



## Application for the Santa Clara Valley Water District Youth Commission

Please complete this application in its entirety and submit a signed copy. Applications are valid for one year from the date of receipt and are public record. This application is available online at [valleywater.org/youthcommission](http://valleywater.org/youthcommission). For assistance, please contact the Youth Commission program at [youthcommission@valleywater.org](mailto:youthcommission@valleywater.org).

### A. APPLICANT CONTACT INFORMATION

Name of Committee: <b>Valley Water Youth Commission</b>	
Applicant Name (First, Middle, Last): Adriana M Anaya	
Applicant Preferred Name (If different from name above):	
Applicant Home Phone:	Applicant Cell Phone:
Applicant E-mail:	
Mailing Address (Street Address, City, State, ZIP):	
To identify your Valley Water Director and District, go to the <a href="#">Local Information GIP Map Tool</a> . Enter your <b>home address</b> into the search box (top left) and expand the <i>SCVWD Board of Directors Boundaries</i> section from the menu bar (left) to identify your Board Member and District number.	
Board Member Name: John L. Varela	Board Member District #: 1

### B. PARENT/GUARDIAN CONTACT INFORMATION (If applicant is under 18 years old, the section below must be completed by parent/guardian.)

Parent/ Guardian Name (First, Middle, Last):		
Guardian Home Phone:	Guardian Work Phone:	Guardian Cell Phone:
Mailing Address (Street Address, City, State, ZIP):		
Guardian E-mail:		
Do you have a current contractual relationship with the Santa Clara Valley Water District? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No		
If Yes, please describe:		
Do you consent to Valley Water staff contacting the applicant directly by phone and/or email? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
If No, please explain:		



**C. VOLUNTEER & EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

List up to three volunteer or extracurricular experiences that align with the Valley Water Youth Commission and provide brief descriptions (50 words or less).

DATE(S):	NAME:	BRIEF DESCRIPTION:
10/16/2025-NOW	Mini Cat Town Volunteer Program	At Mini Cat Town I currently care for kittens on premises by washing dishes, feeding kittens, and checking health statuses. I manage front desk; charging customers and stating rules which apply to their visits.
04/14/26-NOW	Grupo Folklorico Los Laureles Assistant teacher	I currently am a volunteer assistant teacher for a children's class at Grupo Folklorico Los Laureles, ages ranging from 6-10 years old, I help out by dancing and teaching the students once a week.
2026	Evergreen Valley High School	I gather friends and students together into small groups and organize practices to learn and perform dances and auditions for showcases throughout the school year.

**D. INTEREST AND AVAILABILITY**

How did you hear about this committee opening?

District Website
  Social Media  
 Committee Member (specify): \_\_\_\_\_
  School  
 Director (specify): \_\_\_\_\_
  Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_

Please explain why you are interested in serving on the Youth Commission (150 words or less).

I am interested in helping the environment's natural resources, wildlife, and diverse ecosystems through the work on this Commission. I feel that adults don't protect it enough and it's up to us youth to help. I would like to gain experience in the public sector to see if it something I would like to pursue in the future. I would like the opportunity to work directly with the environment and contribute to attempting to save our most vital resource of water.

Which of the following activities would you be interested in contributing to as a part of the Youth Commission?

Environmental stewardship and pollution prevention, such as supporting creek cleanups  
 Community assistance such as supporting unhoused youth or creating care packages  
 Public outreach, such as informing the community about Valley Water resources or social media campaigns

Are you available to attend all in-person quarterly committee meetings when scheduled?  Yes  No  
 (Please go to [valleywater.org/youthcommission](http://valleywater.org/youthcommission) for committee meeting schedule details.)

In addition to the 4 quarterly committee meetings, I understand I am expected to participate in additional subcommittee meetings via Zoom.  Yes  No

If you have a disability, what accommodations would you need to serve on this committee?



**E. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

150 words or less:

- 1. What do you believe is the most pressing water or environmental issue we are facing as a county, and which issue is the most important or relevant to you personally?

I believe our infrastructure is old and it doesn't align with the new climate change forecast and we need to come up with new ways to capture all this rainwater to replenish our groundwater. I think our infrastructure needs diversity, such as bringing back wildlife and plant life to our creeks, that will help with storm surges, cleaning of the water, and providing habitat for animals.

- 2. What do you hope to gain from being on the Youth Commission? What do you think you can contribute by being on the Youth Commission?

I hope to gain experience in the environmental field of this Commission. I look forward to working with other youth in my community to help the environment and others. I think I can contribute meaningful ideas to the preservation of creek ecosystem life. I would like to see what kind of impact I would be able to make in a public sector role.

**F. EMERGENCY CONTACTS**

In case of emergency, contact:		
Name:	Phone:	Relationship:
Name:	Phone:	Relationship:

I, hereby, attest that the information I have provided on this application is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I understand that all information provided is subject to verification and that misrepresentation or omissions may be cause for my immediate rejection as an applicant or termination from appointment to a committee.

If appointed to the Youth Commission, I further agree that photographs, pictures, slides, movies, livestreams or videos of me or that include me may be captured and created in connection with my participation in the Youth Commission without compensation from Valley Water and consent to Valley Water's use of these photographs, pictures, slides, movies, livestreams or videos for any lawful purpose.



I acknowledge and assume all risks associated with entering or using Valley Water properties, participating in related programs or activities, and the actions of others in those activities. I fully accept these risks and waive and release any current or future claims against Valley Water and its directors, officers, employees, and agents for any loss, damage, or injury. I also agree to hold harmless, defend, and indemnify these parties from any and all claims, liabilities, damages, costs, or expenses, including attorney's fees, arising directly or indirectly from my participation or presence at Valley Water properties and events.

I understand that participation in the Youth Commission is voluntary and have read and understand the provisions stated above.

Applicant Name: Adriana Anaya Grade: 10

Applicant Signature: Signed by: Adriana M Anaya 721F9495FA9242C... School: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: 5/3/2026

**If the applicant is under 18 years old, the section below must be completed by a parent or guardian.**

This is to certify that as a parent/guardian of this applicant, my child has my permission to participate in the Youth Commission. I further certify that I have read and agree to the provisions stated above.

Parent/Guardian Name (print): Arlene Anaya

Relationship (print): Mother

Parent/Guardian signature: Signed by: Arlene Anaya 2362EB8B8C49476...

Date: 5/3/2026

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### A. APPLICANT CONTACT INFORMATION

Name of Committee: <b>Valley Water Youth Commission</b>	
Applicant Name (First, Middle, Last): Evan Villanueva	
Applicant Preferred Name (If different from name above):	
Applicant Home Phone:	Applicant Cell Phone:
Applicant E-mail:	
Mailing Address (Street Address, City, State, ZIP):	
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Board Member Name: John L. Varela	Board Member District #: 1

### B. PARENT/GUARDIAN CONTACT INFORMATION (If applicant is under 18 years old, the section below must be completed by parent/guardian.)

Parent/ Guardian Name (First, Middle, Last):		
Guardian Home Phone:	Guardian Work Phone:	Guardian Cell Phone:
Mailing Address (Street Address, City, State, ZIP):		
Guardian E-mail:		
Do you have a current contractual relationship with the Santa Clara Valley Water District?		<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No
If Yes, please describe:		
Do you consent to Valley Water staff contacting the applicant directly by phone and/or email?		<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
If No, please explain:		

### C. VOLUNTEER & EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

List up to three volunteer or extracurricular experiences that align with the Valley Water Youth Commission and provide brief descriptions (50 words or less).

DATE(S):	NAME:	BRIEF DESCRIPTION:
2024-Present	Environmental School Club	Participated in campus sustainability initiatives and local creek cleanup events to reduce pollution
Summer 2024	Community Volunteer	Helped distribute resources at a neighborhood outreach event, supporting local families in need
Jan 2026	Independent Service Projects	Engaged in service projects related to environmental science, including water quality and conservation topics where I would go to libraries and schedule lectures to inform people of the community the dangers of

### D. INTEREST AND AVAILABILITY

How did you hear about this committee opening?

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> District Website   | <input type="checkbox"/> Social Media           |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Committee Member (specify): <u>Bryce Chen</u> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> School      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Director (specify): _____                                | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify): _____ |

Please explain why you are interested in serving on the Youth Commission (150 words or less).

Water is something we all use every day but rarely think about. Growing up here, I've started paying more attention to how much our community depends on having a reliable, clean water supply, especially with drought being such a real concern in California. Through some of the environmental work I've been involved in, I got more curious about how water is actually managed at a local level and who makes those decisions. Joining the Youth Commission feels like a natural next step, a way to learn more, contribute something real, and make sure younger voices are part of those conversations. I'm particularly drawn to the outreach side of things because I think a lot of kids my age just don't know enough about where their water comes from or why it matters, and that's something worth changing.

Which of the following activities would you be interested in contributing to as a part of the Youth Commission?

