




## BOARD MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** May 16, 2024  
**TO:** Board of Directors  
**FROM:** Steve Cole   
Assistant General Manager  
**SUBJECT:** May 15, 2024 Rescheduled Water Resources and Watershed Committee Meeting Recap Report

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The rescheduled Water Resources and Watershed Committee met at 5:30 PM on Wednesday, May 15, 2024 at the Engineering Services Section (ESS) Boardroom located at 26521 Summit Circle, Santa Clarita, CA 91350. In attendance were Committee Chair Piotr Orzechowski, Directors William Cooper, Dirk Marks, and Gary Martin. Staff members present were Assistant General Manager Steve Cole, Executive Assistant Eunie Kang, and Information Technology Technician I Oliver Molina. Attending virtually were Director of Water Resources Ali Elhassan, Sustainability Manager Matt Dickens, Water Resources Planners Rick Vasilopoulos and Ernesto Velazquez and additional staff. Members of the public were also present. A copy of the agenda is attached.

**Item 2: Public Comment** – There was public comment.

**Item 3: Recommend Adoption of a Resolution Amending and Adopting the New 2024 Local CEQA Guidelines for Implementing the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code §§ 21000 ET SEQ.) for Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency** – After review and discussion, the Committee recommended through consensus to move this item forward for consideration and approval by the Board of Directors. This item has been deemed suitable for the Consent Calendar and will be presented as a separate report going to the June 18, 2024 regular Board meeting.

**Item 4: Recommend Adoption of a Resolution Authorizing the General Manager to Apply for Grant Funding under the Bureau of Reclamation’s FY2024 WaterSmart Planning and Project Design Grant Program for the Agency’s Pinetree Groundwater Recharge Facility Project** – After review and discussion, the Committee recommended through consensus to move this item forward for consideration and approval by the Board of Directors. This item has been deemed suitable for the Consent Calendar and will be presented as a separate report going to the June 4, 2024 regular Board meeting.

**Item 5.1: Status of New Drop Program** – Ernesto Velazquez highlighted significant progress on the New Drop Program. The achievement of a new permit for the Agency’s recycled water use marks a regulatory milestone, expanding the program’s reach. The collaboration across multiple departments will help focus on expanding the customer base for recycled water.

There was a public comment on item 5.1.

**Item 5.2: Director of Water Resources Report on Staff Activities** – Ali Elhassan shared on recent conferences attended by staff. Sarah Fleury’s presentation on drought challenges at the

Climate Conference in Washington DC and Rick Vasilopoulos' participation at the NEPA Annual Conference and Training Symposium in Minneapolis, MN. Additionally, the LA County Water Plan Water Resiliency Summit and the ACWA conference attendance with active engagement to continue the Agency's commitment in interacting and collaboration with other water experts.

**Item 6.1: Sustainability Manager Report on Staff Activities** – Matt Dickens shared several leadership activities which the conservation team are engaged in. Their participation in the California Water Efficiency Partnership's Peer-to-Peer conference will focus on leading industry research and enhancing water conservation strategies. They are also collaborating with the Water Research Foundation to analyze residential water use patterns. The conservation team continues to provide various customer care within the community. Finally, the Rio Vista battery project is nearing completion, with design efforts at 60% and progress being made towards interconnection application.

**Item 7: Committee Planning Calendar** – Staff and the Committee reviewed the Planning Calendar.

**Item 8: Adjournment** – The meeting adjourned at 6:40 P.M.

The meeting recording is available on the SCV Water Agency website or by clicking the following link: [Water Resources and Watershed Committee Meeting Recording.](#)

Attachment





**Date:** May 8, 2024

**To:** **Water Resources and Watershed Committee**  
Piotr Orzechowski, Chair  
William Cooper  
Dirk Marks  
Gary Martin

**From:** Steve Cole, Assistant General Manager *SC*

The rescheduled **Water Resources and Watershed Committee** meeting for **Wednesday, May 15, 2024 at 5:30 PM at 26521 Summit Circle, Santa Clarita, CA 91350 in the Engineering Services Section (ESS) Boardroom**. Members of the public may attend in person or virtually. To attend this meeting virtually, please see below.

