



TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Joint Recycled Water Policy
Advisory Committee

SUBJECT: May 23, 2025, Joint Recycled Water
Policy Advisory Committee –
Cities of San Jose & Santa Clara

DATE: July 8, 2025

This memorandum summarizes the Joint Recycled Water Policy Advisory Committee (Committee) – Cities of San Jose and Santa Clara meeting held on May 23, 2025.

Review Proposed Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Budgets for Silicon Valley Advanced Water Purification Center and South Bay Water Recycling.

The Committee received the information, took no formal action, and confirmed the City of San Jose works with new developments to connect to the recycled water system if it is nearby and to implement a range of onsite water initiatives voluntarily. The Committee noted the City of Santa Clara is a municipal water system using 20% recycled water. 65% of their data centers use recycled water, and there is a municipal code requiring for the use of recycled water by developers

Receive the Development of a Collaborative Potable Reuse Project Update and Provide Feedback.

The Committee received the information, took no formal action, and expressed support for the project staying on track and evolving to the full-scale facility and appreciation for staff's continued collaborative work and sensitivity to the project's schedule.

Elect 2025 Joint Recycled Water Policy Advisory Committee (SCVWD/San Jose/Santa Clara) - Chairperson.

It was moved by Director Santos and seconded by Councilmember Cohen and unanimously carried that Chairperson Estremera would remain the Chairperson.

Receive Update on the Recycled Water Use at Data Centers in the Cities of San Jose and Santa Clara.

The Committee received the information, took no formal action, and expressed support of the use of recycled water by the data centers continuing to increase and noted the potential of incentives through legislation or policies regarding implementing green building codes and heating/cooling retrofitting. The Committee noted the Water Efficient Technology (WET) Rebate Program available through Valley Water to assist with retrofitting existing buildings to reduce water usage. The Committee noted some data centers are opting to use closed loop systems, and other efficient technologies, including capturing heat for power, to lower their environmental impacts.

Tony Estremera
Director, District 6
JRWPAC Chairperson

Receive Update on Valley Water's Purified Water Public Outreach and 2024 Public Perception Poll and Provide Feedback.

The Committee received the information, took no formal action, and expressed gratitude and support of staff's continued progress with the community outreach. The Committee noted the importance of the public's education with the potential of using Public Service Announcements (PSAs), and the partnership with the medical and science community leaders to increase the awareness of the advanced water purification process. The Committee confirmed that no specific questions were asked regarding COVID in the public perception poll and noted support of EMC Research's work. The Committee noted the over 50% positive survey results showing support for recycled water and noted that survey results can be affected by timing of droughts.

The next JRWPAC regular meeting is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. on April 16, 2026, or TBD per the Committee.

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.