



MEMORANDUM

FC 14 (01-25-23)

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Agricultural Water
Advisory Committee

SUBJECT: Agricultural Water Advisory Committee
(AWAC)
April 8, 2024 Regular Meeting Summary.

DATE: June 25, 2024

This memorandum summarizes agenda items from the meeting of the Agricultural Water Advisory Committee (AWAC) held on Monday, April 8, 2024.

Review Proposed Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-25 Groundwater Production Charges and Provide Feedback.

The Committee discussed the following topics: the maximum proposed agricultural water rate \$39.80 across all four zones, Anderson Dam Seismic Retrofit's operational capacity, water rights, and retrofit of the fish ladder at the Coyote percolation pond, water rates per public safety, ecosystem benefits, and the impact on the low-income community, Delta Conveyance project participation costs, open space credits used solely for maintaining low agriculture rates, Sisk Dam Raise project financial involvement, Pacheco Reservoir Expansion project, and Water Supply Master Plan status updates, cofferdam regulatory restrictions, flood protection permitting processes, wetlands restoration, status of groundwater conditions in South County W-5, Calero Dam Seismic Retrofit project status update, subsidence and groundwater banking, current impacts on small reservoirs, community outreach/education, meeting with elected officials, and time frame of potential consultant report for ecosystem benefits-climate change/carbon sequestration/carbon dioxide cleansing/removal if Board approved. The Committee received the information and noted the legislation outreach potential of the Farm Bureau and the Board Representatives collaborating with Valley Water's Office of Government Relations on an invitation letter to California State Assembly Speaker Robert Rivas to attend a future Farm Bureau meeting and support for additional information on the Calero Dam Seismic Retrofit Project.

It was moved by Dhruv Khanna and seconded by Erin Gil and unanimously carried to recommend to the Board to suspend any increases to the agriculture groundwater production water charges until the Board approves a consultant to conduct an updated accounting/mathematical study quantifying the ecosystem benefits including climate change, carbon sequestration, and carbon dioxide cleansing/removal of agricultural uses.

The Committee subsequently received after the meeting the Monthly Groundwater Condition Report for April 2024 and were provided the public link to access future published groundwater updates.

Receive and Discuss Information on the Urban Heat Islands and Agricultural Carbon Sequestration.

The Committee received the information, took no formal action, and discussed the following topics: urban heat island impact, cost sharing versus big and small farms, potential of banning fake grass/turf and encouragement of pro-farming programs in the Palo Alto/Stanford area, and potential of federal funding for climate smart practices.

Discuss the Potential of Forming a Subcommittee for the Agricultural Water Advisory Committee (AWAC).

The Committee received the information, took no formal action, and noted support for an AWAC subcommittee to promote productivity and communication. No specific purpose was confirmed for the Subcommittee at this time and support was noted for a Committee survey to confirm potential topics.

Review Agricultural Water Advisory Committee Work Plan, the Outcomes of Board Action of Committee Requests; and the Committee's Next Meeting Agenda.

It was moved by Jan Garrod and seconded by Vice Chairperson Trevor Garrod for the review of population growth versus water use and confirm the justification for the project capital costs when the water use is flat or slightly increasing to be addressed by the Water Supply Master Plan Update at a future meeting. The Committee noted support for the agenda item relating to the Unhoused with a County update to also be addressed at a future meeting.

The next AWAC regular meeting is scheduled to occur at 1:30 p.m. on July 1, 2024.

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.