

October 19, 2023

**MEETING NOTICE & REQUEST FOR RSVP****TO: SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER COMMISSION****Municipality**

City of Campbell  
City of Cupertino  
City of Gilroy  
City of Los Altos  
Town of Los Altos Hills  
Town of Los Gatos  
City of Milpitas  
City of Monte Sereno  
City of Morgan Hill  
City of Mountain View  
City of Palo Alto  
City of San Jose  
City of Santa Clara  
City of Saratoga  
City of Sunnyvale  
Santa Clara County Board of  
Supervisors  
Midpeninsula Regional Open Space  
District  
Open Space Authority Santa Clara  
Valley

**Representative**

Hon. Susan M. Landry  
Hon. J. R. Fruen  
Hon. Dion Bracco  
Hon. Neysa Fligor  
Hon. Lisa Schmidt  
Hon. Maria Ristow  
Hon. Carmen Montano  
Hon. Evert Wolsheimer  
Hon. Gino Borgioli  
Hon. Lucas Ramirez  
Hon. Lydia Kou  
Hon. Domingo Candelas  
Hon. Karen Hardy  
Hon. Chuck Page  
Hon. Alysa Cisneros  
Hon. Sylvia Arenas  
  
Hon. Jed Cyr  
  
Hon. Mike Flaughner

**Alternate**

Hon. Sergio Lopez  
Hon. Sheila Mohan  
Hon. Fred Tovar  
Hon. Pete Dailey  
  
Hon. Matthew Hudes  
  
Hon. Bryan Mekechuk  
Hon. Yvonne Martinez-Beltran  
Hon. Pat Showalter  
Hon. Vicki Veenker  
Kerrie Romanow  
Hon. Kathy Watanabe  
Hon. Belal Aftab  
Hon. Richard Mehlinger  
Hon. Cindy Chavez  
  
Hon. Yoriko Kishimoto  
  
Hon. Helen Chapman

The regular meeting of the Santa Clara Valley Water Commission is scheduled to be held on **Wednesday, October 25, 2023, at 12:00 p.m., In-Person at, Santa Clara Valley Water District, Headquarters Building Boardroom, 5700 Almaden Expressway, San Jose, California 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-line 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 Members with two or more consecutive unexcused absences will be subject to rescinded membership.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 Monday October 23, 2023; noon** by contacting Glenna Brambill at 1-408-630-2408, or [gbrambill@valleywater.org](mailto:gbrambill@valleywater.org).

Enclosures

**Join Zoom Meeting for Public and Non-presenting Staff**

<https://valleywater.zoom.us/j/91095453959>

Meeting ID: 910 9545 3959

One tap mobile

+16699009128,,91095453959# US (San Jose)

Dial by your location

+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 910 9545 3959

Find your local number: <https://valleywater.zoom.us/j/91095453959>





## **Santa Clara Valley Water District Santa Clara Valley Water Commission Meeting**

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

### **REGULAR MEETING AGENDA**

**Wednesday, October 25, 2023  
12:00 PM**

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

Hon. Karen Hardy, Chair

Director John L. Varela, District 1  
Director Barbara F. Keegan, District 2  
Director Naii Hsueh, District 5

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.

Rachael Gibson  
Melanie Richardson  
(Staff Liaisons)

Glenna Brambill (Commission  
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**  
**Santa Clara Valley Water Commission**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**AGENDA**

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Wednesday, October 25, 2023

12:00 PM

Headquarters Building Boardroom

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

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

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

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

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

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

This agenda has been prepared as required by the applicable laws of the State of California, including but not limited to, Government Code Sections 54950 et. seq. and has not been prepared with a view to informing an investment decision in any of Valley Water’s bonds, notes or other obligations. Any projections, plans or other forward-looking

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

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

**Join Zoom Meeting:**

**<https://valleywater.zoom.us/j/91095453959>**

Meeting ID: 910 9545 3959

Join by Phone:

1 (669) 900-9128, 91095453959#

**1. CALL TO ORDER:**

1.1. Roll Call.

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

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

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**3.1. Approval of Minutes.**

[23-1042](#)

Recommendation: Approve the August 23, 2023, Special Meeting Minutes.

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

Attachments: [Attachment 1: 08232023 Water Comm Draft Mins](#)

Est. Staff Time: 5 Minutes

**4. CONSENT CALENDAR**

**5. REGULAR AGENDA:**

**5.1. Election of Vice Chair.**

[23-1043](#)

Recommendation: Elect 2023 Vice Chair.

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

Est. Staff Time: 5 Minutes

**5.2. Overview of Santa Clara Valley Water District Programs and Opportunities for Participation and Collaboration.**

[23-1044](#)

Recommendation: Receive an update on Santa Clara Valley Water District's externally focused programs and community engagement efforts, and opportunities for collaboration with partner agencies.

Manager: Rachael Gibson, 408-630-2884

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

Est. Staff Time: 20 Minutes

**5.3. Review Santa Clara Valley Water Commission Work Plan, the Outcomes of Board Action of Commission Requests; and the Commission's Next Meeting Agenda.**

[23-1055](#)

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

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

Attachments: [Attachment 1: Water Comm 2023 Work Plan](#)

Est. Staff Time: 5 Minutes

**6. INFORMATION ITEM:**

6.1. Review Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Board Work Plan.

[23-1124](#)

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 Strategic Plan FY2023-24](#)

Est. Staff Time: 5 Minutes

**7. 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.*

**8. REPORTS:**

8.1. Director's Report

8.2. Manager's Report

8.3. Commission Member Report

8.4. Informational Links:

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

- Board Policy and Planning Committee (BPPC)
- Stream Planning and Operations Committee (SPOC) (formerly FAHCE Ad Hoc Committee)
- Environmental Creek Cleanup Committee formerly Homeless Encampment Committee
- 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

PAWS Report Link:

<https://www.valleywater.org/GroundwaterChargeProcess>

**9. ADJOURN:**

9.1. Adjourn to Regular Meeting at 12:00 p.m., on Wednesday January 24, 2024.





# Santa Clara Valley Water District

**File No.:** 23-1042

**Agenda Date:** 10/25/2023

**Item No.:** 3.1.

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## COMMITTEE AGENDA MEMORANDUM Santa Clara Valley Water Commission

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

### **SUBJECT:**

Approval of Minutes.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Approve the August 23, 2023, Special 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.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE IMPACT:**

There are no Environmental Justice impacts associated with this item.

### **ATTACHMENTS:**

Attachment 1: 08232023 Water Comm Draft Meeting Mins

### **UNCLASSIFIED MANAGER:**

Candice Kwok-Smith, 408-630-3193







SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER COMMISSION MEETING

# DRAFT MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 23, 2023

(Paragraph numbers coincide with agenda item numbers)

A special scheduled meeting and tour of the Santa Clara Valley Water Commission (Commission) was held on August 23, 2023, at the Silicon Valley Advanced Water Purification Center (SVAWPC) Facility, 4190 Zanker Road, San Jose CA 95134.

**1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL**

Chair Hon. Karen Hardy called the meeting to order at 12:16 p.m. A quorum of 11 was established. 1 additional member arrived at 12:52 p.m.

**Members in attendance were:**

<b><u>Municipality</u></b>	<b><u>Representative</u></b>	<b><u>Alternate</u></b>
City of Campbell	Hon. Susan M. Landry	
City of Cupertino	Hon. J. R. Fruen	
Town of Los Altos Hills	Hon. Lisa Schmidt	
Town of Los Gatos	Hon. Maria Ristow	
City of Milpitas	Hon. Carmen Montano*	
City of Monte Sereno		Hon. Bryan Mekechuk
City of Morgan Hill	Hon. Gino Borgioli	
City of Palo Alto	Hon. Lydia Kou	
City of San José	Hon. Domingo Candelas	
City of Santa Clara	Hon. Karen Hardy	
City of Saratoga	Hon. Chuck Page	
Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District	Hon. Jed Cyr	

**Members not in attendance were:**

<b><u>Municipality</u></b>	<b><u>Representative</u></b>	<b><u>Alternate</u></b>
City of Campbell		Hon. Sergio Lopez
City of Cupertino		Hon. Liang Chao
City of Gilroy	Hon. Dion Bracco	Hon. Fred Tovar
City of Los Altos	Hon. Neysa Fligor	Hon. Pete Dailey
Town of Los Gatos		Hon. Matthew Hudes
City of Monte Sereno	Hon. Evert Wolsheimer	

City of Morgan Hill		Hon. Yvonne Martinez-Beltran
City of Mountain View	Hon. Lucas Ramirez	Hon. Pat Showalter
City of Palo Alto		Hon. Vicki Veenker
City of San José		Kerrie Romanow
City of Santa Clara		Hon. Kathy Watanabe
City of Saratoga		Hon. Belal Aftab
City of Sunnyvale	Hon. Alysa Cisneros	Hon. Richard Mehlinger
County of Santa Clara	Hon. Sylvia Arenas	Hon. Cindy Chavez
Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority	Hon. Mike Flaughner	Helen Chapman
Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District		Hon. Yoriko Kishimoto

\*Water Commission Member arrived as noted below.

Board member in attendance was: Director Nai Hsueh (District 5) and Director/Board Chair John L. Varela (District 1), (Board Representatives).

Staff members in attendance were: Hossein Ashktorab, Brandon Adriano, Aaron Baker, Nastaran Basiri, Roseryn Bhudsabourg, Glenna Brambill, Lakeisha Bryant, Jiana Escobar, Metra Richert, Don Rocha, Diahann Soleno, Kirsten Struve, Sherilyn Tran, and Gregory Williams.

Public in attendance were: Hon. Jim Beall (Valley Water Board Member-District 4), Elizabeth Flegel (City of Mountain View), Katja Irvin (Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter), Just Lipp, and Hon. Richard Mehlinger (City of Sunnyvale).

