

**TO:** Board of Directors

**FROM:** Agricultural Water  
Advisory Committee

**SUBJECT:** Agricultural Water Advisory Committee  
(AWAC)  
October 6, 2025, Regular Meeting Summary.

**DATE:** January 13, 2026

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This memorandum summarizes agenda items from the meeting of the Agricultural Water Advisory Committee (AWAC) held on Monday, October 6, 2025.

**Receive the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) Update.**

The Committee discussed the following topics: confirmed that the California's Department of Water Resources (DWR) processing time for reviewing Valley Water's Groundwater Management Plan was normal; noted North San Benito County is meeting DWR recommendations for outcome measures related to water quality and a lower subsidence threshold; noted the groundwater report reflects a healthy supply across all 3 basins totaling over 400,000 acre feet; noted groundwater levels are beginning to trend down due to reduced rainfall consistent with normal hydrologic patterns; confirmed Valley Water staff assisted with developing the North San Benito Groundwater Sustainability Plan; confirmed challenges to groundwater quality are sea water intrusion and nitrate; and noted nitrate levels in groundwater are improving due to managed groundwater recharge and land-use practices in Santa Clara County.

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

**Receive Update on the Semitropic Groundwater Storage Bank.**

The Committee discussed the following topics: confirmed Kern County Subbasin is not currently on probation and groundwater banking remains operational while State Water Board staff finalize the review of plans by the Subbasin to determine if they address identified deficiencies; confirmed the probation process if implemented would not be long term but rather intended to assist the subbasin in updating its sustainability plans to address deficiencies; confirmed that some subsidence has been identified in certain areas of the Kern County subbasin but however is not one of the primary issues for exiting the probation process; noted Semitropic may implement a water budget to instruct landowners on allowable groundwater use and impose fees for additional pumping which could result in land being removed from production; and confirmed the Sustainability Plan by 2040 includes discussions relating to demand reduction and groundwater recharge projects for the Kern County subbasin.

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

**Receive Information on the Impact to the Agricultural Groundwater Production Charge Projection from the Suspension of the Pacheco Reservoir Expansion Project.**

The Committee discussed the following topics: noted that the suspension of the Pacheco Reservoir Expansion Project has no impact on Agricultural groundwater production charge projection; and confirmed the suspension of the Pacheco Reservoir Expansion Project means the project is not moving forward at this time.

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 discussed the updated Work Plan and noted support for receiving updates related to the Semitropic Groundwater Storage Bank, groundwater levels, desalination, and onsite water recycling at new development sites.

The next AWAC regular meeting was scheduled to occur at 1:30 p.m. on January 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).