



SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT (VALLEY WATER)  
WATER STORAGE EXPLORATORY COMMITTEE

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# MINUTES

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**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29, 2023**

(Paragraph numbers coincide with agenda item numbers)

A special meeting of the Water Storage Exploratory Committee (Committee) was held on March 29, 2023, at Santa Clara Valley Water District, 5700 Almaden Expressway, San Jose CA 95118.

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Water Storage Exploratory Committee was called to order by Committee Chair Pro Tem Director Richard P. Santos at 11:01 a.m.

**1.1 ROLL CALL**

Valley Water Board Members in attendance were: Director Nai Hsueh (District 5) and Director Richard P. Santos (District 3), establishing a quorum, and Director Rebecca Eisenberg (District 7-arrived at 11:05 a.m.).

Valley Water Staff in attendance were: Gina Adriano, Antonio Alfaro, Emmanuel Aryee, Aaron Baker, Lisa Bankosh, Glenna Brambill, Rick Callender, Ray Fields, Anthony Fulcher, Bal Ganjoo, Meenakshi Ganjoo, Andrew Garcia, Vincent Gin, Alexander Gordon, Samantha Greene, Andy Gschwind, Christopher Hakes, Robert Harvie, Cindy Kao, Candice Kwok-Smith, Jessica Lovering, Katherine Maher, Michael Martin, Ryan McCarter, Julianne O'Brien, Carlos Orellana, Melanie Richardson, Don Rocha, Ranithri Slayton, Kirsten Struve, Charlene Sun, Darin Taylor, Greg Williams, and Jing Wu.

Guests in attendance were: Melanie Carrido (MWH Constructors), Katja Irvin (Sierra Club-Loma Prieta Chapter), Hon. Steve Jordan (Director, Purissima Hills Water District and BAWSCA), Hon. Yoriko Kishimoto (Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District), (Danielle McPherson and Nicole Sandkulla (BAWSCA), Maureen Martin. (Contra Costa Water District {CCWD}), Dan Peluso (Cal Engineer and Geologic, Inc.), Taryn Ravazzini (Executive Director, LVE Project Joint Powers Authority (JPA), Hon. Brian Schmidt (Green Foothills), Gavin Tasker-Barnard Construction), Bill Tuttle (San Jose Water Company-SJWC), and Hon. John Weed (Alameda County Water District-ACWD).

Public in attendance were: Darren Baune, Jim Bowley, Molly Culton, CR Doug MC, Gavin Downs, Rhoda Fry, Gronczka, Kaho Khong, Kristina Loquist, and Paul Sorci.

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

Katja Irvin (Sierra Club-Loma Prieta Chapter), noted that this committee is important and suggested beginning meeting every other month to discuss the large projects not included in the CIP.

Committee Chair Pro Tem Director Richard P. Santos moved to Agenda Item 5.1.

**5. REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS**

**5.1 LOS VAQUEROS RESERVOIR EXPANSION PROJECT UPDATE**

Michael Martin reviewed the materials as outlined in the agenda item.

Vincent Gin introduced Taryn Ravizzini (Executive Director, LVE Project Joint Powers Authority (JPA), and she gave an overview of the project, partnerships, and funding.

Public Comment:

Hon. Brian Schmidt (Green Foothills) had a question on the service agreement and this looks like a great project.

Vincent Gin was available to answer questions.

The Water Storage Exploratory Committee took no action.

Committee Chair Pro Tem Director Richard P. Santos moved to Agenda Item 3.1.

**3. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR**

**3.1 ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR**

Chair Pro Tem Director Richard P. Santos opened the floor to take nominations for Committee Chair.

Director Richard P Santos nominated Director Nai Hsueh as Committee Chair, Director Rebecca Eisenberg seconded, the committee unanimously elected Director Nai Hsueh as Chair.

Committee Chair Director Nai Hsueh opened the floor was opened to take nominations for Committee Vice Chair.

Director Nai Hsueh nominated Director Richard P. Santos as Committee Vice Chair, Director Rebecca Eisenberg seconded, the committee unanimously elected Director Richard P. Santos as Vice Chair.

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**4.1 APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

It was moved by Director Richard P. Santos, second by Director Nai Hsueh, and by majority vote carried to approve the minutes of the October 13, 2022, meeting of the Water Storage Exploratory Committee as presented. Director Rebecca Eisenberg abstained.

## **5. REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS**

### **5.2 PERMANENT QUARRY RECONNAISSANCE STUDY**

Vincent Gin and Samantha Greene reviewed the materials as outlined in the agenda item.

The Water Storage Exploratory Committee discussed the following: including EIR information on presentations to identify potential environmental impacts (red-legged frogs' impacts), if diverting from Stevens Creek Reservoir (steelhead impacts) critical habitat, other protective species, water quality, the County's Plan-mining impacts and remediation.

#### **Public Comments:**

Hon. Brian Schmidt (Green Foothills) noted high level reconnaissance shows this site may not be a viable solution. He gave input on the Impacts to species and diverting surface water may cause some issues with the environmental community. Reported the Quarry submitted a revised 2019 Reclamation Plan, but they suspended it, currently there is no mining or active cement activities, and the environmental agencies would like to see the plant restored.

Rhoda Fry had a question on who suggested the study, why did Valley Water decide to study this site? Rhoda noted some of the Quarry's history (West Material Storage Area scar, Yeager Yard Landslide, past flooding that caused landslide issues), stated that the water quality needs to be protected, suggested enforcing the County's 2012 Reclamation Plan, and concurred with Hon. Brian Schmidt's comments.

Hon. Steve Jordan (Director Purissima Hills Water District and BAWSCA) reported unable to supplement their water source from San Francisco with groundwater, there is no recharge in Los Altos Hills (removed from the groundwater recharge zone), would this be feasible for them in western part of the County? How does the 14,000 acre- feet compare to the capacity of Stevens Creek Reservoir?

Director Nai Hsueh, Aaron Baker, and Vincent Gin were available to answer questions.

The Water Storage Exploratory Committee took no action, however, suggested staff submit a non-agenda item with the presentation slides to inform the Board that this high-level study resulted to be a non-feasible project and discontinue any further resources for the study. Also, the Committee would like to have staff continue monitoring the quarry for any updates/changes.

### **5.3 UPDATE ON B. F. SISK DAM RAISE AND RESERVOIR EXPANSION PROJECT**

Vincent Gin and Cindy Kao reviewed the materials as outlined in the agenda item.

Committee Chair Director Nai Hsueh noted that the Committee is receiving this high-level presentation prior to the Board getting any information.

The Water Storage Exploratory Committee would like an analysis of this project for the next meeting.

#### **Public Comments:**

Hon. Brian Schmidt had a question on how this project relates to Pacheco and how much

water would the dam hold?

Katja Irvin encouraged this item be presented to the full Board.

The Water Storage Exploratory Committee took no action.

#### **5.4 STANDING ITEMS**

Committee Chair Director Nai Hsueh reviewed the materials as outlined in the agenda item.

Cindy Kao reported on:

Groundwater Banking diversification (hydrology), one option Valley Water is exploring is Antelope Valley East Kern (AVEK) opportunities

- AVEK Develop 440,000 acre-feet groundwater bank, Valley Water's place holder is 200,000 acre-feet
- Developing Terms and Conditions for participation in the bank along with developing the MOU to incorporate the terms and conditions, expect to execute later this summer, the MOU will detail the terms for participating in the planning phase laying out principles for developing a banking agreement for the operations and construction phases
- Executed a Pilot Banking Agreement in March to test some of the processes and approvals needed to get the bank moving
- Working on water supply reliability efforts

Public Comments:

Katja Irvin followed up about the request Director Jim Beall made at the special Pacheco Board meeting regarding the project schedule, financial timelines, when will the Board will be receiving that? Asked for side-by-side analyses of storage alternatives, looking at costs on an acre-foot basis, with and without the 35% participation, Pacheco EIR, job creation, and San Luis Reservoir project-evaluations criteria so the public could give input.

Check to see if this was a BMR/non-agenda item so staff could formally answer.

Chris Hakes was available to answer questions. Come back on a quarterly basis with a report

Hon. Brian Schmidt commented on Valley Water looking at potable/non-potable water, more recycling water sources with exploring more areas of storage (such as LeHigh, which are not part of the Water Supply Master Plan). Having financial timelines. When will the Board make decisions on projects moving forward or not? Process on committee decisions to the board?

The Water Storage Exploratory Committee took no action.

#### **5.5 REVIEW WATER STORAGE EXPLORATORY COMMITTEE WORK PLAN AND THE COMMITTEE'S NEXT MEETING AGENDA**

Committee Chair Director Nai Hsueh reviewed the materials as outlined in the agenda item.

Committee Chair will work on 2023 Work Plan and meeting dates with Staff.

The Water Storage Exploratory Committee took no action.

**6. CLERK REVIEW AND CLARIFICATION OF COMMITTEE ACTIONS**

Glenna Brambill noted there were no action items for Board consideration.

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

Committee Chair Director Nai Hsueh adjourned the meeting at 12:57 p.m.

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

Approved: 5-12-2023