



MEMORANDUM

FC 14

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Agricultural Water
Advisory Committee

SUBJECT: Agricultural Water Advisory Committee
(AWAC)
April 7, 2025 Regular Meeting Summary.

DATE: May 27, 2025

This memorandum summarizes agenda items from the meeting of the Agricultural Water Advisory Committee (AWAC) held on Monday, April 7, 2025.

Receive Information and Provide Feedback on Valley Water's Water Supply Master Plan (WSMP) 2050.

The Committee discussed the following topics: confirmed Plan Bay Area 2040's methodology is being used by Valley Water for water demand projections out to 2050 with the demand based on housing types; Plan Bay Area 2050 maximizes growth and was not used for the projections; noted WSMP 2050 has two bookends, one that keeps demand flat and one increasing with housing growth and climate change; noted Pacheco Reservoir Expansion project is looking for partners; confirmed Valley Water could utilize their share of water for the county directly or place in the Semitropic Water Storage District or other groundwater storage as needed from the Delta Conveyance Project investment per future Board approval for the construction phase; noted support for continued community outreach to increase awareness on the limitations of water conservation, availability of future water and water storage, and climate change, and noted Valley Water's investment in water conservation and the need to invest in water infrastructure.

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

Review Proposed Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Groundwater Production Charges and Receive Committee Feedback.

The Committee discussed the following topics: confirmed the Open Space Credit assists with keeping the agricultural rates lower through Valley Water's portion of the ad valorem property tax and noted the property taxes needed to cover the full cost of this service; confirmed proposed 2025-2026 agricultural rate will be the same at \$43 per acre foot for all of the noted groundwater zones including North County; and noted support of the importance of ecosystem benefits, air quality, the open space credit, carbon sequestration and food production for the quality of life.

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

Receive an Update on Valley Water's South County Managed Aquifer Recharge Activities.

The Committee discussed the following topics: confirmed the general availability for natural/local recharge and the imported or managed reservoir recharge countywide in 2024 was estimated as 40% imported and 60% local, North County was 45% imported and 55% local, and South County was 33% imported and 67% local; confirmed natural recharge is from local sources and managed recharge includes local reservoirs and imported water; noted generally a wetland is where water is discharging or coming to the land surface and the managed recharge is best where the water table is deep for groundwater storage; confirmed Valley Water staff review some environmental documents for development regarding water supply assessments and any effects on natural recharge and noted some housing development guidelines are state mandated; confirmed Valley Water staff manage aquifer recharge by conjunctive water management which allows for more water to be put back into the ground/reservoirs during the wet years to prepare for additional pumping in the dry years to keep groundwater storage consistent; noted support for Valley Water to seek a portion of the state development impact fees for groundwater recharge; confirmed Valley Water is required to follow state guidelines regarding Flood-Managed Aquifer Recharge (Flood-MAR) with large spaces for flooding and water rights as potential hurdles; noted Valley Water is working on a Flood-MAR pilot program; confirmed South County's Zone W-5 operational storage capacity is 150,000 acre feet; confirmed Church Avenue percolation ponds receive local water, require periodic repairs and a diversion structure and a fish screen are currently undergoing improvement; noted southern Coyote Valley may be promising for a new off-stream recharge pond(s) because the groundwater flows north.

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

Review 2025 Agricultural Water Advisory Committee (AWAC) Work Plan, the Outcomes of Board Action of Committee Requests, the Committee's Next Meeting Agenda; and the Committee's Next Meeting Agenda.

The Committee reviewed and noted the Work Plan and the upcoming July 7, 2025, 1:30 p.m. regular meeting without discussion and took no formal action.

The next AWAC regular meeting is scheduled to occur at 1:30 p.m. on July 7, 2025.

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.