- Environmental stewardship and pollution prevention, such as supporting creek cleanups
- Community assistance such as supporting unhoused youth or creating care packages
- Public outreach, such as informing the community about Valley Water resources or social media campaigns

Are you available to attend all in-person quarterly committee meetings when scheduled?  Yes  No  
 (Please go to [valleywater.org/youthcommission](http://valleywater.org/youthcommission) for committee meeting schedule details.)

In addition to the 4 quarterly committee meetings, I understand I am expected to participate in additional subcommittee meetings via Zoom.  Yes  No

If you have a disability, what accommodations would you need to serve on this committee?

**E. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

150 words or less:

1. What do you believe is the most pressing water or environmental issue we are facing as a county, and which issue is the most important or relevant to you personally?

I think drought and water supply reliability is the biggest issue facing Santa Clara County right now. California keeps going through these cycles of dry years and it's becoming clear that what used to work isn't really enough anymore. What hits closest to home for me personally is water quality, specifically runoff and how everyday pollution ends up in our local creeks and eventually the water supply. I started noticing it more after getting involved in some cleanup efforts and realizing how much trash and chemical runoff actually makes it into the watershed. It made the issue feel a lot more real than just something you read about in a textbook.

2. What do you hope to gain from being on the Youth Commission? What do you think you can contribute by being on the Youth Commission?

Honestly I want to understand how decisions about water actually get made at a local level, because that's something most students my age have no idea about. I think being in that room and seeing the process would teach me a lot. As for what I can contribute, I think I'm good at talking to people my age in a way that actually lands, so I'd want to help with outreach and getting other students more aware and engaged. I also just bring a student perspective that I think is easy to overlook when decisions are being made by adults, and having that voice represented matters.

**F. EMERGENCY CONTACTS**

In case of emergency, contact:		
Name:	Phone:	Relationship:
Name:	Phone:	Relationship:


I, hereby, attest that the information I have provided on this application is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I understand that all information provided is subject to verification and that misrepresentation or omissions may be cause for my immediate rejection as an applicant or termination from appointment to a committee.

If appointed to the Youth Commission, I further agree that photographs, pictures, slides, movies, livestreams or videos of me or that include me may be captured and created in connection with my participation in the Youth Commission without compensation from Valley Water and consent to Valley Water's use of these photographs, pictures, slides, movies, livestreams or videos for any lawful purpose.

I acknowledge and assume all risks associated with entering or using Valley Water properties, participating in related programs or activities, and the actions of others in those activities. I fully accept these risks and waive and release any current or future claims against Valley Water and its directors, officers, employees, and agents for any loss, damage, or injury. I also agree to hold harmless, defend, and indemnify these parties from any and all claims, liabilities, damages, costs, or expenses, including attorney's fees, arising directly or indirectly from my participation or presence at Valley Water properties and events.

I understand that participation in the Youth Commission is voluntary and have read and understand the provisions stated above.

Applicant Name: Evan Villanueva

Applicant Signature: 

Date: 4/22/2026

**If the applicant is under 18 years old, the section below must be completed by a parent or guardian.**

This is to certify that as a parent/guardian of this applicant, my child has my permission to participate in the Youth Commission. I further certify that I have read and agree to the provisions stated above.

Parent/Guardian Name (print): Gaby Villanueva

Relationship (print): Mother

Parent/Guardian signature: 

Date: 4/22/2026

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### A. APPLICANT CONTACT INFORMATION

Name of Committee: <b>Valley Water Youth Commission</b>	
Applicant Name (First, Middle, Last): Irene Kim	
Applicant Preferred Name (If different from name above):	
Applicant Home Phone:	Applicant Cell Phone:
Applicant E-mail: irene.sebin.kim@gmail.com	
Mailing Address (Street Address, City, State, ZIP):	
To identify your Valley Water Director and District, go to the <a href="#">Local Information GIP Map Tool</a> . Enter your <b>home address</b> into the search box (top left) and expand the <i>SCVWD Board of Directors Boundaries</i> section from the menu bar (left) to identify your Board Member and District number.	
Board Member Name: John L. Varela	Board Member District #: 1

### B. PARENT/GUARDIAN CONTACT INFORMATION (If applicant is under 18 years old, the section below must be completed by parent/guardian.)

Parent/ Guardian Name (First, Middle, Last):		
Guardian Home Phone:	Guardian Work Phone:	Guardian Cell Phone:
Mailing Address (Street Address, City, State, ZIP):		
Guardian E-mail:		
Do you have a current contractual relationship with the Santa Clara Valley Water District? <input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No		
If Yes, please describe:		
Do you consent to Valley Water staff contacting the applicant directly by phone and/or email? <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No		
If No, please explain:		

**C. VOLUNTEER & EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

List up to three volunteer or extracurricular experiences that align with the Valley Water Youth Commission and provide brief descriptions (50 words or less).

DATE(S):	NAME:	BRIEF DESCRIPTION:
7/24 - Ongoing	Mini Cat Town Volunteer	Provided animal care and served possible adoptors, developing communication skills and supporting my local cat shelter.
9/23 - Ongoing	STEM Outreach	Led hands-on engineering workshops at local elementary schools, including Title 1 schools, and public libraries to inspire underrepresented youth to pursue careers in STEM.
8/23 - 5/24	Korean Language Education Assistant at New Life Korean School	Aided teachers at a local Korean elementary school, fostering multilingual education and strengthening the Korean American community on the local level.

**D. INTEREST AND AVAILABILITY**

How did you hear about this committee opening?

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District Website       | <input type="checkbox"/> Social Media           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Committee Member (specify): _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> School                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Director (specify): _____         | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify): _____ |

Please explain why you are interested in serving on the Youth Commission (150 words or less).

Growing up in San Jose, I've always been surrounded by the natural landscapes and green spaces that make Santa Clara County such a vibrant place to live. This environment allowed me to develop a deep appreciation for environmental conservation, and serving on the Valley Water Youth Commission would give me the opportunity to turn my passion into meaningful action. Through my experience mentoring students, volunteering in my community, and participating in local park clean-ups, I've seen how outreach and civic engagement can inspire people to care about the world around them. I hope to bring that same energy and passion to the Commission, advocating for my peers and amplifying the voice of the youth for environmental conservation.

Which of the following activities would you be interested in contributing to as a part of the Youth Commission?

- Environmental stewardship and pollution prevention, such as supporting creek cleanups
- Community assistance such as supporting unhoused youth or creating care packages
- Public outreach, such as informing the community about Valley Water resources or social media campaigns

Are you available to attend all in-person quarterly committee meetings when scheduled?  Yes  No  
 (Please go to [valleywater.org/youthcommission](http://valleywater.org/youthcommission) for committee meeting schedule details.)

In addition to the 4 quarterly committee meetings, I understand I am expected to participate in additional subcommittee meetings via Zoom.  Yes  No

If you have a disability, what accommodations would you need to serve on this committee?

**E. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

150 words or less:

1. What do you believe is the most pressing water or environmental issue we are facing as a county, and which issue is the most important or relevant to you personally?

One of the most pressing issues that Santa Clara County faces is the threat climate change poses to long-term water reliability. The rising temperatures, shifting rainfall patterns, and more severe droughts all impact water reliability in the long term and the ecosystem health throughout the county. Of all these challenges, water conservation and supply reliability is most relevant to me. Having grown up in San Jose, I've witnessed first hand how quickly our region can go from flooding to long periods of droughts, and I've come to understand that ensuring equitable access to clean, reliable water is a matter of community wellbeing and social equity, not just an issue with the environment. Joining the Youth Commission would give me the opportunity to educate my peers about the urgency of these issues and ensure that the voices of young people are part of the conservation that is shaping our county's water future.

2. What do you hope to gain from being on the Youth Commission? What do you think you can contribute by being on the Youth Commission?

Serving on the Valley Water Youth Commission would allow me to grow as a project planner and public advocate while contributing the outreach skills and community connections I have built through years of volunteering and mentoring. Through working with diverse communities, I have developed the ability to engage people from all backgrounds and communicate in ways that are accessible and inspiring. I want to bring that same inclusive approach to the Commission's initiatives, helping spread awareness about water conservation and environmental protection to audiences that are often left out of civic conversations. In return, I hope to gain hands-on experience in civic leadership and improve my ability to advocate confidently for issues that matter deeply to my community and to future generations.

**F. EMERGENCY CONTACTS**

In case of emergency, contact:		
Mother		
Name:	Phone:	Relationship:
Name:	Phone:	Relationship:

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I understand that participation in the Youth Commission is voluntary and have read and understand the provisions stated above.

Applicant Name: Irene Kim

Grade: 11

Applicant Signature: 

School: \_\_\_\_\_


Date: 5/4/26

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This is to certify that as a parent/guardian of this applicant, my child has my permission to participate in the Youth Commission. I further certify that I have read and agree to the provisions stated above.

