
File No.: 17-0364

Agenda Date: 6/15/2017

Item No.: 4.

BOARD AGENDA MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT:

Presentation and Discussion on the Santa Clara Valley Water District's and Guadalupe-Coyote Resource Conservation District's Missions, Goals, and Primary Functions.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD) and Guadalupe-Coyote Resource Conservation District (GCRCD) Boards receive and discuss information on SCVWD's and GCRCD's respective missions, goals, and primary functions.

SUMMARY:

As this is the first joint meeting between SCVWD and GCRCD, this item outlines both agencies' missions, goals, and primary functions.

District's Mission, Roles, and Functions

The mission of SCVWD is to provide Silicon Valley safe, clean water for a healthy life, environment, and economy. Founded in 1929, SCVWD manages an integrated water resources system that includes the provision of flood protection and clean, safe water countywide, and environmental stewardship on behalf of Santa Clara County's nearly 2 million residents. Each of these three prongs is discussed in detail below.

Clean, Safe Water

As the county's water wholesaler, SCVWD is responsible for providing clean, safe water for homes, businesses, and the environment across Santa Clara County. The county's water supplies, on average, come from a variety of sources:

- 55% is imported from outside the county
 - 40% from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta
 - 15% from San Francisco's Regional Water System
- 30% is local water from runoff and natural groundwater recharge
- 5% from recycled water supplies
- 10% from ongoing water conservation

SCVWD is the only water agency in the entire state to hold both federal and state imported water

contracts. This, combined with the overall diversity in our water portfolio, helps ensure the reliability of water supplies, especially during times of drought, which has impacted this county for the last five years.

SCVWD manages 10 local dams and surface water reservoirs, four water treatment plants-including one advanced water purification center-a state-of-the-art water quality laboratory, nearly 400 acres of groundwater recharge ponds, and 275 miles of creeks, streams, and rivers. Additionally, SCVWD provides wholesale water and groundwater management services to almost 5,000 well owners, and to 13 water retailers who deliver drinking water directly to homes, schools and businesses in Santa Clara County.

As the groundwater manager for Santa Clara County, SCVWD vigilantly protects the county's largest "reservoir" beneath our feet-the groundwater aquifers-in order to prevent subsidence, a phenomenon where the land elevation sinks in response to water being pumped out of the ground faster than it is replaced. Subsidence occurred early in the 20th century in the northern part of Santa Clara County, threatening both farms and infrastructure, and the effort to stop it was what spurred the formation of SCVWD. Today, SCVWD aggressively protects the groundwater basins and ensures that they are replenished via the network of groundwater recharge ponds and streams across the county, together with in-lieu recharge, so that the basins can continue to supply Santa Clara County's residents, businesses, farms, and the environment.

In addition to safeguarding existing water supplies such as groundwater, SCVWD also actively works toward ensuring the reliability and sustainability of water supplies, by advancing initiatives such as the expansion of purified recycled water countywide. A true drought-proof, locally-controlled water source, purified recycled water represents the future of reliable, sustainable water supplies for Santa Clara County. SCVWD's existing Silicon Valley Advanced Water Purification Center currently generates eight million gallons per day of highly purified water that soon SCVWD hopes to use to augment water supplies through potable reuse.

Flood Protection

As the agency responsible for local flood protection, SCVWD works diligently to protect Santa Clara County's residents, businesses, and infrastructure from the devastating effects of flooding. To date, SCVWD has invested close to \$1 billion in flood protection efforts, and protected nearly 100,000 parcels. Over the next five years, SCVWD plans to protect an additional 25,000 parcels through construction of 18 additional flood protection projects and efforts. These flood protection efforts save property owners 10% on flood insurance premiums in participating communities, and remove the need for flood insurance for those parcels removed from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) floodplain. SCVWD also plans long-term flood protection efforts with an eye toward future threats, such as from sea level rise and climate change.

Environmental Stewardship

SCVWD's stream stewardship responsibilities include creek and shoreline restoration and wildlife habitat projects, pollution prevention efforts, and a commitment to natural flood protection. This environmental work protects and restores habitats and encourages the return of endangered

species such as the red-legged frog, steelhead trout and salt marsh harvest mouse.

SCVWD also routinely partners with other agencies to help address other stream health issues such as homeless encampments, which can cause extensive environmental damage. SCVWD works together with these partner agencies to keep our waterways free of encampments and to remediate the environmental impacts of previous encampments.

SCVWD has an active stream maintenance program that allows us to clear debris, manage vegetation and preserve streams' natural flood protection characteristics, while assuring that we protect water quality, fish and other wildlife.

SCVWD partners with both creekside property owners and other agencies on many of these efforts, in order to enhance the natural beauty of riverine and shoreline environments, and to provide public access and recreation opportunities where appropriate.

SCVWD Board of Directors

SCVWD Board of Directors is comprised of seven members, each elected from equally-divided, geographic districts. The Directors serve overlapping four-year terms, and are limited to serving three full consecutive terms. The Board generally meets on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month.

SCVWD FY2017-18 Budget

SCVWD annual operating and capital budget for FY2017-18 is \$501.2 million with 807 authorized positions. SCVWD is funded by a combination of groundwater production charges, treated water charges, ad valorem property taxes, the Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program special parcel tax, benefit assessments, grants, cost sharing agreements, and interest earnings.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

There is no financial impact associated with this item.

CEQA:

The recommended action does not constitute a project under CEQA because it does not have a potential for resulting in direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment 1: PowerPoint

UNCLASSIFIED MANAGER:

Rick Callender, 408-630-2017

Joint Guadalupe-Coyote Resource Conservation District and Santa Clara Valley Water District Special Board of Directors Meeting

June 15, 2017



Guadalupe-Coyote Resource
Conservation District

Santa Clara Valley
Water District



Attachment 1
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Joint GCRC and SCVWD Board Meeting



