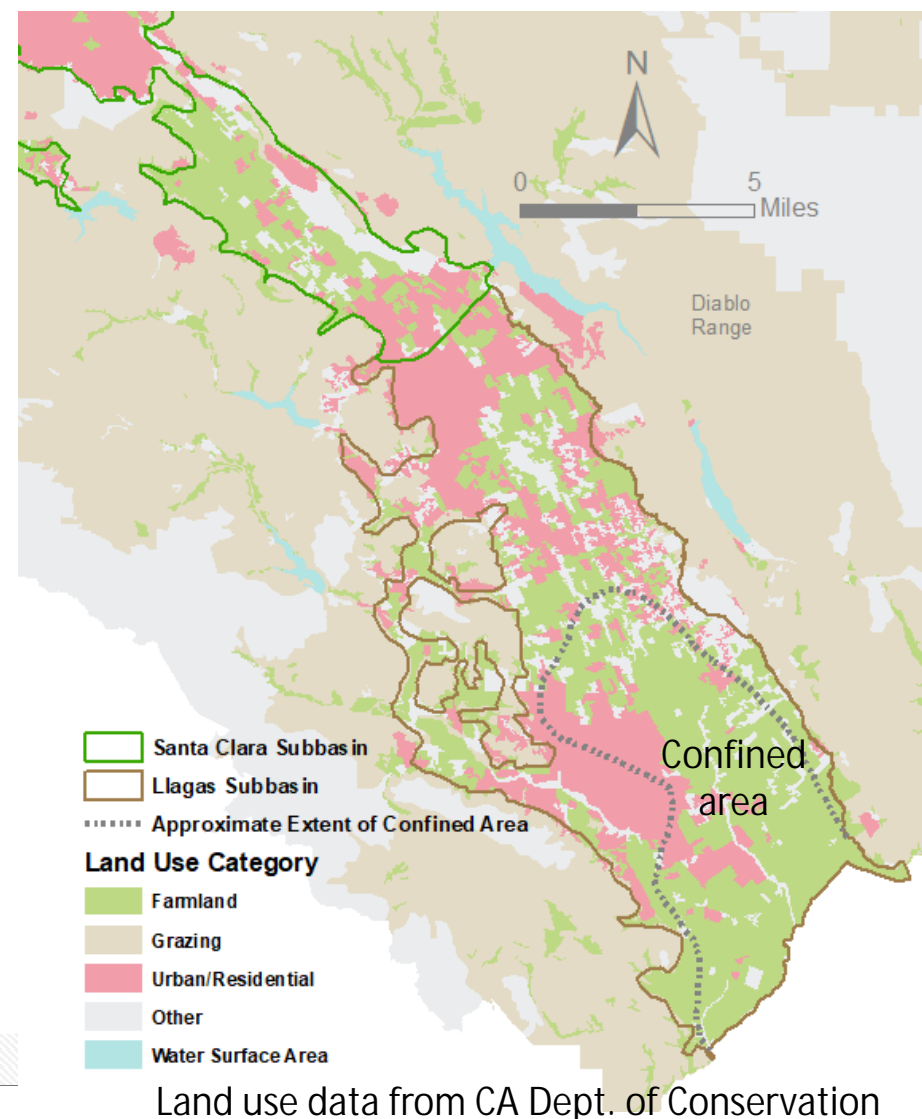
3

- Areas where water from the surface can infiltrate to water supply aquifers
- Cover only 16% of land in the county



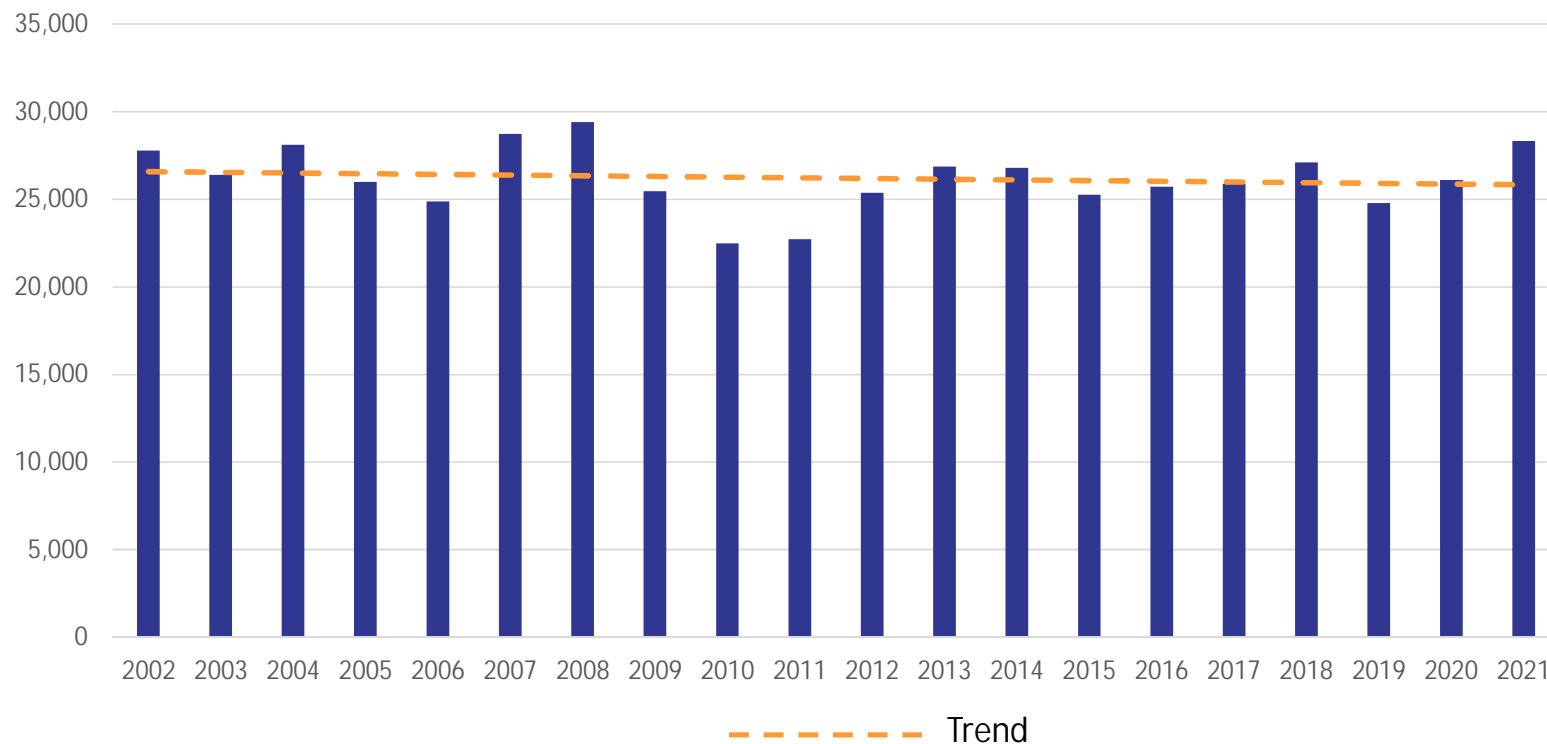
South County Land Use

- Ag concentrated in South County valley floor, most grazing in foothills
- Only about 40% of farmland overlies the recharge area
- Infiltration to water supply aquifers in other areas restricted by clays and silts



Agricultural Water Use (2002-2021)

Countywide Agricultural Pumping (Acre-Feet)



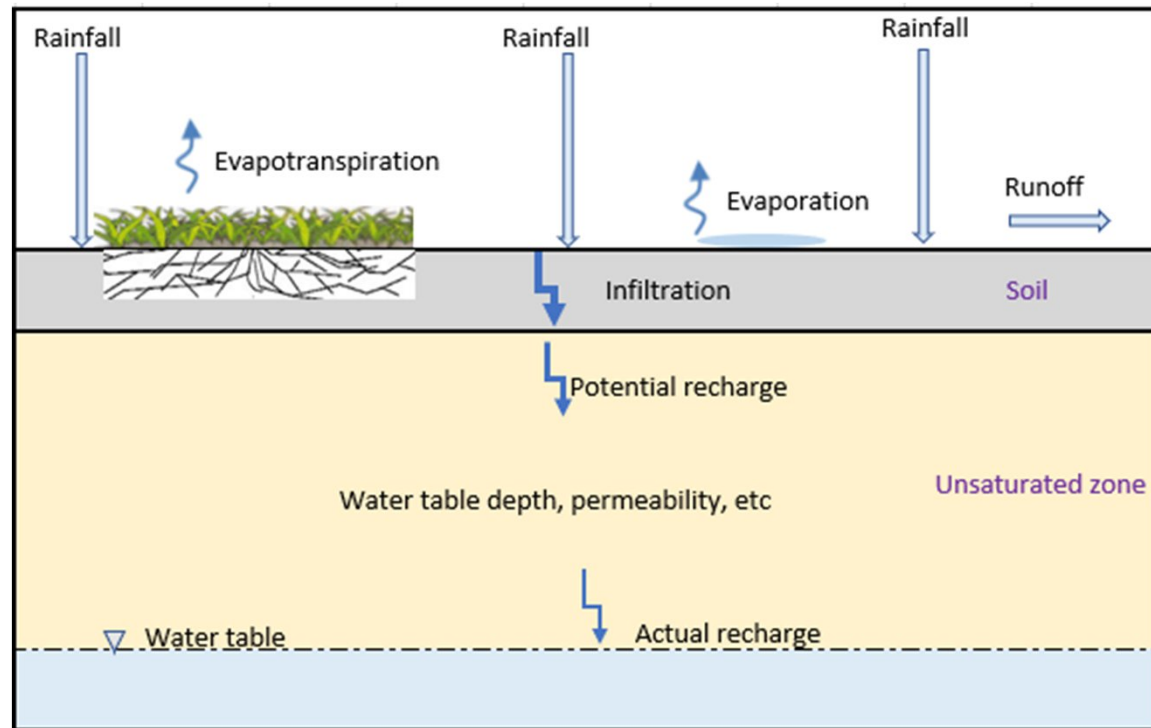
Santa Clara County Drainage Manual

6

- Manual “prepared to provide engineers with the requirements for the design of storm water facilities”
 - Methods calculate peak runoff based on large storms and are conservative to prevent flooding
- Not the proper tool to calculate groundwater recharge
 - Calculations do not represent average runoff conditions
 - Runoff and recharge are not equal
 - Only a portion of runoff infiltrates to the ground
 - Only a fraction of that water reaches the groundwater table

Natural Recharge Estimates

- Depend on many factors
- Highly variable in both location and time
- Estimated fraction of precipitation recharging aquifers:
 - USGS: 4 to 18%
 - Valley Water: 10 to 15%



Open Space Credit and Opportunities for Collaboration

- Our Board's pricing policy acknowledges open space benefits
 - Through the Open Space Credit, the rate ag pumpers pay is limited to 10% of the lowest rate paid by other groundwater pumpers.
- Valley Water appreciates the agricultural community's interest and willingness to increase recharge on farmlands.