Parent/Guardian Name (print): Ji Lee

Relationship (print): Mother

Parent/Guardian signature: 

Date: 5/4/26

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### A. APPLICANT CONTACT INFORMATION

Name of Committee: <b>Valley Water Youth Commission</b>	
Applicant Name (First, Middle, Last): Ayush Bansal	
Applicant Preferred Name (If different from name above):	
Applicant Home Phone:	Applicant Cell Phone:
Applicant E-mail:	
Mailing Address (Street Address, City, State, ZIP):	
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Board Member Name: Shiloh Ballard	Board Member District #: 2

### B. PARENT/GUARDIAN CONTACT INFORMATION (If applicant is under 18 years old, the section below must be completed by parent/guardian.)

Parent/ Guardian Name (First, Middle, Last):		
Guardian Home Phone:	Guardian Work Phone:	Guardian Cell Phone:
Mailing Address (Street Address, City, State, ZIP):		
Guardian E-mail:		
Do you have a current contractual relationship with the Santa Clara Valley Water District?		<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No
If Yes, please describe:		
Do you consent to Valley Water staff contacting the applicant directly by phone and/or email?		<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
If No, please explain:		

### C. VOLUNTEER & EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

List up to three volunteer or extracurricular experiences that align with the Valley Water Youth Commission and provide brief descriptions (50 words or less).

DATE(S):	NAME:	BRIEF DESCRIPTION:
2023-Present	Freshman Class President & ASB Club Commissioner	I represent student voices, help coordinate events with 400+ attendees, and work with administrators across 80+ clubs. This prepares me to bring outreach, collaboration, and project coordination to the Commission.
2024-Present	Vibha Bay Area Youth Volunteer	Volunteered 427 hours over the last 3 years teaching physics to underserved students and fundraising for children affected by school budget cuts. Taught me humility and how to create real community impact.
2025-Present	Volunteer @ KIPAC Stanford	I volunteer to host public star-gazing events and help with lectures; work in a team of 30 PHD students and postdocs to explain complex physics ideas clearly to the public. I would bring that same approach to water education.

### D. INTEREST AND AVAILABILITY

How did you hear about this committee opening?

- District Website
  Social Media  
 Committee Member (specify): \_\_\_\_\_
  School  
 Director (specify): \_\_\_\_\_
  Other (specify): Previously applied

Please explain why you are interested in serving on the Youth Commission (150 words or less).

I am interested in serving on the Youth Commission because it is in a sense a culmination of things I value: science, civic service, and community education. Through attending Director Shiloh Ballard's D2 Water Series, I saw how talking about water with others is of utmost importance and how you can learn lots by being surrounded by people who are smarter than you. This experience made water issues feel more immediate rather than something to deal with later. After attending the coffee chat, I spent lots of time reading about where our water comes from, what challenges our district faces and how I can help be part of the solution. I want to serve in particular because I hope to help more students and residents gain that same access and have these important discussions as well.

Which of the following activities would you be interested in contributing to as a part of the Youth Commission?

- Environmental stewardship and pollution prevention, such as supporting creek cleanups  
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If you have a disability, what accommodations would you need to serve on this committee?

N/A

**E. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

150 words or less:

1. What do you believe is the most pressing water or environmental issue we are facing as a county, and which issue is the most important or relevant to you personally?

I believe the most pressing issue facing Santa Clara County is building long-term drought resilience and reducing pressure on our water supply. In my personal experience, I have noticed that public concern about water often comes in spikes: during major droughts (like the one about four years ago), conservation was everywhere, and people were constantly reminded to save water. Now that the emergency feels less visible (if at all). I do not see the same level of education or urgency, even though the underlying challenge has not changed. Climate resilience requires infrastructure, but it also requires public trust, education, and participation. As a student, I think the youth can make a real difference by translating information into accessible outreach, connecting with schools, and helping water issues feel close and local rather than something to deal with later.

2. What do you hope to gain from being on the Youth Commission? What do you think you can contribute by being on the Youth Commission?

I want to learn how ideas move from public concern to research, planning, and implementation. In particular, I would also like to contribute by building something which solves a problem the Water Valley faces. An idea which I've been thinking about is building a drone which can fly through creeks and map them out so any employee or person can see exactly where trash is and focus their efforts in a consolidated way. I'm an avid biker and I see after rainy seasons that our creek is often riddled with trash. Most importantly, I would contribute as a team player. I've often seen that people, especially students, undervalue the impact they have. Being on the Youth Commission, I would work to empower my peers and be someone who they know always listens to their ideas and values them.

**F. EMERGENCY CONTACTS**

In case of emergency, contact:		
Name:	Phone:	Relationship:
Name:	Phone:	Relationship:

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I understand that participation in the Youth Commission is voluntary and have read and understand the provisions stated above.

Applicant Name: Ayush Bansal

Grade: 11

Applicant Signature: 

School: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: 5/3/2026

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Parent/Guardian Name (print): Rahul Bansal

Relationship (print): Father

Parent/Guardian signature: 

Date: 5/3/2026



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### A. APPLICANT CONTACT INFORMATION

Name of Committee: <b>Valley Water Youth Commission</b>	
Applicant Name (First, Middle, Last): Brandon Chung Du	
Applicant Preferred Name (If different from name above):	
Applicant Home Phone:	Applicant Cell Phone:
Applicant E-mail:	
Mailing Address (Street Address, City, State, ZIP):	
To identify your Valley Water Director and District, go to the <a href="#">Local Information GIP Map Tool</a> . Enter your <b>home address</b> into the search box (top left) and expand the <i>SCVWD Board of Directors Boundaries</i> section from the menu bar (left) to identify your Board Member and District number.	
Board Member Name: Shiloh Ballard	Board Member District #: 2

### B. PARENT/GUARDIAN CONTACT INFORMATION (If applicant is under 18 years old, the section below must be completed by parent/guardian.)

Parent/ Guardian Name (First, Middle, Last):		
Guardian Home Phone:	Guardian Work Phone:	Guardian Cell Phone:
Mailing Address (Street Address, City, State, ZIP):		
Guardian E-mail:		
Do you have a current contractual relationship with the Santa Clara Valley Water District? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No		
If Yes, please describe:		
Do you consent to Valley Water staff contacting the applicant directly by phone and/or email? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
If No, please explain:		



**C. VOLUNTEER & EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

List up to three volunteer or extracurricular experiences that align with the Valley Water Youth Commission and provide brief descriptions (50 words or less).

DATE(S):	NAME:	BRIEF DESCRIPTION:
2024-Now	Youth Initiatives Club	Led youth participation in advocacy and community service, including food donations to strengthen community food security; recognized by former Santa Clara City Councilmember Teresa O'Neill for community leadership.
Spring, 2025	Able To Shine Teens Club	Supported community activities such as local library book sales and Second Harvest Food Bank activities.
2021-2024	Volunteer	Advocated for Measure I through door-to-door outreach; recognized by Mayor Lisa Gillmor for youth advocacy. Supported community engagement and public safety, including the Parade of Champions and K-9 training.

**D. INTEREST AND AVAILABILITY**

How did you hear about this committee opening?

District Website
  Social Media  
 Committee Member (specify): \_\_\_\_\_
  School  
 Director (specify): \_\_\_\_\_
  Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_

Please explain why you are interested in serving on the Youth Commission (150 words or less).

I am eager to join the Youth Commission to transform the Master Plan 2050 into empowerment of grassroots strategies and local actions. My advocacy for Measure I—which secured \$46 million for vital water infrastructure—was recognized by Mayor Lisa Gillmor, and my 25-year municipal resilience model earned national acclaim at ExploraVision National Science Competition. These efforts echo the Board’s long-term vision. I am committed to addressing how droughts, water quality, and aging systems impact residents in our county, especially lower-income families who feel these burdens most. On the Commission, I will lead youth advocacy to mobilize my peers and provide the Board with youth-led insights.

Which of the following activities would you be interested in contributing to as a part of the Youth Commission?

Environmental stewardship and pollution prevention, such as supporting creek cleanups  
 Community assistance such as supporting unhoused youth or creating care packages  
 Public outreach, such as informing the community about Valley Water resources or social media campaigns

Are you available to attend all in-person quarterly committee meetings when scheduled?  Yes  No  
 (Please go to [valleywater.org/youthcommission](http://valleywater.org/youthcommission) for committee meeting schedule details.)

In addition to the 4 quarterly committee meetings, I understand I am expected to participate in additional subcommittee meetings via Zoom.  Yes  No

If you have a disability, what accommodations would you need to serve on this committee?  
 N/A



**E. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

150 words or less:

1. What do you believe is the most pressing water or environmental issue we are facing as a county, and which issue is the most important or relevant to you personally?

I believe water scarcity, intensified by climate volatility, is the most pressing issue facing Santa Clara County. As highlighted in the Water Supply Master Plan 2050, securing our future requires bold steps beyond standard conservation—including investments in water reuse and infrastructure resilience to combat prolonged droughts and rising demand.

Water quality matters most to me. In Santa Clara, runoff pollution and infrastructure limitations heighten the urgency of this issue. Seeing discolored tap water at home made it deeply personal and motivated me to advocate for clean, reliable water for every household. By joining the Youth Commission, I aim to bring these lived experiences to the table, sparking innovative thinking to protect our watersheds. I am driven to help nurture a generation of lifelong environmental stewards while ensuring equitable water access for all residents.

