



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. 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. For assistance, please contact the Office of Civic Engagement at (408) 630-2876.

A. CONTACT INFORMATION

Name of Committee: Valley Water Youth Commission			
Name (First, Middle, Last): Ambika Palleti			
Home Phone:	Work Phone:	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 (High School)		
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:
Aug 2023 - Present	Interact District 5170 (Rotary International)	President and former Outreach Coordinator of EVHS Interact, contributing over 300 service hours. Created service projects like blanket and card-making events, and co-hosted socials with other
Dec 2022 - Present	SJPL Library: Village Square Branch	President of the Teens Reach program with 250+ service hours. Leads monthly meetings, coordinates volunteer activities, and mentors' youth through library programs. Served as Treasurer and PR
Mar 2020 - Present	Goshala BJ Animal Care	300+ service hours supporting Goshala through weekly summer booth volunteering, fundraising over \$500, and guiding monthly sanctuary tours. Creates PR materials and supports handmade items for sale.

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 this committee for many reasons. First of all, I want to become more involved in my community and expand my knowledge in ways that benefit others. I first applied in eighth grade but never submitted my application because I did not feel ready at the time. Now, after gaining experience and leadership skills through organizations and programs, I have the confidence and commitment to contribute meaningfully. I am eager to work with others who share same ideas as me. represent everyone regardless of age. and help support events/ideas that promote

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

I bring strong skills in communication, leadership, and collaboration. I have organized countless of events, from service projects and banquets to fun gatherings. These experiences have helped me learn how to communicate well, work in a team, and use my time effectively. I am confident making outreach materials, coordinating logistics, and working with different groups to reach shared goals. I am also highly organized and comfortable speaking in front of people. Moreover, I am a quick thinker and can handle intense situations by finding answers fast. My leadership style comes from a mix of

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

As someone who is interested in majoring in public health or veterinary medicine, working with different boards and learning about community issues is really important to me. I am someone who puts my full effort into whatever I do and cares deeply about making a positive impact. Joining this committee would give me the chance to help protect our water and environment, which are so important for everyone's health and wellbeing. Additionally, I would like to help with fundraising and grant writing, as well as help monitor community concerns to ensure that progress is being made on important issues. I believe training and workshops are equally important, especially to keep people (especially youth) informed about what is happening in their community. When the youth understand

Are you available to attend committee meetings when scheduled? (please go to 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

Valley Water

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

Preferred Name (if different from application):	
School attending during the upcoming school year: Evergreen Valley High School	Grade level during the upcoming school year: 12th (Senior)
Extra-Curricular Activities: - Volunteering (Interact, Goshala BJ, Civil Air Patrol, and SJPL Library) - Art	Favorite Subjects: Art, Music, and Science.
<p>To identify your director, go to 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.</p>	
Board Member's Name: John L. Varela	Board Member District #: 1

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?

One, education. Two, energy use and water conservation. Three, water pollution. These are just a few of the many issues young people in Santa Clara County are facing. To start, education can be improved by engaging youth at local middle schools, elementary schools, and community centers through activities, workshops, and opportunities to learn about environmental stewardship and Valley Waters work. This not only helps youth understand the issues we face but also gives them hands-on experience in protecting our community. Next, energy use and water conservation are closely connected. Personally, I only learned about these topics through a summer class. Teaching people how even small actions to conserve water and energy can make a big difference is key. Many do not realize the true causes of droughts in California or how these issues directly affect our community. Finally, water pollution remains an important issue. While Santa Clara County has developed water systems and fewer contamination problems compared to less developed countries, it is still important to raise awareness about water pollution and support efforts to help other communities. In all, I would connect these issues by helping set up fun and easy ways for young people to learn about water, energy, and pollution. I would work with schools and community groups to get more youth involved.

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?

Since next year is when I will be attending college, gaining experience that directly helps me in the field I am interested in working in will not only be important for finding jobs, but will also allow me to gain experience working in a larger team with more impact.

Based on my other answers, there are many things I can contribute, from ideas to skills. Not only that, I am able to learn fast and adapt, which can contribute immensely to the board. Finally, I am interested in gaining real world experience working on community issues, especially related to water and the environment. Being on the Youth Commission will help me develop leadership, teamwork, and communication skills.

