



MEMORANDUM
FC 14 (01-02-07)

TO: Board of Directors

FRO Environmental and Water
Resources Committee

SUBJECT: Environmental and Water Resources
Committee Meeting Summary for
August 22, 2022

DATE September 13, 2022

This memorandum summarizes agenda items from the special meeting of the Environmental and Water Resources Committee held on August 22, 2022.

Attendees:

Committee members in attendance were: Loren Lewis (District 1), Charles Ice (District 2), Bob Levy (District 4), Mike Michitaka (District 5), Hon. Patrick S. Kwok and Jim Piazza (District 6), Tess Byler, Hon. Stephen A. Jordan, and Arthur M. Keller, Ph.D. (District 7).

Board members in attendance was: Director Linda J. LeZotte (Board Representative).

Staff members in attendance were: Lisa Bankosh, Rechelle Blank, John Bourgeois, Glenna Brambill, Justin Burks, Vincent Gin, Nick Mascarello, Brian Mendenhall, Metra Richert, Sunshine Ventura Julian, Jing Wu, Bhavani Yerrapotu, and Hannah Young.

Public in attendance were: Hon. Tara Martin-Milius, Director Richard P. Santos (Valley Water Board Member-District 3), and Charles Taylor.

AGENDA ITEM:

4.1 CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION PLAN – IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE AND ADAPTATION

Nick Mascarello reported on the following:

Summary from Meeting Agenda Memo:

The Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP), adopted by the Board of Directors in July 2021, guides Santa Clara Valley Water District's (Valley Water) response to climate change through the implementation of goals, strategies, and actions that address climate mitigation and adaptation. The Board also directed staff to develop a corresponding Implementation Program to provide specific direction to further reduce Valley Water's emissions, bolster climate resilience, and enhance emergency preparedness. Since adoption of the CCAP, staff has begun working on two key initiatives to enhance Valley Water's efforts to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs) and track the implementation of adaptation-related CCAP actions.

Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan

Climate change mitigation (emissions reduction) actions were prioritized in the CCAP using emissions savings, co-benefits, cost, and community feedback as criteria. Updating GHG accounting methodology and developing an agencywide GHG Reduction Plan were identified as high priorities for implementation. Staff have issued a task order under the Environmental Planning On-Call Services Contract to a team of environmental consultants to support these high priority tasks.

Our consultant partners will work with staff to expand Valley Water's emissions inventory to account for additional GHG sources, develop innovative measures to reduce GHG emissions, and ultimately provide a pathway to achieve net zero emissions in the GHG Reduction Plan. The GHG Reduction Plan will also include a review of GHG offset programs that Valley Water may utilize to offset emissions from large capital projects.

Prior to adoption, the GHG Reduction Plan will undergo environmental review pursuant to the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Adoption of a corresponding CEQA document will enable Valley

Water to streamline analysis of GHG emissions for future projects that demonstrate compliance with the GHG Reduction Plan.

Adaptation Action Tracking Metrics

CCAP's goals that relate to climate adaptation consist of Goal 4 (Water Supply Adaptation), Goal 5 (Flood Protection Adaptation), and Goal 6 (Ecosystem Adaptation). Each goal is associated with numerous strategies and actions established to work towards the corresponding goal. Staff followed a prioritization methodology that assessed actions based on costs, co-benefits, risk of impact, effectiveness, and stakeholder feedback. Actions were grouped into low, medium, and high priority groups based on the results of the prioritization.

Staff are now developing metrics and targets to track the implementation of high priority actions for Goals 4, 5, and 6. Actions have been grouped together into several types that correspond to the scope of the action (e.g., local supply, flood risk reduction, habitat connectivity).

Metrics and associated targets are being developed to align with each action type. Subject matter experts have been convened to provide input on appropriate metrics and targets that staff can use to assess the progress of CCAP implementation over time. Input will be requested from the Environmental and Water Resources Committee (EWRC) on selected metrics. Staff will present an overview of the actions, types, and draft metrics, followed by a roundtable discussion with committee members to provide feedback.

Next Steps

Staff will continue work on the GHG Reduction Plan and Adaptation Action Tracking Metrics by completing the following tasks:

- Complete GHG inventory, forecast and emission reduction target setting in collaboration with consultant
- Develop GHG reduction measures to achieve the emission reduction targets
- Prepare GHG Reduction Plan and CEQA document
- Incorporate EWRC feedback into adaptation action metrics and targets
- Finalize metrics and targets for Goals 4-6
- Develop metrics and targets for Goal 7 (Emergency Preparedness)

The Environmental and Water Resources Committee discussed the following: the service area, community input, goals to convert to electric, recognition to procurement emissions, inventory baseline, rolling plan, greenhouse gas goals, state level policy, tracking indirect gasses, purchasing water, costs, lead indicators, other action plans, collaboration with other agencies, key performance indicators (KPI's), metrics, acre-feet, creeks, number of parcels, zoning rules, policy changes, setbacks, codes, flooding, data collection, riparian corridors, and ecosystems.

Brian Mendenhall, John Bourgeois, and Lisa Bankosh were available to answer questions.

The Environmental and Water Resources Committee took no action.

4.2 SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO BAY SHORELINE PHASE II FEASIBILITY STUDY UPDATE

Sunshine Ventura Julian reported on the following:

Summary from Meeting Agenda Memo:

Staff plans to provide the Committee information about the Shoreline Phase II Feasibility Study (Study).

This Study is a partnership with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), California State Coastal Conservancy, and regional stakeholders to provide tidal flood protection, restore and enhance tidal marsh and related habitats, and provide recreational and public access opportunities.

The Study focuses on Economic Impact Areas 1-4, from San Francisquito Creek in Palo Alto to the Charleston Slough/Permanente Creek in Mountain View.

The Environmental and Water Resources Committee discussed the following: next study to be released, the project partners, drought, groundwater levels, and subsidence.

Bhavani Yerrapotu was available to answer questions.

The Environmental and Water Resources Committee took no action.

The next regularly scheduled meeting is Monday, October 17, 2022.

If you have any questions or concerns, you may contact me at, 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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