2. What do you hope to gain from being on the Youth Commission? What do you think you can contribute by being on the Youth Commission?

Serving on the Youth Commission would be a life-changing opportunity. By working alongside experienced leaders and professionals, I hope to deepen my understanding of water policy, conservation, and sustainability, to develop my skills in policy advocacy, and to gain firsthand insight into how long-term solutions are crafted. I am eager to grow into a leader who doesn't just advocate for the environment but understands how to safeguard it for generations.

I will contribute a youth perspective rooted in community action, having championed Measure I to secure infrastructure funding and supported natural spaces like the Calabazas Creek Trail. I am particularly eager to join working groups focused on Public Outreach to bridge the gap between Valley Water's strategic goals and youth engagement. With a background in resilience-planning, I am ready to mobilize my peers to help shape a sustainable and equitable water future for all Santa Clara County residents.

**F. EMERGENCY CONTACTS**

In case of emergency, contact:		
Name:	Phone:	Relationship:
Name:	Phone:	Relationship:

I, hereby, attest that the information I have provided on this application is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I understand that all information provided is subject to verification and that misrepresentation or omissions may be cause for my immediate rejection as an applicant or termination from appointment to a committee.

If appointed to the Youth Commission, I further agree that photographs, pictures, slides, movies, livestreams or videos of me or that include me may be captured and created in connection with my participation in the Youth Commission without compensation from Valley Water and consent to Valley Water's use of these photographs, pictures, slides, movies, livestreams or videos for any lawful purpose.



I acknowledge and assume all risks associated with entering or using Valley Water properties, participating in related programs or activities, and the actions of others in those activities. I fully accept these risks and waive and release any current or future claims against Valley Water and its directors, officers, employees, and agents for any loss, damage, or injury. I also agree to hold harmless, defend, and indemnify these parties from any and all claims, liabilities, damages, costs, or expenses, including attorney's fees, arising directly or indirectly from my participation or presence at Valley Water properties and events.

I understand that participation in the Youth Commission is voluntary and have read and understand the provisions stated above.

Applicant Name: Brandon Du

Grade: Rsing G11

Applicant Signature: Signed by:  
Brandon Chung Du  
E7ACE4DDC4C14DC...

School: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: 5/3/2026

**If the applicant is under 18 years old, the section below must be completed by a parent or guardian.**

This is to certify that as a parent/guardian of this applicant, my child has my permission to participate in the Youth Commission. I further certify that I have read and agree to the provisions stated above.

Parent/Guardian Name (print): Yimin Wang Zimmerer

Relationship (print): Mom

Parent/Guardian signature: DocuSigned by:  
Yimin Wang Zimmerer  
09C6523EC9A0469...

Date: 5/3/2026

## Application for the Santa Clara Valley Water District Youth Commission

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### A. APPLICANT CONTACT INFORMATION

Name of Committee: <b>Valley Water Youth Commission</b>	
Applicant Name (First, Middle, Last): Rhia Swaminath	
Applicant Preferred Name (If different from name above):	
Applicant Home Phone: NA	Applicant Cell Phone:
Applicant E-mail:	
Mailing Address (Street Address, City, State, ZIP):	
To identify your Valley Water Director and District, go to the <a href="#">Local Information GIP Map Tool</a> . Enter your <b>home address</b> into the search box (top left) and expand the <i>SCVWD Board of Directors Boundaries</i> section from the menu bar (left) to identify your Board Member and District number.	
Board Member Name: Shiloh Ballard	Board Member District #: 2

### B. PARENT/GUARDIAN CONTACT INFORMATION (If applicant is under 18 years old, the section below must be completed by parent/guardian.)

Parent/ Guardian Name (First, Middle, Last):		
Guardian Home Phone: NA	Guardian Work Phone: NA	Guardian Cell Phone:
Mailing Address (Street Address, City, State, ZIP):		
Guardian E-mail:		
Do you have a current contractual relationship with the Santa Clara Valley Water District? <input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No		
If Yes, please describe:		
Do you consent to Valley Water staff contacting the applicant directly by phone and/or email? <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No		
If No, please explain:		



**E. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

150 words or less:

1. What do you believe is the most pressing water or environmental issue we are facing as a county, and which issue is the most important or relevant to you personally?

In the Santa Clara County, I feel water wastage is the most pressing issue we are facing and the lack of awareness from youth around it. From Intro to Biotech, a class offered in my high school, I have learned about the benefits of biotechnology in wastewater management, but many students are not exposed to the severity of this problem. As the youth become the new leaders of today, it is important for us to use policy to introduce proposals and lead outreach events. From following the Valley Water News, I am especially intrigued by the work done in the SF Shoreline Project and the Anderson Dam. If appointed to the Commission, I hope to be involved in similar projects to connect youth to Valley Water's processes to help the next generation feel linked with policies and updates.

2. What do you hope to gain from being on the Youth Commission? What do you think you can contribute by being on the Youth Commission?

Environmental science is one of my passions, and if appointed to the Youth Commission, I hope to gain a deeper insight about Valley Water's approaches on environmental troubles and what middle and high schoolers can do to serve our environment. I hope I can expand my connections with like-minded peers who also believe in stepping up for the youth. With my abilities of interacting with individuals from many age groups, I can use this to communicate my ideas with officials and fellow members. With my outgoing and social personality, I hope to make change that only happens when different generations work alongside each other. I am excited to meet new people from the valley and build strong connections, also contributing to my knowledge about conservation. All in all, I am excited to connect Youth Commission's policies with the voice of my peers.

**F. EMERGENCY CONTACTS**

In case of emergency, contact:		
Name:	Phone:	Relationship:
Name:	Phone:	Relationship:

I, hereby, attest that the information I have provided on this application is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I understand that all information provided is subject to verification and that misrepresentation or omissions may be cause for my immediate rejection as an applicant or termination from appointment to a committee.

If appointed to the Youth Commission, I further agree that photographs, pictures, slides, movies, livestreams or videos of me or that include me may be captured and created in connection with my participation in the Youth Commission without compensation from Valley Water and consent to Valley Water's use of these photographs, pictures, slides, movies, livestreams or videos for any lawful purpose.



I acknowledge and assume all risks associated with entering or using Valley Water properties, participating in related programs or activities, and the actions of others in those activities. I fully accept these risks and waive and release any current or future claims against Valley Water and its directors, officers, employees, and agents for any loss, damage, or injury. I also agree to hold harmless, defend, and indemnify these parties from any and all claims, liabilities, damages, costs, or expenses, including attorney's fees, arising directly or indirectly from my participation or presence at Valley Water properties and events.

I understand that participation in the Youth Commission is voluntary and have read and understand the provisions stated above.

Applicant Name: Rhia Swaminath

Applicant Signature: *Rhia S.*

Date: 4/24/26

**If the applicant is under 18 years old, the section below must be completed by a parent or guardian.**

This is to certify that as a parent/guardian of this applicant, my child has my permission to participate in the Youth Commission. I further certify that I have read and agree to the provisions stated above.

Parent/Guardian Name (print): Anupama Swaminath

Relationship (print): Mother

Parent/Guardian signature: *S. Anupama*

Date: 4/24/26



## Application for the Santa Clara Valley Water District Youth Commission

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### A. APPLICANT CONTACT INFORMATION

Name of Committee: <b>Valley Water Youth Commission</b>	
Applicant Name (First, Middle, Last): Yichi Zhang	
Applicant Preferred Name (If different from name above):	
Applicant Home Phone:	Applicant Cell Phone:
Applicant E-mail:	
Mailing Address (Street Address, City, State, ZIP):	
To identify your Valley Water Director and District, go to the <a href="#">Local Information GIP Map Tool</a> . Enter your <b>home address</b> into the search box (top left) and expand the <i>SCVWD Board of Directors Boundaries</i> section from the menu bar (left) to identify your Board Member and District number.	
Board Member Name: Jim Beall	Board Member District #: 4

### B. PARENT/GUARDIAN CONTACT INFORMATION (If applicant is under 18 years old, the section below must be completed by parent/guardian.)

Parent/ Guardian Name (First, Middle, Last):		
Guardian Home Phone:	Guardian Work Phone:	Guardian Cell Phone:
Mailing Address (Street Address, City, State, ZIP):		
Guardian E-mail:		
Do you have a current contractual relationship with the Santa Clara Valley Water District? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No		
If Yes, please describe:		
Do you consent to Valley Water staff contacting the applicant directly by phone and/or email? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
If No, please explain:		



**C. VOLUNTEER & EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

List up to three volunteer or extracurricular experiences that align with the Valley Water Youth Commission and provide brief descriptions (50 words or less).

