

# Countywide Water Coordination Committee

## MINUTES MEETING OF FEBRUARY 21, 2018

Chair Pine called the meeting to order at 7:35 am at the San Mateo City Hall.

Attendance sheet is attached.

### **1. Public Comments on items not on the agenda.**

None.

### **2. Approval of minutes from the January 17, 2018 meeting.**

*Motion: Member Gauthier moved to approve the January 17, 2017 minutes as presented; Seconded by Member Vaterlaus; Motion carried unanimously.*

### **3. Receive update on the Countywide Water Extreme Summit “Floods, Drought, Rising Seas, Oh My!” and provide input to event plans.**

Committee members received an update on the planning process for the countywide water summit. Staff presented Canada College’s Grove conference room as a recommended alternative venue to the Theater, due to considerations of capacity, centralized breakout sessions and overall site suitability. Members discussed approach for tracking attendees who had already RSVP’d, with a focus on recruiting elected officials and high-level staff from each jurisdiction in the County. Staff shared information on agencies and projects that committed to participate in the poster session of the event, updated the members on plans for two panel presentations, and discussed plans for creating an agenda packet, which could include one-page poster project descriptions for attendees to take home. The County water coordination website will later post event details and follow-up information and resources. Members discussed whether a separate session should be held to focus on funding and governance issues, using the countywide stormwater program and the San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority as case studies for dialogue.

### **4. Discussion on next steps to countywide water collaboration.**

Chair Pine led a discussion about next steps for creating a unified water agency or department within an existing agency to better coordinate flood control- and sea level rise- related projects and competitively pursue state and federal funding. Another benefit of a single agency would be the potential to levy new assessments for increased revenue to successfully plan and build projects. Brian Perkins, District Director for Congresswoman Jackie Speier, presented the Port of San Francisco’s Sea Wall Resiliency Project as an example of a single agency effectively pursuing federal funding for a major water infrastructure project. Similarly, Perkins shared the five-year capital improvement program for the Santa Clara Valley Water District to demonstrate another agency’s successful efforts to secure state and federal funding for a comprehensive project list, including from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Members discussed the formation of an ad-hoc workgroup consisting of one elected official, one senior manager, and one technical staff representative from each of the

geographic regions represented on the Committee (north, central, south, coastal, and unincorporated), to provide advice and recommendation for creation of such a “one-water” agency. Chair Pine also recognized a need for consultant support to facilitate the ad-hoc workgroup.

**5. Member comments and announcements (information item).**

None.

**7. Adjournment.**

Meeting was adjourned at 8:55 am. Next meeting is scheduled for April 18, 2018.