



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

MINUTES

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2023

(Paragraph numbers coincide with agenda item numbers)

A regular meeting of the Water Storage Exploratory Committee (Committee) was held on October 13, 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 Director Nai Hsueh at 12:00 p.m.

1.1 ROLL CALL

Valley Water Board Members in attendance were: Committee Chair Director Nai Hsueh (District 5), Committee Vice Chair Director Richard P. Santos (District 3), and Director Rebecca Eisenberg (District 7-arrived at 12:02 p.m.).

Valley Water Staff in attendance were: Aaron Baker, Glenna Brambill, Andrew Garcia, Vincent Gin, Samantha Greene, Andrew Gschwind, Christopher Hakes, Linh Hoang, Dana Jacobson, Cindy Kao, Candice Kwok-Smith, Emelia Lamas, Carmen Narayanan, Julianne O'Brien, Carlos Orellana, Don Rocha, Diahann Soleno, Charlene Sun, Kirsten Struve, Darin Taylor, and Jing Wu.

Public in attendance were: Gavin Downs, Chuck Gardner (Hallmark Group), Alan and Meg Giberson, Bob Green, Jeffrey Hare, Hon. Brian Schmidt (Green Foothills), Chuck Hammerstad (NCCFFI), Katja Irvin (Sierra Club-Loma Prieta Chapter), Emmert McCormick, Osha Meserve ((Stop Pacheco Dam Coalition).

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

There were no public comments received.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3.1 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Director Richard P. Santos, second by Director Nai Hsueh, and by unanimous vote carried to approve the minutes of the August 18, 2023, meeting of the Water Storage Exploratory Committee as presented.

4. REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS

4.2 UPDATE ON THE LOS VAQUEROS RESERVOIR EXPANSION PROJECT COST AND SCHEDULE

Chuck Gardner from the Hallmark Group reviewed the materials as outlined in the agenda item and was available to answer questions as needed.

The Water Storage Exploratory Committee discussed the following: slippages, costs overrun, mitigation costs need to be included, when possible, project participants, accounting for the costs Valley Water does not pay, the critical path of pumping plant, and expansion delays.

The Water Storage Exploratory Committee took no action.

4.1 CONSIDER FOLLOW-UP TOPICS FROM THE AUGUST 22, 2023, BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING REGARDING THE PACHECO RESERVOIR EXPANSION PROJECT

Julianne O'Brien reviewed the materials as outlined in the agenda item and was available to answer questions as needed.

The Water Storage Exploratory Committee discussed the following: Board's broader discussion points delineated from agenda memo (Review of Project's environmental impacts, Discussion of connection between Project and the 2050 Water Supply Master Plan's Portfolio Recommendation, which is scheduled for 2024, Description of planned Project operations and Project benefits; Comparison of Project cost to those of other water storage projects, Discussion and review of current Board-directed partnership approach; and Discussion and review of requirements unique to the Project. consequences of losing lawsuit, public statements of costs and benefits need to be realistic, include mitigation costs whenever possible, compliance of regulatory restrictions, need to be more transparent with actual costs, listing the top ten concerns to begin the necessary discussion to make decisions, examples (environmental impacts, potential/pending lawsuits, actual money being spent on project, note where the money has gone, dedicated staff for project, flooding concerns, and grants (Federal/State).

Committee Chair Director Nai Hsueh recognized Dr. Jeffrey Michael's handout on his economic and financial analysis concerns of this project.

Public Comments:

Hon. Brian Schmidt (Green Foothills) recalled Hon. Jim Beall's question on the achievement of 30% participation project cost, when will Valley Water make its decision on whether to continue to spend, as of now there is a \$160,000 loss, and there is a need to look at the pros and cons.

Katja Irvin (Sierra Club-Loma Prieta Chapter), noted that including the environmental impacts mitigation makes sense, need to know what or will not be included, have a comparison of the project's costs (comparing the right items (apples to apples). The last 2 items on the agenda memo list *are a higher priority*

because they may result in some changes, and what are the unique requirements.

Osha Meserve (Stop Pacheco Dam Coalition) noted, assessing the feasibility, to have staff look at the environmental and financial feasibilities, to see if project should continue.

Aaron Baker was available to answer questions.

The Water Storage Exploratory Committee took no formal action, *however, agreed to have the Committee member Director Rebecca Eisenberg review the Board agenda memo regarding her suggested discussion topics when the memo is ready.*

4.3 UPDATE ON POTENTIAL GROUNDWATER BANKING PROJECTS

Andrew Garcia reviewed the materials as outlined in the agenda item and was available to answer questions as needed.

The Water Storage Exploratory Committee discussed the following: thanked staff for the exceptional report, water storage capabilities, and what is staff doing to look for other groundwater banking opportunities.

The Water Storage Exploratory Committee took no action.

4.4 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. The Committee canceled the November 10, 2023, meeting, and will work with staff for the next meeting.

The Water Storage Exploratory Committee took no action.

5. CLERK REVIEW AND CLARIFICATION OF COMMITTEE REQUESTS

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

6. ADJOURNMENT

Committee Chair Director Nai Hsueh adjourned the meeting at 1:44 p.m.

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

Approved: 12-8-2023

