

Max Overland

From: Katja Irvin <katja.irvin@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Monday, September 1, 2025 1:43 PM
To: Clerk of the Board
Cc: Tony Estremera; Richard Santos; Nai Hsueh; Shiloh Ballard; Jim Beall; John Varela; Rebecca Eisenberg
Subject: Sept 3, 2025 Agenda item 2.1. Board of Directors Fiscal Year 2026 Work Plan Session

***** This email originated from outside of Valley Water. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. *****

Dear Chair Estremera and Board Members,

Please disregard the previous e-mail on this topic.

The Sierra Club offers the following comments related to Attachment 1, FY 2025-2026 Board Work Plan – DRAFT Staff Recommendations.

1. **We have recently become aware of concerns about the term "stakeholders."** The historic connotations of this term are negative, especially in the United States. One suggestion to replace stakeholders is "interest groups." We suggest that Valley Water consider eliminating or reducing use of the term stakeholders.
2. **Water Supply Objective 1: Pursue new, diversified and cost-effective water supply and storage opportunities.** Challenge / Opportunity states "Water storage in reservoirs also provides environmental, recreational, and incidental flood risk reduction benefits." Aside from these opportunities, related challenges should also be noted. In particular, water storage in reservoirs results in negative environmental impacts, flood risks associated with dam failure, and can impact recreational opportunities.
3. **Water Supply Objective 1.** Related Staff Plans should include the Countywide Water Reuse Master Plan and the Capital Improvement Program.
4. **Water Supply Objective 2: Secure existing water supplies and water supply infrastructure.** Related Staff Plans should include the Capital Improvement Program.
5. **Water Supply Objective 4: Complete the Anderson Dam Seismic Retrofit Project.** Recommended FY26 Tactic: Stay on schedule for construction of the ADSRP.
6. **Water Supply Objective 4.** Monitoring should include the Safe Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program Independent Monitoring Committee.
7. **Water Supply Objective 5: Make water conservation a California way of life in Santa Clara County.** Related Staff Plans should include the Urban Water Management Plan and the Water Shortage Contingency Plan.

8. **Environmental Stewardship Objective 1: Plan and design projects with multiple benefits, including protecting ecosystem functions, enhancing habitat, and improving connectivity in all regions of the County.** Related Staff Plans should include the FAHCE Annual Monitoring Report and the Fish Habitat Restoration Plan.
9. **Environmental Stewardship Objective 2: Protect creeks, bay, and other aquatic ecosystems from threats of pollution and degradation.** Tactics include "preventing stormwater pollution, increased implementation of green stormwater infrastructure, addressing mercury pollution ..." In general (not necessarily in this Work Plan), new projects should be identified that implement green stormwater infrastructure and address mercury pollution. There have been projects in the past but further efforts at Valley Water seem stalled at the moment.
10. **Environmental Stewardship Objective 2.** Tactics include "Support legislative efforts to eliminate or reduce waste entering waterways." It would be good to support "regulatory" as well as legislative efforts.
11. **Business Management Objective 2: Provide affordable and cost-effective level of services.** Related Staff Plans should include the Legislative Guiding Principles.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Best regards,

Katja Irvin
Guadalupe Group Conservation Chair
Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter