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**JOINT RECYCLED WATER POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
CITY OF SAN JOSE/SCVWD/CITY OF SANTA CLARA**

DRAFT MINUTES

**FRIDAY, MAY 23, 2025
1:00 PM**

(Paragraph numbers coincide with agenda item numbers)

1. CALL TO ORDER:

A special meeting of the Santa Clara Valley Water District (Valley Water) Joint Recycled Water Policy Advisory Committee (Committee) was called to order in the Valley Water Headquarters Building Boardroom at 5700 Almaden Expressway, San Jose, California, and by Zoom teleconference, at 1:00 p.m.

1.1 Roll Call.

City of San Jose/Santa Clara members in attendance were City of San Jose Councilmember David Cohen and City of Santa Clara Councilmember Karen Hardy arrived as noted below.

Valley Water Board Committee members in attendance were District 4 Director Jim Beall, District 3 Director Richard Santos and Valley Water District 6 Director Tony Estremera, Chairperson constituting a quorum of the Committee for informational agenda items until Councilmember Hardy's arrival.

Valley Water staff members in attendance were: Brandon Adriano, Antonio Alfaro, Emmanuel Aryee, Hossein Ashktorab, Aaron Baker, Roseryn Bhudsabourg, Sam Bogale, John Bourgeois, Rita Chan, Rachael Gibson, Vincent Gin, Andy Gschwind, Linh Hoang, Lei Hong, Candice Kwok-Smith, Elise Latedjou-Durand, Francesca Lomotan, Nicole Merritt, Carlos Orellana, Steve Peters, Mike Potter, Mario Rivas, Ray Ruiz, Dorothy Stone, Kirsten Struve, Darin Taylor, David Tucker, and Zoe Vulpe.

City of San Jose/Santa Clara staff members in attendance were: Nick Ajluni, Maria Begiebing, Leanne Bolano, Eric Dunlavey, Erica Garaffo, Ryan Harrison, Pedro Hernandez, Darwin Lasat, Milad Omar, Jeff Provenzano, Ricardo Rubio, Lawrence Tam, and Gary Welling.

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Public in attendance were: Valley Water Director Rebecca Eisenberg (District 7), Mandip Bagri, Jessica Polsky-Sanchez, Sianna Ziegler (EMC Research), Arthur Keller (Minerva Consulting), Katja Irvin (Sierra Club), and Sanjay Reddy (Carollo Engineers).

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

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

Chairperson Estremera moved the agenda to Item 4.1.

4. REGULAR AGENDA:

4.1. Review Proposed Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Budgets for Silicon Valley Advanced Water Purification Center and South Bay Water Recycling.

Recommendation: This item is informational as the Santa Clara Valley Water District Board of Directors and the San Jose City Council approved their respective proposed budgets for the ensuing fiscal year for the maintenance, expansion, replacement, improvement, and operation of the South Bay Water Recycling system and the Silicon Valley Advanced Water Purification Center.

Sam Bogale and Jeff Provenzano reviewed the information on this item, per the attached Committee Agenda Memo, and the corresponding presentation materials contained in Attachment 1 were reviewed by staff as follows: Sam Bogale reviewed Slides 1 through 5, and Jeff Provenzano reviewed Slides 6 through 11.

Sam Bogale, Jeff Provenzano, and Gary Welling were available to answer questions.

Public Comments:
None.

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

- The Committee confirmed the City of San Jose works with new developments to connect to the recycled water system if it is nearby and to implement a range of onsite water initiatives voluntarily.
- The Committee noted the City of Santa Clara is a municipal water system using 20% recycled water, 65% of their data centers use recycled water, and there is a municipal code requiring the use of recycled water.

4.2. Receive the Development of a Collaborative Potable Reuse Project Update and Provide Feedback.

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Recommendation: Receive information and provide feedback on progress towards the development of a collaborative potable reuse project to ensure our community is more drought resilient.

Kirsten Struve and Eric Dunlavey reviewed the information on this item, per the attached Committee Agenda Memo, and the corresponding presentation materials contained in Attachment 2 were reviewed by staff as follows: Kirsten Struve reviewed Slides 1 through 3 and Slides 4 through 11, and Eric Dunlavey reviewed Slide 3.

Kirsten Struve and Eric Dunlavey were available to answer questions.

Councilmember Hardy arrived.

Public Comments:
None.

