

**MEMORANDUM**

FC 14 (01-02-07)

TO: Board of Directors**FROM:** Water Conservation and
Demand Management
Committee**SUBJECT:** Water Conservation and Demand
Management Committee Meeting Summary
for February 15, 2019**DATE:** February 26, 2019

This memorandum summarizes agenda items from the meeting of the Water Conservation and Demand Management Committee held on February 15, 2019.

ACTION ITEMS**4. ELECTION OF 2019 CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR**

Committee retained Director Richard P. Santos as Chair and Director Linda J. LeZotte as Vice Chair. Vice Chair LeZotte noted that the Board Committees do not adhere to the Resolution set for the Advisory Committees regarding Chair and Vice Chair.

5.1 REVIEW AND APPROVE 2018 ANNUAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS REPORT FOR PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD

Chair Director Richard P. Santos reviewed the following:

Summary:

The Accomplishments Report summarizes the committee's discussions and actions to prepare Board policy alternatives and implications for Board deliberation throughout 2018. The Committee Chair, or designee, presents the Accomplishments Report to the Board at a future Board meeting.

The Committee may provide feedback to the Committee Chair, at this time, to share with Board as part of the Accomplishments Report presentation pertaining to the purpose, structure, and function of the Committee.

BACKGROUND:**Governance Process Policy-8:**

The District Act provides for the creation of advisory boards, committees, or commissions by resolution to serve at the pleasure of the Board.

Accordingly, the Board has established Advisory Committees, which bring respective expertise and community interest, to advise the Board, when requested, in a capacity as defined: prepare Board policy alternatives and provide comment on activities in the implementation of the District's mission for Board consideration. In keeping with the Board's broader focus, Advisory Committees will not direct the implementation of District programs and projects, other than to receive information and provide comment.

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.

The Committee noted that they were pleased with their 2018 Accomplishments.

5.2 WATER SUPPLY MASTER PLAN CONSERVATION AND STORMWATER CAPTURE PROJECT UPDATE

Ms. Samantha Greene reviewed the following:

Summary:

This is a status update for conservation and stormwater capture projects and programs, also known as the “No Regrets” package, specified in the update to the District’s Water Supply Master Plan. The “No Regrets” package of conservation and stormwater capture projects and programs is broadly supported by stakeholders, relatively low cost, and can be implemented independently of other projects and programs that might be included in the Water Supply Master Plan. These projects and programs include:

- 1) Advanced Metering Infrastructure
- 2) Leak Repair Incentives
- 3) Graywater Rebate Program Expansion
- 4) Model Water Efficiency New Development Ordinance
- 5) Stormwater Capture

The Board approved beginning planning for implementing the No Regrets package at their September 19, 2017 meeting, and an update on implementation was presented to the Committee on April 30, 2018 and on October 31, 2018.

1) **Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI)**

Staff is developing an Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) Program to encourage the installation of AMI meters, and to maximize their savings potential by pairing the meters with software that will give real-time water data on an accessible online database, leak alerts, and home water use reports.

In order to establish a clearer picture of how many and what kinds of meters and systems are installed in agencies within Santa Clara County, the District is partnering with the Bay Area Water Supply and Conservation Agency (BAWSCA) on a study that will identify each water retailer’s metering and related system, data gaps, and potential for collaborative procurement for AMI as an option for the region. This study, being performed by ManageWater Consulting, Inc. and Don Schlenger and Associates, will begin in early February, with a projected completion date of late March 2019. On March 27, 2019, BAWSCA and the District will hold a joint meeting to review the findings of the study with water retailers from the BAWSCA and District service areas.

In addition to reviewing the results of the study, the meeting will feature presenters from agencies that have direct experience with AMI, including agencies that have performed AMI pilot studies. Several of these pilot studies were funded by the District’s Water Conservation Research Grant Program (funding through Safe, Clean Water), including San Jose Water Company, City of Mountain View and Purissima Hills Water District, and representatives from these agencies will discuss results of these pilot studies and lessons learned.

This important research will help inform the direction of a future AMI Program, so that it can be as cost effective and impactful as possible.

2) **Leak Repair Incentives**

No updates at this time, as staff anticipate implementing a leak repair incentive program after studying AMI results, in coordination with the water retailers.

3) **Graywater Rebate Program Expansion**

The Board approved the Graywater Installation Program on July 10, 2018. In partnership with the non-profit Ecology Action, a contractor workforce will receive training to install code-compliant graywater systems. Trainings will be held every Wednesday and Friday in March 2019. The trainings will include a Saturday session where the contractors will get hands-on experience installing a laundry-to-landscape graywater system.

