



## Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program

# Independent Monitoring Committee

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February 11, 2021

To: Santa Clara Valley Water District Board of Directors

Subject: IMC Report in Review of SCW FY20 Annual Report

## SUMMARY

The Independent Monitoring Committee (IMC) presents its annual review of the Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program (SCW) for Fiscal Year 2019-2020 (FY20) to the Santa Clara Valley Water District (Valley Water) Board of Directors (Board). The IMC finds that funds from the 2012 Measure B are being spent in accordance with the voter-approved priorities and that Valley Water is acting responsibly to ensure projects move forward in a timely manner. In 2020, voters passed Measure S, replacing Measure B. Our next report to the Board in 2022 will close out Measure B. A future Measure S IMC will report to the Board for subsequent years.

## PROCESS

The IMC met on December 2, 2020, to begin its seventh annual SCW review process and elected a Chair and Vice Chair. Subcommittees were formed to review the six sections of the SCW report: Priorities A, B, C, D, E and Other Projects remaining from Clean, Safe Creeks and Natural Flood Protection Plan (CSC). For the purposes of reviewing the document, the IMC combined Priorities A and C, and E and Other Projects to form four subcommittees. Additionally, this year the IMC established a new Finance Subcommittee to review Program-level financial information that is contained in "Appendices A: Financial Information" and not covered during individual Priority review.

The five subcommittees met with Valley Water staff (Staff) in the first week of January 2021 and presented their findings to the full IMC on January 27, 2021. At each subcommittee meeting, a Chair was elected. IMC members agreed that subcommittee chairs led by the Chair of the IMC draft the IMC review to the Board.

The draft review was presented to the IMC on February 10, 2021 for final edits and approval. The IMC provided three levels of input: overview concerns/recommendations about SCW included in this letter, specific project recommendations for Board review (Attachment 1) and notes for Staff for future SCW reports (Attachment 2).

The IMC would also like to call special attention to the following:

The current IMC includes five new members and seven returning members. New members have brought a fresh perspective to the report and the work done by Staff. They reaffirmed that work done by Valley Water under SCW is intertwined with regulatory agencies, local governments, private landowners, environmental leaders and other stakeholders. The SCW annual report demonstrates problem-solving at a holistic level; partnerships with communities, non-profits and other like-minded agencies; open sharing of acquired knowledge with partners and stakeholders; and the complexity of managing large capital projects.

## **GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **Grants Program**

The IMC appreciates the work done by our community partners through the SCW grant opportunities. To ensure a well-run grant program for both Staff and the Grantees, the Board should ensure staffing is at a level to process grants in a timely manner and a reasonable Staff workload.

### **Impacts of COVID-19**

The IMC recognizes that the substantial impacts of COVID-19 were unpredictable. We ask that high-level examples of COVID-19's impact on the work done by Valley Water, including contractors and partners, be included in the next report.

### **Encampments**

The IMC strongly supports work currently underway by Staff to find solutions to address biohazards in encampments, including containment, cleanup and collection of feces and waste. We also ask that revegetation areas restored by Valley Water that will require additional restoration efforts due to encampment impacts are identified in future reports.

### **Report Format**

Completed projects for CSC, SCW, and Measure S should be tabbed at the back of the report with project description, KPIs, year completed, original costs, and final costs. Links for more detailed information should be included.

February 11, 2021

## PRESENTATIONS

IMC members gain a greater understanding of SCW projects from Staff presentations. The IMC requests the following presentations at the December 2021 meeting:

1. Water Conservation Programs and the Savings Model used to calculate cost-effectiveness
2. Management of the blending of CSC, SCW, and Measure S including capital projects and changes to the grant program
3. Anderson Dam and Pacheco Dam progress report, including permitting and funding challenges

The SCW IMC strongly suggests that the Board consider appointing at least 5 current SCW IMC members to the new IMC for Measure S. We also encourage Staff to use the existing report format for the first report from the Measure S IMC.

We thank the Board for the support they have shown for our past recommendations, and we thank Staff for their support during the review process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kathy Sutherland".

Kathy Sutherland, Chair

Independent Monitoring Committee

## Attachments:

1. IMC Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Annual Report
2. Notes for IMC Future SCW Reports

cc: Independent Monitoring Committee Members

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