



WATER CONSERVATION AND DEMAND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

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# MINUTES

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**MONDAY, JUNE 21, 2021  
11:00 AM**

A special scheduled meeting of the Water Conservation and Demand Management Committee was held on June 21, 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.

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.

Staff members in attendance were: Aaron Baker, Roseryn Bhudsabourg, Neeta Bijoor, Sam Bogale, Glenna Brambill, Bart Broome, Justin Burks, Rick Callender, Theresa Chinte, Melissa Fels, Paola Giles, Vincent Gin, Jason Gurdak, Linh Hoang, Brian Hopper, Jessica Lovering, Carlos Orellana, Melanie Richardson, Metra Richert, Don Rocha, Ashley Shannon, Kirsten Struve, Gregory Williams, Jing Wu, and Bhavani Yerrapotu.

Guest Agencies in attendance were: Diane Asuncion (City of Santa Clara), Michael Bolzowski (California Water Service Company), Kevin Carley (City of Palo Alto), Kurt Elvert and Bill Tuttle (San Jose Water Company), Anthony Eulo (City of Morgan Hill), Tim Guster (Great Oaks Water Company), Hon. Bryan Mekechuk (City of Monte Sereno).

Public in attendance were: Annette Duerksen, Pedro Hernandez, Erica Kudyba, Doug Muirhead, William (Bill) Sherman, Liann Walborsky, and Sharon Whaley.

**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**

**3.1 APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

It was moved by Director Nai Hsueh, seconded by Director Barbara Keegan, and carried by unanimous vote, to approve the minutes of the May 10, 2021, Water Conservation and Demand Management Committee meeting as presented.

4. **ACTION ITEMS**

**4.1 UPDATE ON WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES FOLLOWING THE BOARD'S ADOPTION OF A RESOLUTION DECLARING A WATER SHORTAGE EMERGENCY CONDITION CALLING FOR WATER USE RESTRICTIONS AND URGING THE COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA TO PROCLAIM A LOCAL EMERGENCY**

Ms. Neeta Bijoor, Mr. Justin Burks, Ms. Linh Hoang, Ms. Paola Giles, and Ms. Kirsten Struve reviewed the materials as outlined in the agenda item.

The Water Conservation and Demand Management Committee discussed the following: new rebate increase, buckets, BeHeard, more direct links on information, summer campaign, County Board of Supervisors' proclamation, monthly updates, robust water conservation program, policy recommendations to the Board, percentages vs rates are confusing, water restrictions, Water Supply Master Plan (WSMP), 2040 goals-no regrets package, AML, Model Ordinance, leak repair, Resolution 21-68 items, alignment with electeds, community stakeholders and residents, yard signs, outreach, 'lessons learned' report, reporting on tracking resolution items, monthly committee meetings, retailers' component, website or social media hits, and messaging information needs to be clear.

Public Comments received:

Mr. William Sherman feels Valley Water is doing a great job, but some will not pay attention, postings on Nextdoor, and an anonymous letter about wasting water received several comments (he will send a copy).

Hon. Bryan Mekechuk wanted to offer feedback on what he is hearing, moving the 'needle', finding out water usage from the retailers, could billing be done every month, people being protective of their landscape investment, water retailers being more communicative, leaks are a big deal, are there any incentives, and retailers showing comparative data would be quite helpful.

Mr. Anthony Eulo noted retailers have to report on their water loss to the State, volumetric vs. rates, drought costs, meter readings. He appreciates Valley Water's support of agriculture (who are the largest water users), conservation making it a way of life message needs to continue, summit getting participants, weed abatement, fixing leaks, reaching out to those that have received rebates, and City of Morgan Hill will be looking at the Model Ordinance again.

Mr. Kevin Carley spoke about 'lessons learned' shared with Retailers (knowledge sharing), touchpoints, engaging customers, best practices, programs, referrals, NGO's being ambassadors, drought tolerance, and he agreed that percentages vs rates are confusing to customers.

The Water Conservation and Demand Management Committee took no action

#### **4.2 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 reviewed the materials as outlined in the agenda items.

The Committee will review the newly designed work plan, assign dates and items to reflect the nexus to the Water Supply Master Plan. Question on how Valley Water engages with the cities and if there is a report to review.

The Water Conservation and Demand Management Committee will schedule monthly meetings, toward end of each month.

Mr. Jason Gurdak responded to Mr. Doug Muirhead's comments from his handout:

*Doug Muirhead-email 6/18/2021.*

Dear Water Conservation and Demand Management Committee, A comment for Agenda Item 4.2: Work Plan Water Supply Master Plan Strategy 3: Optimize the Use of existing supplies and infrastructure 6 Sustainable Groundwater Management Plan (SGMA)

In response to the April 21, 2021 Drought Executive Proclamation, the California Department of Water Resources (DWR), in coordination with the State Water Resources Control Board, is advancing the development of principles and strategies related to groundwater management and drinking water well impacts by hosting Listening Sessions on June 29-30. Email comments are also accepted.

The Committee might be interested in having Staff report on this activity. My comment (to [sgmps@water.ca.gov](mailto:sgmps@water.ca.gov)) is below (was copied to Groundwater Mgmt Unit). Thank you for your consideration.

Doug Muirhead, Morgan Hill

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I would like to submit two comments for your consideration of draft principles and strategies for drinking water wells.

- 1) For analyzing, group wells by depth to reflect impact due to increments of groundwater level drop
- 2) For communicating impact, illustrate actual distribution of water wells.

##### Comment 1:

Valley Water (nee Santa Clara Valley Water District) is currently evaluating how many wells may go dry under the very low groundwater storage projected under the worst case for 2022 [special Board meeting 6/9/2021]. I suggest an inventory of wells grouped by depth so that we can see for each incremental decline in groundwater level which wells remain dry and which are next to go dry.

##### Comment 2:

For areas similar to southern Santa Clara County, where groundwater is the only potable water supply, I suggest messaging which shows the totality of wells by location. I have included an attachment that I call the "measles map" of actual well locations in south Santa Clara County. [Source: 2015 South County Recycled Water Master Plan Update, May 2016; Appendix G - Screening Level Assessment of Indirect Potable Reuse in the Llagas Subbasin, September 2015; Figure 11]

- 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 12:58 p.m.

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

Approved: 7-26-2021