



## **MEMORANDUM**

FC 14 (01-02-07)

**TO:** Board of Directors

**FROM:** Joint Recycled Water Policy Committee (Palo Alto, East Palo Alto, Mountain View)

**SUBJECT:** Joint Recycled Water Policy Committee (Palo Alto, East Palo Alto, Mountain View) Summary for October 25, 2021

**DATE:** November 9, 2021

This memorandum summarizes agenda items from the regular meeting of Joint Recycled Water Policy Committee (Palo Alto, East Palo Alto, Mountain View) held on October 25, 2021.

### **Attendees:**

Committee Members in attendance were: City of East Palo Alto Mayor/Councilmember: Hon. Lisa Gauthier; City of Mountain View Councilmember: Hon. Pat Showalter, City of Palo Alto Council Member: Hon. Alison Cormack, Valley Water Board Representatives: Director Tony Estremera (District 6), Director Gary Kremen (District 7), and Director Richard P. Santos (District 3).

Valley Water Staff in attendance were: Gina Adriano, Hossein Ashktorab, Aaron Baker, Ricardo Barajas, Henry Barrientos, Glenna Brambill, Jason Chiar, Keila Cisneros, Phillippe Daniel (Contractor), Melissa Fels, Vincent Gin, Linh Hoang, Brian Hopper, Girlie Jacobson, Candice Kwok-Smith, Heath McMahon, Leslie Orta, Mike Potter, Melanie Richardson, Don Rocha, Charlene Sun, Kirsten Struve, Sherilyn Tran, and David Tucker.

Guests in attendance were: City of Palo Alto: Lisa Bilir, Karla Dailey, Samantha Engelage, Diego Martinez Garcia, and Karin North, City of Mountain View: Lisa Au, and Carollo Engineers: Sanjay Reddy.

Public attendees were: Al, Hon. Jim Beall, Peter Drekmeier, Eric Rosenblum, and Director John L. Varela (Valley Water, District 1).

### **4. ACTION ITEMS:**

#### **4.1 UPDATE ON COLLABORATION WITH PARTNERS RELATED TO PURIFIED WATER**

Ms. Kirsten Struve and Ms. Karin North reviewed the following and the handout:

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

Valley Water and Palo Alto staff continue to collaborate on the Purified Water Project. The following topics will be presented at this meeting:

##### **A. Update on VW collaboration with partners related to purified water project**

Valley Water and City of Palo Alto staff have continued to collaborate on developing agreements for a land lease and RO Concentrate, coordinating outreach, as well as coordinating with regulators (see more detail below).

Valley Water and City of San José staff mutually agreed on a facilitator and have scheduled the first facilitated meeting to resume discussions on agreements needed for the Purified Water Project.

##### **B. Coordination with the San Francisco Regional Water Quality Control Board (Water Board) on RO Concentrate**

Valley Water and the City of Palo Alto have continued their collaborative efforts focused on the proper management of RO Concentrate (ROC) resulting from the future Advanced Water Purification Facility (AWPF) in Palo Alto.

Specifically, Valley Water staff - in coordination with the City of Palo Alto - prepared a plan of action (ROC Management Plan) to address ROC, which was presented to the Water Board in May 2021. Upon review of the proposed plan, the Water Board provided feedback and a second meeting was convened in August

to further discuss the ROC Management Plan. Subsequently the Water Board issued a Letter of Concurrence to Valley Water on Sep. 9, 2021 indicating that “the discharge of ROC through the existing outfall at the Palo Alto Regional Water Quality Control Plant (RWQCP) appears to be feasible”. The Letter of Concurrence also states that in the short term, compliance for ROC discharge should be achievable based on permit modifications supported by the technical studies proposed in the ROC Management Plan.

Based on the timeline of AWPf completion in 2028, the Water Board will consider necessary permit changes to the NPDES permit for Palo Alto’s RWQCP when up for renewal in 2024. These might be contingent upon continued dialogue regarding anticipated copper discharges and additional management practices to ensure compliance with foreseeable effluent limitations.

Staff will continue to work with the City of Palo Alto to carry out the steps proposed in the ROC Management Plan which include various technical studies and evaluations. It is anticipated that the aforementioned would be completed within the next three (3) years.

**C. Status of Agreements**

Staff from both agencies continue to work on a ROC Management (ROCM) term sheet that will serve as the basis for a final ROCM Agreement. The ROCM Agreement will stipulate the agency responsibilities of the parties for and associated liabilities pertinent to proper management for future ROC discharges

**D. Update on Land for the regional facility (Renderings and Homeless housing)**

Staff is currently reviewing the draft lease terms for the future AWPf located in Palo Alto, and is also working on the completion of a Feasibility Study to evaluate potential cleanup requirements for Area B of the former Los Altos Treatment Plant (LATP) site. In addition, renderings for the future AWPf have been drafted and will be shared with the Committee. Lastly, on August 27, 2021 the Palo Alto City Council authorized the City manager to apply for a grant to fund the temporary installation of an emergency shelter in Area C of the LATP. Valley Water, Palo Alto, and Project HomeKey staff have been coordinating on the shelter and purified water projects.

