



ENVIRONMENTAL AND WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING

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# MINUTES

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**MONDAY, JANUARY 28, 2019  
6:00 PM**

(Paragraph numbers coincide with agenda item numbers)

A regular scheduled meeting of the Environmental and Water Resources Committee (Committee) Meeting was held on January 28, 2019, in the Headquarters Building Boardroom at the Santa Clara Valley Water District, 5700 Almaden Expressway, San Jose, California.

**1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL**

Chair Loren Lewis called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

Members in attendance were:

<b><u>District</u></b>	<b><u>Representative</u></b>
District 1	Loren Lewis Rita Norton
District 2	Charles Ice
District 3	Hon. Dean Chu Rev. Jethroe Moore, II Charles Taylor
District 4	John Bourgeois Bob Levy
District 5	Hon. Tara Martin-Milius Mike Michitaka Marc Rauser
District 6	Hon. Patrick S. Kwok
District 7	Tess Byler Arthur M. Keller, Ph.D.

Members not in attendance were:

<b><u>District</u></b>	<b><u>Representative</u></b>
District 1	Bonnie Bamburg
District 2	Elizabeth Sarmiento
District 7	Stephen A. Jordan

Board members in attendance were: Director Tony Estremera, Board Representative and Director Nai Hsueh, Board Alternate.

Staff members in attendance were: Joseph Atmore, Glenna Brambill, Vincent Gin, Garth Hall, Nina Hawk, Anthony Mendiola and Ngoc Nguyen.

**2. PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no one present who wished to speak.

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

It was moved by Ms. Tess Byler, seconded by Arthur M. Keller, Ph.D., and carried by majority vote, to approve the October 24, 2018, Environmental and Water Resources Committee meeting minutes, as presented. Rev. Jethroe Moore, II, Mr. Charles Taylor, Hon. Patrick S. Kwok and Hon. Tara Martin-Milius abstained.

**4. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR**

**4.1 ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR**

Chair Loren Lewis opened the floor for Chair nominations:

It was moved by Mr. Loren Lewis, seconded by Mr. Bob Levy to nominate Arthur M. Keller, Ph.D. as Chair.

It was moved by Ms. Rita Norton, seconded by Hon. Patrick S. Kwok to nominate Ms. Tess Byler as Chair.

The nominations were closed.

The Committee by majority vote, approved Ms. Tess Byler as Chair for 2019.

Chair Loren Lewis opened the floor for Vice Chair nominations:

It was moved by Hon. Tara Martin-Milius, seconded by Ms. Tess Byler to nominate Arthur M. Keller, Ph.D. as Vice Chair.

The nomination was closed.

The Committee by unanimous vote, approved Arthur M. Keller, Ph.D. as Vice Chair. for 2019.

**5. ACTION ITEMS**

**5.1 REVIEW AND APPROVE 2018 ANNUAL ACOMPLISHMENTS REPORT FO PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD**

Chair Tess Byler and Ms. Glenna Brambill reviewed the materials as outlined in the agenda item.

It was moved by Ms. Rita Norton, seconded by Arthur M. Keller, Ph.D. and unanimously carried, to approve the Environmental and Water Resources Committee's 2018 Annual Accomplishments Report.

## **5.2 REVIEW AND COMMENT TO THE BOARD ON THE FISCAL YEAR 2019-20 PRELIMINARY GROUNDWATER PRODUCTION CHARGES**

Mr. Anthony Mendiola reviewed the materials as outlined in the agenda.

Mr. Garth Hall and Ms. Nina Hawk were available to answer questions.

Hon. Patrick S. Kwok, Mr. Mike Michitaka, Hon. Tara Martin-Milius, Ms. Rita Norton, Ms. Tess Byler, Mr. Bob Levy, Director Nai Hsueh and Director Tony Estremera spoke on: usage concerns, good financial numbers, conservation needs to continue, definition of charges, permanent subsidence of drought, water sources, 'no regrets' package, variable rates, environmental costs, 2040 Master Plan, rate payers and the 'new' normal.

