



TO: Board of Directors **FROM:** Agricultural Water Advisory Committee
SUBJECT: Agricultural Water Advisory Committee Meeting **DATE:** January 14, 2020
Summary for January 6, 2020

This memorandum summarizes agenda items from the regular meeting of the Agricultural Water Advisory Committee held on January 6, 2020.

Attendees:

Committee members in attendance were: Mitchell Mariani, James Provenzano, William Cilker, David Vanni, Jan Garrod, Tim Chiala, Robert Long, Dhruv Khanna, Sheryl Kennedy and George Fohner.

Board members in attendance were: Director Nai Hsueh, Board Alternate, Director Richard P. Santos, and Director John L. Varela, Board Representatives.

Staff members in attendance were: Aaron Baker, Lisa Bankosh, Glenna Brambill, Rick Callender, Jerry De La Piedra, Garth Hall, Marta Lugo and Brian Mendenhall.

Guests in attendance were: Hon. Mike Flaughner of the Open Space Authority and Doug Muirhead.

AGENDA ITEM:

4.1 ELECTION OF 2020 CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

The Agricultural Water Advisory Committee by unanimous vote, approved retaining Chair David Vanni and Vice Chair Jan Garrod for 2020.

5.1. REVIEW AND APPROVE 2019 ANNUAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS REPORT FOR PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD

Ms. Glenna Brambill gave an overview of the Committee's Accomplishments for 2019.

The Agricultural Water Advisory Committee took the following action:

The Agricultural Water Advisory Committee by unanimous vote, approved the 2019 Annual Accomplishments Report for Presentation to the Board.

The Board should receive the Committee's report at its March 24, 2020, meeting.

5.2. RETAIN OPEN SPACE CREDIT DISCUSSION UPDATE

Ms. Glenna Brambill gave updated information regarding the Committee's action item from the December 16, 2019, special meeting.

The Board will receive information regarding the special meeting on January 14, 2020, however, the action item goes for Board consideration on January 28, 2020.

Mr. George Fohner, Mr. Dhruv Khanna, Director John L. Varela, Director Nai Hsueh, Director Richard P. Santos, Mr. Rick Callender, Mr. Mitchell Mariani, and Mr. Tim Chiala spoke on the following: funds/political concerns with open space, the collaborative effort, county agricultural plan, agricultural sustainability, ecosystems concerns, zoning, City of Santa Clara's water increase, county commercial

water usage, water conservation, increase of ag water rates, residential water usage, commercial users not paying fair share (lack of taxation), municipal and industrial (M&I) and residential charges, City of Mountain View's Measure P, water delivery costs vs property taxes (ad valorem), Valley Water's service provision (groundwater recharge), developmental growth, ag water/surface/raw water costs. January 22nd meeting with the County, preservation of agriculture and affordable water supply.

Mr. Garth Hall and Mr. Aaron Baker were available to answer questions.

The Agricultural Water Advisory Committee took the following actions:

The Agricultural Water Advisory Committee by unanimous vote, approved that the Board direct staff to provide financial data on the differences of commercial/industrial versus residential water usage within the county with the information supplied by the Water Retailers and Valley Water.

The Agricultural Water Advisory Committee by unanimous vote, approved inviting County Board of Supervisor Hon. Mike Wasserman or his designee to the April 6, 2020, meeting

5.3. OPPORTUNITIES TO ENHANCE AND UPDATE THE SAFE, CLEAN WATER AND NATURAL FLOOD PROTECTION PROGRAM BY EVALUATING A FUTURE FUNDING MEASURE

Ms. Marta Lugo reviewed the following:

Summary:

The Safe, Clean Water team wishes to share information and receive input from Santa Clara Valley Water District's (Valley Water) Board advisory committees to keep them apprised of planning for future funding. It is recognized that the committees provide a valuable service to Valley Water with each member bringing expertise and insight that reflect the values of the community at large for their specific committee directives. The team sees this as the first step of many in engaging the committees as stakeholders in this process that is critical to the future of Valley Water and its projects and programs.

