



SCV Water Agency Water Resources and Watershed Committee Meeting

Wednesday, October 11, 2023

Committee 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: 160 568 5969

VIRTUALLY

Please join the meeting from your
computer, tablet or smartphone:
scvwa.zoomgov.com/j/1605685969

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

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Date: October 4, 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 for **Wednesday, October 11, 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: 160 568 5969 or Zoom Webinar by clicking on the link scvwa.zoomgov.com/j/1605685969**. 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. * Recommend Adoption of a Resolution Authorizing the General Manager to Apply for Grant Funding under the Bureau of Reclamation’s FY 2023 WaterSmart Applied Science Grant Program for the Agency’s Groundwater Model Refinement and Calibration Project	1
4. Water Resources Director’s Report	
4.1 Staff Activities	
5. Sustainability Manager Report	
5.1 Status of Conservation Activities and Performance	
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.

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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 yourSCVwater.com.

Posted on October 4, 2023

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COMMITTEE MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 4, 2023

TO: Water Resources and Watershed Committee

FROM: Najwa Pitois, Ph.D., P.E. *NP*
Senior Water Resources and Data Scientist

SUBJECT Recommend Adoption of a Resolution Authorizing the General Manager to Apply for Grant Funding under the Bureau of Reclamation's FY2023 WaterSmart Applied Science Grant Program for the Agency's Groundwater Model Refinement and Calibration Project

SUMMARY

Consistent with Board direction to pursue grant opportunities, on or before October 17, 2023, staff will apply to the Bureau of Reclamation's FY2023 WaterSmart Applied Science Grant Program for up to \$400,000 in funding to support project(s) under the Agency's Resiliency Water Master Planning process. Grant application procedures require that the SCV Water Board of Directors adopt a resolution authorizing the General Manager to apply for the grant, execute a grant agreement, carry out the Agency's obligations under any future Grant Agreement, comply with California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and commit to providing a funding match as identified in the grant application (up to \$400,000) and up to the balance of funds necessary to complete the project.

DISCUSSION

The severity of California's recent drought coupled with the high variability of State Water Project supplies and the projected long-term impacts of climate change underscore the need for continued improvement in management strategies of the Agency's water supply portfolio. A major priority of SCV Water is to maintain a reliable and resilient water supply to address potential water shortages caused by evolving regulations and extreme weather cycles that are features of California's climate. Since drought on the State Water Project (SWP) system leads to significant imported water curtailment, evaluation of groundwater supply production is important to future assessments of reliability as it represents a predominant portion of water supply during drought conditions. The groundwater numerical model developed for the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) is the primary model used to better understand the adequacy of local groundwater supply and readily address questions about surface water and groundwater resources. Refinement of this groundwater model will allow SCV Water to evaluate how new groundwater operating strategies can improve the reliability of the basin and ensure ample water supply during droughts and emergencies while protecting environmental values in the Santa Clara River.

SCV Water seeks grant funding for utilizing the recently updated model to examine alternative operating scenarios for the groundwater system, and to further refine the model by incorporating data gathered through ongoing and future aquifer testing to provide more robust groundwater operations analyses. Scenarios would include:

1. Testing and updating of the model to better describe the recharge and storage paths in the Saugus aquifer and the interfaces between the Saugus aquifer and the Alluvial system.
2. Testing and updating of the model to better describe the interaction between surface water and groundwater along the Santa Clara River in response to different groundwater pumping scenarios.
3. Testing with the model to evaluate potential strategies to adjust volumes of Alluvial pumping by altering pumping volumes in normal and wet years.
4. Evaluating potential strategies to offset declines in available supplies from both Alluvial and Saugus systems by altering pumping schedules, locations and/or implementing groundwater recharge in normal and wet years.

STRATEGIC PLAN NEXUS

This Project will help meet the Agency's Strategic Plan Goal C. Water Supply and Resource Sustainability: Implement programs to ensure the service area has reliable and sustainable supplies of water.

Strategy C.1 Conduct planning to ensure long-term water demands are met.

- C.1.2 Identify projects and initiate planning for projects to enhance long-term water supply reliability consistent with the updated Water Supply Reliability Report.
- C.1.5 Monitor climate change science and public policy. Incorporate climate change impacts on water demand and supplies into long-term plans and programs to maintain reliable and sustainable water supplies.

Strategy C.3 Advance the integrated management of water resources.

- C.3.5 Coordinate and analyze performance of water banking and exchange programs, local groundwater production and water conservation measures.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Estimated costs for the Groundwater Refinement and Calibration Project is \$726,748, funding for which is included in the Fiscal Year 2023/24 and Fiscal Year 2024/25 Capital Budgets. Any funding necessary to complete the project will be requested in the FY2025/26 Capital Budget.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Water Resources and Watershed Committee recommends that the Board of Directors adopt a resolution authorizing the General Manager to (1) apply for grant funding under the Bureau of Reclamation's FY2023 WaterSmart Applied Science Grant Program for the Agency's Groundwater Model Refinement and Calibration Project , (2) execute a Grant Agreement; (3) carry out the Agency's obligations under any future Grant Agreement; and (4) pending Board compliance with California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), provide a minimum of 100% matching funds (up to \$400,000) and the balance of funds needed to complete the Agency's Groundwater Model Refinement and Calibration Project.