QUESTIONS





Valley Water

Clean Water • Healthy Environment • Flood Protection



Santa Clara Valley Water District

File No.: 22-1215

Agenda Date: 11/14/2022

Item No.: 4.3.

COMMITTEE AGENDA MEMORANDUM

Agricultural Water Advisory Committee

SUBJECT:

Review Agricultural Water Advisory Committee 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 agendaized 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.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment 1: Agricultural Water Advisory Committee 2022 Work Plan

UNCLASSIFIED MANAGER:

Candice Kwok-Smith, 408-630-3193

2022 Work Plan: Agricultural Water Advisory Committee

Update: October 2022

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 2022	January 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Committee Elects Chair and Vice Chair for 2022 (Action) 	Accomplished January 3, 2022: The Committee unanimously approved Mr. Jan Garrod as the 2022 Agricultural Water Advisory Committee Chair and Mr. Peter Van Dyke as the 2022 Agricultural Water Advisory Committee Vice Chair.
2	Annual Accomplishments Report	January 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review and approve 2021 Accomplishments Report for presentation to the Board. (Action) Submit requests to the Board, as appropriate. 	Accomplished January 3, 2022: The Committee unanimously approved the 2021 Annual Accomplishments Report. <i>The Board received the Committee's presentation at its March 8, 2022, meeting.</i>
3	Quarterly Drought Response Update	January 3 April 4 July 11 November 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Receive an update on the Drought Response (Information) 	Accomplished January 3, 2022: Accomplished April 4, 2022: Accomplished July 11, 2022: The Committee received an update on the Drought Response and took no action.
4	Review and Comment to the Board on the Fiscal Year 2022 – 2023 Preliminary Groundwater Production Charges	January 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review and comment to the Board on the Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Preliminary Groundwater Production Charges. (Action) 	Accomplished January 3, 2022: The Committee received a presentation on the Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Preliminary Groundwater Production Charges and took no action.

Yellow = Update Since Last Meeting

Blue = Action taken by the Board of Directors

Attachment 1
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2022 Work Plan: Agricultural Water Advisory Committee

Update: October 2022

ITEM	WORK PLAN ITEM BOARD POLICY	MEETING DATE	INTENDED OUTCOME(S) (Action or Information Only)	ACCOMPLISHMENT DATE AND OUTCOME
5	Agricultural Water Use Baseline Study Update.	January 3 January 2023	•Receive information on the Agricultural Water Use Baseline Study. (Information)	Accomplished January 3, 2022: The Committee received a presentation on the Agricultural Water Use Baseline Study and took no action.
6	Injection Wells for Groundwater Recharge	January 3	•Receive information on the Injection Wells for Groundwater Recharge (Information)	Accomplished January 3, 2022: The Committee received information on the Injection Wells for Groundwater Recharge and took no action.
7	Review of Agricultural Water Advisory Committee Work Plan, the Outcomes of Board Action of Committee Requests and the Committee's Next Meeting Agenda	January 3 April 4 July 11 November 14	•Receive and review the 2022 Board-approved Committee work plan. (Action) •Submit requests to the Board, as appropriate.	Accomplished January 3, 2022: Accomplished April 4, 2022: The Committee received updates and reviewed the 2022 Board-approved Committee work plan and took no action. Accomplished July 11, 2022: The Committee received updates and reviewed the 2022 Board-approved Committee work plan and took the following action: The Committee unanimously approved asking that the Board consider adding "Request to recognize growers as land-use stewards, contributors to groundwater recharge" to their October agenda for an in-depth discussion. <i>The Board approved the Committee's request at its August 23, 2022, meeting.</i>
8	Standing Items Report Fiscal Year 2022 Goals and Strategies:	January 3 July 11	•Receive quarterly reports on standing items, FY2022. (Information)	Accomplished January 3, 2022: Accomplished July 11, 2022: The Committee received the quarterly reports on standing items and took no action.

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2022 Work Plan: Agricultural Water Advisory Committee

Update: October 2022

ITEM	WORK PLAN ITEM BOARD POLICY	MEETING DATE	INTENDED OUTCOME(S) (Action or Information Only)	ACCOMPLISHMENT DATE AND OUTCOME
GOAL	STRATEGY	FY22 FOCUS AREAS		MONITORING COMMITTEE
INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT	Strategy #1 Protect and maintain existing assets and infrastructure and advance new infrastructure projects.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be strategic in managing existing flood protection assets consistent with the Safe Clean Water Program. Advance new infrastructure projects identified in the Asset Management Plan and Operations & Maintenance Plan. Increase engagement with cities on flood plain management, Community Rating System (CRS) program, and emergency action plans. 		Board Policy and Planning Committee (BPPC)
	Strategy #2 Pursue opportunities to improve internal capacity to acquire regulatory permits.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to provide for agency-wide regulatory planning and permitting effort and pursue other efforts at the state and federal level to expedite permit review. Continue to foster better relationships with regulatory agencies and open dialogue with environmental, environmental justice and other stakeholders. Implement memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Regional Water Quality Control Board. 		BPPC
	Strategy #3 Engage and educate the community, elected officials and staff on our management of water resources in Santa Clara County	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to apply strategies for effective outreach, engagement, and education. Continue to develop and refine metrics to understand and improve the return on investment (ROI) of outreach strategies. Continue increasing efforts to educate the public about the mix of different types of water in Valley Water's portfolio, as well as our flood protection and environmental stewardship efforts. Engage directly with local government jurisdictions through joint meetings. 		Board of Directors
GOAL	STRATEGY	FY22 FOCUS AREAS		MONITORING COMMITTEE
WATER SUPPLY	Strategy #1 Actively Pursue New Water Supply and Storage Opportunities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore opportunities to develop new surface and groundwater storage projects that align with Valley Water's mission. Determine level of participation for projects and decisions about partnerships in accordance with the Water Supply Master Plan and water affordability. Make decisions on the Pacheco Reservoir Expansion Project following review of the project's Environmental Impact Report (EIR). 		Water Storage Exploratory Committee (WSEC)
	Strategy #2 Actively Participate in decisions regarding the CA Delta Conveyance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As a voice for Northern California, continue to engage and negotiate, through serving on the Delta Conveyance Design and Construction Authority and Finance Authority and Stakeholder Engagement Committee in adherence to Board approved Guiding Principles, to protect Santa Clara County's interests. 		Board of Directors
	Strategy #3 Lead Recycled and Purified Water Efforts with committed partners.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advance the Expedited Purified Water Program by releasing a Request for Proposal (RFP) for at least one Locally Sponsored Project. Implement the Countywide Water Reuse Master Plan. Continue to monitor Direct Potable Reuse (DPR) guidance and implement actions as needed. Finalize negotiations on term sheet for South County recycled water and agreement 		Recycled Water Committee (RWC)

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2022 Work Plan: Agricultural Water Advisory Committee

Update: October 2022

ITEM	WORK PLAN ITEM BOARD POLICY	MEETING DATE	INTENDED OUTCOME(S) (Action or Information Only)	ACCOMPLISHMENT DATE AND OUTCOME
	Strategy #4 Advance Anderson Dam Seismic Retrofit Project.	on governance.		Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Stream Planning and Operations Committee (SPOC)
	Strategy #5 Promote Making Water Conservation a California Way of Life in Santa Clara County.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue construction on the Anderson Dam Tunnel Project (ADTP). • Continue to work with appropriate regulatory agencies to advance the ADSRP. • Release for review the Draft Environmental Report for the ADSRP. • Continue to educate and engage the public, key stakeholders, decision makers, and elected officials of the project progress and construction timeline. • Coordinate long term ADSRP operations with the Fisheries and Aquatic Habitat Collaborative Effort (FAHCE). 		Water Conservation and Demand Management Committee (WCaDMC)
GOAL	STRATEGY	FY22 FOCUS AREAS		MONITORING COMMITTEE
NATURAL FLOOD PROTECTION	Strategy #1 Plan, design and maintain flood protection projects with multiple benefits, including protecting ecosystem functions and enhancing habitat.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to advance Shoreline EIA 11 levee construction. • Finalize the One Water Coyote Creek Watershed plan and make significant progress on the Guadalupe and Pajaro watershed plans. • Use a holistic approach to maintaining streams for flow conveyance and habitat enhancement. • Complete construction of Phase I of the Upper Llagas Flood Protection Project, a multi-benefit project providing flood protection while restoring habitat and benefiting the environmental ecosystem. 		CIP BPPC
	Strategy #2 Provide flood protection equitably in all regions of the County, prioritizing disadvantaged communities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advance One Water Countywide Framework in a comprehensive manner that includes diverse community-wide stakeholders and the incorporation of environmental justice policies in all planning efforts. • Continue progress on flood protection capital projects consistent with Valley Water's commitment to the Safe, Clean Water Program and equitably in all regions. 		CIP BPPC

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2022 Work Plan: Agricultural Water Advisory Committee

Update: October 2022

GOAL	STRATEGY	FY22 FOCUS AREAS	MONITORING COMMITTEE
ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP	Strategy #1 Attain net positive impact on the environment when implementing flood protection and water supply projects.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As part of the One Water Countywide Framework planning process, continue to develop an integrated water resource plan for each watershed, including appropriate metrics to monitor Valley Water's impacts on and benefit to the environment. Ensure that stewardship efforts are integrated and not focused primarily on mitigation. 	BPPC
	Strategy #2 Promote the protection of creeks, bay, and other aquatic ecosystems from threats of pollution and degradation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue efforts to protect the ecosystem and water quality of our water bodies and the integrity of our infrastructure. Such efforts include preventing stormwater pollution, increased implementation of green stormwater infrastructure, addressing mercury pollution, and homeless encampment clean ups. Continue partnerships and investments on a regional scale such as the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration and Santa Clara Valley Urban Runoff Pollution Prevention Program (SCVURPPP). 	Homeless Encampment Committee (HEC) SPOC
	Strategy #3 Continue the Fisheries and Aquatic Habitat Collaborative Effort (FAHCE).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue implementation of feasibility studies, monitoring activities, and planning and construction of various fish passage improvements. Advance the Guadalupe River and Stevens Creek Environmental Impact Report (EIR) consistent with all stakeholder agreements. Develop a programmatic approach to implementing FAHCE settlement. Advance Adaptive Management Plan to encompass all three creeks. 	SPOC

GOAL	STRATEGY	FY22 FOCUS AREAS	MONITORING COMMITTEE
BUSINESS MANAGEMENT	Strategy #1 Advance racial equity, diversity, and inclusion.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Begin implementation of best practices to address internal and external disparities and build an organizational culture consistent with the Board's Resolution addressing racial equity, diversity, and inclusion. Remain committed to environmental justice and the fair treatment and meaningful engagement of all people regardless of race, color, gender identity, disability status, national origin, tribe, culture, income, immigration status, or English language proficiency, with respect to the planning, projects, policies, services, and operations of Valley Water. 	Diversity and Inclusion Ad Hoc Committee (D&I)
	Strategy #2 Maintain appropriate staffing levels and expertise and ensure the safety of our staff.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and finalize a long-term staffing strategy that aligns with future capital and operational needs. Develop classification career ladders to provide understanding of requirements for professional growth. Advance the development of a skilled trades apprenticeship program. Maximize the safety of staff working in creeks, homeless encampments and Valley Water facilities and continue to promote health & safety guidance to protect staff from public health emergencies and environmental impacts. 	D&I
	Strategy #3 Provide affordable and cost-effective level of services.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to establish benchmarking with other agencies, particularly water agencies, in order to understand areas for improvement. 	Financial Sustainability Working Group (FSWG) Board Audit Committee

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2022 Work Plan: Agricultural Water Advisory Committee

Update: October 2022

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research and identify best practices from other agencies around water affordability, particularly with disadvantaged communities. • Establish Valley Water as a statewide leader in conversations around water affordability. 	(BAC)
GOAL	STRATEGY	FY22 FOCUS AREAS		MONITORING COMMITTEE
CLIMATE CHANGE	Strategy #1 Address future impacts of climate change to Valley Water's mission and operations.	Begin implementation of Climate Change Action Plan.		BPPC

9	Review and Comment to the Board on the Fiscal Year 2022 – 2023 Proposed Groundwater Production Charges	April 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review and comment to the Board on the Fiscal Year 2023 Proposed Groundwater Production Charges. (Action) 	Accomplished April 4, 2022: The Committee received Review and comment to the Board on the Fiscal Year 2023 Proposed Groundwater Production Charges and took the following action: The Committee unanimously approved staff's report. <i>The Board received the Committee's approval at its May 10, 2022, meeting.</i>
10	Flood-Managed Aquifer Recharge Preliminary Feasibility Study for Santa Clara County	April 4 January 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Receive a presentation on the Flood-Managed Aquifer Recharge Preliminary Feasibility Study for Santa Clara County (Information) 	Accomplished April 4, 2022: The Committee received a presentation on the Flood-Managed Aquifer Recharge Preliminary Feasibility Study for Santa Clara County and took no action.
11	One Water – Upper Pajaro River Watershed Plan – Information on Plan Scope, Overview and Stakeholder Feedback	July 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Receive a presentation on One Water – Upper Pajaro River Watershed Plan – Information on Plan Scope, Overview and Stakeholder Feedback (Action) 	Accomplished July 11, 2022: The Committee received a presentation on the One Water – Upper Pajaro River Watershed Plan – Information on Plan Scope, Overview and Stakeholder Feedback and took no action.
12	Agriculture and Groundwater Recharge	November 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion on Agriculture and Groundwater Recharge. 	
13	Review FY2022-2023 Board Work Plan	November 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review the FY2022-2023 Board Work Plan. (Information) 	

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2022 Work Plan: Agricultural Water Advisory Committee

Update: October 2022

GOAL	OBJECTIVE	FY23 TACTICS	MONITORING COMMITTEE
INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT <i>"Efficiently manage water resources across business areas."</i>	<u>Objective #1 Challenge/Opportunity</u> <i>The maintenance of Valley Water's infrastructure is crucial to ensuring we continue to provide safe, clean water and critical flood protection for our communities. Timely maintenance is the most cost-effective investment, whereas deferred maintenance disproportionately increases costs and causes unplanned outages and failures risking the population of the county. In addition, aging assets are reaching the end of the design life and will require major recapitalization.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a Fuel Management Policy to guide the incorporation of wildfire planning efforts in an integrated and programmatic way. • Continue a robust preventive maintenance program including monitoring asset condition and risk. • Strategically plan for larger infrastructure renewal projects through Safe Clean Water Project F8 – Sustainable Creek Infrastructure for Continued Public Safety; Water Treatment Plant, Distribution System, and SCADA Implementation Plans; Watersheds and Water Utility Operations and Maintenance Plans; and various Asset Management Plans. • Advance infrastructure renewal projects identified in strategic planning efforts by initiating new Capital or Small Capital Projects, or by conducting work as part of ongoing operations projects. • Develop comprehensive infrastructure master plans for all water utility treatment plant and distribution infrastructure (e.g. pipelines and pump stations) to plan out 30-year capital investments that meet future regulatory requirements, and fold in projects identified in the Asset Management and Operations & Maintenance Plans. • Expedient execution of the adopted Capital program and projects. 	Board Policy and Planning Committee (BPPC) CIP Committee (CIPC)
	<u>Objective #2 Challenge/Opportunity</u> <i>Valley Water continues to pursue legislative and administrative solutions to resolve regulatory and permitting issues at the federal and state levels. The Board's efforts will continue to focus on improving internal capacity when applying for permits, as well as continuing to build relationships with regulatory agencies and staying abreast of the regulatory environment.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to provide for agency-wide regulatory planning and permitting effort and pursue other efforts at the state and federal level to expedite permit review. • Continue to foster better relationships with regulatory agencies and open dialogue with environmental, environmental justice and other stakeholders. • Continue to work with the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) under the terms of our memorandum of understanding (MOU) to expedite issue resolution and prevent regulatory overreach. • Collaborate with RWQCB on the Steelhead Regional Temperature Study. 	BPPC
WATER SUPPLY <i>"Provide a reliable, safe, and affordable water supply for current and future generations in all communities served."</i>	<u>Objective #1 Challenge/Opportunity</u> <i>Half of Santa Clara County's water supply is imported from outside the county. At this time, when there is a lot of water, Valley Water may not be able to take advantage of these supplies due to limitations in existing storage and transmission infrastructure as well as regulatory constraints. Having a diverse portfolio of storage options helps Valley Water be resilient. Therefore, Valley Water is evaluating whether diversifying its storage portfolio could help maximize our use of storage and stored water recovery under</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore opportunities to develop new surface and groundwater storage projects that help Valley Water meet future water supply needs and be resilient to climate change. • Determine level of participation for projects and decisions about partnerships in accordance with the Water Supply Master Plan and water affordability. • Explore partnership opportunities for the Pacheco Reservoir Expansion Project • Validate Valley Water's continued participation in the Pacheco Reservoir Expansion Project during the MAP review process, bi- 	Water Storage Exploratory Committee (WSEC)

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2022 Work Plan: Agricultural Water Advisory Committee

Update: October 2022

	future conditions. Water storage in reservoirs also provides environmental, recreational, and incidental flood risk reduction benefits. Challenges include determining the appropriate level of participation for Valley Water in collaborative water storage projects and prioritizing projects within funding constraints.	annual budget development, and following review and certification of the project's Environmental Impact Report (EIR).	
	<u>Objective #2 Challenge/Opportunity</u> The Water Supply Master Plan's "Ensure Sustainability" strategy includes securing existing water supplies and infrastructure. Valley Water's local and imported water supplies are vulnerable to climate change impacts, droughts, earthquake, and regulatory requirements that may restrict the amount of available water.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participate in and influence decisions regarding the Delta Conveyance Project. • Participate in regional water supply resilience efforts. • Build and maintain effective partnerships to increase resiliency. • Complete and implement infrastructure master plans and asset management plans. • Partner with the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) to ensure reliability of the South Bay Aqueduct. 	Water Conservation and Demand Management Committee (WCaDMC) (Groundwater) CIPC (infrastructure projects)
	<u>Objective #3 Challenge/Opportunity</u> Recycled and purified water is a drought resilient, locally controlled water supply important to long-term sustainability. The Water Supply Master Plan includes developing up to 24,000 acre-feet per year of purified water by 2040. Purified water is recycled water that has been treated further using reverse osmosis and other advanced treatment to make it fit for drinking. Valley Water is pursuing indirect potable reuse which would use this purified water to replenish our groundwater. Implementation challenges include securing wastewater supply contractual agreements with wastewater agencies, available land, stringent regulatory requirements, and implementation costs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement the first phase of the Purified Water Program, including release of a Request For Proposal (RFP) and enter into a contract for an Indirect Potable Reuse project that is implemented via a Public Private Partnership. • Implement the Countywide Water Reuse Master Plan. • Develop a Comprehensive Water Reuse Agreement for South County to advance water reuse and its production, distribution, and wholesaling in South County. • Continue to actively be involved with the Direct Potable Reuse (DPR) guidance and ensure Valley Water is positioned to implement a DPR project in the future. • Continue collaboration on the Silicon Valley Advanced Water Purification Center including building a strong collaborative relationship with the San José-Santa Clara Regional Wastewater Facility to expand the facility. 	Recycled Water Committee (RWC)
	<u>Objective #4 Challenge/Opportunity</u> As our largest reservoir, Anderson serves not only as a critical water supply facility, but also supports Valley Water's mission of flood protection and environmental stewardship. Given the reservoir's critical importance to ensuring safe, clean water for our communities and to protect public safety, it is imperative that the Anderson Dam Seismic Retrofit Project (ADSRP) move forward expeditiously. This includes the reconstruction of the Dam and completion of the interim risk reduction measures resulting from the February 20, 2020, directive from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain the Anderson Reservoir level at the FERC directed level. • Complete the construction on the Anderson Dam Tunnel Project (ADTP). • Complete the design of the ADSRP. • Continue to work with appropriate regulatory agencies to advance the ADSRP. • Release the Draft Environmental Impact Report for the ADSRP. • Obtain all necessary permits for ADSRP construction. • Continue to educate and engage the public, key stakeholders, decision makers, and elected officials of the project progress and construction timeline. • Coordinate long term ADSRP operations with the Fisheries and Aquatic Habitat Collaborative Effort (FAHCE). 	CIPC Stream Planning and Operations Committee (SPOC)
	<u>Objective #5 Challenge/Opportunity</u> Droughts are a recurring feature of California's climate and may intensify with climate change. Water conservation is an essential component in providing a reliable water supply and Valley Water has set a water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue communication and educational outreach to promote Valley Water's water conservation programs. • Increase collaboration with our retailer partners to promote Valley Water's water conservation programs. • Implement new water conservation programs and engagement 	WCaDMC

