ENVIRONMENTAL AND WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE

DRAFT MINUTES

Monday, April 20, 2026

(Paragraph numbers coincide with agenda item numbers)

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Environmental and Water Resources Committee (Committee) Meeting was held on April 20, 2026, at Santa Clara Valley Water District, Headquarters Building, 5700 Almaden Expressway, San Jose, California.

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Committee Chair Bob Levy called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. A quorum was established with nine members present.

Members in attendance were:

District 2: Uyen Mai
District 4: Chairperson Bob Levy, Matthew Frazier
District 5: Patrick Kwok, Mike Michitaka, Rachel Lam
District 6: Rebecca Gallardo, Douglas Peterson
District 7: Arthur M. Keller

Members not in attendance were:
District 1: Loren Lewis
District 2: Charles Ice, Edgar Echevarria
District 3: Charles Taylor
District 4: Mitchell Ehrlich
District 7: Tess Byler

Board members in attendance were: Director Shiloh Ballard (District 2), and Director Nai Hsueh (District 5).

Staff members in attendance were: Lisa Bankosh, John Bourgeois, Samantha Greene, Dave Leon, Judy Nam, and Kirsten Struve.

Members of the public in attendance were: Director Richard Santos.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

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

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

4.1 APPROVAL OF JANUARY 26, 2026 ENVIRONMENTAL AND WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE MINUTES

Recommendation: Approve the minutes.

It was moved by Member Kwok, seconded by Member Frazier, and unanimously carried to approve the January 26, 2026 Committee meeting minutes as submitted.

4. REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS

4.1 RECEIVE INFORMATION ON CALABAZAS AND SAN TOMAS AQUINO CREEK-MARSH CONNECTION PROJECT STAFF RECOMMENDED ALTERNATIVE

Recommendation: Receive Information on the Staff Recommended Alternative for Calabazas and San Tomas Aquino Creek-Marsh Connection Project, Project No. 20444001.

Judy Nam reviewed the information on this item, per the attached Committee Agenda Memo, and the corresponding presentation materials contained in Attachment 1. Judy Nam, John Bourgeois, and Lisa Bankosh were available to answer questions.

Discussion ensued relating to Caltrans involvement in the project, sources for construction funding, transport of sediment, public and stakeholder investment in the project, district plans to monitor the site, minimizing flood risk, cost differences between the alternatives, costs of water transportation, and potential project timelines.

The Committee received the information and took no formal action.

4.2 RECEIVE UPDATE ON SAFE, CLEAN WATER AND NATURAL FLOOD PROTECTION PROGRAM'S PROJECT D7: PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE CONSERVATION OF HABITAT LANDS. (SARGENT RANCH UPDATE)

Recommendation: Receive an update on Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program's Project D7: Partnerships for the Conservation of Habitat Lands regarding Valley Water's partnership with Peninsula Open Space Trust to acquire and permanently protect Sargent Ranch.

Lisa Bankosh reviewed the information on this item, per the attached Committee Agenda Memo, and the corresponding presentation materials contained in Attachment 1, and was available to answer questions.

Discussion ensued relating to the grant issued by Valley Water to the Peninsula Open Space Trust and restrictions associated with the grant funding, the percentage of available money used for the project, the beginning of the next cycle, and planning efforts to determine use of the lands.

The Committee received the information and took no formal action.

4.3 REVIEW AND RECEIVE UPDATES ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL AND WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE'S WORKING GROUPS

Recommendation:
A. Review and receive updates on the Environmental and Water Resources Committee's Working Groups, and
B. Provide comments to the Board on implementation of Valley Water's mission applicable to working groups' recommendations.

Without discussion, the Committee received the information and took no formal action.

4.4 REVIEW AND APPROVE ENVIRONMENTAL AND WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE WORK PLAN, THE OUTCOMES OF BOARD ACTION OF COMMITTEE REQUESTS, THE COMMITTEE'S NEXT MEETING AGENDA

Recommendation: Review the Committee work plan to guide the committee's discussions regarding policy alternatives and implications for Board deliberation.

John Bourgeois reviewed the information on this item, per the attached Committee Agenda Memo, and the corresponding presentation materials contained in Attachment 1. John Bourgeois and Kirsten Struve were available to answer questions.

Discussion ensued relating to the timetable for the desalination feasibility study scheduled to come to the Committee in October 2026 and the item's tentative presentation to the Recycled Water Committee in May or June, 2026.

5. STANDING ITEMS

5.1 DIRECTOR'S REPORTS

No reports were given.

5.2 MANAGER'S REPORTS

Kirsten Struve reported that there will not be a drought this year, but a drought in upcoming years is possible due to the light snowpack.

5.3 ANNOUNCEMENTS

Director Ballard noted that the Board is currently in the process of recruiting a new CEO and a public input session will be held on April 23, 2026.

6. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

6.1 STANDING ITEMS REPORT

Recommendation: Standing items report.

The Committee took no action.

7. CLERK REVIEW AND CLARIFICATION OF COMMITTEE'S REQUESTS TO THE BOARD

The Committee took no action.

8. ADJOURNMENT

8.1 ADJOURN

Chairperson Levy adjourned the meeting at 7:20 p.m. to the next regular meeting on Monday, July 20, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.

Dave Leon
Assistant Deputy Clerk II

Date approved: