



## MEMORANDUM

FC 14 (01-02-07)

**TO:** Board of Directors

**FROM:** Water Conservation and Demand Management Committee

**SUBJECT:** Water Conservation and Demand Management Committee Meeting Summary for October 25, 2021

**DATE:** November 23, 2021

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This memorandum summarizes agenda items from the Zoom meeting of the Water Conservation and Demand Management Committee held on October 25, 2021.

**Attendees:**

Board Members in attendance were: Committee Vice Chair: Director Nai Hsueh (District 5), Committee Member: Director Barbara Keegan (District 2), Committee Chair: Director Linda J. LeZotte (District 4).

Staff members in attendance were: Joseph Aranda, Aaron Baker, Ricardo Barajas, Roseryn Bhudsabourg, Neeta Bijoor, Glenna Brambill, Justin Burks, Theresa Chinte, Vanessa De La Piedra, Phil Dolan, Melissa Fels, Paola Giles, Vincent Gin, Alexander Gordon, Andy Gschwind, Jason Gurdak, Linh Hoang, Katrina Holden, Candice Kwok-Smith, Carlos Orellana, Metra Richert, Don Rocha, Mary Samar, Ashley Shannon, Nice Simard, Sherilyn Tran, Kirsten Struve, Toni Vye, and Jing Wu.

Guest Agencies in attendance were: Michael Bolzowski (California Water Service Company), Clint Byrum and Anthony Eulo (City of Morgan Hill, Anona L. Dutton and Kate Wuelfing (EKI Environment and Water, Inc.- Contractors), Tim Guster (Great Oaks Water Company), Jessie Maxfield (CA Depart of Fish and Wildlife-CDFW), John Tang (San Jose Water Company) and Martha Wien (County DEH).

Public in attendance were: Hon. Jim Beall, Nicole Harvie, Brian Manning, Doug Muirhead, and Esther.

### **ACTION ITEMS**

#### **4.1 MONTHLY UPDATE ON PROGRESS TOWARDS VALLEY WATER RESOLUTION 21-68'S WATER USE REDUCTION TARGET AND WATER CONSERVATION EFFORTS RELATED TO THE DROUGHT EMERGENCY**

Ms. Neeta Bijoor and Ms. Linh Hoang reported on the following:

**Summary from Meeting Agenda Memo:**

On June 9, 2021, the Valley Water Board of Directors declared a water shortage emergency condition pursuant to California Water Code §350, called for water use reduction of 15% compared to 2019, and urged the County of Santa Clara to proclaim a local emergency. The County adopted a Resolution ratifying the proclamation of a local emergency due to the drought on June 22, 2021.

The U.S. Drought Monitor Report from October 7, 2021, indicates that the majority of the County is in extreme drought, and the northeastern portion of the County is in exceptional drought. The Sierra Nevada snowpack, a primary source of imported water, is at 0% of average as of August 30, 2021, and 0% of average statewide.

Reflecting critically dry conditions across the state, the Central Valley Project and State Water Project have drastically reduced imported water allocations, which comprise half of Valley Water's typical annual water supply. Valley Water has been negotiating purchases of emergency transfer water supplies; however, potential state

regulatory actions continue to pose significant uncertainty to water transfers. An additional Central Valley Project Municipal and Industrial Public Health and Safety increment of 28,500 AF is to be delivered during the second half of 2021. To date in 2021, Valley Water has secured agreements for about 58,000 AF of transfer supplies (not taking into account conveyance losses across the Delta).

Furthermore, Valley Water is impacted by the unavailability of Anderson Reservoir as a surface water storage facility for the duration of the Anderson Dam Seismic Retrofit Project, which is expected to last 10 years. The loss of Anderson, lower imported water supplies, and uncertainty over emergency water transfers could result in rapid and significant drops in our groundwater levels and resulting in the potential for subsidence and dry wells. In South County, groundwater is the only drinking water supply.

Consequently, water conservation is an important strategy to help alleviate these negative impacts.

