



ENVIRONMENTAL AND WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE

DRAFT MINUTES

Monday, October 20, 2025

(Paragraph numbers coincide with agenda item numbers)

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Environmental and Water Resources Committee (Committee) Meeting was held on October 20, 2025, at Santa Clara Valley Water District, Headquarters Building, 5700 Almaden Expressway, San Jose, California.

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Committee Chair Charles Ice called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. A quorum was established with nine members present.

Members in attendance were:

District 2: Chairperson Charles Ice, Uyen Mai

District 4: Mitchell Ehrlich

District 5: Patrick Kwok, Mike Michitaka, Rachel Lam

District 6: Douglas Peterson

District 7: Tess Byler, Vice Chairperson Arthur M. Keller, Ph.D.

Members not in attendance were:

District 1: Swanee Edwards and Loren Lewis

District 4: Bob Levy

District 6: Jim Piazza

Members Charles Taylor, Rebecca Gallardo, Edgar Echevarria, and Mitchell Ehrlich arrived as noted below.

Board members in attendance were: Director Shiloh Ballard (District 2), and Director Nai Hsueh (District 5).

Staff members in attendance were: Aaron Baker, John Bourgeois, Dave Leon, Ashley Shannon, and Kirsten Struve.

Public in attendance were: Rebecca Eisenberg, Katja Irvin, John, and Mark Poole.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairperson Ice declared time open for public comment on any item not on the agenda. There was no one who wished to speak.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3.1 APPROVAL OF JULY 21, 2025 ENVIRONMENTAL AND WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE MINUTES

Recommendation: Approve the minutes.

Members Taylor and Gallardo arrived at 6:02 p.m.

It was moved by Member Byler, seconded by Member Kwok, and carried unanimously to approve the July 21, 2025 Committee meeting minutes as amended to correct an error on the meeting attendance.

4. REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS

4.1. RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE VALLEY WATER DEMONSTRATION GARDEN

Recommendation: Receive an update on the Valley Water Demonstration Garden.

Members Echevarria and Ehrlich arrived at 6:15 p.m.

Ashley Shannon reviewed the information on this item, per the attached Committee Agenda Memo, and the corresponding presentation materials contained in Attachments 1 and 2. Ashley Shannon, Aaron Baker, and Kirsten Struve were available to answer questions.

Discussion ensued relating to total cost from design to implementation, maintenance costs and funding sources for long-term maintenance, mitigation for trees that are cut down, measures of success, field trips to the Demonstration Garden and how to convey information to parents and engage schools, and whether the site will have water features such as a fish pond.

The Committee received the information and took no formal action.

4.2 RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON VALLEY WATER BAYLANDS RESTORATION PROJECTS

Recommendation: Receive background information on Valley Water's baylands restoration projects and an update on their current progress.

John Bourgeois reviewed the information on this item, per the attached Committee Agenda Memo, and the corresponding presentation materials contained in Attachment 1 and was available to answer questions.

Discussion ensued relating to the South San Francisco Bay Shoreline Project, including geographic boundaries, regional oversight, repairing a gate at risk of failure in Palo Alto, temporary conveyance systems, environmental and earth-moving costs, and floodgates.

Further discussion ensued relating to the Calabazas/San Tomas Aquino Creek-Marsh Connection Project, including how to best use leftovers from water treatment plants, possible use and cost effectiveness of the Sunnyvale treatment plant to convert leftovers into potable water, and the number of visitors to the sites.

The Committee received the information and took no formal action.

4.3 REVIEW AND RECEIVE UPDATES ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL AND WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE'S WORKING GROUPS

Recommendation:

A. Review and receive updates on the Environmental and Water Resources Committee's Working Groups, and

B. Provide comments to the Board on implementation of Valley Water's mission applicable to working groups' recommendations.

Dave Leon reviewed the information on this item, per the attached Committee Agenda Memo, and the corresponding presentation materials contained in Attachments 1 and 2 and was available to answer questions.

Without discussion, the Committee received the information and took no formal action.

4.4 REVIEW ENVIRONMENTAL AND WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE WORK PLAN, THE OUTCOMES OF BOARD ACTION OF COMMITTEE REQUESTS; AND THE COMMITTEE'S NEXT MEETING AGENDA

Recommendation: Review the Committee work plan to guide the committee's discussions regarding policy alternatives and implications for Board deliberation.

Dave Leon and John Bourgeois reviewed the information on this item, per the attached Committee Agenda Memo, and the corresponding presentation materials contained in Attachment 1 and were available to answer questions.

Without discussion, the Committee received the information and took no formal action.

5. STANDING ITEMS

5.1 DIRECTOR'S REPORTS

Director Hsueh welcomed the newly appointed Committee members.

5.2 MANAGER'S REPORTS

Kirsten Struve thanked the Committee for its input relating to the Water Supply Master Plan item and noted that the item will be considered by the Board on November 12, 2025.

6. CLERK REVIEW AND CLARIFICATION OF COMMITTEE'S REQUESTS TO THE BOARD

The Committee took no action.

7. ADJOURNMENT

7.1 ADJOURN

Chairperson Ice adjourned the meeting at 7:25 p.m. to the next regular meeting on Monday, January 26, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.

Dave Leon
Assistant Deputy Clerk II

Date approved: