



SCV
WATER

WATER RESOURCES AND WATERSHED COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, April 12, 2023
Meeting Begins at 5:30 PM

Members of the public may attend by the following options:

In Person

Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency
Engineering Services Section
Boardroom
26521 Summit Circle
Santa Clarita, CA 91350

By Phone

Toll Free:
1-(833)-568-8864
Webinar ID: 161 767 5381

Virtually

Please join the meeting from your
computer, tablet or smartphone:

<https://scvwa.zoomgov.com/j/1617675381>

Have a Public Comment?

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.
(Public comments take place during Item 2 of the Agenda and before each Item is considered. Please see the Agenda for details.)

This meeting will be recorded and the audio recording for all Committee meetings will be posted to yourscvwater.com within 3 business days from the date of the Committee meeting.


Disclaimer: 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 Board meeting. Attendees should therefore use their own judgment with respect to protecting themselves from exposure to COVID-19.

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Date: April 5, 2023

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 is scheduled on **Wednesday, April 12, 2023 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 5381 or Zoom Webinar by clicking on the link <https://scvwa.zoomgov.com/j/1617675381>**. 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.)	
3. Discussion of FY 2023/24 and FY 2024/25 Water Resources Operating Budget and Minor and Major Capital	
4. Water Resources Director’s Report	
* 4.1 Status of Devil’s Den	1
4.2 Status of Water Supplies	
4.3 Staff Activities	
5. Sustainability Manager’s Report	
5.1 Status of Drought Response and Performance	
6. * Committee Planning Calendar	3
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.

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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 <http://www.yourscvwater.com>.

Posted on April 5, 2023.

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COMMITTEE MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 5, 2023
TO: Water Resources and Watershed Committee
FROM: Ali Elhassan
Director of Water Resources *AE*
SUBJECT: Status of Devil's Den

SUMMARY AND BACKGROUND

Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency's (SCVWA) Devil's Den property encompasses 8,656 acres in Kern and Kings Counties. The Devil's Den Water District (District) is still an existing entity, although its State Water Project (SWP) contract rights of 12,700 Acre-Feet (AF) have been permanently transferred to SCVWA. Since its purchase in 1988, the District property has been used for small amounts of annual farming and cattle grazing at tenant farmer, Rolling Hills Farms, who maintains the property for SCVWA in lieu of any monetary lease payments. Staff has recently engaged two consultants, Thomas Harder & Company and Provost and Pritchard Consulting Group to prepare reports analyzing both the water quality and sustainable yields of the two basins that the District share, as well as a review and analysis of the potential revenue sources from the use of the property in the future.

DISCUSSION

Thomas Harder & Company Evaluation of Safe Yield & Water Quality

The Thomas Harder & Company's study provides an updated estimate of the safe yield of the groundwater resources within the District. The study also evaluates water quality from samples taken at both existing SCV Water wells and adjacent farmer's wells. The methodology used in the analysis of the safe yield arrives at the changes in storage and safe yield through water budget accounting of historical groundwater inflows and outflows, which is essentially the same as those used to estimate safe yield in the 1997 Kennedy Jenks Groundwater Management Plan, although KJ's assumptions used to arrive at their water budget terms differ from those used in this study.

The study shows the current estimated total safe yield of the District is approximately 1,900 to 2,810 acre-ft/yr (AFY) with the low end of the range based on the assumption that no more imported water is delivered to the District. These estimates are lower than previous estimates from the 1997 Kennedy Jenks report which estimated 2,600 to 6,400 AFY under natural conditions and 3,800 to 7,600 AFY with imported water. It was concluded that the primary reason for the difference is how recharge from precipitation was estimated. The KJ report does not explain how they estimated the groundwater recharge from precipitation, but since recharge from precipitation is the largest groundwater inflow item in a water budget, their significantly higher rate led to the difference in safe yield. The Harder study concluded the precipitation recharge values used in the KJ report were too high and recommended the use of the Williamson et al. (1989) method which is the method relied on by the USGS for their Central Valley Groundwater Flow Model.

