



MEMORANDUM
FC 14 (01-02-07)

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Santa Clara Valley Water Commission

SUBJECT: Santa Clara Valley Water Commission Meeting Summary for October 26, 2022

DATE: November 22, 2022

This memorandum summarizes agenda items from the regular meeting of the Santa Clara Valley Water Commission held on April 13, 2022.

Attendees:

Commission members in attendance were: Hon. Susan M. Landry (City of Campbell), Hon. Hung Wei (City of Cupertino), Hon. Peter Leroe-Muñoz (City of Gilroy), Hon. Lynette Lee Eng (City of Los Altos), Hon. Lisa Schmidt (Town of Los Altos Hills) Hon. Maria Ristow (Town of Los Gatos), Hon. Bryan Mekechuk (City of Monte Sereno), Hon. Rich Constantine (City of Morgan Hill), Hon. Lucas Ramirez (City of Mountain View), Hon. Greg Tanaka (City of Palo Alto), Hon. Pam Foley (City of San José), Hon. Karen Hardy (City of Santa Clara), Hon. Rishi Kumar (City of Saratoga), Hon. Mike Wasserman (County of Santa Clara) Hon. Helen Chapman (Open Space Authority Santa Clara Valley), and Hon. Jed Cyr (Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District).

Board members in attendance were: Directors Barbara F. Keegan and John L. Varela, (Board Representatives).

Staff members in attendance were: Gina Adriano, Aaron Baker, Roseryn Bhudsabourg, Neeta Bijoor, Glenna Brambill, Justin Burks, Rachael Gibson, Vincent Gin, Christopher Hakes, Marta Lugo, Leslie Orta, Melanie Richardson, Don Rocha, Ashley Shannon, and Kirsten Struve.

Guests in attendance were: Elizabeth Fiegel (City of Mountain View), Katja Irvin (Katja Irvin (Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter), Gary Welling (City of Santa Clara), and James Sylvain (City of Morgan Hill).

Public in attendance were: Elizabeth Sanford.

AGENDA ITEM:

5.1 UPDATE ON PROGRESS TOWARDS VALLEY WATER'S DROUGHT EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND DROUGHT-RELATED WATER CONSERVATION EFFORTS

Neeta Bijoor reported on the following:

Summary from Agenda Memo:

On June 9, 2021, the Board adopted Santa Clara Valley Water District (Valley Water) Resolution 21-68 which 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 (County) to proclaim a local emergency. The County ratified its proclamation of a drought emergency on June 22, 2021. Valley Water Resolution 22-20 amended Valley Water Resolution 21-68 on April 12, 2022, to call for no more than 2 days of irrigation in a week for ornamental lawns and prohibit excessive runoff, midday irrigation, and irrigation after rainfall. On May 24, 2022, the Board pursuant to Water Code §375 adopted Ordinance 22-02 to enforce these restrictions. Ordinance 22-02 went into effect on June 1, 2022, and was amended on September 13, 2022, to include the State's watering ban on watering non-functional turf at Commercial, Industrial, and Institutional (CII) properties.

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In 2022, Santa Clara County (County) and the State of California entered the third year of drought, and experienced the driest January, February and March on record. Valley Water's Federal and State imported water allocations were drastically reduced to historic lows. On March 28, 2022, Governor Gavin Newsom issued Executive Order N-7-22 to call on local water suppliers to move to at least Stage 2 of their water shortage contingency plans. The U.S. Drought Monitor Report from October 20, 2022, indicates that the county is primarily in severe drought, and the eastern edges are in extreme drought. The northern Sierra Nevada snowpack, a primary source of Valley Water's imported water, is 16% of normal as of June 13, 2022. Staff will provide updates regarding latest drought conditions.

Despite ongoing drought conditions, groundwater levels are stabilizing or increasing in some areas of the county because of recent increases in managed recharge (made possible by emergency imported water supplies) and ongoing water conservation by the community. Other areas in the county continue to have declines in groundwater levels.

Conservation is an important strategy to help reach the Board's 15% call for water use reduction and mitigate against negative impacts resulting from the drought.