### **Water Conservation Outreach**

Valley Water's multilingual water conservation campaign continues to promote water conservation as a way of life, being drought-ready, and Valley Water's many conservation programs. The campaign includes ads on TV, radio, online, social media and print. Free multilingual yard signs are also available in Valley Water's online shopping cart.

Valley Water continues to generate drought and water conservation awareness through proactive media outreach. Media interest remains high for drought and water-conservation content. On September 1, 2021, Valley Water held a media event at a home in Cupertino to showcase a laundry-to-landscape graywater system, how it can help people conserve water, and Valley Water's rebate program. Valley Water also held a media event on September 23, 2021, to highlight the Purified Water Program, water conservation, and Valley Water's partnerships, which garnered widespread media attention.

Currently, Valley Water is running three campaigns on social media to promote our water conservation rebate programs, information on the need to water trees during a drought and contests to engage community members to reduce their water use.

Valley Water conducted a Water Conservation and Drought Attitudes study to guide drought messaging, and per the Committee's request, staff will share insights gathered during this study with the Committee as a verbal report during the meeting. Results from this study include recommendations related to "Drought Ready" messaging, increasing traffic to the "watersavings.org" website and conservation programs, and focusing on outdoor water use in communications to single-family customers.

In September, the Education Outreach team reached 292 students from 12 virtual classroom presentations. The team also supported 11 educators through classroom programs and an educator training workshop. The team engaged 147 members of the public through four "Wonders of Water Wednesdays" after-school enrichment programs and three public library programs. All programs contain drought and water conservation messaging. In addition, Valley Water coordinated volunteer opportunities for the Water Ambassadors, who are graduates of Valley Water's Water 101 Academy, to help with various activities related to the drought.

Valley Water also engages with the private and public sectors, and local, state and federal agencies that promote conservation. In September, multilingual business advertorials ran in several targeted newspapers. Multilingual videos are now available on YouTube promoting Valley Water's commercial Landscape Rebate Program and Water Efficiency Technology (WET) rebate program for businesses. The Speakers Bureau Program also enables Valley Water to engage with the private and public sectors to educate the community about drought and water conservation. Valley Water conducted 10 Speakers Bureau presentations, led primarily by Directors, in September 2021. Staff is preparing additional outreach for the Speakers Bureau Program through Nextdoor messages on behalf of Board members, social media posts, and direct outreach.

Additionally, a Drought Summit was held virtually on October 23, 2021, from 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. and was attended by a diverse cross-section of regional stakeholders. The Summit convened elected officials and community leaders from throughout Silicon Valley to discuss ways to address the drought together, and enabled Valley Water to engage with the private sector and local, state, and federal partners that have interests in conservation. The Drought Summit incorporated interactive break-out sessions and the topics discussed included community feedback and insights, water supply projections, information on water conservation tools and resources, and implementation of policies such as the jointly developed Model Water Efficient New Development Ordinance that can be used to help lead communities through this emergency. A verbal update will be provided.

## Water Conservation Programs

Valley Water has received a significant increase in applications for conservation programs in 2021. In September, Valley Water received 269 applications for the Landscape Rebate Program, 469 orders for water-efficient devices from our website, and 206 water waste reports. These are signs that people are taking this drought seriously and are taking actions to support water use reduction.

## Countywide Water Use Reduction

Valley Water is engaging with retailers and cities to encourage drought response actions. More clarification on the actions implemented by investor-owned retailers is provided below, as requested at the last Water Conservation and Demand Management Committee on September 27, 2021.

Investor-owned Water Retailers			
	San Jose Water Company (SJWC)	Great Oaks Water Company	California Water Service
Surcharge for Exceeding Drought Allocation <sup>1</sup>	TBD if necessary <sup>2</sup>	\$6.9804/CCF	TBD if necessary
Enforcement Structure for Violations of Water Waste Restrictions <sup>3</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup> Offense: Written notice 2 <sup>nd</sup> Offense: Install flow restrictor	1 <sup>st</sup> Offense: Written notice 2 <sup>nd</sup> Offense (same restriction): \$25 fee Additional Offense (same restriction): \$25 more than previous fee	1 <sup>st</sup> Offense: Written notice & install real time water measurement device 2 <sup>nd</sup> Offense (same restriction): \$25 fee 3 <sup>rd</sup> Offense (same restriction): \$50 4 <sup>th</sup> Offense: Install flow restrictor
<sup>1</sup> A drought allocation is a predetermined budget of how much water an individual customer may be expected to use during a billing period. An allocation may be calculated using a customer's historical water use, or by using a customer type average reduced by a specific amount (15%). When a customer exceeds their allocation, the excess water use has a surcharge applied to each billed unit of water. Retailers may set a minimum drought allocation in recognition of customers who already conserve water so that reducing use any further is not feasible. <sup>2</sup> SJWC received CPUC approval on 9/3/21 for their strategy to implement drought allocations and surcharges. The decision to implement this strategy is still under review by SJWC and will require additional CPUC approval if/when that decision is made. <sup>3</sup> Violations of water waste restrictions include actions that do not follow retailer restrictions, such as irrigating on the wrong day or in a manner that causes runoff. Repeated violations of water waste restrictions may result in a fee or penalty issued by the retailer.			

Countywide, the percent change of water used compared to 2019 has been steadily decreasing since March 2021, showing that retailers, cities, and our communities are responding to the call for conservation. In March 2021, water use in Santa Clara County was 25% higher when compared to March 2019. In August 2021, Santa Clara County used 9% less water compared to August 2019. Valley Water anticipated that reducing water use countywide by 15% would be a gradual process. During the last drought, the 20% call for water use reduction made on February 25, 2014, was first reached nine months later, in November 2014. It is encouraging to see the percent change of water used compared to 2019 trending in the right direction.

A verbal reply will be provided for Board Member Request R-21-0004 regarding the timeline to incorporate water wise features to new developments such as Cambrian Park, Vallco, and Google San Jose projects.

## Surface Water Plan

Valley Water notified surface water customers to conserve water based on the June 9, 2021 Board resolution that mandated 15% water use reduction relative to 2019. The initial communication to the 68 surface water customers was sent on June 25, 2021. Staff is preparing a second letter to serve as a reminder of the Board's resolution. The second notification will provide each customer with information about their water usage in 2019 and their 85% target for 2021. As the drought continues, staff will look to recommend further reductions in calendar year 2022.

### Neeta gave a special verbal report on the following:

These efforts at Valley Water can help promote water wise requirements in new developments:

- ✚ First, Valley Water is encouraging jurisdictions to adopt the Model Ordinance for New Development, also called MWENDO, which provides water-efficiency requirements for new developments.
- ✚ Valley Water staff is timing the rollout of the MWENDO to coincide with the municipal Title 24 triennial building code update beginning this winter 2021 through February 2022.
- ✚ The 2022 version of Title 24 is now under development and expected to become effective on January 1, 2023, after a codification and publication period, which will run from February 2022 to July 2022. The publication date will be July 1, 2022.

- ✚ As mentioned, the MWENDO adoption advocacy was initiated at Valley Water's 2021 Drought Summit on Saturday (October 23, 2021).
- ✚ Next, Valley Water is working on the strategy to engage land use agencies on how to better integrate water management into land use planning including adding water wise features to new developments.
- ✚ The plan is to have annual 1:1 meetings with major cities and build relationships. The meetings will start early next year and are expected to be ongoing. Meetings with cities at the senior staff level are expected to occur from February to June next year, with follow-up actions thereafter.
- ✚ In addition, Valley Water comments on environmental review documents for large developments, for example the Water Supply Assessment for the Google development in San Jose and the Notice of Preparation for Cambrian Park Plaza.

