



WATER CONSERVATION AND DEMAND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES

**MONDAY, AUGUST 30, 2021
11:00 AM**

A regular scheduled meeting of the Water Conservation and Demand Management Committee was held on August 30, 2021, via zoom in San Jose, California.

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Committee Chair Director Linda J. LeZotte called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

Committee Board Members in attendance were: Committee Vice Chair, Director Nai Hsueh (District 5), Director Barbara Keegan (District 2), Committee Chair, Director Linda J. LeZotte (District 4).

Valley Water Staff members in attendance were: Joseph Aranda, Aaron Baker, Neeta Bijoor, Glenna Brambill, Justin Burks, Rick Callender, Theresa Chinte, Vanessa De La Piedra, Philip Dolan, Melissa Fels, Paola Giles, Vincent Gin, Samantha Greene, Jason Gurdak, Matt Keller, Candice Kwok-Smith, Jessica Lovering, Viet-Long Nguyen, Carlos Orellana, Melanie Richardson, Metra Richert, Don Rocha, Ashley Shannon, Sherilyn Tran, Toni Vye, Gregory Williams, and Jing Wu.

Guest Agencies in attendance were: Diane Asuncion (City of Santa Clara), Michael Bolzowski (California Water Service Company), Kurt Elvert and Bill Tuttle (San Jose Water Company), Anthony Eulo (City of Morgan Hill), Tim Guster (Great Oaks Water Company), and Katja Irvin (Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter).

Public in attendance was: Harris Siddiqui.

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

Ms. Katja Irvin, Water Committee Co-Chair of the Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter, suggested that Valley Water's Landscape Program promote xeriscaping and lower water use native landscaping.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3.1 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Director Barbara Keegan, seconded by Director Nai Hsueh, and carried by unanimous vote, to approve the minutes of the July 26, 2021, Water Conservation and Demand Management Committee meeting as presented. Director Nai Hsueh thanked staff for following up with the water use restrictions comparison table.

4. ACTION ITEMS

4.1 MONTHLY UPDATE ON PROGRESS TOWARDS VALLEY WATER RESOLUTION 21-68'S WATER USE REDUCTION TARGET AND DROUGHT-RELATED WATER CONSERVATION EFFORTS

Ms. Neeta Bijoor and Mr. Justin Burks reviewed the materials as outlined in the agenda items.

The Water Conservation and Demand Management Committee discussed the following: surcharges, penalties, water use restrictions, allocations, Model Ordinance support and working with messaging on how to help the cities (this is an opportunity for Valley Water to engage with their constituents), long term planning on conservation is a way of life in California/Santa Clara County, land use intensification/additional water demands, energy component/water use, transportation and costs, fixture replacement program, Landscape Committee's idea of protecting trees and the meeting notes, and staffing shortages.

Mr. Don Rocha, Mr. Aaron Baker, and Ms. Melanie Richardson were available to answer questions.

Public Comment received:

Mr. Anthony Eulo (City of Morgan Hill) one of the primary authors/movers of the Ordinance noted there is a pool of jurisdictions that have not adopted the Ordinance. 1. The Ordinance is not a drought response activity, but it is a conservation as a way of life activity, 2. Recognize this is a difficult "lift for agencies," many do not have water retailers and funding is not readily available to implement the ordinance, and 3. Building and Planning is 3rd level issue-housing crisis and climate change, reach codes, area of energy conservation, efficiencies, requiring batteries, etc. and water unfortunately is 3rd in that line. He is trying to revamp their Landscape Ordinance to require less plants in new developments and take a more xeriscaping approach. Additional Comment: Future planning for next year, assuming there isn't a wet winter, and fear situation gets worse, efforts should be focused on promotional and public education an opportunity for enhanced cooperation, collaboration and re-emphasizing the message between retailers and Valley Water so potentially there won't be a need for additional staffing resources but suggest having 'ad buys" and development of collateral materials with a well-designed brochure to print a large quantity and cost of design will be same and that is where he would look for enhanced work in the future, While programs on the landscape side are on the "uptick" may not have short-term savings during a drought.

The Water Conservation and Demand Management Committee took no action.

4.2 STANDING ITEMS REPORT

Committee Chair Linda J. LeZotte reviewed the materials as outlined in the agenda items.

Mr. Jason Gurdak gave a verbal update on Sustainable Groundwater Management Plan (SGMA): Recapped the July 26, 2021, WCADMC meeting:

- SGMA update 1. draft Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) for the north San Benito subbasin is available on San Benito County Water District and Valley Water websites, 2. San Benito County Water District is hosting a groundwater workshop on August 4, 2021, to review the GSP, 3. Valley Water is planning a public meeting on August 12, 2021, to discuss the SGMA Plan of the Santa Clara and Llagas subbasins.

