




BOARD MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 15, 2024
TO: Board of Directors
FROM: Steve Cole 
Assistant General Manager
SUBJECT: February 14, 2024 Water Resources and Watershed Committee Meeting Recap Report

The Water Resources and Watershed Committee met at 5:30 PM on Wednesday, February 14, 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, Director of Water Resources Ali Elhassan, Water Resources Planner Ernesto Velazquez, Executive Assistant Eunie Kang, and Information Technology Technician I Oliver Molina. Attending virtually was Sustainability Manager Matt Dickens, Senior Water Resources Planner Sarah Fleury, Senior Water Resources & Data Scientist Najwa Pitois, and members of the public were present. A copy of the agenda is attached.

Item 2: Public Comment – There was no public comment.

Item 3: Recommend Authorizing the General Manager to Enter into Contract with INTERA Incorporated for Groundwater Flow Model Improvement under the Water Resilience Initiative – 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 will be presented in a separate report going to the February 20, 2024, regular Board meeting.

There was public comment on item 3.

Item 4.1: Status Groundwater Recharge Feasibility Study – Ernesto Velazquez gave a presentation on how SCV Water Agency can use local basin infiltration to enhance groundwater recharge. He shared his fieldwork results from Castaic and Pinetree and suggested further steps for engineering evaluation, water quality assessment, developing permitting strategies and conducting more modeling.

Item 4.2: Status of Water Supplies – Sarah Fleury gave an overview of the water supplies and availability. She compared the rainfall amounts in our Valley for 2023 and 2024 with the historical average. She also showed the snowpack levels across the state, the current reservoir status, and the changes to the 2024 operating plan.

Item 4.3: Director of Water Resources Staff Activities – Ali Elhassan shared that a new position for a Senior Hydrogeologist in the Water Resources Department has opened. He stated the recruitment process has begun, and we are looking for qualified candidates who can contribute to the Groundwater Sustainability Plan, Groundwater modeling and reduce our dependence on external consultants.

Item 5.1: Conservation Program Performance Overview – Matt Dickens provided an overview of the conservation program's progress. He discussed how the program achieved its conservation goals, what changes were made to improve the program, and what the regulatory implications were. He also shared the timeline for developing a long-term framework for conservation.

Item 5.2: Sustainability and Conservation Staff Activities – Matt Dickens reported on three important initiatives for Sustainability. He spoke on the photovoltaic assets, which are key for generating clean energy, and the Battery Storage Project, which aims to optimize the use of renewable sources and improve grid stability. Finally, the process of updating the Sustainability Plan, which includes a comprehensive assessment of our greenhouse gas emissions, quarry operations and other resource consumption patterns.

Item 6: Committee Planning Calendar – Staff and the Committee reviewed the Planning Calendar.

Item 7: Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 7:00 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

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Date: February 7, 2024

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

From: Steve Cole, Assistant General Manager

The **Water Resources and Watershed Committee** meeting for **Wednesday, February 14, 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: 160 606 1391 or Zoom Webinar by clicking on the link scvwa.zoomgov.com/j/1606061391**. 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 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 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 the day of the meeting will be made available at the meeting, if practicable, and 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.	<u>PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE</u>	
2.	<u>PUBLIC COMMENTS</u> – 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 Authorizing the General Manger to Enter into Contract with INTERA Incorporated for Groundwater Flow Model Improvement	1
4.	Water Resources Director’s Report:	
	4.1 Status of Groundwater Recharge Feasibility Study	
	4.2 Status of Water Supplies	
	4.3 Staff Activities	
5.	Sustainability Manager’s Report:	
	5.1 Conservation Program Performance Overview	
	5.2 Staff Activities	
6.	* Committee Planning Calendar	5
7.	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 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.

Posted on February 7, 2024

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