



SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER COMMISSION MEETING

# MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 26, 2022

(Paragraph numbers coincide with agenda item numbers)

A regular meeting of the Santa Clara Valley Water Commission (Commission) was held on January 26, 2022, Teleconference via Zoom in San Jose, California.

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

Chair Hon. Pam Foley called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. A quorum of 14 was established.

**Members in attendance were:**

**Municipality**

City of Campbell  
City of Cupertino  
City of Gilroy  
City of Los Altos  
Town of Los Altos Hills  
Town of Los Gatos  
City of Milpitas  
City of Monte Sereno  
City of Morgan Hill  
City of Mountain View  
City of San José  
City of Santa Clara  
City of Saratoga  
City of Sunnyvale  
County of Santa Clara  
Santa Clara Valley Open Space  
Authority  
Midpeninsula Regional Open Space  
District

**Representative**

Hon. Hung Wei  
Hon. Peter Leroe-Muñoz  
Hon. Lynette Lee Eng  
Hon. Lisa Schmidt\*  
Hon. Maria Ristow  
Hon. Carmen Montano  
Hon. Liz Lawler  
Hon. Rich Constantine  
Hon. Lucas Ramirez  
Hon. Pam Foley  
Hon. Karen Hardy\*  
Hon. Rishi Kumar  
Hon. Omar Din\*  
Hon. Mike Wasserman  
Hon. Mike Flaughner

**Alternate**

Hon. Sergio Lopez

**Members not in attendance were:**

<b><u>Municipality</u></b>	<b><u>Representative</u></b>	<b><u>Alternate</u></b>
City of Campbell	Hon. Susan M. Landry	
City of Cupertino		Hon. Jon Willey
City of Gilroy		
City of Los Altos		Hon. Anita Enander
City of Monte Sereno		Hon. Bryan Mekechuk
City of Morgan Hill		Hon. Yvonne Martinez Beltran
City of Palo Alto	Hon. Greg Tanaka	
City of San José		Kerrie Romanow
City of Saratoga		Hon. Mary-Lynne Bernald
City of Sunnyvale		Hon. Gustav Larsson
County of Santa Clara		Hon. Cindy Chavez
Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District		Hon. Yoriko Kishimoto

\*Commission Members logged on at time stated.

Board members in attendance were: Director Gary Kremen and Director John L. Varela, (Board Representatives).

Staff members in attendance were: Jennifer Abadilla, Aaron Baker, Neeta Bijoor, Roseryn Bhudsabourg, Glenna Brambill, Melissa Fels, Amy Fonseca, Rachael Gibson, Vincent Gin, Andy Gschwind, Christopher Hakes, Carmen Narayanan, Melanie Richardson, Don Rocha, Kirsten Struve, Darin Taylor, and Gregory Williams.

Guests in attendance were: Lisa Bilir (City of Palo Alto), Hon. Helen Chapman (Open Space Authority Santa Clara Valley), Ramana Chinnakotla and Mansour Nasser (City of Sunnyvale), Hon. Matthew Hudes (Town of Los Gatos), Tony Ndah (City of Milpitas), Elizabeth Fiegel and Hon. Pat Showalter (City of Mountain View), and Gary Welling (City of Santa Clara).

Public in attendance were: Hon. Jim Beall, Director Linda J. LeZotte (Valley Water Board Member, District 4), and Shilpa Mehta.

**2. TIME OPEN FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON ANY ITEM NOT ON AGENDA**

There was no one present who wished to speak.

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

It was moved by Hon. Peter Leroe-Muñoz, seconded by Hon. Rich Constantine, and Hon. Mike Wasserman made a friendly amendment to add consent agenda items 4.2, 4.5 and 5.1. which was agreed upon by the makers of the motion, and by roll call and unanimous vote approved the October 27, 2021, Santa Clara Valley Water Commission meeting minutes as presented and noted consent items.

**4. ACTION ITEMS:**

**4.1 ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR**

Water Commission Chair Hon. Pam Foley opened the floor for nominations for Chair and Vice Chair.

Hon. Lucas Ramirez nominated Hon. Pam Foley for Commission Chair, seconded by Hon. Mike Wasserman. Hon. Mike Wasserman nominated Hon. Lynette Lee Eng as Vice Chair, seconded by Hon. Rishi Kumar.

Water Commission Chair Hon. Pam Foley closed the nominations for Chair and Vice Chair.

The Water Commission by roll call and unanimous vote elected Hon. Pam Foley as Water Commission Chair and Hon. Lynette Lee Eng. as Water Commission Vice Chair for 2022.

**4.2 ACCOMPLISHMENTS REPORT FOR PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD (COMMISSION CHAIR)**

The Santa Clara Valley Water Commission unanimously approved on consent.

\*Hon. Karen Hardy logged on at 12:20 p.m.

**4.3 UPDATE ON PROGRESS TOWARDS VALLEY WATER'S DROUGHT EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND DROUGHT-RELATED WATER CONSERVATION EFFORTS.**

Ms. Roseryn Bhusdabourg introduced Ms. Neeta Bijoor who reviewed the materials as outlined in the agenda item.