**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**

It was moved by Hon. Gino Borgioli, seconded by Hon. Bryan Mekechuk, and by unanimous vote approved the April 12, 2023, Santa Clara Valley Water Commission meeting minutes as presented.

**4. CONSENT CALENDAR:**

It was moved by Hon. Susan M. Landry, seconded by Hon. Chuck Page, and by unanimous vote approved to move Agenda Item 6.1 Standing Items Report on consent.

**5. REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS:**

**5.1 REVIEW SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER COMMISSION WORK PLAN, THE OUTCOMES OF BOARD ACTION OF COMMISSION REQUESTS; AND THE COMMISSION'S NEXT AGENDA**

Commission Chair Hon. Karen Hardy reviewed the materials as outlined in the agenda item.

The Santa Clara Valley Water Commission took the following action:

It was moved by Hon. Maria Ristow, seconded by Hon. Bryan Mekechuk, and by unanimous vote approved having the Board consider adding a discussion of the unhoused situation and AB1469 update on the work plan.

It was moved by Hon. Bryan Mekechuk, seconded by Hon. Susan M. Landry, and by unanimous vote approved adding electing a new Vice Chair to the October agenda since the City of Cupertino re-assigned Hon. Kitty Moore.

## **6.1. STANDING ITEMS REPORT**

Moved on Consent, Agenda Item 4.

## **7. CLERK REVIEW AND CLARIFICATION OF COMMISSION REQUESTS TO THE BOARD**

Glenna Brambill reported there were the following action items:

### **Agenda Item 5.1:**

The Water Commission unanimously approved having the Board consider adding a discussion of the unhoused situation and AB1469 update on the work plan.

The Water Commission unanimously approved adding electing a new Vice Chair to the October agenda since the City of Cupertino re-assigned Hon. Kitty Moore.

## **8. REPORTS**

### **8.1 Director's Report**

None.

### **8.2 Manager's Report**

Roseryn Bhudsabourg reported on.

- Valley Water is sponsoring AB1469 authored by Assemblymember Ash Kalra to assist the unhoused people living along waterways as an authorized purposed of our independent special district. This Bill is supported by the County of Santa Clara and the Cities of San José, Santa Clara and Cupertino.

### **8.3 Commission Member Report**

Hon. Lydia Kou reported on:

- Encouraged the Water Commissioners to participate in Valley Water's Water Ambassador's Program to get more information on the projects. There is an application process

### **7.4 Informational Links Report**

Information located on the agenda.

\*Hon. Carmen Montano arrived at 12:52 p.m.

## **9.1 SILICON VALLEY ADVANCED WATER PURIFICATION CENTER PRESENTATION AND FACILITY TOUR**

Don Rocha, Lakeisha Bryant, and Kirsten Struve reviewed the materials as outlined in the agenda item and answer questions as needed.

Attachment 1

Page 3 of 4

The Santa Clara Valley Water Commission discussed the following: facility locations, potable/non potable water, purple piping, costs, recharge/percolation ponds, groundwater/wells, water supply, and imported water.

The Santa Clara Valley Water Commission took no action.

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

Commission Chair Hon. Karen Hardy adjourned at 1:11 p.m. to the Tour and the regularly scheduled meeting on Wednesday, October 25, 2023, at 12:00 p.m.

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

Approved:



# Santa Clara Valley Water District

**File No.:** 23-1043

**Agenda Date:** 10/25/2023

**Item No.:** 5.1.

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## **COMMITTEE AGENDA MEMORANDUM Santa Clara Valley Water Commission**

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

### **SUBJECT:**

Election of Vice Chair.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Elect 2023 Vice Chair.

### **SUMMARY:**

Per the Board Resolution, the duties of the Chair and Vice-Chair are as follows:

The officers of each Committee shall be a Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson, both of whom shall be members of that Committee. The Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson shall be elected by the Committee, each for a term of one year commencing on January 1 and ending on December 31 and for no more than two consecutive terms. The Committee shall elect its officers at the first meeting of the calendar year. All officers shall hold over in their respective offices after their term of office has expired until their successors have been elected and have assumed office.

The Chairperson shall preside at all meetings of the Committee, and he or she shall perform other such duties as the Committee may prescribe consistent with the purpose of the Committee.

The Vice-Chairperson shall perform the duties of the Chairperson in the absence or incapacity of the Chairperson. In case of the unexpected vacancy of the Chairperson, the Vice-Chairperson shall perform such duties as are imposed upon the Chairperson until such time as a new Chairperson is elected by the Committee.

Should the office of Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson become vacant during the term of such office, the Committee shall elect a successor from its membership at the earliest meeting at which such election would be practicable, and such election shall be for the unexpired term of such office.

Should the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson know in advance that they will both be absent from a meeting, the Chair may appoint a Chairperson Pro-tempore to preside over that meeting. In the event of an unanticipated absence of both the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson, the Committee may elect a Chairperson Pro-tempore to preside over the meeting in their absence.

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**BACKGROUND:**

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 Per the Board Resolution, the duties of the Chair and Vice-Chair are as follows:

The officers of each Committee shall be a Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson, both of whom shall be members of that Committee. The Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson shall be elected by the Committee, each for a term of one year commencing on January 1 and ending on December 31 and for no more than two consecutive terms. The Committee shall elect its officers at the first meeting of the calendar year. All officers shall hold over in their respective offices after their term of office has expired until their successors have been elected and have assumed office.

The Chairperson shall preside at all meetings of the Committee, and he or she shall perform other such duties as the Committee may prescribe consistent with the purpose of the Committee.

The Vice-Chairperson shall perform the duties of the Chairperson in the absence or incapacity of the Chairperson. In case of the unexpected vacancy of the Chairperson, the Vice-Chairperson shall perform such duties as are imposed upon the Chairperson until such time as a new Chairperson is elected by the Committee.

Should the office of Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson become vacant during the term of such office, the Committee shall elect a successor from its membership at the earliest meeting at which such election would be practicable, and such election shall be for the unexpired term of such office.

Should the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson know in advance that they will both be absent from a meeting, the Chair may appoint a Chairperson Pro-tempore to preside over that meeting. In the event of an unanticipated absence of both the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson, the Committee may elect a Chairperson Pro-tempore to preside over the meeting in their absence.

**BACKGROUND:**

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.

The Board may also establish Ad-hoc Committees to serve in a capacity as defined by the Board and will be used sparingly.

**ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE IMPACT:**

There are no Environmental Justice impacts associated with this item.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

None

**UNCLASSIFIED MANAGER:**

Candice Kwok-Smith, 408-630-3193







# Santa Clara Valley Water District

**File No.:** 23-1044

**Agenda Date:** 10/25/2023

**Item No.:** 5.2.

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## **COMMITTEE AGENDA MEMORANDUM Santa Clara Valley Water Commission**

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

### **SUBJECT:**

Overview of Santa Clara Valley Water District Programs and Opportunities for Participation and Collaboration.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Receive an update on Santa Clara Valley Water District's externally focused programs and community engagement efforts, and opportunities for collaboration with partner agencies.

### **SUMMARY:**

Santa Clara Valley Water District (Valley Water) integrates external policies, legislation, outreach, and engagement efforts as they relate to the business interests of Valley Water. Staff within various business areas manage Valley Water's relationships with the community, government officials, partner agencies, the media, and other key stakeholders.

To this end, Valley Water provides a number of programs that increase community awareness and engagement about Valley Water programs, projects, and challenges. Many of these programs can directly benefit our partner cities, the county, and open space agencies.

Key programs and projects include:

- Outreach and education on the Purified Water Program to obtain public support for purified water overall, and for specific purified water projects.
- Oversight and management of the Board's Youth Commission
- Implementation of the Water 101 Leadership Academy
- A robust Education Outreach program that reaches K-16 students
- The Safe, Clean Water Grants & Partnerships Program that offers approximately \$1.4 million in grant funding each year
- A Public Art Strategic Plan (currently under development)
- Advocacy for Valley Water initiatives, funding, and projects at the local, regional, state, and federal levels, often in partnership with our partner agencies

- Implementation of a Diversity and Inclusion Strategic Plan
- Public and media relations for key infrastructure projects

Staff will present details on these projects and how the cities, county, and open space agencies can access them for their respective residents, businesses, and youth, as well as hear about how to effectively collaborate with Valley Water on existing and emerging projects and issues.

**ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE IMPACT:**

There are no Environmental Justice impacts associated with this item.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Attachment 1: PowerPoint Presentation

**UNCLASSIFIED MANAGER:**

Rachael Gibson, 408-630-2884



# Overview of Valley Water's Community Programs and Efforts

## Water Commission Meeting, October 25, 2023

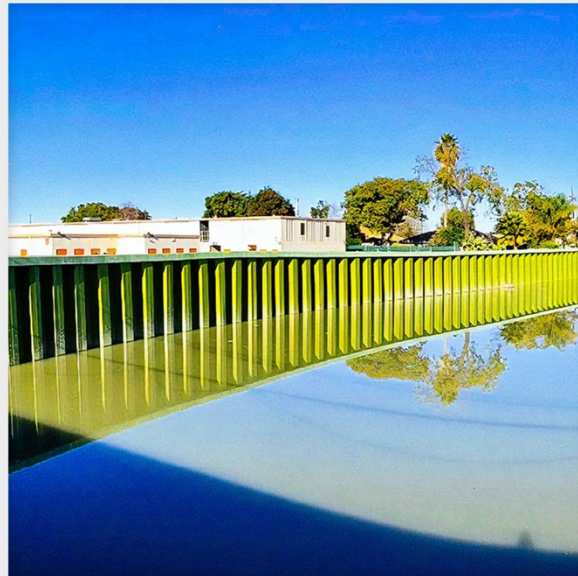




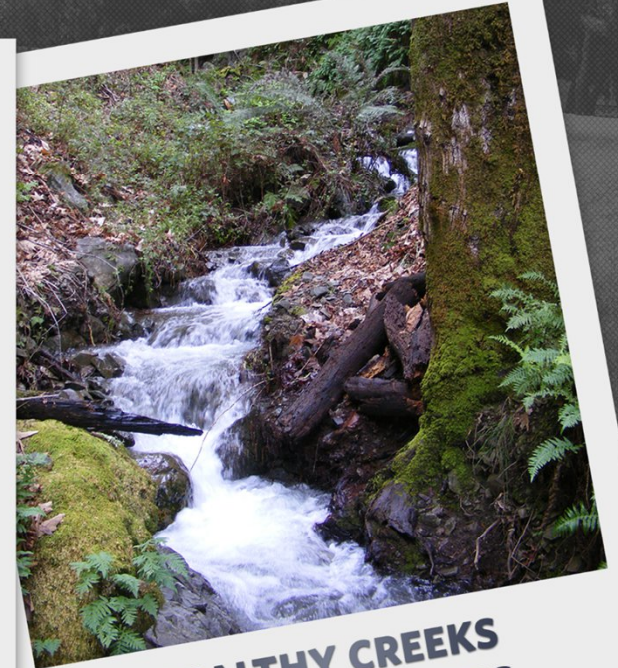
# Valley Water provides:



**CLEAN, RELIABLE WATER**



**FLOOD PROTECTION**



**HEALTHY CREEKS  
AND ECOSYSTEMS**





## By the Numbers



294

miles owned  
out of 800 miles of  
streams in Santa  
Clara County



10

dams and surface  
water reservoirs



3

water  
treatment plants



1

advanced water  
purification center



1

state-of-the-art water  
quality laboratory



142

miles of  
pipelines



102

groundwater recharge  
ponds covering 277 acres

# Comprehensive Water Supply System



15 Cities

2,000,000 People

13 Local water providers

4,700 Direct well owners

# Civic Engagement Programs

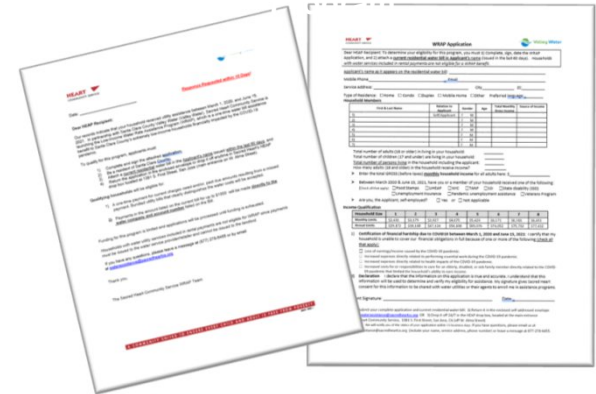
Education Outreach



Creek Cleanup  
Volunteers



Low-Income Water  
Rate Assistance



Water Supply Outreach



Youth Commission



Water 101 Academy





# Community Benefit Programs

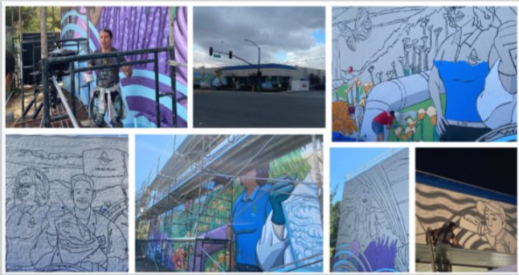
## Grants and Partnerships

- \$2 million available annually in grant funding



## Public Art

- Undergoing a Strategic Planning process



## Community Rating System

- Flood protection + Documentation to FEMA = Discounts on flood insurance





# Racial Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Efforts and Programs

## Agency-wide Diversity & Inclusion Strategic Plan

Stems from the 2021 adopted Board Resolution on “Addressing Systemic Racism and Promoting Equity.”

## Operationalize Environmental Justice and Equity throughout Valley Water

## Strengthen Tribal engagement

- Policy, process, and structures development
- Training and support coordination
- Tribal outreach, engagement, and technical assistance with planning and implementation

## Valley Water wins the Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies (AMWA) Environmental Justice (EJ) Award



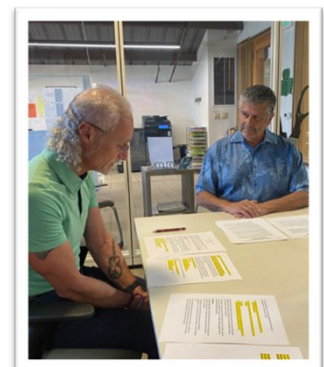
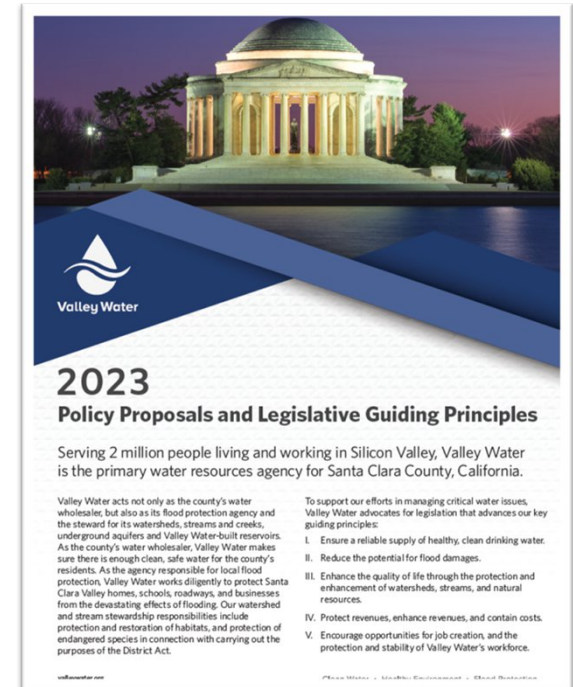
# Government Relations Programs

Advocacy, strategic partnerships, and community engagement

Shape public policy and public opinion to create opportunities for Valley Water.

Identify and secure funding opportunities for priority projects and protect existing resources.

Manage Valley Water's reputation, brand, and image among key federal, state, regional, and local stakeholders.



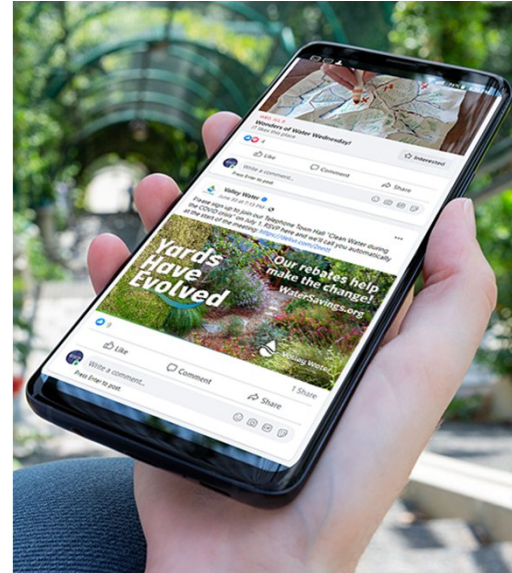
# Communications Efforts

- Media & Public Relations

Amplifies our messaging by storytelling via social media, promotional campaigns, videos, publications, website, public events, and cobranding with other agencies.

- Community Outreach

Informs the public of Valley Water project and program efforts through hosting of community meetings or events.





# Anderson Dam Seismic Retrofit Project



- Our largest water reservoir has been drained while we retrofit it so it can withstand a large earthquake
- A 10-year project to seismically retrofit the dam
- Construction of a 1,700-foot-long tunnel, up to 24-feet in diameter to increase Valley Water's ability to release water from the reservoir during an emergency by five-fold
- Anderson is a key tool in our water storage system

# San Francisco Bay Shoreline Project



Objective 1: Protect people and property from flooding by applying a comprehensive, integrated watershed management approach that balances environmental quality, sustainability, and cost.

Objective 2: Provide flood protection equitably in all regions of the County, prioritizing disadvantaged communities.





## Purified Water Projects

- Drought-resilient, and locally controlled water source
- Aiming to provide at least 10% of water demand in County through recycled and purified water
- Project would build a facility capable of providing at least 10 million gallons per day of high-quality, drought-resilient water
- Would utilize a Public-Private Partnership (P3)
- Considering sites in Palo Alto and San Jose

# Water Conservation should be a way of life!

- Free Efficient Showerheads and Aerators
- Landscape Rebate Program
- Graywater Rebate Program
- WET (Water Efficient Technology) Rebate Program
- Submeter Rebate Program
- Rainwater and Cistern Rebate Program
- Water Waste Program
- Water Wise Outdoor Surveys
- We can send you efficient water-saving tools for FREE!

Visit [WaterSavings.org](http://WaterSavings.org) to learn more



**Before**



**After**

# Questions?





# Santa Clara Valley Water District

**File No.:** 23-1055

**Agenda Date:** 10/25/2023

**Item No.:** 5.3.

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## COMMITTEE AGENDA MEMORANDUM Santa Clara Valley Water Commission

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

### SUBJECT:

Review Santa Clara Valley Water Commission Work Plan, the Outcomes of Board Action of Commission Requests; and the Commission's Next Meeting Agenda.

### RECOMMENDATION:

Review the Commission work plan to guide the commission'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. The work plan is agendized at each meeting as accomplishments are updated and to review additional work plan assignments by the Board.

### BACKGROUND:

#### Governance Process Policy-8:

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

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

Further, in accordance with Governance Process Policy-3, when requested by the Board, the

Advisory Committees may help the Board produce the link between the District and the public through information sharing to the communities they represent.

**ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE IMPACT:**

There are no environmental Justice impacts associated with this item.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Attachment 1: Water Commission 2023 Work Plan

**UNCLASSIFIED MANAGER:**

Candice Kwok-Smith, 408-630-3193

## 2023 Work Plan: Santa Clara Valley Commission

Update: October 2023

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 2023	January 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Commission Elects Chair and Vice Chair for 2023 <b>(Action)</b></li> </ul>	<b>Accomplished January 25, 2023:</b> The Water Commission elected Hon. Karen Hardy as 2023 Water Commission Chair. Also, elected Hon. Kitty Moore as 2023 Water Commission Vice Chair.
2	Annual Accomplishments Report	January 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review and approve 2022 Accomplishments Report for presentation to the Board. <b>(Action)</b></li> <li>Submit requests to the Board, as appropriate.</li> </ul>	<b>Accomplished January 25, 2023:</b> The Water Commission reviewed and approved the 2022 Accomplishments Report for presentation to the Board. <i>The Board received the Commission's presentation at its March 28, 2023, meeting.</i>
3	Update on progress towards Valley Water's drought emergency response and drought-related water conservation efforts.	January 25 April 12 October 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Receive Update on progress towards Valley Water's drought emergency response and drought-related water conservation efforts. <b>(Action)</b></li> </ul>	<b>Accomplished January 25, 2023, April 12, 2023:</b> The Water Commission received an update on progress towards Valley Water's drought emergency response and drought-related water conservation efforts and took no action.
4	Review and Comment to the Board on the Fiscal Year 2023–2024 Preliminary Groundwater Production Charges.	January 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review and comment to the Board on the Fiscal Year 2024 Preliminary Groundwater Production Charges. <b>(Action)</b></li> <li>Submit comments to the Board,</li> </ul>	<b>Accomplished January 25, 2023:</b> The Water Commission reviewed and made no comments on the Fiscal year 2024 Preliminary Groundwater Production Charges.

Yellow = Update Since Last Meeting

Blue = Action taken by the Board of Directors

Attachment 1  
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## 2023 Work Plan: Santa Clara Valley Commission

Update: October 2023

ITEM	WORK PLAN ITEM BOARD POLICY	MEETING DATE	INTENDED OUTCOME(S) (Action or Information Only)	ACCOMPLISHMENT DATE AND OUTCOME
			as appropriate.	
5	Consent Calendar	January 25 April 12 August 23 October 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consent Calendar (the Chair will note those items on each agenda that are of no impact (information only) to move the meeting more efficiently).</li> </ul>	<p><b>Accomplished January 25, 2023:</b> <b>April 12, 2023 :</b> The Water Commission had no items on the consent calendar.</p> <p><b>Accomplished August 23, 2023</b> The Water Commission approved moving Agenda Item 6.1 (Standing Items) on the consent calendar.</p>
6	Review of Santa Clara Valley Water Commission Work Plan, the Outcomes of Board Action of Commission Requests, and the Commission's Next Meeting Agenda	January 25 April 12 August 23 October 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Receive and review the 2023 Board-approved Commission work plan. <b>(Action)</b></li> <li>Submit requests to the Board, as appropriate.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Accomplished January 25, 2023:</b> The Water Commission received and reviewed the 2023 work plan and took no action.</p> <p><b>Accomplished April 12, 2023:</b> The Water Commission received and reviewed the 2023 work plan and took the following action: The Commission by majority vote approved to having a special meeting August 23, 2023, 12:00 p.m. at the Silicon Valley Advanced Water Purification Center. <i>The Board received the Commission's action at its May 16, 2023, meeting.</i></p> <p><b>Accomplished August 23, 2023:</b> The Water Commission received and reviewed the 2023 work plan and took the following action: The Commission by majority vote approved to having the Board consider adding to the Water Commission's Work Plan a discussion on the Unhoused Issues in</p>

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ITEM	WORK PLAN ITEM BOARD POLICY	MEETING DATE	INTENDED OUTCOME(S) (Action or Information Only)	ACCOMPLISHMENT DATE AND OUTCOME
				Santa Clara County and to Receive an Update on AB1469. <i>The Board approved the Commission's action at its September 26, 2023, meeting.</i>
7	Standing Items Reports Fiscal Year 2023:	January 25 August 23	•Receive quarterly reports on standing items. <b>(Information)</b>	<b>Accomplished January 25, 2023:</b> The Water Commission received the quarterly report and took no action.
GOAL	OBJECTIVE	FY23 TACTICS		MONITORING COMMITTEE
<b>INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT</b> <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"> <li>• Develop a Fuel Management Policy to guide the incorporation of wildfire planning efforts in an integrated and programmatic way.</li> <li>• Continue a robust preventive maintenance program including monitoring asset condition and risk.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• 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 &amp; Maintenance Plans.</li> <li>• Expedient execution of the adopted Capital program and projects.</li> </ul>		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"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Continue to foster better relationships with regulatory agencies and open dialogue with environmental, environmental justice and other stakeholders.</li> </ul>		BPPC

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ITEM	WORK PLAN ITEM BOARD POLICY	MEETING DATE	INTENDED OUTCOME(S) (Action or Information Only)	ACCOMPLISHMENT DATE AND OUTCOME
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•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.</li> <li>•Collaborate with RWQCB on the Steelhead Regional Temperature Study.</li> </ul>	
<b>WATER SUPPLY</b> <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> 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.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•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.</li> <li>•Determine level of participation for projects and decisions about partnerships in accordance with the Water Supply Master Plan and water affordability.</li> <li>•Explore partnership opportunities for the Pacheco Reservoir Expansion Project</li> <li>•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).</li> </ul>	Water Storage Exploratory Committee (WSEC)
	<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"> <li>•Participate in and influence decisions regarding the Delta Conveyance Project.</li> <li>•Participate in regional water supply resilience efforts.</li> <li>•Build and maintain effective partnerships to increase resiliency.</li> <li>•Complete and implement infrastructure master plans and asset management plans.</li> <li>•Partner with the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) to ensure reliability of the South Bay Aqueduct.</li> </ul>	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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•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.</li> <li>•Implement the Countywide Water Reuse Master Plan.</li> <li>•Develop a Comprehensive Water Reuse Agreement for South County to advance water reuse and its production, distribution, and wholesaling in</li> </ul>	Recycled Water Committee (RWC)

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ITEM	WORK PLAN ITEM BOARD POLICY	MEETING DATE	INTENDED OUTCOME(S) (Action or Information Only)	ACCOMPLISHMENT DATE AND OUTCOME
	<i>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.</i>		<p>South County.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>	
	<p><u>Objective #4 Challenge/Opportunity</u></p> <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>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintain the Anderson Reservoir level at the FERC directed level.</li> <li>Complete the construction on the Anderson Dam Tunnel Project (ADTP).</li> <li>Complete the design of the ADSRP.</li> <li>Continue to work with appropriate regulatory agencies to advance the ADSRP.</li> <li>Release the Draft Environmental Impact Report for the ADSRP.</li> <li>Obtain all necessary permits for ADSRP construction.</li> <li>Continue to educate and engage the public, key stakeholders, decision makers, and elected officials of the project progress and construction timeline.</li> <li>Coordinate long term ADSRP operations with the Fisheries and Aquatic Habitat Collaborative Effort (FAHCE).</li> </ul>	CIPC Stream Planning and Operations Committee (SPOC)
	<p><u>Objective #5 Challenge/Opportunity</u></p> <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>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue communication and educational outreach to promote Valley Water's water conservation programs.</li> <li>Increase collaboration with our retailer partners to promote Valley Water's water conservation programs.</li> <li>Implement new water conservation programs and engagement strategies identified within the Water Conservation Strategic Plan.</li> <li>Engage and support private-sector stakeholders, local, state, and federal agencies that promote water conservation.</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>	WCaDMC
<b>NATURAL FLOOD PROTECTION</b> "Provide Natural Flood Protection to reduce risk and improve health and safety."	<p><u>Objective #1 Challenge/Opportunity</u></p> <p>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.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Make significant progress on One Water plans for the Guadalupe and Pajaro watersheds.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>Complete construction of Phase 2A of the Upper Llagas Flood Protection Project to provide flood protection and habitat</li> </ul>	CIPC BPPC

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ITEM	WORK PLAN ITEM BOARD POLICY	MEETING DATE	INTENDED OUTCOME(S) (Action or Information Only)	ACCOMPLISHMENT DATE AND OUTCOME
			enhancement. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advance the Palo Alto Flood Basin Project into construction, a repair project to ensure a functional flood basin with wetland habitat.</li> <li>• Advance the Sunnyvale East/West Channels Project into construction to provide 100-year storm water flood protection.</li> <li>• Compete the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Upper Guadalupe River Project General Reevaluation Study to provide 100-year flood protection.</li> <li>• Advance the San Francisquito Creek upstream 101 Project into construction to provide flood protection.</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>	
	<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"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Continue progress on flood protection capital projects consistent with Valley Water's commitment to the Safe, Clean Water Program and equitability in all regions.</li> <li>• Plan flood risk reduction projects to provide a minimum level of protection countywide.</li> </ul>	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"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Implement high priority actions included in the Climate Change Action Plan.</li> <li>• Make significant progress on the grant-funded planning study for the San Tomas Aquino Calabazas Creek Realignment Project.</li> <li>• Advance construction for the Bolsa Creek and Hale Creek projects to begin in Summer 2022.</li> <li>• Advance Almaden Lake Improvement Project to begin construction in 2023.</li> <li>• Continue to develop and build on partnerships with environmental organizations and tribal communities when developing projects.</li> </ul>	BPPC
	<u>Objective #2 Challenge/Opportunity</u> <i>Valley Water continues to coordinate with local cities and agencies to improve the health of our local waterways,</i>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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</li> </ul>	Environmental Creek Cleanup Committee (ECCC) (SPOC)