Groundwater within the District was found to be characterized by relatively high total dissolved solids (TDS) and inorganic constituents. These levels were higher in the Kettleman Plain and slightly lower in the Sunflower Valley. The groundwater quality of both basins limits the types of beneficial uses for which the water can be used. Groundwaters, as identified in the Regional Water Quality Control Board Central Valley Basin Plan, are either municipal, agricultural or industrial. The report finds that groundwater within the District is not suitable for municipal supply, absent treatment, due to TDS and nitrate concentrations exceeding their respective MCL's, but is suitable for some agricultural irrigation for crops tolerant of these levels.

Provost and Pritchard Analysis of Potential Revenue Sources

The Provost and Pritchard study reviews and analyzes various ways in which the Devil's Den property could generate revenues that SCVWA could use to offset costs for ratepayers. The study compares alternatives to determine which should be reviewed in more detail as potential revenue sources in the future and which can be eliminated from further consideration. Ten different alternatives are discussed in the report.

The report concludes that only three of these alternatives make sense to further analyze. These alternatives include leasing the land for solar generation or for permanent agricultural crops and setting aside a portion of the property for mitigation banking. Other less likely options include the export or exchange of native groundwater, setting aside a portion of the property for easement access to the Coastal Aqueduct or to the Arco Substation, or the outright sale of the property.

The report recommends that SCVWA perform a more detailed biological survey of the District property that identifies all species that are present, including any special status species and their prey. It also recommends producing a master plan of the District, identifying which portions of the land should be considered for the various land uses discussed. The master plan would make future decision-making regarding future land uses easier and quicker and enable SCVWA to react more quickly to offers on solar leases or other land uses.

STRATEGIC PLAN NEXUS

The completed reports and the resulting actions from their conclusions will help meet SCV Water's Objective and Strategic Plan Objective F.1.5: "Optimize use of SCV Water real estate."

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

None

RECOMMENDATION

That the Water Resources and Watershed Committee consider staff's recommendation for further investigations into the viability of future land use of the Devil's Den Water District property. No action requested at this time.

RGV



**WATER RESOURCES AND WATERSHED COMMITTEE
AGENDA PLANNING CALENDAR FY 2022-2023**

**ITEM NO.
6**

July 5, 2022 Regular Board Meeting

1. Recommend Adoption of a Resolution Approving the SB 610 Water Supply Assessment for the Wiley Canyon Mixed-Use Development

July 13, 2022 Committee Meeting

1. Recommend Authorizing the General Manager to Enter into an Agreement with GSI Water Solutions, Inc. for the First Year of Groundwater Sustainability Plan Implementation
2. Water Resources Director Report:
 - Status of Upper Santa Clara River Salt and Nutrient Management Plan
3. Sustainability Manager Report:
 - Status of Drought Response and Performance

July 19, 2022 Regular Board Meeting

1. Status of Recycled Water Program

August 2, 2022 Regular Board Meeting

1. Recommend Authorizing the General Manager to Enter into an Agreement with GSI Water Solutions, Inc. for the First Year of Groundwater Sustainability Plan Implementation

August 10, 2022 Committee Meeting

1. Recommend Adoption of a Resolution Authorizing the General Manager to Apply for Grant Funding Under the WaterSmart Water Energy Efficiency Grant Program and Execute a Grant Agreement with the Federal Bureau of Reclamation
2. Water Resources Director Report:
 - Status of Groundwater Recharge Feasibility Studies
 - Devil's Den Semi-Annual Report
3. Sustainability Manager Report:
 - Update on Conservation Activities and Performance
 - Status of Drought Response and Performance

August 16, 2022 Regular Board Meeting

1. Recommend Adoption of a Resolution Authorizing the General Manager to Apply for Grant Funding Under the WaterSmart Water Energy Efficiency Grant Program and Execute a Grant Agreement with the

September 14, 2022 Committee Meeting

1. Recommend Adoption of a Resolution Approving the SB 610 Water Supply Assessment for the Shadowbox Studios Development
2. Recommend Authorizing the General Manager to Execute a Construction Contract for Bridgeport Pocket Park
3. Update on Water Operating Plan and Water Conservation Response Actions
4. Water Resources Director Report:
 - Update on Water Resiliency Plan Initiative Activities
 - Status of Water Supply and Water Banking Programs
5. Sustainability Manager Report:
 - Update on Conservation Activities and Performance

October 12, 2022 Committee Meeting

1. Recommend Adoption of a Resolution Approving the SB 610 Water Supply Assessment for the Shadowbox Studios Development
2. Water Resources Director Report:
 - Status of Water Supply and Water Banking Programs
3. Sustainability Manager Report:

- Status of Drought Response and Performance
- Update on Conservation Activities and Performance

October 18, 2022 Regular Board Meeting

1. Recommend Adoption of a Resolution Approving the SB 610 Water Supply Assessment for the Shadowbox Studios Development
2. Update on Water Operating Plan and Water Conservation Response Actions

November 9, 2022 Committee Meeting

1. Introduction of New Water Resources Director
2. Recommend Authorizing the General Manager to Execute a Construction Contract for Bridgeport Pocket Park
3. Recommend Adoption of a Resolution Authorizing SCV Water Agency to Apply for and Execute a Grant Agreement on Behalf of the SCV-GSA with the California Department of Water Resources for a Sustainable Groundwater Management Grant
4. Water Resources Manager Report:
 - Staff Activities
5. Sustainability Manager Report:
 - Status of Drought Response and Performance
 - Update on Conservation Activities and Performance

November 15, 2022 Regular Board Meeting

1. Recommend Authorizing the General Manager to Execute a Construction Contract for Bridgeport Pocket Park

December 14, 2022 Committee Meeting

1. Recommend Adoption of a Resolution Authorizing the General Manager to Submit an Application for a Proposition 1, Round 2 Integrated Regional Water Management Implementation Grant and Execute a Grant Agreement with the California Department of Water Resources
2. Water Resources Manager Report:
 - Status of Water Supplies
3. Sustainability Manager Report:
 - Status of Drought Response and Performance

December 20, 2022 Regular Board Meeting

1. Recommend Adoption of a Resolution Authorizing SCV Water Agency to Apply for and Execute a Grant Agreement on Behalf of the SCV-GSA with the California Department of Water Resources for a Sustainable Groundwater Management Grant

January 3, 2023 Regular Board Meeting

1. Recommend Adoption of a Resolution Authorizing the General Manager to Submit an Application for a Proposition 1, Round 2 Integrated Regional Water Management Implementation Grant and Execute a Grant Agreement with the California Department of Water Resources

January 11, 2023 Committee Meeting

1. Water Resources Manager Report:
 - Status of Water Supplies
2. Sustainability Manager Report:
 - Status of Drought Response and Performance
 - Update on Conservation Activities and Performance

February 8, 2023 Committee Meeting

1. Water Resources Manager Report:
 - Presentation of GoldSim Model
 - Status of Water Supplies
2. Sustainability Manager Report:
 - Presentation on Completed Water Conservation and Education Experience Design

March 8, 2023 Committee Meeting

1. Recommend Authorizing the General Manager to Enter into an Agreement for the Coordinated Deliveries of State Water Project Water Supplies between United Water Conservation District and SCV Water Agency
2. Discussion of Staffing Considerations
3. Water Resources Manager Report:
 - Devil's Den Semi-Annual Report
 - Status of Water Supplies
4. Sustainability Manager Report:
 - Presentation of Conservation Long-Term Framework – AB 1668 and SB 606

March 21, 2023 Regular Board Meeting

1. Recommend Authorizing the General Manager to Enter into an Agreement for the Coordinated Deliveries of State Water Project Water Supplies between United Water Conservation District and SCV Water Agency

