

2024 Accomplishments Report: Agricultural Water Advisory Committee

Update: December 2024

The annual work plan establishes a framework for committee discussion and action during the annual meeting schedule. The committee work plan is a dynamic document, subject to change as external and internal issues impacting the District occur and are recommended for committee discussion. Subsequently, an annual committee accomplishments report is developed based on the work plan and presented to the District Board of Directors.

ITEM	WORK PLAN ITEM BOARD POLICY	MEETING DATE	ACCOMPLISHMENT DATE AND OUTCOME
1	Election of Chair and Vice Chair for 2024.	January 8	Accomplished January 8, 2024: The Committee unanimously approved Peter Van Dyke as the 2024 Agricultural Water Advisory Committee Chair and Trevor Garrod as the 2024 Agricultural Water Advisory Committee Vice-Chair.
2	Annual Accomplishments Report.	January 8	Accomplished January 8, 2024: The Committee unanimously approved the 2023 Annual Accomplishments Report. <i>The Board received the Committee's presentation by Chairperson Peter Van Dyke and accepted the 2023 Annual Accomplishments Report at its March 26, 2024 meeting.</i>
3	Review and Comment to the Board on the Fiscal Year 2024 – 2025 Preliminary Groundwater Production Charges.	January 8 April 8	Accomplished January 8, 2024: The Committee reviewed and commented on the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Preliminary Groundwater Production Charges and took the following action: The Committee unanimously approved the Committee recommend to the Board to hold the agricultural groundwater rate unchanged at 36.85 per acre foot. The Committee received a motion and a second to include additional information in the presentation, but no vote was taken per staff confirmed this was a preliminary analysis agenda item and will return in April 2024 for further discussion. Accomplished April 8, 2024: The Committee unanimously approved 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. <i>The Board approved the Resolution: DETERMINING SURFACE WATER, TREATED WATER, AND SOUTH COUNTY RECYCLED WATER CHARGES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025 at the May 14, 2024 meeting.</i>

Yellow = Update Since Last Meeting

Blue = Action taken by the Board of Directors

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4	Receive Information and Provide Feedback on the Development of Valley Water's Water Supply Master Plan 2050.	January 8 July 1	<p>Accomplished January 8, 2024: The Committee received information and provided feedback on the Water Supply Master Plan 2050 and took no action.</p> <p>Accomplished July 1, 2024: The Committee received information and provided feedback on the Water Supply Master Plan 2050, took no action and requested information regarding wastewater in the county and a possible retention pond at Butterfield Technology Park.</p>
5	One Water Plan Upper Pajaro Watershed Plan Priority Actions.	January 8	<p>Accomplished January 8, 2024: The Committee received information and provided feedback on the One Water Plan and took no action. The Committee confirmed staff anticipates incorporating feedback, finalizing the plan, and presenting to the Board in 2 to 3 months.</p>
6	Review Climate Change and the benefits of ecosystems on Agriculture in Santa Clara County.	April 8	<p>Accomplished April 8, 2024: The Committee received the information, took no formal action, and noted potential of banning fake grass/turf, pro-farming programs, and federal funding for climate smart practices.</p>
7	Discuss the Potential of Forming a Subcommittee.	April 8	<p>Accomplished April 8, 2024: 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.</p>
8	Receive Update on Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) Compliance and Semitropic banking.	October 7	<p>Accomplished October 7, 2024: The Committee received and noted the information and took no formal action.</p>
9	Discuss Policy for Securing Agricultural Water for Food Production/Security.	October 7	<p>Accomplished October 7, 2024: The Committee received and noted the information and took no formal action.</p>
10	Standing Items Report Fiscal Year 2024 Goals and Strategies:	January 8 October 7	<p>Accomplished January 8, 2024 and October 7, 2024: The Committee received the quarterly report on standing items for FY2024 and took no action.</p>

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11	Review of Agricultural Water Advisory Committee Work Plan, the Outcomes of Board Action of Committee Requests and the Committee's Next Meeting Agenda.	January 8 April 8 July 1 October 7	<p>Accomplished January 8, 2024: The Committee received and reviewed the 2024 Board-approved Committee work plan and noted support for a future update on the One Water Plan and inclusion of water retention of grasslands versus brushlands; and reconfirmed request to discuss climate change and carbon sequestration at the next meeting.</p> <p>Accomplished April 8, 2024: The Committee unanimously approved the review of population growth versus water use and confirm the justification for the project capital costs when water use is flat or slightly increasing to be addressed by the future Water Supply Master Plan Update and noted support for a future Unhoused agenda item with a County update.</p> <p>Accomplished July 1, 2024: The Committee noted support for adding a Work Plan topic regarding the status of SGMA in the Valley and Valley Water's involvement with the underground water movement and expanding water recharge in Kern County, receiving information about future Valley Water Board meetings, and support for ensuring rate payers understand the water rate increases.</p> <p>Accomplished October 7, 2024: The Committee received the information, took no formal action, and noted interest in the AWAC Work Plan focusing on agricultural water, keeping water rates low, and confirmed Chairperson Peter Van Dyke will work with Committee Oversight Managers Vincent Gin and Darin Taylor on the AWAC Work Plan updates; and noted the ongoing challenges to fulfilling the AWAC vacancies.</p>
BOARD WORK PLAN GOALS: Integrated Water Resources Management - Goal: Efficiently manage water resources across business areas. 1. Water Supply – Goal: Provide a reliable, safe, and affordable water supply for current and future generations in all communities served. 2. Natural Flood Protection – Goal: Provide natural flood protection to reduce risk and improve health and safety. 4. Environmental Stewardship – Goal: Sustain ecosystem health while managing local water resources for flood protection and water supply. 5. Addressing Encampment of Unsheltered People – Goal: Humanely assist in the permanent relocation of unsheltered people on Valley Water lands along waterways and at water supply and flood risk reduction facilities in order to address the human health, public safety, operational, and environmental challenges posed by encampments.			

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ITEM	WORK PLAN ITEM BOARD POLICY	MEETING DATE	ACCOMPLISHMENT DATE AND OUTCOME
6.	Climate Change	Goal: Mitigate carbon emissions and adapt Valley Water operations to climate change impacts.	
7.	Business Management	Goal: Promote effective management of water supply, flood protection, and environmental stewardship through responsive and socially responsible business services.	

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