

#### **MEMORANDUM**

FC 14 (01-02-07)

TO: Board of Directors FROM: Recycled Water Committee

**SUBJECT**: 09/23/20 RWC Committee Meeting Summary **DATE**: October 13, 2020

This memorandum summarizes the Recycled Water Committee (Committee) meeting held on September 23, 2020, where the following workplan items were discussed:

#### 3.1 Approval of Minutes.

The Committee unanimously approved the Minutes of the August 6, 2020 meeting.

### 4.1 Update on Purified Water Program including Partnerships with Cities of San Jose/Santa Clara and Palo Alto/Mountain View.

The Committee received an update on negotiations for a long-term agreement with the cities of San Jose (CSJ) and Santa Clara (CSC), and discussions with the City of Palo Alto (CPA). Valley Water and CSJ staff have been meeting to discuss securing treated wastewater effluent from the CSJ/CSC Regional Wastewater Facility (RWF), land for a future Advance Water Purification Facility (AWPF), and reverse osmosis concentrate (ROC) management solutions. CSC staff were invited, but are awaiting direction from CSC council to participate in the discussions. On September 1, 2020, CSJ Council approved a recommendation to "Direct the City Manager to prioritize the pursuit of expanded recycled water use with Valley Water" This, along with Board direction to staff, may help CSC's consideration for engagement.

Valley Water and CPA staff have also met to discuss next steps in implementing the Agreement, if Valley Water elects to execute the option, including securing additional effluent from smaller partner agencies such as City of Los Altos (CLA). To this end, CLA Council approved an agreement "Authorizing the City Manager to execute the Treated Effluent Transfer Agreement with the CPA to ensure that CLA will receive the flow-proportional share of the payment for Valley Water to CPA." Valley Water and CPA staff are also discussing steps to secure land needed to build an AWPF in Palo Alto, and to address ROC management. Information on one of the sites identified in the agreement (old Los Altos wastewater treatment plant) has been gathered. Valley Water and CPA staff are working to address NPDES permit requirements with respect to accommodating ROC discharge and will follow up with RWQCB staff to discuss longer-term requirements. For purified water projects in either location (CPA/Mountain View, or CSJ/CSC), Valley Water's consultant GHD has prepared alignment maps and developed preliminary cost estimates for the pipelines conveying ROC from the plant sites to various discharge point alternatives.

The Committee requested that staff follow up with the Office of Government Relations to determine the appropriateness of scheduling a meeting between Valley Water and CSC elected officials.

## 4.2 Update on the Public/Private Partnership Implementation Approach for Purified Water Projects.

The Committee received information on the processes leading to issuance of an RFQ and RFP, and information on key influencers to the P3 Procurement schedule. Staff also provided an update on direction to evaluate options that would grandfather established short-listed firms from prior P3 RFQ process. The next step for full Board of Directors action will be approval of a project concept which is anticipated in the second guarter of 2021.

Director Kremen expressed interest in the ability to preview a draft Request for Qualifications; and the Committee noted the information without formal action.

# 4.3 Countywide Water Reuse Master Plan - Update on the 6th Annual Independent Advisory Panel Meeting.

The Committee received a report on the July 29, 2020 6th annual IAP meeting, where over 85 participants attended including representatives of the Regional Water Board, EPA, and Countywide Water Reuse Master Plan (CWRMP) Stakeholders (CSJ, CSC, CPA, Mountain View, Sunnyvale, Gilroy, Morgan Hill, and Los Altos).

IAP's comments and recommendations were received on updated components of the CWRMP (Project Portfolios, Treatment Systems, Design, and Regulatory and Permitting Requirements), and prospective ROC management options. The IAP's preliminary report agreed with the general approach, analysis, and steps taken by Valley Water. Staff is currently reviewing the IAP report and will provide the responses to the Panel. Thereafter, it is anticipated that the IAP will finalize and submit their report in October 2020.

The Committee noted the information without formal action.

# 4.4 Discuss the 2020 Recycled Water Committee Work Plan, Upcoming Discussion Items, and Next Meeting Dates.

The Committee noted the meetings scheduled for the remainder of 2020 occurring on October 28, November 25, and December 23, at 12:00 p.m.; requested the schedule for planned discussion of Work Plan items remain flexible for the remainder of the year; requested staff discuss agenda planning with the Committee Chairperson as needed; and confirmed willingness to call special meetings to order to ensure continued progression of work.

### 5.1 Presentation of Public Perception Survey Poll Results on Advanced Purified Water and Public Outreach Update.

The Committee received information on the Annual Countywide Poll on Public Perception of Recycled and Advanced Purified Water (Countywide Poll), and other outreach engagement activities – all showing positive improvements in advanced purified water acceptance trends.

The Committee had no comments on outreach engagement activities; however, noting that the Countywide Poll (conducted by EMC Research) had collected input from Santa Clara County registered voters only, the Committee expressed concern that registered voters (constituents) only represented a portion of Valley Water's customer base.

The Committee requested that future polls include Valley Water customers who are not registered voters, and Director Kremen requested EMC Research representatives follow up with him individually to provide more information on the Countywide Poll's datapoints. This information was sent to Director Kremen by EMC Research, subsequently to the meeting.

The next regular Committee meeting will be held on October 28, 2020.

Board member comments and suggestions can be forwarded to Ms. Eva Sans, Assistant Deputy Clerk II, at (408) 630-2306, or by email to <a href="mailto:esans@valleywater.org">esans@valleywater.org</a>



Director, District 6
Recycled Water Committee Chairperson