April 12, 2023 Committee Meeting

1. Discussion of FY 2023/24 and FY 2024/25 Water Resources Operating Budget and Minor and Major Capital
2. Water Resources Manager Report:
 - Status of Devil's Den
 - Status of Water Supplies
3. Sustainability Manager Report:
 - Status of Drought Response and Performance

May 17, 2023 Committee Meeting

1. Recommend Adoption of Sustainability Action Plan
2. Recommend Adoption of a Resolution Approving the SB 221 Water Supply Verification for the Sand Canyon Village Development
3. Recommend Authorizing the General Manager to Enter into a MOU with Antelope Valley-East Kern Water District to Fund Planning Costs for a Portion of the Proposed Phase 2 Proposed High Desert Water Bank
4. Recommend Adopting a Resolution Authorizing Creation of a Standby Charge for the Tesoro Del Val Annexation Area
5. Water Resources Manager Report:
 - Status of Water Supplies
6. Sustainability Manager Report:
 - Status of Drought Response and Performance

June 6, 2023 Regular Board Meeting

1. Recommend Adoption of Sustainability Action Plan
2. Recommend Adoption of a Resolution Approving the SB 221 Water Supply Verification for the Sand Canyon Village Development
3. Recommend Authorizing the General Manager to Enter into a MOU with Antelope Valley-East Kern Water District to Fund Planning Costs for a Portion of the Proposed Phase 2 Proposed High Desert Water Bank
4. Recommend Adopting a Resolution Authorizing Creation of a Standby Charge for the Tesoro Del Val Annexation Area

June 14, 2023 Committee Meeting

1. Recommend Approval of a Resolution Adopting Recycled Water Rules and Regulations
2. Water Resources Manager Report:
 - Status of Water Supplies
3. Sustainability Manager Report:
 - Status of Drought Response and Performance



WATER RESOURCES AND WATERSHED COMMITTEE AGENDA PLANNING CALENDAR FY 2023-2024

July 12, 2023 Committee Meeting

1. Water Resources Director Report:
 - Status of Upper Santa Clara River Salt and Nutrient Management Plan
2. Sustainability Manager Report:
 - Status of Drought Response and Performance

July 18, 2023 Regular Board Meeting

1. Recommend Approval of a Resolution Adopting Recycled Water Rules and Regulations

August 9, 2023 Committee Meeting

1. Water Resources Director Report:
 - Status of Groundwater Recharge Feasibility Studies
 - Devil's Den Semi-Annual Report
2. Sustainability Manager Report:
 - Status of Conservation Activities and Performance
 - Status of Drought Response and Performance

September 13, 2023 Committee Meeting

1. Recommend that the Board Authorize the General Manager to Enter into a Long-Term Water Exchange Agreement with Irvine Ranch Water District
2. Water Resources Director Report:
 - Status of Water Supplies
3. Sustainability Manager Report:
 - Status of Conservation Activities and Performance
 - Status of Drought Response and Performance

October 3, 2023 Regular Board Meeting

1. Recommend that the Board Authorize the General Manager to Enter into a Long-Term Water Exchange Agreement with Irvine Ranch Water District

October 11, 2023 Committee Meeting

1. Water Resources Director Report:
 - Status of Water Supplies
2. Sustainability Manager Report:
 - Status of Drought Response and Performance
 - Status of Conservation Activities and Performance

November 8, 2023 Committee Meeting

1. Water Resources Manager Report:
 - Status of Water Supplies
2. Sustainability Manager Report:
 - Status of Drought Response and Performance
 - Status of Conservation Activities and Performance

December 13, 2023 Committee Meeting

1. Authorize the General Manager to Enter into Contracts for Water Resiliency Plan Initiative
2. Water Resources Manager Report:
 - Status of Water Supplies
3. Sustainability Manager Report:
 - Status of Drought Response and Performance
 - Status of Conservation Activities and Performance