



## COMMITTEE MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** May 20, 2021  
**TO:** Public Outreach and Legislation Committee  
**FROM:** Steve Cole  
Assistant General Manager   
**SUBJECT:** Overview of Consolidated Communications, Outreach and Education

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### SUMMARY

#### Consolidated Communications/Planning Efforts

SCV Water continues to make progress on multiple planning initiatives designed to effectively manage the water supply for our customers, ensuring they have access to reliable water today and tomorrow. These efforts, part of a multi-year process, will advance several regional water plans and programs that enhance water reliability, quality, environmental sustainability, and delivery.

Public engagement and strategic outreach remain integral to these significant planning efforts and projects. A multi-pronged approach supports each effort to reach a large cross section of our customers, so they have opportunities to become informed and engaged in these important processes. We continue to communicate effectiveness, efficiencies and regional stewardship and are building stronger relationships with those we serve. It is about transparency, accountability and customer service.

Building on the work that began in fall 2020, SCV Water had a busy winter and spring with the release of several policy plans to the public for review and comment in preparation for board hearings and proposed action. More details on these are contained in this memo. In addition, we added a new pillar to our multi-pronged planning initiatives. The Local Hazard Mitigation Plan can now be found on our planning dashboard at [yourscvwater.com/lhmp](https://yourscvwater.com/lhmp).

We encourage the committee to use the online dashboard [yourscvwater.com/planning](https://yourscvwater.com/planning). It is one of the many strategies we use to keep the public informed and offer information on how they can get involved in these planning processes.

## SCV WATER PLANNING EFFORTS & PROJECTS

Water for Today & Tomorrow



To learn more visit: [yourscvwater.com/planning](https://yourscvwater.com/planning)

Below is an additional summary of our recent outreach efforts and our upcoming activities.

### DISCUSSION

These are the planning efforts and projects underway:

#### **Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP)**

Work continues to move forward on the 2020 UWMP Update. For background, the update is a requirement of the California Urban Water Management Planning Act and other applicable laws, and must be done every five years. This plan addresses water supply forecast for current customers and future growth, how to expand recycled water and conservation, water shortage response actions, an assessment of both local and imported water supplies and how climate could affect those supplies. Our short video explains the elements and importance of the UWMP. Watch it here: <https://youtu.be/UeLntdfjuus>.

Between November 2020 and March 2021, we held three virtual public workshops that served as forums where stakeholders and the public could learn about the UWMP Update process, offer input and provided a public comment/question portion. The 30-day public comment period for the Draft UWMP update will remain open through May 26. On May 27, the Board of Directors will hold a virtual public hearing on the plan.

Workshop summaries, video recordings and the draft UWMP and 2015 addendum are available at <https://yourscvwater.com/uwmp>.

#### **Water Shortage Contingency Plan (WSCP)**

On June 9 at 6:30 p.m., SCV Water Board of Directors will hold virtual public hearings and take action on the Water Shortage Contingency Plan and ordinance. This meeting was originally scheduled for April 26, following the public comment period that ended on April 12.

The WSCP is a requirement of the California Urban Water Management Planning Act and other applicable laws and directs the suppliers' long-term resource planning to improve water conservation and water shortage planning. It will enable SCV Water to prioritize mitigation actions when water shortage conditions occur, such as drought, earthquakes, fires, or other catastrophic events.

Information about the WSCP and ordinance, drafts of each along with a recording of the January virtual public workshop on them can be found at: <https://yourscvwater.com/wscp>.

### **Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP)**

Per the Sustainability Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) of 2014, water agencies must form Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSA) and develop a plan that demonstrates management and use of groundwater in a manner that can be maintained during the planning and implementation horizon without causing undesirable results. It must be complete by January 2022

The GSA recently announced that it was seeking applicants for three openings on its Stakeholder Advisory Committee. The openings are for a community-at-large member and small and medium groundwater pumpers in the Santa Clara River Valley East Subbasin. The Committee was formed in 2019 to express the interests of the stakeholder groups they represent while also considering other viewpoints and working toward a consensus. The application is available at <https://scvgsa.org/stake-holder-advisory-committee-application>.

Two public workshops are scheduled for this summer. On June 9 from 4:00-6:00 p.m., SCV-GSA will be holding a Projects and Management Actions Workshop. Also, the agency will hold a Draft GSP Workshop on August 25 from 4:00-6:00 p.m. To learn more visit <https://scvgsa.org/public-input>.

### **Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)**

For nearly two years now, SCV Water has been hard at work tackling PFAS in our water supply, and transparently communicating our efforts to the residents of the Santa Clarita Valley.

SCV Water staff have served on several expert panels recently, sharing our success in responding to this crisis in a quick and effective manner, including bringing online the first PFAS treatment facility in California to use the anion exchange resin.

We are currently in the certification process to bring PFAS testing in-house with the addition of equipment and training to our water quality lab. Significant outreach is being planned around this effort.

Additionally, construction has begun on a second treatment facility, this one at Valley Center Well near Golden Valley and Soledad, and an informational sign has been installed.

Learn more at <https://yourscvwater.com/pfas>.

### **Rate Case**

SCV Water is considering a five-year schedule of water rates and charges to Commodity Rates and Service Charges. A recent cost-of-service analysis determined that expenses associated with operating and maintaining the water system will rise steadily through 2025-2026 and anticipated revenue will not keep pace with that increase.

SCV Water held two identical public meetings on May 5 and 6 on the proposed rate changes and action. The events also included a Q&A section. Recordings of both meetings and the presentation slides are available online at: <https://yourscvwater.com/rateplanning>.

In addition, customers were mailed a Notice of Proposed Rate Changes that included information on the public hearing scheduled for June 15 at 6:30 p.m. The meeting will be held

virtually via Zoom. Information on the June 15 virtual public meeting, details on proposed rate changes and what the new fees will support are available here:

<https://yourscvwater.com/rateplanning/>.

### **Local Hazard Mitigation Plan**

SCV Water is in a planning process to become better prepared for natural disasters, and is seeking public input in the development of a Local Hazard Mitigation Plan. This plan will identify the potential natural hazards affecting our service area. When complete, it will provide a comprehensive approach on how to manage these hazards and mitigate their impacts on the agency and its customers.

A public survey is now open to help facilitate public input on the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan. May 22 is the deadline to participate. The survey is available at:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SCVWater-LHMP>.

Information about the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan can be found at:

<https://yourscvwater.com/lhmp>.

### **Additional Projects and Campaigns**

#### **DroughtReadySCV**

Drought messaging has begun to take center stage in much of our Agency outreach. A new webpage has been dedicated to the effort at [www.DroughtReadySCV.com](http://www.DroughtReadySCV.com), where we will continue to add resources and messaging. Staff filmed a segment for SCV-TV Community Corner which first aired on May 14, and have also conducted interviews with the local newspaper and radio stations. The SCV Drought Committee has been reconvened, comprising SCV Water, the city and the county.

### **FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

None associated with this discussion. Each project has its own budget.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

This item is provided for informational purposes.