

11/12/19

**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 23, 2019**DATE:** November 12, 2019

This memorandum summarizes agenda items from the regular meeting of the Santa Clara Valley Water Commission held on October 23, 2019.

Attendees:

Water Commission Members: Hon. Peter Leroe-Muñoz, Hon. Anita Enander, Hon. Courtenay Corrigan, Hon. Marcia Jensen, Hon. Carmen Montano, Hon. Liz Lawler, Hon. Rich Constantine, Hon. Lucas Ramirez, Hon. Pam Foley, Hon. Rishi Kumar, Hon. Larry Klein, Hon. Mike Wasserman, and Hon. Jed Cyr.

Board members in attendance were: Directors Nai Hsueh and Linda J. LeZotte, Board Representatives.

Staff members in attendance were: Aaron Baker, Glenna Brambill, John Brosnan, Norma J. Camacho, Domingo Candelas, Vincent Gin, Alexander Gordon, Kristen Yasukawa and Bhavani Yerrapotu.

Guest in attendance was: Gary Welling.

NEW AGENDA ITEM:**4.1 STANDING ITEMS REPORT**

Vice Chair Rich Constantine reviewed the standing items report.

The Commission received information on the Homeless Encampment Ad Hoc Committee.

Summary:

At the August 5, 2019 Homeless Encampment Ad Hoc Committee meeting, the committee recommended that staff explore an operational approach to funding the Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program's B4 Good Neighbor Program: Encampment Cleanup project in FY20 at a level appropriate to meet the anticipated community demand (an approximate budget of \$1.5MM). The committee further recommended that subsequent budgets for this project should be assessed on an annual basis.

The Committee asked that staff investigate the potential for hosting a special Environmental Cleanup Day event. The event would consist of a collaboration of local agencies and volunteers working together to clean sites along Coyote Creek in advance of the winter rains and make a positive environmental impact in Santa Clara County. An analysis of this proposed event will be presented at the next Homeless Encampment Ad Hoc Committee meeting.

The Commission took no action.

ACTION ITEMS**5.1 UPDATE ON WATER SUPPLY MASTER PLAN**

Mr. Alexander Gordon reviewed the following:

Summary:

As a part of its Community Wildfire Safety Program, PG&E has announced its Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) Program as a precautionary measure to reduce the risk of wildfires. Valley Water Emergency Services have worked closely with Water Utility Enterprise, Watersheds, Communications, and Information Technology & Administrative Services to plan for a potential shut down of power to our facilities. Valley Water is fully prepared to continue business operations and maintain water supply in the event of a power outage.

Valley Water's emergency plans during a power outage focus on maintaining operations at our critical facilities including the three drinking water treatment facilities: Santa Teresa, Penitencia and Rinconada Water Treatment Plants (WTPs); as well as booster pump stations to bring water to the treatment facilities. In addition, the Water Quality Lab provides regulatory testing of incoming as well as treated water to support process optimization as well as ensure water quality standards are met and the Administration Building and the Headquarters (HQ) Building are required to support Information Technology needs. All these facilities have back-up generators with diesel fuel stored on site that can partially or fully power the facilities in a power outage. Additional fuel is stored onsite at the Corporation Yard at the HQ Campus.

On October 7, 2019, PG&E announced that due to forecasted weather conditions, they would enact their PSPS Program in Santa Clara County. PG&E states that factors considered when determining whether power will be turned off include, but are not limited to:

- A Red Flag Warning declared by the National Weather Service
- Low Humidity Levels, generally 20% and below
- Forecasted sustained winds above 25mph and gusts in excess of 45mph
- Observed dry fuel conditions on the ground

After reviewing PG&E's announcement and maps of proposed outage areas, Valley Water recognized the power shut off would impact at least one water treatment plant along with supporting buildings and pipelines. As a result, Valley Water announced the activation of its Emergency Operations Center (EOC) at a monitoring level starting the evening of October 8, 2019 and transitioned to full activation at 9:00am on October 9, 2019. The EOC remained open to monitor the situation and impacts on Valley Water facilities for the entire duration of the power outage in Santa Clara County.

On October 9, 2019, in advance of the anticipated power shut off, the Santa Teresa Water Treatment Plant was proactively and successfully transitioned to back-up power to maintain continuous operations when the power was finally shut down later that night.

The following additional Valley Water facilities lost power during this shutdown: Almaden Valley Pipeline, Almaden Dam, Stevens Creek Dam, Stevens Creek Turnout, Lexington Reservoir, Chesbro Reservoir, Calero Pipeline, Cross Valley Pipeline and the pipelines around the Coyote Pump Plant. Valley Water staff conducted 24/7 checks of all Valley Water facilities and no significant impacts on operations were detected. Additional contract security units were ordered to patrol all facilities affected by the power outage on an hourly schedule.

The Penitencia Water Treatment Plant (WTP) was offline due to planned maintenance from September 23, 2019 to October 10, 2019, with anticipated re-start of operations in the afternoon of October 10th. The morning of October 10, 2019, a failure occurred at a power pole which fed the Penitencia WTP and disabled power to the site. This failure was not a planned shut-down as part of PG&E's PSPS program. In anticipation of the PSPS program, generators at Penitencia WTP were already serviced and ready to operate at this facility. The downed pole was repaired and power was restored by approximately 1:30 p.m. Penitencia WTP operations were started up that afternoon as scheduled using generator power. The plant was transitioned from generator power to PG&E power later that evening after verifying stability of the PG&E supply.

Preparation and Partnerships

With its history of experience, Valley Water has effectively built back-up power resources into its infrastructure that are necessary to support the delivery of safe, clean water to its retailers. With fixed generators and maintained supplies of diesel fuel at all our facilities, as well as the expert emergency planning and coordination of our staff, Valley Water is prepared to operate in this type of power outage scenario.

Valley Water successfully sustained operations during this PG&E PSPS event without any major service interruptions. However, this PG&E PSPS event impacted Santa Clara County for only a few days and we must be prepared for a longer period of service interruption in the future.

During the power outage, Valley Water EOC staff stayed in regular coordinated contact with PG&E and local government agencies. The EOC provided regular communications to Valley Water employees as well as nearly hourly updates to members of the Board of Directors. Communications staff also posted regular updates, including FAQs, on the Valley Water website and through social media.

Coordination with other agencies and partners throughout the county are necessary for events like these. Valley Water is committed to continued dialogue, feedback and input from all our partners to ensure we can properly

prepare for these types of events and other emergencies in Santa Clara County.

The Commissioners (Hon. Mike Wasserman, Hon. Rishi Kumar, Hon. Larry Klein, Hon. Carmen Montano, Hon. Pam Foley and Hon. Rich Constantine) discussed their concerns on the following issues with PG&E, shutting down power for homes and businesses, needing to fix the myriad of problems, monopoly, the impacts, PSPS Program, conducting drills/training exercises, loss of critical services, traffic lights, response time, Valley Water's use of generators, a Communication Plan, use of EOCs and Anderson Dam concerns.

Mr. Alexander Gordon, Ms. Norma J. Camacho, Ms. Bhavani Yerrapotu and Mr. Aaron Baker were available to answer questions.

The Commission took no action.

The next scheduled meeting is Wednesday, January 22, 2020, 12:00 p.m., in the Valley Water Headquarters Boardroom.

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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