The Water Conservation and Demand Management Committee discussed the following: flow restrictors, City of San José Ordinance, drought tolerant landscaping/plants selections, City of San José usage/boundaries, consistent messaging is needed, Planning Commissions/Trades, Model Ordinance-large projects-water wise (potential work plan addition), Proposition 218 test, and aggregate water usage.

Mr. Tim Guster, Mr. Don Rocha, Director Nai Hsueh, Mr. Anthony Eulo, Ms. Ashley Shannon, Mr. Vincent Gin, Ms. Kirsten Struve, Ms. Metra Richert, and Mr. John Tang were available to answer questions.

Public Comments received:

Mr. Doug Muirhead commented on allocations and fees, penalties and industrial utilities, Urban Water Management Plan and City of Morgan Hill is discussing wastewater plans at the end of the year. Suggested Valley Water track what agencies are doing regarding wastewater issues.

Mr. Anthony Eulo commented on reaching out to the Trades, requiring dual plumbing it may cost more but a sustainable idea for new developments-housing growth.

The Water Conservation and Demand Management Committee took no action.

The Committee thanked staff for the work they did with the drought summit on Saturday, October 23<sup>rd</sup> (well attended, great response and feedback from the participants).

## **4.2 2021 WATER CONSERVATION STRATEGIC PLAN**

Mr. Justin Burks reported on the following:

Summary from Meeting Agenda Memo:

In November 2019, the Board approved the 2040 Water Supply Master Plan (WSMP) Santa Clara Valley Water District (Valley Water) that updated the long-term conservation targets to 99,000 acre-feet per year (AFY) and 109,000 AFY by 2030 and 2040. The Water Conservation Strategic Plan (Strategic Plan) was developed to be the guiding tool and reference document to provide a blueprint for meeting Valley Water's established conservation policy objectives and targets (Attachment 1).

Methodology

The development of the Strategic Plan included six analytical steps, including analyzing and reviewing Valley Water's water supply reliability, local and State water conservation policies, input and data from water retailers, Valley Water's Water Conservation Savings Model results, detailed analyses of key programs, the development of GIS maps to inform future targeted outreach, and monitoring and evaluating how long-term conservation targets may be met. To this end, several scenarios identified the likelihood of meeting long-term water conservation targets ranging from "business as usual" to increased participation and programs.

Results

The Strategic Plan's primary conclusions are that:

- Valley Water's water conservation program offerings are broad and comprehensive; and,
- Assuming historical program participation rates, it is determined that additional resources are needed in order to meet its Board adopted long-term conservation 2030 targets (approximately 99,000 AFY). Since water conservation savings accrue over time, Valley Water is expected to barely achieve the 2040 target.

Valley Water has made significant investments and substantial progress towards reaching its conservation targets, and assuming the progress is sustained, an additional 4,000 AFY of water savings and associated investment will be needed to meet the 2030 goal. This strategic plan is focused on Valley Water's water conservation program only and does not include potential additional outreach and education resource needs or potential additional resources that retailers may provide in their service areas.

### Recommendations

To fill the 4,000 AFY water savings gap by 2030, increasing participation in Valley Water's existing water conservation program, as well as expanding programs and implementing targeted outreach is recommended. The Strategic Plan also recommends exploring additional opportunities to adapt current programs, including continuing to support the Model Water Efficient New Development Ordinance (MWENDO) adoption, using participation trends to periodically adjust outreach strategies, and increasing outreach to commercial and smaller landscape customers. The combined efforts of these actions will boost participation rates and program efficiency, allowing Valley Water to achieve its 2030 target and exceed its 2040 target. The preferred scenario has a unit cost of \$461-465 per Acre Foot (AF) depending on MWENDO adoption, compared to \$412 per AF for business as usual. Each recommendation is discussed in greater detail below.

