

# Watershed Management Initiative

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## Santa Clara Basin Watershed Management Initiative Core Group Meeting

February 7, 2008

9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

City of San José, Watershed Protection Offices, Almaden Conference Room

170 West San Carlos Street, San José CA 95113

### MEETING MINUTES

**Attendance:** Trish Mulvey, Melody Tovar, Steve Osborn, Tim Stevens, Roberta Dunlap, Phil Bobel, Bob Rhode, Luisa Valiela, Lorrie Gervin, Larry Johmann, Kirsten Struve, Sarah Young, Melanie Richardson, Mary Ann Ruiz, Margaret Bruce, and Sandra Freitas.

• **Meeting Agenda:**

<b>TIME</b>	<b>TOPIC</b>
9:30 a.m.	Welcome, Introductions, and Early Announcements (Trish Mulvey)
9:40 a.m.	Review Meeting Minutes and Update Action Item from Core Group Meeting on December 6, 2007 (Trish Mulvey)
9:45 a.m.	Outside Group Updates/Presentations (Melody Tovar) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Santa Clara Valley Water District Strategic Initiatives, Melanie Richardson/Mary Ann Ruiz (15 minutes)</li><li>▪ San José's Green Vision, Margaret Bruce (60 minutes)</li></ul>
11:00 a.m.	Subgroup Updates and Discussion (Melody Tovar) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Product Stewardship<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Plastic Bag and Styrofoam Ban</li></ul></li><li>▪ POTW</li></ul>
12:00 p.m.	Adjourn and Next Meeting: April 3, 2008

**Action Items:**

#	ACTION ITEM	ASSIGNED TO	DUE DATE	STATUS
1	Invite staff from the Santa Clara Valley Water District to speak about the Strategic Initiatives for Future Funding Strategies for future Core Group Meeting	Sandra Freitas	3/08	Done
2	Provide link to Global Climate Change Report, <i>From Watts to Water</i>	Sarah Young	3/08	Done
3	Forward WMI Comments for the SCVWD's Strategic Initiatives to Melanie Richardson	Sandra Freitas	ASAP	Done
4	Check-in with SCVWD Managers to see that WMI comments were considered into the Strategic Initiatives	Mary Ann Ruiz	ASAP	Done

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5	Coordinate presentation with Santa Clara Valley Water District for presentation on the Strategic Initiatives, Managing Global Climate Change Impact at future Core Group Meeting	Sandra Freitas/ Trish Mulvey	ASAP	Done
6	Invitation to Mary Ellen Dick for possible commentary session on San José's Green Vision at an upcoming Core Group Meeting in June	Sandra Freitas	ASAP	IP

- **Minutes:**

- 1. Welcome, Introductions, and Early Announcements**

- The City of San José and Santa Clara Valley Water District Joint Study Session is tentatively scheduled for April 24, 2008. Its primary focus is water supply and recycled water.

- 2. Review Meeting Minutes and Update Action Items from Core Group Meeting on December 6, 2007**

- The group reviewed the Meeting Minutes from the Core Group meeting on December 7, 2007; there were no pending action items.

- 3. Outside Group Updates (Melody Tovar)**

- Santa Clara Valley Water District, Strategic Initiatives, Melanie Richardson (15 minutes)
  - Melanie Richardson provided an update on the status of the Strategic Initiatives; a flowchart (handout) was provided and guided the conversation. Please note this is a working document and it's included as an enclosure.
  - The following initiatives were formed to address challenges that the Water District is currently experiencing: 1) Managing Increasing Costs, 2) Managing Global Climate Change Project, 3) Integrated Planning, 4) Strategic Planning, 5) Changes to Workforce, 6) Managing Groundwater, 7) Asset Management, 8) South County Water Supply Plan, and 9) Future Focusing Strategies
  - The Santa Clara Valley Water District processed a [Climate Change Response through Saving Water, Saving Energy, and Reducing Air Pollution report](#), go to the Right column, Under Studies [From Watts to Water - June 2007](#).
- San José's Green Vision, Margaret Bruce (60 minutes)
  - Margaret Bruce provided a PowerPoint presentation of *San José's Green Vision*.
  - Comments are welcome and may be sent to [maraget.bruce@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:maraget.bruce@sanjoseca.gov).
  - Another session, particularly a commentary one, will be provided ideally in June, at the Core Group Meeting. This will be open to a general discussion of ideas and suggestions. Invitation to be sent to Mary Ellen Dick for follow-up discussion.

- 4. Subgroup Updates and Discussion (Melody Tovar)**

- The following Subgroups provided updates on current course of action:
  - POTW:

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- Formerly known as the POTW Subgroup, the group analyzed its purpose and title. Moving forward it will be known as the POTW Discussion Forum.
  - The purpose of the discussion forum is to foster regional collaboration among the three South Bay Treatment Plants to effectively address common issues for the benefit of the Bay and watershed as well as to support the economic viability of the treatment plants and their communities.
  - A handout was provided. Please refer to the second enclosure.
  - The next meeting will be held on March 13, 2008.
- Product Stewardship:
    - Discussion was focused on the repercussions of the plastic bag ban in Oakland and what the WMI should consider for a successful transition.
    - The City of San José Integrated Waste Management, Zero Waste group, provided pointers on the general idea and it includes the following diverse list of ideas (it also provides information on Styrofoam):

## *Plastic Bags*

- Conducting an Environmental Impact Report before ban;
- Paper bags are not a good alternative to plastic bags because they're much more energy intensive and emit air pollutants during the production phase;
- Paper is a larger fraction of trash and it fades quicker than plastic;
- Anticipated bag ban in April for Earth Day is not attainable, due to the fact that a negative declaration needs to be prepared and there is no room for public comment;
- Currently, Safeway markets recycle palette wrap and other grocers take-back plastic bags;
- The state is not enforcing grocers to ban plastic bags, but need to have a recycling container and offer reusable bags for sale;
- By this year's Earth Day event, 3% of state-wide grocers will be free of plastic bags;
- Bag bans may impede sales and divert shoppers to other cities;
- The City of Morgan Hill has expressed interest in joining the plastic bag ban;
- The City of San José's Curb side program collects and recycles plastic bags, but it's not a good idea, plus newspaper plastic bags are not recyclable and are posing a concern;
- Fifty stores in San Francisco went to 30% reusable and compostable bags; further discussion will follow at upcoming meetings

## *Styrofoam*

- Restaurants continue to proceed with take-out containers; an idea is to set an amount per container (i.e., \$0.02) and hopefully it will minimize the amount distributed;

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- An impact assessment of water bodies needs to be administered to determine the impact of Styrofoam in our creeks and watershed; and lastly
- Currently, a Plastic Molding Company is accepting recycled post consumer foam from packaging and further exploration will follow at upcoming meetings

## 5. Meeting adjourned at 12:21 p.m.

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*The WMI's role will be to continue to serve as a stakeholder forum for watershed initiatives, to facilitate problem-solving processes, and to support and encourage agency actions in the direction of the nine strategic policy objectives.*

### WMI Work Plan Priorities Update

1. *Conduct education and outreach to planning officials and decision makers.*
2. *Develop citizen participation in watershed stewardship.*
3. *Continue the development of watershed health indicators.*
4. *Pursue on the ground stream enhancement, preservation, and restoration activities.*
5. *Foster information sharing among those involved in modifying and implementing local ordinances, guidelines, and standards*