



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

MINUTES

**SPECIAL CLOSED SESSION AND REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2025
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 Rebecca Eisenberg arrived later 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; A. Baker, L. Bankosh, M. Bilski, J. Bourgeois, R. Chan, J. Codianne, A Garcia, R. Gibson, J. Golka, A. Gordon, A. Gschwind, C. Hakes, C. Lawson, A. Lee, M. Lugo, L. Mason, R. McCarter, P. McElroy, T. Ndah, L. Penilla, M. Poole, D. Taylor, and T. Yoke. Bhavani Yerrapotu represented Chris Hakes, and Marta Lugo, represented Rachael Gibson.

2. 11:00 AM - CLOSED SESSION:

Chairperson Estremera confirmed that the Board would adjourn to Closed Session to consider Items 2.1, 2.2, and 2.3. Carlos Orellana, District Counsel, confirmed written claims or communications relating to Closed Session Item 2.1 are available for public inspection upon request as required by the Brown Act, and that Item 2.3 also includes the litigation *San Francisco Baykeeper v. Santa Clara Valley Water District*, Santa Clara County Superior Court Case No. 22CV40523.

Director Eisenberg arrived.

**2.1. CLOSED SESSION
CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL, ANTICIPATED LITIGATION
Significant Exposure to Litigation**

Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(2)
First Community Housing, Betty Anne Gardens, L.P.

- 2.2. CLOSED SESSION
CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL, PENDING LITIGATION
Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1)
Morris, et al. v. Betty Anne Gardens, et al.
(Santa Clara County Superior Court, Case No. 25CV477634)
- 2.3. CLOSED SESSION
CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL, PENDING LITIGATION
Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1)
Water Rights Change Petitions for Licenses: 6943, 11791, 2205, 2206, 2207,
2208, 2209, 6944, 2837, and 5729, State Water Board, Administrative Hearings
Office.
- 2.4. District Counsel Report on Closed Session.
- Carlos Orellana reported that in regard to Items 2.1, 2.2, and 2.3, 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.
- Director Ballard led all present in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.
- 3.2. Orders of the Day.
- Chairperson Estremera confirmed that Item 3.8 would be considered after Item 3.4.
- 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.
- 3.4. Receive Information on the Consultant Study Regarding Santa Clara Valley Water District's Water Use Projections, Water Demand Elasticity, Customer Affordability Study, and Provide Feedback to Staff as Needed.
- Recommendation: A. Receive information on consultant study regarding Santa Clara Valley Water District's water use projections, water demand elasticity, and customer affordability, including study scope, objectives, and status update; and
 B. Provide feedback to staff as needed.

Carmen Narayanan, Financial Planning and Revenue Manager, reviewed the information on this Item per the attached Board Agenda Memo, and Kevin Kostiuik, Senior Manager, Raftelis, reviewed the information contained in Attachment 2.

The Board noted the information without formal action.

Chairperson Estremera moved the agenda to Item 3.3.

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.

Bilal Abbas, Bibz N' Ribz Owner, expressed destitution regarding the loss and damages incurred from a fallen tree onto his business, and requested the Board reconsider his claim.

Donnell Ragsdale, Invoice Maps, informed the Board of Ai technology available to the agency.

Chairperson Estremera moved the agenda to Item 3.8.

3.8. Receive the Winter Preparedness Briefing.

Recommendation: Receive information on the Santa Clara Valley Water District's preparedness for winter operations.

Alexander Gordon, Assistant Officer, reviewed the information on this Item per the attached Board Agenda Memo, and the corresponding presentation materials contained in Attachment 2 were reviewed as follows: Alexander Gordon reviewed Slides 1 and 2; Brian Garcia, National Weather Service, reviewed Slide 3; Paola Reyes, Public Information Representative III, reviewed Slides 4 through 12; and Alexander Gordon reviewed Slides 12 through 18.

The Board noted the information without formal action.

Chairperson Estremera returned the agenda to Item 3.5.

3.5. Adopt the Water Supply Master Plan 2050.

Recommendation: Adopt the Water Supply Master Plan 2050.

Kirsten Struve, Assistant Officer, reviewed the information on this Item per the attached Board Agenda Memo, reviewed the information contained in Attachment 2.

Move to Adopt:	Nai Hsueh
Second:	Richard Santos
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.

