

Michele King

From: Anthony Eulo <Anthony.Eulo@morganhill.ca.gov>
Sent: Monday, June 7, 2021 4:56 PM
To: Board of Directors
Subject: Public Input, Item 2.8 (Urban Water Management Plan), June 8th Agenda

Dear Boardmembers:

The City of Morgan Hill appreciates the ongoing cooperative relationship the City has with Valley Water and your ongoing efforts to provide water to the region.

We request that you consider an addition to the Water Shortage Contingency Plan (WSCP) that is being considered for adoption. We believe that it is essential that the WSCP acknowledge the important role that Valley Water could play in working cooperatively with local farmers on reducing water use during water shortages. As the WSCP reads now, Valley Water would continue to focus water shortage responses solely on retailers and municipalities and there is no mention of agricultural water users or working in any way with farmers in reducing water use.

It is essential to note that farms and other agricultural users pump more water from South County aquifers than the cities of Gilroy and Morgan Hill combined. While Valley Water is not legally their “retailer”, you are the closest thing to a retailer that they have. In the absence of Valley Water outreach, incentives, or assistance, there is no entity addressing this vital issue.

The City is very supportive of agriculture in South County and has itself spent millions of dollars permanently preserving agricultural lands. We understand that water is vital to agricultural endeavors and also know that many farmers irrigate efficiently. We also know that some farms aren’t as efficient as they could be and we do receive complaints from local residents wondering why they are being asked to reduce water use when they see local farms using spray irrigation for nursery crops on windy afternoons.

For the WSCP to be completely silent on the potential for working cooperatively with farmers on reducing water use seems like a missed opportunity to further extend our water supplies. We ask that you incorporate the following enhancement to the WSCP:

- Integrate the concept of working cooperatively with agricultural users into the paragraph on the bottom of page 6 entitled “4. Shortage Response Actions”;
- Add parallel actions regarding agricultural users into each of the Stages describing Water Shortage Response Actions in Table 5; and
- Add agricultural users to the communication protocols in Section 5.

Thank you for your consideration.

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