With the upcoming November 2020 elections, staff is exploring the opportunity to place a ballot measure to continue the existing special parcel tax for the Safe, Clean Water Program beyond its current expiration in 2028 in an effort to extend existing funding levels and address additional funding needs. Additionally, this new program could potentially include more multi-benefit projects and strategies to address Board priorities such as infrastructure reliability and climate change adaption.

At the December 10 meeting, the Board of Directors provided direction to staff to continue exploring the feasibility of such a funding measure and to bring back information as it relates to what a new program would look like. Staff is now seeking input from the advisory committees.

Current Safe, Clean Water Program

Overwhelmingly approved by voters, the Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program (Safe, Clean Water Program) is a 15-year strategy to ensure uninterrupted water resources services in Santa Clara County. The program was developed through community collaboration and input from residents and stakeholders that identified five top community priorities:

Priority A: Ensure a Safe, Reliable Water Supply

Priority B: Reduce Toxins, Hazards, and Contaminants from our Waterways

Priority C: Protect our Water Supply from Earthquakes and Natural Disasters

Priority D: Restore Wildlife Habitat and Provide for Open Space

Priority E: Provide Flood Protection to Homes, Business, Schools and Highways

In November 2012, Santa Clara County voters passed the Safe, Clean Water ballot measure by nearly 74%, extending the funding at the same parcel tax rate approved under the previous Clean, Safe, Creek and Natural Flood Protection Plan (Clean, Safe Creeks Plan).

Currently, the Safe, Clean Water Program special parcel tax includes five (5) types of parcels that cover categories for commercial/ industrial, institutional purposes such as churches, schools or multiple dwellings exceeding four units, single-family residential and multi-family units up to four, agricultural, and nonutilized urban and rural areas. A sixth category, parcels used exclusively as well sites for residential use, is exempt from the special parcel tax. An annual escalator is also included to account for the effects of inflation. Santa Clara Valley Water District (Valley Water) Board of Directors may adjust the special tax amounts annually by the change in the San Francisco-Oakland-San Jose Consumer Price Index for all Urban Consumers (CPI-U), or 3%, whichever is greater.

The current FY20 annual tax rate for the average single-family residence stands at \$67.67. In FY21, the Board may consider increasing the tax to \$69.70 based on the consumer price index increase in costs for performing the functions of the program.

Current Program Needs and Opportunities

In the face of new challenges due to climate change, population/economic growth and future uncertainties with imported water supplies, it is imperative for Valley Water to plan, adapt, build, and upgrade its water resources systems by investing in existing and new programs that will help meet the future challenges of tomorrow. Currently, there is an opportunity to put a ballot measure in front of voters to extend the Safe, Clean Water Program which sunsets on June 30, 2028, and funds approximately one-third of the existing watershed and stewardship budgeted programs.

The existing Safe, Clean Water Program has priorities that could be enhanced to address several existing and new challenges, including the opportunity to develop more multi-benefit projects that provide enhanced environmental benefits, and providing needed funding for several large infrastructure and flood protection projects.

Furthermore, with increased homeless encampments along our creeks and waterways, water quality will remain a top priority. A new program will enable Valley Water to adequately address such existing challenges that have significant impacts to our water quality, as well as new and emerging threats. Valley Water must remain well-equipped to address all water quality issues to continue providing safe, clean water to our entire community.

In addition, a new program would allow Valley Water to better adapt and meet the growing challenges that stem from climate change and extreme weather patterns, such as severe drought, flooding and wildfires. Climate change adaptation needs to be integrated across projects to include upgrading aging infrastructure; expanding water storage; securing locally-controlled, reliable and sustainable water supplies; increasing and expanding flood protection for homes, businesses, and schools, as well as addressing sea-level rise. Each of these priorities will require significant mitigation, along with ongoing infrastructure maintenance and vegetation and sediment removal. This work is more critical than ever as we face increased flooding and wildfire threats.