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: Ambika Palleti
Applicant Signature: Ambika Palleti
Date: 5/24/25

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): Sowjanya Palleti
Relationship (print): Mother
Parent/Guardian signature: Sowjanya Palleti
Date: 5/24/25



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. 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. For assistance, please contact the Office of Civic Engagement at (408) 630-2876.

A. CONTACT INFORMATION

Name of Committee: Valley Water Youth Commission			
Name (First, Middle, Last): <i>Bryant Hoang Mai</i>			
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:

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'm passionate about water and environmental issues that surround water. I want to learn more about what local government is doing to help the environment to prevent future problems like climate, drought, pollution.

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

I'm confident in sharing my opinions, even when my view differs from the majority. Being apart of clubs, student board, and being an avid outdoors man has helped me build leadership skills while acknowledging the environmental water problems in local parks.

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

As someone who is familiar with local environmental water issues, and confident to speak up, I am able to bring unique ideas with the intention of bettering natural habits and their surrounding areas.

Are you available to attend committee meetings when scheduled? (please go to 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: _____



Valley Water

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.

Preferred Name (if different from application):	
School attending during the upcoming school year: <i>Oak Grove High School</i>	Grade level during the upcoming school year: <i>11th grade</i>
Extra-Curricular Activities: <i>Student government Cherish The Children org board Advocacy club board</i>	Favorite Subjects: <i>Math analysis AP World</i>
<p>To identify your director, go to 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.</p>	
Board Member's Name: <i>John L. Varela</i>	Board Member District #: <i>#1</i>

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 young people in Santa Clara County face are: limited access to drinking water without reliance on plastic bottles, lack of education in the environment, and disconnection from nature. If appointed, I will use my position to advocate for lifestyle changes where water bottles will become less common, and less used. I would also suggest the youth commission to propose new policies towards water filters in newly built homes.

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?

From being on the Youth Commission, I hope to gain new perspectives on the environment from local students my age. I would also like to gain experience in policy making in order to feel more involved in my community. I believe I can contribute new realistic policies that are needed in Santa Clara County. I believe that is actually

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: Tracy Mai

Applicant Signature: Tracy Mai

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): Tracy Mai

Relationship (print): Mother

Parent/Guardian signature: Tracy Mai

Date: 5/26/2025



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. 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. For assistance, please contact the Office of Civic Engagement at (408) 630-2876.

A. CONTACT INFORMATION

Name of Committee: Valley Water Youth Commission			
Name (First, Middle, Last): Chloe Jang			
Home Phone:	Work Phone: -	Cell Phone:	Fax: None
Mailing Address: (Street Address, City, State, ZIP)			
E-mail:			
If Applicable, Present Employer (Name and Address): N/A	Job Title: N/A		
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:
October 2023 - Now (ongoing)	Dreamkick Taekwondo	Teaching younger students Taekwondo, helping them practice their stretching and kicking, and volunteering at belt promotions.
8/24/24 - 5/17/2025	Silicon Valley Korean School	Spending about 4 hours every Saturday teaching children Korean at Cupertino High School as well as volunteering on the Korean School's field day and other special cultural events.

C. INTEREST AND AVAILABILITY

How did you hear about this committee opening?

District Website

Social media

Committee Member (please specify):

School

Director (please specify):

Other (please specify): Parent/Community

Please describe your interest in serving on this committee:

When I opened the Valley Water Youth Commission webpage, I was immediately hooked. Throughout my school years, I have discovered my deep passion for science- specifically environmental factors such as water sustainability. I love learning about things like how students just like me helped get their communities through environment crises. One example would be Mari Copeny and her involvement in the Flint water crisis back in 2014. When looking at the Youth Commission, I was entranced by the idea that I could collaborate with others to learn more about water conservation and give back to the community as well.

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

I have significant experience in volunteering and collaborating with others, as I have volunteered at my Taekwondo school for approximately 2.5 years and recently started volunteering at Silicon Valley Korean School, which I have now done for a year. I also excel in organizing events, as I was the president of one of my school clubs and planned out our meetings and functions. I have also applied and been accepted into various programs that educate about the environment, such as the Norman Mineta High School Summer Academy and Youth Climate Leadership Academy. But above all, I have a passion for science and education. For example, I take extra chemistry classes out of school to increase my own knowledge- but also love sharing that knowledge with others.