#### Resource Needs

The Strategic Plan evaluated additional resource needs to meet the WSMP targets by evaluating staffing levels. Valley Water's current conservation staffing level (4 full-time) is much lower than that of other similarly sized agencies. The Strategic Plan recommends increasing resources significantly which could be accomplished through strategically increasing staffing over several years, securing additional vendor and contractor services, as well as expanding how Valley Water coordinates and partners with water retailers.

#### Participation Trends

An analysis of water conservation program participation trends categorized the types of customers participating in specific conservation programs. This analysis can inform the strategic design, selection, and marketing of conservation programs and services. It will allow Valley Water to target outreach to new customer groups that appear to be underrepresented, and to build on current success by identifying customers that share common characteristics.

#### Expand Program Offerings

Valley Water's current water conservation program offerings are broad and comprehensive. The program mix is sufficient and appropriate to meet its 2030 and 2040 water conservation targets, if program implementation rates are increased and shifted towards the highest saving programs (e.g., those that target outdoor landscaping water use). Expanding program offerings to those that focus on water loss and increasing outreach to small site landscape customers are also recommended.

### Monitoring

The Strategic Plan identifies recommendations for monitoring and evaluating the water conservation program. The Water Conservation Savings Model is updated every winter to assess progress towards the Board's long-term conservation targets, and the committee will be provided an update on progress in the spring of each year.

### Next Steps

- Continue to implement and grow Valley Water's diverse water conservation program
- Complete vendor procurement, as well as active staff recruitment and onboarding which will bring full time staff to 7.
- Continue to work with municipalities and the County to adopt MWENDO
- Share report and participation trend analysis with retailers and municipalities and collaborate on how to improve participation in Valley Water's water conservation program.
- Additional staffing and budget requests will be brought to the Board through the normal budget process over the next few years as needed.

The Water Conservation and Demand Management Committee discussed the following: obstacles faced by lower income communities with landscape designs, offering classes for under-represented communities would be a great outreach tool, lawn buster budget increase, county programs as resources (home composting education program and Master Gardeners), and landscaping for small site customers (commercial strip malls) possibly finding organizations to inform them about water conservation.



Ms. Kat Wuelfing (EKI Environment and Water, Inc.- Contractors) was available to answer questions.

The Water Conservation and Demand Management Committee took no action.

#### **4.3 2021 GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE (ALTERNATIVE SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT ACT PLAN)**

Mr. Jason Gurdak reported on the following:

##### **Summary from Meeting Agenda Memo:**

The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) requires that groundwater sustainability agencies (GSAs) managing medium- or high-priority basins prepare and implement a groundwater sustainability plan (GSP) or an authorized alternative GSP plan under Water Code § 10733.6 (Alternative). As the GSA for the Santa Clara and Llagas subbasins, Valley Water submitted the 2016 Groundwater Management Plan (GWMP) to the Department of Water Resources (DWR) as an Alternative prior to the January 2017 statutory deadline, and DWR approved the Alternative in 2019. As required by SGMA, the first five-year update is due to DWR by January 1, 2022.

Like the 2016 plan, the 2021 GWMP describes Valley Water goals, strategies, activities, and metrics to ensure continued groundwater sustainability. This update to the Committee provides an overview of the major elements of the 2021 GWMP and describes notable changes and updates from the 2016 plan. On October 8, 2021, the draft 2021 GWMP was posted to Valley Water's website for public review at: <https://www.valleywater.org/your-water/where-your-water-comes/groundwater/sustainable>.

##### **2021 GWMP Overview**

While the organization name and purpose have evolved over time, Valley Water was originally formed as a special act district in 1929 for the purposes of managing groundwater. Historically, unsustainable pumping in Santa Clara County resulted in chronic overdraft, land subsidence, and seawater intrusion. While similar problems persist in groundwater basins throughout California, Santa Clara County is recognized as an area where these issues have been, and continue to be, successfully addressed through sustainable groundwater management.

