



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

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# MINUTES

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**CLOSED SESSION AND REGULAR MEETING  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2026  
11:00 AM**

(Paragraph numbers coincide with agenda item numbers)

**1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL:**

A Closed Session and Regular Meeting of the Santa Clara Valley Water District (Valley Water) Board of Directors was called to order at 11:00 a.m. in the Valley Water Headquarters Building Boardroom at 5700 Almaden Expressway, San Jose, California, and by Zoom teleconference.

1.1. Roll Call.

Board members in attendance were Shiloh Ballard, Jim Beall, Nai Hsueh, Richard P. Santos, John L. Varela, and Tony Estremera, Chairperson presiding, constituting a quorum of the Board.

Director Eisenberg arrived as noted below.

Staff members in attendance were Melanie Richardson, Interim Chief Executive Officer; Carlos Orellana, District Counsel; Candice Kwok-Smith, Clerk, Board of Directors; E. Aryee, A. Baker, L. Bankosh, M. Bilski, J. Bourgeois, R. Chan, J. Codianne, A Garcia, R. Gibson, V. Gin, J. Golka, C. Hakes, C. Lawson, M. Lugo, L. Mason, R. McCarter, P. McElroy, T. Ndah, L. Penilla, D. Rocha, K. Struve, D. Taylor, B. Yerrapotu, and T. Yoke.

**2. 11:00 AM - CLOSED SESSION:**

Carlos Orellana, District Counsel, reported in regard to Item 2.6, the facts and circumstances giving rise to the Closed Session Item include various allegations of harassment, discrimination, abusive conduct and retaliation.

Chairperson Estremera confirmed that the Board would adjourn to Closed Session to consider Items 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5 and 2.6.

Director Eisenberg arrived.

2.1. CLOSED SESSION  
CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL, INITIATION OF LITIGATION  
Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(4)  
One potential case.

2.2. CLOSED SESSION  
CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATORS  
Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.8

Setting Negotiation Parameters for Price and Terms of Payment for Purchase, Sale, or Exchange of Property Interest in APNs: 472-33-007, 472-33-010  
Agency Negotiators: Melanie Richardson, Rita Chan, Chris Hakes, Bhavani Yerrapotu, Lisa Bankosh, Ken Anderssohn, Madhu Thummaluru  
Negotiating Parties: San Jose Unified School District.

- 2.3. CLOSED SESSION  
CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL, EXISTING LITIGATION  
Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1)  
Santa Clara Valley Water District v. 1354 E. Taylor Street LLC., et al  
(Santa Clara County Superior Court, Case No. 23CV418411)
- 2.4. CLOSED SESSION  
PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION  
Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957(b)  
Title: Interim CEO
- 2.5. CLOSED SESSION  
PUBLIC EMPLOYEE DISCIPLINE  
Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957(b)(1)
- 2.6. CLOSED SESSION  
CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL, ANTICIPATED LITIGATION  
Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(2)  
Number of cases: Multiple
- 2.7. District Counsel Report on Closed Session.

Upon return from Closed Session, the same Board members, including Director Eisenberg and staff, were present.

Carlos Orellana, District Counsel, reported that in regard to Items 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.5 and 2.6, the Board met in Closed Session with all members participating, including Director Eisenberg, and took no reportable action.

Chairperson Estremera reported that in regard to Item 2.4 the Board met in Closed Session with all members participating, including Director Eisenberg, and took no reportable action.

**3. 1:00 PM - TIME CERTAIN:**

- 3.1. Pledge of Allegiance/National Anthem.

Vice Chair Santos led all present in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

- 3.2. Orders of the Day.

Chairperson Estremera confirmed that there were no changes to the Orders of the Day.

- 3.3. Time Open for Public Comment on any Item not on the Agenda.

Chairperson Estremera declared time open for public comment on any Item not on the agenda. No one was present who wished to speak.

Chairperson Estremera read the Board Meeting Decorum statement into the record, outlining the expectations for respectful and professional conduct during the proceedings.

Move to Approve: Richard Santos  
Second: Shiloh Ballard  
Yeas: Shiloh Ballard, Jim Beall, Rebecca Eisenberg, Tony Estremera, Richard Santos, John L. Varela, Nai Hsueh  
Nays: None  
Abstains: None  
Recuses: None  
Absent: None  
Summary: 7 Yeas; 0 Nays; 0 Abstains; 0 Absent.

The Yeas have it, and the motion passed.

- 3.4. Recognition of Director Tony Estremera for his Service as the 2025 Chairperson of the Santa Clara Valley Water District Board of Directors.

The Board recognized the 2025 Chairperson, Director Tony Estremera.

- 3.5. Work Study Session on the Capital Improvement Program Preliminary Fiscal Year 2027-2031 Five-Year Plan and Preliminary Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Groundwater Production Charges.

Recommendation: A. Review the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Evaluation Team's recommended funding scenarios for the CIP preliminary Fiscal Year 2027-2031 (FY 2027-31) Five-Year Plan and approve the recommendations and the inclusion of three projects in the CIP Draft FY 2027-31 Five-Year Plan; and  
B. Discuss and provide direction on the preliminary FY 2026-27 (FY 27) Groundwater Production Charge analysis.

Luz Penilla, Assistant Officer, reviewed the information on this Item, per the attached Board Agenda Memo, and the corresponding presentation materials contained in Handout 3.5-A were reviewed by staff as follows: Jessica Collins reviewed Slides 1 through 12, 14, and 15, 17, 19 and 20, 22, 24 through 27, and 30 through 33; Carmen Narayanan, Financial Planning & Revenue Manager, reviewed Slides 13, 16, 18, 21, 23, 28 and 29, and 34 through 65; and Angie Perkins Haslam, Grants Manager, reviewed Slides.

Move to Approve: Richard Santos  
Second: Nai Hsueh  
Yeas: Shiloh Ballard, Jim Beall, Rebecca Eisenberg, Tony Estremera, Richard Santos, John L. Varela, Nai Hsueh  
Nays: None  
Abstains: None  
Recuses: None  
Absent: None  
Summary: 7 Yeas; 0 Nays; 0 Abstains; 0 Absent.

The Yeas have it, and the motion passed.

**REGULAR AGENDA:**

**4. CONSENT CALENDAR: (4.1 - 4.5)**

The Board considered Consent Calendar Items 4.1 through 4.5 under one motion.

- 4.1. Adopt a Resolution Authorizing Conveyance of Real Property to Khawaja Shams and Zehra Khan at APN 175-14-024, Real Estate File No. 1010-96.1 and to Wayne Qi Zhang and Vicky Yun Xu, APN 175-14-025, Real Estate File No. 1010-96.2 (Los Altos, District 4).

- Recommendation: A. Adopt the Resolution AUTHORIZING THE CONVEYANCE OF REAL PROPERTY TO KHAWAJA SHAMS AND ZEHRA KHAN AT APN 175-14-024, REAL ESTATE FILE NO. 1010-96.1 AND TO WAYNE QI ZHANG AND VICKY YUN XU AT APN 175-14-025, REAL ESTATE FILE NO. 1010-96.2 (LOS ALTOS, DISTRICT 4); and  
B. Authorize the Interim Chief Executive Officer to execute and deliver the Quit Claim Easement Deeds, Real Estate File Nos. 1010-96.1; and 1010-96.2.

- 4.2. Accept the Santa Clara Valley Water District Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2025, and Other Independent Auditors' Reports.

- Recommendation: Accept the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for the Fiscal Year ended June 30, 2025, and other independent auditors' reports.

- 4.3. Set the Time and Place of a Public Hearing for the Santa Clara Valley Water District Board of Directors to Determine the Necessity for Directors to be Compensated for up to Fifteen Days per Calendar Month and to Consider Directors' Compensation for Calendar Year 2026.

- Recommendation: A. Set the time and place for a Public Hearing at 1:00 p.m., on February 10, 2026, at the Santa Clara Valley Water District, 5700 Almaden Expressway, San Jose, California, for the Board of Directors to: i. Consider the evidence and determine if there is an operational need for Directors to be compensated for up to fifteen (15) days per calendar month; and ii. Consider Directors' compensation for the calendar year 2026, pursuant to Chapter 2, Division 10 of the California Water Code; and  
B. Direct the Clerk of the Board to publish a Notice of Public Hearing in a newspaper of general circulation within Santa Clara County.

- 4.4. Accept the CEO Bulletin for the Weeks of December 5, 2025, through January 8, 2026.

- Recommendation: Accept the CEO Bulletin.

- 4.5. Approval of Minutes.

Recommendation: Approve the minutes.

