



STREAM PLANNING AND OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

**DRAFT MINUTES**

**SPECIAL MEETING  
THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 2026  
1:00 P.M.**

(Paragraph numbers coincide with agenda item numbers)

**1. CALL TO ORDER:**

A special meeting of the Santa Clara Valley Water District (Valley Water) Stream Planning and Operations Committee (SPOC) was called to order by Chairperson Ballard in the Valley Water Headquarters Building Boardroom at 5700 Almaden Expressway, San Jose, California, and by Zoom teleconference, at 1:02 p.m.

**1.1 Roll Call.**

Committee members in attendance were District 2 Director Shiloh Ballard, Chairperson presiding, District 6 Director Tony Estremera, Vice Chairperson presiding, and Director John Varela (District 1), constituting a quorum of the Committee.

Staff members in attendance were: John Bourgeois, Andrew Garcia, Andrew Gishwind, Wendy Ho, Susana Inda, Bassam Kassab, Nicole Merritt, Wendy Murphy, Sarah Piramoon, Mark Poole, Lisa Porcella, and Stephanie Simunic.

Public in attendance were: Doug Muirhead.

**2. TIME OPEN FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON ANY ITEM NOT AN AGENDA.**

Chairperson Ballard declared time open for public comment on any item not on the agenda. There was no one present who wished to speak.

**3. ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

**3.1. Election of 2026 Stream Planning and Operations Committee (SPOC) Chairperson and Vice Chairperson.**

**Recommendation: Nominate and elect the 2026 SPOC Chairperson and Vice Chairperson.**

It was moved by Vice Chairperson Estremera, seconded by Director Varela, and unanimously carried to re-elect Chairperson Ballard and elect Director Varela as Vice Chairperson.

Public Comments: None.

#### **4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

##### **4.1. Approval of November 18, 2025 Stream Planning Operations Committee (SPOC) Minutes.**

**Recommendation: Approve the minutes.**

The Committee considered the attached minutes of the November 18, 2025 Committee meeting.

Public Comments: None.

It was moved by Director Estremera, seconded by Vice Chairperson Varela, and unanimously carried to approve the minutes as submitted.

#### **5. REGULAR AGENDA:**

##### **5.1. Receive and Discuss Updates on Fish and Aquatic Habitat Collaborative Effort (FAHCE) Implementation.**

**Recommendation: Receive an update on the implementation of FAHCE.**

John Bourgeois reviewed the information on this item, per the attached Committee Agenda Memo, and reviewed the information contained in Attachments 1 and 2.

John Bourgeois, Lisa Porcella, and Sarah Piramoon were available to answer questions.

Public Comment: Copies of Handout 5.1-A, Public Comment from Libby Lucas was distributed to the Committee and made available to the public.

The Committee received the information, took no formal action, and with staff input, noted the following:

- FAHCE collaboration focuses on three watersheds, collaboration does occur in south county (including with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife South County Forums), and currently there is no coordination that includes Soap Lake.
- Fisheries have reported increased numbers since the last drought.
- Valley Water has created recent videos and other media materials relating to the FAHCE program and Anderson Dam.

- Valley Water staff and Directors are open to attending community groups such as the San Jose Rotary to present and discuss the FAHCE program.
- A Senior Water Resource Specialist will be hired.
- A California State Water Resources Control Board meeting is scheduled for April 20, 2026.
- Efforts continue relating to the structure of governance for the FAHCE agreement, including writing a new charter.

**5.2. Receive and Accept the 2026 Proposed Stream Planning and Operations Committee (SPOC) Work Plan, Provide Feedback on Upcoming Discussion Items, and Discuss a 2026 SPOC Meeting Schedule.**

**Recommendation: Receive and accept the 2026 proposed SPOC Work Plan, provide feedback on upcoming discussion items, and discuss a 2026 SPOC meeting schedule.**

The Committee received the information, took no formal action, and accepted the 2026 proposed Stream Planning and Operations Committee Work Plan.

Public Comment: Doug Muirhead.

In consultation with staff, the Committee confirmed that a SPOC meeting will be held in May and another meeting in the fall, with specific dates to be determined.

**6. CLERK REVIEW AND CLARIFICATION OF COMMITTEE REQUESTS**

None.

**7. ADJOURN:**

**7.1 Adjourn.**

Chairperson Ballard adjourned the meeting at 1:40 p.m.

Date Approved:

Stephanie Simunic  
Assistant Deputy Clerk II

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