

**RECYCLED WATER COMMITTEE MEETING**

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# MINUTES

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**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2022  
12:00 PM**

(Paragraph numbers coincide with agenda item numbers)

**1. ROLL CALL.**

A regular meeting of the Santa Clara Valley Water District (Valley Water) Recycled Water Committee (Committee) was called to order at 12:00 p.m., on September 28, 2022, at the Headquarters Building Boardroom, 5700 Almaden Expressway, San Jose, CA 95118 and via Zoom teleconference.

**1.1. Roll Call**

Committee members in attendance were District 2 Director Barbara Keegan, District 3 Director Richard Santos, and District 6 Director Tony Estremera, Chairperson presiding, constituting a quorum of the Committee.

Staff participating were Hossein Ashktorab, Aaron Baker, Elise Latedjou-Durand, Anthony Fulcher, Vincent Gin, Tony Ndah, Carlos Orellana, Leslie Orta, Don Rocha, Medi Sinaki, Kirsten Struve, Charlene Sun, Darin Taylor, and Dave Tucker.

Guests in attendance were John Antonnen, Jan Davel, Rebecca Eisenberg, Professor Richard Luthy with Bridget Gile, and Melanie Tan.

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**3.1. Approval of Minutes.**

Recommendation: Approve the minutes of the August 24, 2022, and September 14, 2022.

The Committee considered the August 24, 2022, and September 14, 2022 herein attached as \*Handout 3.1-A. It was moved by Director Santos, seconded by Director Keegan to approve the minutes, as presented.

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

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

**4. ACTION ITEMS:**

#### **4.1. Update on Purified Water Program including Partnership with Cities of San Jose and Palo Alto.**

Recommendation: Receive updates and provide feedback on the following topics:

- A. Collaboration with the City of Palo Alto and Other Partners;
- B. Public Private Partnership (P3) Procurement of the Purified Water Project
- C. Outreach regarding the Purified Water Project.

Kirsten Struve, Assistant Officer, reviewed the information on this item, per the attached Committee agenda memo.

The Committee received information on the following without taking formal action.

- With City of Palo Alto, updates on finalizing the agreement on future purification facility; city and Valley Water staff presentations made to the city council; approaches to hazardous materials on the site as well as Reverse Osmosis concentrate; potential funding of city staff, consultant support, and pursuit of grants and loans for the project. In regard to the P3 procurement, strong interest by short-listed P3 respondents continues as they provide valuable input and feedback to Valley Water staff. In regard to outreach, various onsite tours of the Silicon Valley Advanced Water Purification Center were conducted in September as well as virtual tours made available through the Mountain View public libraries, and that the first in-person would occur on September 30.
- With City of San Jose, a Letter of Intent on the recent discussions that occurred is being developed and would be presented to the Committee in the coming months.
- With regard to federal and state funding for the recycled water project, staff has continued conversation with federal and state for more funding in addition to the allocation approved by Governor Newsom to address the drought situation. In addition, application and information on a Bureau of Reclamation program on funding for a large recycling project where Valley Water's Purified Water Project would qualify, is anticipated before the year ends.
- With regard to challenges, the following were mentioned---the influence of the economy, newly elected city officials just on board, and limited city staff resources to coordinate and accomplish the needed work.

#### **4.2. Update on Direct Potable Reuse.**

Recommendation: Receive update and provide feedback on Direct Potable Reuse (DPR) regulatory developments.

Kirsten Struve announced that this agenda item is being presented to the Committee to give a general update on direct potable reuse, which is not going to be the focus of the procurement for the Purified Water Project as it is not yet a feasible project. Although the project in procurement is Indirect Potable Reuse, the technical requirements on the Request for Proposal would request the facility to be DPR-design ready in anticipation of the release of the regulations and future needs.

Hossein Ashktorab, Recycled Water Unit Manager, reviewed the information on this item, per the attached Committee agenda memo.