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ITEM	WORK PLAN ITEM BOARD POLICY	MEETING DATE	INTENDED OUTCOME(S) (Action or Information Only)	ACCOMPLISHMENT DATE AND OUTCOME
	<i>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.</i>		stormwater infrastructure, addressing mercury pollution, and homeless encampment clean ups. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coordinate with the County, cities, and other service providers to try to ensure the permanent removal of homeless encampments from creeks and trails.</li> <li>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).</li> </ul>	
	<u>Objective #3 Challenge/Opportunity</u> <i>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.</i>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Finalize the June 2021 Guadalupe River and Stevens Creek Environmental Impact Report (EIR) consistent with existing stakeholder agreement.</li> <li>Advance 10 water right change petitions for securing water right orders.</li> <li>Continue to implement the pilot flow program in Guadalupe and Stevens Creek.</li> <li>Continue to implement feasibility studies, monitoring activities, and Planning and construction of various fish passage improvements as identified in existing stakeholder agreement.</li> <li>Continue fisheries monitoring program.</li> <li>Continue to support an adaptive management program that encompasses all three creeks.</li> </ul>	SPOC
<b>CLIMATE CHANGE</b> <b>"Mitigate Carbon Emissions and Adapt Valley Water Operations to Climate Change Impacts."</b>	<u>Objective #1 Challenge/Opportunity</u> <i>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.</i>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Update carbon accounting and establish new emissions reduction goal if needed.</li> <li>Make significant progress on development of an agency-wide greenhouse gas reduction plan.</li> </ul>	Climate Adaptation and Sustainability Committee (CAASC)
<b>BUSINESS MANAGEMENT</b> <b>"Promote effective management of water supply, flood protection, and environmental stewardship through responsive and socially responsible business services."</b>	<u>Objective #1 Challenge/Opportunity</u> <i>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.</i>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>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</li> </ul>	Diversity & Inclusion Ad Hoc Committee (DIAHC)

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# 2023 Work Plan: Santa Clara Valley Commission

Update: October 2023

ITEM	WORK PLAN ITEM BOARD POLICY	MEETING DATE	INTENDED OUTCOME(S) (Action or Information Only)	ACCOMPLISHMENT DATE AND OUTCOME
			efforts throughout the state. • Advance and foster mutually beneficial partnerships with regional tribal communities.	
8	Review and Comment to the Board on the Fiscal Year 2022 - 2023 Proposed Groundwater Production Charges.	April 12	•Review and comment to the Board on the Fiscal Year 2023 Proposed Groundwater Production Charges. <b>(Action)</b>	<b>Accomplished April 12, 2023:</b> The Water Commission reviewed and commented to the Board on the Fiscal Year 2023 Proposed Groundwater Production Charges and took the following action: The Commission by majority vote approved to recommend that staff bring to the Board a review on how to decrease staff's recommended increase from 14.5% for North County Zone W-2, and an analysis on how capital projects can be prioritized to better conserve water. <i>The Board received the Commission's recommendation at its May 16, 2023, meeting and took action.</i>
9	Updates on Valley Water's Encampment Cleanup Operations.	April 12	•Receive information on the Updates on Valley Water's Encampment Cleanup Operations. <b>(Information)</b>	<b>Accomplished April 12, 2023:</b> The Water Commission received information on the updates on Valley Water's Encampment Cleanup Operations and took no action.
10	Tour of the Silicon Valley Advanced Water Purification Center.	August 23	•Tour of the Silicon Valley Advanced Water Purification Center. <b>(Information)</b>	<b>Accomplished August 23, 2023:</b> The Water Commission received a presentation on the Silicon Valley Advanced Water Purification Center and toured the facility.
11	Overview of Valley Water Programs and Opportunities for Participation and Collaboration.	October 25	•Receive an update on Valley Water's externally-focused programs and community	

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ITEM	WORK PLAN ITEM BOARD POLICY	MEETING DATE	INTENDED OUTCOME(S) (Action or Information Only)	ACCOMPLISHMENT DATE AND OUTCOME
			engagement efforts, and opportunities for collaboration with partner agencies. <b>(Information)</b>	
12	<b>Standing Items Report Fiscal Year 2024 Goals and Strategies:</b>	October 25	•Receive quarterly reports on standing items, goals and strategies for FY2024. <b>(Information)</b>	
<b>BOARD WORK PLAN GOALS:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. Integrated Water Resources Management</b> - Goal: Efficiently manage water resources across business areas.</li> <li><b>2. Water Supply</b> – Goal: Provide a reliable, safe, and affordable water supply for current and future generations in all communities served.</li> <li><b>3. Natural Flood Protection</b> – Goal: Provide natural flood protection to reduce risk and improve health and safety.</li> <li><b>4. Environmental Stewardship</b> – Goal: Sustain ecosystem health while managing local water resources for flood protection and water supply.</li> <li><b>5. Addressing Encampment of Unsheltered People</b> – Goal: Humanely assist in the permanent relocation of unsheltered people on Valley Water lands along waterways and at water supply and flood risk reduction facilities in order to address the human health, public safety, operational, and environmental challenges posed by encampments.</li> <li><b>6. Climate Change</b> – Goal: Mitigate carbon emissions and adapt Valley Water operations to climate change impacts.</li> <li><b>7. Business Management</b> - Goal: Promote effective management of water supply, flood protection, and environmental stewardship through responsive and socially responsible business services.</li> </ol>				
13	<b>Election of Vice Chair for 2023</b>	October 25	•Commission Elects Vice Chair for 2023 <b>(Action)</b>	

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# Santa Clara Valley Water District

**File No.:** 23-1124

**Agenda Date:** 10/25/2023

**Item No.:** 6.1.

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## COMMITTEE AGENDA MEMORANDUM Santa Clara Valley Water Commission

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

### SUBJECT:

Review Fiscal Year 2023-2024 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:

In May 3, 2023, 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 2023-2024 (FY24).

During the strategic planning session, the Board participated in a facilitated discussion and received staff recommendations for the FY24 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 FY24 Board Work Plan, in collaboration with staff, for Board review and approval.

The BPPC met June 5, 2023, to provide input on the draft FY24 Board Work Plan, and the Board approved their work plan on June 24, 2023.

### ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE IMPACT:

There are no Environmental Justice impacts associated with this item.

### ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment 1: Board's FY24 Work Plan

**UNCLASSIFIED MANAGER:**

Candice Kwok-Smith, 408-630-3193





**Valley Water**

**FY 2023-24**

# **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.

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. This year we have added a goal to assist in the relocation of unsheltered people along Valley Water's waterways and to enhance collaboration with countywide agencies to find solutions to homelessness.

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. We also remain committed to supporting diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives to attract and maintain our valued workforce.

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



**John L. Varela**  
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; Nai Hsueh, District 5; Richard P. Santos, District 3; John L. Varela, District 1; Barbara Keegan, District 2 ; Jim Beall, District 4; Rebecca Eisenberg, District 7

# 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 Ad Hoc Committee
- Board Policy and Planning Committee
- Capital Improvement Program (CIP) 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 and Operations Committee (SPOC)
- Water Conservation and Demand Management Committee
- Water Storage Exploratory Committee





# Purpose of the Board Work Plan

The purpose of the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Board Work Plan is to inform the public, community and stakeholders about the Board's strategic focus 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. Included in 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 plans and master plans to ensure there is funding and support to accomplish Valley Water's mission. A strategy implementation is monitored by the Board through Executive Limitation requirements, staff-developed programs and plans, assigned Board Committee work, and Board Appointed Officer performance evaluations.



# FY 2023–24 Board Work Plan Goals

		
<b>Integrated Water Resources Management</b>	<b>Water Supply</b>	<b>Natural Flood Protection</b>
<p><b>GOAL:</b></p> <p><i>Efficiently manage water resources across business areas.</i></p>	<p><b>GOAL:</b></p> <p><i>Provide a reliable, safe, and affordable water supply for current and future generations in all communities served.</i></p>	<p><b>GOAL:</b></p> <p><i>Provide natural flood protection to reduce risk and improve health and safety.</i></p>

			
<b>Environmental Stewardship</b>	<b>Addressing Encampments of Unshelterd People</b>	<b>Climate Change</b>	<b>Business Management</b>
<p><b>GOAL:</b></p> <p><i>Sustain ecosystem health while managing local water resources for flood protection and water supply.</i></p>	<p><b>GOAL:</b></p> <p><i>Humanely assist in the permanent relocation of unsheltered people on Valley Water lands along waterways and at water supply and flood risk reduction facilities in order to address the human health, public safety, operational, and environmental challenges posed by encampments.</i></p>	<p><b>GOAL:</b></p> <p><i>Mitigate carbon emissions and adapt Valley Water operations to climate change impacts.</i></p>	<p><b>GOAL:</b></p> <p><i>Promote effective management of water supply, flood protection, and environmental stewardship through responsive and socially responsible business services.</i></p>



# 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	<p>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 may result in unplanned outages and failures. In addition, there is a list of assets that are reaching the end of their design life and will require significant recapitalization.</p>
FY24 Tactics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Develop a Fuel Management Policy to guide the incorporation of wildfire planning efforts in an integrated and programmatic way.</li><li>▪ Continue a robust preventive maintenance program including monitoring asset condition and risk.</li><li>▪ 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 Master Plan Implementation Projects; Watersheds and Water Utility Operations and Maintenance and Asset Renewal Plans; and other Asset Management Plans.</li><li>▪ 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.</li><li>▪ Expediently execute adopted Capital program and projects.</li></ul>
Monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Board Policy and Planning Committee</li><li>▪ Capital Improvement Program Committee</li></ul>
Related Staff Plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program</li><li>▪ Water Treatment Plant Master Plan Implementation Project</li><li>▪ Distribution System Master Plan Implementation Project</li><li>▪ SCADA Master Plan Implementation Project</li><li>▪ Watersheds and Water Utility Five-Year Operations and Maintenance and Asset Renewal Plans</li><li>▪ District-wide Asset Management Plan</li><li>▪ Watershed Asset Management Plan</li><li>▪ San Felipe Division Reach 1 FY23 Asset Condition Report</li><li>▪ Capital Improvement Program FY 2024-28 Five-Year Plan</li></ul>





## INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

Objective 2	Improve internal capability to negotiate and acquire regulatory permits.
Challenge/ Opportunity	<p>Valley Water continues to face increased project costs and extended timelines due to sometimes conflicting regulatory mandates from external agencies. Valley Water continues to pursue legislative and administrative solutions to resolve regulatory and permitting issues at the federal and state levels. Efforts should focus on staff capability and expertise, and the ability to negotiate effectively and build positive relationships with key regulatory agencies.</p>
FY24 Tactics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to pursue efforts at the state and federal level to expedite permit review.</li> <li>• Keep local, state, and federal legislators up to date on critical projects in case escalation is necessary.</li> <li>• Continue to foster relationships at all levels within regulatory agencies and maintain an open dialogue with environmental and other stakeholders.</li> <li>• Continue to work with the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) and the State Water Quality Control Board (SWQCB) under the terms of our Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to ensure that they protect water supply interests consistent with their authority.</li> </ul>
Monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Board Policy and Planning Committee</li> <li>• Capital Improvement Program Committee</li> <li>• Stream Planning and Operations Committee</li> </ul>
Related Staff Plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One Water Plan</li> </ul>





## 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	<p>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.</p>
FY24 Tactics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Continue to apply strategies for effective community/stakeholder engagement and education.</li><li>• Continue to develop and refine metrics to understand and improve the return on investment (ROI) of outreach strategies.</li><li>• 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.</li><li>• Engage directly with local government jurisdictions through strategic meetings.</li><li>• Continue engagement with cities on flood plain management, Community Rating System (CRS) program, and emergency action plans.</li><li>• Directly involve the Valley Water Board of Directors, local area partners, retailers, and the public with all water supply Master Plan development processes. Share the plan widely, and at the phase of a project where project alternatives are considered, key issues such as the cost of water, quality of water, reliability of our infrastructure, and strategies for implementing different improvement projects with varying levels of service will be explained through public meetings.</li></ul>
Monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Board of Directors</li><li>• Capital Improvement Program Committee</li><li>• Recycled Water Committee</li></ul>
Related Staff Plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Water Supply Master Plan</li><li>• Countywide Water Reuse Master Plan</li><li>• Water Treatment Plant Master Plan</li><li>• Distribution System Master Plan</li></ul>



## 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. During years 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. In addition, as part of the Water Supply Master Plan, Valley Water continues to pursue the “no regrets” package which addresses advanced metering infrastructure, Graywater Rebate Program expansion, leak repair incentives, New Development Model Ordinance, and stormwater capture (agricultural land recharge, stormwater recharge in San Jose and Saratoga, rain barrel rebates, and rain garden rebates).</p>
FY24 Tactics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 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.</li><li>• Update the Water Supply Master Plan to provide information on participation levels, water supply benefits and costs of various portfolios to support water supply project and partnership decisions, including the “no regrets” package.</li><li>• Determine level of participation for projects and decisions about partnerships in accordance with the Water Supply Master Plan and water affordability.</li><li>• Pursue additional funding and partnership opportunities for the Pacheco Reservoir Expansion Project.</li><li>• Evaluate Valley Water’s continued participation in water storage projects during the MAP review process, bi-annual budget development, and other project-specific milestones.</li><li>• Explore, evaluate, and make progress on additional stormwater capture feasibility as part of the “no regrets” package.</li></ul>
Monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Water Storage Exploratory Committee</li><li>• Recycled Water Committee</li><li>• Water Conservation and Demand Management Committee</li></ul>
Related Staff Plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Water Supply Master Plan</li><li>• Annual Monitoring and Assessment Program (MAP) Updates</li><li>• Stormwater Resource Plans</li></ul>





## 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.
FY24 Tactics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Participate in and influence decisions regarding the Delta Conveyance Project.</li><li>▪ Participate in regional water supply resilience efforts.</li><li>▪ Build and maintain effective partnerships to increase resiliency.</li><li>▪ Complete and implement infrastructure master plans and asset management plans.</li><li>▪ Partner with the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) to ensure reliability of the South Bay Aqueduct.</li></ul>
Monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Water Conservation and Demand Management Committee (Groundwater)</li><li>▪ Capital Improvement Program Committee (infrastructure projects)</li></ul>
Related Staff Plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Water Supply Master Plan</li><li>▪ Groundwater Management Plan</li><li>▪ Infrastructure and Asset Management Plans</li></ul>





## WATER SUPPLY

Objective 3	Lead purified water efforts with committed partners.
<b>Challenge/ Opportunity</b>	<p>Recycled and purified water is a drought resilient, locally controlled water supply important to long-term sustainability. 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>
<b>FY24 Tactics</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ 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.</li><li>▪ Implement the Countywide Water Reuse Master Plan.</li><li>▪ Develop a Comprehensive Water Reuse Agreement for South County to advance water reuse and its production, distribution, and wholesaling in South County.</li><li>▪ 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.</li><li>▪ Implement the Letter of Intent executed with the Cities of San José and Santa Clara to expand collaboration on the Silicon Valley Advanced Water Purification Center to develop a second potable reuse project.</li><li>▪ Continue to pursue recycled water grant funding.</li><li>▪ Continue to expand communications strategies to increase public awareness and acceptance of the Purified Water Program.</li><li>▪ Increase outreach to key stakeholders such as elected officials, chambers of commerce, environmental groups, and community organizations to increase support for the expansion of purified water for potable reuse.</li></ul>
<b>Monitoring</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Recycled Water Committee</li></ul>
<b>Related Staff Plans</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Water Supply Master Plan</li><li>▪ Countywide Water Reuse Master Plan</li></ul>







## WATER SUPPLY

Objective 4	Complete the Anderson Dam Seismic Retrofit Project.
<b>Challenge/ Opportunity</b>	<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>
<b>FY24 Tactics</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Maintain the Anderson Reservoir level in compliance with the FERC mandate.</li><li>▪ Continue the construction on the Anderson Dam Tunnel Project (ADTP).</li><li>▪ Continue the design of the ADSRP.</li><li>▪ Continue to work with appropriate regulatory agencies to advance the ADSRP.</li><li>▪ Release the Draft Environmental Impact Report for the ADSRP.</li><li>▪ Pursue necessary permits for ADSRP construction.</li><li>▪ Continue to educate and engage the public, key stakeholders, decision makers, and elected officials of the project progress and construction timeline.</li><li>▪ Coordinate ADSRP operations with the Fisheries and Aquatic Habitat Collaborative Effort (FAHCE).</li><li>▪ Compile lessons learned during the design, permitting and construction of the ADSRP to inform future capital project delivery.</li></ul>
<b>Monitoring</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Capital Improvement Program Committee</li><li>▪ Stream Planning and Operations Committee</li></ul>
<b>Related Staff Plans</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program</li><li>▪ Fish Habitat Restoration Plan</li><li>▪ Coyote Feasibility Study</li><li>▪ Water Supply Master Plan</li><li>▪ Capital Improvement Program FY 2024-28 Five-Year Plan</li><li>▪ Ogier Ponds Feasibility Study</li></ul>



<b>Objective 5</b>	
<b>Make water conservation a California way of life in Santa Clara County.</b>	
<b>Challenge/ Opportunity</b>	<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 an aggressive 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>
<b>FY24 Tactics</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Build on the recent drought’s momentum and continue achieving water savings from the public and encouraging conservation as a way of life through year-round educational outreach, effective water conservation programs, and media campaigns. Continue enforcement program of water waste restrictions as needed.</li><li>• Continue communication and educational outreach to promote Valley Water’s water conservation programs.</li><li>• Increase collaboration with our retailer partners to promote Valley Water’s water conservation programs.</li><li>• Implement new water conservation programs and engagement strategies identified within the Water Conservation Strategic Plan.</li><li>• Engage and support private-sector stakeholders, local, state, and federal agencies that promote water conservation.</li><li>• 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.</li><li>• Ensure water conservation programs support disadvantaged community members.</li><li>• Engage in opportunities and make efforts to obtain water use data from Valley Water retailers.</li><li>• Expand outreach and engagement to local businesses and corporations so they can be more actively involved in water conservation efforts.</li></ul>
<b>Monitoring</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Water Conservation and Demand Management Committee</li></ul>
<b>Related Staff Plans</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Water Conservation Strategic Plan</li><li>• Water Supply Master Plan</li><li>• Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program</li></ul>



