



# APPLICATION FOR A SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT COMMITTEE

Please complete this application in its entirety and submit a signed copy to [youthcommission@valleywater.org](mailto:youthcommission@valleywater.org). If more space is needed, please attach additional pages. 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 Office of Civic Engagement at (408) 630-2876.

## A. CONTACT INFORMATION

Name of Committee: <b>Valley Water Youth Commission</b>			
Name (First, Middle, Last): <b>Aadrit Nandan Talukdar</b>			
Home Phone:	Work Phone:	Cell Phone:	Fax:
Mailing Address: (Street Address, City, State, ZIP)			
E-mail:			
If Applicable, Present Employer (Name and Address):		Job Title:	
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 (if more space is needed, please attach additional pages):			

## B. VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

List current and previous volunteer experience. Include experience with charitable organizations, committees and commissions, or public offices you may have held and relevant dates. If more space is needed, please attach additional pages.		
DATE(S):	NAME:	RESPONSIBILITIES/EXPERIENCE:
August 2022- Present	San Jose Youth Advisory Council	Deputy Commissioner, responsible for leading the Research and Policy Committee, and writing policy memos.
April 2022 - Present	Empower and Excel	Member, Lunch Packing for Santa Cruz homeless assistance
August 2019-Present	Alum Rock Library	Leading a children's workshop for robotics (Little Finches), as well as organizing books in the library, and assisting in the library book sale.

### C. INTEREST AND AVAILABILITY

How did you hear about this committee opening?	
<input checked="checked" type="checkbox"/> District Website	<input type="checkbox"/> Social media
<input type="checkbox"/> Committee Member (please specify):	<input type="checkbox"/> School
<input type="checkbox"/> Director (please specify):	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify):
Please describe your interest in serving on this committee: Through the Valley Water Youth Commission, I will be able to help my community and the environment in ways I could not beforehand. My conservation efforts and environmental stewardship have always been from two angles: science and policy. Through STEM, I work on independent projects to create solutions that could help the environment in issues of wildfires, air quality, and power outages. Through policy, I represent the youth's voice in government in my Youth Advisory	
Please describe your relevant qualifications, such as specific skills, training, or knowledge that should be considered in applying for this committee: In my time in the YAC, I have hosted 4 events, including a policy conference for San Jose youth for two years in a row as well as a budget summit for the San Jose Youth Commission. This has given me the skills to plan and organize a group and create outreach opportunities to educate the youth on policy writing and city government. As the Deputy Commissioner of Research and Policy, I have also built up my skills in advocacy through policy writing. I have written memorandums on school safety and keeping cash payment options in stores. Additionally, I drafted letters of support on improving	
How would the community benefit by your participation on this committee? I believe I can bring a new approach to helping our community with my prior experience. Many of the projects that I see are on education and outreach about the issues that are present in our water systems. But through my multifaceted work, I believe there are more ways that the Youth Commission can grow and solve problems. This can be through partnerships with the City Government directly, writing letters to the Council or hosting events about water sustainability and conservation that reach a greater audience. I can bring a new perspective to the Commission and I hope to create a meaningful impact with it. Currently, outreach events are limited to social media and	
Are you available to attend committee meetings when scheduled? (please go to <a href="http://valleywater.org/youthcommission">valleywater.org/youthcommission</a> for committee meeting schedule details) <input checked="checked" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If No, please describe:	
If you have a disability, what accommodations would you need to serve on this committee?	

### D. EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

In case of emergency, contact:	
1. Name:	Phone:
2. Name:	Phone:



## SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTIONNAIRE FOR A SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT COMMITTEE

Please complete this supplemental questionnaire **ONLY IF** applying for the **YOUTH COMMISSION**. For more information or questions, please email: [youthcommission@valleywater.org](mailto:youthcommission@valleywater.org).

Preferred Name (if different from application): <b>Aadrit Talukdar</b>	
School attending during the upcoming school year: <b>Basis Independent Silicon Valley</b>	Grade level during the upcoming school year: <b>12</b>
Extra-Curricular Activities: <b>Science Olympiad Youth Advisory Council World Drums</b>	Favorite Subjects: <b>Mathematics Science</b>
To identify your director, go to <a href="http://valleywater.org/BOD">valleywater.org/BOD</a> , scroll down to <b>Find your Director</b> and click the link to the <b>Valley Water Local Information Map</b> . Find your home address and expand the SCVWD Board of Directors Districts section to identify your Board Member and District number.	
Board Member's Name: <b>John Valera</b>	Board Member District #: <b>1</b>

In 300 words or less: (If more space is needed, please attach additional pages.)

1. What do you feel are the top three issues young people in Santa Clara County are facing, particularly around water or environmental stewardship? If appointed, how will you connect these issues to your role on the Youth Commission?

A large issue among youth is a lack of awareness of water, conservation, and sustainability. I took water for granted; I have only recently learned about using grey water from laundry to water landscaping plants and the importance of snowfall for our water systems. While I was able to learn about these issues, many youth are not aware that they exist. If appointed, I want youth to understand where their water comes from so that they gain a deeper sense of preserving, conserving, and protecting this resource and become environmental stewards.

The youth represent the next generation of leaders and should be able to fully connect with their policy leaders, especially about issues like the environment in which they live. I am truly inspired by the work the Youth Community Science Network Working Group has done on water pollutant and purification education. If appointed to the commission, I would like to be involved in such activities, including policy proposals and outreach events. Especially, I want to connect the general youth community directly to the process of the Youth Commission through the Valley Water social media outlets.

Finally, an issue that youth in Santa Clara County are facing is climate anxiety, which stems from the fact that youth see that there are more problems than there are solutions. There are careers youth can pursue to create solutions to be environmental stewards, from biologists to water quality engineers. Exposure to career fields for Santa Clara Youth is important. If appointed, I would

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 am always excited to learn new subjects, especially relating to environmental stewardship. By being on the Youth Commission, I hope to gain a deeper understanding of Valley Water and all their initiatives, from the water treatment process, to flood protection and stewardship of stream protection. Only recently have I heard about our water resources, from imported water from the Sierra Nevada to groundwater to purified water. I was also amazed to read about how Valley Water biologists monitor California steelheads, and how it affects water supply regulation. I have read about how Valley Water detects and reduces toxic mercury in our water. With the Youth Commission, I hope to explore these topics and collaborate with a group of peers to help educate the youth to improve the environment they live in.

To the Youth Commission, I will contribute my strong drive for problem-solving and action-taking mindset. For example, Californians have experienced the detrimental effects of wildfires. Wanting to help, I put my brain to work. Two years ago, I conducted a research project to use machine learning to detect power outages using weather data. This year, I built upon this project by prototyping a robot that can crawl on power lines to detect wildfires earlier, as well as alert authorities. I saw Valley Water has free public data related to wells and groundwater -- I can contribute my technical skills to harness the data. I hope to bring these solutions-oriented skills to

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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, 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, movie or videos for any lawful purpose.

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

Applicant Name: AADRIT TALUKDAR

Applicant Signature: Aadrit Talukdar

Date: 5/24/2025

**If applicant is under 18 years old, the section below must be completed by the 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): DIPANKAR TALUKDAR

Relationship (print): FATHER

Parent/Guardian signature: Dipankar Talukdar

Date: 5/24/2025





# APPLICATION FOR A SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT COMMITTEE

Please complete this application in its entirety and submit a signed copy to [youthcommission@valleywater.org](mailto:youthcommission@valleywater.org). If more space is needed, please attach additional pages. 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 Office of Civic Engagement at (408) 630-2876.

## A. CONTACT INFORMATION

Name of Committee: <b>Valley Water Youth Commission</b>			
Name (First, Middle, Last): <b>Abigail Ha-neul Kim</b>			
Home Phone:	Work Phone: <b>N/A</b>	Cell Phone:	Fax: <b>N/A</b>
Mailing Address: (Street Address, City, State, ZIP)			
E-mail:			
If Applicable, Present Employer (Name and Address): <b>N/A</b>		Job Title: <b>N/A</b>	
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 (if more space is needed, please attach additional pages): <b>N/A</b>			

## B. VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

List current and previous volunteer experience. Include experience with charitable organizations, committees and commissions, or public offices you may have held and relevant dates. If more space is needed, please attach additional pages.		
DATE(S):	NAME:	RESPONSIBILITIES/EXPERIENCE:
Every Saturday	First Tee-Silicon Valley	Silicon Valley at Rancho del Pueblo, which is a youth development program aimed at teaching kids golf and life skills. From morning to afternoon, I work with my fellow volunteers and senior coaches, to provide our students with an enjoyable time at learning how to golf, as well as helping them maintain a positive mindset and build character. I also am part of the FTSV Student Council where we organize various events for the FTSV community.
Every Sunday VBS week: 6/19/23 - 6/23/23	San Jose Youngnak Church	I am a youth leader at my church where I work with other youth members to serve other communities and little kids from time to time. During the summer, I helped out with our first VBS; a large summer program dedicated to guiding kids towards the Christian religion and providing them with an enjoyable time. I helped organized and aided in many of the activities, as well as teach the children of the Christian religion.
Community Gardening: 4/14/24 Goodie Bags for Sacred Heart: 12/8/23	National Honor Society	I am a member of the National Honor Society, which is a club where I focus on volunteering for different communities, pushing me towards building upon the 4 pillars of NHS: character, leadership, scholarship, and service. For example, through NHS I have volunteered to do community gardening for a church, and have created goodie bags for the Sacred Heart.

## C. 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 (please specify): | <input type="checkbox"/> School                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Director (please specify):         | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): |

Please describe your interest in serving on this committee:

I'm deeply interested in serving on this committee because water conservation and sustainability is not something we can turn a blind eye to, as it significantly affects our communities, environment, and future generations. Droughts are no secret to California, and during Quarantine, I nearly had to evacuate due to a wildfire spreading rapidly near my area. It was a terrifying experience, but this is the reality of the world we live in, and witnessing it firsthand made me realize how dire it is to address these environmental issues. During the summer of my sophomore year, I attended the Norman Mineta Bay Area Summer Academy, where I conducted research on various regional policies addressing environmental issues. Through this internship, I gained a profound experience that gave me a deeper understanding of the Bay Area government's approach on these environmental concerns. I learned the underlying dangers of these issues, and how the ABAG strives to create long-term sustainable policies. Water conservation was a central topic, as it is heavily involved with various fields such as health, transportation, urbanization, etc. I even did a Capstone Project addressing wildfires, winning second place, making me feel thrilled to have my idea heard and appeal to such a large audience. However, I wanted to expand past this and really dig deeper into letting my voice be heard with these environmental issues. The Valley Water's Youth Committee appeared as an excellent opportunity for me to pursue this passion and by serving on the committee, I would explore deeper into this area of need, being granted the opportunity to become an active participant in advocating for water conservation and promoting more sustainable ways that benefit our community and environment. Now, with the US withdrawing from the Paris Agreement as of 2025, it is more urgent than ever that we advocate for water conservation and sustainability and bring light to this area.

Please describe your relevant qualifications, such as specific skills, training, or knowledge that should be considered in applying for this committee:

My strongest qualifications for this committee are my leadership skills, enthusiasm, and communication skills. During my free time, I volunteer for various communities where I constantly work with those of a wide spectrum of age ranges. I especially enjoy working with little children and have been trained as a volunteer coach for First Tee Silicon Valley at Rancho del Pueblo, a youth development program aimed at teaching kids golf and life skills. On Saturdays from morning to afternoon, I work with fellow volunteers and senior coaches, to provide students with an enjoyable time at learning how to golf, as well as helping them maintain a positive mindset and build character.

Upon witnessing the constant elation and progression the kids experienced at FTSV, became a driving key force of my determination and motivation to branch out further than what's surrounding me. As of junior year, I proudly became the founder of the First Tee-Silicon Valley Club at my high school. With each week of the semester we're given, my team and I work tirelessly in dedicating ourselves to actively recruiting other fellow students to participate in the program as either participants or volunteers. Wanting to expand past the boundaries of what was given, we've launched fundraising opportunities and campaigns to work our way towards providing financial aid for low-income families to partake in the program, and raising money for Title I school field trips to the golf course. I am also part of the FTSV student council, where I spend several hours throughout the week organizing various events and outreach commissions to strengthen our community and promote inclusivity.

At my church, I am a youth leader where I work with other youth members to serve other communities and little kids from time to time. My freshman year marked our church's very first VBS, and treasuring my faith dearly, I was determined to execute a successful run. However, the initial program seemed quite limited. As a youth leader at my church, I spent many hours of my weeks, communicating with the pastor and senior leaders to coordinate a multitude of events, activities, and scheduling, expanding beyond our boundaries. Working alongside my fellow seniors, I took direction of the youth program by rallying the members, discussing how we would execute the activities, identifying everyone's strengths, and assigning them roles best situating their skills. By stepping forth, I transformed this new idea into a thriving program that inspired inclusivity and teamwork. As our structured plan took shape, I noticed the mood livened up, accompanied by a steady rise in coordination and motivation through everyone's collaboration. We reached out to church members and locals to gather the needed equipment to help launch our VBS, fostering a sense of unity and passion amongst us all. Seeing the transformation brought in our community, I wanted to expand even further, challenging the notion of limiting VBS to our congregation. With our newfound sense of teamwork, we coordinated a plan to advertise and invite non-Christian, promoting a welcoming and diverse environment. In the end, an array of new faces attended the church, building a flourishing and vibrant community.

Through my volunteering experiences, I have brought my energy and developed strong means of communication, leadership, and philanthropy for my society, pushing me to work harder towards building a prosperous community. Commitments are of my highest priority, and I always put my hundred

How would the community benefit by your participation on this committee?

The community would benefit from my participation through my driven determination, strong commitment, and enthusiasm to bring their ideas to light, dedicated to executing it thoroughly. With the remaining race of time left before college, I efficiently utilize the day's 24 hours to the maximum. The time we have left is precious, so I make sure that I enjoy every single moment, not letting a split second go to waste. When I have a goal in mind, I am determined to execute it successfully, and will take whatever steps required in order to accomplish it. Commitments are of my highest priority and I make sure that no distractions deviate me from my goal. Whatever events or matters we organize and discuss in the committee, I will make sure to see it to the end. No excuses! I thrive in energy and enthusiasm through socializing with others, and have brought a lot of this energy to other activities and programs that I participated in. I'm confident that I can spread this enthusiasm, cultivating a strong-minded yet vibrant team setting where we are all empowered to push ourselves to the limits, bringing forth success in whatever we do together. Having witnessed firsthand the drastic measures these environmental issues affect our community, the community's voice with addressing these environmental concerns will be heard through my passion for their concerns and my active efforts to promote water conservation and sustainability.

Are you available to attend committee meetings when scheduled? (please go to [valleywater.org/youthcommission](https://valleywater.org/youthcommission) for committee meeting schedule details) ☒ Yes ☐ No If No, please describe:

N/A

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

N/A

## D. EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

In case of emergency, contact:

- |          |        |
|----------|--------|
| 1. Name: | Phone: |
| 2. Name: | Phone: |



## SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTIONNAIRE FOR A SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT COMMITTEE

Please complete this supplemental questionnaire **ONLY IF** applying for the **YOUTH COMMISSION**. For more information or questions, please email: [youthcommission@valleywater.org](mailto:youthcommission@valleywater.org).

Preferred Name (if different from application): <b>N/A</b>	
School attending during the upcoming school year: <b>Silver Creek High School</b>	Grade level during the upcoming school year: <b>12th (senior)</b>
<b>Extra-Curricular Activities:</b> <small>I am currently involved in the National Honor Society, Girls Golf, and volunteering. In the NHS club, I mainly focus my time volunteering for different communities, pushing me towards building upon the 4 pillars of NHS: character, leadership, scholarship, and service. I have played golf for around 12 years and have been part of the varsity Girls Golf team for Silver Creek for 3 years, and I often play and practice golf on my own time after school. On Saturdays, I am a volunteer coach for First Tee Silicon Valley at Rancho del Pueblo, which is a youth development program aimed at teaching kids golf and life skills. From morning to afternoon, I work with my fellow volunteers and senior coaches, to provide our students with an enjoyable time at learning how to golf, as well as helping them maintain a positive mindset and build character. I also am the founder of the FTSV club at my high school. With each week of the semester we're given, my team and I work tirelessly in dedicating ourselves to actively recruiting other fellow students to participate in the program as either participants or volunteers. Wanting to expand past the boundaries of what was given, we've launched fundraising opportunities and campaigns to work our way towards providing financial aid for low-income families to partake in the program, and raising money for Title I school field trips to the golf course.</small>	<b>Favorite Subjects:</b> <small>AP Human Geography introduced me to the economic, political, and environmental factors and events that have occurred throughout history. This is one of my favorite subjects because it presents me with a general idea of how our society runs, but also the flaws that need to be addressed. APHUG was a major step in invoking me to push past the surface of these problems and search for more in depth knowledge of addressing these issues. AP Environmental Science is also one of my favorite subjects because we dive deeper into critical environmental issues our world's facing, and I enjoy learning and analyzing these different aspects, helping us become more aware of how our society runs around environmental acts and issues.</small>
To identify your director, go to <a href="http://valleywater.org/BOD">valleywater.org/BOD</a> , scroll down to <b>Find your Director</b> and click the link to the <b>Valley Water Local Information Map</b> . Find your home address and expand the SCVWD Board of Directors Districts section to identify your Board Member and District number.	
Board Member's Name: <b>John L. Varela</b>	Board Member District #: <b>1</b>

In 300 words or less: (If more space is needed, please attach additional pages.)

1. What do you feel are the top three issues young people in Santa Clara County are facing, particularly around water or environmental stewardship? If appointed, how will you connect these issues to your role on the Youth Commission?

Water wastage, automobiles being the customary transport, and food wastage are a few of the major issues that the youth struggle with. Santa Clara County is the wealthiest county in all of California, and is where many of the financially stable and wealthy reside. However, growing under this luxury life causes many youths to grow unaware of the importance of conserving our resources, despite water being one of the most crucial resources globally. Water wastage eventually leads to the depletion of our water source, resulting not only a risk upon human health, but environmentally as well. The county is also densely populated, leading there to be an increase in the use of automobiles. According to the US EPA, a vehicle emits around 4.6 metric tons of carbon emissions per year. Many teens and adolescents use automobiles as efficient means of transportation, however, this causes a rapid increase of carbon emissions and pollutes the very air we breathe. At my school, there aren't many students that use the bus or a bike, and instead resort to their own motor engined vehicles since it is more efficient this way. On top of all this, studies have found that food wastage contributes around of human related greenhouse gas emissions, which is approximately 8% of greenhouse gasses per year. The University of California Alianza MX also found that around 6 million tons of food is wasted annually, despite 8 million Californians struggling with food insecurity. Many of the younger generation don't realize the significance of food wastage, causing this to be a detrimental issue within our county. Through being on the Youth Commission, I will work hard towards addressing these issues with fellow schoolmates and those of other communities, to advocate possible solutions in order to solve these major issues

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?

Through participating in the Youth Commission, I aspire to expand my views on the environmental troubles our world faces, and ascertain more of what I must do to serve my community and environment. I hope that I will gain more leadership experience and a sense of teamwork through voicing my thoughts alongside other youth members, and initiating any beneficial ideas or events that are agreed upon. I enjoy socializing with others, and hope to build multiple strong connections with those who share a similar heart for instituting and working hard for what they believe. Through my extroverted personality, I'll be able to interact with many of the youth members and bring forth a lively working environment, helping portray a positive image of the Youth Commission. Also, with my experience of working with those of varying age ranges, I'll be able to freely communicate with fellow youth members and those of seniority. Amongst the Youth Commission and beyond, I'll work hard at fulfilling my role as a commissioner through effectively communicating with fellow members and committing to any goal set out. I thoroughly plan my schedule with the 24 hours we have given, and will always make sure to leave a sufficient amount of room for serving on the Youth Commission.

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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, 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, movie or videos for any lawful purpose.