Attachment

RESOLUTION NO.

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE SANTA CLARITA VALLEY WATER AGENCY AUTHORIZING AN APPLICATION FOR GRANT FUNDING UNDER THE BUREAU OF RECLAMATION'S FY2023 WATERSMART APPLIED SCIENCE GRANT PROGRAM FOR THE AGENCY'S GROUNDWATER MODEL REFINEMENT AND CALIBRATION PROJECT

WHEREAS, the Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency's (Agency) Resiliency Water Master Planning process focuses on optimizing the utilization of the local groundwater basin, as well as overall water supply reliability, by evaluating the water resources portfolio of the Agency and the ecological values of the Santa Clara River as interrelated systems; and

WHEREAS, the Agency is in the planning stages of assessments to enable more sophisticated analyses of the current groundwater operating plan in the context of the water supply needs in the Agency's service area and the stewardship objectives for the Santa Clarita River; and

WHEREAS, the Agency seeks to advance the Resiliency Water Master Plan by engaging in a Groundwater Model Refinement and Calibration Project (Project) by incorporating data that is being gathered through ongoing and future aquifer testing to provide more robust groundwater operations analyses and to examine alternative groundwater operating scenarios; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of the Interior offers financial assistance in the form of grant funding through its Bureau of Reclamation's WaterSMART (Sustain and Manage America's Resources for Tomorrow) Applied Science Grant Program for this type of project. The WaterSMART Applied Science Grant program provides funding up to \$400,000 per award, but not to exceed 50% of the total project cost; and

WHEREAS, the Agency desires to fund part of the cost of the Project with grant funding from the WaterSMART FY2023 Applied Science Grant program.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Directors of the Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency hereby finds, determines, declares, and resolves as follows:

1. The Board hereby supports a grant application to the WaterSMART Applied Science Grant Program.
2. The Board hereby authorizes and directs the General Manager, or his or her designee, to complete, review, sign and submit, for and on behalf of the Agency, a grant application to the Bureau of Reclamation's WaterSMART Applied Science Grant Program for its Groundwater Model Refinement and Calibration Project.
3. The General Manager, or his or her designee, is authorized and designated to provide the assurances, certifications, and commitments required for the grant application, including executing a financial assistance or similar agreement

with the Bureau of Reclamation within established deadlines and any amendments or changes thereto.

4. The General Manager, or his or her designee, is authorized and designated to represent the Agency in carrying out the Agency's responsibilities under any future grant agreement, including certifying disbursement requests on behalf of the Agency and compliance with applicable state and federal laws.
5. If a grant award is made to the Agency by the Bureau of Reclamation, the Agency commits, pending compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Board approval of the Groundwater Model Refinement and Calibration Project, to providing a minimum of 100% in matching funds and up to the balance of funds needed to complete the Groundwater Model Refinement and Calibration Project.
6. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

DRAFT



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

**ITEM NO.
6**

October 11, 2023 Committee Meeting

1. Recommend Adoption of a Resolution Authorizing the General Manager to Apply for Grant Funding under the Bureau of Reclamation's FY 2023 WaterSmart Applied Science Grant Program for the Agency's Groundwater Model Refinement and Calibration Project.
2. Water Resources Director Report:
 - Staff Activities
3. Sustainability Manager Report:
 - Status of Conservation Activities and Performance

November 7, 2023 Board Meeting

1. Recommend Adoption of a Resolution Authorizing the General Manager to Apply for Grant Funding under the Bureau of Reclamation's FY 2023 WaterSmart Applied Science Grant Program for the Agency's Groundwater Model Refinement and Calibration Project
2. Water Resources Integration Model Presentation

November 8, 2023 Committee Meeting

1. Recommend Authorizing the General Manager to Enter into an Agreement for the Vista Canyon Recycled Water between City of Santa Clarita and SCV Water Agency
2. Water Resources Manager Report:
 - Status of Upper Santa Clara River Salt and Nutrient Management Plan
 - Review results of RFQ for Supplemental Services for Resiliency Initiative
 - Staff Activities
3. Sustainability Manager Report:
 - Status of Conservation Activities and Performance

November 21, 2023 Board Meeting

1. Recommend Authorizing the General Manager to Enter into an Agreement for the Vista Canyon Recycled Water between City of Santa Clarita and SCV Water Agency

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 Groundwater Recharge Feasibility Studies
 - Status of Devil's Den Solar Feasibility Study
 - Status of Water Supplies
 - Staff Activities
3. Sustainability Manager Report:
 - Status of Conservation Activities and Performance

January 2, 2024 Board Meeting

1. Authorize the General Manager to Enter into Contracts for Water Resiliency Plan Initiative

January 10, 2024 Committee Meeting

1. Water Resources Manager Report:
 - Status of New Drop Program
 - Status of Water Supplies
 - Staff Activities
2. Sustainability Manager Report:
 - Status of Conservation Activities and Performance

February 14, 2024 Committee Meeting

1. Recommend Authorizing the General Manager to Enter into 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
2. Water Resources Manager Report:
 - Staff Activities
3. Sustainability Manager Report:
 - Status of Conservation Activities and Performance

February 20, 2024 Board Meeting

1. Recommend Authorizing the General Manager to Enter into 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