Valley Water's comprehensive groundwater management framework has maintained sustainable conditions in the Santa Clara and Llagas subbasins over many decades. The 2021 GWMP provides detailed information describing this framework, including the following major elements:

- Valley Water history, groundwater management authority, structure, and finances
- Basin setting and conditions including geology, groundwater levels and quality, groundwater dependent ecosystems, land subsidence, and seawater intrusion
- Water supplies, demands, and the groundwater budget
- Sustainable management criteria, including goals derived from Board Ends Policy E-2, effective strategies, and outcome measures to gauge performance
- Basin management programs and activities
- Groundwater monitoring and modeling
- Potential actions to address outcome measure performance and plan recommendations

While all sections are being updated to represent current basin conditions and Valley Water activities, the fundamental structure and content of the GWMP are largely unchanged as implementation of the plan has proven to be effective in maintaining sustainable groundwater conditions.

Notable changes from the 2016 GWMP include the following, with the first three items supporting related DWR recommendations:

- New and modified outcome measures
- Identification of groundwater dependent ecosystems within the basins
- Evaluation of climate change impacts
- Evaluation of new SGMA authorities including fixed fees and pumping regulation
- Description of seawater intrusion mechanisms and risk from sea level rise

A summary of these changes is provided below and in Attachment 1.

### New and Modified Outcome Measures

DWR made several recommendations regarding the outcome measures in Valley Water's 2016 GWMP, including adding a new metric for seawater intrusion and clarifying basin conditions that represent undesirable results. The outcome measures are metrics to gauge performance in meeting sustainability goals and have been modified slightly since 2016. New to the 2021 GWMP are proposed outcome measure-lower thresholds to define undesirable results. A detailed description of the proposed outcome measures and lower thresholds is available in the draft 2021 GWMP, along with the related rationale.

Valley Water has a long-established history of sustainable groundwater management and will continue to proactively manage groundwater to avoid reaching the outcome measure-lower thresholds and related undesirable results. The new and modified outcome measures in the 2021 GWMP are identified in Table 1 below.

**Table 1. Proposed 2021 GWMP Outcome Measures**

<b>Sustainability Indicator</b>	<b>Outcome Measure</b>	<b>Outcome Measure – Lower Threshold</b>
Groundwater Storage	Projected end of year groundwater storage is greater than 278,000 acre-feet (AF) in the Santa Clara Plain, 5,000 AF in the Coyote Valley, and 17,000 AF in the Llagas Subbasin.	Projected end of year countywide groundwater storage is greater than Stage 5 (150,000 AF) of the Water Shortage Contingency Plan.
Subsidence	Groundwater levels are above subsidence thresholds at the Santa Clara Subbasin subsidence index wells.	Groundwater levels are above the historical low water levels at the majority of the Santa Clara Subbasin subsidence index wells.
Groundwater Quality	For Santa Clara Subbasin water supply wells, at least 95% meet primary drinking water standards, and at least 90% have stable or decreasing trends for total dissolved solids (TDS).	At least 70% of water supply wells have stable or decreasing trends for nitrate and TDS.
Groundwater Quality	For Llagas Subbasin water supply wells, at least 95% meet primary drinking water standards, and at least 90% have stable or decreasing trends for total dissolved solids (TDS).	At least 70% of water supply wells have stable or decreasing trends for nitrate and TDS.
Seawater Intrusion	In the Santa Clara Subbasin shallow aquifer, the 100 milligram per liter chloride isocontour area is less than the historical maximum extent area (57 square miles).	In the Santa Clara Subbasin shallow aquifer, the 100 milligram per liter chloride isocontour area is less than 81 square miles, which represents a one-mile radial buffer of the historical maximum extent area.

### Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems (GDEs)

Using guidance developed by The Nature Conservancy and supported by extensive Valley Water biologist field surveys, the 2021 GWMP presents maps of likely, transition, and possible GDEs for the Santa Clara and Llagas subbasins. As shown in the GWMP, most GDEs are located along stream reaches and in known wetlands. Some GDEs are supported by groundwater only, while others are supported by a combination of groundwater and surface water. The GWMP also provides additional information on groundwater/surface water interaction and notes that staff is not aware of any areas where groundwater pumping has a significant or unreasonable effect on interconnected surface water.