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	conservation goal for annual water savings of 99,000 acre-feet (AF) by 2030 and 109,000 AF by 2040. As Valley Water faces challenges from climate change and drought, water conservation will continue to be amongst the most cost-effective tools for efficiently meeting current and future demands while mitigating droughts.	<p>strategies identified within the Water Conservation Strategic Plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Engage and support private-sector stakeholders, local, state, and federal agencies that promote water conservation. •Develop and implement a Drought Response Plan with support and input from our retailer partners and the broader community to guide short-term behavioral changes during water shortages. 	
NATURAL FLOOD PROTECTION <i>“Provide Natural Flood Protection to reduce risk and improve health and safety.”</i>	<u>Objective #1 Challenge/Opportunity</u> <i>Valley Water is challenged to sustain ecosystem health while managing local water resources for flood protection and water supply. By using an integrated approach to planning and designing flood protection planning, there is an opportunity to create projects with multiple benefits.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Make significant progress on One Water plans for the Guadalupe and Pajaro watersheds. •Complete construction of Reaches 1-3 of the Shoreline Phase I Project and pursue funding alternatives for Reaches 4-5 to provide 100-year coastal flood risk management, ecosystem restoration, recreational opportunities, and resiliency for sea level rise. •Complete construction of Phase 2A of the Upper Llagas Flood Protection Project to provide flood protection and habitat enhancement. •Advance the Palo Alto Flood Basin Project into construction, a repair project to ensure a functional flood basin with wetland habitat. •Advance the Sunnyvale East/West Channels Project into construction to provide 100-year storm water flood protection. •Compete the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Upper Guadalupe River Project General Reevaluation Study to provide 100-year flood protection. •Advance the San Francisquito Creek upstream 101 Project into construction to provide flood protection. •Advance the Coyote Creek Flood Mitigation and Flood Protection Projects into construction to provide flood protection for an event equivalent to the 2017 storm event. 	CIPC BPPC
	<u>Objective #2 Challenge/Opportunity</u> <i>As Valley Water continues to advance flood protection projects, the Board has an opportunity to strengthen relationships and improve coordination with conservation and environmental justice groups, as well as other local jurisdictions, with a specific focus on ensuring the voices of disadvantaged communities are equitably represented.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Advance One Water Countywide Framework in a comprehensive manner that includes diverse community-wide stakeholders and the incorporation of environmental justice policies in all planning efforts. •Continue progress on flood protection capital projects consistent with Valley Water’s commitment to the Safe, Clean Water Program and equitability in all regions. •Plan flood risk reduction projects to provide a minimum level of protection countywide. 	CIPC BPPC
ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP <i>“Sustain ecosystem health while managing local water resources for flood protection and water supply.”</i>	<u>Objective #1 Challenge/Opportunity</u> <i>Valley Water’s projects and programs require integrated planning to ensure capital improvements, operations, and maintenance activities are balanced with environmental stewardship goals. Valley Water strives to protect and restore habitats to support native species throughout Santa Clara County.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Continue to develop an integrated water resource plan for each watershed, including appropriate metrics to monitor Valley Water’s impacts on and benefit to the environment. •Implement high priority actions included in the Climate Change Action Plan. •Make significant progress on the grant-funded planning study for the San Tomas Aquino Calabazas Creek Realignment Project. 	BPPC

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2022 Work Plan: Agricultural Water Advisory Committee

Update: October 2022

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advance construction for the Bolsa Creek and Hale Creek projects to begin in Summer 2022. • Advance Almaden Lake Improvement Project to begin construction in 2023. • Continue to develop and build on partnerships with environmental organizations and tribal communities when developing projects. 	
	<p><u>Objective #2 Challenge/Opportunity</u> Valley Water continues to coordinate with local cities and agencies to improve the health of our local waterways, including pollution prevention and addressing threats to water quality. Opportunities exist to further collaborate with the County, cities, and social services agencies on encampment abatement efforts and to develop long-term solutions for the homeless to keep our creeks clean.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue efforts to protect the ecosystem and water quality of our water Bodies and the integrity of our infrastructure. Such efforts include preventing stormwater pollution, increased implementation of green stormwater infrastructure, addressing mercury pollution, and homeless encampment clean ups. • Coordinate with the County, cities, and other service providers to try to ensure the permanent removal of homeless encampments from creeks and trails. • Continue partnerships and investments on a regional scale such as the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration and Santa Clara Valley Urban Runoff Pollution Prevention Program (SCVURPPP). 	Environmental Creek Cleanup Committee (ECCC) (SPOC)
	<p><u>Objective #3 Challenge/Opportunity</u> For nearly 20 years, Valley Water has been working to resolve a water rights complaint surrounding fish, wildlife, water quality, and other beneficial uses in Coyote Creek, Guadalupe River, and Stevens Creek watershed areas. Challenges include completing the environmental review process, obtaining federal and state permits from multiple regulatory agencies, refining and processing water rights change petitions, the technical complexity of the fisheries impacts analysis, coordination with other ongoing related projects and managing stakeholder expectations.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalize the June 2021 Guadalupe River and Stevens Creek Environmental Impact Report (EIR) consistent with existing stakeholder agreement. • Advance 10 water right change petitions for securing water right orders. • Continue to implement the pilot flow program in Guadalupe and Stevens Creek. • Continue to implement feasibility studies, monitoring activities, and Planning and construction of various fish passage improvements as identified in existing stakeholder agreement. • Continue fisheries monitoring program. • Continue to support an adaptive management program that encompasses all three creeks. 	SPOC
<p>CLIMATE CHANGE "Mitigate Carbon Emissions and Adapt Valley Water Operations to Climate Change Impacts."</p>	<p><u>Objective #1 Challenge/Opportunity</u> Valley Water's ability to fulfill its mission will be challenged in the future by warmer temperatures, changing precipitation patterns, reduced snowpack, and rising sea levels. Valley Water has been working on greenhouse reduction efforts since 2008 and many adaptation actions over the past decade; however, with adoption of the Climate Change Action Plan there is an opportunity for greater impact.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update carbon accounting and establish new emissions reduction goal if needed. • Make significant progress on development of an agency-wide greenhouse gas reduction plan. 	Climate Adaptation and Sustainability Committee (CAASC)
<p>BUSINESS MANAGEMENT "Promote effective management of water supply, flood protection, and environmental stewardship through responsive and socially</p>	<p><u>Objective #1 Challenge/Opportunity</u> Valley Water is committed to creating and maintaining a diverse, inclusive, and equitable work environment that is devoid of discrimination and harassment and provides equal opportunity employment and advancement. Valley Water aims to implement the same values in the community through its flood protection, water supply, and environmental stewardship</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and implement a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Master Plan that institutes best practices to address internal and external disparities and builds an organizational culture that is consistent with the Board's Resolution addressing racial equity, diversity, and inclusion. • Remain committed to environmental justice and the fair treatment and meaningful engagement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, religion, gender identity, disability status, tribe, culture, income, 	Diversity & Inclusion Ad Hoc Committee (DIAHC)

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2022 Work Plan: Agricultural Water Advisory Committee

Update: October 2022

<i>responsible business services."</i>	<i>projects, and has an opportunity to serve as a leader for racial equity, diversity, and inclusion throughout the state.</i>	immigration status, or English language proficiency, with respect to the planning, projects, policies, services, and operations of Valley Water. • Continue to collaborate with external stakeholders that are engaged in developing diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives and actively participate in and provide leadership for diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts throughout the state. • Advance and foster mutually beneficial partnerships with regional tribal communities.	
14	Information on Proposal to Update the Untreated Surface Water Program	January 2023	•Receive information on Proposal to Update the Untreated Surface Water Program

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Santa Clara Valley Water District

File No.: 22-1216

Agenda Date: 11/14/2022

Item No.: 5.1.

COMMITTEE AGENDA MEMORANDUM

Agricultural Water Advisory Committee

SUBJECT:

Review Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Board Work Plan.

RECOMMENDATION:

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

SUMMARY:

The attached Work Plan outlines the Board-approved topics for discussion to be able to prepare policy alternatives and implications for Board deliberation.

BACKGROUND:

On December 8, 2021, the Board conducted its annual planning session to evaluate and refine goals, objectives, challenges, and opportunities and identify the specific areas requiring tactical engagement and monitoring during Fiscal Year 2022-2023 (FY23).

During the strategic planning session, the Board participated in a facilitated discussion and received staff recommendations for the FY23 Board Work Plan. After providing comments and feedback, the Board directed the Board Policy and Planning Committee (BPPC) to review the information collected and develop a draft FY23 Board Work Plan, in collaboration with staff, for Board review and approval.

The BPPC met on January 4, 2022, to provide input on the draft FY23 Board Work Plan, and the Board approved their work plan on February 22, 2022.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment 1: Board's FY23 Work Plan.

