

Memo

To: Valley Water Board
From: Shiloh Ballard
Date: July 25, 2026

RE: Board referral to BPMC to assess Valley Water's SBE (Small Business Enterprise) policy

At the last Board meeting, we approved two major contracts, Coyote Creek Flood Protection Project and Anderson Dam. For both, the organization's 30% SBE goal was not met. Both winning bids submitted "best faith effort" documentation to illustrate that they had attempted to meet that goal but did not.

Given the size of these projects and the intent and ability of Valley Water to steer public dollars in a way that achieves positive policy objectives, like the SBE policy, I requested that the Board refer this item to the Policy and Monitoring Committee. That request was granted.

I'd like to elaborate on a few of the questions worth considering:

- What is the intent of the SBE policy
- Can we look back on a few years to see how successful we have been in meeting that policy
- Are there certain things we can learn based on that look back, like, are there certain projects or contractors that do a better job meeting the goal
- Are there other agencies that are doing a better job pushing the market to meet these policy objectives and what can we learn from them
- And, are there ways we can and should amend our policy to better achieve the intent

I want to thank staff for taking the time to bring me up to speed on the policy as well as their openness to reflection. look forward to the conversation at BPMC.

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