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

Applicant Name: Abigail Kim

Applicant Signature: 

Date: 5/25/25

**If applicant is under 18 years old, the section below must be completed by the 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): Song Kim

Relationship (print): Father

Parent/Guardian signature: 

Date: 5/25/25





Valley Water

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### A. CONTACT INFORMATION

Name of Committee: <b>Valley Water Youth Commission</b>			
Name (First, Middle, Last): <b>Alonso Aristides Jose</b>			
Home Phone: <b>N/A</b>	Work Phone: <b>N/A</b>	Cell Phone: <div style="background-color: black; width: 100px; height: 1.2em;"></div>	Fax: <b>N/A</b>
Mailing Address: (Street Address, City, State, ZIP) <div style="background-color: black; width: 100%; height: 1.2em;"></div>			
E-mail: <div style="background-color: black; width: 100%; height: 1.2em;"></div>			
If Applicable, Present Employer (Name and Address):		Job Title:	
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 (if more space is needed, please attach additional pages):			

### B. VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

List current and previous volunteer experience. Include experience with charitable organizations, committees and commissions, or public offices you may have held and relevant dates. If more space is needed, please attach additional pages.		
DATE(S):	NAME:	RESPONSIBILITIES/EXPERIENCE:
Saturdays 3/15/25 - 5/10/25	First Tee - Silicon Valley Rancho Del Pueblo Administrative Table	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Registered participants</li> <li>• Enforced security protocol</li> <li>• Organized First Tee physical resources (clubs, supplies)</li> </ul>
Saturdays 12/7/24 - 2/08/25	First Tee - Silicon Valley Rancho Del Pueblo Grades 5-6 (Course) Coach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provided golf instruction and mentoring in core life skills</li> <li>• Set up warm up activities</li> <li>• Coordinated instruction with lead coaches</li> </ul>
Academic year 2023-2024 Academic year 2024-2025	First Tee - Silicon Valley Junior Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collaborated with peers to design First Tee events</li> <li>• Fundraised in support of First Tee programs</li> <li>• Organized community events</li> <li>• Planned ways to increase youth involvement</li> </ul>



### C. 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 (please specify): | <input type="checkbox"/> School                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Director (please specify):         | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): |

Please describe your interest in serving on this committee:

I am taking an AP Environmental Science class at my school, which has made me more aware of the challenges our community faces, particularly regarding water and conservation. I want to learn more and share what I've learned with my peers on the committee and the community, ensuring that young people know to be a strong voice on the issues in our county.

Please describe your relevant qualifications, such as specific skills, training, or knowledge that should be considered in applying for this committee:

I have student experience in environmental science including water testing, care for terrariums, vivariums, and aquariums, and creek clean up (Los Gatos Creek). I have been a member of the First Tee - Silicon Valley Junior Council and I have experience working on community outreach and youth issues. I am responsible and committed with a positive attitude and good interpersonal skills.

How would the community benefit by your participation on this committee?

The community would benefit from my participation in the Valley Water Youth Commission because I have relevant experience and knowledge and a strong passion for environmental issues. I have served on a youth committee before, the First Tee - Silicon Valley Junior Council, where I worked with fellow high school students to organize and design events that helped to enrich the community and increased youth participation in the First Tee program. Additionally, I have spent the past three years taking ethnic studies courses at my high school, which have taught me the importance of equity and inclusion. I would use the skills and knowledge I gained to support Valley Water's youth outreach efforts and ensure the commission is inclusive to all Valley residents.

Are you available to attend committee meetings when scheduled? (please go to [valleywater.org/youthcommission](http://valleywater.org/youthcommission) for committee meeting schedule details) ☒ Yes ☐ No If No, please describe:

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

### D. EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

In case of emergency, contact:

- |                               |                             |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Name: <input type="text"/> | Phone: <input type="text"/> |
| 2. Name: <input type="text"/> | Phone: <input type="text"/> |





## SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTIONNAIRE FOR A SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT COMMITTEE

Please complete this supplemental questionnaire **ONLY IF** applying for the **YOUTH COMMISSION**. For more information or questions, please email: [youthcommission@valleywater.org](mailto:youthcommission@valleywater.org).

Preferred Name (if different from application):	
School attending during the upcoming school year: Willow Glen High	Grade level during the upcoming school year: 12th
Extra-Curricular Activities: Badminton team First Tee participant, coach, council member, and volunteer	Favorite Subjects: Environmental Science Psychology Ethnic studies
To identify your director, go to <a href="http://valleywater.org/BOD">valleywater.org/BOD</a> , scroll down to <b>Find your Director</b> and click the link to the <b>Valley Water Local Information Map</b> . Find your home address and expand the SCVWD Board of Directors Districts section to identify your Board Member and District number.	
Board Member's Name: Shiloh Ballard	Board Member District #: 2

In 300 words or less: (If more space is needed, please attach additional pages.)

1. What do you feel are the top three issues young people in Santa Clara County are facing, particularly around water or environmental stewardship? If appointed, how will you connect these issues to your role on the Youth Commission?

The top three issues I feel that young people in the county face are a lack of awareness about water resources, knowledge of how to get involved, and inequities and accessibility issues. Many young people in our county don't fully realize how essential our water resources are to their daily lives and communities. While they may care and have concerns for environmental and water issues, they often don't know how to help or feel they lack the resources or opportunities to. Equity and accessibility are also a significant concern for youth and the county as a whole; not all communities have the same access to clean water, pollution-free areas, and green spaces. If appointed, I would focus on raising awareness with youth-centered outreach and education efforts. My goals would be to emphasize the importance of protecting and conserving our water resources, especially our rivers and creeks, and to educate about environmental justice issues. I would also advocate for ensuring that the voices and concerns of youth from all backgrounds and communities are heard and considered when developing environmental solutions.



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 better how our local agencies work. I am considering majoring in environmental science in college. Being on the Youth Commission would be a valuable experience for learning about how biological challenges impact a country's environmental and political landscape and how local and state governments manage scarce resources. I would also be excited to learn from the other members of the commission who care about these issues and the future of our communities. I would look forward to forming lasting connections and friendships with them. With my experience in environmental science and ethnic studies, along with my skills in planning events and peer collaboration, I can bring a unique perspective to the commission. I am enthusiastic and friendly and enjoy bringing people together and creating a positive environment. I hope to contribute this to the commission while continuing to grow as a student and member of my community.

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, 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, movie or videos for any lawful purpose.

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

Applicant Name: Alonso Jose

Applicant Signature: *Alonso Jose*

Date: 05/23/25

If applicant is under 18 years old, the section below must be completed by the 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): Elizabeth C Jose

Relationship (print): parent

Parent/Guardian signature: *Elizabeth C Jose*

Date: 5/26/25





## APPLICATION FOR A SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT COMMITTEE

Please complete this application in its entirety and submit a signed copy to [youthcommission@valleywater.org](mailto:youthcommission@valleywater.org). If more space is needed, please attach additional pages. 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 Office of Civic Engagement at (408) 630-2876.

### A. CONTACT INFORMATION

Name of Committee: <b>Valley Water Youth Commission</b>			
Name (First, Middle, Last):			
Home Phone:	Work Phone:	Cell Phone:	Fax:
Mailing Address: (Street Address, City, State, ZIP)			
E-mail:			
If Applicable, Present Employer (Name and Address):		Job Title:	
Do you have a current contractual relationship with the Santa Clara Valley Water District? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If Yes, please describe (if more space is needed, please attach additional pages):			

### B. VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

List current and previous volunteer experience. Include experience with charitable organizations, committees and commissions, or public offices you may have held and relevant dates. If more space is needed, please attach additional pages.		
DATE(S):	NAME:	RESPONSIBILITIES/EXPERIENCE:

### C. INTEREST AND AVAILABILITY

How did you hear about this committee opening?

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

Please describe your interest in serving on this committee:

Please describe your relevant qualifications, such as specific skills, training, or knowledge that should be considered in applying for this committee:

How would the community benefit by your participation on this committee?

Are you available to attend committee meetings when scheduled? (please go to [valleywater.org/youthcommission](http://valleywater.org/youthcommission) for committee meeting schedule details) ☐ Yes ☐ No If No, please describe:

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

### D. EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

In case of emergency, contact:

- |          |        |
|----------|--------|
| 1. Name: | Phone: |
| 2. Name: | Phone: |



## SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTIONNAIRE FOR A SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT COMMITTEE

Please complete this supplemental questionnaire **ONLY IF** applying for the **YOUTH COMMISSION**. For more information or questions, please email: [youthcommission@valleywater.org](mailto:youthcommission@valleywater.org).

Preferred Name (if different from application):	
School attending during the upcoming school year:	Grade level during the upcoming school year:
Extra-Curricular Activities:	Favorite Subjects:
To identify your director, go to <a href="http://valleywater.org/BOD">valleywater.org/BOD</a> , scroll down to <b>Find your Director</b> and click the link to the <b>Valley Water Local Information Map</b> . Find your home address and expand the SCVWD Board of Directors Districts section to identify your Board Member and District number.	
Board Member's Name:	Board Member District #:

In 300 words or less: (If more space is needed, please attach additional pages.)

1. What do you feel are the top three issues young people in Santa Clara County are facing, particularly around water or environmental stewardship? If appointed, how will you connect these issues to your role on the Youth Commission?

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?


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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, 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, movie or videos for any lawful purpose.

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

Applicant Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant Signature:  \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**If applicant is under 18 years old, the section below must be completed by the 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): \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship (print): \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



# APPLICATION FOR A SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT COMMITTEE

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## A. CONTACT INFORMATION

Name of Committee: <b>Valley Water Youth Commission</b>			
Name (First, Middle, Last): <b>Bryce Yu Chen</b>			
Home Phone:	Work Phone:	Cell Phone:	Fax:
Mailing Address: (Street Address, City, State, ZIP)			
E-mail:			
If Applicable, Present Employer (Name and Address):		Job Title:	
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 (if more space is needed, please attach additional pages):			

## B. VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

List current and previous volunteer experience. Include experience with charitable organizations, committees and commissions, or public offices you may have held and relevant dates. If more space is needed, please attach additional pages.		
DATE(S):	NAME:	RESPONSIBILITIES/EXPERIENCE:
1/19/24-Present	Student Corps	In this project, I connected through the VCS Student Corps program in order to be able to teach a recent transfer student from China English so that they would be able to integrate into America more easily. This was a one-on-one biweekly class where I personally had to make my own curriculum, and constant time invested in this work resulted in a Gold President's Volunteer Service Award.
3/20/25-3/30/25	Africa Cries Out	In the Africa Cries Out program, I participated in a 10-day medical missions trip to Dakar, Senegal for humanitarian relief. Before the trip, one of the jobs I undertook was fundraising money for the well-building program in Senegal. During my time in Senegal, I worked jobs in clinic taking patient triage or shadowing Doctors in the field.
6/8/23-7/22/24	River of Life	In River of Life, a church organization giving food to underprivileged citizens, I worked with a team of volunteers to transport and organize care boxes to those in need. This work was hard and took physical effort to sort items into the carts. Furthermore, teamwork was required to be efficient in order to provide for the constant flux of those in need. In the end, the work was still infinitely rewarding.

