



SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT (VALLEY WATER)
WATER STORAGE EXPLORATORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

**MONDAY, JUNE 30, 2021
11:00 AM**

(Paragraph numbers coincide with agenda item numbers)

A special meeting of the Water Storage Exploratory Committee (Committee) was held on June 30, 2021, via Zoom.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Water Storage Exploratory Committee was called to order by Committee Chair Director Gary Kremen at 11:00 a.m.

1.1 ROLL CALL

Valley Water Board Members in attendance were: Director Gary Kremen-District 7, Director Richard P. Santos-District 3, and Director John L. Varela-District 1.

Valley Water Staff in attendance were: Emmanuel Aryee, Aaron Baker, Lisa Bankosh, Glenna Brambill, Andrew Garcia, Vincent Gin, Mike Hagerty, Brian Hopper, Dana Jacobson, Cindy Kao, Kathleen Low, Ryan McCarter, Heath McMahan, Carmen Narayanan, Carlos Orellana, Steven Peters, Metra Richert, Don Rocha, Jamie Silva, Ranithri Slayton, Kirsten Struve, Charlene Sun, Darin Taylor, and Toni Vye.

Guests in attendance were: Les Chau (Kleinfelder), Hon. Brad Gleason (Pleasant Valley Water District {PVWD}), Thomas Francis (BAWSCA), Stephen A. Jordan (BAWSCA and Purissima Hills Water District), Marguerite Patil (Contra Costa Water District {CCWD}), and Hon. John Weed (Alameda County Water District {ACWD}).

Public in attendance were: Kelly A., Director Tony Estremera (Valley Water District 6), Val Frenkel, and Andrea Traum.

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

3.1 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Director Richard P. Santos, second by Director John L. Varela, and by roll call and unanimous vote carried to approve the minutes of the April 5, 2021, meeting of the Water Storage Exploratory Committee with amendment of having consistency noting those representing agencies in attendance and when making comments.

4. ACTION ITEMS

4.1 PACHECO RESERVOIR EXPANSION PROJECT UPDATE

Mr. Ryan McCarter reviewed the materials as outlined in the agenda item.

The Water Storage Exploratory Committee discussed the following: cost changes, WIFIA changes, permitting agencies, project progressing faster and making the project a priority, discussion with Cal Fire/emergencies, partnerships, and being proactive to move project forward.

The Water Storage Exploratory Committee took the following action.

It was moved by Director Gary Kremen, seconded by Director Richard P. Santos, and by roll call and unanimous vote approved to have the Board request the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) review the Pacheco Reservoir Expansion Project's efforts to date, all potential partnerships, and other project issues to ensure that this project is a priority by staff. Also, request the CEO consider reorganizing staff resources, if deemed appropriate, since the Board has approved this project as #2 priority. The Committee requested an update on this recommendation at the next meeting.

Public Comment received:

Mr. Kelly A, going back 6 months to a newspaper story about draining of the Anderson Dam after hearing of the earthquake problems, and the San Jose Mercury news article December 2020 noted that Valley Water (VW) was going to make up for lost water, there was no dire emergency, going to pump more local groundwater, use Recycled Water, pull water from the Delta and from semitropic storage district in Kern County, there was no dire emergency 6 months ago and now there's a dire emergency, he's stunned to hear now cost is no object and blaming staff for being slow to get partners for cost sharing, and to reorganize staff, he feels staff is working in a confident way and the snide remark of 'senior politician' City of San Jose needing to be a hydro geologist, wonder if anyone from VW Board is, it's a highly technical field, urge everyone to calm down and go back and review the plans, wonders how this emergency has crept up on 2m people of Santa Clara county residents, need to be cognizant, good planning, cost effective/cost efficient costs responsibility when spending public's money is very important.

4.2 GROUNDWATER BANK UPDATE

Mr. Andrew Garcia reviewed the materials as outlined in the agenda item.

The Water Storage Exploratory Committee discussed the following:

Scheduling of tour, water from semitropic, partners, getting water from San Luis, Ordinance/policy, quality of water concern, cost implications, groundwater banking or long-term exchange, Committee would like COO, Mr. Aaron Baker/staff to do a cost analysis/comparison with banking vs Pacheco (storing water underground vs. building).

Public Comment received:

Hon. Brad Gleason-President of Pleasant Valley Water District, Update: engaged with environmental engineer, on permitting and design where they will deposit water, with a construction engineer on pipeline takeout from the Coalinga Canal, favorable comments from Bureau and Department of Fish and Game and other agencies for permitting, hoping to be shovel ready January 2022, and reconnect to engage with Valley Water (Mr. Vincent Gin responded), final note: studies indicate storage (1m af water) within their basin enclosed and water won't migrate, borders Westlands which allows a direct return into canal or even into the aqueduct (help with stranded water).

The Water Storage Exploratory Committee took the following action.

It was moved by Director Gary Kremen, second by Director Richard P. Santos, by roll call and unanimous vote approved that the Board request the CEO do a budget adjustment to hire a high-level staff person with a business development background and a water resources focus that can dedicate negotiating groundwater banking, storage, dam, and appropriate agreements.