No action was taken.

## **5.3 OPEN SPACE CREDIT**

Mr. Joe Atmore reviewed the materials as outlined in the agenda item.

Mr. Bob Levy, Mr. Marc Rauser, Arthur M. Keller, Ph.D., Director Tony Estremera, Ms. Rita Norton, Mr. Charles Ice, Hon. Dean Chu, Hon. Tara Martin-Milius, Ms. Tess Byler, Director Nai Hsueh and Rev. Jethroe Moore, II, spoke on: rate increase, Williamson Act qualifiers (farmers), rate cap, issues with providing open space credit, supporting local farmers, protecting Coyote Valley, long term impacts, best management practices, preservation of small farmers and green energy.

The Committee took the following action:

It was moved by Mr. Marc Rauser, seconded by Hon. Dean Chu, and by majority vote carried, to approve having the Board consider keeping the agricultural rate as low as possible and equitable while finding other sources. If it is not equitable then the larger farmers should pay the higher rates.

It was moved by Mr. Charles Ice, seconded by Hon. Tara Martin-Milius, and by majority vote carried, to approve having the Board consider having staff analyze and propose 2 pathways 1. ½% increase every year over 8 years up to 10% and 2. Keep staff's recommendation with an added administrative task and associated costs with the co-opping of smaller farms that don't meet the acreage qualification of the Williamson Act/Conservation Easement and come up with best management practices and water conservation measures.

## **5.4 UPDATE FROM WORKING GROUPS**

Chair Byler stated there were no reports from any working group.

Director Nai Hsueh reported out that the working groups for 2019, will focus more in alignment with the Board's 2019 work plan.

No action was taken.

## **5.5 REVIEW OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE WORK PLAN, THE OUTCOMES OF BOARD ACTION OF COMMITTEE REQUESTS AND THE COMMITTEE'S NEXT MEETING AGENDA**

Chair Byler and Ms. Glenna Brambill reviewed the materials as outlined in the agenda item. Note, Committee requested to change work plan item #8 (Climate Change Mitigation-Carbon Neutrality by 2020 Program Update/Energy Use Policy Discussion) to July's Agenda.

Committee agreed to add Bay Delta-CA WaterFix to the 2019 work plan.

Rev. Jethroe Moore, II left at 8:11 p.m. and did not return.

## **6. CLERK REVIEW AND CLARIFICATION OF COMMITTEE'S REQUESTS TO THE BOARD**

Ms. Glenna Brambill reported there were two action items for the Board consideration.

### **Agenda Item 5.3:**

The Environmental and Water Resources Committee approved

1. By majority vote, carried to approve having the Board consider keeping the agricultural rate as low as possible and equitable while finding other sources. If it is not equitable then the larger farmers should pay the higher rates.
2. By majority vote, carried to approve having the Board consider having staff analyze and propose 2 pathways 1. ½% increase every year over 8 years up to 10% and 2. Keep staff's recommendation with an added administrative task and associated costs with the co-opping of smaller farms that don't meet the acreage qualification of the Williamson Act/Conservation Easement and come up with best management practices and water conservation measures.

## **7. REPORTS**

### **7.1 DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Director Nai Hsueh reported on the following

- 2019 Board Chair is Director Linda J. LeZotte
- 2019 Board Vice Chair is Director Nai Hsueh

### **7.2. MANAGER'S REPORT**

Mr. Garth Hall reported on the following:

- State Water Project
- Groundwater basins are in good shape

### **7.3 COMMITTEE MEMBER REPORTS**

None.

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Ms. Tess Byler adjourned at 8:15 p.m. to the next regular meeting on Monday, April 15, 2019, at 6:00 p.m., in the Santa Clara Valley Water District Headquarters Boardroom.

Submitted by:

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

Approved: 4-15-19