# 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 design, there is an opportunity to create flood protection projects with multiple benefits.
FY24 Tactics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Strengthen partnerships with the county and local municipalities to improve collaboration and coordination on flood protection projects and areas that are subject to flooding.</li> <li>▪ Complete One Water plans for the Guadalupe and Pajaro watersheds.</li> <li>▪ 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.</li> <li>▪ Complete construction of Phase 2A of the Upper Llagas Flood Protection Project to provide flood protection and habitat enhancement; and finalize Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) funding agreement and begin construction for Phase 2B.</li> <li>▪ Explore federal funding and grant opportunities to advance the Palo Alto Flood Basin Project into construction, a repair project to ensure a functional flood basin with wetland habitat.</li> <li>▪ Advance the Sunnyvale East/West Channels Project into construction to provide 100-year storm water flood protection.</li> <li>▪ Work with USACE to design Upper Guadalupe River Project to provide 100-year flood protection.</li> <li>▪ Continue to partner with the San Francisquito Joint Powers Authority (JPA) on the San Francisquito Creek upstream 101 Project.</li> <li>▪ Continue design and construction of the Coyote Creek Flood Mitigation and Flood Protection Projects.</li> <li>▪ Begin to evaluate and prioritize addressing areas in the county known to flood on a regular basis.</li> </ul>
Monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Capital Improvement Program Committee</li> <li>▪ Board Policy and Planning Committee</li> <li>▪ Safe Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program Independent Monitoring Committee</li> </ul>
Related Staff Plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ One Water Plan</li> <li>▪ Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program</li> </ul>



## 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.
FY24 Tactics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Advance One Water Integrated Water Resources Master Plan through diverse community-wide stakeholder engagement for the Guadalupe and Upper Pajaro watersheds.</li><li>• Continue progress on flood protection capital projects consistent with Valley Water's commitment to the Safe, Clean Water Program and equitability in all regions.</li><li>• Plan flood risk reduction projects to provide a minimum level of protection countywide.</li></ul>
Monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Capital Improvement Program Committee</li><li>• Board Policy and Planning Committee</li></ul>
Related Staff Plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• One Water Plan</li><li>• Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program</li></ul>



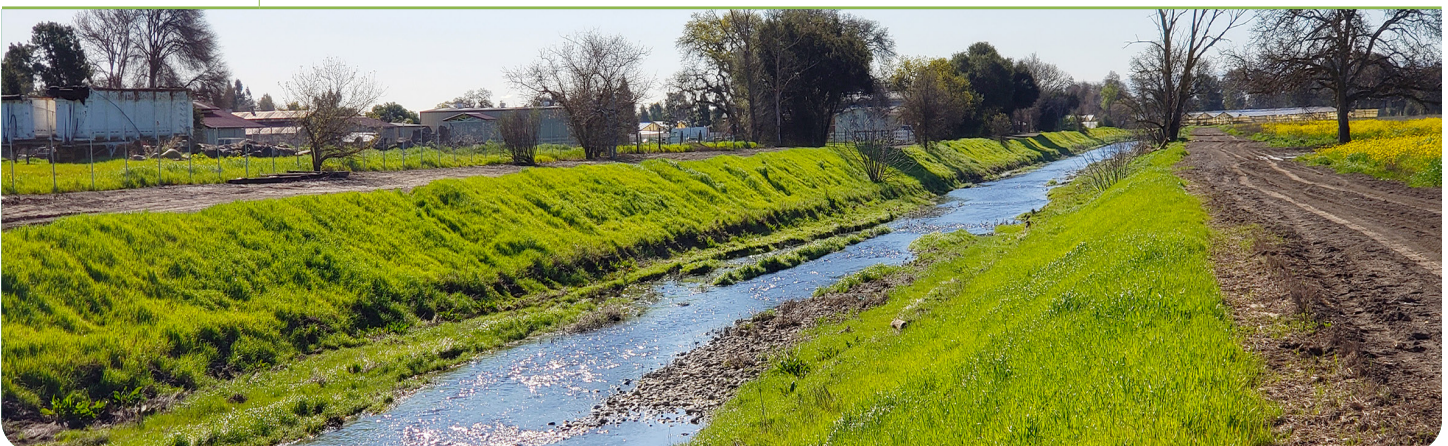




## ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

**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.
FY24 Tactics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 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.</li> <li>▪ Complete Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan as part of the Climate Change Action Plan implementation.</li> <li>▪ Make significant progress on the grant-funded planning study for the San Tomas Aquino Calabazas Creek Realignment Project (which includes Pond A4).</li> <li>▪ Complete construction of the Bolsa Creek Project by December 2023.</li> <li>▪ Initiate access improvements and beneficial reuse of sediment at Pond A4.</li> <li>▪ Continue to develop and build on partnerships with environmental organizations and tribal communities when developing projects.</li> </ul>
Monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Board Policy and Planning Committee</li> <li>▪ Capital Improvement Program Committee</li> </ul>
Related Staff Plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ One Water Plan</li> <li>▪ Climate Change Action Plan</li> </ul>







## 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 management efforts and to develop long-term solutions for unhoused individuals to keep our creeks clean.
FY24 Tactics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 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, encampment clean ups, and other efforts under Safe Clean Water B and F priorities.</li><li>• Continue partnership with City of San José to continue trash rafts removals.</li><li>• 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).</li><li>• Initiate Clean Camps Clean Creeks and portable toilet facility programs.</li><li>• Finalize Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with City of San José to manage encampments within stormwater Municipal Regional Permit (MRP) discharge sites on Coyote Creek.</li><li>• Expand opportunities for volunteers to support cleanup efforts and events.</li><li>• Support legislative efforts to eliminate or reduce waste entering waterways.</li></ul>
Monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Environmental Creek Cleanup Committee</li></ul>
Related Staff Plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• One Water Plan</li><li>• Santa Clara Valley Urban Runoff Pollution Prevention Program</li><li>• Stormwater Resource Plan</li><li>• Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program</li></ul>





## ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

Objective 3	Complete and implement the Fisheries and Aquatic Habitat Collaborative Effort (FAHCE) agreement.
Challenge/ Opportunity	<p>For over 25 years, Valley Water has been working to resolve compliance challenges and disagreements surrounding fish, wildlife, water quality, and other beneficial uses in the Coyote Creek, Guadalupe River, and Stevens Creek watershed areas. Challenges to implementing the FACHE agreement 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>
FY24 Tactics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Prioritize the implementation of the FAHCE agreement and related efforts as soon as possible.</li><li>▪ Finalize the June 2021 Guadalupe River and Stevens Creek Environmental Impact Report (EIR).</li><li>▪ Advance 10 water right change petitions for securing water right orders.</li><li>▪ Continue to implement the FAHCE Plus pilot flow program in Guadalupe and Stevens Creek.</li><li>▪ Continue to implement feasibility studies, monitoring activities, and planning for various fish passage and habitat improvements as identified in existing stakeholder agreement.</li><li>▪ Continue fisheries monitoring program.</li><li>▪ Continue to support an adaptive management program that encompasses all three creeks.</li><li>▪ Continue coordination with the ADSRP project.</li></ul>
Monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Stream Planning and Operations Committee</li></ul>
Related Staff Plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Fish Habitat Restoration Plan for Coyote Creek, Guadalupe River, and Stevens Creek Watersheds</li><li>▪ Seismic Retrofit Programs for Dam Safety</li><li>▪ Aquatic habitat restoration plans/feasibility studies/site-specific improvements affecting all three watersheds (e.g., Countywide Large Woody Debris Program)</li><li>▪ 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)</li><li>▪ One Water Plan</li></ul>



## ADDRESSING ENCAMPMENTS OF UNSHELTERED PEOPLE

**GOAL:** *Humanely assist in the permanent relocation of unsheltered people on Valley Water lands along waterways and at water supply and flood risk reduction facilities in order to address the human health, public safety, operational, and environmental challenges posed by encampments.*

<b>Objective 1</b>	<b>Collaborate with agencies and other service providers to address the challenges posed by encampments and their impacts to waterways, water supply, and flood risk reduction facilities, including supporting the provision of outreach, counseling, transitional or affordable housing, or other services by these agencies and service providers.</b>
<b>Challenge/ Opportunity</b>	<p>The number of unsheltered individuals living in Santa Clara County has increased by 36 percent in the last five years, rising from 7,394 in 2017 to 10,028 in 2022, according to the Homeless Point-in-Time Count and Survey. In 2022, 77% of the unhoused population in the county were unsheltered, and Valley Water estimates that over 2,300 have taken refuge on Valley Water's property or land easements. The waterways in Santa Clara County are flashy, meaning seemingly small creeks quickly can turn into raging torrents, surprising unsheltered people often hidden in riparian vegetation and potentially resulting in drownings or serious injury. These riparian areas include threatened and endangered species, sensitive constructed and natural habitats, and public infrastructure that is critical to water supply, groundwater recharge, and flood risk reduction activities.</p>
<b>FY24 Tactics</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Coordinate with the County, cities, and other service providers in a regional approach to safely relocate unsheltered individuals living along waterways and at water supply and flood risk reduction facilities.</li><li>• Initiate Clean Camps Clean Creeks and portable toilet facility programs.</li><li>• Enhance Valley Water's participation in countywide collaboration efforts to address challenges associated with homelessness.</li><li>• Implement MOA with Santa Clara County to provide outreach services to unsheltered individuals living within waterways and at water supply and flood risk reduction facilities countywide.</li><li>• Implement MOA with City of San José to provide comprehensive services to unsheltered individuals living within the high-risk flood zones of the Coyote Creek project footprint.</li><li>• Develop a framework from internal working group recommendations on both short- and long-term strategies to address the challenges posed by encampments of unsheltered people living on Valley Water lands along waterways and at water supply and flood risk reduction facilities.</li><li>• Work to develop a method to track encampments located on Valley Water lands along waterways and at water supply and flood risk reduction facilities to measure effectiveness of collaborative efforts.</li></ul>
<b>Monitoring</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Environmental Creek Cleanup Committee</li></ul>
<b>Related Staff Plans</b>	