**E. Outreach**

Valley Water continues to conduct stakeholder outreach to various groups and faith-based organizations in the Palo Alto and Mountain View areas. On September 7, staff met with Spark Church, a multi-denominational, multi-ethnic, and multi-generational church located in Palo Alto, to discuss the Purified Water Project. On September 9, Valley Water staff presented the project to the Mountain View Coalition of Sustainable Planning & Greenspaces. Staff also presented the Purified Water Project at the Palo Alto Parks and Recreation Commission on September 28. Additionally, on September 30, Valley Water met with the Santa Clara County Medical Association Environmental Committee. Staff will continue to follow up and pursue letters of support and referrals to other organizations for continued outreach.

**F. Update on P3 (public private partnership)**

Valley Water received eight Statements of Qualification in response to the Request for Qualifications and is currently reviewing them to prepare a shortlist. The Request for Proposal is being drafted for release in early 2022.

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The Joint Recycled Water Policy Committee (Palo Alto, East Palo Alto, Mountain View) discussed the following: separation of projects, dual plumbing, the project making progress, helping with delays, and outreach.

The Joint Recycled Water Policy Committee (Palo Alto, East Palo Alto, Mountain View) took no action.

## 4.2 COUNTRYWIDE WATER REUSE MASTER PLAN

Mr. David Tucker reviewed the following:

### Summary from Agenda Memo:

This item provides an update on the completion of the Santa Clara Valley Water District's (Valley Water) Countywide Water Reuse Master Plan (CoRe Plan), an integral component of Valley Water's Water Supply Master Plan. The objective of the CoRe Plan is to identify and evaluate future water reuse opportunities in collaboration with recycle water producers, wholesalers, retailers, users, and other interested stakeholders in Santa Clara County. Valley Water has set a goal of meeting at least 10% of the County's total water demand using recycled and purified water. Consequently, Valley Water developed a CoRe Plan that presents direction to provide up to 24,000 acre-feet per year of potable water reuse by 2028. The CoRe Plan (Attachment 2) was completed in June 2021 and accepted by the Valley Water Board of Directors at the August 10, 2021 Board meeting.

Since November 2018, the CoRe Plan has integrated over 15 critical engineering reports that form the Plan's reuse planning foundation and includes key stakeholder feedback into the Plan's key recommendations. The CoRe Plan has assembled the following technical memoranda into a planning compendium for future potable reuse implementation:

- Project Definition Technical Memorandum
- Baseline Analysis Technical Memorandum
- Conceptual Alternatives Technical Memorandum
- 1% Conceptual Alternatives Design
- Feasible Project Portfolios Technical Memorandum
- Draft Countywide Water Reuse Master Plan
- Non-Potable Onsite Reuse Survey
- Public Outreach and Engagement Survey
- California Water Reuse Governance Survey
- South Bay Water Recycling (SBWR) Master Plan Updates

The CoRe Plan represents the assemblage of these critical engineering and planning documents into a comprehensive water reuse planning document that describes available source water, relevant institutional arrangements, existing reuse systems, expanded reuse potential, feasible project portfolios, and initial cost and rate payer implications. Key benefits of the CoRe Plan include:

- Describes drought-resilient water reuse opportunities that could reduce our dependence on imported water and groundwater pumping,
- Supports habitat preservation and endangered species protection by reducing freshwater discharges to the South Bay and minimizes wastewater discharge to the Pajaro River in South County,
- Enhances estuarine ecosystem improvements, including freshwater fish habitat, in statewide watersheds resulting from reduced imported water reliance,
- Reduces the concentration of emerging contaminants in potable water reuse through advanced treatment techniques that reduces emerging environmental concerns with source waters, and
- Provides planning opportunities and water supply options with improved adaptation to anticipated climate change impacts.

The CoRe Plan represents an integrated plan after three years of technical planning, development of 10 water supply portfolios with indirect and direct potable reuse options, involvement of 60 stakeholder agencies, 60+ meetings and workshops, and 1200 pages of technical support documentation (Attachment 3). The Plan includes an Executive Summary, expanded discussion of fiscal and rate payer impacts, evaluation of on-site non-potable reuse opportunities, and options for phased project implementation.

Staff will present the vision underlying the master planning effort, the journey taken to develop the CoRe Plan, and the path ahead to support future potable reuse planning and implementation throughout the County and with emphasis in Palo Alto, East Palo Alto, and Mountain View.

The Joint Recycled Water Policy Committee (Palo Alto/East Palo Alto, Mountain View) discussed the following: stakeholder meetings, thanked staff for meeting with Sustainable, graywater consideration, water tours, potable

water reuse, City of East Palo Alto participating and engaging, East Sanitary District, blending and mixing (used interchangeably-terms), direct potable reuse, dual plumbing, recycle water, pipeline issues and sources of water.

Director Tony Estremera was available to answer questions.

The Joint Recycled Water Policy Committee (Palo Alto, East Palo Alto, Mountain View) took no action.

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

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