DATE(S):	NAME:	BRIEF DESCRIPTION:
July 2025 - Present	San Jose Youth Advisory Council	Advocate for youth voice in San Jose, collaborating with councilmembers to improve problems like violence & homelessness in the city; organize events like tree planting and culture fairs to foster unity and improve community; participated in Citywide Youth Budge
September 2025 - Present	Chief Product Officer of SafeLock	Co-developed a biometric gun lock with location-tracking app & filed utility patent; explored adoption with local police stations & met DOJ compliance; raised \$26,000+ from organizations like Americans Against Gun Violence; held firearm violence awareness
July 2025 - Present	XPRIZE Wildfire Finalist	Top 5 Finalist out of 337 competitors in an \$11 million competition where teams aim to autonomously detect and suppress destructive fires within minutes; Only high school team & youngest ever finalists; Won \$176,000 & featured on Good Morning America, AB

**D. INTEREST AND AVAILABILITY**

How did you hear about this committee opening?

District Website
  Social Media  
 Committee Member (specify): \_\_\_\_\_
  School  
 Director (specify): \_\_\_\_\_
  Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_

Please explain why you are interested in serving on the Youth Commission (150 words or less).

Growing up in China, I was frequently hospitalized due to my severe asthma. That's why I moved to Santa Clara County a little more than ten years ago to seek something better. While things definitely improved, I have learned that clean air and a healthy environment are never guaranteed. Droughts degrade air quality, cause frequent wildfires, and hurt the water infrastructure millions of people depend on. Unfortunately, most youth in our community that I've talked to through my experience on the San Jose Youth Advisory Council are unaware of this issue. Valley Water's Youth Commission's mission of outreach and education is exactly where I want to contribute. I've realized that protecting our water is equivalent to protecting our environment and communities. So, I want to understand the systems that provide this cou

Which of the following activities would you be interested in contributing to as a part of the Youth Commission?

Environmental stewardship and pollution prevention, such as supporting creek cleanups  
 Community assistance such as supporting unhoused youth or creating care packages  
 Public outreach, such as informing the community about Valley Water resources or social media campaigns

Are you available to attend all in-person quarterly committee meetings when scheduled?  Yes  No  
 (Please go to [valleywater.org/youthcommission](http://valleywater.org/youthcommission) for committee meeting schedule details.)

In addition to the 4 quarterly committee meetings, I understand I am expected to participate in additional subcommittee meetings via Zoom.  Yes  No

If you have a disability, what accommodations would you need to serve on this committee?



**E. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

150 words or less:

1. What do you believe is the most pressing water or environmental issue we are facing as a county, and which issue is the most important or relevant to you personally?

Two years ago, golden mussels were found in the Sacramento - San Joaquin Delta. As an invasive species native to Asia, they quickly spread and clog the water import infrastructure that our county relies on. However, most people have never even heard of them. The golden mussels combined with the declining Sierra Nevada snowpack and recurring droughts compound until our infrastructure inevitably cannot handle them anymore. This invisibility is also extremely personal to me. I grew up breathing air that was being polluted for decades before anyone realized it was a problem. By then, it was already too late and many people became sick. Although Santa Clara County is a different environment, I believe that the same principles apply. I don't want to see the same happen to this county's water.

2. What do you hope to gain from being on the Youth Commission? What do you think you can contribute by being on the Youth Commission?

I hope to understand how Valley Water communicates complex water issues to residents and incorporates youth voices to impact the community. Understanding the decision making process from the inside is something no classroom or academic program can teach. What I bring is a mix of technical depth and social advocacy that allows me to reach others while being able to explain the technical components and "why" behind the system. I've produced original research and engineering systems, teaching me to ensure the reliability of systems. On the community side, I've served as the Finance Director for Envehope, a 501(c)(3) that's raised over \$10,000 for chronically ill children. Furthermore, I serve as a mentor officer on my school's debate team to teach concepts to new debaters. I want to use my diverse background to help Valley Water reach students who don't yet realize the importance of our county's water.

**F. EMERGENCY CONTACTS**

In case of emergency, contact:		
Name:	Phone:	Relationship:
Name:	Phone:	Relationship:

I, hereby, attest that the information I have provided on this application is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I understand that all information provided is subject to verification and that misrepresentation or omissions may be cause for my immediate rejection as an applicant or termination from appointment to a committee.

If appointed to the Youth Commission, I further agree that photographs, pictures, slides, movies, livestreams or videos of me or that include me may be captured and created in connection with my participation in the Youth Commission without compensation from Valley Water and consent to Valley Water's use of these photographs, pictures, slides, movies, livestreams or videos for any lawful purpose.



List up to three volunteer or extracurricular experiences that align with the Valley Water Youth Commission and provide brief descriptions (50 words or less).

**DATE(S): NAME: BRIEF DESCRIPTION:**

1: San Jose YAC

July 2025 - Present; San Jose Youth Advisory Council;  
Advocate for youth voice in San Jose, collaborating with councilmembers to improve problems like violence & homelessness in the city; organize events like tree planting and culture fairs to foster unity and improve community; participated in Citywide Youth Budget Summit & delivered 1st place presentation to increase funding toward decreasing violence.

2: SafeLock

September 2025 - Present; Chief Product Officer of SafeLock;  
Co-developed a biometric gun lock with location-tracking app & filed utility patent; explored adoption with local police stations & met DOJ compliance; raised \$26,000+ from organizations like Americans Against Gun Violence; held firearm violence awareness campaigns with over 1000 community members & spoke with Sen. Dave Cortese; Diamond Challenge Grand Prize Winner.

3: XPRIZE

July 2025 - Present; XPRIZE Wildfire Finalist;  
Top 5 Finalist out of 337 competitors in an \$11 million competition where teams aim to autonomously detect and suppress destructive fires within minutes; Only high school team & youngest ever finalists; Won \$176,000 & featured on Good Morning America, ABC World, NBC Bay Area, Yahoo Finance, etc.

Please explain why you are interested in serving on the Youth Commission (150 words or less).

Growing up in China, I was frequently hospitalized due to my severe asthma. That's why I moved to Santa Clara County a little more than ten years ago to seek something better. While things definitely improved, I have learned that clean air and a healthy environment are never guaranteed. Droughts degrade air quality, cause frequent wildfires, and hurt the water infrastructure millions of people depend on. Unfortunately,

most youth in our community that I've talked to through my experience on the San Jose Youth Advisory Council are unaware of this issue. Valley Water's Youth Commission's mission of outreach and education is exactly where I want to contribute. I've realized that protecting our water is equivalent to protecting our environment and communities. So, I want to understand the systems that provide this county with water and help make that knowledge accessible to young people who don't yet realize what's at stake.

150 words or less:

1. What do you believe is the most pressing water or environmental issue we are facing as a county, and which issue is the most important or relevant to you personally?

Two years ago, golden mussels were found in the Sacramento - San Joaquin Delta. As an invasive species native to Asia, they quickly spread and clog the water import infrastructure that our county relies on. However, most people have never even heard of them. The golden mussels combined with the declining Sierra Nevada snowpack and recurring droughts compound until our infrastructure inevitably cannot handle them anymore. This invisibility is also extremely personal to me. I grew up breathing air that was being polluted for decades before anyone realized it was a problem. By then, it was already too late and many people became sick. Although Santa Clara County is a different environment, I believe that the same principles apply. I don't want to see the same happen to this county's water.

2. What do you hope to gain from being on the Youth Commission? What do you think you can contribute by being on the Youth Commission?

I hope to understand how Valley Water communicates complex water issues to residents and incorporates youth voices to impact the community. Understanding the decision making process from the inside is something no classroom or academic program can teach. What I bring is a mix of technical depth and social advocacy that allows me to reach others while being able to explain the technical components and "why" behind the system. I've produced original research and engineering systems, teaching me to ensure the reliability of systems. On the community side, I've served as the Finance Director for Envehope, a 501(c)(3) that's raised over \$10,000 for chronically ill children. Furthermore, I serve as a mentor officer on my school's debate team to teach concepts to new debaters. I want to use my diverse background to help Valley Water reach students who don't yet realize the importance of our county's water.



## Application for the Santa Clara Valley Water District Youth Commission

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### A. APPLICANT CONTACT INFORMATION

Name of Committee: <b>Valley Water Youth Commission</b>	
Applicant Name (First, Middle, Last): Chris Henry	
Applicant Preferred Name (If different from name above):	
Applicant Home Phone:	Applicant Cell Phone:
Applicant E-mail:	
Mailing Address (Street Address, City, State, ZIP):	
To identify your Valley Water Director and District, go to the <a href="#">Local Information GIP Map Tool</a> . Enter your <b>home address</b> into the search box (top left) and expand the <i>SCVWD Board of Directors Boundaries</i> section from the menu bar (left) to identify your Board Member and District number.	
Board Member Name: Nai Hsueh	Board Member District #: 5

### B. PARENT/GUARDIAN CONTACT INFORMATION (If applicant is under 18 years old, the section below must be completed by parent/guardian.)

Parent/ Guardian Name (First, Middle, Last):		
Guardian Home Phone:	Guardian Work Phone:	Guardian Cell Phone:
Mailing Address (Street Address, City, State, ZIP):		
Guardian E-mail:		
Do you have a current contractual relationship with the Santa Clara Valley Water District? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No		
If Yes, please describe:		
Do you consent to Valley Water staff contacting the applicant directly by phone and/or email? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
If No, please explain:		



**C. VOLUNTEER & EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

List up to three volunteer or extracurricular experiences that align with the Valley Water Youth Commission and provide brief descriptions (50 words or less).

