



BOARD POLICY AND PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING

# MINUTES

**MONDAY, JANUARY 25, 2021  
1:00 PM**

(Paragraph numbers coincide with agenda item numbers)

**1. CALL TO ORDER  
1.1 ROLL CALL**

A regular meeting of the Santa Clara Valley Water District (Valley Water) Board Policy and Planning Committee (BPPC) was called to order at 2:00 p.m. on January 25, 2021, in the District Headquarters Building, Conference Room A-124, 5700 Almaden Expressway, San Jose, California.

Board Members in attendance in Conference Room A-124: Director Nai Hsueh-District 5;

Board members attending by videoconference: Director Barbara Keegan-District 2, and Director Linda J. LeZotte-District 4; constituting a quorum of the BPPC.

Staff members in attendance in Conference Room A-124: Michele King, Clerk of the Board.

Staff in attendance by videoconference: Lisa Bankosh, Rechelle Blank, Rick Callender, Theresa Chinte, Jennifer Codianne, Rachael Gibson, Andy Gschwind, Melanie Richardson, Sue Tippets, Tony Vye, Kristen Yasukawa, and Tina Yoke.

Guests/Public in attendance by videoconference: Author Keller, Environmental and Water Resources Committee 2020 Chairperson.

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

Chair Director Hsueh declared time open for public comment on any item not on the agenda.

Ms. Shani Kleinhaus, Environmental Advocate, Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society, requested an update on her previous request to provide wildlife connectivity in the Board's governance policies. Chair Hsueh informed her that this request was part of the E-4 policy discussion that is currently being reviewed by the BPPC.

**3. 3.1 APPROVAL OF MINUTES – January 7, 2021.**

The BPPC considered the draft minutes from the January 7, 2021 meeting. Chair Hsueh requested that the words “spirit of” be inserted before “E-1” in the fourth bullet of Committee discussion section of Item 4.1, on page 2 of the minutes. It was moved by Director LeZotte, seconded by Director Keegan, and unanimously carried by roll call vote to approve the amended minutes.

**4. Information and Action Items**

**4.1 TRAILS POLICY CRITERIA AND GUIDANCE: PUBLIC OUTREACH UPDATE**

Ms. Lisa Bankosh, Assistant Officer, provided an update on the stakeholder and community outreach for the public trails policy criteria and guidance, as outlined in the Committee Agenda memo and Handout 4.1-B. Copies of the handout were distributed to the Committee and made available to the public.

BPPC discussion:

Director Keegan requested that consideration be given to creating a map that shows the public where there are trail opportunities and identifies levels of challenges associated with trail development.

Director LeZotte requested that in Section 4.1 - Public Outreach by the Partner Agency, access by disability community where feasible be included in the planning process criteria.

Chair Hsueh acknowledged two communications received relating to this item; an email from Mr. Doug Muirhead, Morgan Hill resident, identified as Handout 4.1-A and a letter from the City of Morgan Hill identified as Handout 4.1-C. Copies of the handouts were distributed to the Committee and made available to the public.

Mr. Larry Ames commented that he believes that balance to protect water supply and habitat, provide public safety, and create trails that are compatible can be achieved, and that he looks forward to participating in future stakeholder sessions.

Ms. Kleinhaus commented that guidelines to protect or expand riparian corridors are needed, and the Audubon Society supports the notion that new construction of trails or trail segments in wetlands or parallel to waterways within contingent riparian habitat should be avoided and an appropriate buffer should be provided. Every trail should leave the habitat better than it was found, and requirements for habitat restoration should be required.

Linda Ruthruff, Environmental Advocate, Santa Clara Valley Native Plant Society, expressed appreciation for Valley Water making respecting the riparian habitat a priority. She stated that the expanded use of trails are causing damage to the habitat and consideration should be given for better protection in designated areas.

Lynn Paulson, Santa Teresa Foothills Neighborhood Association, expressed appreciation of the effort and stated that the association will participate in future stakeholder meetings.

Director Keegan and Chair Hsueh stated that trial use needs to be balanced for bicycle commuters and those walking, or simply enjoying the habitat.

The BPPC discussed the letter from the City of Morgan Hill and agreed that it contained requests that require a Board policy-level discussion and does not fit within the policy criteria and guidance document currently being reviewed. Therefore, it was requested that the letter, along with information on available grants data, etc., if applicable, be forwarded to the full Board for discussion and consideration with a recommendation from the BPPC to keep the current policy.

#### **4.2 WORK PLAN, MEETING SCHEDULE AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS REPORT.**

Chair Hsueh requested, and the BPPC agreed, to remove the Fiscal Year 21-22 Board Policy and Planning and Performance Monitoring Calendar from the work plan since the BAOs have now taken on the management of the document.

The BPPC agreed to move the Revised Water Resources Protection Ordinance and the Climate Change Policy and Action Plan items to the March meeting.

#### **5. CLERK REVIEW AND CLARIFICATION OF COMMITTEE REQUESTS.**

Michele King, Clerk of the Board, reviewed the action requested in Item 4.1.

#### **6. ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Director Hsueh adjourned the meeting at approximately 3:20 p.m.



Michele L. King  
Clerk of the Board

Approved: 3/2/21