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

If accepted into the Youth Commission, I hope to give back to the community in several ways. Using my leadership skills, passion for environmental science, and creative thinking, I want to address issues such as the increasing concern surrounding droughts and climate change, as well as the lack of education focus around these issues. I will do this by helping to host community outreach or community service events to spread awareness about how students can contribute to help sustaining our environment, specifically, our water supply. I would like to make a difference in our community through a shared goal of maintaining a healthy and beautiful environment- starting with the water that we use every day.

Are you available to attend committee meetings when scheduled? (please go to 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.

Phone:

2.

Phone:



SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTIONNAIRE FOR A SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT COMMITTEE

Valley Water

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

Preferred Name (if different from application): Chloe Jang	
School attending during the upcoming school year: Adrian Wilcox High School	Grade level during the upcoming school year: 10th Grade
Extra-Curricular Activities: 1. Taekwondo 2. Cello 3. Language School Volunteering	Favorite Subjects: 1. Science 2. Music 3. Math
<p>To identify your director, go to 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.</p>	
Board Member's Name: Shiloh Ballard	Board Member District #: 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?

As a student who likes to be engaged and connected to her community, I feel that the top three issues young people in Santa Clara County are facing include drought, climate change, and a lack of educational focus around environmental issues. Drought and climate change are natural extreme events that happen all around the world, and as students here in California, we feel their effects much too often. Summers get increasingly hotter and drier, and there are frequent dry spells with a lack of rain- all these impacts are felt by us students, since we see those changes while attending school for most of the seasonal year. Additionally, the lack of educational focus around environmental issues is something that I have recently noticed. Although we do brush up on the topics of climate change and global warming, as well as other issues about environmental stewardship, we never really learn deeply about how we can help stop those changes in our environment. This is something I want to address if appointed. I would like to spread awareness about how students can contribute to sustaining a healthy and beautiful environment, whether through educational lectures at the library, community outreach efforts, local events, and more. I think events like these will have a big impact on the younger generations in our society, because I remember being greatly moved by any awareness-raising events I attended that advocated for a stronger participation in conserving our environment.

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 two key things. First is an even deeper insight and understanding on water conservation and sustainability than I already have. The second is the teamwork and advocating skills essential all throughout life. Although I already have a substantial amount of knowledge about water conservation, I want to broaden my horizons and learn even more about things such as where our water comes from, water quality and treatment, local dams and reservoirs, and much more. It is amazing that the Youth Commission gives students like me the chance to learn so much while also interacting with peers our age, which ultimately allows us to build the collaboration mindset that we're going to utilize not just now, but in our corporate worlds when we're older. If appointed, I aspire to contribute my passion, leadership abilities, and creativity, which are things that I try to apply to the majority of my life. I'm confident in my ability to generate out-of-the-box ideas and get them moving using my enthusiasm and natural communication skills. I'm ready to give my all while working in the Youth Commission, whether it's by learning about water sustainability, participating in community service, or planning outreach events to give other kids the same inspiration that movements like the Youth Commission give me.

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: Chloe Jang

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): JIHOON JANG

Relationship (print): FATHER

Parent/Guardian signature: 

Date: 5/25/25



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. 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. For assistance, please contact the Office of Civic Engagement at (408) 630-2876.

A. CONTACT INFORMATION

Name of Committee: Valley Water Youth Commission			
Name (First, Middle, Last): Sruthi Manoj			
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:
8/19/24 - Present (weekly except for holidays)	Chapter President at StemForOthers (a nonprofit led by high schoolers)	I tutor elementary students at Abram Agnew School about coding. I am also in charge of reaching out and coordinating with the schools. For next year, I have created an environmental science curriculum with hands-on activities.
11/16/24 - Present	Tech Interactive Museum Volunteer	I maintain the exhibits, interact with the guests, and run certain educational programs.
4/1/23	Cleanup at Doerr Park	I helped clear a park of branches that fell down due to the rain. I also assisted in clearing an area from ivy.

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'd love to connect with others and get more involved in local programs. I believe tackling water scarcity starts with individual voluntary changes in consumption practices. That's why I want to learn more about how I can do my part and how I can raise awareness about the importance of this as well.

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

I have experience in running, managing, and organizing programs through my past volunteer experience. I have also done extensive research in water conservation. Last year, a friend and I wrote a research paper which developed an algorithm to optimize water usage in solar panel cleaning. Next, I plan to research smart irrigation and leak detection to minimize water pollution.

