



## ENVIRONMENTAL AND WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE

# MINUTES

**MONDAY, JANUARY 24, 2022**

(Paragraph numbers coincide with agenda item numbers)

A regular scheduled meeting of the Environmental and Water Resources Committee (Committee) Meeting was held on January 24, 2022, Teleconference via Zoom in San Jose, California.

### 1. **CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL**

Committee Chair Mr. Bob Levy called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. A quorum was established with 12 Members present.

Members in attendance were:

| <u>Jurisdiction</u> | <u>Representative</u>   | <u>Representative</u>  | <u>Representative</u>   |
|---------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| District 1          | Loren Lewis             |                        |                         |
| District 2          | Charles Ice*            | Elizabeth Sarmiento    |                         |
| District 3          | Janet Higaki*           | Hon. Bob Nuñez         | Charles Taylor          |
| District 4          | Susan Blake             | Bob Levy               |                         |
| District 5          | Hon. Tara Martin-Milius | Mike Michitaka         |                         |
| District 6          | Hon. Patrick S. Kwok    |                        |                         |
| District 7          | Tess Byler              | Hon. Stephen A. Jordan | Arthur M. Keller, Ph.D. |

Members not in attendance were:

| <u>Jurisdiction</u> | <u>Representative</u> | <u>Representative</u> | <u>Representative</u> |
|---------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| District 1          | Bonnie Bamburg        |                       |                       |
| District 6          | Diego Mora Tejeda     | Jim Piazza            |                       |

\*Committee Members

Board members in attendance were: Director Tony Estremera and Director Linda J. LeZotte (Board Representatives) and Director Nai Hsueh (Board Alternate).

Staff members in attendance were: Aaron Baker, Neeta Bijoor, John Bourgeois, Glenna Brambill, Justin Burks, Vincent Gin, Rene Moreno, Metra Richert, Kirsten Struve, Jing Wu, and Bhavani Yerrapotu.

Public in attendance was: Director Richard P. Santos (Valley Water Board Member, District 3).

**2. PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no one present who wished to speak.

\*Ms. Janet Higaki logged on at 6:11 p.m.

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**3.1 APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

It was moved by Hon. Stephen Jordan, seconded by Ms. Tess Byler, and by roll call and unanimous vote carried, to approve the October 18, 2021, Environmental and Water Resources Committee meeting minutes with the following correction on page 13, to read:

**Agenda item 6.2. MANAGER'S REPORT**

Mr. John Bourgeois reported on: FAHCE Draft EIR comments were due Friday, October 15, 2021, Valley Water received public comments from several agencies and individuals, and staff is reviewing those substantive comments.

**4. ACTION ITEMS**

**4.1 ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR**

Committee Chair Mr. Bob Levy opened the floor for nominations for Chair and Vice Chair. Hon. Patrick Kwok nominated Mr. Bob Levy for Chair and Mr. Charles Taylor nominated Dr. Arthur M. Keller for Vice Chair.

The Environmental and Water Resources Committee by roll call and unanimous vote elected Mr. Bob Levy as Committee Chair and Dr. Arthur M. Keller as Committee Vice Chair for 2022.

**4.2 REVIEW AND APPROVE 2021 ACCOMPLISHMENTS REPORT FOR PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD (COMMITTEE CHAIR)**

Committee Chair Mr. Bob Levy reviewed the materials as outlined in the agenda item.

It was moved by Mr. Loren Lewis, seconded by Ms. Tess Byler, and by roll call and unanimous vote carried, to approve the 2021 EWRC Accomplishments Report.

**4.3 DROUGHT RESPONSE UPDATE**

Ms. Neeta Bijoor reviewed the materials as outlined in the agenda item.

\*Mr. Charles Ice logged on at 6:29 p.m.

The Environmental and Water Resources Committee discussed the following: year-end percentages, snow pack, state water calculations, normal rainfall for January, reservoir draining of Anderson, groundwater recharge, saving water, landscape watering, federal government funding, outreach programs-getting the water conservation message out to the masses, long-term/short-term recycling (purple piping), water savings chart, Anderson Dam spillway, dry wells/subsidence, thank staff-receiving water conservation materials in a timely manner now, gray water, Model Ordinances, heating water through recirculation pumps and d'mand.

Ms. Kirsten Struve, Mr. Vincent Gin, Mr. Aaron Baker, Director Nai Hsueh,

Ms. Metra Richert and Mr. Justin Burks were available to answer questions.

The Environmental and Water Resources Committee took no action.

#### **4.4 REVIEW AND RECEIVE UPDATES ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL AND WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE'S WORKING GROUPS.**

Committee Chair Mr. Bob Levy reviewed the materials as outlined in the agenda item.

