



## MEMORANDUM

FC 14

**TO:** Board of Directors

**FROM:** Agricultural Water  
Advisory Committee

**SUBJECT:** Agricultural Water Advisory Committee  
(AWAC)  
July 6, 2026, Regular Meeting Summary.

**DATE:** August 11, 2026

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This memorandum summarizes agenda items from the meeting of the Agricultural Water Advisory Committee (AWAC) held on Monday, July 6, 2026.

**Receive Update on Valley Water's Periodic Evaluation to its Alternative Groundwater Sustainability Plan for the Santa Clara and Llagas Subbasins and the Periodic Evaluation of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan for the North San Benito Subbasin under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act.**

The Committee discussed the following topics: noted water table levels are well above average in Zone W-5; expressed interest in a future report that includes historical context on the number of wells compared to 10-20 years ago; discussed the recycled water pipeline in South County, including the challenges associated with water recharge and percolation due to the indirect potable reuse regulations governing how close wells can be located to indirect potable reuse recharge sites; noted that the Amazon data center will use recycled water with new required infrastructure paid for by Amazon without affecting the agricultural rate which is tied to Zone W-8; noted that recycled water is being delivered to agricultural users in South County; confirmed that recycled water in South County is fully utilized in the summer and the excess recycled water in the winter may be directed to evaporation basins or discharged to the river depending on wastewater treatment plant processes.

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

**Receive an Update on the West Valley and Lower Peninsula Watershed Master Plans.**

The Committee discussed the following topics: confirmed that a website link to the Santa Clara Valley Urban Runoff Pollution Prevention Program's annual reports regarding pollutants in urban runoff will be provided to the AWAC members after the meeting, per their request; noted that nitrate levels are improving but it remains a concern for groundwater quality; discussed retention ponds and fish habitat rehabilitation; confirmed staff is continuing to evaluate options for the concrete culverts at Hale Creek, discussed the watershed's location in relation to the managed recharge water, and per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) monitoring, and noted the Stream Management Program's (SMP) vegetation management, floodway cleanup efforts, and staff's ongoing

flood risk monitoring and maintenance responsibilities.

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

**Receive Information on the Impact to the Groundwater Production Charge Projection from the Dam Safety Program.**

The Committee discussed the following topics: confirmed that the groundwater production projections are generally accurate but may vary from year to year due to changes in water usage, project additions and removals, and increased costs; discussed financing and funding options available through the Water, Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) to support the Dam Safety Program and to ensure compliance with state and federal dam safety requirements; discussed the Uvas and Chesbro Dams and staff's monitoring of dam seepage and noted conditions remain stable; and received an overview of the status of the local dams and their operating restrictions; and confirmed that Valley Water's revenue stream is used as collateral to secure financing.

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

**Review 2026 Agricultural Water Advisory Committee (AWAC) Work Plan, the Outcomes of Board Action of Committee Requests, and the Committee's Next Meeting Agenda.**

The Committee discussed the following details regarding the AWAC Work Plan: noted support for removing Work Plan Item: *Update on One Water Plan Upper Pajaro Priority Actions*, consistent with staff's recommendation that the project was completed in 2025, but expressed interest in continued updates on the Pajaro Watershed, as appropriate; confirmed the Committee's goal of determining regions feasible for percolation was noted under Work Plan Item: *Valley Water's South County Managed Aquifer Recharge Activities*; expressed support for prioritizing Work Plan Item: *Update of Valley Water's Activities of the Unhoused and Information on How Enforcement of Violations of Companies are Handled Within the County*.

It was moved by Peter Van Dyke and seconded by Tim Chiala and unanimously approved to remove Work Plan Item: *Update on One Water Plan Upper Pajaro Priority Actions*.

The next AWAC regular meeting is scheduled to occur at 1:30 p.m. on October 5, 2026.

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