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

I can offer informed input about recent developments in this field based on my research experience. I also always try to remain updated on real policies and ongoing initiatives, such as the Delta Conveyance Project. So, I can focus on projects addressing key local issues. I'm committed to the roles I take on, whether it be a tutor, a researcher, or a Youth Commissioner, and I strive to help others realize that their actions matter.

Are you available to attend committee meetings when scheduled? (please go to 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:



Valley Water

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.

Preferred Name (if different from application):	
School attending during the upcoming school year: BASIS Independent Silicon Valley	Grade level during the upcoming school year: 10
Extra-Curricular Activities: I compete in Science Olympiad and USACO. I am the president of the Science Olympiad club and an officer of the Research in Semiconductor and AI club. For Science Olympiad, I'm currently preparing to compete in Remote Sensing for climate change event. I also tutor and create curricula for environmental science for StemForOthers.	Favorite Subjects: Environmental Science, Physics, Computer Science
<p>To identify your director, go to 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.</p>	
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?

(See Page 5)

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?

(See Page 6)

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: Sruthi Manoj

Applicant Signature: Sruthi

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): Ranjani Ramaseshan

Relationship (print): Mother

Parent/Guardian signature: Ranjani

Date: 5/25/25

Q1: 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 young people face are lack of understanding of the problem, lack of efficacy, and lack of awareness of local activism opportunities.

For the first issue, many people have a lack of knowledge about the nature of water scarcity and real consequences of water pollution. I believe that it's very important to show them how water scarcity and pollution can affect them and their environment directly.

The second issue is young people can still feel distant from these problems. They can feel that their individual actions can't help in the big picture. This is why one of my goals as Youth Commissioner would be to show people how they underestimate the impact of their individual consumption practices. One of the ideas I have would be to associate real data or visualizations to show how change begins with one person. Past personal motivations, other incentives would also be something to consider.

Lastly, it can be hard to understand how one can get involved with local decision-making. Programs that connect the people to real projects need to be advertised more in school environments.

Overall, these problems discourage people from actively changing their lifestyle or reaching out to committees like this Youth Committee. Tackling these issues would allow us to better consider the problem of water scarcity on a case by case basis, taking youth feedback and the varying situations in different localities into consideration. As a Youth Commissioner, I want to help fix these issues by working on real community projects, raising awareness in schools, and making environmental issues feel personal and doable. Whether that means helping organize cleanups, creating student outreach campaigns, or simply talking to people about how they can start making small changes, I want to be someone who helps connect students to action.

Q2: What do you hope to gain from being on the Youth Commission? What do you think you can contribute by being on the Youth Commission?

I want to learn how to create real change regarding water use and environmental awareness, and I believe that the Youth Commission would equip me with the tools and abilities to do so. I'm also excited to work with peers who care about the same issues. I hope to continue advocating and researching about water conservation beyond my term in this Commission.

I realized how important this issue is when my family and I spent a year installing turf in our yard to cut down on water use, especially because it was drought season at the time. It was a small act, but it showed me how local actions, even at the household level, can make a difference. I realized that water conservation isn't just something we read about; it's something we do. Since then, I started noticing more signs of water waste and pollution around me. Last year, I was biking on one of my favorite trails, Alviso Slough Trail. This is usually a very peaceful trail through the wetlands, near a lake. However, I was surprised to see dirty, stagnant water and that the color of the lake had turned into an ominous purple. It made me wish I could do more, beyond my own home, to help clean and protect our shared environment so others could enjoy it too. That's why I was excited to see that the Youth Commission had recently worked on the Creekside Community Care Project, which was about environmental cleanup.

I want to bring this mindset and perspective to the Youth Commission. Backed by my research experience, I would contribute creative and actionable ideas for raising awareness and for promoting sustainable practices. I'm looking forward to supporting and inspiring peers as we develop solutions for a more sustainable future.



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. 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. For assistance, please contact the Office of Civic Engagement at (408) 630-2876.

