

**TO:** Board of Directors

**FROM:** Agricultural Water  
Advisory Committee

**SUBJECT:** Agricultural Water Advisory Committee  
(AWAC)  
July 7, 2025 Regular Meeting Summary.

**DATE:** August 12, 2025

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This memorandum summarizes agenda items from the meeting of the Agricultural Water Advisory Committee (AWAC) held on Monday, July 7, 2025.

**Receive Update on The County of Santa Clara's Agricultural Outreach and Awareness Campaign - Agriculture's Impact on Water Conservation and Climate Change.**

The Committee discussed the following topics: noted the pause in federal grant funding; reviewed campaign estimate of \$200,000 with \$150,000 raised from various donors and application pending for a \$10,000 mini-grant from Valley Water; noted the effectiveness of campaign messaging for water conservation and agriculture along Interstate 5 and State Route 99; discussed the potential for involvement from the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) in the campaign; noted county agricultural education classes designed for local community leaders to promote awareness of agriculture's role; and expressed support for outreach to the Cities of Gilroy and Morgan Hill.

The Committee received and noted the information, provided feedback, and took no formal action.

**Receive Information and Provide Feedback on Valley Water's Draft Water Supply Master Plan (WSMP) 2050.**

The Committee discussed the following topics: confirmed Valley Water's share in the Sites Reservoir project is currently too small to significantly impact the overall portfolios but can be revisited as future opportunities arise; confirmed the Anderson Dam Seismic Retrofit is included in the baseline; confirmed the importance of the contract with the Semitropic Groundwater Storage Bank and noted the contract may not be renewable at the same conditions; confirmed all WSMP project options are in different stages of development and still evolving; noted the Palo Alto potable reuse project is on hold due to high costs and Valley Water is currently working on the San Jose direct potable reuse project; confirmed local water agencies are working on long-term water plans and facing issues similar to Valley Water, though dealing with different water supplies; noted importance of securing water rights and expressed concern for impact of urbanization on South County groundwater, confirmed staff monitor the groundwater in South County and nitrate concentrations are going down, noted upcoming potential programs aimed at enhancing South County groundwater, and noted staff have been reviewing the

environmental documents and providing feedback on the development impacts; confirmed the operational storage capacity for the South County Zone W-5 is about 150,000 acre feet (AF); confirmed the groundwater flow between Llagas Subbasin and San Benito County is seasonal with no net loss; confirmed subsidence has not been observed in South County and groundwater levels remain stable; noted Senate Bill 423 addressing affordable housing and its impact on water demand and agricultural land use; and noted support for outreach to local elected officials regarding legislation to moderate urban growth.

The Committee received and noted the information, provided feedback and took no formal action.

**Receive Update and Provide Feedback on West Valley and Lower Peninsula Watershed Master Plans.**

The Committee discussed the following topics: confirmed staff shares flood model information with the local cities to assist with analyzing potential flooding vulnerabilities; expressed support for community outreach efforts to the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District, the Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST), mountain side vineyards, and homes with extensive gardens; confirmed there is no strict definition or size for rivers, creeks, or washes, the term creek is used generally by staff, and washes do not usually contain water year around; expressed support of including potential land management topics of open space grazing, brush encroachment data, vegetation impacts, and the Santa Clara County Weed Abatement Program; and noted the potential difficulty of including any rain water capture data from new homes in the area.

The Committee received and noted the information, provided feedback, and took no formal action.

**Receive Information on the Annual Report Regarding the Flood Control Benefit Assessments for Fiscal Year (FY) 2025-2026.**

The Committee discussed the following topics: confirmed that the benefit assessment rates are not related to the Open Space Credit; confirmed that the 2025-2026 benefit assessment rate for the South County land use category is \$0, as the debt for that zone has been paid off; and noted any South County continued flood control work will be supported by revenue sources outside of benefit assessments such as property taxes.

The Committee received and noted the information, provided feedback, and took no formal action.

**Review 2025 Agricultural Water Advisory Committee (AWAC) Work Plan, the Outcomes of Board Action of Committee Requests, and the Committee's Next Meeting Agenda.**

The Committee reviewed and noted the updated Work Plan without discussion and took no formal action.

Valley Water Director Beall extended prayers for the victims of the recent flooding in Texas and expressed support for efforts ensuring vulnerable communities are not located within a designated floodplain.

The next AWAC regular meeting is scheduled to occur at 1:30 p.m. on October 6, 2025.

Board member comments and suggestions can be forwarded to Nicole Merritt, Assistant Deputy Clerk II at (408) 630-3262 or by email to [nmerritt@valleywater.org](mailto:nmerritt@valleywater.org).

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