\*Hon. Lisa Schmidt logged on at 12:32 p.m.

The Santa Clara Valley Water Commission discussed the following: reservoirs being at capacity, Anderson being removed (largest dam), outreach message, digital billboards (public service announcements-PSA's), RHNA numbers and supporting Water Commission's request-ABAG Letter, water surcharge, use of recycled water, and commissioners would like to have the water savings report.

Ms. Kirsten Struve and Director Gary Kremen were available to answer questions.

The Santa Clara Valley Water Commission took no action.

\*Hon. Omar Din logged on at 12:49 p.m.

#### **4.4 DISCUSS PRELIMINARY FISCAL YEAR 2022-23 PRELIMINARY GROUNDWATER PRODUCTION CHARGE ANALYSIS; INVITE BOARD FEEDBACK AND COMMENT**

Mr. Darin Taylor introduced Ms. Carmen Narayanan reviewed the materials as outlined in the agenda item.

The Santa Clara Valley Water Commission discussed the following: 10% increases, projection over 10 years, at 12% inflation is high, agricultural water in South County-there needs to be a delicate balance, progressive use shown on the charts, do the upward trends show housing, water conservation, Anderson Dam retrofit, making smart investments, rate increases will be felt by all, however, it's hard for farmers to conserve (cut back) but residents will also feel the impact, making smart investments, and staff was thanked staff for the presentation, however, it was noted that Valley Water is mindful of the myriad of the issues, impacts, and concerns.

Ms. Kirsten Struve was available to answer questions.

The Santa Clara Valley Water Commission took no action.

Hon. Mike Wasserman logged off at 12:59 p.m. and did not return.

#### **4.5 REVIEW SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER COMMISSION WORK PLAN, THE OUTCOMES OF BOARD ACTION OF COMMISSION REQUESTS AND THE COMMISSION'S NEXT MEETING AGENDA**

The Santa Clara Valley Water Commission unanimously approved on consent.

### **5. INFORMATION ITEMS:**

#### **5.1 STANDING ITEMS REPORT**

The Santa Clara Valley Water Commission unanimously approved on consent.

### **6. CLERK REVIEW AND CLARIFICATION OF COMMISSION REQUESTS TO THE BOARD**

Ms. Glenna Brambill reported there were no action items.

### **7. REPORTS**

#### **7.1 Director's Report**

Director John L. Varela reported on:

- Costs of water increased, Imported Water (State and Federal), allocations, drought is ongoing, working with the Santa Clara County Farm Bureau, San Luis and Delta-Mendota Water Authority (SLDMWA) and Region 5 of the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) on the water related issues, concerns and costs of doing business. Reminded the Commissioners that rates were frozen in 2018 because of the drought during that time.

Director Gary Kremen reported on:

- Talk with constituents on the rates, importance of social justice and non-rate payer, funds are contributed to help people with water bills via agencies such as Sacred Heart,
- Price of water has gone up 4 times and Valley Water must purchase emergency water and that is the reason why you see the rate increases,
- Valley Water does support farmers, believe in open space credit and keeping local agriculture in Santa Clara County,
- Valley Water has no jurisdiction over land use, nor RHNA.

## **7.2 Manager's Report**

Mr. Aaron Baker reported on:

- State has water in reservoirs, Shasta, and Trinity are not so fortunate,
- Still in drought and it is important to continue working with the retailers and municipalities on the importance of drought messaging and water conservation.

Ms. Amy Fonseca reported on:

- Grants, the grant application portal is now open for standard grants! This year, we have \$1.4 million in grant funding available and looking for great ideas from schools, businesses, government agencies and other organizations that have projects that improve water conservation, wildlife habitat restoration, access to trails and open space, pollution prevention, volunteer creek cleanups, and education. Grant applications will be accepted through March 4, 2022. More information can be viewed at website: <https://www.valleywater.org/learning-center/grants-partnerships>. Thank you again for the opportunity to announce our FY22 Standard Grant Cycle. Please share this information with your networks and constituents.

Hon. Sergio Lopez, Hon. Lynette Lee Eng, and Hon. Liz Lawler logged off at approximately 1:10 p.m. and did not return.

Ms. Glenna Brambill reminded the Commissioners of the next scheduled meeting to be held earlier in the month on April 13, 2022, because of the Groundwater Production Charges discussion.

## **7.3 Commission Member Reports**

Hon. Rishi Kumar would like to receive Board Meetings information.

- It was moved by Hon. Rishi Kumar, seconded by Hon. Carmen Montano and by roll call and unanimous vote the Water Commission approved adding Water Surcharges to April's Agenda,

## **7.4 Informational Link Reports**

None, information located in the agenda.

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

Commission Chair Hon. Pam Foley adjourned at 1:25 p.m. to the next regular meeting on Wednesday, April 13, 2022, at 12:00 p.m.

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

Approved: 4-13-2022