A. CONTACT INFORMATION

Name of Committee: Valley Water Youth Commission			
Name (First, Middle, Last): Jaeden M. Weigand			
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-October 2024	TownCats Rescue	Took care of cats at a shelter and cleaned the shelter
November 2024-current	Santa Clara County Parks	Worked on various projects in Santa Teresa Park to help restore native marshlands—such as removing invasive plants from the area
March-May 2025	Santa Clara County Parks	Assisted with removal of the invasive canadian goose around Calero Reservoir through egg addling. Worked/communicated with peers to locate nests.

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): Mom who is a SCVWD	<input type="checkbox"/> School
<input type="checkbox"/> Director (please specify): Mom who is a SCVWD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): Mom who is a SCVWD

Please describe your interest in serving on this committee:

I have a strong interest in environmental stewardship and find that this committee will give me the opportunity to continue this interest on a larger scale. I have worked on small volunteer projects, but I would love to be in a position where I can plan these projects to address problems that I see in my own community. Not only will I be able to plan these projects, but also communicate with like-minded peers from my community and learn from them.

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

I have worked with the Santa Clara County Parks program in carrying out various projects to help preserve our local environment. These include habitat restoration and invasive plant/animal species removal. Additionally, I have a strong interest in environmental science and am taking AP Environmental Science where I have learned about what it means to be an environmental steward and what are some of the most pressing environmental issues in our area.

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

I am extremely passionate when it comes to environmental issues and what we can do as a community to fix them. Because of this, I am very motivated to tackle various issues through different projects and ask the community what we could benefit from so I can include it in our projects. Additionally, I am comfortable planning many events and coordinating things, so I can help to make things like environmental stewardship and education more approachable for people in my community.

Are you available to attend committee meetings when scheduled? (please go to 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. _____ Phone: _____



SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTIONNAIRE FOR A SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT COMMITTEE

Valley Water

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

Preferred Name (if different from application): Jae Weigand	
School attending during the upcoming school year: Leland High School	Grade level during the upcoming school year: Senior
Extra-Curricular Activities: -Volunteer for Santa Clara County Parks	Favorite Subjects: Biology, Environmental Science, U.S. History
<p>To identify your director, go to 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.</p>	
Board Member's Name: Jim Beall	Board Member District #: 4

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 find that many young people in Santa Clara County don't have enough access to information on environmental stewardship, both what it means and why its important to partake in it. Additionally, water resources are an issue that especially lack a strong presence in our education at school and what we see online. Many youth are also facing a stigma around volunteer work/community involvement, with a lot of people thinking its not worth their time or uncool. I hope to address these issues through working on the Youth Commission by encouraging more education on why volunteer work is something beyond what we do to be eligible to graduate, and that it actually benefits us in our daily lives, either through a prettier environment or being in better health because of better quality water in our community. This could be done through working with other board members to lead clubs in our own high schools in Santa Clara that could teach students about environmental stewardship and local environmental issues, or through having segments in each schools news channels about why its important to be aware of local environmental issues. I find that social media accounts are also an effective way to get across information to a large number of youth, so creating accounts either connected to specific schools/districts or to Santa Clara County as a whole to talk about local environmental issues is something I would propose.

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?

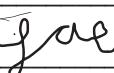
From the Youth Commission, I'm looking to build my leadership and communication skills, find like-minded peers who also want to engage in projects to help our local environment, and have a greater chance to enact changes that I want to see in my community concerning environmental health. Being part of an official board is also something that I think will prepare me well for future jobs, especially those in the environmental science field. Regarding what I can contribute, my passion for environmental work stands out the most. I have been involved in volunteer work with the Santa Clara County parks, been in multiple environmental clubs, and have grown up learning about water resources and environmental science as a whole from my mom who works at the water district. I can use my knowledge about environmental issues from these experiences to help inspire projects and discussions in the commission. Additionally, I am eager to have a position where I can plan projects that bring more noticeable changes to our local environment, particularly concerning water resources, and I know that my dedication to these issues will reflect well in my contributions to the Youth Commission.

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: Jae Weigand

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): Jeannine Larabee

Mother

Relationship (print):

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. 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. For assistance, please contact the Office of Civic Engagement at (408) 630-2876.

A. CONTACT INFORMATION

Name of Committee: Valley Water Youth Commission			
Name (First, Middle, Last): Vikram Devaru			
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:
11/2/2024 - Present	The Tech Interactive	Help visitors and children at the Tech Interactive with science projects and operate exhibits at the museum.
01/29/2025 - Present	Garden to Table SV	Share information about the sustainable farming methods at the farm and also help plant and harvest vegetables, care for chickens, and turn compost.
6/12/2024 - 08/09/2024	San Jose Public Library – Teens Reach	Help with book sales, shelving and library community events, facilitate workshops with young children.