The Committee noted the following without taking formal action:

- Valley Water staff had been participating in the work products of the Expert Panel by active participation in research, technical panels, and submitting comments on the proposed regulations.
- Per the requirements of AB 574, the State Water Board's Division of Drinking Water (DDW) has developed the regulation for DPR. It is expected that these regulations will go through the administrative processes in 2023 and finalized in December of that year.

The Committee requested information on updated data if public opinion had changed favorably on Direct Potable Reuse. Don Rocha, Deputy Administrative Officer, stated that a poll had just been completed, and the results would be shared to this Committee at a future meeting.

#### **4.3. South Santa Clara Water Reuse Collaboration.**

Recommendation: Receive an update on Technical Work Group discussions and provide feedback.

Dave Tucker, Associate Engineer – Civil, reviewed the information on this item per the attached Committee agenda memo, and per the information contained in Attachment 1.

The Committee received information on how the agreement is being updated by the Technical Working Group and the estimated completion of review and revisions to all three agreements is projected by end of the year. Dave Tucker also added that the Technical Working Group is updating the 2015 South County Master Plan as there are now grants and loan opportunities that are coming forward.

During the presentation, the Committee made the following requests of staff:

- Staff would come back with information as part of the master plan update that would later be presented to the full Board (1) on the role of the Pacheco Project in South County and (2) capturing water for SCRWA.
- Staff would come back with information on the Calpine pipeline for emergency water supply in Morgan Hill. Kirsten Struve stated that staff response may be included as part of current collaborative effort with City of San Jose.
- Kirsten Struve stated that the county issues permits on septic tanks in the unincorporated San Martin area. The Committee noted that this is a county responsibility.

The Committee noted that on Slide 5, Attachment 1, Valley Water should be credited for its ability and reputation in securing external funding which benefits south county in terms of lower cost.

#### **4.4. Update on Urban Runoff Study with Stanford University.**

Recommendation: Receive an update of an ongoing urban water study to evaluate feasibility of urban runoff for water supply, and provide feedback.

Hossein Ashktorab, Recycling & Purified Water Manager, introduced Professor Richard G. Luthy, and Bridget C. Gile, Stanford University Professor and graduate student respectively, who are working with Valley Water on the Urban Runoff Study.

Professor Luthy reviewed the information on Attachment 1 of this item.

During the presentation, the Committee received the following information:

- Professor Luthy and Bridget Gile would prepare a memo for the Committee summarizing discussions they initiated on the concept of urban runoff with NOAA Fisheries, Department of Fish & Wildlife, and Regional Water Quality Control Boards and would provide the Committee information on the Orange Memorial Park Stormwater Capture Project as an example of diverting urban storm water runoff into an underground system integrated into the park
- Professor Luthy offered to send the Committee a copy of a presentation by John Bradshaw on pipeline flows.

The Committee made the following requests of staff:

- Staff to reach out to the Los Angeles Department of Water & Power (LADWP) who are ahead in developing storm water capture for a possible brainstorming workshop as suggested by Professor Luthy.
- Staff to consider outreach to various cities and agencies to synchronize efforts on storm water capture.

#### **4.5. Discuss the 2022 Recycled Water Committee Work Plan, Upcoming Discussion Items, and Next Meeting Date.**

Recommendation: Receive information on the 2022 Recycled Water Committee work plan and provide feedback on upcoming discussion items and next meeting date.

The Committee received the following information without taking formal action:

- Staff to present to the Committee an update on desalination upon the release of the feasibility study.
- Staff to reschedule the regular December 28, 2022 meeting. Subsequently, the meeting was rescheduled to December 14, 2022.
- Medi Sinaki, Senior Engineer – Water Quality, gave a recap of the Oro Loma Sanitary District tour on the horizontal levee.

**5. ADJOURN.**

5.1 Adjourn to Regular Meeting at 12:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 26, 2022.

Chairperson Estremera adjourned the meeting at 1:35 p.m., to the next meeting scheduled to occur on October 26, 2022. Subsequently, the October 26, 2022 meeting was cancelled and the next meeting of this Committee was rescheduled to December 14, 2022.

Eva M. Sans  
Assistant Deputy Clerk II

Approved: