



# Memorandum

**TO:** RULES AND OPEN  
GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

**FROM:** Lori Mitchell

**SUBJECT:** San José-Santa Clara  
Regional Wastewater Facility  
Study Session

**DATE:** December 4, 2024

Approved

Date:

12/5/2024

## **RECOMMENDATION**

Set a City Council Study Session entitled *San José-Santa Clara Regional Wastewater Facility* for Friday, January 31, 2025, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers and approve the Study Session agenda.

## **PURPOSE**

Provide the City Council with an overview of the San José-Santa Clara Regional Wastewater Facility (RWF) Plant Master Plan, discuss the issues affecting the RWF since the adoption of the Plant Master Plan; provide details on the Capital Improvement Program's effort to update the Plant Master Plan's Technical Component, which will be brought to the City Council in mid-2025; and provide an update on various projects on or around the RWF land.

## **OUTCOME**

The City Council will have a comprehensive understanding of the Plant Master Plan, issues currently affecting the RWF, the update to the Plant Master Plan's Technical Component, and projects being constructed on RWF land.

## **BACKGROUND**

In October 2013, the Treatment Plant Advisory Committee recommended to adopt the Plant Master Plan. In November 2013, the San José City Council adopted the Plant Master Plan. In December 2013, the City of Santa Clara took similar actions. The Plant Master Plan provided a vision for treatment process improvements, capital upgrades, and land uses at the RWF through 2040. The Capital Improvement Program at the RWF is implementing this vision and has completed about \$800 million in improvements since 2014.

The major drivers identified in the Plant Master Plan included aging infrastructure, regulatory requirements at the time, flows and loads, preparing for sea level rise, and community values. While these continue to be major drivers for improvements at the RWF, there have been notable changes over the past 11 years, including major changes in regulations, higher costs for projects than originally estimated in the Plant Master Plan, and developer-initiated projects adjacent to the RWF.

The Plant Master Plan had two components: a Technical Component providing a roadmap for rehabilitation and improvement of the RWF's aging facilities and infrastructure that informed the current Capital Improvement Program, and a Land Use Component providing a proposed mix of land uses on the RWF buffer lands.

The goal of the Study Session is to inform City Council about the issues affecting the RWF since the adoption of the Plant Master Plan; provide details on the Capital Improvement Program's effort to update the Plant Master Plan's Technical Component, which will be brought to the City Council in mid-2025; and provide an update on various projects on or around RWF land.

## **ANALYSIS**

The Study Session will cover the following topics:

1. Overview of the RWF
  - Plant Master Plan Background
  - Capital Improvement Program Accomplishments
2. New Nutrient Limit Regulations
3. Plant Master Plan Technical Update
4. Update on Shoreline Levee Project
5. Update on RWF Land Use
6. Flow Study
7. City Council Questions and Discussion

/s/

Lori Mitchell

Acting Director, Environmental Services

For questions, please contact Mariana Chavez-Vazquez, RWF General Manager, Environmental Services, at [mariana.chavez-vazquez@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:mariana.chavez-vazquez@sanjoseca.gov) or (408) 535-8550.

Attachment: Study Session Agenda



# **City Council Meeting Agenda**

## **Study Session San José-Santa Clara Regional Wastewater Facility**

**Friday, January 31, 2025  
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

**LOCATION:  
Council Chambers-200 E Santa Clara Street**

- **Call to Order and Roll Call**

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. – Study Session – San José-Santa Clara Regional Wastewater Facility  
200 East Santa Clara Street, Council Chambers, City Hall

## **CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION**

### **Purpose:**

Provide the City Council with an overview of the San José-Santa Clara Regional Wastewater Facility (RWF) Plant Master Plan, discuss the issues affecting the RWF since the adoption of the Plant Master Plan; provide details on the Capital Improvement Program's effort to update the Plant Master Plan's Technical Component, which will be brought to the City Council in mid-2025; and provide an update on various projects on or around the RWF land.

### **Outcome:**

The City Council will have a comprehensive understanding of the Plant Master Plan, issues currently affecting the RWF, the update to the Master Plan's Technical Component, and projects being constructed on RWF land.

1. **Overview of the RWF**
    - Plant Master Plan Background
    - Capital Improvement Program Accomplishments
  2. **New Nutrient Limit Regulations**
  3. **Plant Master Plan Technical Update**
  4. **Update on Shoreline Levee Project**
  5. **Update on RWF Land Use**
  6. **Flow Study**
  7. **City Council Questions and Discussion**
- **Public Comment**
  - **Adjournment**