DATE(s):	NAME:	RESPONSIBILITIES/EXPERIENCE:
10/17/2024-Present	San Jose Youth Climate Action Team (SJYCAT)	Work with others in SJYCAT to help propose climate legislation, email city council representatives, educate the local community about climate bills and action.
07/13/2024-07/21/2024	History San Jose	Educate visitors about the park, and run stations within the park that engage visitors in different activities (e.g Bicycle Handlebar Streamers)
05/11/2025	CYS Community Concert	Performed in a community concert with California Youth Symphony at Palo Alto Community center.
02/16/2024	SV Homeless Shelter	We volunteered to cook meals for the residents of the Shelter and used ingredients that we donated, and that the shelter provided. The washing, chopping and cleaning was all done by students. When we were done we also helped clean up the space and wash the dishes.
06/01/2024	Veggielution	Cooked meals for the local community. Veggielution provided the vegetables, and we chopped the vegetables and made it into a salad for the community.

C. INTEREST AND AVAILABILITY

How did you hear about this committee opening?

District Website

Social media

Committee Member (please specify):

School

Director (please specify):

Other (please specify):

Please describe your interest in serving on this committee:

My interest in water first started with a school project on Riparian Zone Restoration. I continued with another water project with school's Science Club where we tracked the movement of microplastics around San Jose over the course of the rainy season and proposed to city council as to where they should put bioswales to prevent these microplastics from entering our rivers. Our project won Stockholm Regional Junior Water Prize at Synopsis Science Fair. Now I would like to pursue the interest further as a Youth Commissioner. Cambridge University's Climate Circle states that in order to solve climate change, we must work on a social and political level. At Valley Water, I can promote water knowledge to a broader audience and make impact at a larger scale. .

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

As the president of my school's student council (STUCO), I have planned many events for over 300 people such as movie nights and ice skating socials. Others have said that I am good with budget and logistical planning. As a part of valley water, I want to continue to help plan events that benefit my local community.

I am also an ambassador for my school and my orchestra. I am able to attract others and provide them with a fun experience at these organizations! As a part of SJYCAT and my school I have contacted some city council members, so I am familiar with this type of advocacy.

I earn speaking and explanation skills through my weekly podcast (viktherandom.com) that let me better connect with youth and other community members. I am very passionate about educating others, and my podcast explains complicated topics (how ChatGPT works, water purification, computer) in a fun and simple method, while still retaining all of the details.

I also have used many tools for many of my science projects such as Cal Open Data Portal and CalHHS (even though it's not water related). I also have experience in using ArcGIS to compare maps, but also to create tables, graphs and other visualizations.

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

I can bring in my research of problems within San Jose to areas around Santa Clara. I want to be able to make real change and my participation in this committee will allow me to do so. The community will be able to have an opinion from someone who commutes through a part of San Jose daily, and also who has done research in what sometimes affects their livelihood. Because of this, I know the city extremely well and what problems we are facing. I will be able to best represent the individuals in the city and best provide support for all community members.

Are you available to attend committee meetings when scheduled? (please go to 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

Valley Water

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

Preferred Name (if different from application):	
School attending during the upcoming school year: Hillbrook School	Grade level during the upcoming school year: 10
Extra-Curricular Activities: Violin (Lessons), Violin (Symphony), Chinese Lessons, Debate, Robotics, Science Club, Crosscountry, Tennis	Favorite Subjects: Bio-Chemistry, Physics, Spanish, History
<p>To identify your director, go to 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.</p>	
Board Member's Name: Jim Beall	Board Member District #: 4

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?

Many youth don't know where their water comes from. They aren't aware of the massive amounts of energy required to transport water to the Santa Clara Valley. Whenever I ask my friends to not waste water when washing their hands, they reply by saying that there was just a heavy rainfall, so they don't have to worry. Rather than simply telling people they need to save water, we need to show them, otherwise it is hard to invoke advocacy. During drought, we can show them why they need to save water, not just tell them. Through my experience in STUCO and SJYCAT, I will be able to host more events such as these to show people where their water comes from.

The second problem is the lack of in person experiences which motivate youth to take action. At my school when I learned about the wildfires, I heard about the impact, but the true devastation only hit me when we took a trip to Big Basin. It is hard to spur action by only talking about the impacts. Valley water can show the youth the impact and the solutions by engaging them in these types of activities, because it is this visualization that motivate them to take action. As a youth commissioner, I will have the chance to come up with interactive ideas that young people will find engaging. This will remove this gap for people really interested in water and proper water management. This education will allow people to feel more connected.

The final problem is that many youth don't know how to make the most impact with their actions. The oil industry is shaping our culture by making us believe that the climate crisis is an individual issue (see the Crying Indian ad). This is because the oil industry is working on a larger and more political and cultural scale (such as making us think that climate change is an individual issue). The Climate Circles of possibility from Cambridge University state that large scale change can only be made if we work on a political and cultural level. Engagement with government organizations, such as Valley Water, will show people how to work culturally and politically and make these larger changes. With Valley Water, I can show to my peers that not only we can contribute positively at individual level, but also at an organizational and social level.

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 very interested in water management and resource management, and I hope to learn much more about this on the Youth Commission. I am interested in learning the processes for distributing water, the thoughts behind the distribution, and what different ponds' purpose are for. Are they simply just groundwater recharge ponds, or do they do more? I want to dive deeper into water related work in the future and Valley Water will help me in that goal. I also hope to learn many skills with organizing larger events and working with government organization. This will allow me to fuel my passion of and work better with others.

I think I can contribute a lot with my local knowledge and my education skills that I've gained through my podcast and my school. I have done a lot of research into water and I've travelled to different places (such as Inian Islands, Alaska) to learn about resource and water management. I can contribute with my thoughts and my different perspectives that come from these experiences. But, truly, because I have so much more to learn, I hope that when I join the Youth Commission, I will be able to take the information that I learn, connect it to many other of my learnings and research and make valuable and unique contributions.

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: Vikram Devaru

Applicant Signature: 

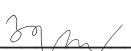
Date: 05/24/2025

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): Jing Guo

Relationship (print): Mother

Parent/Guardian signature: 

Date: 05/25/2025



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. 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. For assistance, please contact the Office of Civic Engagement at (408) 630-2876.

A. CONTACT INFORMATION

Name of Committee: Valley Water Youth Commission			
Name (First, Middle, Last): Kevin Chen			
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:
Weekly	Music Tutoring Volunteering	I tutor middle school students in music weekly for free
Bi-monthly	Music at Senior Homes	I volunteer to play music at senior homes
	Eagle Project Service	I helped friends complete various eagle projects

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 have a special connection with and passion for water. Being a competitive swimmer for the past 9 years, I've spent hours in water every single day. Water quality, cleanliness, and conservation concern me. I am especially interested in green technology and water sustainability. I've worked on a research project involving using acoustic waves to clean microplastics out of water, which won a category award at the Synopsys science fair, and this made me appreciate how much we needed to come up with creative ways to clean water from pollution. As a lifeguard, I also know how clean water is necessary for public safety and recreation. Bringing this together with my interest in technology and leadership, I want to conserve water resources both through science and civil society action. I hope to join this committee to give back

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

I've been part of the Saratoga Youth Commission, where I helped organize city events and learned about how the local government operates. As a lifeguard, I understand the importance of water conservation and safety. I also possess leadership ability as a swim team captain, trombone section leader in band, and through my research project (filtering out microplastics in water using acoustic waves). I've been elected to the student council since elementary school and middle school.

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

The community would benefit from my leadership, teamwork, and creative thinking. I'm committed to helping others learn about water issues in a format that involves youth—school clubs, performances, or peer-to-peer. I'm passionate, I get things done, and I aim to make environmental activism fun and accessible to everyone.

Are you available to attend committee meetings when scheduled? (please go to 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.