### C. 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 (please specify):	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> School
<input type="checkbox"/> Director (please specify):	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify):
Please describe your interest in serving on this committee: The immediate detail that drew me in to the Valley Water Youth Commission was its environmental goals that focus on raising awareness on the importance of water and its environmental impacts. These goals closely align with my personal interests as the importance of water hit me full force for the first time during a medical mission trip to Dakar, Senegal that I underwent this year. I've also seen how our own community has faced serious water challenges in recent years, such as droughts and wildfire risks. In turn, the idea of my focusing efforts within my community, bringing this same awareness I realized to those in my area is something I believe in. As water should be held in high regard everywhere, I hope to give back to the community that raised me and contribute to improving our water resources alongside my peers.	
Please describe your relevant qualifications, such as specific skills, training, or knowledge that should be considered in applying for this committee: Currently, I am participating in the XPRIZE Water Scarcity contest, a \$119 million, 5-year global competition to create novel seawater desalination strategies for safe drinking water globally. As such, I have done extensive research on water purification methods and treatment processes, which equips me to better educate and tour processes in the lab for the Water Quality project. Furthermore, I have participated in the Africa Cries Out program, in which one facet required help on raising funds to build local wells in Senegal, each costing an average of \$10,000. The experience of not only fundraising but also spreading awareness on the water scarcity situation in Senegal aligns closely with what the tasks in the Youth Commission focus on. Finally, by accumulating almost 2 years of teaching experience through English tutoring as well as making my own curriculum for each class, I've developed the skills needed to design educational projects on water and its impact in our community.	
How would the community benefit by your participation on this committee? One way the community could benefit from my participation on this committee would be having increased knowledge on the impacts of water scarcity and the effects of scarcity around the globe. Having visited underdeveloped countries in Africa that suffer from water scarcity at a vastly more severe level than in the bay, I bring a new perspective on the importance of water and how it has impacted communities outside the valley. I hope that this new perspective, showing the degree in which water scarcity has affected third-world countries, will drive the reality of how important it is to protect the water that we have here and benefit our community by valuing local water conservation.	
Are you available to attend committee meetings when scheduled? (please go to <a href="http://valleywater.org/youthcommission">valleywater.org/youthcommission</a> for committee meeting schedule details) <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If No, please describe:	
If you have a disability, what accommodations would you need to serve on this committee?	

### D. EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

In case of emergency, contact:	
1. Name:	Phone:
2. Name:	Phone:





## SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTIONNAIRE FOR A SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT COMMITTEE

Please complete this supplemental questionnaire **ONLY IF** applying for the **YOUTH COMMISSION**. For more information or questions, please email: [youthcommission@valleywater.org](mailto:youthcommission@valleywater.org).

Preferred Name (if different from application): <b>Bryce Chen</b>	
School attending during the upcoming school year: <b>Valley Christian High School</b>	Grade level during the upcoming school year: <b>11</b>
Extra-Curricular Activities: YRC Research club Health and Wellness Program XPrize Water Scarcity Speech and Debate Swimming	Favorite Subjects: Science (AP Biology, AP Chemistry) Anatomy and Physiology Scientific Research
To identify your director, go to <a href="http://valleywater.org/BOD">valleywater.org/BOD</a> , scroll down to <b>Find your Director</b> and click the link to the <b>Valley Water Local Information Map</b> . Find your home address and expand the SCVWD Board of Directors Districts section to identify your Board Member and District number.	
Board Member's Name: <b>Jim Beall</b>	Board Member District #: <b>4</b>

In 300 words or less: (If more space is needed, please attach additional pages.)

1. What do you feel are the top three issues young people in Santa Clara County are facing, particularly around water or environmental stewardship? If appointed, how will you connect these issues to your role on the Youth Commission?

Firstly, I would say one of the top issues young people in Santa Clara County face is a lack of awareness about the impact of waste on local waterways. Many students in the bay are unaware how everyday actions such as littering or trashing improperly can directly pollute creeks and harm our ecosystem. If appointed as a committee member, I'd love to help bridge that gap in knowledge through outreach and hands-on clean-up efforts.

Another major issue is the disconnect between youth and the science behind our water systems. While we're all affected by water quality, very few youth truly understand how our water is maintained. If appointed, I would bring curiosity and a willingness to help make the Creek Stewardship and Water Quality Project more accessible, by creating clear, engaging outreach materials that share what I learned with schools and also online.

Lastly, I see missed opportunities when it comes to our citizens accessing grants or community programs like those offered by Valley Water. Many simply don't know they exist. On the committee, I would focus on programs such as the Education Outreach Project. This focus would include outreach to underrepresented schools and work to make this information more relatable and visible. In my role on the Youth Commission, I hope to connect these issues through strong communication with team members, community engagement, and collaboration. I want to build meaningful partnerships with my peers and create materials and events that inspire involvement in youth across our county.

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?

The main thing I hope to gain from the Youth Commission is to foster connections with those around me in my community. This means building teamwork with other representatives in the program to fight for a shared goal, but also meeting so many more new people from all over the valley and building a lasting connection with them, strengthening my ties to my community. Time in this Commission would also strengthen my knowledge about our water systems in the Bay, from local conservation and purification methods to specific environmental impacts of water in our region, which I am excited to learn much more about and share with others.

I believe that my experiences in the programs I have undergone match with the skills needed for the Youth Commission's existing programs. For example, my knowledge on seawater desalination through the XPRIZE program would be applicable in the commission's Water Quality project, while my experience spreading awareness to Senegal's water scarcity when fundraising for the Africa Cries Out program is similar to the activities of the Education Outreach project. For revising and improving the existing programs on the Youth Commission, I always contribute as a team player by both sharing my ideas and actively listening to others ideas. I am no stranger to conflict and have resolved many conflicts in team settings as well as had copious experience in a variety of team compositions. Ultimately, I am excited to meet others on the Youth Commissions.

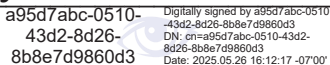
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I understand that participation in the Youth Commission is voluntary and have read and understand the provisions stated above.

Applicant Name: **Bryce Chen**

Applicant Signature:  Digitally signed by a95d7abc-0510-43d2-8d26-8b8e7d9860d3  
DN: cn=a95d7abc-0510-43d2-8d26-8b8e7d9860d3  
Date: 2025.05.26 16:12:17 -07'00'

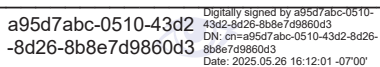
Date: 5/26/25

**If applicant is under 18 years old, the section below must be completed by the 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): **Tony Chen**

Relationship (print): **Father**

Parent/Guardian signature:  Digitally signed by a95d7abc-0510-43d2-8d26-8b8e7d9860d3  
DN: cn=a95d7abc-0510-43d2-8d26-8b8e7d9860d3  
Date: 2025.05.26 16:12:01 -07'00'

Date: 5/26/25



## APPLICATION FOR A SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT COMMITTEE

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### A. CONTACT INFORMATION

Name of Committee: <b>Valley Water Youth Commission</b>			
Name (First, Middle, Last): <b>Ethan Cheung</b>			
Home Phone:	Work Phone:	Cell Phone:	Fax:
Mailing Address: (Street Address, City, State, ZIP)			
E-mail:			
If Applicable, Present Employer (Name and Address):		Job Title:	
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 (if more space is needed, please attach additional pages):			

### B. VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

List current and previous volunteer experience. Include experience with charitable organizations, committees and commissions, or public offices you may have held and relevant dates. If more space is needed, please attach additional pages.		
DATE(S):	NAME:	RESPONSIBILITIES/EXPERIENCE:
10/2024 - present	Co-Chair, AI For Good Committee at CompassPoint Mentorship	2025: Transportation planning with Sunnyvale Councilmember Murali Srinivasan. Simulate VTA system to seek safer and more efficient shuttle routes and schedules for North Sunnyvale students to school. 02/2025 (60 hrs): Organized the first AI Hackathon, introducing 115 middle schoolers to AI applications addressing local issues like water conservation. 11/2024 (20 hrs): Led a 7-member team to ensure quality assurance for a ChatBot developed for Friends of Children with Special Needs.
01/2025 - present	Chair, Emergency Response Committee at CompassPoint Mentorship	07/2025 (planned): Will lead an aviation summer camp introducing youth to Unmanned Aerial Vehicle technology and emergency preparedness. 05/2025: Earned Remote Pilot Certificate from the Federal Aviation Administration. 04/2025: Completed Personal Emergency Preparedness training with Sunnyvale's Department of Public Safety.
2024 - present	Community volunteer with various organizations	2024 - Present (100+ hrs): Volunteered with CompassPoint Mentorship to support nonprofit outreach and education initiatives. Managed blog content and media communications. 06/2024 - present (11 hrs): Performed piano at Sunny View Senior Center to enrich senior residents' lives. 2024 (24 hrs): Assisted with library operations and activities at Sunnyvale Public Library. Volunteered at the Sunnyvale Art Festival hosted by the City of Sunnyvale.