Using the trained contractors, up to 100 low-income/underserved Santa Clara County residents will have graywater laundry-to-landscape systems installed by June 30, 2020 or until funding is expended, whichever comes first. Among their efforts to identify qualifying low-income/underserved properties, Ecology Action is reaching out to Our City Forest, the nonprofit that implemented our Lawn Busters Program. Information for the contractor training and the direct installation service are now highlighted on ValleyWater.org.

Through the community-based social marketing campaign developed by Water Conservation and Communications staff, key barriers preventing people from installing these systems were identified. Top barriers included: finding contractors that know how to install a graywater system, and the expense of hiring a contractor; both of these barriers will be addressed with the Graywater Installation Program. Next steps include refining strategies to also address these barriers in our rebate program.

4) **Model Water Efficiency New Development Ordinance**

The Model Water Efficiency New Development Ordinance has been finalized. The District hired a consultant to finalize the Model Ordinance, develop supporting information benefits and costs, and prepare an example city council agenda report explaining why the ordinance is needed. The final consultant products include the sample model ordinance (Attachment 1) and an example City Council Agenda Report (Attachment 2), which gives background information on why the ordinance is needed and provides context for the requirements of the ordinance, how it was created and an analysis of the costs and benefits of the ordinance.

The ordinance has the following main requirements on new development:

- Require hot water recirculation for single-family development,
- Pre-plumb all new single-family development for graywater collection, treatment, and redistribution,
- Pre-plumb all new multi-family and non-residential development for alternative water sources,
- Mandate recycled water connections for common areas in HOA developments, and
- Outlaw the sale of non-compliant fixtures.

As a next step, staff will work with all the Santa Clara County jurisdictions on adoption. The District's role will be to encourage ordinance adoption and implementation and provide technical assistance. Water Conservation staff has been working with the Office of Government Relations to develop a strategic plan for rolling out the model ordinance, which will be brought back to this Committee for review. Preliminary feedback from local water retailer staff has been very positive, especially as it dovetails well with the climate action plans of those cities that are developing them.

5) **Stormwater Capture**

Stormwater capture can have water quality, water supply, flood management, environmental, and community (e.g., aesthetics, recreation, and education) benefits. Included in the "No Regrets" package are two different scales of stormwater capture projects – "centralized" and "decentralized":

"Centralized" projects are those that capture water from multiple parcels and/or are municipal projects, including "green streets" projects. There are three centralized stormwater "No Regrets" projects – two municipal stormwater capture basins and stormwater recharge on agricultural land.

"Decentralized" projects focus primarily on keeping stormwater onsite and/or private citizen projects. The "No Regrets" package includes two decentralized programs –rain barrel/cistern rebates and rain garden rebates.

Staff in the Water Utility Enterprise and Watersheds participated in the development of the Storm Water Resources Plan (SWRP) to develop, prioritize, and plan for "centralized" stormwater projects in the Santa Clara groundwater sub-basin of Santa Clara County. The proposed stormwater projects are typically located on public lands and capture water from multiple parcels. Through this plan, Upper Penitencia Creek was identified as an area for potential stormwater detention and recharge, and a conceptual project design was developed. Conceptual project designs were also developed for multiple municipal projections throughout northern Santa Clara County. The SWRP was completed in December 2018 and is available at http://scvurppp.org/scvurppp_2018/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/SCB_SWRP_FINAL_12-21-18_with_TOC_links.pdf. The District's next steps are to continue to track city and County efforts to implement their projects in the SWRP; develop partnerships where such projects overlap with District interests in water supply, flood protection, and stream stewardship; and seek grant funding for partnership projects. With regard to Upper Penitencia Creek, staff are continuing to develop the project and seek funding for implementation.

In addition to the SWRP, staff are also investigating the potential to use agricultural lands for stormwater recharge. An agricultural land recharge program may help maximize the benefits of existing open space by using the agricultural lands as temporary recharge sites during the wet winter months. An example of this process is in the Central Valley where some almond growers allow their fields to flood during the

winter to recharge the aquifer. The planned flooding for groundwater recharge is referred to as flood-managed aquifer recharge (Flood-MAR) and different methods are currently being piloted in the Central Valley and in the lower Pajaro River watershed. Staff are monitoring the pilot projects to determine impacts and benefits to crops, water quality, and water supply. As noted by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR), “complex technical, legal, and institutional barriers and challenges affect the planning and implementation of Flood-MAR projects” including water rights, permitting, and environmental considerations. However, recognizing the broad potential benefits of Flood-MAR, DWR is leading the statewide efforts to evaluate these issues with stakeholders with the goal of expanding Flood-MAR on agricultural lands and working with landscapes throughout California. Staff are engaging in these statewide efforts. Locally, staff are working with the Open Space Authority and Santa Clara County Planning to develop a planning and piloting approach to explore the potential implementation of agricultural land recharge in Santa Clara County. Staff are developing a draft Flood-MAR workplan, with the intent of sharing with local agency stakeholders by May 2019.