Motion: Approve Consent Calendar Items 4.1 through 4.5, under one motion, as follows: adopt Resolution No. 2026-01 AUTHORIZING THE CONVEYANCE OF REAL PROPERTY TO KHAWAJA SHAMS AND ZEHRA KHAN AT APN 175-14-024, REAL ESTATE FILE NO. 1010-96.1 AND TO WAYNE QI ZHANG AND VICKY YUN XU AT APN 175-14-025, REAL ESTATE FILE NO. 1010-96.2 (LOS ALTOS, DISTRICT 4) and authorize the Interim Chief Executive Officer to execute and deliver the Quit Claim Easement Deeds, Real Estate File Nos. 1010-96.1; and 1010-96.2., by roll call vote, as contained in Item 4.1; accept the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025, and other independent auditors' reports., as contained in Item 4.2; set the time and place for a Public Hearing at 1:00 p.m., on February 10, 2026, at the Santa Clara Valley Water District, 5700 Almaden Expressway, San Jose, California, for the Board of Directors to consider the evidence and determine if there is an operational need for Directors to be compensated for up to fifteen (15) days per calendar month, consider Directors' compensation for the calendar year 2026, pursuant to Chapter 2, Division 10 of the California Water Code, and direct the Clerk of the Board to publish a Notice of Public Hearing in a newspaper of general circulation within Santa Clara County, as contained in Item 4.3; accept the CEO Bulletin for the weeks of December 5, 2025, through January 8, 2026; and approve the minutes, as contained in Item 4.5.

Move to Approve: Richard Santos  
Second: Nai Hsueh  
Yeas: Shiloh Ballard, Jim Beall, Rebecca Eisenberg, Tony Estremera, Richard Santos, John L. Varela, Nai Hsueh  
Nays: None  
Abstains: None  
Recuses: None  
Absent: None  
Summary: 7 Yeas; 0 Nays; 0 Abstains; 0 Absent.

The Yeas have it, and the motion passed.

## 5. BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

5.1. Adopt a Resolution Setting the Time and Place of Regular Meetings of the Santa Clara Valley Water District Board of Directors.

Recommendation: A. Consider the schedule for the regular meetings of the Board, currently held on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month, beginning at 1:00 p.m., or as designated by the Clerk of the Board to accommodate Closed Session subject matter;  
B. Discuss and identify, if necessary, 2026 Board meeting recess dates; and

C. If a new regular Board meeting schedule is approved, adopt the Resolution SETTING THE TIME AND PLACE OF MEETINGS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT AND RESCINDING RESOLUTION NO 2025-04.

Motion: Adopt Resolution No. 2026-02, SETTING THE TIME AND PLACE OF MEETINGS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT AND RESCINDING RESOLUTION NO. 2025-04, by roll call vote, setting the schedule for the regular meetings of the Board, meetings to be held on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month, beginning at 1:00 p.m. respectively, or as designated by the Clerk of the Board to accommodate closed session subject matter.

Move to Adopt: Richard Santos  
Second: John L. Varela  
Yeas: Shiloh Ballard, Jim Beall, Rebecca Eisenberg, Tony Estremera, Richard Santos, John L. Varela, Nai Hsueh  
Nays: None  
Abstains: None  
Recuses: None  
Absent: None  
Summary: 7 Yeas; 0 Nays; 0 Abstains; 0 Absent.

The Yeas have it, and the motion passed.

5.2. Review the Board Committees and Approve the 2026 Board Committee Appointments.

Recommendation: A. Review and, if necessary, revise the purpose statements for each individual Board Committee;  
B. Establish or dissolve Board Committees as appropriate to meet current organizational and community needs;  
C. Review and approve the proposed 2026 Board Committee appointments submitted by the 2026 Board Chair; and  
D. Appoint new Board Committee representatives, as needed.

Move to Approve: Richard Santos  
Second: Jim Beall  
Yeas: Shiloh Ballard, Jim Beall, Tony Estremera, Richard Santos, John L. Varela, Nai Hsueh  
Nays: Rebecca Eisenberg  
Abstains: None  
Recuses: None  
Absent: None  
Summary: 6 Yeas; 1 Nays; 0 Abstains; 0 Absent.

The Yeas have it, and the motion passed.