### C. 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 (please specify): | <input type="checkbox"/> School                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Director (please specify):         | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): |

Please describe your interest in serving on this committee:

I'm interested in serving on the Youth Commission because I believe technology and civic action should go hand in hand. As a certified drone pilot and AI student researcher, I want to explore how tools like machine learning and aerial monitoring can help address local water issues such as pollution, drought, and flooding. I'm also passionate about bringing these ideas into schools, helping the next generation connect with environmental issues through hands-on learning, storytelling, and student-led projects. The Youth Commission would give me the opportunity to combine my technical skills with public service, collaborate with like-minded peers, and help more students feel empowered to protect their environment and community.

Please describe your relevant qualifications, such as specific skills, training, or knowledge that should be considered in applying for this committee:

Leadership Experience: Co-Chair of AI for Good and Chair of Emergency Response Committee at CPMentorship. Hands-on experience organizing outreach events like 115-student AI Hackathon.

Communication: Active member of my school's speech and debate team. Experienced in presenting ideas, leading group discussions, and engaging in peer outreach.

FAA-Certified Drone Pilot: Trained in aerial monitoring and flight safety. Prepared for using drones for environmental data collection, flood risk assessment, and emergency response support.

AI Skills: Proficient in Python programming, data analysis, and applying AI to real-world problems.

How would the community benefit by your participation on this committee?

By participating in the Youth Commission, I'll do my best to make projects like the Creek Stewardship and Water Quality Project more accessible to students. As a certified drone pilot, I can help collect environmental data and involve students in examining water quality themselves. This hands-on experience would help young people understand the importance of conserving water through real observations and active participation, not just classroom learning.

I also hope to bring more students into the conversation. With experience organizing outreach events like a 115-student AI Hackathon and sharing cultural heritage through street dance performances, I've seen how hands-on, creative activities can inspire youth involvement. I'd use that same energy to connect the Commission's work to local schools through workshops, student-led projects, and engaging public education campaigns.

By combining technical tools with clear communication, I can help bridge the gap between what's happening in our environment and what young people can do about it. I want more students to see that water and environmental issues aren't just something for experts to fix - they're something we can all take part in.

Are you available to attend committee meetings when scheduled? (please go to [valleywater.org/youthcommission](http://valleywater.org/youthcommission) for committee meeting schedule details) ☒ Yes ☐ No If No, please describe:

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

### D. EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

In case of emergency, contact:

- |          |        |
|----------|--------|
| 1. Name: | Phone: |
| 2. Name: | Phone: |





## SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTIONNAIRE FOR A SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT COMMITTEE

Please complete this supplemental questionnaire **ONLY IF** applying for the **YOUTH COMMISSION**. For more information or questions, please email: [youthcommission@valleywater.org](mailto:youthcommission@valleywater.org).

Preferred Name (if different from application):	
School attending during the upcoming school year: <b>Bellarmino College Preparatory</b>	Grade level during the upcoming school year: <b>11</b>
Extra-Curricular Activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- AI Research: Designed and improved machine learning algorithms in Visual Question Answering and Large Language Models. Published one research paper.</li><li>- History Research: Co-authored a book on underrepresented women, children, and refugees in wartime China. Scheduled for publication in June 2025.</li><li>- Speech &amp; Debate (Bellarmino College Prep): Competed in multiple tournaments; trained in rhetoric, argumentation, and public speaking.</li></ul>	Favorite Subjects: <p>My favorite subjects are computer science and environmental science. Computer science challenges me to solve real-world problems using logic and creativity, such as researching how AI can detect hate speech or assess flood risks. Environmental science connects data analysis with real-world missions, such as tracking pollution or preparing for natural disasters.</p>
To identify your director, go to <a href="http://valleywater.org/BOD">valleywater.org/BOD</a> , scroll down to <b>Find your Director</b> and click the link to the <b>Valley Water Local Information Map</b> . Find your home address and expand the SCVWD Board of Directors Districts section to identify your Board Member and District number.	
Board Member's Name: <b>Nai Hsueh</b>	Board Member District #: <b>5</b>

In 300 words or less: (If more space is needed, please attach additional pages.)

1. What do you feel are the top three issues young people in Santa Clara County are facing, particularly around water or environmental stewardship? If appointed, how will you connect these issues to your role on the Youth Commission?

I believe the top three water-related issues facing young people in Santa Clara County are water scarcity, pollution, and flood risk.

California is a dry state, yet many students aren't aware of how small daily actions can help conserve water. If appointed, I would work with local schools to host awareness events and share practical water-saving strategies, such as running sprinklers at night to reduce evaporation and fixing leaking faucets to save hundreds of gallons over time.

Pollution in local creeks and lakes is another concern. As a certified drone pilot with a Federal Aviation Administration license, I could help monitor water quality using aerial imagery to identify trash accumulation. I would also organize student volunteers to collect water samples, analyze pollution levels, and participate in cleanup events.

Lastly, communities like Alviso remain vulnerable to flooding. If appointed, I would help organize preparedness workshops to educate students and families on how to seal cracks, store emergency supplies, and stay safe during floods. In actual floods, we could use drones to survey impacted areas and provide aerial images to first responders, supporting faster and more targeted emergency response.



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?

In Youth Commission, I hope to gain leadership experience and strengthen my planning and problem-solving skills. I admire past Youth Commission projects like creek cleanups and the Adopt-A-Bench Program. I'd be excited to continue that work by expanding youth involvement.

I believe I can contribute through my background in leadership, technology and public outreach.

As Co-Chair of the AI for Good Committee at CPMentorship, I helped organize a 115-student AI Hackathon and led a 7-member team developing tools for families with special needs. This experience taught me how to lead teams, adapt quickly, and deliver real-world results.

I'm an FAA-certified drone pilot and have worked on projects involving environmental data collection and analysis. I hope to leverage drones for water quality monitoring, flood assessment, and emergency response support. I'm also interested in applying machine learning to analyze water quality data and support more informed, evidence-based decision-making.

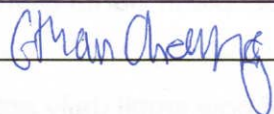
If selected, I would help connect the Youth Commission's work with local schools through workshops, student-led projects, and public awareness campaigns.

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, 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, movie or videos for any lawful purpose.

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

Applicant Name: Ethan Cheung

Applicant Signature: 

Date: 5/25/25

**If applicant is under 18 years old, the section below must be completed by the 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): Liwu Hao

Relationship (print): Father

Parent/Guardian signature: 

Date: 5/25/25



## APPLICATION FOR A SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT COMMITTEE

Please complete this application in its entirety and submit a signed copy to [youthcommission@valleywater.org](mailto:youthcommission@valleywater.org). If more space is needed, please attach additional pages. 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 Office of Civic Engagement at (408) 630-2876.

### A. CONTACT INFORMATION

Name of Committee: <b>Valley Water Youth Commission</b>			
Name (First, Middle, Last): <b>Simran, Soni</b>			
Home Phone:	Work Phone:	Cell Phone:	Fax:
Mailing Address: (Street Address, City, State, ZIP)			
E-mail: <b>simransoni0407@gmail.com</b>			
If Applicable, Present Employer (Name and Address):		Job Title:	
Do you have a current contractual relationship with the Santa Clara Valley Water District? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If Yes, please describe (if more space is needed, please attach additional pages):			

### B. VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

List current and previous volunteer experience. Include experience with charitable organizations, committees and commissions, or public offices you may have held and relevant dates. If more space is needed, please attach additional pages.		
DATE(S):	NAME:	RESPONSIBILITIES/EXPERIENCE:
September 2024 - Ongoing	National Honor Society	Volunteer
January 2025 - Ongoing	Speech and Debate Assistant	Help middle schoolers learn about speech and debate. I also help them refine their speeches to get ready for competitions.



### C. INTEREST AND AVAILABILITY

How did you hear about this committee opening?	
<input type="checkbox"/> District Website	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social media
<input type="checkbox"/> Committee Member (please specify):	<input type="checkbox"/> School
<input type="checkbox"/> Director (please specify):	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify):
Please describe your interest in serving on this committee: I am interested in joining the Valley Water Youth Commission because I want to help build a more sustainable and environmentally conscious community, especially by addressing the growing issue of microplastic pollution in waterways. My interest in microplastics stems from their invisible but serious impact on our water sources and health. Through the Youth Commission, I see an	
Please describe your relevant qualifications, such as specific skills, training, or knowledge that should be considered in applying for this committee: As a student deeply committed to environmental science, I've taken chemistry, biology, physics, and environmental science, which has given me a solid foundation in understanding complex scientific issues like water quality and pollution. My passion for environmental science expands beyond the classroom - I serve as a climate commissioner at my high school, where I help lead sustainability initiatives and raise awareness about climate-related issues. This summer, I will be conducting	
How would the community benefit by your participation on this committee? The community would benefit from my participation because I bring a strong passion for environmental issues and experience in both science and outreach. I can help raise awareness about water pollution, especially microplastics, and make complex topics easier for others to understand. As a student leader, I'm committed to inspiring others to care about and protect our local environment.	
Are you available to attend committee meetings when scheduled? (please go to <a href="http://valleywater.org/youthcommission">valleywater.org/youthcommission</a> for committee meeting schedule details) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If No, please describe:	
If you have a disability, what accommodations would you need to serve on this committee?	

### D. EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

In case of emergency, contact:	
1. Name:	Phone:
2. Name:	Phone:



## SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTIONNAIRE FOR A SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT COMMITTEE

Please complete this supplemental questionnaire **ONLY IF** applying for the **YOUTH COMMISSION**. For more information or questions, please email: [youthcommission@valleywater.org](mailto:youthcommission@valleywater.org).

Preferred Name (if different from application):	
School attending during the upcoming school year: <b>Homestead High School</b>	Grade level during the upcoming school year: <b>11th</b>
Extra-Curricular Activities: - Squash - FBLA - Speech and Debate	Favorite Subjects: - Biology - Math - Law
To identify your director, go to <a href="http://valleywater.org/BOD">valleywater.org/BOD</a> , scroll down to <b>Find your Director</b> and click the link to the <b>Valley Water Local Information Map</b> . Find your home address and expand the SCVWD Board of Directors Districts section to identify your Board Member and District number.	
Board Member's Name: <b>Nai Hsueh</b>	Board Member District #: <b>5</b>

In 300 words or less: (If more space is needed, please attach additional pages.)

