



SOUTH COUNTY REGIONAL
WASTEWATER AUTHORITY

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**JOINT WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE
(CITY OF GILROY, CITY OF MORGAN HILL AND VALLEY WATER)**

DRAFT MINUTES

**REGULAR MEETING SESSION
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2025
8:30 AM**

(Paragraph numbers coincide with agenda item numbers)

1. CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Joint Water Resources Committee (City of Gilroy, City of Morgan Hill, and Valley Water) (Committee) was called to order at 8:30 a.m. at the South County Regional Wastewater Authority (SCRWA), 1500 Southside Drive, Gilroy, CA 95020.

1.1 ROLL CALL

Committee Members in attendance were: City of Gilroy Mayor Greg Bozzo, City of Morgan Hill Councilmembers Yvonne Martinez Beltran and Soraida Iwanaga; Valley Water District 3 Director Richard Santos, City of Gilroy Councilmember and Vice Chairperson Dion Bracco; and Valley Water District 1 Director John L. Varela, Chairperson presiding, constituting a quorum of the Committee.

Valley Water staff in attendance were: Andy Gschwind, Nicole Merritt, Kirsten Struve, Dave Tucker, and Zuberi White.

SCRWA, City of Gilroy, and City of Morgan Hill staff in attendance were: City of Gilroy Utilities Director Heath McMahon and Senior Engineer Bret Swain, City of Morgan Hill Assistant City Manager/Public Services Chris Ghione, and Deputy Director of Utilities James Sylvain.

Public in Attendance was: Doug Muirhead.

2. TIME OPEN FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON ANY ITEM NOT ON THE AGENDA.

Chairperson Varela declared time open for public comment on any item not on the agenda.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

3.1. Approval of April 2, 2025, Joint Water Resources Committee Meeting Minutes.

Recommendation: Approve the minutes.

The Committee considered the attached minutes of the April 2, 2025, Committee meeting.

Public Comments:
None.

It was moved by Director Santos and seconded by Councilmember Martinez Beltran and unanimously carried that the minutes be approved.

4. REGULAR AGENDA:

4.1. Receive South County Water Reuse Collaboration Update and Provide Feedback.

Recommendation: Receive an update and provide feedback on South County water reuse collaboration and implementation.

Dave Tucker reviewed the information on this item per the attached Committee agenda memo, and per the information contained in Attachment 1.

Handout 4.1-A, email from Doug Muirhead and Handout 4.1-B, email from staff in response to Doug Muirhead was distributed to the Committee and made available to the public.

Dave Tucker, Kirsten Struve, and Andy Gschwind were available to answer questions.

Public Comments:
Doug Muirhead.

The Committee received the information, took no formal action, and noted the following

- The Committee expressed interest in confirming the developer near the Southern alignment and noted the collaborative process of pipe upsizing with developers and Valley Water.
- The Committee noted that securing federal and state funding for water projects is increasingly competitive and expressed support for utilizing available tools to expedite the process, including a possible joint outreach letter from Valley Water and the elected officials of the Cities of Gilroy and Morgan Hill.
- The Committee noted that a feasibility study is required, which may take up to 2 years before construction funding can be requested, and expressed interest in continuing to explore strategies to advance South County in the queue for priority funding.
- The Committee expressed support for utilizing upcoming meetings and conferences to continue engaging with federal and state representatives.
- The Committee confirmed the status of the pressurized pipeline connection to the Glen Loma Ranch development and noted construction may begin around April 2026.
- The Committee confirmed the general feasibility study process, including reviewing and ranking projects, consideration of the cost effectiveness and public benefit, supporting funding sources, community support, and agency collaboration, all of which assist projects in rising to the top for evaluation.

- The Committee confirmed the current recycled and purified water percentages versus the overall goal and expressed support for pursuing an accelerated timeframe for stakeholder workshops in Gilroy and Morgan Hill.
- The Committee noted staff's success in collaborating on grant opportunities and discussed potential water purification locations, as well as the challenges related to water availability, costs, and the delays associated with federal and procurement processes.

4.2. Review and Discuss the Joint Water Resources Committee 2025 Work Plan; and Confirm the Next Meeting Date.

Recommendation: Review and discuss the JWRC Work Plan; and confirm the next meeting date.

The Committee considered this Item without a staff presentation.

Kirsten Struve was available to answer questions.

Public Comments:
None.

The Committee reviewed and discussed the JWRC 2025 Work Plan, noted appreciation for the enthusiasm and collaboration, expressed having the next meeting upon receiving an update to the feasibility study and for further discussion of the game plan and expediting timelines, and Councilmember Martinez Beltran expressed interest in a future potential site visit.

5. CLERK REVIEW AND CLARIFICATION OF COMMITTEE REQUESTS.

This is an opportunity for the Clerk to review and obtain clarification on any formally moved, seconded, and approved requests and recommendations made by the Committee during the meeting.

Nicole Merritt confirmed the Committee received and provided feedback on the South County water reuse collaboration update, confirmed the process of the feasibility study, noted support to confirm developer near the Southern alignment, and following up on the federal and state funding with a possible outreach letter under Item 4.1; reviewed the JWRC Work Plan, noted support for meeting next to hear further on the feasibility study, game plan, expediting timelines, and a potential future site visit under Item 4.2.

6. ADJOURN:

6.1. Adjourn. The Next Regular Meeting is Scheduled at 8:30 a.m. on January 7, 2026.

Chairperson Varela adjourned the meeting at 9:22 a.m. The next regular meeting was scheduled at 8:30 a.m. on January 7, 2026, which was subsequently canceled and the next regular meeting was scheduled to occur April 1, 2026.

Approved:

Nicole Merritt
Deputy Clerk (Committee Meetings)

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