- 3.6. Receive an Overview of the Fiscal Year 2026-27 Groundwater Production Charge, Treated Surface Water Charge, Raw Surface Water Charge, and Recycled Water Charge Rate Setting Processes; Review Assumptions for the 10-Year Water Rate Projection and Potential State Water Project Tax Levy; and Provide Feedback.

Recommendation: A. Receive an overview of the Fiscal Year 2026-27 rate-setting processes for groundwater production charges, treated surface water charges, raw surface water charges, and recycled water charges;
 B. Review assumptions for the 10-year water rate projection and potential State Water Project tax levy; and
 C. Provide feedback to staff.

Carmen Narayanan reviewed the information on this Item, per the attached Board Agenda Memo and per the information contained in Attachment 1.

Peter Van Dyke, Loma Prieta Resource Conservation District, President, expressed appreciation to the Board for their efforts to keep water rates low.

The Board noted the information without formal action.

- 3.7. Receive an Overview of the Fiscal Year 2026-27 Rolling Biennial Budget Process.

Recommendation: Receive an overview of the Fiscal Year 2026-27 Rolling Biennial Budget process to provide an opportunity for Board input.

Enrique DeAnda, Budget Manager, reviewed the information on this Item per the attached Board Agenda Memo and per the information contained in Attachment 1.

The Board noted the information without formal action.

REGULAR AGENDA:

4. **CONSENT CALENDAR: (4.1 - 4.4)**

The Board considered Consent Calendar Items 4.1 through 4.4 under one motion.

- 4.1. Approve the Re-Appointment of Committee Members for an Additional Two-Year Term to the Agricultural Water Advisory Committee.

Recommendation: Consider and approve the re-appointment of committee members for an additional two-year term to the Agricultural Water Advisory Committee.

- 4.2. Approve Recommended 2026 Legislative Policy Proposals and Guiding Principles.

Recommendation: Approve recommended 2026 Legislative Policy Proposals and Guiding Principles for the second year of the two-year session in both the California State Legislature and the

119th Congress; and for local and regional legislative efforts.

4.3. Approval of Minutes.

Recommendation: Approve the minutes.

4.4. Accept the CEO Bulletin for the Weeks of October 24 through November 6, 2025.

Recommendation: Accept the CEO Bulletin.

Motion: Approve Consent Calendar Items 4.1 through 4.4, under one motion, as follows: consider and approve the re-appointment of committee members for an additional two-year term to the Agricultural Water Advisory Committee, as contained in Item 4.1; approve recommended 2026 Legislative Policy Proposals and Guiding Principles for the second year of the two-year session in both the California State Legislature and the 119th Congress; and for local and regional legislative efforts, as contained in Item 4.2; approve the minutes, as contained in Item 4.3; and accept the CEO bulletin for the weeks of October 24 through November 6, 2025, as contained in Item 4.4.

Move to Approve: John L. Varela

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. Receive the Safe, Clean Water Performance Audit Report for the Period Covering July 1, 2021, Through June 30, 2024, with Management's Response.

Recommendation: Receive the Safe, Clean Water Performance Audit Report for the period covering July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2024, with management's response.

Darin Taylor, Chief Financial Officer, reviewed the information on this Item per the attached Board Agenda Memo, and John Mahoney, Project Manager, reviewed the information contained in Attachment 2.

Motion: For the Chair to assign to a Committee to perform an in-depth analysis of findings 2.3, 6, 7 and 9.

Move to Accept: Nai Hsueh

Second: Richard Santos

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.

- 5.2. Consider the October 27, 2025, Water Supply and Demand Management Committee Recommendation to Approve the Proposed Agreement with the Wheeler Ridge-Maricopa Water Storage District for 6,234 Acre-Feet of Storage Capacity in Sites Reservoir for up to \$618,500, Increasing Santa Clara Valley Water District's Project Participation Level from 0.2% to 0.66%, for a Total of 9,351 Acre-Feet of Storage.

Recommendation: Consider the October 27, 2025, Water Supply and Demand Management Committee recommendation to:

- A. Approve execution of the proposed assignment Agreement with Wheeler Ridge-Maricopa Water Storage District for 6,234 acre-feet of storage capacity in Sites Reservoir for up to \$618,500, which would increase Santa Clara Valley Water District's Project participation level from 0.2% to 0.66%, for a total of 9,351 acre-feet of storage; and
- B. Provide feedback and recommendations to staff as necessary.

Kathryn Maher, Senior Engineer, reviewed the information on this Item, per the attached Board Agenda Memo and per the information contained in Attachment 2.

Move to Approve: John L. Varela
Second: Richard Santos
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 7, 2025, Board Policy Monitoring Committee, and November 10, 2025, Public Facilities Financing Corporation meeting summaries and agendas contained in Handouts 5.3-A and 5.3-B, respectively, and noted the information without formal action. Copies of the Handouts were distributed to the Board and made available to the public.

6. WATER UTILITY ENTERPRISE:

None.

7. WATERSHEDS:

None.

8. ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER:

- 8.1. Approve the Fiscal Year 2024-25 Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program Annual Report with Proposed Text Adjustments and Authorize Submission to the Independent Monitoring Committee for Review.

Recommendation: A. Approve the Fiscal Year 2024-25 Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program Annual Report (Annual Report) with text adjustments;
 B. Authorize staff to submit the Annual Report to the Independent Monitoring Committee for its review; and
 C. Authorize staff to update the Annual Report with audited financials, as necessary.

The Board considered Item 8.1 without a staff presentation.

Move to Approve: John L. Varela
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.

- 8.2. Receive an Informational Update on the Capital Improvement Program Prioritization Process Enhancements.

Recommendation: Receive an informational update on the Capital Improvement Program Prioritization Process Enhancements.

Luz Penilla, Assistant Officer, reviewed the information on this item, per the attached Board Agenda Memo and per the information contained in Attachment 1.

The Board noted the information and took no formal action.

- 8.3. Receive an Overview of the Initially Validated and Currently Unfunded Capital Projects.

Recommendation: A. Review the list of initially validated and currently unfunded Capital Projects; and

B. Provide feedback as necessary.

Jennifer Martin, Program Administrator, reviewed the information on this Item, per the attached Board Agenda Memo and per the information contained in Attachment 1.

The Board noted the information and took no formal action.

- 8.4. Approve Amendment No. 6 to Agreement A3675A with GEI Consultants, Inc., for Environmental Services for the Calero and Guadalupe Dam Seismic Retrofits Project, Project No. 91084020, Increasing the Not-to-Exceed Fee by \$5,888,623 for a Revised Total Not-to-Exceed Fee of \$14,818,434 and Extending the Agreement Term to June 30, 2028 (San Jose, District 1).

Recommendation: Approve Amendment No. 6 to Agreement A3675A with GEI Consultants, Inc., for Environmental Services for the Calero and Guadalupe Dam Seismic Retrofits Project, Project No. 91084020, Increasing the Not-to-Exceed Fee by \$5,888,623 for a Revised Total Not-to-Exceed Fee of \$14,818,434 and Extending the Agreement Term to June 30, 2028.

Andrew Garcia, Assistant Officer, reviewed the information on this Item, per the attached Board Agenda Memo.

Move to Approve: 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.

9. EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:

None.

10. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER:

10.1. CEO and Chiefs' Reports.

Bhavani Yerrapotu, Acting Chief Operating Officer, verbally reported on recent Storm events. 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.

14. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Director Beall had no reports or announcements.

Director Eisenberg reported attending site visits.

Vice Chair Santos reported attending the Santa Clara Valley Water Veterans Awareness Group (VAG) employee resource group event, and various meetings with staff.

Director Ballard reported meeting with the Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition; the Santa Clara Valley Water Green Team employee resource group event; the Capital Improvement Program (CIP), Stream Planning and Operations Committee (SPOC), and Recycling and Waste Reduction Commission briefings.

Director Hsueh reported observing a Public Facilities Financing Corporation (PFFC) meeting; attending a Labor Negotiation Ad Hoc committee meeting; and various meetings with staff.

Director Varela reported attending various Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) meetings.

Chairperson Estremera reported attending the aforementioned Labor Negotiation Ad Hoc committee meeting; and various meetings with staff.

15. CLERK REVIEW AND CLARIFICATION OF BOARD REQUESTS:

None.

16. ADJOURN:

16.1 The Board will convene for the next Regular meeting at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 25, 2025, in the Santa Clara Valley Water District Headquarters Building Boardroom, 5700 Almaden Expressway, San Jose, California, and via Zoom teleconference.

Chairperson Estremera adjourned the meeting in recognition of National Native American Heritage, Military Families and Veterans Appreciation, and Sikh Awareness and Appreciation Month, at 4:47 p.m. The Board will convene for the next Closed Session and Regular meeting at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, November 25, 2025, 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: January 13, 2026