1. What do you feel are the top three issues young people in Santa Clara County are facing, particularly around water or environmental stewardship? If appointed, how will you connect these issues to your role on the Youth Commission?

Young people in Santa Clara County are facing serious environmental challenges that directly affect their future, especially around water. One of the most pressing issues is drought and water scarcity. California's frequent droughts have made water conservation a daily reality, and young people need to understand how their choices impact local water supplies. Another major concern is pollution in our waterways. Runoff, industrial waste, and especially microplastics are contaminating our creeks and rivers, harming wildlife and threatening public health. These pollutants are often invisible but have long-lasting effects on ecosystems and communities. A third issue is the lack of accessible environmental education. Many students aren't taught enough about the science or policy behind water and climate issues, and they don't always have opportunities to participate in solutions. This leaves a gap between the environmental problems we face and the ability of young people to respond. If I'm appointed to the Youth Commission, I want to bridge that gap by raising awareness, promoting hands-on education, and involving more youth in water protection efforts. By empowering students with knowledge and action, we can create a stronger, more sustainable future for our community.

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 local water policy works and how individuals can play a role in shaping sustainability practices. I am excited to learn from experts, collaborate with peers who share the same interests as me, and take part in real world projects. In return, I bring a strong passion for environmental science, experience in public speaking and outreach, and a commitment to educating others. I believe I can help make environmental topics more accessible and inspire more young people to take action.

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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, 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, movie or videos for any lawful purpose.

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

Applicant Name: Simran Soni

Applicant Signature: simransoni

Date: 05/24/25

**If applicant is under 18 years old, the section below must be completed by the 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): Rasna Soni

Relationship (print): Mother

Parent/Guardian signature: RasnaSoni

Date: 5/24/25



## APPLICATION FOR A SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT COMMITTEE

Please complete this application in its entirety and submit a signed copy to [youthcommission@valleywater.org](mailto:youthcommission@valleywater.org). If more space is needed, please attach additional pages. 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 Office of Civic Engagement at (408) 630-2876.

### A. CONTACT INFORMATION

Name of Committee: <b>Valley Water Youth Commission</b>			
Name (First, Middle, Last): <b>Ruhan Upreti</b>			
Home Phone:	Work Phone:	Cell Phone: _____	Fax: <b>None</b>
Mailing Address: (Street Address, City, State, ZIP)			
E-mail:			
If Applicable, Present Employer (Name and Address): <b>None</b>		Job Title: <b>None</b>	
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 (if more space is needed, please attach additional pages):			

### B. VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

List current and previous volunteer experience. Include experience with charitable organizations, committees and commissions, or public offices you may have held and relevant dates. If more space is needed, please attach additional pages.		
DATE(S):	NAME:	RESPONSIBILITIES/EXPERIENCE:
6/1/2024-Present; Volunteer 4-8 hours every week	Patient and Visitor Escort at Santa Clara Valley Medical	Assist patients and visitors in navigating the hospital, escort them to appointments, support staff with non-clinical tasks, and provide comfort and guidance, especially for non-English-speaking patients.
8/4/2024-3/16/2025	Adopt-A-Park	Led a cleanup and repainting project at Medofair Park, organized volunteers, coordinated with city officials, hosted a community barbecue with the local fire department, and provided appreciation gifts to local police, fire, and DOT personnel.
5/26/2024-Present	Bridge For All	Tutor middle and high school students in subjects including Chemistry and competitive math (AMC 10), create practice problems and review sessions, and help design curriculum aimed at building strong foundations in STEM for under-resourced youth.

### C. INTEREST AND AVAILABILITY

How did you hear about this committee opening?

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

Please describe your interest in serving on this committee:

I am passionate about creating meaningful change in my community, particularly in environmental stewardship and social equity. Growing up in Santa Clara County, I have seen the impact of environmental issues like water scarcity, clean water and pollution. Serving on the Youth Commission would allow me to work with other youth & Vallet Water to address these challenges and contribute to a positive change. I am also eager to develop my leadership and advocacy skills while learning about local governance and policy-making. I believe this experience will empower me to be an effective advocate for causes I care about and ensure that young people's voices are heard in decisions that impact our future.

Please describe your relevant qualifications, such as specific skills, training, or knowledge that should be considered in applying for this committee:

I bring a combination of skills, hands-on experience, and a strong commitment to community service and environmental issues. As a volunteer at Santa Clara Valley Medical Center, I've gained valuable experience in collaborating with diverse groups, managing responsibilities, and communicating effectively. My leadership roles, including President - Pre-Med Club, CAD lead for Robotics Team 254, have helped me develop project management, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills. Additionally, I have a strong interest in environmental stewardship, particularly in water conservation and pollution prevention. One of my key experiences was organizing a cleanup and repainting event at Meadowfair Park, where I coordinated volunteers, door to door resident outreach, gathered supplies, and hosted a barbecue with the local fire department. Experiences like these have strengthened my leadership and event management abilities, and I look forward to using these skills to make a positive impact on the Youth Commission.

How would the community benefit by your participation on this committee?

The community would benefit from my participation on the Youth Commission through my strong commitment to addressing key environmental and social challenges, particularly water conservation and environmental justice. My leadership experience—such as organizing park cleanups and leading community outreach—has taught me how to mobilize others, build partnerships, and drive collective action. I'm also someone who values listening to and respecting all perspectives. I believe that real change happens when everyone feels heard, so I strive to lead with empathy and inclusivity. I am passionate about ensuring that young people have a meaningful voice in shaping the policies that impact our future, and I would bring fresh energy, collaboration, and initiative to the table. I hope to help unite youth from all backgrounds and ensure that their concerns are represented fairly. Alongside my ability to think critically, solve problems, and communicate effectively, I would work to empower others to take action—strengthening our community's efforts toward a more sustainable, just, and connected future.

Are you available to attend committee meetings when scheduled? (please go to [valleywater.org/youthcommission](http://valleywater.org/youthcommission) for committee meeting schedule details) ☐ Yes ☐ No If No, please describe:

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

### D. EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

In case of emergency, contact:

- |          |        |
|----------|--------|
| 1. Name: | Phone: |
| 2. Name: | Phone: |



## SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTIONNAIRE FOR A SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT COMMITTEE

Please complete this supplemental questionnaire **ONLY IF** applying for the **YOUTH COMMISSION**. For more information or questions, please email: [youthcommission@valleywater.org](mailto:youthcommission@valleywater.org).

Preferred Name (if different from application):

**Ruhan Upreti**

School attending during the upcoming school year:

**Bellarmino College Preparatory**

Grade level during the upcoming school year:

**11**

Extra-Curricular Activities:

Varisty Tennis, Patient and Visitor Escort at SCVMC, ACEing Autism Leader, South Bay VIP Soccer Leader, Math Club Lead, Design Engineer on Team 254, Tutor at Bridge For All Non-Profit, and Adopt-A-Park Coordinator

Favorite Subjects:

Biology, Chemistry, Environmental Science, Math, Computer Science, and Physics

To identify your director, go to [valleywater.org/BOD](http://valleywater.org/BOD), scroll down to **Find your Director** and click the link to the **Valley Water Local Information Map**. Find your home address and expand the SCVWD Board of Directors Districts section to identify your Board Member and District number.

Board Member's Name:

**Tony Estremera**

Board Member District #:

**6**

In 300 words or less: (If more space is needed, please attach additional pages.)

1. What do you feel are the top three issues young people in Santa Clara County are facing, particularly around water or environmental stewardship? If appointed, how will you connect these issues to your role on the Youth Commission?

If appointed to the Youth Commission in Santa Clara County, I would focus on addressing three key environmental challenges impacting young people, especially in the areas of water conservation and environmental stewardship. First, the county continues to face significant water conservation issues due to infrastructure challenges, such as the limited capacity of the Anderson Reservoir following a seismic retrofit project. I would advocate for youth involvement in water-saving programs and educational campaigns to promote sustainable water use. Second, pollution in local waterways, particularly in creeks like Guadalupe and Permanente Creek, remains a concern due to industrial contamination and mercury levels. I would work to engage youth in efforts like creek cleanups and environmental monitoring to protect local water bodies. Lastly, environmental justice issues, such as the lead contamination in communities near Reid-Hillview Airport, disproportionately affect low-income residents, highlighting the need for equitable access to clean water. As a youth commissioner, I would support policies that address these inequalities and ensure all communities have access to safe water. I would plan for the youth to actively understand the role of clean water in our life, and as a part of resident & community reachout participate in local events to enlighten the people. By connecting these issues to my role, I would work to empower young people to take an active role in preserving our water resources and promoting environmental justice throughout the county.

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?

By being on the Youth Commission, I hope to gain a deeper understanding of how local government works, how policies are shaped to address environmental and social issues that directly impact young people. I look forward to developing skills in leadership, collaboration, and advocacy while working alongside like-minded individuals who share a commitment to making a positive impact in our community.

Being part of the Youth Commission will also provide me with the opportunity to engage in meaningful discussions about policies affecting the future, particularly in the areas of environmental stewardship and social justice. In return, I believe I can contribute a fresh perspective, a strong passion for environmental stewardship, and a commitment to service. My experiences in volunteering at Santa Clara Valley Medical Center, participating in environmental initiatives, and leading projects in my school community have equipped me with problem-solving skills and the ability to collaborate effectively with others. I hope to bring these skills to the Youth Commission, helping to raise awareness of important issues like water conservation, pollution, and environmental justice. I also aim to use my platform to amplify the voices of my peers and ensure that the youth of Santa Clara County are actively involved in shaping the policies that will affect our future.

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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, 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, movie or videos for any lawful purpose.

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

Applicant Name: Ruhan Upreti

Applicant Signature: 

Date: 5/26/20

**If applicant is under 18 years old, the section below must be completed by the 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): Neeraj Upreti

Relationship (print): Father

Parent/Guardian signature: 

Date: 5/26/20





# APPLICATION FOR A SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT COMMITTEE

Please complete this application in its entirety and submit a signed copy to [youthcommission@valleywater.org](mailto:youthcommission@valleywater.org). If more space is needed, please attach additional pages. 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 Office of Civic Engagement at (408) 630-2876.