Some of the key projects that have been identified as prime candidates for additional enhancements or funding under the new program are:

- *Anderson Dam Seismic Retrofit*
- *Pacheco Reservoir Expansion*
- *Almaden Valley Pipeline Replacement Project*
- *Coyote Creek Flood Protection Project*
- *Upper Penitencia Creek Flood Protection Project*
- *San Francisquito Creek Flood Protection Project*
- *Upper Llagas Creek Flood Protection Project*
- *Upper Guadalupe Flood Protection Project*
- *San Francisco Bay Shoreline Flood Protection*
- *Stevens Creek Fish Passage Barrier Removal*
- *Creek Cleanups and Homeless Encampments*

Project Priorities and Initial Gap Assessment

Staff has begun the process for a preliminary identification of needs and opportunities in November 2019. The identified needs and opportunities represent a range of candidate projects and programs that could be undertaken. The development of needs and opportunities is in effect the “gap” analysis to identify those areas where the current Safe, Clean Water Program could benefit from additional funding for existing projects over the next planning horizon, along with potential new projects that could benefit the community. The identified opportunities are included below and will be further refined. Staff is seeking input from the advisory committees on such priorities that they would like staff to investigate and consider.

Priority A: Ensure a Safe, Reliable Water Supply

- Safe Clean Water Partnerships and Grants – Continue and Enhance
- Pipeline Reliability Project – Continue and Enhance

Priority A Newly Identified Opportunities

Staff is exploring the feasibility of adding, replacing, enhancing or expanding the following new concepts:

- Pacheco Reservoir Expansion
- Water Conservation Rebate Program

Priority B: Reduce Toxins, Hazards, and Contaminates from our Waterways

- Impaired Water Bodies Improvement – Continue
- Interagency Urban Runoff Program – Continue
- Pollution Prevention Partnerships and Grants – Continue and Enhance
- Good Neighbor Program: Encampment Cleanup – Continue and Enhance
- Hazardous Materials Management and Response – Continue
- Good Neighbor Program: Remove Graffiti and Litter – Continue
- Support Volunteer Cleanup Efforts and Education – Continue and Enhance

Priority B Newly Identified Opportunities

Staff is exploring the feasibility of adding, replacing, enhancing or expanding the following new concepts:

- Green Stormwater Infrastructure Projects
- Good Neighbor Public Arts Program

Priority C: Protect our Water Supply from Earthquakes and Natural Disasters

- Anderson Dam Seismic Retrofit – Continue and Enhance
- Emergency Response Upgrades – Continue and Enhance

Priority C Newly Identified Opportunities

Staff is exploring the feasibility of adding, replacing, enhancing or expanding the following new concepts:

- Dam Safety Program Seismic Retrofit Projects
- Almaden Valley Pipeline Replacement Project

Priority D: Restore Wildlife Habitat and Provide for Open Space

- Management of Riparian Vegetation Projects – Continue and Enhance
- Revitalize Stream, Upland and Wetland Habitat – Continue and Enhance
- Grants and Partnerships to Restore Wildlife Habitat/ Provide Access to Trails – Continue and Enhance
- Fish Habitat and Passage Improvements
 - Almaden Creek-Lake Separation – Continue and Enhance
 - Fish Passage Improvements – Continue and Enhance
 - Install Large/Woody Debris and Gravel Augmentation – Continue and Enhance
- Ecological Data Collection and Analysis – Continue and Enhance
- Creek Restoration and Stabilization
 - Hale Creek – Continue and Enhance
- Partnerships for the Conservation of Habitat Lands – Continue and Enhance
- South Bay Salt Ponds Restoration Partnership – Continue

Priority D Newly Identified Opportunities

Staff is exploring the feasibility of adding, replacing, enhancing or expanding the following new concepts:

- Coyote Valley Partnership
- Lands Management – Land acquisition for strategic floodplain management, access for operations, mitigation efforts, and habitat connectivity.
- Calabazas – San Tomas Aquino Creeks Realignment Project
- Coyote Creek Riparian and Aquatic Enhancements
- Coyote Meadows Habitat and Floodplain Enhancements

Priority E: Provide Flood Protection to Homes, Business, Schools and Highways

- Vegetation Control and Sediment Removal for Flood Protection – Continue and Enhance
- Emergency Response Planning – Continue and Enhance
- Flood Risk Reduction Studies – Continue and Enhance
- Upper Penitencia Creek Flood Project – Additional funding
- San Francisquito Creek Flood Protection – Additional funding
- Upper Llagas Creek Flood Protection – Additional funding
- San Francisco Bay Shoreline Protection – Additional funding
- Upper Guadalupe River Flood Protection – Additional funding