UNCLASSIFIED MANAGER:

Candice Kwok-Smith, 408-630-3193



Valley Water

FY 2022-23

Board Work Plan

Chair's Message

At the Santa Clara Valley Water District, we manage a complex water resource system that provides clean, safe water, flood protection and stewardship of streams and creeks to about 2 million residents and businesses here in Santa Clara County.

As elected officials, we are tasked with balancing the needs of our constituents and the county-wide challenges we face including our aging infrastructure, the need for storage capacity and federal funding for both our water supply and flood protection projects. While the goals identified in our Board Governance Policies provide guidance to achieve Valley Water's mission, the Board's Work Plan is a roadmap for the year ahead. It also helps us provide appropriate financial resources and staff through our budget process.

As part of our annual strategic planning process, my fellow board members and I have identified specific areas that we will be monitoring closely and engaging as necessary. We believe diversifying our water supply portfolio through recycled and purified water efforts and partnerships and pursuing storage opportunities will ensure water supply during this drought and the next one. At the same time, reducing flood risks and preparing our county for emergencies will remain top of mind. While our role is as policy makers, we will continue to engage in discussions through board committees, provide direction, and monitor progress in the focus areas.

I am honored to lead my fellow board members during these unprecedented times and together, we'll continue to focus on providing safe, secure and equitable water for everyone in Santa Clara County.



Gary Kremen
Board Chair
Santa Clara Valley Water District



Valley Water

Founded in 1929, the Santa Clara Valley Water District (Valley Water) is the primary water resources agency for Santa Clara County, with key water supply, water quality, flood protection, and environmental stewardship responsibilities.

Valley Water Mission

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

Values

1. Valley Water is entrusted to serve the public by carrying out its mission for the benefit of the community.
2. Valley Water is committed to providing excellent service to all customers.
3. All individuals are unique and important, and will be treated with fairness, dignity, and respect.
4. Valley Water takes pride in its work and is accountable to carry out its responsibilities safely with honesty and integrity.
5. Initiative, leadership, personal development, and training are vital for continuous improvement.
6. Open communication, cooperation, and teamwork are shared responsibilities and essential to the successful performance of Valley Water's work.
7. Valley Water is committed to creating an inclusive work environment, which reflects and supports the diversity of the community and enriches our perspectives.
8. Valley Water strives to support a work culture and workplace environment that attracts and retains superior employees empowered to make decisions about, and take responsibility for, how they do their jobs.
9. Valley Water is committed to its employees and supports market-based competitive compensation that is equitable and rewards accomplishment and encourages high performance.
10. Valley Water is committed to sustaining a healthy work-life balance for its employees and places a high value on all the things that provide enrichment and fulfillment, including work and career, health and fitness, family and relationships, spirituality, community service, hobbies and passions, intellectual stimulation, rest and recreation.

Board of Directors

The Santa Clara Valley Water District Board of Directors (Board) is comprised of seven members, each elected from equally-divided districts. Specific job outputs of the Board include connecting with the community in Santa Clara County, developing policies to further Valley Water’s mission, and monitoring the performance of the organization.

The Board governs with an emphasis on outward vision, encouragement of diversity in viewpoints, strategic leadership more than administrative detail, and proactivity rather than reactivity.

The Board meets twice a month on the second and fourth Tuesday. All meetings are conducted in accordance with the Brown Act.



Left to right: Tony Estremera, District 6; Richard P. Santos, District 3; John L. Varela, District 1; Gary Kremen, District 7; Barbara Keegan, District 2; Nai Hsueh, District 5; Linda J. LeZotte, District 4

Board Committees

The Board of Directors has established Board Committees to assist in performing its job. Committees meet regularly and are conducted in accordance with the Brown Act.

- Agricultural Water Advisory Committee
- Board Audit Committee
- Board Ethics and Conduct Committee
- Board Policy and Planning Committee
- Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Committee
- Climate Adaptation and Sustainability Committee
- Diversity and Inclusion Ad Hoc Committee
- Environmental and Water Resources Committee
- Environmental Creek Cleanup Committee
- Joint Recycled Water Committee with the City of Sunnyvale
- Joint Recycled Water Policy Advisory Committee with the Cities of San Jose and Santa Clara (TPAC)
- Joint Recycled Water Policy Committee with the Cities of Palo Alto, East Palo Alto, and Mountain View
- Joint Water Resources Committee with the Cities of Morgan Hill and Gilroy
- Recycled Water Committee
- San Felipe Division Reach One Committee
- Santa Clara Valley Water Commission
- Santa Clara Valley Water District Youth Commission
- Stream Planning Operations Committee (SPOC)
- Water Conservation and Demand Management Committee
- Water Storage Exploratory Committee



Purpose of the Board Work Plan

The primary purpose of the Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Board Work Plan is to communicate with the public, community, and stakeholders, the Board's strategic focus for the fiscal year and how it supports Valley Water's mission and long-term goals and objectives.

To perform its job, the Board adheres to established Board Governance Policies. Within the Board Governance Policies are Ends Policies, which are long-term goals and objectives for each of Valley Water's core business areas (Water Supply, Natural Flood Protection, Water Resources Stewardship, and Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation).

Every year, the Board conducts planning sessions to evaluate their goals, objectives, challenges, and opportunities, and identifies the specific areas requiring tactical engagement for the upcoming fiscal year. The Board outlines their focus areas and process for monitoring progress in the Board Work Plan.

Throughout the year, the Board provides input, direction, and oversight on Valley Water's budget, Capital Improvement Program, and other program and master plans to ensure there is funding and support to accomplish Valley Water's mission. All strategy implementation is monitored by the Board through Executive Limitation requirements, staff development of programs and plans, assigned Board Committee work, and Board Appointed Officer performance evaluations.



FY 2022-23 Board Work Plan Goals



Integrated Water Resources Management

GOAL:

Efficiently manage water resources across business areas.



Water Supply

GOAL:

Provide a reliable, safe, and affordable water supply for current and future generations in all communities served.



Natural Flood Protection

GOAL:

Provide Natural Flood Protection to reduce risk and improve health and safety.



Environmental Stewardship

GOAL:

Sustain ecosystem health while managing local water resources for flood protection and water supply.



Climate Change

GOAL:

Mitigate Carbon Emissions and Adapt Valley Water Operations to Climate Change Impacts.



Business Management

GOAL:

Promote effective management of water supply, flood protection, and environmental stewardship through responsive and socially responsible business services.



INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

GOAL: *Efficiently manage water resources across business areas.*

Objective 1	Protect and maintain existing assets and infrastructure and advance new projects.
Challenge/ Opportunity	The maintenance of Valley Water’s infrastructure is crucial to ensuring we continue to provide safe, clean water and critical flood protection for our communities. Timely maintenance is the most cost-effective investment, whereas deferred maintenance disproportionately increases costs and causes unplanned outages and failures risking the population of the county. In addition, aging assets are reaching the end of the design life and will require major recapitalization.
FY23 Tactics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a Fuel Management Policy to guide the incorporation of wildfire planning efforts in an integrated and programmatic way. • Continue a robust preventive maintenance program including monitoring asset condition and risk. • Strategically plan for larger infrastructure renewal projects through Safe Clean Water Project F8 – Sustainable Creek Infrastructure for Continued Public Safety; Water Treatment Plant, Distribution System, and SCADA Implementation Plans; Watersheds and Water Utility Operations and Maintenance Plans; and various Asset Management Plans. • Advance infrastructure renewal projects identified in strategic planning efforts by initiating new Capital or Small Capital Projects, or by conducting work as part of ongoing operations projects. • Develop comprehensive infrastructure master plans for all water utility treatment plant and distribution infrastructure (e.g. pipelines and pump stations) to plan out 30-year capital investments that meet future regulatory requirements, and fold in projects identified in the Asset Management and Operations & Maintenance Plans. • Expedient execution of the adopted Capital program and projects.
Monitoring	Board Policy and Planning Committee CIP Committee
Related Staff Plans	Watersheds & Water Utility Five-Year Operations and Maintenance Plans District-wide Asset Management Plan Watershed Asset Management Plan Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program Capital Improvement Program



INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

Objective 2	Improve internal capacity to acquire regulatory permits.
Challenge/ Opportunity	Valley Water continues to pursue legislative and administrative solutions to resolve regulatory and permitting issues at the federal and state levels. The Board's efforts will continue to focus on improving internal capacity when applying for permits, as well as continuing to build relationships with regulatory agencies and staying abreast of the regulatory environment.
FY23 Tactics	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Continue to provide for agency-wide regulatory planning and permitting effort and pursue other efforts at the state and federal level to expedite permit review.• Continue to foster better relationships with regulatory agencies and open dialogue with environmental, environmental justice and other stakeholders.• Continue to work with the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) under the terms of our memorandum of understanding (MOU) to expedite issue resolution and prevent regulatory overreach.• Collaborate with RWQCB on the Steelhead Regional Temperature Study.
Monitoring	Board Policy and Planning Committee
Related Staff Plans	One Water Plan





INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

Objective 3	Educate the community, elected officials and external stakeholders on our management of water resources in Santa Clara County.
Challenge/ Opportunity	A reliable supply of clean water is necessary for the social, economic, and environmental wellbeing of Santa Clara County. Valley Water must effectively communicate with the public on our management of water resources around several key issues including: the cost of water, the public perception of costs of different types of water, how to effectively implement our water supply strategies into the future, as well as our flood protection and environmental stewardship efforts.
FY23 Tactics	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Continue to apply strategies for effective community/stakeholder engagement and education.• Continue to develop and refine metrics to understand and improve the return on investment (ROI) of outreach strategies.• Continue increasing efforts to educate the public about the mix of different types of water in Valley Water's portfolio, as well as our flood protection and environmental stewardship efforts.• Engage directly with local government jurisdictions through strategic meetings.• Continue engagement with cities on flood plain management, Community Rating System (CRS) program, and emergency action plans.
Monitoring	Board of Directors
Related Staff Plans	Water Supply Master Plan Countywide Water Reuse Master Plan





WATER SUPPLY

GOAL: *Provide a reliable, safe, and affordable water supply for current and future generations in all communities served.*