## A. CONTACT INFORMATION

Name of Committee: <b>Valley Water Youth Commission</b>			
Name (First, Middle, Last): <b>Sinit Hadgu</b>			
Home Phone:	Work Phone:	Cell Phone <b>3</b>	Fax:
Mailing Address: (Street Address, City, State, ZIP)			
E-mail:			
If Applicable, Present Employer (Name and Address): <b>Ernesto Lopez</b> <b>4701 Great America Pkwy, Santa Clara, CA 95054</b>		Job Title: <b>Food services</b>	
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 (if more space is needed, please attach additional pages):			

## B. VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

List current and previous volunteer experience. Include experience with charitable organizations, committees and commissions, or public offices you may have held and relevant dates. If more space is needed, please attach additional pages.		
DATE(S):	NAME:	RESPONSIBILITIES/EXPERIENCE:
3/12/25 - Ongoing	Boy and Girls Club	Engage with elderly participants through conversation and activities. Assisted with daily programs to support seniors' well-being.
3/2/25 - Ongoing	Heart to Heart Senoir Home	Assisted in early childhood education activities and play-based learning. Encouraged social and cognitive development in young children.
2/20/25	AWO	- Helped manage vendor booths by organizing products and ensuring displays were neat and appealing - Provided logistical support throughout the event, helping with restocking, packing, and cleanup - Supported sales by engaging with customers, answering questions, and handling transactions

### C. INTEREST AND AVAILABILITY

How did you hear about this committee opening?	
<input type="checkbox"/> District Website	<input type="checkbox"/> Social media
<input type="checkbox"/> Committee Member (please specify):	<input type="checkbox"/> School
<input type="checkbox"/> Director (please specify):	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): African American Community Service Agency Leadership Academy
<p>Please describe your interest in serving on this committee:</p> <p>My interest in the Valley Water Youth Commission comes from my experience with the African American Community Service Agency's ALA Leadership Academy and my passion for civic engagement, environmental stewardship, and youth advocacy. As a high school student dedicated to sustainability and public service, I see this as a valuable opportunity to learn about policies that directly impact my community.</p> <p>I hope to contribute to initiatives that promote responsible water use, equitable access, and climate resilience while amplifying youth voices. Serving on this commission would also allow me to collaborate with peers, gain experience in local government, and help make complex issues like water infrastructure more accessible to youth</p>	
<p>Please describe your relevant qualifications, such as specific skills, training, or knowledge that should be considered in applying for this committee:</p> <p>I bring a combination of leadership training and hands-on community service experience to this position. I am currently a student at the AACSA ALA Leadership Academy, where I am developing key leadership and organizational skills. My volunteer work includes supporting local nonprofits, such as during Africa Day, where I assisted AWO with outreach efforts, managed vendor booths, and ensured community-facing displays were effectively presented. In addition, I am a long-term volunteer with the Boys and Girls Club and Heart to Heart Senior Home, where I have contributed to youth development and senior care through consistent and meaningful engagement.</p>	
<p>How would the community benefit by your participation on this committee?</p> <p>As an 11th-grade student and a young woman already active in my community, my participation on this committee would bring a fresh, youth perspective. I want to represent the voice of younger generations, including my generation, who are often impacted by decisions but not always included in the process. Through volunteer work with AACSA, the Boys and Girls Club, Heart to Heart Senior Home, and community events like Africa Day, I am gaining firsthand experience understanding community needs across different age groups.</p> <p>My involvement would show other youth that their voice matters and encourage more young people to get involved. I want to help bridge the gap between adults and the youth, bringing creative ideas, energy, and a commitment to helping our community grow stronger and more connected.</p>	
<p>Are you available to attend committee meetings when scheduled? (please go to <a href="http://valleywater.org/youthcommission">valleywater.org/youthcommission</a> for committee meeting schedule details) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If No, please describe:</p>	
<p>If you have a disability, what accommodations would you need to serve on this committee?</p>	

### D. EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

In case of emergency, contact:	
1.	Phone:
2. Name:	Phone:



## SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTIONNAIRE FOR A SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT COMMITTEE

Please complete this supplemental questionnaire **ONLY IF** applying for the **YOUTH COMMISSION**. For more information or questions, please email: [youthcommission@valleywater.org](mailto:youthcommission@valleywater.org).

Preferred Name (if different from application):	
School attending during the upcoming school year: <b>University Preparatory Academy</b>	Grade level during the upcoming school year: <b>12th</b>
Extra-Curricular Activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- WEB Leader</li><li>- ALA Leadership Academy</li><li>- BSU (Vice President)</li><li>- Cheerleading</li><li>- Volunteer at Preschool</li><li>- SeeTheChange club (President)</li></ul>	Favorite Subjects:  <b>Biology and History</b>
To identify your director, go to <a href="http://valleywater.org/BOD">valleywater.org/BOD</a> , scroll down to <b>Find your Director</b> and click the link to the <b>Valley Water Local Information Map</b> . Find your home address and expand the SCVWD Board of Directors Districts section to identify your Board Member and District number.	
Board Member's Name: <b>Tony Estremera</b>	Board Member District #: <b>6</b>

In 300 words or less: (If more space is needed, please attach additional pages.)

1. What do you feel are the top three issues young people in Santa Clara County are facing, particularly around water or environmental stewardship? If appointed, how will you connect these issues to your role on the Youth Commission?

As an 11th-grade student, I believe the top three environmental issues affecting youth in Santa Clara County are trash around school campuses, concerns about drinking water quality, and a lack of education about environmental stewardship. Litter on and around school campuses is a big issue—it affects how our campuses look and contributes to pollution in our local environment. Second, at my high school, many students rely on the water fountains, but the water doesn't always seem clean. This raises concerns about our health; many of us don't know if the water is tested or safe to drink. Lastly, there's a lack of awareness among students about how our actions impact the environment. Many of us want to help, but don't know where to start.

If appointed to the Youth Commission, I would elevate these concerns and work toward solutions. I'd advocate for cleaner school environments through better waste education and encourage school-wide clean-up events, by working with classmates and environmental clubs at my school such as Green Team. I'd also bring attention to water quality issues by bringing these issues to the school principal and local officials to ensure regular testing and transparency. Lastly, I'd support creating more environmental education opportunities for youth by sharing my work with the commission, if selected, and bringing more awareness around school campuses.

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?

By being on the Youth Commission, I hope to gain leadership skills, a deeper understanding of how decisions are made in our county, and how youth voices can help shape decisions. I want to learn how local government works and connect with other young people who are passionate about making a difference. I also want to grow my confidence in speaking about issues that matter to me and the community around me.

I can contribute a strong youth perspective and commitment to community service. As an 11th grader already involved in volunteer work with the African American Community Service Agency, the Boys and Girls Club, Heart to Heart Senior Home, and community events like Africa Day, I see the impact when we're given the chance to lead. I will listen to what other students care about and take action to support them, especially around issues like the environment, health, and access to resources. Lastly, I am a team player and willing to learn.

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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, 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, movie or videos for any lawful purpose.

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

Applicant Name: Sinit

Applicant Signature: 

Date: 5/26/25

**If applicant is under 18 years old, the section below must be completed by the 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): Wegahta

Relationship (print): Mother

Parent/Guardian signature: 

Date: 5/26/25





Valley Water

## APPLICATION FOR A SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT COMMITTEE

Please complete this application in its entirety and submit a signed copy to [youthcommission@valleywater.org](mailto:youthcommission@valleywater.org). If more space is needed, please attach additional pages. 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 Office of Civic Engagement at (408) 630-2876.

### A. CONTACT INFORMATION

Name of Committee: <b>Valley Water Youth Commission</b>			
Name (First, Middle, Last): <b>Ishika, Anand</b>			
Home Phone: N/A	Work Phone: N/A	Cell Phone:	Fax: N/A
Mailing Address: (Street Address, City, State, ZIP)			
E-mail:			
If Applicable, Present Employer (Name and Address): N/A		Job Title: Student	
Do you have a current contractual relationship with the Santa Clara Valley Water District? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No			
If Yes, please describe (if more space is needed, please attach additional pages):			

### B. VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

List current and previous volunteer experience. Include experience with charitable organizations, committees and commissions, or public offices you may have held and relevant dates. If more space is needed, please attach additional pages.		
DATE(S):	NAME:	RESPONSIBILITIES/EXPERIENCE:
2024-current	Los Altos Youth Commission	organizing events, publicity, set-up/clean-up of events, monthly meetings
2019-current	Humane Society of Silicon Valley	Fostering puppies - keeping pairs at home and taking care of them
2021-current	Chinmaya Mission	set-up/clean-up of events, led assembly announcements



### C. INTEREST AND AVAILABILITY

How did you hear about this committee opening?

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

Please describe your interest in serving on this committee:

I am interested in serving on the Valley Water Youth Commission because of my interest and experience in water storage. I have been collecting rainwater in my backyard for many years, which led me to do further research on water storage in my neighborhood. The amount of rainwater that we receive in one year is more than enough for the Los Altos community needs. I learned a lot through this project and I hope to learn and apply more of this knowledge on the commission.

Please describe your relevant qualifications, such as specific skills, training, or knowledge that should be considered in applying for this committee:

I am currently serving on the Los Altos Youth Commission where I help plan and execute events for the youth of my community. I have learned how to advertise and create events that are fun and engaging for kids like open mic nights, and movie nights. I am also a beekeeper and love to spread my passion for bees with other students at a local middle school. I have presented to multiple different age groups on the importance of bees and what I have learned through my experiences.

How would the community benefit by your participation on this committee?

I believe that the community would benefit from my participation because of the unique perspective I have as a Los Altos Community member. Through my passions, I have been able to connect with the broader community around me. I have a deeper understanding of the interests of the youth in my area, being a Youth Commission member, that would be helpful for organizing Valley Water's educational events. Through selling my honey, I connect with members of my community who suffer from pollen allergies. (see extra page)

Are you available to attend committee meetings when scheduled? (please go to [valleywater.org/youthcommission](http://valleywater.org/youthcommission) for committee meeting schedule details) ☒ Yes ☐ No If No, please describe:

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

N/A

### D. EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

In case of emergency, contact:

- |          |        |
|----------|--------|
| 1. Name: | Phone: |
| 2. Name: | Phone: |





## SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTIONNAIRE FOR A SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT COMMITTEE

Please complete this supplemental questionnaire **ONLY IF** applying for the **YOUTH COMMISSION**. For more information or questions, please email: [youthcommission@valleywater.org](mailto:youthcommission@valleywater.org).