Continued Clean, Safe Creeks Projects

- Sunnyvale East and Sunnyvale West Channels Flood Protection – Continue
- Coyote Creek Flood Protection – Additional funding

Priority E Newly Identified Opportunities

Staff is exploring the feasibility of adding, replacing, enhancing or expanding the following new concepts:

- Upper Silver Creek Flood Protection
- Ross Creek Flood Protection
- Upper Berryessa Creek (680 to Old Piedmont)
- 5-year O&M Plan identified activities
- Thompson Creek Sediment and Erosion Management
- Watersheds Asset Reliability Program – prioritize/ improve reaches in need of rehabilitation

NEXT STEPS

Program Development

Under the Board's direction, staff is exploring the feasibility of this effort, including how to enhance and update the program that is inclusive of the community's desire and values. As part of this effort, an agency-wide internal Steering Committee with functional task groups has been assembled and key program staff have been identified to assist with internal project teams to start developing an updated community plan to refine priorities. These priorities, along with financial analysis models to further refine program funding estimates, will be further developed between mid-December 2019 and May 2020.

Community and Stakeholder Outreach

To achieve public consent on any future program, which may go to the voters, staff will lead a broad communications effort. This effort will allow for the public to provide input on their interests and values for the new program, including recommended project outcomes. This input will aid staff in developing a draft community preferred program.

Staff will fine tune the priorities and projects through a series of broad outreach efforts, such as Board advisory committees and a blue-ribbon stakeholder roundtable (anticipated to be held in February 2020).

Additionally, staff will develop other outreach tools and strategies to solicit programmatic input for the Board's consideration. Based on information gathered from the community and stakeholders, staff will prepare a report for the Board on the community preferred program, for the Board's consideration for the November 2020 ballot.

Handout:

HANDOUT: AGENDA ITEM 5.3

Safe Clean Water & Natural Flood Protection Program

Community Input Survey 2020

Fields: * City: ____; *Zip code: ____; Name/ Email: ____ (optional)

<i>Please rate each of the following items in importance, on a scale from 1 to 7, with "1" meaning Not Important At All and "7" meaning "Extremely Important to Me" (Mandatory)</i>								
	NOT AT ALL IMPORTANT (1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	EXTREMELY IMPORTANT (7)	Average
A. Ensuring a safe, reliable drinking water supply for the future by improving and maintaining dams, pipelines, water storage, treatment systems, and aging infrastructure to avoid disruptions in service.								
B. Reducing and removing toxins, hazards and contaminants like mercury or pharmaceuticals from local creeks, streams and reservoirs.								
C. Protecting our water supply, water quality, dams and flood protection channels from earthquakes, natural disaster, and climate change.								
D. Restoring fish, bird and wildlife habitat in and around local creeks streams and the Bay to ensure a healthy environment.								
E. Providing flood protection to protect local homes, businesses, schools, streets and highways from flooding.								

HANDOUT: AGENDA ITEM 5.3

Safe Clean Water & Natural Flood Protection Program

Community Input Survey 2020

Fields: * City:____; *Zip code:____; Name/ Email:_____(optional)

F. Providing creek cleanups, vegetation management and tree removal near creeks to lessen the threat of flooding and wildfires.								
G. Building sustainable, locally-controlled water supply projects that are drought resilient.								
H. Increasing public recreational access in and around local creeks, streams and the Bay.								

Mr. Dhruv Khanna, Mr. Tim Chiala, Ms. Sheryl Kennedy, Mr. Jan Garrod, Mr. James Provenzano and Director Nai Hsueh spoke on the following issues: open space credit, flood control/habitat, community input on survey, priorities BCDE/unhoused population and Board's direction for any measures placed on ballot.

The Agricultural Water Advisory Committee took the following actions:

The Agricultural Water Advisory Committee by majority vote, approved that Valley Water add the Open Space Credit/Agricultural component to the future funding measure in keeping the agricultural rates stable and at the current rate.

The Agricultural Water Advisory Committee by unanimous vote, approved that the Committee allow the SCC Farm Bureau to formulate the question to add to the Community Input Survey.

The next regularly scheduled meeting is Monday, April 6, 2020, 1:30 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