

Environmental and Water Resources Committee

Draft Work Plan Revisions

10 August 2021

(revised 27 August and 15 September 2021)

The Environmental and Water Resources Committee (EWRC) has a broad mandate that includes all aspects of the Valley Water mission (see attached excerpt from Board Resolution 17-75). However, this broad mandate can at times result in a dilution of purpose. These draft work plan revisions are aimed at focusing the EWRC's efforts in a way that takes better advantage of the resources and experience of a strong and diverse membership, while strengthening the advisory role of the EWRC to the benefit of the Valley Water Board and staff.

The EWRC takes its direction from the Board. Action items as directed by the Board will take top priority in Committee business.

The defined roles of the EWRC are to:

1. Provide input on policy.
2. Provide comment on activities in the implementation of Valley Water's mission.
3. Act as a link between Valley Water and the public.
4. Produce and present an Annual Accomplishments Report.

With these simple guiding principles in mind, to make the committee more directly connected to its stated purpose, we propose the following structure:

Policy and Implementation Input

The formation of 5 Working Groups:

1. Integrated Water Resources Management (sample topics: One Water Plan [Integrated Water Resources Master Plan], FloodMAR, Green stormwater infrastructure)
2. Water Supply (sample topics: Anderson Dam Seismic Retrofit project, Purified Water, Pacheco Reservoir Expansion Project)
3. Natural Flood Protection (sample topics: Shoreline Phase 2, Upper Penitencia Creek)
4. Environmental Stewardship (sample topics: FAHCE, habitat connectivity and riparian corridors, fish passage including gravel and LWD)
5. Climate Change (sample topics: CCAP Implementation, GHG methodology updates)

Each Working Group will have 4-8 members and will designate a Lead.

Assigned Work: Assigned tasks by the Board will take priority for the EWRC. When input on an issue is desired by the Board, the item will go first to the Working Group (unless time does not permit and the WG feels the item can go straight to the full Committee). The Working Group will then present recommendations to the full committee for action if deemed appropriate.

Proactive Topics: If there are items that the EWRC would like more information on, and they are not an item requested from the Board, we suggest the following process:

- When applicable, EWRC liaison (see below) will attend the relevant Board or Committee where the item is being discussed.
- Discuss the item at the Working Group level to see if there is consensus on whether an item is appropriate to be brought to the entire Committee.
- Bring the item to the full EWRC and agendaize a vote on whether or not to fully agendaize the item for discussion at a subsequent meeting.
- Questions to consider when voting on an item:
 - Is the item being adequately addressed in another forum (see Standing Items Report for updates)?
 - Will the item, if brought to the EWRC, fall under one of the stated purposes of the Committee?
 - Can the EWRC positively contribute to the item to benefit Valley Water and the community?
 - Is there support from the Board liaisons for spending time on this item?

Stakeholder Engagement

The EWRC represents a vital cross-section of the Valley Water constituency. We want to emphasize the EWRC's role in being an extension of the larger community. As such, we request that EWRC members perform three vital functions:

1. Communicate relevant VW issues and project updates to your network.
2. Bring to the Committee any environmental and water resources concerns or issues you are hearing in the community.
3. Bring to the Committee any environmental justice concerns or issues you are hearing in the community.

EWRC members have been carefully selected by Board members to represent a broad cross-section of the community. As leaders in the community, the Board values and relies on the EWRC members to assist in two-way communication with stakeholders and residents.

Board and Committee Liaisons

We recommend that EWRC assign a liaison to each Board Committee and that these Committee members briefly report out at each quarterly EWRC (as done under the Working Groups Update, a standing item on the agenda). Updates will include any items that may be of interest to the EWRC and/or pertinent to the Committee Work Plan.

The Board Committees that we recommend designated liaisons include:

- Board Audit Committee
- Board Policy and Planning Committee

- Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Committee
- Diversity and Inclusion Ad Hoc Committee
- Homeless Encampment Committee
- Recycled Water Committee
- Stream Planning and Operations Committee
- Water Conservation and Demand Management Committee
- Water Storage Exploratory Committee

Pertinent excerpts from Board Resolution 17-75 on the functions of advisory committees.

RESOLUTION 17- 75

**PROVIDING FOR AND DEFINING THE STRUCTURE AND FUNCTION OF
ADVISORY COMMITTEES TO THE SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND REPEALING RESOLUTION**

...

1.2 The Committees are established to assist the Board with policy review and development, provide comment on activities in the implementation of the District's mission for Board consideration, and to identify Board-related issues pertaining to the following:

1.2.2 Environmental and Water Resources Committee: ***water supply, flood protection, and environmental stewardship.***

...

1.3 In accordance with Governance Process Policy-8, the specific duties of the Committees are to:

1.3.1. Provide ***input on policy alternatives*** for Board deliberation.

1.3.2 Provide ***comment on the activities in the implementation*** of the District's mission for Board consideration.

1.3.3 Produce and present to the Board an ***Annual Accomplishments Report*** summarizing the outcomes of the Committee's annual Board-approved work plan.

1.3.4 Further, in accordance with Governance Process Policy-3, when requested by the Board, the Advisory Committees may help the Board produce the ***link between the District and the public*** through information sharing to the communities they represent.