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

- The Committee expressed support for the project staying on track and evolving to the full-scale facility and appreciation for staff's continued collaborative work and sensitivity to the project's schedule.

Chairperson Estremera returned the agenda to Item 2.1.

- 2.1. Elect 2025 Joint Recycled Water Policy Advisory Committee (SCVWD/San Jose/Santa Clara) - Chairperson.

Recommendation: Elect 2025 Chairperson for the Joint Recycled Water Policy Advisory Committee.

The Committee considered this Item without a staff presentation.

Public Comments:
None.

It was moved by Director Santos and seconded by Councilmember Cohen and unanimously carried that Chairperson Estremera would remain the Chairperson.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- 3.1 Approval of September 4, 2024, Joint Recycled Water Policy Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes.

Recommendation: Approve the Minutes.

The Committee considered the attached minutes of the September 4, 2024, Committee meeting.

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Public Comments:
None.

It was moved by Director Santos and seconded by Councilmember Cohen and was carried by unanimous vote, that the minutes be approved.

Chairperson Estremera moved the agenda to Item 4.4.

- 4.4. Receive Update on the Recycled Water Use at Data Centers in the Cities of San Jose and Santa Clara.

Recommendation: Receive an update on recycled water use at data center in the Cities of San Jose and Santa Clara.

Kirsten Struve, Gary Welling, and Pedro Hernandez reviewed the information on this item, per the attached Committee Agenda Memo, and the corresponding presentation materials contained in Attachment 1 were reviewed by staff as follows: Kirsten Struve reviewed Slides 1 through 2, and Slide 6, Gary Welling reviewed Slides 3 through 4, and Pedro Hernandez reviewed Slides 4 through 5.

Kirsten Struve, Gary Welling, Pedro Hernandez, and Jeff Provenzano were available to answer questions.

Public Comments:
None.

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

- The Committee expressed support of the use of recycled water by the data centers continuing to increase and noted interest in potential incentives through legislation or policies regarding implementing green building codes and heating/cooling retrofitting.
- The Committee noted the Water Efficient Technology (WET) Rebate Program available through Valley Water to assist with retrofitting existing buildings to reduce water usage.
- The Committee noted some data centers are opting to use closed loop systems and other efficient technologies, including capturing heat for power, to lower their environmental impacts.

Chairperson Estremera returned the agenda to Item 4.3.

- 4.3. Receive Update on Valley Water's Purified Water Public Outreach and 2024 Public Perception Poll and Provide Feedback.

Recommendation: Receive information and provide feedback on:
A. Valley Water's public outreach highlights for the Purified Water Program; and
B. The results from the 2024 public perception poll.

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Francesca Lomotan and Jessica Polsky-Sanchez reviewed the information on this item, per the attached Committee Agenda Memo, and the corresponding presentation materials contained in Attachment 1 were reviewed by Francesca Lomotan and materials contained in Attachment 2 were reviewed by Jessica Polsky-Sanchez.

Francesca Lomotan and Jessica Polsky-Sanchez were available to answer questions.

Public Comments:
None.

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

- The Committee expressed gratitude and support of staff's continued progress with the community outreach.
- The Committee noted the importance of the public's education with the potential of using Public Service Announcements (PSAs), and the partnership with the medical and science community leaders to increase the awareness of the advanced water purification process.
- The Committee confirmed that no specific questions were asked regarding COVID in the public perception poll and noted support of EMC Research's work.
- The Committee noted the over 50% positive survey results showing support for recycled water and noted that survey results can be affected by timing of droughts.

5. CLERK REVIEW AND CLARIFICATION OF COMMITTEE REQUESTS:

This is an opportunity for the Clerk to review and obtain clarification on any formally moved, seconded, and approved requests and recommendations made by the Committee during the meeting.

Nicole Merritt confirmed the Committee approved for Director Estremera to remain the Chairperson under Item 2.1; and the Committee received, noted, and provided feedback under Items 4.1 through 4.4.

6. ADJOURN:

- 6.1. Adjourn. The Next Regular Meeting is Scheduled at 10:00 a.m. on April 16, 2026, or TBD per Committee.

Chairperson Estremera adjourned the meeting at 2:37 p.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled at 10:00 a.m. on April 16, 2026, or TBD per the Committee.

Nicole Merritt
Assistant Deputy Clerk II

Date Approved:

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