5.3. Board Committee Reports.

The Board reviewed the information on the October 20, 2025, Capital Improvement Program Committee; October 20, 2025, Environmental Water Resources Committee; October 6, 2025, Agricultural Water Advisory Committee; November 18, 2025, Stream Planning and Operations Committee; November 19, 2025, Board Audit Committee; November 19, 2025, Youth Commission; December 8, 2025, Water Supply and Demand Management Committee; and December 10, 2025, Board Policy and Monitoring Committee meeting summaries contained in Handouts 5.3-A through 5.3-H, respectively, and noted the information without formal action. Copies of the Handouts were distributed to the Board and made available to the public. The Board noted the information without formal action.

- 5.4. Consider the December 15, 2025, Board Ethics and Conduct Ad Hoc Committee Recommendation to Take no Further Action on the Board Member Complaint Discussed at the October 14, 2025, Board Meeting and Consider the Matter Closed.

Recommendation: Consider the recommendations resulting from the December 15, 2025, Board Ethics and Conduct Ad Hoc Committee meeting to:

- A. Pursuant to GP-6.5.11, 6.5.12, 6.5.13, to take no further action on the Board member complaint discussed at the October 14, 2025, Board meeting; and
- B. Consider the matter closed.

Carlos Orellana, District Counsel, momentarily stepped out of the meeting and returned, as noted below. Linda Mason, Senior Assistant District Counsel, sat in as District Counsel during Carlos Orellana's absence.

Move to Approve: John L. Varela  
Second: Nai Hsueh  
Yeas: Shiloh Ballard, Jim Beall, Richard Santos, John L. Varela, Nai Hsueh  
Nays: Rebecca Eisenberg  
Abstains: Tony Estremera  
Recuses: None  
Absent: None  
Summary: 5 Yeas; 1 Nays; 1 Abstains; 0 Absent.

The Yeas have it, and the motion passed.

Carlos Orellana returned.

**6. WATER UTILITY ENTERPRISE:**

None.

**7. WATERSHEDS:**

None.

**8. ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER:**

None.

**9. EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:**

None.

**10. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER:**

10.1. CEO and Chiefs' Reports.

Aaron Baker, Chief Operating Officer, verbally reported on new bottled water samples of purified water. Rachael Gibson, Chief of External Affairs, reviewed the attached Office of Government Relations summary, identified as Handout 10.1-A and the attached Office of Civic Engagement monthly update, identified as Handout 10.1-B; and Chris Hakes, Chief Operating Officer, reviewed the attached Storm Report, identified as Handout 10.1-C, respectively herein. Copies of the Handouts were distributed to the Board and made available to the public.

**11. ADMINISTRATION:**

None.

**12. DISTRICT COUNSEL:**

None.

**13. BOARD POLICY PLANNING CALENDAR/PROPOSED FUTURE BOARD AGENDA ITEMS:**

13.1. Review the Fiscal Year 2026 Board Policy Planning Calendar.

Recommendation: Review the Fiscal Year 2026 Board Policy Planning Calendar.

Candice Kwok-Smith, Clerk of the Board, reviewed the information on this item, per the attached Board Agenda Memo. The Board noted the information without formal action.

Director Eisenberg left the meeting and did not return.

**14. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Director Varela reported attending an Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) meeting.

Director Hsueh had no report.

Director Ballard reported attending a Valley Water D2 Ripple meeting; a Delta Conveyance Authority meeting; a Board Audit Committee (BAC) meeting; and participated in the King Tide Ride, organized by the Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition.

Director Santos reported attending a Berryessa Citizens Advisory Council meeting; a San Luis and Delta-Mendota Water Authority (SLDMWA) meeting; and participated in a tour of the Silicon Valley Advanced Water Purification Center.

Director Beall reported attending a BAC prep meeting, a State Building and Construction Trades Council of California meeting, and various meetings with staff.

Director Estremera reported attending the aforementioned Delta Conveyance Authority meeting, meeting with consultants, and various committee meetings.

**15. CLERK REVIEW AND CLARIFICATION OF BOARD REQUESTS:**

None.

**16. ADJOURN:**

Chairperson Estremera adjourned the meeting at 3:14 p.m. The Board will convene for the next Regular Meeting at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 27, 2026, in the Santa Clara Valley Water District Headquarters Building Boardroom, 5700 Almaden Expressway, San Jose, California, and via Zoom teleconference.

Candice Kwok-Smith  
Clerk, Board of Directors

Approved:

Date: February 10, 2026

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