## ADDRESSING ENCAMPMENTS OF UNSHELTERED PEOPLE

<b>Objective 2</b>	<b>Collaborate with the County and municipal partners to secure the safety of unsheltered people living on Valley Water lands along waterways and at water supply and flood risk reduction facilities, as well as secure the safety of residential neighbors and Valley Water staff.</b>
<b>Challenge/ Opportunity</b>	<p>There are a number of growing safety concerns and challenges for the large number of unsheltered individuals and families living in encampments along waterways and water resource facilities with many of these located in high-risk flood areas and vulnerable to the perils of rushing stormwaters in creeks, which can result in serious injury or fatalities. There are additional challenges, concerns and risks for Valley Water staff who work to manage encampment generated trash and debris as well as community members who reside in the proximity of existing encampments. Valley Water staff managing cleanup operations and maintenance of and around encampments are frequently exposed to weapons, biowaste, and dangerous animals (oftentimes off-leash dogs), and at times aggressive and intimidating behavior from unhoused individuals. Staff require support from jurisdictional police departments (PD) to provide a safe environment when carrying out cleanup and maintenance operations, which increases operational costs for added security and places limitations on the operation schedule contingent on PD availability, potentially causing delays in important services (such as facility inspections, vegetation management, flood protection, and biological surveys). Lastly, residential neighbors have a similar level of exposure to some of these dangers, including wildfire hazards that can occur from campfires, solar panels and use of propane tanks in vegetated areas.</p>
<b>FY24 Tactics</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Coordinate with the County and municipal partners, in a regional approach to identify lands to provide transitional or affordable housing or other services, allowing for unsheltered individuals and families to be safely relocated from flood risk areas, and reducing challenges for Valley Water staff performing operations and maintenance along waterways and at water supply and flood risk reduction facilities.</li><li>▪ Continue working with the County, municipal partners and police departments to support Valley Water staff safety, as well as the public safety of unsheltered individuals and residential neighbors when conducting encampment cleanup operations and maintenance activities.</li><li>▪ Continue to perform weed abatement and fuel reduction work around encampments to reduce wildfire risks.</li><li>▪ Implement agreements with the County and municipal partners to provide outreach or other necessary services to unsheltered individuals living along waterways and at water supply and flood risk reduction facilities countywide.</li></ul>
<b>Monitoring</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Environmental Creek Cleanup Committee</li></ul>
<b>Related Staff Plans</b>	





# 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.
FY24 Tactics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan: Identify specific and measurable actions to reduce emissions and approve long-term emissions reduction goals ensuring that all Valley Water activities are considered.</li> <li>• Continue to monitor progress on adaptation actions as identified in the Climate Change Action Plan and support high priority projects such as the South San Francisco Bay Shoreline.</li> <li>• Ensure incorporation of environmental justice (EJ) considerations into planning and processes to support mitigation of carbon emissions and climate change impacts.</li> <li>• Explore opportunities for carbon sequestration in all our programs and projects.</li> </ul>
Monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Board Policy and Planning Committee</li> </ul>
Related Staff Plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Climate Change Action Plan</li> </ul>







## BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

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

<b>Objective 1</b>	<b>Incorporate racial equity, diversity and inclusion throughout Valley Water as a core value.</b>
<b>Challenge/ Opportunity</b>	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.
<b>FY24 Tactics</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Continue to monitor implementation of 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.</li> <li>▪ Remain committed to environmental justice, equity, and the fair treatment and meaningful engagement of all people regardless of race, color, sex, gender, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, disability status (mental and physical), medical condition, genetic information, ancestry, national origin, immigration status, age, marital status, tribe, culture, income, religion, military status, or English language proficiency, with respect to the planning, projects, policies, services, and operations of Valley Water.</li> <li>▪ 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.</li> <li>▪ Continue to advance and foster mutually beneficial partnerships with regional tribal communities.</li> </ul>
<b>Monitoring</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Diversity &amp; Inclusion Ad Hoc Committee</li> </ul>
<b>Related Staff Plans</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Racial Equity, Diversity &amp; Inclusion Master Plan</li> </ul>





## 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, developing the necessary policies and guidance that strengthen employee safety, and establishing Valley Water as an employer of choice.</p>
FY24 Tactics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Implement an automated forecasting tool to develop and finalize a long-term staffing strategy that aligns with future capital and operational needs.</li><li>• Continue to implement initiatives that will expand hiring outreach to individuals that are disabled or have health conditions/impairments, military veterans, and formerly incarcerated individuals, with an emphasis on hiring from the local region.</li><li>• Develop next generation and career pathways program to provide internal and external development for professional growth.</li><li>• Advance the development of a skilled trades apprenticeship program.</li><li>• Maximize the safety of staff working in creeks, encampments, and Valley Water facilities, and continue to promote health &amp; safety guidance to protect staff from public health emergencies and environmental impacts.</li></ul>
Monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Environmental Creek Cleanup Committee</li><li>• Diversity &amp; Inclusion Ad Hoc Committee</li><li>• Financial Sustainability Working Group</li></ul>
Related Staff Plans	







## BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

Objective 3	Provide affordable and cost-effective level of services.
<b>Challenge/ Opportunity</b>	<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>
<b>FY24 Tactics</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Complete 3-4 Board-initiated or management-initiated performance audits, or other performance improvement efforts, benchmarking studies, or best practice implementations.</li><li>▪ Establish Valley Water as a statewide leader in conversations around water affordability.</li><li>▪ Implement Biennial Budget for FY24.</li><li>▪ Continue to seek and obtain grants and funding opportunities from federal, state and other sources.</li></ul>
<b>Monitoring</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Board Audit Committee</li><li>▪ Financial Sustainability Working Group</li></ul>
<b>Related Staff Plans</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Operating and Capital Budget</li><li>▪ Board and Management Audit Reports</li></ul>



# 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 Silicon 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.

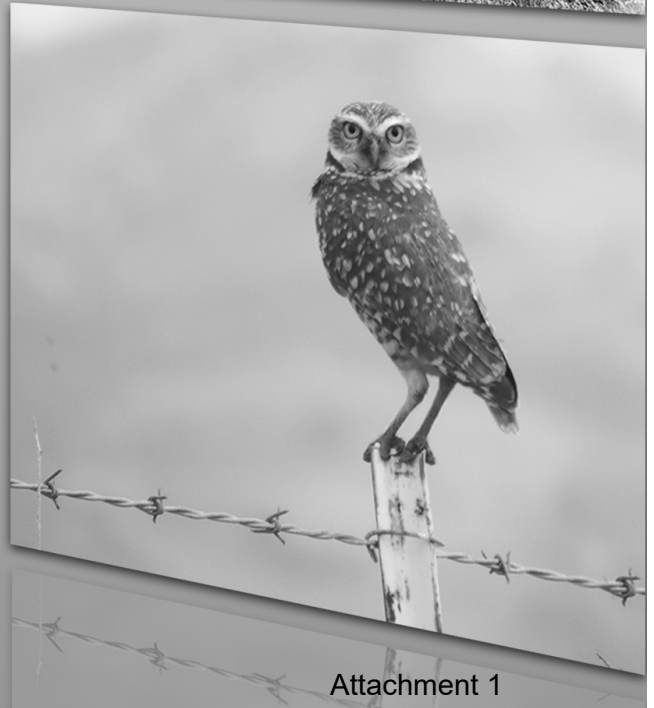
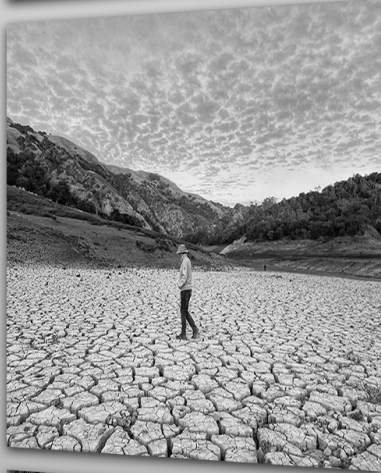
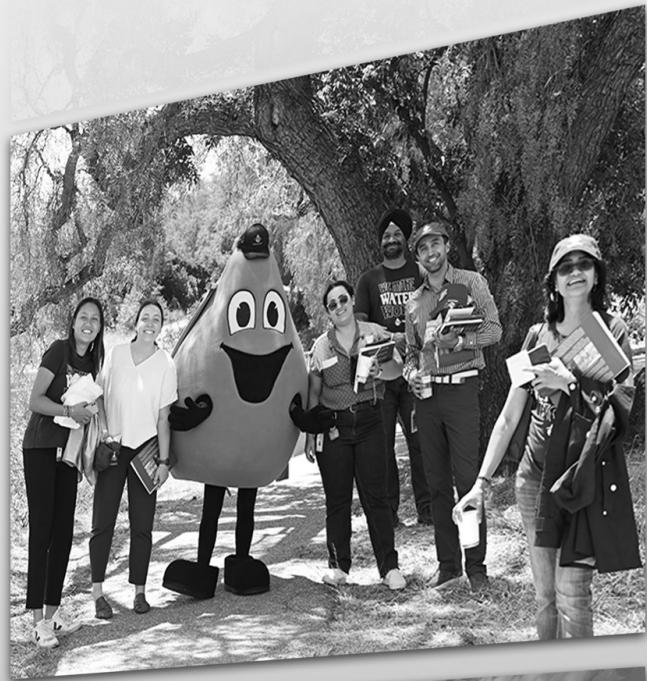
Below is a list of program and master plans that have been referenced in the Board Work Plan. Other plans not listed below can be obtained by contacting the Office of the Clerk of the Board at **(408) 630-2277** or **[clerkoftheboard@valleywater.org](mailto:clerkoftheboard@valleywater.org)**.

- 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>
- Ogier Ponds Feasibility Study  
<https://www.valleywater.org/project-updates/ogier-ponds-coyote-creek-separation-project>
- 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-valley-water/office-racial-equity-diversity-inclusion>
- 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>
- Water Utility Infrastructure Master Plan  
<https://www.valleywater.org/project-updates/water-utility-infrastructure-master-plan-implementation-projects>

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# Valley Water

Clean Water • Healthy Environment • Flood Protection

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