



MEMORANDUM

FC 14 (01-02-07)

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Recycled Water Committee

SUBJECT: 09/28/22 RWC Meeting Summary

DATE: November 8, 2022

This memorandum summarizes the Recycled Water Committee (Committee) meeting held on September 28, 2022. Chairperson Tony Estremera, and Committee Members Richard Santos and Barbara Keegan were present constituting a quorum of the Committee.

1. Approval of Minutes.

The Committee unanimously approved the Minutes of the August 24, 2022, and September 14, 2022 Minutes.

2. Update on Purified Water Program Implementation including Partnership with Cities of San Jose and Palo Alto.

The Committee was informed that finalization of agreements for a future purification facility in the City of Palo Alto continued to be a key priority. Staff made a Purified Water Project presentation at the September 12, 2022 City Council meeting. Most questions from the Council were on the cost for the small local plant. Both Palo Alto and Valley Water staff confirmed that the Project Homekey site construction impacts would be mitigated. Meanwhile staff from both agencies continued to coordinate on hazardous materials at the planned site as well as coordination on RO concentrate. With City of San Jose, discussions continued and a Letter of Intent would be presented to this Committee in the next two months.

With regard to P3 of the Purified Water Project, staff provided responses to the second round of questions from short-listed P3 respondents. Staff and consultants were refining the project technical requirements and completed revisions to the EIR and an update on the cost estimate.

With regard to outreach, Valley Water partnered with the Cities of San Jose and Mountain View public libraries in hosting virtual tours for members of the public while in-person tours were hosted for Senator Jim Beall and Councilmember David Cohen. On October 11, 2022, staff would provide an update to the full Valley Water Board on City of Palo Alto and San Jose partnerships as well as the Purified Water Project.

Information and application for a Bureau of Reclamation program on funding for a recycling project is anticipated before end of the year.

3. Update on Direct Potable Reuse (DPR).

The Committee was informed that although the project in procurement is Indirect Potable Reuse, the technical requirements of the Request for Proposal would request a DPR-ready design in anticipation of the regulations and future needs.

Staff had been participating in the work products of the Expert Panel convened by the Division of Drinking Water to review draft proposed criteria for Direct Potable Reuse regulations would adequately protect public health. A June 2022 Memorandum of Findings by the Expert Panel that it was protective of public health.

The Committee requested updated data on public opinion on whether it had changed favorably on Direct Potable Reuse. A poll had just been completed, and staff stated that the results would be presented to this Committee at a future meeting.

The Committee noted the information, without taking formal action.

4. South Santa Clara Water Reuse Collaboration.

The Committee received information on the interagency collaboration on the legal agreements to promote water reuse in South County. Updates to the Producer-Wholesaler Agreement, Agreement No. A2280-1, included a 5-year term with automatic renewals to facilitate discussions on changes such as climate change, regulatory changes, or water supply; and integration of the Joint Water Resources Committee and Technical Work Group into the agreement. Eventually, updates to the Producer-Wholesaler Agreement would be reflected to the Wholesaler-Retailer Agreements, Agreement Nos. A2280-2 and A2280-3.

In response to Committee inquiry on Slide No. 5, Attachment 1, staff confirmed that the cities and Valley Water were in agreement on the alignment of facilities.

The Committee requested staff to come back with information, as part of the master plan update, that would later be presented to the full Board (1) on the role of the Pacheco Project in South County, and (2) capturing water for SCRWA; and to come back with information on the Calpine pipeline for emergency water supply in Morgan Hill. On Request No. 2, staff stated that staff response may be included as part of current collaborative effort with City of San Jose.

The Committee noted that the county issues permits on septic tanks in the unincorporated areas of San Martin, and that is a county responsibility.

5. Update on Urban Runoff Study with Stanford University.

The Committee received an update on the partnership with Stanford University on a two-phased project to evaluate alternatives for stormwater capture for water reuse purposes. Professor Richard Luthy, Stanford University Professor, gave a presentation on the storm water capture at Coyote Creek that would be sent to the Silicon Valley Water Advanced Water Purification Center and possible treatments as well as sampling preliminary findings on water quality.

The Committee noted that Professor Luthy and Bridget Gile, Stanford University Graduate Student, initiated meetings with different agencies, NOAA Fisheries, Department of Fish & Wildlife, and Regional Water Quality Control Boards, on the concept of urban runoff and would prepare share summary of discussion to this Committee through an upcoming memo. In addition, Professor Luthy would provide the Committee (1) information on the Orange Memorial Park Stormwater Capture project that diverts significant amount of water from Daly City and nearby cities to a creek, treat the water, and use it for recharge, and (2) a copy of a John Bradshaw presentation on pipeline flow. The Committee also was informed that storm water might need a dedicated operation for treatment separate from the Silicon Valley Advanced

Water Purification Center operations, and certain technology on perfluorochemicals including proper disposal.

The Committee requested staff to reach out to the Los Angeles Department of Water & Power since they have more experience in developing storm water capture, and arrange a possible brainstorming workshop as suggested by Professor Luthy.

The Committee noted the information without taking formal action.

4. Discuss the 2022 Recycled Water Committee Work Plan, Upcoming Discussion Items, and Next Meeting Date.

The Committee was informed that an update on desalination in Santa Clara County would be presented to the Committee upon the release of the feasibility study. The Committee approved a reschedule request of the December 28, 2022 regular meeting. Subsequently, the rescheduled December meeting was set to December 14, 2022.

Board member comments and suggestions can be forwarded to Ms. Eva Sans, Assistant Deputy Clerk II, at (408) 630-2306, or by email at esans@valleywater.org.

Tony Estremera

Director, District 6
Recycled Water Committee Chairperson

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