DATE(S):	NAME:	BRIEF DESCRIPTION:
Fall & Winter 2025	Point Blue Conservation Science	Conducted standardized Pacific Flyway shorebird surveys, collecting data on bird species abundance and distribution. This experience strengthened my field research skills and commitment to environmental stewardship.
2023-current	Santa Clara Valley Bird Alliance	Co-lead birding walks for Santa Clara Valley residents, helping participants identify local birds and understand their habitats. Also, write newsletter articles to promote awareness and appreciation of local wildlife.
summer 2023	San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory	Independently monitored endangered California Least Tern colonies, documenting nesting and population data and tracking predators. Contributed findings to management recommendations supporting species recovery.

**D. INTEREST AND AVAILABILITY**

How did you hear about this committee opening?

District Website
  Social Media
  Committee Member (specify): \_\_\_\_\_
  School
  Director (specify): \_\_\_\_\_
  Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_

Please explain why you are interested in serving on the Youth Commission (150 words or less).

I am interested in serving on the Valley Water Youth Commission because I want to contribute my experience in environmental research and youth engagement to local water and conservation efforts. Through my work conducting bird surveys, monitoring endangered species, and analyzing habitat data, I have seen how closely healthy ecosystems depend on responsible water management. In addition, I have led educational birding trips and presented on connecting youth to conservation, which has strengthened my ability to communicate science and inspire others. As a student and active community member in Santa Clara County, I am motivated to represent youth perspectives, promote environmental stewardship, and help ensure sustainable water resources for the future.

Which of the following activities would you be interested in contributing to as a part of the Youth Commission?

Environmental stewardship and pollution prevention, such as supporting creek cleanups
  Community assistance such as supporting unhoused youth or creating care packages
  Public outreach, such as informing the community about Valley Water resources or social media campaigns

Are you available to attend all in-person quarterly committee meetings when scheduled?  Yes  No  
 (Please go to [valleywater.org/youthcommission](http://valleywater.org/youthcommission) for committee meeting schedule details.)

In addition to the 4 quarterly committee meetings, I understand I am expected to participate in additional subcommittee meetings via Zoom.  Yes  No

If you have a disability, what accommodations would you need to serve on this committee?  
 n/a



**E. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

150 words or less:

1. What do you believe is the most pressing water or environmental issue we are facing as a county, and which issue is the most important or relevant to you personally?

One of the most pressing environmental issues in Santa Clara County is water scarcity, especially as climate change leads to more droughts and less predictable rainfall. This affects our drinking water supply and the health of local ecosystems that depend on steady water sources. Wetlands and creeks can dry out, which harms wildlife and reduces biodiversity.

This issue is especially important to me because of my interest and experience in bird conservation. Through monitoring bird populations and studying habitats, I have seen how changes in water availability can impact species, especially migratory and shorebirds that rely on wetlands. Protecting water resources is essential for both people and wildlife, and I want to be part of efforts that promote sustainable water use and environmental stewardship.

2. What do you hope to gain from being on the Youth Commission? What do you think you can contribute by being on the Youth Commission?

I hope to gain a deeper understanding of how water management decisions are made and how scientific data informs local policy. Through my experience conducting shorebird surveys, monitoring endangered species, and assisting with bird banding, I have collected ecological data, but I want to better understand how it is used in real-world decision-making. I am also excited to collaborate with other students and professionals while continuing to build my leadership skills.

I believe I can contribute a strong background in conservation and science communication. I have led birding field trips, taught students in field labs, and presented on engaging youth in conservation. These experiences have helped me connect people to environmental issues. I would bring a science-based perspective and a commitment to representing youth voices in protecting our water resources. Thank you for this opportunity.

**F. EMERGENCY CONTACTS**

In case of emergency, contact:		
Name:	Phone:	Relationship:
Name:	Phone:	Relationship:

I, hereby, attest that the information I have provided on this application is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I understand that all information provided is subject to verification and that misrepresentation or omissions may be cause for my immediate rejection as an applicant or termination from appointment to a committee.

If appointed to the Youth Commission, I further agree that photographs, pictures, slides, movies, livestreams or videos of me or that include me may be captured and created in connection with my participation in the Youth Commission without compensation from Valley Water and consent to Valley Water’s use of these photographs, pictures, slides, movies, livestreams or videos for any lawful purpose.



I acknowledge and assume all risks associated with entering or using Valley Water properties, participating in related programs or activities, and the actions of others in those activities. I fully accept these risks and waive and release any current or future claims against Valley Water and its directors, officers, employees, and agents for any loss, damage, or injury. I also agree to hold harmless, defend, and indemnify these parties from any and all claims, liabilities, damages, costs, or expenses, including attorney's fees, arising directly or indirectly from my participation or presence at Valley Water properties and events.

I understand that participation in the Youth Commission is voluntary and have read and understand the provisions stated above.

Applicant Name: Chris Henry Grade: 10

Applicant Signature: Chris Henry School: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: 5/2/2026

**If the applicant is under 18 years old, the section below must be completed by a parent or guardian.**

This is to certify that as a parent/guardian of this applicant, my child has my permission to participate in the Youth Commission. I further certify that I have read and agree to the provisions stated above.

Parent/Guardian Name (print): Brian Henry

Relationship (print): father

Parent/Guardian signature: Brian Henry

Date: 5/2/2026



## Application for the Santa Clara Valley Water District Youth Commission

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### A. APPLICANT CONTACT INFORMATION

Name of Committee: <b>Valley Water Youth Commission</b>	
Applicant Name (First, Middle, Last): Patricio Villasenor	
Applicant Preferred Name (If different from name above):	
Applicant Home Phone:	Applicant Cell Phone:
Applicant E-mail:	
Mailing Address (Street Address, City, State, ZIP):	
To identify your Valley Water Director and District, go to the <a href="#">Local Information GIP Map Tool</a> . Enter your <b>home address</b> into the search box (top left) and expand the <i>SCVWD Board of Directors Boundaries</i> section from the menu bar (left) to identify your Board Member and District number.	
Board Member Name: Tony Estremera	Board Member District #: 6

### B. PARENT/GUARDIAN CONTACT INFORMATION (If applicant is under 18 years old, the section below must be completed by parent/guardian.)

Parent/ Guardian Name (First, Middle, Last):		
Guardian Home Phone:	Guardian Work Phone:	Guardian Cell Phone:
Mailing Address (Street Address, City, State, ZIP):		
Guardian E-mail:		
Do you have a current contractual relationship with the Santa Clara Valley Water District? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No		
If Yes, please describe:		
Do you consent to Valley Water staff contacting the applicant directly by phone and/or email? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
If No, please explain:		



**C. VOLUNTEER & EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

List up to three volunteer or extracurricular experiences that align with the Valley Water Youth Commission and provide brief descriptions (50 words or less).

DATE(S):	NAME:	BRIEF DESCRIPTION:
Every Saturday	First Tee Silicon Valley	I am a Junior Coach and volunteer coaching kids from 2-4 grade on golf and also teach them life skills while playing.
November 23rd	Archbishop Mitty	I volunteered at my school during they're open house by greeting people and putting a friendly smile to welcome them to our community
October 4th	Nami Organization Walk	I went with my father and we both were placed on door duty and were a welcome face to greet people as they walked in for the walkathon.

**D. INTEREST AND AVAILABILITY**

How did you hear about this committee opening?

- District Website
- Committee Member (specify): \_\_\_\_\_
- Director (specify): \_\_\_\_\_
- Social Media
- School
- Other (specify): LULAC

Please explain why you are interested in serving on the Youth Commission (150 words or less).

I am interested in serving the youth commission because I think it will be a really good opportunity for me to grow in my leadership skills and learn to be more of a leader instead of a follower and also have my own ideas. I also want to grow with the community and help out my community in different ways in any way that I can because I care about my community also because I live with my community so anything that affects them will also affect me. with that also comes knowing what's best for me and putting my community first because putting myself first won't work out for me because I also have to think about other people in there and what will affect them so I will learn how to manage that and myself.

Which of the following activities would you be interested in contributing to as a part of the Youth Commission?

- Environmental stewardship and pollution prevention, such as supporting creek cleanups
- Community assistance such as supporting unhoused youth or creating care packages
- Public outreach, such as informing the community about Valley Water resources or social media campaigns

Are you available to attend all in-person quarterly committee meetings when scheduled?  Yes  No  
(Please go to [valleywater.org/youthcommission](http://valleywater.org/youthcommission) for committee meeting schedule details.)

In addition to the 4 quarterly committee meetings, I understand I am expected to participate in additional subcommittee meetings via Zoom.  Yes  No

If you have a disability, what accommodations would you need to serve on this committee?



**E. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

150 words or less:

1. What do you believe is the most pressing water or environmental issue we are facing as a county, and which issue is the most important or relevant to you personally?

