

## **MINUTES**

**Tuesday, September 24, 2024**

**East Bay Municipal Utility District  
Board of Directors  
375 Eleventh Street  
Oakland, California**

### **Special Meeting**

President Lesa R. McIntosh called to order the Special Meeting of the Board of Directors at 10:29 a.m. in the Administration Building Boardroom. The Board met in workshop session to receive an update on the Recycled Water Strategic Plan Update, staff recommendations for future recycled water projects to meet the District's recycled water goal, and information requested by the Board during the March 26, 2024 Recycled Water Strategic Plan Workshop.

### **ROLL CALL**

Directors April Chan, Luz Gómez, Andy Katz, Doug A. Linney, William B. Patterson, Marguerite Young and President Lesa R. McIntosh were present at roll call.

Staff participants included General Manager Clifford C. Chan, General Counsel Derek T. McDonald, Director of Water and Natural Resources Michael T. Tognolini, Manager of Water Supply Improvements Linda H. Hu, Supervisor of Water Recycling Florence T. Wedington, Associate Civil Engineer Reena G. Thomas, and Secretary of the District Rischa S. Cole.

**Public Comment.** None.

**Presentations/Documentation.** 1) Presentation entitled "Recycled Water Strategic Plan Update Workshop No. 2," dated September 24, 2024.

General Manager Clifford C. Chan introduced the workshop and Manager of Water Supply Improvements Linda H. Hu reviewed the agenda.

Supervisor of Water Recycling Florence T. Wedington reviewed tasks completed since the March 26, 2024 workshop; direct potable reuse regulations approved in 2023 to be effective October 1, 2024; and types of indirect and direct potable reuse. She discussed the status of significant potable reuse projects in California including Orange County's 130 million gallons per day (MGD) groundwater augmentation project, Monterey One's 5 MGD groundwater augmentation project, San Diego's planned 83 MGD reservoir augmentation project, Pure Water Southern California's planned groundwater/raw water augmentation project, and Valley Water's groundwater augmentation project, which includes an 8 MGD demonstration facility operating since 2014. As part of their education program, Valley Water bottled samples of purified water, which staff provided at Board places. She highlighted the timeline of San Diego's purified water project (Pure Water San Diego) which began in 1993 noting construction of their 30 MGD reservoir augmentation project began in 2024. Next, she reported on completing stakeholder outreach for the strategic plan update and receiving positive feedback from various stakeholders including cities, agencies, customers, and NGOs.

Associate Civil Engineer Reena G. Thomas discussed the criteria used to evaluate non-potable and purified water alternatives which considered environmental and social objectives, complexity and risks, as well as capital costs, operations and maintenance costs, and relative unit costs. She highlighted significant changes to non-potable reuse irrigation projects at the East Bay Shore Recycled Water Project; the San Ramon Valley Recycled Water Project; and satellite projects being developed by Diablo Country Club, Rossmoor, Sequoyah Country Club, and UC Berkeley as well as changes to non-potable reuse industrial projects at the Chevron/RARE site and Phillips 66 refinery. She reviewed evaluation results for non-potable reuse projects and costs to move forward with expanding the East Bayshore Recycled Water Project to Oakland, Alameda and Emeryville; working with Phillips 66; and a phased San Ramon Valley Recycled Water Project. Capital costs for these preferred projects total about \$134 million and would serve 4.8 MGD in demand. Purified water alternatives evaluated included obtaining different supply sources, augmenting reservoirs and groundwater with purified water, and adding purified water to drinking water plants, aqueducts, or the District's distribution system. Potential alternatives for further evaluation include indirect and direct potable reuse projects with Central Contra Costa Sanitary District and indirect and direct potable reuse projects at the District's Main Wastewater Treatment Plant. Capital costs for these projects could range from \$655 million to \$1.2 billion, with production capacities between 18 to 30 MGD.

Manager of Water Supply Improvements Linda H. Hu highlighted changed conditions for the various projects and an update on the forecast of 2040 recycled water demand provided at the March 26 workshop. In March, staff reported preferred projects could support up to 19 MGD in demand; the updated forecast indicates the preferred projects can support demands up to 14.2 MGD or 13 MGD if satellite projects are excluded. Some considerations and challenges for the District's recycled water program include increased customer conservation, declining wastewater flows, and refinery changes. A reduction in the District's recycled water goal to less than 20 MGD would be offset by an increase in conservation, so the combined net reduction in demands remains about the same. Purified water is a future opportunity but has significant challenges including high project capital costs, complex permitting and operations, and the need for extensive public outreach. Ms. Hu noted future analyses still need to be completed. Near-term studies include updating the need for water analysis to 2050 to reflect demand changes, availability of supplies, and climate change; updating the District's water supply management portfolio; comparing recycling to other water supply portfolio elements; and updating the 2025 Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP). Future studies include 5-year UWMP updates as well as a comprehensive update of the Water Supply Management Program in 2032-2033 with an updated need for water and supply options. These updates will depend on the status of the Voluntary Agreements and conditions of the District's Federal Energy Regulatory Commission relicensing. She discussed preliminary water supply option costs and potential yields (dry year unit costs) and presented two options for the Board to consider. The first option would reduce the District's recycled water goal to 13 MGD of non-potable reuse by 2050. Under option two, the District would maintain the 20 MGD goal but extend the date to 2050. Staff recommends noting the District would need to add potable reuse in the long-term to meet the goal. She reiterated that for either option, it would be important for the District to develop messaging and implement outreach and education plans well in advance to support future purified water projects. The Board's feedback will be incorporated into the Recycled Water Strategic Plan Update which is scheduled to be finalized by December 2024. Results and recommendations will be included in the 2025 UWMP.

The Board discussed the staff recommendation; the timeline to bring potable reuse online at the District; the project in San Diego; the estimated time needed to conduct outreach and educate customers on potable reuse and purified water; and the potential to conduct a pilot project before implementing a full potable reuse project. Board members expressed support for the staff recommendation to maintain the 20 MGD recycled water goal and to extend the goal to 2050. The Board also acknowledged that the District would need to add potable reuse to its water supply portfolio in the long-term to meet this goal.

The Board thanked staff for the information and requested the following:

- Enlarged versions and a PDF of the maps on slide 6 and slide 18. For the slide 18 map, include labels and arrows indicating the flow direction of purified water
- Information on how climate change is evaluated in modeling the District's need for water and consider looking at outside resources (e.g., City of Santa Cruz's work with the University of Massachusetts Amherst to model its future water supply in the face of climate change)
- Consider other ways to compare every year and dry year only supplemental supply projects
- Ensure sufficient funds are budgeted to conduct public outreach on potable reuse/purified water and include information on why non-potable demand has decreased in the messaging


#### **ADJOURNMENT**

President McIntosh adjourned the Special Meeting at 11:33 a.m.

SUBMITTED BY:

  
Rischa S. Cole, Secretary of the District

APPROVED: October 8, 2024

  
Lesa R. McIntosh, President of the Board

