

02/09/2021



**MEMORANDUM**  
FC 14 (01-02-07)

**TO:** Board of Directors

**FRO** Environmental and Water  
Resources Committee

**SUBJECT:** Environmental and Water Resources  
Committee Meeting Summary for  
January 25, 2021

**DATE** February 9, 2021

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This memorandum summarizes agenda items from the regular meeting of the Environmental and Water Resources Committee held on January 25, 2021.

**Attendees:**

Committee members in attendance were: Loren Lewis, Charles Ice, Elizabeth Sarmiento, Hon. Dean J. Chu, Rev. Jethroe Moore, II, Charles Taylor, Susan Blake, Bob Levy, Hon. Tara Martin-Milius, Mike Michitaka, Hon. Patrick S. Kwok, Diego Mora Tejeda, Stephen A. Jordan, Arthur M. Keller, Ph.D.

Board members in attendance were: Director Tony Estremera (Board Representative), Director Nai Hsueh (Board Alternate).

Staff members in attendance were: Aaron Baker, Lisa Bankosh, Glenna Brambill, John Bourgeois, Marta Lugo, Linda Nguyen, and Kirsten Struve.

Public in attendance was: San Jose Resident.

**AGENDA ITEM:**

**4.1 ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR**

The Environmental and Water Resources Committee took the following action:

The Committee by roll call and majority vote elected Mr. Bob Levy as Chair and Rev. Jethroe Moore, II, as Vice Chair.

**4.2 REVIEW AND APPROVE 2020 ANNUAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS REPORT FOR PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD (COMMITTEE CHAIR)**

Ms. Glenna Brambill gave an overview of the following.

**Summary from Meeting Agenda Memo:**

The Accomplishments Report summarizes the committee's discussions and actions to prepare Board policy alternatives and implications for Board deliberation throughout 2020. The Committee Chair, or designee, presents the Accomplishments Report to the Board at a future Board meeting.

The Committee may provide feedback to the Committee Chair, at this time, to share with Board as part of the Accomplishments Report presentation pertaining to the purpose, structure, and function of the Committee.

**BACKGROUND:****Governance Process Policy-8:**

The District Act provides for the creation of advisory boards, committees, or commissions by resolution to serve at the pleasure of the Board.

Accordingly, the Board has established Advisory Committees, which bring respective expertise and community interest, to advise the Board, when requested, in a capacity as defined: prepare Board policy alternatives and provide comment on activities in the implementation of the District's mission for Board consideration. In keeping with the Board's broader focus, Advisory Committees will not direct the implementation of District programs and projects, other than to receive information and provide comment.

Further, in accordance with Governance Process Policy-3, when requested by the Board, the Advisory Committees may help the Board produce the link between the District and the public through information sharing to the communities they represent.

The Environmental and Water Resources Committee took the following action:

The Committee by roll call and unanimous vote approved the Environmental and Water Resources Committee's 2020 Accomplishments Report. Due to COVID 19, the Committee was limited in fully engaging in 2020.

**4.3 STATUS OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE'S WORKING GROUPS**

Chair Bob Levy reviewed the following:

**Summary from Meeting Agenda Memo:**

At the Committee's January 2019 meeting, the Committee would like to see the working groups more aligned with the issues and policies that the Board of Directors has on their work plan and calendar for this year.

The Board approved the Committee's request to keep the Committee informed of the working groups' activities and results.

This will be a standing agenda item.

**BACKGROUND:**

The District Act provides for the creation of advisory boards, committees, or commissions by resolution to serve at the pleasure of the Board.

Accordingly, the Board has established Board Committees, which bring respective expertise and community interest, to advise the Board, when requested, in a capacity as defined: prepare Board policy alternatives and provide comment on activities in the implementation of the District's mission for Board consideration. In keeping with the Board's broader focus, Board Committees will not direct the implementation of District programs and projects, other than to receive information and provide comment.

Further, in accordance with Governance Process Policy-3, when requested by the Board, the Board's Committees may help the Board produce the link between the District and the public through information sharing to the communities they represent.

Mr. Steve Jordan reported on his Working Group-Water Storage Exploratory Committee that he attends the meetings, and the topics of discussion have been: Anderson Dam Retrofit, Pacheco Reservoir Expansion Project, Los Vaqueros Reservoir Expansion Project (LVE), and other water banking/storage issues and concerns.

Chair Bob Levy encouraged the Members to join the Working Groups as the sign-ups are few.

The Environmental and Water Resources Committee took no action.

## **INFORMATION ITEMS:**

### **5.1 STANDING ITEMS REPORT**

Ms. Glenna Brambill gave an overview of the following.

#### **Summary from Meeting Agenda Memo:**

The Environmental and Water Resources Committee was established to assist the Board with policy review and development, provide comment on activities in the implementation of the District mission, and to identify Board-related issues.

On August 2020, the Board of Directors approved aligning the Board Advisory Committees' agendas and work plans with the Board's yearly work plan.

The new agenda format will allow regular reports on the Board's priorities from the Board's committees and/or Board committee representative and identify subjects where the committees could provide advice to the Board on pre-identified subjects in a timely manner to meet the Board's schedule and distribute information/reports that may be of interest to committee members.

The Environmental and Water Resources Committee had questions on: drought, water supply/demand, population growth, funding, and climate change.

Mr. Aaron Baker and Ms. Lisa Bankosh were available to answer questions.

The Environmental and Water Resources Committee took no action.

### **5.2 UPDATE ON VALLEY WATER'S CREATION OF NEW OFFICE OF RACIAL EQUITY, DIVERSITY & INCLUSION AND BOARD ADOPTION OF A RESOLUTION ADDRESSING SYSTEMIC RACISM AND PROMOTING EQUITY**

Ms. Linda Nguyen gave an overview of the following.

#### **Summary from Meeting Agenda Memo:**

In July, Chief Executive Officer Rick Callender announced the creation of a new Office of Racial Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (REDI) under the External Affairs Division. The new office will encompass the existing Diversity and Inclusion Program, with an expanded charge to break down organizational barriers that enable systemic racism, and instead promote a culture of equity and environmental justice. This office will ensure that racial equity, diversity and inclusion practices are reflected both internally and externally to better serve all communities within Valley Water's service area.

On August 27, 2020, REDI staff presented a resolution "Addressing Systemic Racism and Promoting Equity" to the Board of Directors' Diversity and Inclusion Ad Hoc Committee. The resolution was developed consistent with Valley Water's core values and the principles used in accomplishing Valley Water's mission. Specifically, the purpose and intent of the resolution is to establish Valley Water's response to individual and systemic racism and its commitment to taking meaningful action, internally and externally, to address the impacts of acts of prejudice, abuse of power, racial bias, gender or gender identity bias, racism, and barriers to diversity, equity and inclusion. The Committee recommended the resolution go to the Board of Directors for adoption and recommended that staff present the resolution to other Board Advisory Committees.

During the September 22, 2020 Board Meeting, REDI staff presented the resolution to the Board of Directors for adoption. The Board voted to adopt the resolution and directed staff to present the resolution to all Board Advisory Committees. The resolution is included as Attachment 1.

The Environmental and Water Resources Committee took no action.

The next regularly scheduled meeting is Monday, April 19, 2021, 6:00 p.m.

If you have any questions or concerns, you may contact me at, [gbrambill@valleywater.org](mailto: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