Objective 1	Pursue new and diversified water supply and storage opportunities.
Challenge/ Opportunity	<p>Half of Santa Clara County's water supply is imported from outside the county. At this time, when there is a lot of water, Valley Water may not be able to take advantage of these supplies due to limitations in existing storage and transmission infrastructure as well as regulatory constraints. Having a diverse portfolio of storage options helps Valley Water be resilient. Therefore, Valley Water is evaluating whether diversifying its storage portfolio could help maximize our use of storage and stored water recovery under future conditions. Water storage in reservoirs also provides environmental, recreational, and incidental flood risk reduction benefits. Challenges include determining the appropriate level of participation for Valley Water in collaborative water storage projects and prioritizing projects within funding constraints.</p>
FY23 Tactics	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Explore opportunities to develop new surface and groundwater storage projects that help Valley Water meet future water supply needs and be resilient to climate change.• Determine level of participation for projects and decisions about partnerships in accordance with the Water Supply Master Plan and water affordability.• Explore partnership opportunities for the Pacheco Reservoir Expansion Project.• Validate Valley Water's continued participation in the Pacheco Reservoir Expansion Project during the MAP review process, bi-annual budget development, and following review and certification of the project's Environmental Impact Report (EIR).
Monitoring	Water Storage Exploratory Committee
Related Staff Plans	Water Supply Master Plan Annual Monitoring and Assessment Program (MAP) Updates





WATER SUPPLY

Objective 2	Secure existing water supplies and water supply infrastructure.
Challenge/ Opportunity	The Water Supply Master Plan's "Ensure Sustainability" strategy includes securing existing water supplies and infrastructure. Valley Water's local and imported water supplies are vulnerable to climate change impacts, droughts, earthquakes, and regulatory requirements that may restrict the amount of available water.
FY23 Tactics	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Participate in and influence decisions regarding the Delta Conveyance Project.• Participate in regional water supply resilience efforts.• Build and maintain effective partnerships to increase resiliency.• Complete and implement infrastructure master plans and asset management plans.• Partner with the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) to ensure reliability of the South Bay Aqueduct.
Monitoring	Water Conservation and Demand Management Committee (Groundwater) CIP Committee (infrastructure projects)
Related Staff Plans	Water Supply Master Plan Groundwater Management Plan Infrastructure and Asset Management Plans





WATER SUPPLY

Objective 3	Lead Recycled and Purified Water Efforts with committed partners.
Challenge/ Opportunity	<p>Recycled and purified water is a drought resilient, locally controlled water supply important to long-term sustainability. The Water Supply Master Plan includes developing up to 24,000 acre-feet per year of purified water by 2040. Purified water is recycled water that has been treated further using reverse osmosis and other advanced treatment to make it fit for drinking. Valley Water is pursuing indirect potable reuse which would use this purified water to replenish our groundwater. Implementation challenges include securing wastewater supply contractual agreements with wastewater agencies, available land, stringent regulatory requirements, and implementation costs.</p>
FY23 Tactics	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Implement the first phase of the Purified Water Program, including release of a Request For Proposal (RFP) and enter into a contract for an Indirect Potable Reuse project that is implemented via a Public Private Partnership.▪ Implement the Countywide Water Reuse Master Plan.▪ Develop a Comprehensive Water Reuse Agreement for South County to advance water reuse and its production, distribution, and wholesaling in South County.▪ Continue to actively be involved with the Direct Potable Reuse (DPR) guidance and ensure Valley Water is positioned to implement a DPR project in the future.▪ Continue collaboration on the Silicon Valley Advanced Water Purification Center including building a strong collaborative relationship with the San José-Santa Clara Regional Wastewater Facility to expand the facility.
Monitoring	Recycled Water Committee
Related Staff Plans	Water Supply Master Plan Countywide Water Reuse Master Plan





WATER SUPPLY

Objective 4	Complete the Anderson Dam Seismic Retrofit Project.
Challenge/ Opportunity	<p>As our largest reservoir, Anderson serves not only as a critical water supply facility, but also supports Valley Water’s mission of flood protection and environmental stewardship. Given the reservoir’s critical importance to ensuring safe, clean water for our communities and to protect public safety, it is imperative that the Anderson Dam Seismic Retrofit Project (ADSRP) move forward expeditiously. This includes the reconstruction of the Dam and completion of the interim risk reduction measures resulting from the February 20, 2020 directive from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC).</p>
FY23 Tactics	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Maintain the Anderson Reservoir level at the FERC directed level.▪ Complete the construction on the Anderson Dam Tunnel Project (ADTP).▪ Complete the design of the ADSRP.▪ Continue to work with appropriate regulatory agencies to advance the ADSRP.▪ Release the Draft Environmental Impact Report for the ADSRP.▪ Obtain all necessary permits for ADSRP construction.▪ Continue to educate and engage the public, key stakeholders, decision makers, and elected officials of the project progress and construction timeline.▪ Coordinate long term ADSRP operations with the Fisheries and Aquatic Habitat Collaborative Effort (FAHCE).
Monitoring	<p>Capital Improvement Program Committee Stream Planning and Operations Committee</p>
Related Staff Plans	<p>Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program Fish Habitat Restoration Plan Coyote Feasibility Study Water Supply Master Plan Capital Improvement Program Ogier Ponds Feasibility Study</p>





WATER SUPPLY

Objective 5	Make water conservation a California way of life in Santa Clara County.
Challenge/ Opportunity	<p>Droughts are a recurring feature of California’s climate and may intensify with climate change. Water conservation is an essential component in providing a reliable water supply and Valley Water has set a water conservation goal for annual water savings of 99,000 acre-feet (AF) by 2030 and 109,000 AF by 2040. As Valley Water faces challenges from climate change and drought, water conservation will continue to be amongst the most cost-effective tools for efficiently meeting current and future demands while mitigating droughts.</p>
FY23 Tactics	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Continue communication and educational outreach to promote Valley Water’s water conservation programs.▪ Increase collaboration with our retailer partners to promote Valley Water’s water conservation programs.▪ Implement new water conservation programs and engagement strategies identified within the Water Conservation Strategic Plan.▪ Engage and support private-sector stakeholders, local, state, and federal agencies that promote water conservation.▪ Develop and implement a Drought Response Plan with support and input from our retailer partners and the broader community to guide short-term behavioral changes during water shortages.
Monitoring	Water Conservation and Demand Management Committee
Related Staff Plans	Water Conservation Strategic Plan Water Supply Master Plan Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program





NATURAL FLOOD PROTECTION

GOAL: *Provide Natural Flood Protection to reduce risk and improve health and safety.*

Objective 1	Protect people and property from flooding by applying a comprehensive, integrated watershed management approach that balances environmental quality, sustainability, and cost.
Challenge/ Opportunity	Valley Water is challenged to sustain ecosystem health while managing local water resources for flood protection and water supply. By using an integrated approach to planning and designing flood protection planning, there is an opportunity to create projects with multiple benefits.
FY23 Tactics	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Make significant progress on One Water plans for the Guadalupe and Pajaro watersheds.▪ Complete construction of Reaches 1-3 of the Shoreline Phase I Project and pursue funding alternatives for Reaches 4-5 to provide 100-year coastal flood risk management, ecosystem restoration, recreational opportunities, and resiliency for sea level rise.▪ Complete construction of Phase 2A of the Upper Llagas Flood Protection Project to provide flood protection and habitat enhancement.▪ Advance the Palo Alto Flood Basin Project into construction, a repair project to ensure a functional flood basin with wetland habitat.▪ Advance the Sunnyvale East/West Channels Project into construction to provide 100-year storm water flood protection.▪ Complete the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Upper Guadalupe River Project General Reevaluation Study to provide 100-year flood protection.▪ Advance the San Francisquito Creek upstream 101 Project into construction to provide flood protection.▪ Advance the Coyote Creek Flood Mitigation and Flood Protection Projects into construction to provide flood protection for an event equivalent to the 2017 storm event.
Monitoring	Capital Improvement Program Committee Board Policy and Planning Committee
Related Staff Plans	One Water Plan Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program Capital Improvement Program



NATURAL FLOOD PROTECTION

Objective 2	Provide flood protection equitably in all regions of the County, prioritizing disadvantaged communities.
Challenge/ Opportunity	As Valley Water continues to advance flood protection projects, the Board has an opportunity to strengthen relationships and improve coordination with conservation and environmental justice groups, as well as other local jurisdictions, with a specific focus on ensuring the voices of disadvantaged communities are equitably represented.
FY23 Tactics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Advance One Water Countywide Framework in a comprehensive manner that includes diverse community-wide stakeholders and the incorporation of environmental justice policies in all planning efforts. ▪ Continue progress on flood protection capital projects consistent with Valley Water's commitment to the Safe, Clean Water Program and equity in all regions. ▪ Plan flood risk reduction projects to provide a minimum level of protection countywide.
Monitoring	Capital Improvement Program Committee Board Policy and Planning Committee
Related Staff Plans	One Water Plan Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program Capital Improvement Program





ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

GOAL: *Sustain ecosystem health while managing local water resources for flood protection and water supply.*

Objective 1	Plan and design projects with multiple benefits, including protecting ecosystem functions, enhancing habitat, and improving connectivity, equitably in all regions of the county.
Challenge/ Opportunity	Valley Water's projects and programs require integrated planning to ensure capital improvements, operations, and maintenance activities are balanced with environmental stewardship goals. Valley Water strives to protect and restore habitats to support native species throughout Santa Clara County.
FY23 Tactics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to develop an integrated water resource plan for each watershed, including appropriate metrics to monitor Valley Water's impacts on and benefit to the environment. • Implement high priority actions included in the Climate Change Action Plan. • Make significant progress on the grant-funded planning study for the San Tomas Aquino Calabazas Creek Realignment Project. • Advance construction for the Bolsa Creek and Hale Creek projects to begin in Summer 2022. • Advance Almaden Lake Improvement Project to begin construction in 2023. • Continue to develop and build on partnerships with environmental organizations and tribal communities when developing projects.
Monitoring	Board Policy and Planning Committee
Related Staff Plans	One Water Plan Climate Change Action Plan





ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

Objective 2	Protect creeks, bay, and other aquatic ecosystems from threats of pollution and degradation.
Challenge/ Opportunity	Valley Water continues to coordinate with local cities and agencies to improve the health of our local waterways, including pollution prevention and addressing threats to water quality. Opportunities exist to further collaborate with the County, cities, and social services agencies on encampment abatement efforts and to develop long-term solutions for the homeless to keep our creeks clean.
FY23 Tactics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue efforts to protect the ecosystem and water quality of our water bodies and the integrity of our infrastructure. Such efforts include preventing stormwater pollution, increased implementation of green stormwater infrastructure, addressing mercury pollution, and homeless encampment clean ups. • Coordinate with the County, cities, and other service providers to try to ensure the permanent removal of homeless encampments from creeks and trails. • Continue partnerships and investments on a regional scale such as the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration and Santa Clara Valley Urban Runoff Pollution Prevention Program (SCVURPPP).
Monitoring	Environmental Creek Cleanup Committee Stream Planning and Operations Committee
Related Staff Plans	One Water Plan Santa Clara Valley Urban Runoff Pollution Prevention Program Stormwater Resource Plan Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program





ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

Objective 3	Complete and implement the Fisheries and Aquatic Habitat Collaborative Effort (FAHCE) agreement.
Challenge/ Opportunity	For nearly 20 years, Valley Water has been working to resolve a water rights complaint surrounding fish, wildlife, water quality, and other beneficial uses in Coyote Creek, Guadalupe River, and Stevens Creek watershed areas. Challenges include completing the environmental review process, obtaining federal and state permits from multiple regulatory agencies, refining and processing water rights change petitions, the technical complexity of the fisheries impacts analysis, coordination with other ongoing related projects, and managing stakeholder expectations.
FY23 Tactics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalize the June 2021 Guadalupe River and Stevens Creek Environmental Impact Report (EIR) consistent with existing stakeholder agreement. • Advance 10 water right change petitions for securing water right orders. • Continue to implement the pilot flow program in Guadalupe and Stevens Creek. • Continue to implement feasibility studies, monitoring activities, and planning and construction of various fish passage improvements as identified in existing stakeholder agreement. • Continue fisheries monitoring program. • Continue to support an adaptive management program that encompasses all three creeks.
Monitoring	Stream Planning and Operations Committee
Related Staff Plans	<p>Fish Habitat Restoration Plan for Coyote Creek, Guadalupe River, and Stevens Creek Watersheds</p> <p>Seismic Retrofit Programs for Dam Safety</p> <p>Aquatic habitat restoration plans/feasibility studies/site-specific improvements affecting all three watersheds (e.g., Countywide Large Woody Debris Program)</p> <p>Collaborative agreements for in-stream habitat improvements (e.g., Singleton Fish Barrier Removal with City of San José, Ogier Pond Feasibility Study in collaboration with the County)</p> <p>One Water Plan</p>





CLIMATE CHANGE

GOAL: *Mitigate Carbon Emissions and Adapt Valley Water Operations to Climate Change Impacts.*

Objective 1	Address future impacts of climate change to Valley Water's mission and operations.
Challenge/ Opportunity	Valley Water's ability to fulfill its mission will be challenged in the future by warmer temperatures, changing precipitation patterns, reduced snowpack, and rising sea levels. Valley Water has been working on greenhouse reduction efforts since 2008 and many adaptation actions over the past decade; however, with adoption of the Climate Change Action Plan there is an opportunity for greater impact.
FY23 Tactics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update carbon accounting and establish new emissions reduction goal if needed. • Make significant progress on development of an agency-wide greenhouse gas reduction plan.
Monitoring	Climate Adaptation and Sustainability Committee
Related Staff Plans	Climate Change Action Plan





BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

GOAL: *Promote effective management of water supply, flood protection, and environmental stewardship through responsive and socially responsible business services.*

Objective 1	Incorporate racial equity, diversity and inclusion throughout Valley Water as a core value.
Challenge/ Opportunity	Valley Water is committed to creating and maintaining a diverse, inclusive, and equitable work environment that is devoid of discrimination and harassment and provides equal opportunity employment and advancement. Valley Water aims to implement the same values in the community through its flood protection, water supply, and environmental stewardship projects, and has an opportunity to serve as a leader for racial equity, diversity, and inclusion throughout the state.
FY23 Tactics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and implement a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Master Plan that institutes best practices to address internal and external disparities and builds an organizational culture that is consistent with the Board's Resolution addressing racial equity, diversity, and inclusion. • Remain committed to environmental justice and the fair treatment and meaningful engagement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, religion, gender identity, disability status, tribe, culture, income, immigration status, or English language proficiency, with respect to the planning, projects, policies, services, and operations of Valley Water. • Continue to collaborate with external stakeholders that are engaged in developing diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives and actively participate in and provide leadership for diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts throughout the state. • Advance and foster mutually beneficial partnerships with regional tribal communities.
Monitoring	Diversity & Inclusion Ad Hoc Committee
Related Staff Plans	Racial Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Master Plan





BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

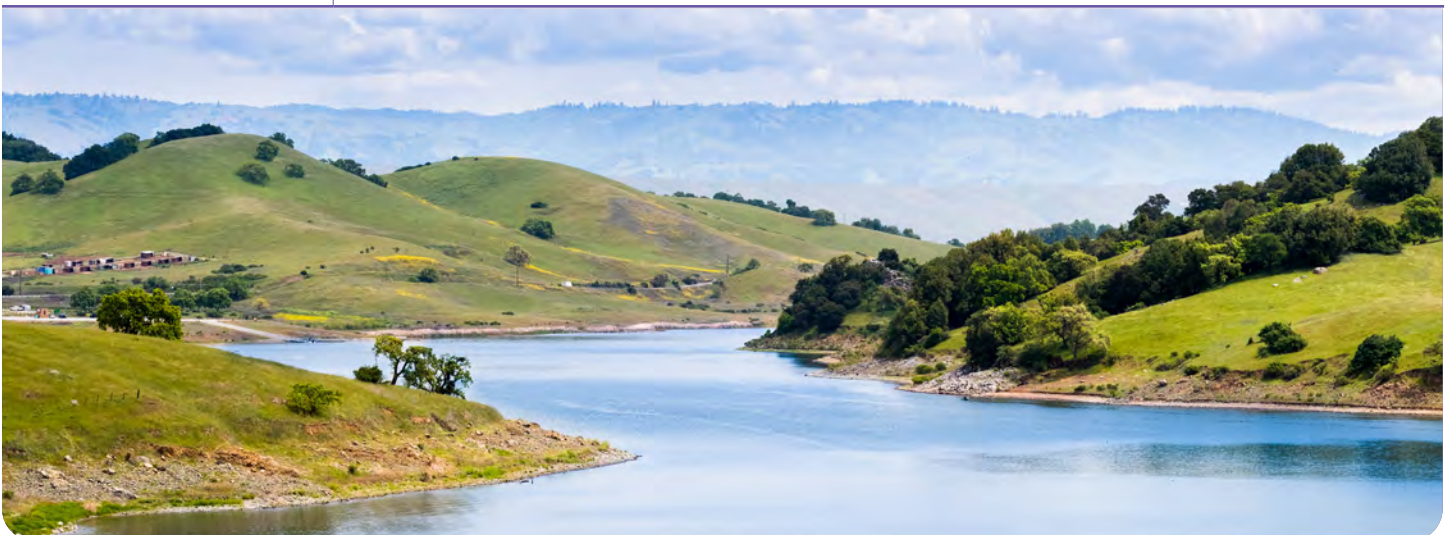
Objective 2	Maintain appropriate staffing levels and expertise while prioritizing the safety of our staff.
Challenge/ Opportunity	<p>The Board recognizes that Valley Water’s workforce is the critical component to providing clean, safe drinking water, effective flood protection, and environmental stewardship. The Board therefore remains committed to supporting the recruitment of capable employees with knowledge and subject matter expertise, investing in staff training to meet changing skills and capacity needs, and establishing the necessary policies and guidance that strengthen employee safety.</p>
FY23 Tactics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and finalize a long-term staffing strategy that aligns with future capital and operational needs. • Develop classification career ladders to provide understanding of requirements for professional growth. • Advance the development of a skilled trades apprenticeship program. • Maximize the safety of staff working in creeks, homeless encampments and Valley Water facilities, and continue to promote health & safety guidance to protect staff from public health emergencies and environmental impacts.
Monitoring	<p>Environmental Creek Cleanup Committee Diversity & Inclusion Ad Hoc Committee Financial Sustainability Working Group</p>
Related Staff Plans	<p>Long-term Staffing Master Plan (under development)</p>





BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

Objective 3	Provide affordable and cost-effective level of services.
Challenge/ Opportunity	<p>The Board understands its responsibility to regularly evaluate and monitor Valley Water's financial status to ensure the level of services provided are reasonable and cost effective. As such, driving continual improvement efforts are key to delivering affordable and effective services while controlling expectations regarding what Valley Water can achieve and what it can afford to do. In addition, the affordability of water continues to be a major issue faced by communities across the nation, particularly disadvantaged communities. The Board has an opportunity to raise issues around water affordability at local and statewide levels and advocate for changes that benefit disadvantaged communities.</p>
FY23 Tactics	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Complete 3-4 Board-initiated or management-initiated performance audits, or other performance improvement efforts, benchmarking studies, or best practice implementations.• Evaluate effectiveness of Low-income Residential Water Rate Assistance Program (WRAP) in partnership with Sacred Heart Community Service (SHCS).• Establish Valley Water as a statewide leader in conversations around water affordability.• Implement Biennial Budget for FY23 budget setting cycle.
Monitoring	<p>Board Audit Committee Financial Sustainability Working Group</p>
Related Staff Plans	<p>Operating and Capital Budget Board and Management Audit Reports</p>



Appendix A

Board Governance Policies/Ends Policies

The Board has adopted **Board Governance Policies** which describe how the board conducts its business, what they have directed the Board Appointed Officers (BAO) to accomplish, and constraints on the BAOs that establish prudent and ethical boundaries within which all activity and decisions must take place.

Ends Policies, also referred to as **Long Term Goals and Objectives**, provide direction to the BAOs to accomplish Valley Water's mission.

