



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

MINUTES

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING - BUDGET WORK STUDY SESSION
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23, 2025
4:00 PM

(Paragraph numbers coincide with agenda item numbers)

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL:

A Closed Session and Special Meeting of the Santa Clara Valley Water District (Valley Water) Board of Directors was called to order in the Valley Water Headquarters Building Boardroom at 5700 Almaden Expressway, San Jose, California, and by Zoom teleconference at 4:00 p.m.

1.1. Roll Call.

Board members in attendance were Shiloh Ballard, Jim Beall, Nai Hsueh, and Richard P. Santos, constituting a quorum of the Board.

Directors Tony Estremera, Rebecca Eisenberg and John L. Varela arrived as noted below.

Staff members in attendance were Melanie Richardson, Acting Chief Executive Officer; Carlos Orellana, District Counsel; Candice Kwok-Smith, Interim Clerk, Board of Directors; A. Baker, A. Beaman, S. Bogale, J. Bourgeois, R. Chan, A. Gordon, R. Gibson, V. Gin, C. Hakes, C. Lawson, M. Lugo, R. McCarter, P. McElroy, T. Ndah, L. Penilla, and B. Yerrapotu.

2. 4:00 PM - CLOSED SESSION:

Vice Chair Santos confirmed that the Board would adjourn to Closed Session to consider Items 2.1, 2.2, and 2.3.

Directors Estremera, Eisenberg and Varela arrived.

2.1. CLOSED SESSION
PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION
Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957(b)(1)
Title: Interim CEO

2.2. CLOSED SESSION
PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION
Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957(b)(1)
Title: District Counsel

- 2.3. CLOSED SESSION
CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL
Initiation of Litigation Pursuant to Government Code Section
54956.9(d)(4) – One Potential Case

2.4. DISTRICT COUNSEL REPORT ON CLOSED SESSION.

Carlos Orellana, District Counsel, reported that regarding Items 2.1, 2.2, and 2.3, the Board met in Closed Session with all members participating, including Directors Estremera, Eisenberg and Varela, and gave direction to staff.

3. 5:00 PM - TIME CERTAIN:

- 3.1. Pledge of Allegiance/National Anthem.

Director Hsueh led all present in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

- 3.2. 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. There was no one present who wished to speak.

- 3.3. Conduct a Public Hearing to Consider the Santa Clara Valley Water District's Capital Improvement Program Draft Fiscal Years 2026-30 Five-Year Plan.
(Continued from April 22, 2025)

- Recommendation:
- A. Open and conduct a Public Hearing to receive public comments and Board feedback regarding the Santa Clara Valley Water District's Capital Improvement Program Draft Fiscal Years 2026-30 Five-Year Plan; and
 - B. Continue the Public Hearing to the subsequent Special Budget Hearings currently scheduled for April 24, 2025, and the Special Regular Meeting scheduled for May 16, 2025, and conclude the Public Hearing at the regularly scheduled Board Meeting on May 27, 2025.

Chairperson Estremera opened the Public Hearing.

Chairperson Estremera declared time open for public comments and, seeing no one present who wished to speak, closed the Public Hearing.

- 3.4. Work-Study Session to Consider the Fiscal Year 2025-26 Proposed Operating and Capital Rolling Biennial Budget.

- Recommendation:
- A. Receive, review, and discuss Santa Clara Valley Water District's Fiscal Year 2025-26 Proposed Rolling Biennial Budget;
 - B. Receive comments and input from the public regarding the Fiscal Year 2025-26 Proposed Rolling Biennial Budget;
 - C. Incorporate any changes deemed necessary into the Fiscal Year 2025-26 Proposed Rolling Biennial Budget; and

- D. Continue this item, if needed, to the April 24, 2025, Special Board Meeting - Budget Work-Study Session.

The Board convened a work-study session to review the Proposed Operating and Capital Rolling Biennial Budget for Fiscal Year 2025–26.

Melanie Richardson, Interim Chief Executive Officer, introduced the item and provided an overview in accordance with the attached Board Agenda Memorandum. Staff presented the accompanying materials outlined in Attachment 1 as follows:

- Melanie Richardson, Interim Chief Executive Officer, reviewed Slides 1–3;
- Darin Taylor, Chief Financial Officer, reviewed Slides 4–42 and Slide 100;
- Rachael Gibson, Chief of External Affairs, reviewed Slides 43–47;
- Tina Yoke, Chief Operating Officer, reviewed Slides 48–52;
- Rita Chan, Assistant Chief Executive Officer, reviewed Slides 53–64;
- Aaron Baker, Chief Operating Officer, reviewed Slides 65–82; and
- Chris Hakes, Chief Operating Officer, reviewed Slides 83–99.

The Board noted the information and took no formal action.

4. CLERK REVIEW AND CLARIFICATION OF BOARD REQUESTS:

None.

5. ADJOURN:

Chairperson Estremera adjourned the meeting at 6:28 p.m. The board will convene for the next Special meeting at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, April 25, 2025, in the City of Morgan Hill Council Chamber Building, 17555 Peak Ave, Morgan Hill, California, and via Zoom teleconference.

Candice Kwok-Smith
Clerk, Board of Directors

Approved:

Date: June 10, 2025

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