

**WATER RESOURCES & CONSERVATION  
COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY MINUTES  
Wednesday, May 26, 2021  
4:15 p.m.**

**ATTENDANCE**

Directors: Jim Gunther (Chair), Aziz Akbari <sup>AB</sup>

Staff: Robert Shaver, Laura Hidas, Ed Stevenson, Thomas Niesar, Leonard Ash, Megan Maurino, Gisselle Delgadillo

Public: No members of the public were present.

*The monthly Water Resources and Conservation Committee Meeting was held on May 26, 2021, at 4:15 PM. Due to COVID-19 and in accordance with Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-25-20 which suspends portions of the Brown Act, this meeting was conducted by Zoom Webinar and Teleconference and members of the public were invited to participate. Materials presented to the Committee were posted in advance of the meeting at [www.acwd.org](http://www.acwd.org) and copies of materials as presented are attached to these minutes.*

**DISCUSSION TOPICS**

1. Drought Update: Leonard Ash, Water Supply Supervisor, provided the first of what will be a recurring monthly Drought Update to keep the Committee and the Board informed of any changes to water supplies and demands through the current drought. Mr. Ash described the changes to the US Drought Monitor classifications for the District's service area and all of California as the drought progressed. On May 20, the US Drought Monitor released updated maps designating a large band through the North Bay and East Bay as "exceptional" drought, which is their highest classification of drought intensity. Mr. Ash presented a slide of current District demands showing the trend in slightly increased customer demands during the last two very dry months. Staff continues to coordinate with East Bay Regional Park District about the expected lower Quarry Lakes water levels this year, as those levels affect recreation operations and water quality. Lake levels are expected to stay well above the lowest levels in the last drought, which occurred in 2014. Return deliveries of banked water supplies in Semitropic started early this year, and Semitropic schedules are on track to return banked supplies above the contracted amount this year, which benefits the District with more flexibility for water supply operations later in the year. Staff is tracking drought actions performed by the Department of Water Resources (DWR) in the Delta. DWR is moving forward with plans to install an emergency drought salinity barrier at West False River, which will help keep salinity out of the central Delta. Additionally, DWR has filed a Temporary Urgency Change Petition on May 17 for modifying the environmental objectives that the State Water Project would have to meet, such as outflow requirements and water quality parameters. Mr. Ash reported that District staff has been meeting frequently with DWR, South Bay Aqueduct contractors, and other state contractors. DWR has consistently stated that they are projected to maintain the District's 2021 deliveries as requested, even in the challenging summer and fall months. DWR's Delta Field Division is working closely with the District and other South Bay contractors to keep Lake Del Valle as full as possible, which provides an additional hedge of

security to have that water available for blending and in the event of an emergency. Staff responded to questions from Directors Akbari and Gunther.

2. Water Use Efficiency Program Update: Megan Maurino, Water Conservation Specialist, presented an update on District participation in the FY 2021/22 Bay Area Water Supply and Conservation Agency (BAWSCA) programs and the District's Water Efficient Landscape (WEL) rebate measure.

a. The District routinely participates in a few select water use efficiency programs administered by BAWSCA under annually renewed, program-specific participation agreements. In doing so, the District leverages BAWSCA staff resources and benefits from economy of scale pricing, helping to achieve its cost-effective efficiency goals. In FY 2021/22, BAWSCA is offering 15 water use efficiency programs. Staff has reviewed all BAWSCA's programs and recommends continued participation in the following programs:

- i. Rain Barrel Rebate Program – All customers can receive \$50 per rain barrel for up to two rain barrels.
- ii. Regional Smart Controller Program – Residential customers can receive an instant incentive of \$75 when purchasing a Rachio Inc. controller.
- iii. Large Landscape Program – Landscape water audits and online water use budget tool for large landscape customers with dedicated landscape meters through Waterfluence.

Participation in these programs is part of the recommended strategy in the Water Efficiency Master Plan (WEMP). Each fiscal year the District must determine which BAWSCA programs and services to renew, add, or end. No programs or services are proposed to end but there are two programs staff recommends adding in FY 2021/22:

- i. Irrigation Hardware Rebate Program – Through this program, the District would offer customers a rebate of up to \$5 for high-efficiency sprinkler nozzles, up to \$10 for spray bodies with pressure regulation, and up to \$30 for large rotors. Participation in this program was included in the WEMP for FY 2021/22.
- ii. Water Loss Management Program – Through this program, the District would receive support and validation through Water Systems Optimization (WSO), BAWSCA's subcontractor. Participation in this program will assist the District in identifying ways to reduce water losses to an economically optimized level and comply with water loss requirements implemented by the State of California.

Staff will be asking the Board to authorize the General Manager to enter into participation agreements with BAWSCA at the June Board Meeting. The District's participation allows regional consistency of programs and enhances local partnerships.

b. As the State enters another critically dry year, the District's One Saves Water conservation campaign leverages public awareness of drought to increase adoption of District measures,

over the planned WEMP targets, and accelerate market transformation. One of the District's proposed drought response actions is to increase the WEL rebate amount from \$1 to \$2 per square foot to motivate more customers to convert their lawns to water-efficient landscapes. The maximum rebate for residential customers would also increase from \$1,500 to \$3,000. The District currently has existing grant funding available to cover \$0.50 of the rebate amount. This increase will be reviewed by the Board on June 10, 2021.