4.3 LOS VAQUEROS RESERVOIR EXPANSION PROJECT UPDATE

Mr. Michael Martin and Mr. Brian Hopper, reviewed the materials as outlined in the agenda item

The Water Storage Exploratory Committee discussed the following:

Agreement, cost-sharing, formation of user group, setting policy having elected officials.

The Water Storage Exploratory Committee took the following action.

It was moved by Director Gary Kremen, second by John L. Varela, and by roll call and unanimous vote approved requesting that the Board form a User Group Ad Hoc Committee (non Brown Act) and suggested having at least 1 WSEC Director, appropriate staff representation, and potentially having 1 or 2 elected officials from each policy user agency to discuss the Los Vaqueros Reservoir Expansion Project JPA Agreement, usage, and other pertinent business terms.

4.4 STANDING ITEMS INFORMATION

Ms. Cindy Kao reported on the following items:

Del Puerto: no updates.

Semitropic: related to banking operations up to May 1st took out 9,274 af scheduled to take an additional 1,162 af in June, through calendar 2021 scheduled to take 35,000 af, uncertainty related to takes but DWR's strong support of operation looks good.

Sites: cost estimate updated, increased to \$3.9 billion a 30% increase from previous estimates, current phase expires end of 2021, new phase beginning 2022 through December 2024, VW may be asked to and receive a participation agreement later in 2021.

B. F. Sisk Dam Raise Project:

Reclamation and San Luis and Delta-Mendota Water Authority (Authority) continuing to work on Endangered Species Act, compliance and other permitting requirements, and doing preconstruction planning, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) requested that the feasibility study be amended to include an updated cost estimate in the finalized transportation benefit analyses, also requiring that the Authority and Reclamation select an operational configuration to support our advice cost estimate for the program and that addendum to the feasibility study is due September 2021, expect discussions to pick up over the next few months, notice of determination and record of decision is expected in the Fall of this year and construction is slated for 2025 (schedule subject to change).

Shasta: No updates.

The Water Storage Exploratory Committee took no action, however, change Standing items Information to read Standing Items moving forward.

4.5 REVIEW WATER STORAGE EXPLORATORY COMMITTEE WORK PLAN AND THE COMMITTEE'S NEXT MEETING AGENDA

Ms. Glenna Brambill reviewed the agenda materials as outlined in the agenda item.

The Committee would like the following agenda items for the next meeting

1. LVE and related information
2. Director Varela met with CEO and he asked the Water Storage Exploratory Committee to add a discussion item on extreme emergency water supply for fire suppression in the County and invite Cal Fire for a presentation to explain their needs.

Set the next meeting potentially for July 19, 2021, Mr. Brian Hopper will work with Ms. Candice Kwok-Smith to get a firm date.

Public Comments received:

Committee Chair Director Gary Kremen received a public comment that was missed (raised hand) during agenda item 4.3. There is a cost estimate out there and want to be sure that the Transfer Bethany is an option only.

Like to receive a cost estimate called the Bartle Wells Cost Estimate in the Non-Agenda Packet Friday-July 2nd.

Mr. Stephen Jordan (BAWSCA and Purissima Hills Water District) confirmed there is a cost estimate for LVE by Bartle Wells that has total cost af of storage

5. Numbering error, no agenda.

6. **CLERK REVIEW AND CLARIFICATION OF COMMITTEE ACTIONS**

Ms. Glenna Brambill noted there were three action items for Board consideration.

Agenda Item 4.1

The Committee unanimously approved by roll call vote to request the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) review the Pacheco Reservoir Expansion Project's efforts to date, all potential partnerships, and other project issues to ensure that this project is a priority by staff. Also, request the CEO consider reorganizing staff resources, if deemed appropriate, since the Board has approved this project as #2 priority. The Committee requested an update on this recommendation at the next meeting.

Agenda Item 4.2

The Committee unanimously approved by roll call vote that the Board request the CEO do a budget adjustment to hire a high-level staff person with a business development background and a water resources focus that can dedicate negotiating groundwater banking, storage, dam, and appropriate agreements.

Agenda Item 4.3

The Committee unanimously approved by roll call vote to request that the Board form a User Group Ad Hoc Committee (non Brown Act) and suggested having at least 1 WSEC Director, appropriate staff representation, and potentially having 1 or 2 elected officials from each policy user agency to discuss the Los Vaqueros Reservoir Expansion Project JPA Agreement, usage, and other pertinent business terms.

7. **CLOSED SESSION CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL:**

**7.1 PENDING LITIGATION GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54956.9(D)(1)
SCVWD V. JIN, SANTA CLARA COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT, CASE NO.
19CV352227**

7.2. DISTRICT COUNSEL REPORT ON CLOSED SESSION.

Mr. Brian Hopper reported that direction was given to staff.

8. **ADJOURNMENT**

Committee Chair Director Gary Kremen adjourned the meeting at 12:46 p.m.

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

Approved: 7-19-2021