



WATER CONSERVATION AND DEMAND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

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# MINUTES

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**MONDAY, JANUARY 24, 2022**

A regular scheduled meeting of the Water Conservation and Demand Management Committee was held on January 24, 2022, via zoom in San Jose, California.

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

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

**1.1. ROLL CALL**

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) establishing a quorum.

Staff members in attendance were: Aaron Baker, Roseryn Bhudsabourg, Neeta Bijoor, Sam Bogale, Glenna Brambill, Justin Burks, Vanessa De La Piedra, Phil Dolan, Melissa Fels, Vincent Gin, Samantha Greene, Andy Gschwind, Jason Gurdak, Alexander Johanson, Matt Keller, Nicholas Murphy, Carlos Orellana, Colin Resch, Metra Richert, Don Rocha, Mary Samar, Ashley Shannon, Kirsten Struve, Gregory Williams, and Jing Wu.

Guest Agencies in attendance were: Michael Bolzowski (California Water Service Company), Brian Boyer (Cinnabar Hills Golf Club), Anthony Eulo (City of Morgan Hill), Andrew Fisher, Ph.D. (UC Santa Cruz), Tim Guster (Great Oaks Water Company), Anna Rallings, Ph.D. (UC Merced), Curt Rayer, John Tang and Bill Tuttle (San Jose Water Company-SJWC).

Public in attendance was: Arthur M. Keller, Ph.D., Doug Muirhead, and Director John L. Varela (Valley Water Board Vice Chair, District 1).

**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 roll call and unanimous vote, to approve the minutes of the December 20, 2021, Water Conservation and Demand Management Committee meeting as presented.

**4. ACTION ITEMS**

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

Ms. Neeta Bijoor reviewed the materials as outlined in the agenda items.

The Water Conservation and Demand Management Committee discussed the following: Farm Bureau engagement, water conservation, retailer progress, water usage reduction and downward trending, monthly fluctuations, partnering with retailers (San Jose Water Company's (SJW) recent customer communication, thanks to those conserving water, and partnering with the farmers.

Public Comments:

Mr. Bill Tuttle (San Jose Water Company-SJWC) reported on:

- December numbers-is good news, conserved an additional 7% down from November but will end up being above 1%-2% of 2019 results. This will be an issue through March 2022 as 2019 was the 3<sup>rd</sup> lowest usage they've had over 30 years for the winter and overall, the whole year was the 4<sup>th</sup> lowest usage. The numbers will need to be lower than their lowest usage of the last 30 years to meet the 15% below 2019 numbers during the next 3 months, even though people are conserving, it is still going to be hard to reach the target.

Mr. Anthony Eulo (City of Morgan Hill) reported on:

- The trend is good, they are 4% over compared to 2019, if comparison month is low, it will be difficult to reach the target. They are way under the 2020 numbers, however, substantially under the 2013 numbers, some took permanent action, but water use is not recovered and way under 2013. If Valley Water could remind the media of this when reporting out, it would be advantageous. There has been a lot of growth in the County since 2013 and being under should be applauded. He appreciated staff's approach with the agricultural community since they are large water 'drivers' and all of the efforts made during the drought has not gone unnoticed.

Ms. Roseryn Bhudsabourg, Mr. Aaron Baker, Mr. Don Rocha, and Ms. Kirsten Struve were available to answer questions.

The Water Conservation and Demand Management Committee took no action.

**4.2. AGRICULTURAL WATER USE BASELINE STUDY UPDATE**

Ms. Samantha Greene and Ms. Anna Rallings (UC Merced) reviewed the materials as outlined in the agenda items.

The Water Conservation and Demand Management Committee discussed the following: economic data, expert stakeholders, field visits to validate economic data, water rates, downward

trends, agricultural land usage, reasonable water prices, crops, cropping patterns/trends and irrigation methods.

Public Comment:

- Mr. Anthony Eulo (City of Morgan Hill) commented that people desire to have locally grown food and the study may want to look at that. The number one crop in terms of value in Santa Clara Valley is nursery crops and second is mushrooms on an economic value.

The Water Conservation and Demand Management Committee took no action.

#### **4.3. FLOOD-MANAGED AQUIFER RECHARGE PRELIMINARY FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR SANTA CLARA COUNTY**

Ms. Samantha Greene and Andrew Fisher, Ph.D., (UC Santa Cruz) reviewed the materials as outlined in the agenda items.

The Water Conservation and Demand Management Committee discussed the following: academia partnerships, GIS tools, are excited about the approach the team is taking and the next steps.

Public question:

- Arthur Keller, Ph.D., asked if the San Francisquito Creek or other creeks in the northern part of county included in the study and are they considered for flood protection.

The Water Conservation and Demand Management Committee took no action.

#### **4.4 STANDING ITEMS REPORT**

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

Mr. Jason Gurdak reported on the following:

Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA)

- The North San Benito Subbasin is largely located within San Benito County, with small portions within Santa Clara County. Both San Benito County Water District (SBCWD) and Valley Water are GSAs for the North San Benito Subbasin. SBCWD was lead on GSP development and Valley Water provided support and served on the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC).
- The North San Benito GSP was adopted by the SBCWD Board of Directors on November 17, 2021, and by the Valley Water Board of Directors on December 14, 2021. The update is that the final GSP is available on the SBCWD website at <https://www.sbcwd.com/gsp-development/> and was submitted to DWR a couple weeks ago (Jan 13, 2022) for review and approval before the statutory deadline of January 31, 2022.
- Next steps: DWR is required to complete the review and approval process within a year and half, and we'll keep this Committee updated when we get the formal response from DWR.

The Water Conservation and Demand Management Committee took no action.

**4.5 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.

Agenda Items for next meeting:  
Monthly Drought Information  
Water Shortage Contingency Plan

The Committee will need to reschedule the February 28, 2022, meeting to the week of February 23 or 24, 2022.

Public Comment:

- Mr. Anthony Eulo thanked Valley Water Directors and staff that he has worked with through the years, as he is leaving the City of Morgan Hill to a private agency to work on climate change issues and local agencies.

**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 12:13 p.m., to the next regularly scheduled meeting to be determined.

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

Approved: 2-23-2022