



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

MINUTES

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2020
1:00 PM**

(Paragraph numbers coincide with agenda item numbers)

A regular meeting of the Water Storage Exploratory Committee (Committee) was held on October 14, 2020, via Zoom.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Water Storage Exploratory Committee was called to order by Chair Director Gary Kremen at 1:01 p.m.

1.1 ROLL CALL

Board Members in attendance were: Director Gary Kremen-District 7, Director Richard P. Santos-District 3, and Director John L. Varela-District 1.

Valley Water Staff in attendance were: Emmanuel Aryee, Aaron Baker, Erin Baker, Glenna Brambill, Debra Butler, Keila Cisneros, Andrew Garcia, Vincent Gin, Christopher Hakes, Brian Hopper, Cindy Kao, Michele King, Kathleen Low, Michael Martin, Ryan McCarter, Heath McMahon, Metra Richert, Donald Rocha, Eli Serrano, Ranithri Slayton, Charlene Sun and Beckie Zisser.

Guests in attendance were: John Weed (Alameda County Water District-ACWD), Maureen Martin, Ph.D., and Marguerite Patil (Contra Costa Water District-CCWD), Steve Jordan and Danielle McPherson (BAWSCA), Laura Reeves (Tanner Pacific, Inc.).

Public in attendance were: Director Tony Estremera and Director Linda J. LeZotte (Valley Water), Renee Crawford, Phil Gregory, Chuck Hammerstad, Doug Muirhead, and CM Tompkison.

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 John L. Varela, seconded by Director Richard P. Santos, and unanimously carried to approve the minutes of the August 21, 2020, meeting of the Water Storage Exploratory Committee as presented by roll call vote and all Directors voting yes.

4. ACTION ITEMS

4.1 SEMITROPIC GROUNDWATER BANK UPDATE

Ms. Cindy Kao and Mr. Andrew Garcia reviewed the materials as outlined in the agenda item.

The Committee (Directors Kremen, Santos and Varela) discussed the following: interplay between the GSA-Water Storage District, Kern County Water Authority and regulatory/political structure of the bank and who owns what, GSP, contract expiration 2035, 123-TCP's/PFAS/water quality, need a closed session to discuss the legal issues/concerns, balance sheets/purchases, contaminants/canal standards, Semitropic's obligation to share that the water is viable, additional cost effective water banking programs, meetings with user groups/participants/partnerships, SGMA, and potentially going on a visit or meeting with Semitropic-building relationships (zoom meeting).

Mr. John Weed noted DWR's work around process with zero allocation events, semitropic water delivered (drought years), and credit for water pumped and being able to take credit from San Luis. Secondly, water from semitropic is not going to local consumer but rather it is going south.

Ms. Cindy Kao, Mr. Vincent Gin and Mr. Brian Hopper were available to answer questions.

The Committee took no action.

4.2 POTENTIAL GROUNDWATER BANKING PROJECTS (COMPARISON MATRIX)

Mr. Andrew Garcia reviewed the materials as outlined in the agenda item

The Committee (Directors Kremen, Santos and Varela) discussed the following: ratings/water quality, criteria, contractual controls/political/regulatory, reservoir projects participation/transferability, costly decisions to make, updating the matrix as much as possible (evaluate wider range of investments of the portfolio, expand framework and criteria) for the next meeting, and commended staff for these presentations.

Mr. John Weed encouraged the Committee to contact Irvine Ranch WD, which bailed on Semi-Tropic and purchased land for a fully controlled (owned) Water Bank. He suggested modeling this approach.

Ms. Cindy Kao, Mr. Vincent Gin, and Mr. Aaron Baker were available to answer questions.

The Committee took no action.

4.3 STANDING ITEMS REPORT

Ms. Glenna Brambill reviewed the materials as outlined in the agenda item.

Ms. Metra Richert reported on the following:

On October 30, 2020: Staff is bringing an update on LVE and the following:

- updated usage fee proposal
- preliminary draft JPA formation documents
- SBA update
- Recommendation from Committee in July-staff is bringing Amendment 2 to 2019 multi-party agreement for Board's consideration on November 10, 2020.

Ms. Cindy Kao reported on the following:

- No update on Lake Del Valle
- No update on Del Puerto
- Sites Reservoir Project is coming to the Committee on October 30, 2020
- B. F. Sisk Dam Raise Project:
 - Public comments on DEIR/EIS came out (due September 28, 2020), State Water Contractors/Department of Water Resources (DWR) submitted critical comments expressing concerns on potential impacts to the State Water Project's supply and safety of dam project's schedule and integrity. Project proponents including the Delta Mendota Water Authority and Bureau are responding to those comments. The Bureau and Authority are revising their feasibility report and are not planning on providing public draft for review but are planning on submitting feasibility report to meet WIIN Act deadline year-end. (request to include 'comments' in Non-Agenda Packet)
- Shasta:
 - 18.5 feet increase reservoir by up to 634,000 acre-feet (af)
 - The Bureau put out a supplemental EIS for public comment (due October 5, 2020)
 - California Attorney General submitted comment letter claiming Reclamation is misinterpreting state law threatening the McCloud River and Salmon liability. Reclamation disagrees and is working on responding to those comments.

4.4 REVIEW WATER STORAGE EXPLORATORY COMMITTEE WORK PLAN AND THE COMMITTEE'S NEXT MEETING AGENDA

Ms. Glenna Brambill reviewed the materials as outlined in the agenda item.

The following agenda items are coming to the October 30, 2020, meeting: LVE, Sites, Pacheco/San Luis Reservoir and Potential Groundwater Banking Projects comparison matrix.

5. CLERK REVIEW AND CLARIFICATION OF COMMITTEE ACTIONS

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

6. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Director Gary Kremen adjourned the meeting at 2:01 p.m. to the next scheduled meeting, Friday, October 30, 2020, at 12:00 p.m.

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

Approved: October 14, 2020