Board Members and
Organizational Introductions



Interests to Improve and
Maintain Natural
Resources/Conservation

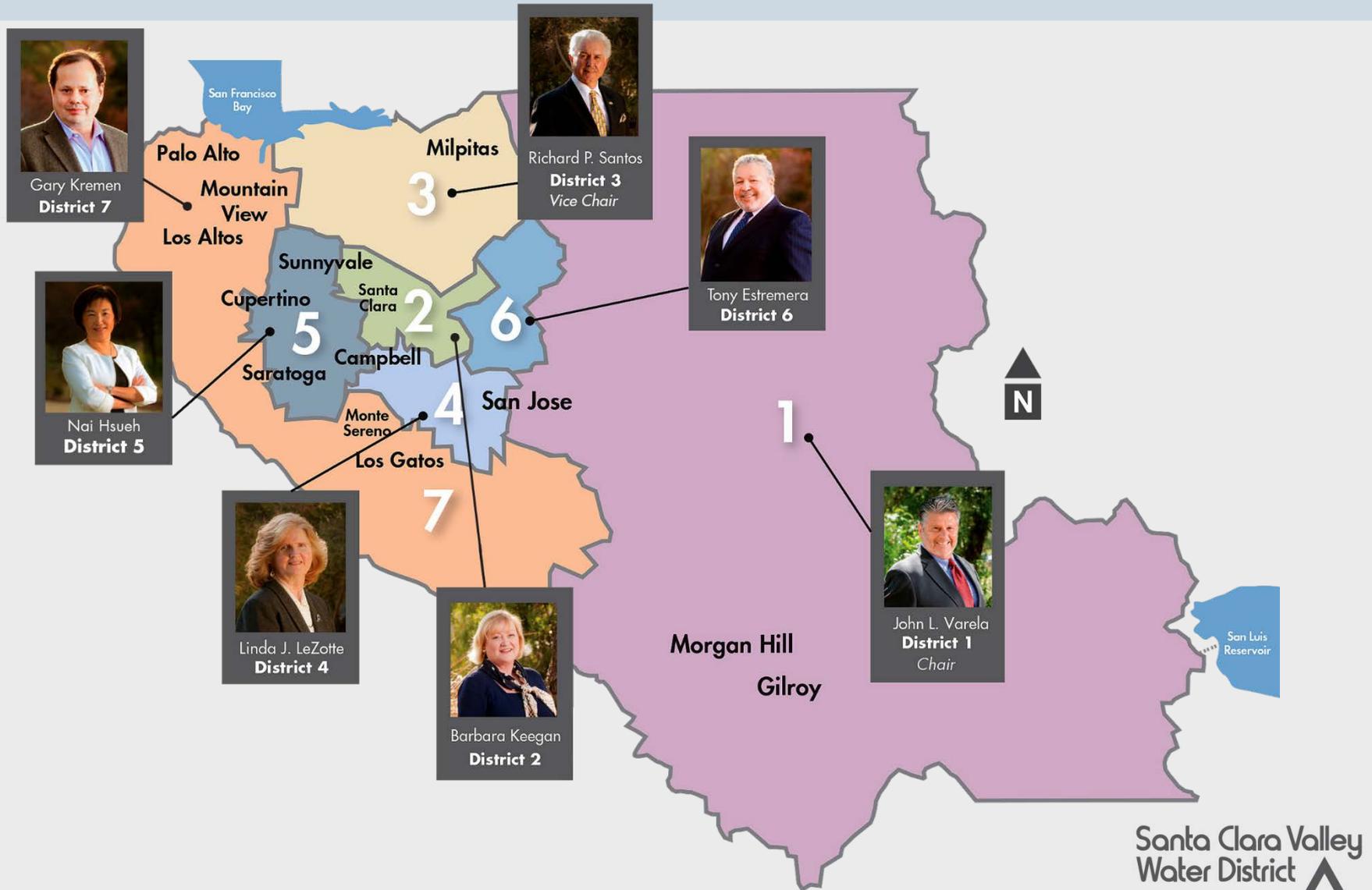


Fisheries and Aquatic Habitat
Collaborative Effort (FAHCE)

Santa Clara Valley
Water District



District Governance: Board of Directors



What SCVWD Does

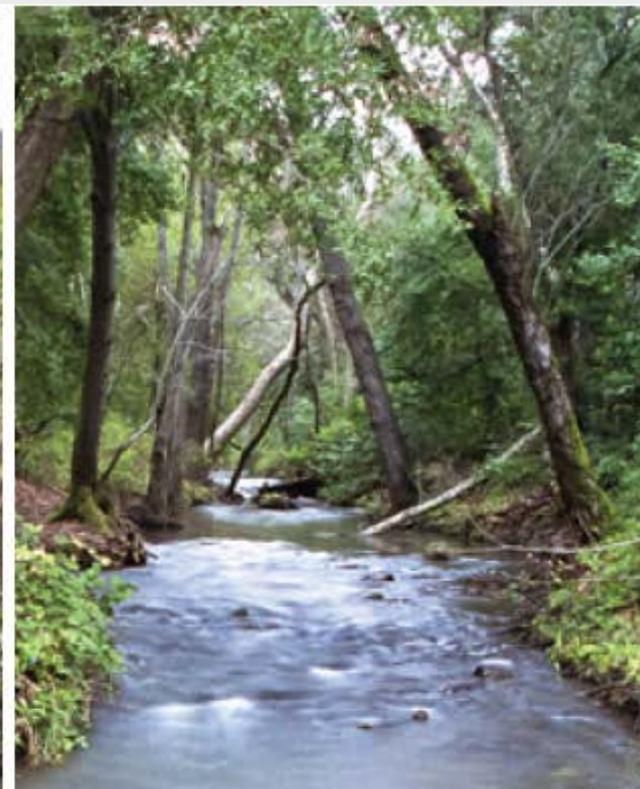
Mission: Providing Silicon Valley safe, clean water for a healthy life, environment and economy



CLEAN, RELIABLE WATER



FLOOD PROTECTION



HEALTHY CREEKS &
ECOSYSTEMS

Who SCVWD Serves

2 million people

15 cities

4,700 well owners

13 water retailers

5 watersheds





A
comprehensive
water system

Santa Clara Valley
Water District





**Maintaining
streams helps
prevent
flooding**

Santa Clara Valley
Water District



Attachment 1
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Protecting lives, homes and businesses from floods



Keeping creeks and ecosystems **healthy**



Caring for streams and habitat



volunteer@valleywater.org