August 30, 2021, Update:

Valley Water staff held 2 meetings on required 5-year update of Alternative Groundwater Sustainability Plan for the Santa Clara and Llagas Subbasins (the primary basins in our county):

1. August 12, 2021, Public meeting via Zoom, was a high-level overview of how Valley Water sustainably manages groundwater and recent conditions of groundwater, walked through the Plan contents, and the updates being made to the Plan, also many of the more substantial updates recommended by DWR, great public participation, and received positive feedback.
2. August 13, 2021, Special Meeting with GW Subcommittee of the Water Retailers, and an overview was provided of the updates to the Alternative Plan.
 - At both meetings, staff outlined the expected timeline to submit the updated Alternative to DWR, which is essentially the same timeline that was presented during the Water Conservation and Demand Management Committee's (WCADMC) May meeting with the following report:
 - 📅 September 27, 2021, meeting, staff will provide a brief verbal SGMA update, October 1, 2021, the draft Alternative Plan will be posted on Valley Water's website, an email with the link will be sent to the list of interested parties, and instructions on public comment on the Plan,
 - 📅 October 25, 2021, meeting, staff will present the updated Plan and hope to receive a recommendation from the Committee for the full Board's consideration on November 23, 2021, expected public hearing. The 2021 Alternative Plan for the Santa Clara and Llagas Subbasins is due to DWR by January 1, 2022, and
 - 📅 November 22, 2021, meeting, staff will present an overview of the North San Benito GSP, which staff plans on taking to the full Board for consideration on December 14, 2021, expected public hearing, The North San Benito GSP is due January 31, 2022, to DWR.

The Water Conservation and Demand Management Committee discussed the following: Questions regarding the retailer meeting, asked staff to bring back to Committee the Valley Water's SGMA authorities and processes (Resolution #18-04).

Ms. Samantha Greene reported on the following:

Flood MAR is Flood Managed Aquifer Recharge, capture storm flows off hillsides, etc. and recharging it on open space (looking at ag land but all open space as well). Staff has spoken with the Open Space Authority.

- A. Setting up such a program answers need to be addressed:
 1. where will the water come from?

2. where is recharge able to happen so it can reach our groundwater table, as a lot of open space is located over confined groundwater area.
- B. Working with a team of professors and researchers from UC Water, this is a collaboration among several UC Universities working on water sustainability issues to do:
1. create GIS based tool to determine best potential sites to implement Pilot Flood MAR Program where lands maybe able to capture runoff, and the types of projects set up there,
 2. answer institutional questions and based on what the tool says:
 - what are the water rights and what is going to be needed based on those properties with this approach?
 - what are incentives for those landowners to participate in this Program?
 3. Make sure there is a comprehensive list of questions to get the pilot program up and running. December 2022 is the target date and based on the results from the tool and the institutional needs, staff will determine if the pilot program can be instituted in the County, and will begin planning the actual pilot, if study shows it is a feasible idea after Board approval.

Agricultural Water Use Baseline Study update: the past consulting firm was unable to complete the study due to COVID. The Flood MAR UC Water subset team has now stepped in for this Study where the findings will be a lot stronger, using a remote-sensing based approach and will use the data in the Study to figure out water-use patterns and cross-type within County. There is a retired employee that worked with the agricultural community who has been hired to assist the study team and will determine if the recommendations of the potential water efficiency program/projects make sense for the Santa Clara County agricultural community. Data collection is moving along, and the target date of completion is December 2022.

The Water Conservation and Demand Management Committee took no action.

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

Ms. Glenna Brambill and Mr. Vincent Gin reviewed the materials as outlined in the agenda items.

Agenda Items for next meeting:

Monthly Drought Information, Water Conservation Strategic Plan, Review the current 15 % call for Water Use Reduction and Verbal Report Updates, SGMA, Flood MAR, Agricultural Baseline Study.

The next regularly scheduled meeting is Monday, September 27, 2021, 11:00 a.m., to be called to order in compliance with the State Emergency Services Act, the Governor's Emergency Declaration related to COVID-19, and the Governor's Executive Order N-08-21.

5. CLERK REVIEW AND CLARIFICATION OF COMMITTEE'S REQUESTS

Ms. Glenna Brambill stated there were no action items for Board consideration.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Committee Chair Director Linda J. LeZotte adjourned at 12:59 p.m., to the next regularly scheduled meeting Monday, September 27, 2021, 11:00 a.m., to be called to order in compliance with the State Emergency Services Act, the Governor's Emergency Declaration related to COVID-19, and the Governor's Executive Order N-08-21.

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

Approved: 9-27-2021