The Environmental and Water Resources Committee received the following working groups reports:

##### **Natural Flood Protection Working Group Lead, Arthur M. Keller reported on:**

Met with staff January 19, 2022, and discussed the following projects' phases, studies designs, construction, and fundings:

- Shoreline Project
- Sunnyvale Shoreline Resilience Vision
- Upper Penitencia Creek
- Anderson Reservoir
- Coyote Creek and Guadalupe River maintenance.
- Alum Rock Creek
- San Francisquito Creek

##### **Water Supply Working Group Lead, Arthur M. Keller reported on:**

Met with staff January 18, 2022, and discussed the following:

- Update on Anderson Project-design, permitting and construction
- Recycled Water Project-recycled water needs and purified water
- Pacheco Reservoir Expansion Project-potential partnerships

##### **Environmental Stewardship Working Group Lead, Bob Levy reported on:**

- Bob Levy will serve as Chair and the group will meet next week with staff

##### **Climate Change Working Group Bob Levy reported on:**

Met with Staff March 2, 2022, mixed up invite of the Environmental Stewardship and Climate Change groups—which was corrected.

- Look at the Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP) and begin to prioritize
- Elizabeth Sarmiento may be lead once she understands the role
- The group will be meeting to determine next steps

##### **Integrated Water Resources Management Committee:**

- Have not met but Elizabeth Sarmiento will decide if she will be the lead once she understands the role

John Bourgeois reiterated the roles of the working groups:

1. Primary role is working on Board directed assignments
2. May bring relevant topics to the full committee

3. Staff support (liaisons) for the working groups

Director Nai Hsueh and Director Tony Estremera were available to answer questions.

The Environmental and Water Resources Committee took no action:

**4.5 REVIEW OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE  
WORK PLAN, THE OUTCOMES OF BOARD ACTION OF COMMITTEE REQUESTS  
AND THE COMMITTEE'S NEXT MEETING AGENDA**

Committee Chair Mr. Bob Levy reviewed the materials as outlined in the agenda item.

Question on the tasks or goals for Business Management which did not rise for needing a working group currently.

1. Homeless Encampments
2. Guadalupe and Pajaro Watershed Plans
3. FAHCE update
4. Drought-short term and long-term, 30,000 foot view and handling climate crisis?

Public comments are due February 15, 2022, on Draft EIR for the Pacheco Reservoir Expansion Project.

The Environmental and Water Resources Committee took no action, but Committee Chair Bob Levy and Committee Vice Chair Dr. Arthur Keller, will work with staff for work plan items.

**5. INFORMATION ITEMS:**

**5.1. Standing Items**

The Environmental and Water Resources Committee took no action.

**6.. CLERK REVIEW AND CLARIFICATION OF COMMITTEE'S REQUESTS TO THE BOARD**

Ms. Glenna Brambill reported there were no action items for Board consideration. The Committee did elect Chair and Vice Chair and approved the 2021 Accomplishments Report.

**7. REPORTS**

**7.1 DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Director Nai Hsueh reported on:

- Board Chair for 2022 is Director Gary Kremen
- Board Vice Chair for 2022 is Director John L. Varela

## **7.2. MANAGER'S REPORT**

Mr. John Bourgeois and Mr. Rene Moreno reported on:

Grants, the grant application portal is now open for standard grants! This year, we have \$1.4 million in grant funding available to support projects that improve water conservation, wildlife habitat restoration, offer access to trails and open space, pollution prevention, volunteer creek cleanups, and education. The Grants & Partnerships Program is part of the Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program, a special parcel tax that Santa Clara County voters passed in November 2020.

Grant applications will be accepted through March 4, 2022.

Thank you again for the opportunity to announce our FY22 Standard Grant Cycle. Below, I've included additional information on the application process and our upcoming virtual informational session. We hope that you can share this information with your networks.

## **7.3 COMMITTEE MEMBER REPORTS**

Ms. Elizabeth Sarmiento reported on:

- Annual Valley Water Landscape Summit on February 17, 2022, 9-11:30 a.m.  
an inspiring and action-based event, help spread the word and an email will be sent to the committee.

2 new Members, Ms. Janet Higaki and Hon. Bob Nunez (District 3) introduced themselves and their backgrounds.

Mr. John Bourgeois reported that the One Water Framework and Coyote Creek Watershed Plan going to be presented to the Board at tomorrow's meeting (January 25, 2022).

## **7.4 INFORMATIONAL LINK REPORTS**

Links are contained in the agenda.

## **8. ADJOURNMENT**

Committee Chair Bob Levy adjourned at 8:07 p.m. to the next regular meeting on Monday, April 18, 2022, at 6:00 p.m.

Submitted by:

Glenna Brambill  
Board Committee Liaison  
Office of the Clerk of the Board

Approved: 4-18-2022