Funds for all updates are proposed for inclusion in the FY 2021/22 budget as presented at the May 19 and May 27, 2021, Board Workshops. Rebates and incentives for current measures are adopted in the District's Rate and Fee Schedule and these updates and additions will be added through resolution. These program updates will help meet the District's Strategic Plan Goal 2.1 – Maintain and Enhance Sustainability and Reliability of Local and Regional Water Supplies. Staff responded to questions from Directors Gunther and Akbari.

3. Public Comments: There were no public comments.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Topics discussed by the Committee were informational only, and no recommendations are being made.

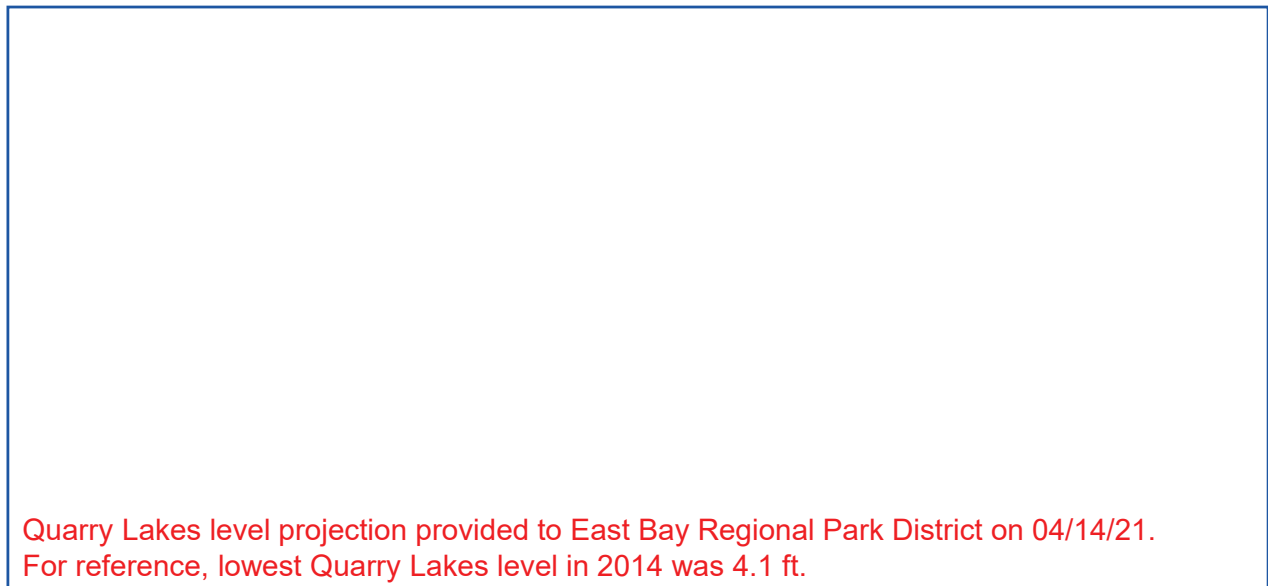


# 2021 Demand Tracking



Water Resources and Conservation Committee, May 26, 2021  
Agenda Item 1, Slide 3

# Quarry Lake Levels



Water Resources and Conservation Committee, May 26, 2021  
Agenda Item 1, Slide 4

# Recent Updates

- Semitropic returns successfully accelerated
- Dept. of Water Resource (DWR) Delta Actions
  - Planning to install Emergency Drought Salinity Barrier
  - Filed Temporary Urgency Change Petition (TUCP) on May 17 for modifying environmental objectives
- DWR projected to maintain 2021 deliveries as requested
- DWR keeping Lake Del Valle as full as possible



Water Resources and Conservation Committee, May 26, 2021  
Agenda Item 1, Slide 5

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## Alameda County Water District

### *Water Use Efficiency Program Update*

Water Resources and Conservation  
Committee May 26, 2021



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# Bay Area Water Supply and Conservation Agency (BAWSCA) FY 2021/22 Programs

## District Participation Renewals:



- **Rain Barrel Rebate Program** – All customers can receive \$50 per rain barrel for up to two rain barrels



- **Regional Smart Controller Program** – Residential customers can receive an instant incentive of \$75 when purchasing a Rachio Inc. controller



- **Large Landscape Program** – Landscape water audits and online water use budget tool for large landscape customers with dedicated landscape meters through Waterfluence

Participation in these BAWSCA Programs are part of the recommended strategy in the Water Efficiency Master Plan (WEMP).



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# BAWSCA FY 2021/22 Programs

## New District Participation:

- **Irrigation Hardware Rebate Program** – Through this program, the District would offer customers a rebate of up to \$5 for high-efficiency sprinkler nozzles, up to \$10 for spray bodies with pressure regulation, and up to \$30 for large rotors. Participation in this program was included in the WEMP for FY 2021/22.
- **Water Loss Management Program** – Through this program, the District would receive support and validation through Water Systems Optimization (WSO), BAWSCA's subcontractor. Participation in this program will assist the District in identifying ways to reduce water losses to an economically optimized level and comply with water loss requirements implemented by the State of California.



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# Programs Update: Water Efficient Landscape (WEL) Rebate

- Water Year 2020-2021 has been one of the driest in State history. The District's conservation campaign leverages public awareness of drought to increase adoption of District measures, over the planned WEMP targets, and accelerate market transformation.
- As part of the District's drought response actions, it is proposed to increase the WEL rebate amount from \$1 to \$2 per square foot. The maximum rebate for residential customers would increase from \$1,500 to \$3,000. The District currently has available grant funding to cover \$0.50 of the rebate amount.
- By increasing the rebate for this measure the District will be in a better position later this year and next year if the dry year conditions persist.



Customer's home before (left) and after (right) a WEL rebate from the District.

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## Thank you!

### Questions?



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