Water Conservation Programs and Outreach

Valley Water is continuing to see high participation rates in its water conservation programs through September 2022. Valley Water hosted a webinar in September focusing on Garden Design Basics with 118 people in attendance on Zoom and Facebook Live.

Valley Water's "Say Yes" water conservation campaign continues. In September, the media responded to Valley Water's water conservation updates regarding the commercial watering ban, the Landscape Rebate Program, the impact of September rain to our water supply, and the progress of the Anderson Dam Seismic Retrofit Project. On September 29, 2022, Valley Water, in conjunction with the State's Save Our Water program and Google, conducted a news conference encouraging the community and businesses to conserve water as the extreme drought continues. The event took place at Google's Bay View campus. The event was emceed by Valley Water CEO Rick Callender, and speakers included Valley Water Chair Pro Tem John Varela, Director Gary Kremen, California Natural Resources Secretary Wade Crowfoot, State Senator Josh Becker, State Water Resources Control Board Member Sean Maguire, Mountain View Mayor Lucas Ramirez and Google's Water & Entitlements Lead Drew Wenzel. Del Grande Dealer Group (DGDG) CEO Jeremy Beaver also attended and provided comments to media members about his company's use of Valley Water's Landscape Rebate Program. Reporters from ABC7 News, KRON and KCBS Radio were in attendance, while representatives from KPIX, KGO Radio, Morgan Hill and Gilroy Life, KQED, Bay City News and the Mercury News listened to and recorded our live stream. In addition, Valley Water's Speakers Bureau Program held two presentations in September.

Also in September, staff shared an informative video describing the details of Valley Water's enforcement ordinance. This video includes information on the new ban on watering decorative lawns on commercial, industrial and institutional properties. Several posts were shared to encourage our social media audience to sign up for events and webinars hosted by Valley Water and its partners on water conservation topics such as drip irrigation installation and an introduction to garden design.

Countywide Water Use Reduction

Valley Water's water savings call of 15% compared to 2019 was exceeded in August 2022, for the second time in a row. Countywide water savings was 16% in August 2022 compared to August 2019. This shows that our water conservation programs, our enforcement program launched in June, and our increased public outreach have all been effective in helping us achieve savings.

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Countywide water savings was 17% in August 2022 compared to August 2020, which means the county also exceeded the Governor's call for conservation (15% compared to 2020). California's water savings in August 2022 was 10% compared to August 2020.

Santa Clara County's cumulative water savings from June 2021 – August 2022 is 5%, compared to 2019. Using a 2020 baseline, Santa Clara County's cumulative water savings from July 2021 – August 2022 is 10%, while California's cumulative water savings during this period is 4%.

Water Waste Enforcement

Valley Water's Water Waste Program is continuing its educational mission while enforcing mandatory outdoor water use restrictions. Valley Water is addressing these complaints and coordinating with water retailers and municipalities on enforcement efforts. Over 1,500 water waste complaints were received since enforcement of Ordinance 22-02 was launched in June. Runoff continues to be the most common complaint. Thirteen complaints were received related to the ban against watering CII non-functional turf. Enforcement has been successful as there have been only two complaints of water waste following the first complaint, which suggests that people are addressing their water waste following the first complaint.

Model Water Efficient New Development Ordinance

Valley Water continues to monitor actions and provide staff support to municipalities for their consideration and adoption of the Model Water Efficient New Development Ordinance (MWENDO), as part of ongoing efforts to support cities and the County's interests in expanding water efficiency measures. Currently, the County and several cities are considering select MWENDO measures to include as part of their jurisdictions' Title 24 triennial building code update. The 2022 version of California's Title 24 is effective January 1, 2023.

The Santa Clara Valley Water Commission discussed the following: complaints, easy access links, water used by municipalities or retailers, usage data, MWENDO, educating needs to happen, and monitoring wells,

Kirsten Struve, Director John L. Varela, Sherilyn Tran, and Aaron Baker were available to answer questions.

The Santa Clara Valley Water Commission took no action.

The next Santa Clara Valley Water Commission meeting is scheduled for January 25, 2023.

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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