Considering that we live in the Silicon Valley and in California state that experiences a lot of droughts I think the most important issue is knowing how to use our water effectively and our resources effectively since we are in California and we have a lot of droughts. We get a lot of help from different organizations that help us fight this and I think recently we just got out of a drought which is pretty good so I think we should start using water more carefully more resourcefully and including the Silicon Valley as a lot of tech startups and things like AI databases that require a lot of water that we could be using so I think we should find a way to manage that and maybe use things that are more readily available like air or anything to cool down these places cause they use a lot of water cooling because the tech runs hot so I think saving our water saving what we really need is really good for us and our community in general.

2. What do you hope to gain from being on the Youth Commission? What do you think you can contribute by being on the Youth Commission?

I like to think of myself as a good leader, but I know I could always be more so I hope to gain a lot of leadership skills. A lot of knowledge about California and the Silicon Valley and the water system and I also hope to get a lot of skills from this like leading people lead by example, knowing how to work with other people and anything that in any issue that comes up just having a good experience, having an experience of being on youth commission and have control of the district in the community that I live in and that many of my friends live in and that my family lives in I think it'll be a really good learning experience for me and a really good helping experience for me and my family and my friends my pets in the community that this local Valley.

**F. EMERGENCY CONTACTS**

In case of emergency, contact:		
Name:	Phone:	Relationship:
Name:	Phone:	Relationship:

I, hereby, attest that the information I have provided on this application is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I understand that all information provided is subject to verification and that misrepresentation or omissions may be cause for my immediate rejection as an applicant or termination from appointment to a committee.

If appointed to the Youth Commission, I further agree that photographs, pictures, slides, movies, livestreams or videos of me or that include me may be captured and created in connection with my participation in the Youth Commission without compensation from Valley Water and consent to Valley Water's use of these photographs, pictures, slides, movies, livestreams or videos for any lawful purpose.

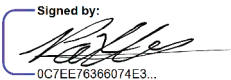


I acknowledge and assume all risks associated with entering or using Valley Water properties, participating in related programs or activities, and the actions of others in those activities. I fully accept these risks and waive and release any current or future claims against Valley Water and its directors, officers, employees, and agents for any loss, damage, or injury. I also agree to hold harmless, defend, and indemnify these parties from any and all claims, liabilities, damages, costs, or expenses, including attorney's fees, arising directly or indirectly from my participation or presence at Valley Water properties and events.

I understand that participation in the Youth Commission is voluntary and have read and understand the provisions stated above.

Applicant Name: Patricio Villasenor

Grade: 10

Applicant Signature:  \_\_\_\_\_  
Signed by:  
007EE76366074E3...

School: \_\_\_\_\_

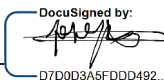
Date: 4/29/2026

**If the applicant is under 18 years old, the section below must be completed by a parent or guardian.**

This is to certify that as a parent/guardian of this applicant, my child has my permission to participate in the Youth Commission. I further certify that I have read and agree to the provisions stated above.

Parent/Guardian Name (print): Josefina Villagomez

Relationship (print): Josefina Villagomez

Parent/Guardian signature:  \_\_\_\_\_  
DocuSigned by:  
D7D0D3A5FDD492...

Date: 4/30/2026

## Application for the Santa Clara Valley Water District Youth Commission

Please complete this application in its entirety and submit a signed copy. Applications are valid for one year from the date of receipt and are public record. This application is available online at [valleywater.org/youthcommission](http://valleywater.org/youthcommission). For assistance, please contact the Youth Commission program at [youthcommission@valleywater.org](mailto:youthcommission@valleywater.org).

### A. APPLICANT CONTACT INFORMATION

Name of Committee: <b>Valley Water Youth Commission</b>	
Applicant Name (First, Middle, Last): Priyank, Sharma-Tiwari	
Applicant Preferred Name (If different from name above):	
Applicant Home Phone:	Applicant Cell Phone:
Applicant E-mail:	
Mailing Address (Street Address, City, State, ZIP):	
To identify your Valley Water Director and District, go to the <a href="#">Local Information GIP Map Tool</a> . Enter your <b>home address</b> into the search box (top left) and expand the <i>SCVWD Board of Directors Boundaries</i> section from the menu bar (left) to identify your Board Member and District number.	
Board Member Name: Tony Estremera	Board Member District #: District 6

### B. PARENT/GUARDIAN CONTACT INFORMATION (If applicant is under 18 years old, the section below must be completed by parent/guardian.)

Parent/ Guardian Name (First, Middle, Last):		
Guardian Home Phone:	Guardian Work Phone:	Guardian Cell Phone:
Mailing Address (Street Address, City, State, ZIP):		
Guardian E-mail:		
Do you have a current contractual relationship with the Santa Clara Valley Water District?		<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No
If Yes, please describe:		
Do you consent to Valley Water staff contacting the applicant directly by phone and/or email?		<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
If No, please explain:		

### C. VOLUNTEER & EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

List up to three volunteer or extracurricular experiences that align with the Valley Water Youth Commission and provide brief descriptions (50 words or less).

DATE(S):	NAME:	BRIEF DESCRIPTION:
12/2025 - 02/2026	Rural Water Purification Initiative (Ahmedabad, India)	Deployed low-cost filtration systems in villages near Ahmedabad to combat heavy metal and bacterial pollution in drinking water. Taught local families how to maintain filters and test water quality, significantly improving access to clean water.
09/2024 - Present	Guadalupe River Clean Ups Lead	Organized volunteer cleanups along the Guadalupe River in San Jose, removing over 340 lbs of trash. Conducted basic water quality testing (pH, turbidity) and presented findings to local community groups to advocate for improved urban runoff management.
08/2023 - Present	San Jose Neighborhood Water Advocate	Organized neighborhood campaigns promoting drought-tolerant native plants after witnessing extreme irrigation waste flooding local sidewalks. Taught dozens of neighbors how to transition to outdoor drip systems and greywater recycling. Distributing low-flow aerators to reduce our community's household water footprint.

### D. INTEREST AND AVAILABILITY

How did you hear about this committee opening?

- District Website
  Social Media  
 Committee Member (specify): \_\_\_\_\_
  School  
 Director (specify): \_\_\_\_\_
  Other (specify): email \_\_\_\_\_

Please explain why you are interested in serving on the Youth Commission (150 words or less).

My work in villages near Ahmedabad shifted my perspective on resource equity. Installing filtration systems showed me firsthand how water quality impacts public health, as I saw rapid reductions in the locals' health issues, such as cholera and dysentery. Locally, I've witnessed climate whiplash in San Jose, from extreme droughts to near-flooding of Guadalupe River. Leading cleanups along its banks revealed the challenges of municipal watershed management.

I want to bring a technical, problem-solving mindset to the Youth Commission. In the last year, I co-developed DynaRyde, a dynamic routing framework that uses spatial-clustering to optimize suburban transit. I'm eager to apply this same data-driven approach to local water policies, advocate for sustainable drought resilience, and use technology to scale outreach. Ensuring a reliable, clean water supply is our region's defining challenge, and I want to merge my passions for environmental advocacy and engineering to help protect Santa Clara County's watersheds.

Which of the following activities would you be interested in contributing to as a part of the Youth Commission?

- Environmental stewardship and pollution prevention, such as supporting creek cleanups  
 Community assistance such as supporting unhoused youth or creating care packages  
 Public outreach, such as informing the community about Valley Water resources or social media campaigns

Are you available to attend all in-person quarterly committee meetings when scheduled?  Yes  No  
 (Please go to [valleywater.org/youthcommission](http://valleywater.org/youthcommission) for committee meeting schedule details.)

In addition to the 4 quarterly committee meetings, I understand I am expected to participate in additional subcommittee meetings via Zoom.  Yes  No

If you have a disability, what accommodations would you need to serve on this committee?

## E. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

150 words or less:

1. What do you believe is the most pressing water or environmental issue we are facing as a county, and which issue is the most important or relevant to you personally?

The most pressing water issue in our county is the constant back-and-forth between prolonged droughts and intense atmospheric rivers. This cycle accelerates both groundwater depletion and severe urban flooding. Personally, the vulnerability of our local aquifers worries me the most. While testing water quality and leading river cleanups, I saw how urban runoff degrades our ecosystems and leads to increased toxicity and eutrophication. Tackling severe drinking water pollution in Ahmedabad reinforced how fragile our water sources are to mismanagement and waste. To address this locally, expanding recycled water initiatives, like Valley Water's Purified Water Project, and promoting drought-resilient landscaping are critical. I want to advocate for these long-term strategies and help educate the public. We must ensure our region maintains a safe, equitable water supply that can withstand extreme climate shifts and that we do not just react to the next emergency.

2. What do you hope to gain from being on the Youth Commission? What do you think you can contribute by being on the Youth Commission?