Preferred Name (if different from application):	
School attending during the upcoming school year: <b>Los Altos High School</b>	Grade level during the upcoming school year: <b>10</b>
Extra-Curricular Activities: Robotics, Indian Classical Violin, Indian Classical Dance, Java Coding, Lacrosse, Field Hockey, Science Bowl, Beekeeping, Photography, Woodworking	Favorite Subjects: Robotics, Math
To identify your director, go to <a href="http://valleywater.org/BOD">valleywater.org/BOD</a> , scroll down to <b>Find your Director</b> and click the link to the <b>Valley Water Local Information Map</b> . Find your home address and expand the SCVWD Board of Directors Districts section to identify your Board Member and District number.	
Board Member's Name: <b>Rebecca Eisenberg</b>	Board Member District #: <b>7</b>

In 300 words or less: (If more space is needed, please attach additional pages.)

1. What do you feel are the top three issues young people in Santa Clara County are facing, particularly around water or environmental stewardship? If appointed, how will you connect these issues to your role on the Youth Commission?

I believe that the three biggest water and environmental stewardship issues young people in Santa Clara County are facing are the three "A's": Awareness, Accessibility, and Appreciation. The youth in our community are unaware of why we frequently face droughts in California. This lack of awareness means students are unable to help contribute to solutions. While I have been harvesting rainwater in my backyard for years, it wasn't until I did more research that I realized how water recycling within households is incredibly effective to prevent droughts. On the commission, I hope to help others learn more about this issue and how to set up similar systems at home.

Accessibility of environmentally conscious solutions, particularly to kids, is another issue I've observed. Many people feel as though being environmentally conscious requires money and time. My own experiences have suggested otherwise. What makes someone environmentally conscious is the effort they make. In my house, we all make an effort to separate our waste and properly dispose of different materials. I learned about a free program to get vermicomposting tools and have since been feeding our food waste to worms to create compost for a great natural fertilizer. These examples are small, cheap, and low-time commitment steps that anyone can take to make a difference. I want to emphasize this to Santa Clara youth while on the commission, empowering them to take charge of their environmental impact. (see extra page)



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?

The Valley Water Youth Commission consists of students with similar interests as me from all over Santa Clara county. I personally have unique interests like beekeeping, and I'm sure that the other commission members also have unique passions. I believe that the purpose of a large commission is to combine ideas, passions, and needs of people from different backgrounds to create better solutions for a larger community. I hope to gain knowledge about the issues youth from different areas face in regards to water and environmental stewardship, and how I can help improve their lives.

I have a lot of unique interests ranging from beekeeping to Indian classical dance. I have gained a lot of knowledge from the various experiences I have had that have proven useful in a lot of different areas of my life. For example, the resourcefulness I gained from creating my own beekeeping tools at home has been useful in my robotics class when we must solve problems with limited tools. Similarly, in lacrosse and field hockey, I learned to be aware of my other teammates to make better plays. I have applied this to Indian classical dance where teamwork is essential in position changes throughout our pieces. I believe that my ability to connect these passions and apply my knowledge will be incredibly advantageous to the Valley Water Youth Commission in making unique and effective events for the community.

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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, 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, movie or videos for any lawful purpose.

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

Applicant Name: Ishika Anand

Applicant Signature: 


Date: 5/26/20

**If applicant is under 18 years old, the section below must be completed by the 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): Anand Govind

Relationship (print): Father

Parent/Guardian signature: 

Date: 5/26/20

How would the community benefit by your participation on this committee? (continued)

My octogenarian neighbor and I also share our love for woodworking and photography with each other through weekend building sessions and photo walks. I believe that my ability to form meaningful connection and understanding with various people in my community is an incredibly impactful skill that I can bring to the Valley Water Youth Commission.

What do you feel are the top three issues young people in Santa Clara County are facing, particularly around water or environmental stewardship? If appointed, how will you connect these issues to your role on the Youth Commission? (continued)

The third and by-far largest issue I see students facing is our lack of appreciation for nature. Opportunities are all around; for instance, there is a dark sky nature preserve in Los Altos Hills to see the Milky Way! Collecting these special places with commission members to share with the broader community would be an amazing way to get youths excited about making a difference.



## APPLICATION FOR A SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT COMMITTEE

Please complete this application in its entirety and submit a signed copy to [youthcommission@valleywater.org](mailto:youthcommission@valleywater.org). If more space is needed, please attach additional pages. 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 Office of Civic Engagement at (408) 630-2876.

### A. CONTACT INFORMATION

Name of Committee: <b>Valley Water Youth Commission</b>			
Name (First, Middle, Last): <b>Mina Van Roy</b>			
Home Phone:	Work Phone:	Cell Phone:	Fax:
Mailing Address: (Street Address, City, State, ZIP)			
E-mail:			
If Applicable, Present Employer (Name and Address):		Job Title:	
Do you have a current contractual relationship with the Santa Clara Valley Water District? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If Yes, please describe (if more space is needed, please attach additional pages):			

### B. VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

List current and previous volunteer experience. Include experience with charitable organizations, committees and commissions, or public offices you may have held and relevant dates. If more space is needed, please attach additional pages.		
DATE(S):	NAME:	RESPONSIBILITIES/EXPERIENCE:
2025	350 Silicon Valley	Tabling at community events to educate and encourage community members to transition to electrification of their homes and buildings



### C. INTEREST AND AVAILABILITY

How did you hear about this committee opening?

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

Please describe your interest in serving on this committee:

I understand the importance of preserving the environment. I find this to be an urgent issue, and I believe this committee is a great way I can contribute to fighting the effects of climate change. Also, I would like to learn about how the water district committee functions and makes decisions. Environmental policy and resource management greatly interests me, and I am motivated to learn more about these topics.

Please describe your relevant qualifications, such as specific skills, training, or knowledge that should be considered in applying for this committee:

I have knowledge about the environment related issues humanity faces, and how we can best advocate for sustainable living practices.

How would the community benefit by your participation on this committee?

I will continue to work to raise awareness about the environmental issues our community faces, and the knowledge I gain from my participation on this committee will allow me to contribute to raising awareness about water conservation. My participation on this committee will also allow me to gain valuable resources in order to better contribute to the continued and improved health and well being of local ecosystems.

Are you available to attend committee meetings when scheduled? (please go to [valleywater.org/youthcommission](http://valleywater.org/youthcommission) for committee meeting schedule details) ☒ Yes ☐ No If No, please describe:

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

### D. EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

In case of emergency, contact:

- |          |        |
|----------|--------|
| 1. Name: | Phone: |
| 2. Name: | Phone: |



## SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTIONNAIRE FOR A SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT COMMITTEE

Please complete this supplemental questionnaire **ONLY IF** applying for the **YOUTH COMMISSION**. For more information or questions, please email: [youthcommission@valleywater.org](mailto:youthcommission@valleywater.org).

Preferred Name (if different from application):	
School attending during the upcoming school year: Gunn High School	Grade level during the upcoming school year: 11
Extra-Curricular Activities: Theatre, Wrestling, Thespian Club Board	Favorite Subjects: Math, Chemistry, Government
To identify your director, go to <a href="http://valleywater.org/BOD">valleywater.org/BOD</a> , scroll down to <b>Find your Director</b> and click the link to the <b>Valley Water Local Information Map</b> . Find your home address and expand the SCVWD Board of Directors Districts section to identify your Board Member and District number.	
Board Member's Name: Rebecca Eisenberg	Board Member District #: 7

In 300 words or less: (If more space is needed, please attach additional pages.)

1. What do you feel are the top three issues young people in Santa Clara County are facing, particularly around water or environmental stewardship? If appointed, how will you connect these issues to your role on the Youth Commission?

I think the top three issues young people in Santa Clara County are facing are ecosystem degradation, sustainable water use, and a lack of locally focused climate change education in schools. Urban development and industrial activities harm ecosystems and pose health risks to surrounding communities. Litter and waste accumulation in creeks contribute to environmental degradation. Many young people, including myself, hike or bike through these spaces, but may not realize how pollution or trail misuse harms native wildlife. Climate change has intensified drought conditions in the region, but many young people may not always understand how their daily actions affect water systems. In my experience of climate change education in schools, it is either focused entirely on scientific concepts, or paints climate change and sustainability as a large worldwide problem, as if we as individuals cannot effect how sustainably we live. Rarely is climate change brought up as a local issue. There is little to no discussion of environmental stewardship or any action being taken by individual students. If appointed, I will connect these issues to how I understand and interpret the work of the water district. I will also connect these issues with the ways I can promote youth engagement in stewardship, as a youth commissioner. Community engagement in conservation is increasingly important, and I would like to connect these issues to how I can promote awareness among youth and through educational institutions.

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?

By joining the youth commission, I hope to gain a deeper understanding of local water systems, environmental stewardship, and water industry careers. I hope to apply this to my life, becoming more conscious about the misuse of water in daily life and issues in the ecosystems around me. I also want to learn how to collaborate with civic leaders and advocate effectively. I hope to build relationships with peers who are also passionate about sustainability and making a difference in our schools and neighborhoods. This experience would help me grow as a communicator, leader, and advocate for my community.

I will bring a commitment and passion for environmental stewardship. I actively look for ways to make a change in my community. I'm also a strong listener and team player, seeking out diverse perspectives and connections. If appointed, I would contribute energy, creativity, and a focus on community engagement. I believe that even small initiatives, when led by engaged young people, can have a great impact.

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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, 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, movie or videos for any lawful purpose.

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

Applicant Name: Mina Van Roy

Applicant Signature: 

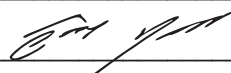
Date: 05/26/2025

**If applicant is under 18 years old, the section below must be completed by the 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): Wanjira Jirajarporn

Relationship (print): Mother

Parent/Guardian signature: 

Date: 05/26/2025

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