A full list of the Board Governance Policies can be found here:

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

Ends Policy E-1: Mission and General Principles

In implementing Board directions, staff will be guided by the following general principles:

- 1.1 An integrated, socially equitable, and balanced approach in managing a sustainable water supply, effective natural flood protection, and healthy watersheds is essential to the future of all communities served.
- 1.2 Effective public engagement by Valley Water is achieved through transparent, open communication that informs and generates participation among all communities, including disadvantaged communities, communities of color, and communities with limited English proficiency, as well as other key stakeholders.
- 1.3 Collaboration with government, academic, private, non-governmental, and non-profit organizations, as well as diverse and disadvantaged communities is integral to accomplishing the Valley Water mission.
- 1.4 A net positive impact on the environment and providing benefits equitably across all communities is required in order to accomplish the Valley Water mission.
- 1.5 Recognize that Valley Water operations and services are critical to the economic vitality of Silico Valley, ensuring that economic benefits are equitable for all communities that we serve.
- 1.6 As standard practice, all work products shall be visually pleasing, sustainable, cost-effective, culturally appropriate, equitable across all communities, and reflect the characteristics of the surrounding urban setting and natural habitat using appropriate materials, colors, shapes, art works, vegetation, and surface treatments. This includes the naming of facilities in a manner that is respectful of all diverse communities.
- 1.7 Valley Water is committed to environmental justice and shall provide for the fair treatment and meaningful engagement of all people regardless of race, color, gender identity, disability status, national origin, tribe, culture, income, immigration status, or English language proficiency, with respect to the planning, projects, policies, services, and operations of Valley Water. Environmental Justice is achieved when all people receive:
 - equitable consideration in the planning and execution of flood protection, water supply, safe drinking water, water resources stewardship projects, and protection from environmental and health hazards, and
 - equal access to Valley Water's decision-making process.

Ends Policy E-2: Water Supply Services

Valley Water provides a reliable, safe, and affordable water supply for current and future generations in all communities served.

GOAL

- 2.1 Meet 100 percent of annual water demand during non-drought years and at least 80 percent of demand in drought years.

GOAL

- 2.2 Protect and sustain the county's existing, diverse water supplies.

Objectives

- 2.2.1 Manage groundwater to ensure sustainable supplies and avoid land subsidence.
- 2.2.2 Aggressively protect groundwater from the threat of contamination.
- 2.2.3 Protect imported water supplies and associated contracts and partnerships.
- 2.2.4 Protect and manage local surface water supplies and associated water rights.
- 2.2.5 Deliver reliable, high quality drinking water from water treatment plants.

GOAL

- 2.3 Protect and maintain existing water infrastructure.

Objectives

- 2.3.1 Plan for infrastructure maintenance and replacement to reduce risk of failure.
- 2.3.2 Prioritize funding for maintenance and replacement of existing water infrastructure over investments in new infrastructure.
- 2.3.3 Prepare for and respond effectively to water utility emergencies.

GOAL

- 2.4. Increase regional self-reliance through water conservation and reuse.

Objectives

- 2.4.1. Maximize utilization of all demand management tools.
- 2.4.2. Incentivize water use efficiency and water conservation.
- 2.4.3. Promote, protect and expand potable and non-potable water reuse.
- 2.4.4. Promote stormwater capture and reuse.

GOAL

- 2.5. Manage water resources using an integrated, science-based approach.

Objectives

- 2.5.1. Plan for future water supply needs.
- 2.5.2. Promote efficient and reliable operation of water supply systems.
- 2.5.3. Promote water supply projects with multiple benefits, including environmental stewardship and flood protection.
- 2.5.4. Invest in and rely on science to support planning and decision-making.
- 2.5.5. Build and maintain effective partnerships to achieve water supply goals.

GOAL

- 2.6. Promote access to equitable and affordable water supplies.

Objectives

- 2.6.1. Promote equal access to clean, safe, and affordable water supply across all communities served.
- 2.6.2. Maintain affordable water rates through cost-effective water supply investments and management.
- 2.6.3. Continue customer assistance and incentive programs.

Ends Policy E-3: Natural Flood Protection

Natural flood protection is provided to reduce risk and improve health and safety for residents, businesses, and visitors, now and into the future.

GOAL

- 3.1. Maintain flood protection facilities to design levels of protection.

Objectives

- 3.1.1. Prioritize maintenance of existing facilities over construction of new capital projects.
- 3.1.2. Inspect and maintain facilities on a regular basis.
- 3.1.3. Perform maintenance using maintenance guidelines updated on a regular basis.

GOAL

- 3.2. Assist people, businesses, schools, and communities to prepare for, respond to, and recover from flooding through equitable and effective engagement.

Objectives

- 3.2.1. Develop, maintain, and communicate emergency action plans.
- 3.2.2. Develop, maintain, and communicate flood information to the community.

- 3.2.3. Provide expertise in flood forecasting and flood warning systems to municipalities.
- 3.2.4. Provide expertise to encourage public agencies to reduce flood risk and protect floodplain benefits.

GOAL

- 3.3. Increase the health and safety of residents countywide by reducing community flood risk

Objectives

- 3.3.1. Provide equitable, timely, and achievable flood protection for health and safety.
- 3.3.2. Protect people and property from flooding by applying a comprehensive, integrated watershed management approach that balances environmental quality, sustainability, and cost.

Ends Policy E-4: Water Resources Stewardship

Water resources stewardship protects and enhances ecosystem health.

GOAL

- 4.1. Use a science-based, inclusive approach to protect Santa Clara County's watersheds and aquatic ecosystems for current and future generations.

Objectives

- 4.1.1. Develop and share data to support resilient ecosystems and healthy populations of native species.
- 4.1.2. Monitor stream, reservoir, and Bay ecosystem health.
- 4.1.3. Use data to prioritize and equitably implement actions to reduce pollution, restore endangered species habitat, and enhance ecosystem function.

GOAL

- 4.2. Sustain ecosystem health while managing local water resources for flood protection and water supply.

Objectives

- 4.2.1. Plan and design projects with multiple benefits, including protecting ecosystem functions, enhancing habitat, and improving connectivity, equitably in all regions of the county.
- 4.2.2. Operate Valley Water facilities to balance water supply, flood protection, and ecosystem sustainability.

GOAL

- 4.3. Encourage inclusive, sustainable management of water resources in the Bay-Delta and its watersheds to protect imported water supply.

Objectives

- 4.3.1. Meet future water supply demand through diverse and coordinated water supply planning.
- 4.3.2. Promote holistic ecosystem management through science-based decision-making.
- 4.3.3. Actively engage in the protection of source water quality through collaboration and funding.

GOAL

- 4.4. Prevent and address pollution of local streams, reservoirs, and the Bay, equitably across all communities. Protect waterbodies from pollution and degradation.

Objectives

- 4.4.1. Encourage stormwater capture, treatment, and reuse.
- 4.4.2. Prepare and respond to spills and dumping that threaten local waterways.
- 4.4.3. Collaborate with agencies and nonprofits to address homelessness and its impacts to Santa Clara County Waterways.

GOAL

- 4.5. Engage the community to promote watershed stewardship by providing meaningful engagement in Valley Water programs for all people regardless of race, color, gender identity, disability status, national origin, tribe, culture, income, immigration status, or English language proficiency.

Objectives

- 4.5.1. Provide appropriate and equal public access to Valley Water's streamside and watershed lands.
- 4.5.2. Engage and educate the community in stream and watershed protection.
- 4.5.3. Build partnerships to protect and enhance watersheds and aquatic ecosystems.

Ends Policy E-5: Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation

Valley Water is carbon neutral and provides equitable, climate-resilient water supply, flood protection, and water resource stewardship to all communities in Santa Clara County. This will be accomplished through the implementation of the Climate Change Action Plan.

GOAL

5.1. Minimize greenhouse gas emissions from Valley Water's operations.

Objectives

- 5.1.1. Expand the use of clean technology in vehicles, equipment, and buildings, and develop carbon-efficient construction and service delivery practices.
- 5.1.2. Optimize energy use and expand renewable energy portfolio.
- 5.1.3. Incentivize low carbon practices, projects, and efforts by employees, contractors, and partners.

GOAL

5.2. Adapt Valley Water's assets and operations to reduce climate change impacts.

Objectives

- 5.2.1. Improve the resiliency of Santa Clara County's water supply to drought and other climate change impacts.
- 5.2.2. Provide equitable protection from sea level rise and flooding, prioritizing disadvantaged communities.
- 5.2.3. Improve ecosystem resiliency through water resources stewardship.
- 5.2.4. Prepare for climate-related emergencies and provide equal access to information and services, particularly to disadvantaged communities.

Appendix B

Staff Program Plans and Master Plans

Program plans and master plans are developed by staff to achieve the Board's long-term goals and objectives in relation to Valley Water's mission and overall business management.

Below is a list of program and master plans that have been referenced in the Board Work Plan. Other plans not listed below can be obtained by contacting the Office of the Clerk of the Board at (408) 630-2277.

- Board Audit Reports
<https://www.valleywater.org/board-audit-committee-audit-reports>
- Capital Improvement Program
<https://www.valleywater.org/how-we-operate/five-year-capital-improvement-program>
- Climate Change Action Plan
<https://www.valleywater.org/your-water/water-supply-planning/climate-change-action-plan>
- Countywide Water Reuse Master Plan
<https://www.valleywater.org/your-water/recycled-and-purified-water>
- Groundwater Management Plan
<https://www.valleywater.org/your-water/where-your-water-comes/groundwater/sustainable>
- One Water Plan
<https://www.valleywater.org/project-updates/one-water-plan>
- Operating and Capital Budget
<https://www.valleywater.org/how-we-operate/financebudget>
- Racial Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Master Plan
<https://www.valleywater.org/how-we-operate/about-the-water-district/diversity-and-inclusion-program>
- Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program
<https://www.valleywater.org/safe-clean-water-and-natural-flood-protection-program>
- Santa Clara Valley Urban Runoff Pollution Prevention Program
<https://scvurppp.org/>
- Stormwater Resource Plan
<https://scvurppp.org/swrp/>
- Water Conservation Strategic Plan
<https://www.valleywater.org/droughtsaving-water/studies-and-reports>
- Water Supply Master Plan
<https://www.valleywater.org/your-water/water-supply-planning/water-supply-master-plan>



Valley Water

Clean Water • Healthy Environment • Flood Protection

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