### **IMPORTANT NOTICES**

This meeting will be conducted in person at the address listed above. As a convenience to the public, members of the public may also participate virtually by using the **Agency's Call-In Number 1-833-568-8864, Webinar ID: 161 767 5506 or Zoom Webinar by clicking on the link [scvwa.zoomgov.com/j/1617675506](https://scvwa.zoomgov.com/j/1617675506)**. Any member of the public may listen to the meeting or make comments to the Committee using the call-in number or Zoom Webinar link above. However, in the event there is a disruption of service which prevents the Agency from broadcasting the meeting to members of the public using either the call-in option or internet-based service, this meeting will not be postponed or rescheduled but will continue without remote participation. The remote participation option is being provided as a convenience to the public and is not required. Members of the public are welcome to attend the meeting in person.

Attendees should be aware that while the Agency is following all applicable requirements and guidelines regarding COVID-19, the Agency cannot ensure the health of anyone attending a Committee meeting. Attendees should therefore use their own judgment with respect to protecting themselves from exposure to COVID-19.

Members of the public unable to attend this meeting may submit comments either in writing to [ekang@scvwa.org](mailto:ekang@scvwa.org) or by mail to Eunie Kang, Executive Assistant, Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency, 26501 Summit Circle, Santa Clarita, CA 91350. All written comments received before 4:00 PM on the day of the meeting will be distributed to the Committee members and posted on the Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency website prior to the start of the meeting. Anything received after 4:00 PM on the day of the meeting will be made available at the meeting, if practicable will be posted on the SCV Water website the following day. All correspondence with comments, including letters or emails, will be posted in their entirety.

## MEETING AGENDA

<u>ITEM</u>		<u>PAGE</u>
1.	<b><u>PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE</u></b>	
2.	<b><u>PUBLIC COMMENTS</u></b> – Members of the public may comment as to items within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Agency that are not on the Agenda at this time. Members of the public wishing to comment on items covered in this Agenda may do so at the time each item is considered. (Comments may, at the discretion of the Committee Chair, be limited to three minutes for each speaker.) To participate in public comment from your computer, tablet, or smartphone, click the “raise hand” feature in Zoom. You will be notified when it is your turn to speak, please unmute when requested. To participate in public comment via phone, dial *9 to raise your hand. When it is your turn to speak, dial *6 to unmute.	
3. *	Recommend Adoption of a Resolution Amending and Adopting New 2024 Local CEQA Guidelines for Implementing the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code §§ 21000 ET SEQ.) for Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency	1
4. *	Recommend Adoption of a Resolution Authorizing the General Manager to Apply for Grant Funding under the Bureau of Reclamation’s FY2024 WaterSmart Planning and Project Design Grant Program for the Agency’s Pinetree Groundwater Recharge Facility Project	295
5.	Water Resources Director’s Report:	
	5.1 Status of New Drop Program	
	5.2 Staff Activities	
6.	Sustainability Manager’s Report:	
	6.1 Staff Activities	
7. *	Committee Planning Calendar	299
8.	Adjournment	
*	Indicates Attachment	
◆	Indicates Handout	

**NOTICES:**

Any person may make a request for a disability-related modification or accommodation needed for that person to be able to participate in the public meeting by telephoning Eunie Kang, Executive Assistant, at (661) 297-1600, or email to [ekang@scvwa.org](mailto:ekang@scvwa.org) or by writing to Eunie Kang, Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency, 26501 Summit Circle, Santa Clarita, CA 91350. Requests must specify the nature of the disability and the type of accommodation requested. A telephone number or other contact information should be included so that Agency staff may discuss appropriate arrangements. Persons requesting a disability-related accommodation should make the request with adequate time before the meeting for the Agency to provide the requested accommodation.

Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.5, non-exempt public records that relate to open session agenda items and are distributed to a majority of the Committee less than seventy-two (72) hours prior to the meeting will be available for public inspection at the Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency, located at 27234 Bouquet Canyon Road, Santa Clarita, CA 91350, during regular business hours. When practical, these public records will also be made available on the Agency's Internet Website, accessible at [yourSCVwater.com](http://yourSCVwater.com).

Posted on May 8, 2024

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