I hope to get a real, behind-the-scenes look at how municipal water management actually works. I want to learn how Valley Water balances competing priorities, like flood protection and ecological restoration, and how raw scientific data is used to advance equitable public policy. In return, I bring an analytical, problem-solving mindset. While my community work is environmental, my academic background is in engineering and robotics. I love sitting at this intersection where I can translate complex technical concepts into real-world civic solutions. Whether I'm coding routing algorithms for the DynaRyde transit framework or figuring out how to deploy physical water filters in rural India, my focus is always on practical impact. I also bring a collaborative spirit from leading the volunteer groups and school clubs. I'm excited to combine my STEM background with my civic drive to help the Youth Commission design innovative and data-driven public outreach campaigns.

## F. EMERGENCY CONTACTS

In case of emergency, contact: Prachi Tiwari		
Name:	Phone:	Relationship:
Name:	Phone:	Relationship:

I, hereby, attest that the information I have provided on this application is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I understand that all information provided is subject to verification and that misrepresentation or omissions may be cause for my immediate rejection as an applicant or termination from appointment to a committee.

If appointed to the Youth Commission, I further agree that photographs, pictures, slides, movies, livestreams or videos of me or that include me may be captured and created in connection with my participation in the Youth Commission without compensation from Valley Water and consent to Valley Water's use of these photographs, pictures, slides, movies, livestreams or videos for any lawful purpose.

I acknowledge and assume all risks associated with entering or using Valley Water properties, participating in related programs or activities, and the actions of others in those activities. I fully accept these risks and waive and release any current or future claims against Valley Water and its directors, officers, employees, and agents for any loss, damage, or injury. I also agree to hold harmless, defend, and indemnify these parties from any and all claims, liabilities, damages, costs, or expenses, including attorney's fees, arising directly or indirectly from my participation or presence at Valley Water properties and events.

I understand that participation in the Youth Commission is voluntary and have read and understand the provisions stated above.

Applicant Name: Priyank Sharma-Tiwari

Grade: 9th

Applicant Signature: Priyank

School: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: May 4, 2026

**If the applicant is under 18 years old, the section below must be completed by a parent or guardian.**

This is to certify that as a parent/guardian of this applicant, my child has my permission to participate in the Youth Commission. I further certify that I have read and agree to the provisions stated above.

Parent/Guardian Name (print): Prachi Tiwari

Relationship (print): Mother

Parent/Guardian signature: Prachi

Date: May 4, 2026

## Application for the Santa Clara Valley Water District Youth Commission

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### A. APPLICANT CONTACT INFORMATION

Name of Committee: <b>Valley Water Youth Commission</b>	
Applicant Name (First, Middle, Last): <b>Nitya Parakala</b>	
Applicant Preferred Name (If different from name above): <b>Nitya</b>	
Applicant Home Phone: <input type="text"/>	Applicant Cell Phone: <input type="text"/>
Applicant E-mail: <input type="text"/>	
Mailing Address (Street Address, City, State, ZIP): <input type="text"/>	
To identify your Valley Water Director and District, go to the <a href="#">Local Information GIP Map Tool</a> . Enter your <b>home address</b> into the search box (top left) and expand the <i>SCVWD Board of Directors Boundaries</i> section from the menu bar (left) to identify your Board Member and District number.	
Board Member Name: <b>Rebecca Eisenberg</b>	Board Member District #: <b>7</b>

### B. PARENT/GUARDIAN CONTACT INFORMATION (If applicant is under 18 years old, the section below must be completed by parent/guardian.)

Parent/ Guardian Name (First, Middle, Last): <input type="text"/>		
Guardian Home Phone: <input type="text"/>	Guardian Work Phone: <input type="text"/>	Guardian Cell Phone: <input type="text"/>
Mailing Address (Street Address, City, State, ZIP): <input type="text"/>		
Guardian E-mail: <input type="text"/>		
Do you have a current contractual relationship with the Santa Clara Valley Water District? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>No</b> If Yes, please describe:		
Do you consent to Valley Water staff contacting the applicant directly by phone and/or email? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Yes</b> <input type="checkbox"/> No If No, please explain:		

**C. VOLUNTEER & EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

List up to three volunteer or extracurricular experiences that align with the Valley Water Youth Commission and provide brief descriptions (50 words or less).

DATE(S):	NAME:	BRIEF DESCRIPTION:
2025-2026 school year	Speech & Debate	Researched and presented arguments on environmental and public policy topics like rewilding, climate change and water management, and building strong communication and critical thinking skills
2025-2026 school year 2024-2025 school year	Reading Tutor for Title 1 schools	Volunteered as a reading tutor for underprivileged Title 1 school students, helping improve literacy and confidence. Amongst other material I also talked about issues in our community that we should care about, including topics like conserving water and taking care of our earth. This experience taught me how to explain ideas clearly and connect with my community. I can use this skill to educate others about water conservation and environmental issues.
2024-2025 school year	Community Science	Participated in community science projects to research local ecosystems. My area of study was the Almaden Quicksilver county park.

**D. INTEREST AND AVAILABILITY**

How did you hear about this committee opening?

**District Website**
 Social Media

Committee Member (specify): \_\_\_\_\_
  School

Director (specify): \_\_\_\_\_
  Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_

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Please explain why you are interested in serving on the Youth Commission (150 words or less).

While researching Valley Water, I was struck to learn it serves as both a groundwater manager and wholesale water supplier for Santa Clara County, managing about 10 reservoirs and providing clean water, flood protection, and environmental stewardship to about 2 million residents—right here in the only place I've ever lived and my favorite community!

The Paradise wildfire and the recent Los Angeles wildfires felt especially personal—my favorite teacher lost her childhood home, and my close family lived near another fire. These experiences started lots of meaningful conversations at home about wildfires, environmental responsibility, and water management, leading me to explore Valley Water more deeply.

As a rising sophomore at Leland High School, I care about getting my peers interested in sustainability. I really want to serve on the Youth Commission to raise awareness, share youth perspectives, and help work on issues and solutions that protect my community. (147 words)

Which of the following activities would you be interested in contributing to as a part of the Youth Commission?

- Environmental stewardship and pollution prevention, such as supporting creek cleanups**
- Community assistance such as supporting unhoused youth or creating care packages**
- Public outreach, such as informing the community about Valley Water resources or social media campaigns**

Are you available to attend all in-person quarterly committee meetings when scheduled?  **Yes**  No  
(Please go to [valleywater.org/youthcommission](http://valleywater.org/youthcommission) for committee meeting schedule details.)

In addition to the 4 quarterly committee meetings, I understand I am expected to participate in additional subcommittee meetings via Zoom.  **Yes**  No

If you have a disability, what accommodations would you need to serve on this committee? **None**

words or less:



Clean Water • Healthy Environment • Flood Protection  
FC 2002 (04-15-26)

#### E. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION 150

1. What do you believe is the most pressing water or environmental issue we are facing as a county, and which issue is the most important or relevant to you personally?

As temperatures rise, rainfall is becoming less predictable. There are stronger storms, but also more severe droughts, which increase wildfire risk. At the same time, the declining Sierra snowpack is reducing a major water source. These changes are creating pressing issues for water supply and the environment in Santa Clara County.

Another issue I care about personally, is something many people don't realize. AI tools depend on large data centers that use huge amounts of water for cooling. For example, I researched that, depending on their size, data centers can use from 300,000 to 5 million gallons of water daily - that's like the water a town of 50,000 people would need! As AI keeps growing, this hidden water use is putting more pressure on our already limited water supply. This too has a real impact on our environment today.

2. What do you hope to gain from being on the Youth Commission? What do you think you can contribute by being on the Youth Commission?

If selected for this Youth Commission, I hope to learn how water is managed in Santa Clara County and what actions help protect it, especially during droughts and wildfires. I want to understand how environmental decisions are made and how young people like me can help in a meaningful way. I also hope to grow as a leader and work with others to help create or contribute to meaningful projects that actually help our county.

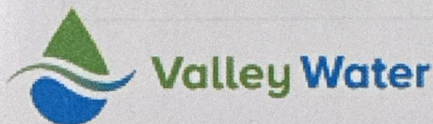
I will contribute my ability to research, learn quickly and come up with ideas. My peers, teachers and sports coaches have always said I work well in a team. I'm considering studying environmental science in college since I really care about nature and water, and I want to help other kids feel that way too. I know my passion and wanting to learn would make me a strong and helpful member of the Youth Commission.

**F. EMERGENCY CONTACTS**

In case of emergency, contact:		
Name: <input type="text"/>	Phone: <input type="text"/>	Relationship: <input type="text"/>
Name: <input type="text"/>	Phone: <input type="text"/>	Relationship: <input type="text"/>

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I understand that participation in the Youth Commission is voluntary and have read and understand the provisions stated above.

Applicant Name: **NITYA PARAKALA**

Grade: **Sophomore (2026-2027)**

Applicant Signature: *Nitya*

School:

Date: **April 27, 2026**

**If the applicant is under 18 years old, the section below must be completed by a parent or guardian.**

This is to certify that as a parent/guardian of this applicant, my child has my permission to participate in the Youth Commission. I further certify that I have read and agree to the provisions stated above.

**Parent/Guardian Name (print): RADHIKA PARAKALA**

Relationship (print): **MOTHER**

Parent/Guardian signature: *Radhika*

Date: **April 27, 2026**

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