### Evaluation of Climate Change Impacts

Using downscaled data from global climate models, model simulations were conducted to project the future groundwater budget, with a focus on how climate change may affect natural recharge. Projected natural recharge in the subbasins ranges from 8 to 19% higher in 2045 compared to the average from 2010 to 2019. Valley Water has initiated a study to evaluate climate change impacts on imported water supply that will consider projected changes in snowpack, streamflow, and sea-level rise beyond Santa Clara County. Results from this new study will

be integrated in the next five-year update of the GWMP.

#### New SGMA Authorities

Following extensive stakeholder engagement through Committee meetings, in February 2018 the Board adopted Resolution 18-04 regarding the process to regulate pumping under SGMA, if needed. The resolution notes that collaboration will continue to be the preferred approach to address observed or projected undesirable results, and that pumping regulation will only be considered if there is no viable alternative. The process identified in the resolution includes the follow basic steps: identification of the issue and potential mitigation; consultation with affected stakeholders to develop an action plan; pumping regulation if voluntary action is not taken or is not successful; and implementation, monitoring and reporting.

In 2018, Valley Water in conjunction with its retail customers explored the idea of implementing a fixed charge that would complement its volumetric groundwater charge, in order to minimize the revenue impact associated with water use decreases such as in a drought. Retail customers generally strongly opposed a fixed charge for various reasons. As a result, staff recommended suspending the effort to implement a fixed charge at the full Board meeting on November 27, 2018. Subsequently, the Committee reviewed the reasons for retailer opposition at its March 25, 2019, meeting and agreed with staff's recommendation to not proceed with further development of a fixed charge at that time. However, implementation of a fixed charge remains a potential option for Valley Water in the future.

#### Seawater Intrusion

In addition to establishing an outcome measure related to seawater intrusion, the 2021 GWMP provides additional analysis and description of seawater intrusion mechanisms. Shallow aquifers near southern San Francisco Bay have been affected by seawater intrusion, primarily due to leakance of saltwater through tidal creeks (as opposed to the more "classic" case of intrusion due to direct hydraulic connection between ocean water and fresh water). The principal aquifer is protected by extensive clays and silts and Valley Water managed recharge that maintains hydraulic gradients toward the Bay.

#### **Coordination and Outreach**

Throughout development of the 2021 GWMP, regular updates have been provided to the Committee, water retailers, and interested stakeholders. Valley Water hosted a well-attended virtual public meeting on August 12, 2021. As noted above, the draft 2021 GWMP was posted to <https://www.valleywater.org/your-water/where-your-water-comes/groundwater/sustainable> for public review on October 8, 2021.

#### **Public Hearing and Plan Adoption**

Valley Water is targeting the November 23, 2021 Board of Directors meeting for public hearing on the 2021 GWMP, followed by Board consideration of the plan for adoption. After plan adoption, Valley Water will submit the GWMP to DWR by January 1, 2022, as required by SGMA.

The Water Conservation and Demand Management Committee discussed the following: modified outcome measures on bar chart, slide #7.

#### Public Comment Received:

Mr. Doug Muirhead is concerned about the shallow wells in the un-incorporated areas, stakeholders input process to include those living on top of the basin being able to give input, the framework is missing or needs a gate that corresponds to the urgency of the undesirable conditions and wanting to see action moving forward.

Ms. Vanessa De La Piedra was available to answer questions.

The Water Conservation and Demand Management Committee took no action.

The next regularly scheduled meeting is Monday, November 22, 2021, 11:00 a.m.



If you have any questions or concerns, you may contact me at, [gbrambill@valleywater.org](mailto:gbrambill@valleywater.org) or 1.408.630.2408.

Thank you!

Glenna Brambill, Management Analyst II,  
Board Committee Liaison  
Office of the Clerk of the Board

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