Regarding “decentralized” projects, the District launched the new Rainwater Capture Rebate Program on January 1, 2019. This program, which encourages customers to participate in decentralized stormwater capture, includes rebates for rain barrels, cisterns and rain gardens.

The program rebate amounts are as follows: \$35 per qualifying rain barrel installed to collect rainwater from existing downspouts; \$0.50 per gallon for diverting existing downspouts to qualifying cisterns; and \$1 per square foot of roof area diverted (up to \$300 per site) into an installed rain garden to collect roof water runoff.

The program is included in our larger Landscape Rebate Program, and there have been a number of applications submitted for these rebates already. In fact, one customer has completed their project, which included installing a 4,800-gallon cistern system and reaching the total rebate cap of \$2,000.

Water Conservation and Communications staff are working together to promote this program to the community. There has been some positive attention with the local media (newspaper articles, a local television station) and in the community. Staff will continue to explore partnerships with other water retailers or cities that either have their own program currently or may be interested in cost sharing.

The Committee took no action.

5.3 SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT ACT BASIN PRIORITIZATION UPDATE

Mr. Bassam Kassab reviewed the following:

Summary:

The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) requires that groundwater basins classified by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) as high and medium priority comply with SGMA. Factors used for prioritization include population, groundwater reliance, irrigated acreage, and groundwater impacts. The DWR prioritization is meant to indicate the importance of the basin rather than provide an assessment of whether a basin is sustainably managed.

The initial 2015 basin prioritization is periodically reassessed after DWR approval of basin boundary modifications. In January 2019, DWR released the final prioritization for 458 basins following a public comment period.

In response to a public question at the June 25, 2018 Committee meeting, staff committed to provide additional information about the basin prioritization once finalized by DWR. While the priority increased from medium to high for the Santa Clara Subbasin, the District’s compliance requirements and approach are unchanged since the basin was already subject to SGMA. Additional information is provided below.

Background:

DWR completed the first prioritization of California’s 517 groundwater basins in 2015. After approving various basin boundary modification requests in 2016, DWR was required to reassess the basin prioritization; a draft was released in May 2018 for public comment. The District submitted detailed comments, providing local data and

recommendations for DWR’s consideration. In January 2019, DWR released the final basin prioritization for 458 basins. The prioritization for some basins changed based on updated data and new factors specific to SGMA. The remaining 59 basins are affected by basin boundary modification requests submitted in 2018, and final basin prioritization will be released after those modifications are finalized.

There are five subbasins entirely or partially located within Santa Clara County. The prioritization for the Santa Clara Subbasin changed from medium to high, but the other basins were unchanged. The high priority determination for the Santa Clara Subbasin was primarily driven by higher scores for population, number of water supply wells, groundwater reliance, and documented impacts (e.g., historical land subsidence). Because SGMA does not treat high-priority basins differently than medium-priority basins, this does not affect District requirements under SGMA.

The updated prioritization for two subbasins primarily located in San Benito County (Hollister and San Juan Bautista subbasins) is pending based on a boundary modification request submitted by San Benito County Water District and supported by the District. Table 1 below summarizes local basin prioritization information.

Table 1. Results of Updated Basin Prioritization in Santa Clara County

Basin	2015 DWR Basin Prioritization	2019 DWR Basin Prioritization	Notes
Santa Clara	Medium	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Still subject to SGMA • Alternative Plan being reviewed by DWR
Llagas	High	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Still subject to SGMA • Alternative Plan being reviewed by DWR
Hollister Area	Medium	Pending –Boundary Modification Requested	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Likely still subject to SGMA • Coordinating with San Benito County Water District on Groundwater Sustainability Plan
San Juan Bautista	Medium	Pending –Boundary Modification Requested	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Likely still subject to SGMA • Coordinating with San Benito County Water District on Groundwater Sustainability Plan
San Mateo Plain	Very Low	Very Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not subject to SGMA

Note: the Santa Clara and Llagas Subbasins are entirely within Santa Clara County, while the other subbasins listed have only small portions within the county.

Per DWR, the basin prioritization is meant to indicate the relative importance of groundwater in a basin rather than to assess groundwater management. The District continues to implement comprehensive programs to ensure continued sustainability of the Santa Clara and Llagas Subbasins.

The District awaits the DWR assessment of the 2016 Groundwater Management Plan for the Santa Clara and Llagas Subbasins, which was submitted as an Alternative Plan in December 2016. The DWR assessment is expected in early 2019.

The Committee took no action.

If you have any questions or concerns, you may contact me at gbrambill@valleywater.org or 1.408.630.2408.

Thank you!

Glenna Brambill, Management Analyst II,
Board Committee Liaison
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