

## RESPONSE TO COUNCIL QUESTIONS

RE: June 10, 2025 AGENDA

### Item 3-I: RTC 25-521 Consent Calendar: Action to Authorize the City Manager to Negotiate and Execute Agreements and Purchase Orders with CMMS Data Group, Inc. (CDG) for MVP Plan Computerized Maintenance Management Software Related to Silicon Valley Power Operations

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Q1. The last six years cost \$212K and the next 6 years will cost \$688K, which is triple the amount. It wasn't clear in the report why the costs went up so much.

**Table 1 - MVP Plant CMMS Compensation Summary**

Description	Amount
Amount Paid to Date (2018 - 2024)	\$212,000
Estimated Future Costs (2025 - 2031)	\$688,000
<b>Total Not-to-Exceed Amount</b>	<b>\$900,000</b>

Response: The projected future costs include approximately \$300,000 for base maintenance and support services, and \$388,000 for anticipated cost escalation and additional services that may be required such as upgrades, training, or specialized support needed from the vendor. Of course, this funding allocation may change depending on future needs. As SVP's system is growing and staffing is changing, there may be increased need for this service or for staff training. Additionally, for a system in place for this length of time, system upgrades may be required.

Between 2020 and 2023, it appears that the contract price did not increase at all. In 2024, the price increased 5% and we assumed that it would continue each year for the remaining years. The remainder of the additional funds were in the event of additional upgrades, training needs, or other unanticipated support from the vendor. This may occur for example due to staffing changes or the expansion of the use of the system. Any extra services would be authorized in advance. If no such services are required, then the amount would not be spent.

**Item 5: RTC 25-57 Public Hearing: Action on Resolutions Approving Water, Sewer and Recycled Water Amended Rates to be Effective July 1, 2025**

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Q1. What is the City doing to minimize water consumption by data centers? Is there a requirement?

Response: The City requires the use of recycled water for all new developments, including data centers, through the permitting process, and does have a requirement in the Rules and Regulations that all developments use recycled water when feasible. Staff has noted that new data centers have become more efficient by utilizing closed loop systems, ambient air and adiabatic cooling applications that make them very efficient with the use of both water and energy.

Q2. Valley Water is planning some big capital projects like Pacheco that will increase water rates. If every city followed what Santa Clara is doing, we may not need some of those projects. How is Santa Clara communicating with Valley Water to keep rates low?

Response: Recent conversations with Valley Water staff indicate through their water supply planning process that it is unlikely that the region can conserve at such a scale that the supply resiliency projects will be unnecessary altogether. However, aggressive conservation on a region wide basis may slow down the need for these projects to be completed on current timelines, instead being completed using a phased approach. Water & Sewer Utilities staff communicates often with Valley Water staff regarding their wholesale rates through avenues like sitting on the Finance Subcommittee. However, communications from elected officials carry much more weight. Councilmember Hardy has been very vocal on the Water Commission, but added lobbying from Santa Clara's elected officials would be very helpful.

Q3. How is Santa Clara doing with other water reduction programs like graywater and getting rid of non-functional turf?

Response: Santa Clara does coordinate with Valley Water on other reduction programs like graywater, matching Valley Water's \$200 graywater rebate and paying permitting costs, but those programs are nowhere near as popular, or impactful, as the program to eliminate ornamental turf. Recent updates to the City's Rules and Regulations, approved by Council in November of 2024, include prohibitions on installation and irrigation of non-functional turf at new developments.

Q4. Does Santa Clara have an effort to get recycled water to homeowners for gardens in new developments?

Response: Staff is aggressive about getting recycled water to new developments. Extension to single family homes is costs prohibitive, both for the City and the residents. However, all other developments are required to include the use of recycled water for non-potable uses where feasible.

**Item 6: RTC 25-642 Public Hearing: Report on City Vacancies and Recruitment Efforts, Pursuant to Assembly Bill (AB) 2561**

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Q1. Can you explain how the Civil Service Commission has been involved with resolving vacancies for Units 4 and 10?

Response: The vacancy rate is not within the purview of the Civil Service Commission. Pursuant to the City Charter, Section 2.120.070, Civil Service Commission is responsible for the following:

- (a) The establishment, acceptance and continued supervision of a well-rounded civil service program.
- (b) The recruiting, examining and establishing of a list of eligibles for appointment to the City service in accordance with established merit principles.
- (c) The hearing of appeals by members of the classified service and acting upon the same. (Ord. 947. Formerly § 2-95)

Q2. How are we changing certification practices to hire more quickly?

Response: When we initiate a new recruitment, we work with the hiring manager to determine if the class specification needs to be updated and/or if we want to revise the examination weighting (i.e. written exam, practical, oral exam). If revisions need to be made, we review any proposed revisions to the classification specification with the bargaining group first and then we bring the proposed revisions to the Civil Service Commission for review and approval. Once approved by the Commission, we are required to bring the proposed revision before the City Council in open session for final approval. Once these steps are completed the job announcement is posted.

Q3. Why can't we hire engineers using a similar process as tech companies with a probationary period?

Response: The Civil Service Rules outline the requirements that must be followed during the recruitment process for classified positions. We are required to follow the rules, otherwise the recruitment can be challenged and an appeal can be made by an applicant. The steps in the process can be cumbersome and take a significant amount of time to complete, delaying the recruitment and time it takes to extend a conditional offer. Once an applicant has accepted a position and begins employment, the individual will generally serve a 12 month probationary period.

Unclassified Management positions (classifications represented by Unit 9) are exempt from the Civil Service Rules and therefore we have more flexibility in the process and very

similar to a recruitment process in the private sector. Unclassified positions are at-will and do not serve a probationary period. Either the employee or the City can terminate the employment relationship.

Q4. For utility Engineers we received 44 applicants. Did we put only four on the eligibility list? Can we get a breakdown of why, so few were qualified or did most of the applicants simply fail an initial review of their resumes?

Response: Regarding the 44 applicants for the Electric Utility Engineer position, 15 applicants did not meet the experience requirement (possessing Electric Utility experience), five applicants did not meet education and experience requirements, and three applicants had incomplete applications. Of the remaining 21 applicants, one did not respond to the invitation to interview, nine failed the oral interview and four passed on were placed on the eligibility list. Seven candidates are pending interview.

**Item 10: RTC 25-642 Public Hearing: Action on a Resolution Approving the Levy of Benefit Assessment Upon Maintenance District No. 183 – Santa Clara Convention Center Complex**

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Q1. Does the \$940K come from the Convention Center profit and loss or from the general fund?

“The total expenditure budget in the Proposed FY 2025/26 and FY 2026/27 Biennial Operating Budget for the Convention Center Maintenance District Fund is \$1,993,225. The budget of \$1,993,225 reflects an increase of 7 percent over last year’s budget for vendor increases and ongoing deferred maintenance repairs.

The proposed assessments by property owner are as follows: \$940,109 from the City of Santa Clara (Santa Clara Convention Center); \$409,460 from the Hyatt Regency Hotel; and \$643,656 from the Hudson Techmart Commerce Center. **The funds to pay for the proposed assessment for the City’s portion (formerly that of the Redevelopment Agency) are budgeted as a transfer from the General Fund.”**

Response: The contributions for the City’s share of the assessments for the Convention Center Maintenance District Fund come from the General Fund. While Convention Center profits from operations could be transferred to the General Fund, the budget assumes these funds are retained for Convention Center operations and reinvested for capital improvements. The Convention Center has recently allocated dollars from operating profit for bathroom renovations, digital signage, air-wall replacement, and other critical plumbing and electrical needs.