Preferred Name (if different from application):	
School attending during the upcoming school year: Saratoga High School	Grade level during the upcoming school year: 11
Extra-Curricular Activities: Marching Band (Section Leader) Swim Team Captain Saratoga Youth Commission Band (Saratoga Wind Ensemble and Saratoga Symphony Orchestra) Lifeguard Science Research in Water Filtration	Favorite Subjects: Math Physics Environmental Science
<p>To identify your director, go to 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.</p>	
Board Member's Name: Nai Hsueh	Board Member District #: 5

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 three most pressing environmental issues of Santa Clara County youth today—specifically as they relate to water and stewardship—are water shortage, lack of education on sustainable solutions, and the absence of youth representation in policy making. As a Red Cross-certified lifeguard, I have a front-row seat to how integral clean, safe water is to our lives every day—and how easy it is to take it for granted. Droughts and water scarcity are no longer future possibilities; they directly affect how we use water in public facilities and households. The majority of young people are not conscious of how their actions affect the quality and availability of water locally. Second, there is an obvious lack of environmental education. While students are often enthusiastic about the environment, they lack tools, resources, or guidance to act. From my involvement with the Saratoga Youth Commission, I've discovered that if youth are given information, they will be the leaders in their communities. Third, I believe that a lot of students don't understand how their own passions—such as music, sports, or technology—can be environmental solutions. Being involved in marching band, wind ensemble, symphony orchestra, and clubs like TRI-M (music tutoring volunteering) and MESH (volunteering to play music at senior homes), I've learned how to use leadership, creativity, and mentoring to build community. I believe those same skills can be used to help advance environmental literacy. Whether it is holding a

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 really believe this is an awesome opportunity not just to learn, but to be able to directly contribute to something that matters to all of us—our water. What I would hope to gain from working on the Youth Commission is information regarding water management and how water policy is created at the local level. I am especially interested in learning about how youth voices can have an impact on environmental decisions and promoting sustainable practices. Working on this commission will help me develop leadership and communication skills. I would like to learn advocacy skills, teamwork, and public interaction—skills that would be useful for any profession, especially if I choose environmental science or public service. I would also like to get to know people with similar interests and learn from them on how they are dedicated to saving our planet. With regards to what I can provide, I am already fairly experienced in water filtration. I've always been passionate about all things water related, as I am a competitive swimmer, I love skiing, and I work as a lifeguard at the local pool. Furthermore, I've recently done a research project on using acoustic waves to filter microplastics in water, which furthered my passion for water. I'm the section leader of my school's marching band, so I hope to bring leadership and collaboration to the table. Additionally, I am a part of the Saratoga Youth Commission, which I hope prepares me

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: Kevin Chen
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): Jian chen
Relationship (print): Father
Parent/Guardian signature: 
Date: 5/26/25

Describe your interests

I have a special connection with and passion for water. Being a competitive swimmer for the past 9 years, I've spent hours in water every single day. Water quality, cleanliness, and conservation concern me.

I am especially interested in green technology and water sustainability. I've worked on a research project involving using acoustic waves to clean microplastics out of water, which won a category award at the Synopsys science fair, and this made me appreciate how much we needed to come up with creative ways to clean water from pollution.

As a lifeguard, I also know how clean water is necessary for public safety and recreation. Bringing this together with my interest in technology and leadership, I want to conserve water resources both through science and civil society action.

I hope to join this committee to learn more and contribute back to these important issues regarding water.

Relevant Qualifications

I've been part of the Saratoga Youth Commission, where I helped organize city events and learned about how the local government operates.

As a lifeguard, I understand the importance of water conservation and safety. I also possess leadership ability as a swim team captain, trombone section leader in band, and through my research project (filtering out microplastics in water using acoustic waves).

I've been elected to the student council since elementary school and middle school.

How would the community benefit

The community would benefit from my leadership, teamwork, and creative thinking. I'm committed to helping others learn about water issues in a format that involves youth—school clubs, performances, or peer-to-peer. I'm passionate, I get things done, and I aim to make environmental activism fun and accessible to everyone.

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 three most pressing environmental issues of Santa Clara County youth today—specifically as they relate to water and stewardship—are water shortage, lack of education on sustainable solutions, and the absence of youth representation in policy making.

As a Red Cross-certified lifeguard, I have a front-row seat to how integral clean, safe water is to our lives every day—and how easy it is to take it for granted. Droughts and water scarcity are no longer future possibilities; they directly affect how we use water in public facilities and households. The majority of young people are not conscious of how their actions affect the quality and availability of water locally.

Second, there is an obvious lack of environmental education. While students are often enthusiastic about the environment, they lack tools, resources, or guidance to act. From my involvement with the Saratoga Youth Commission, I've discovered that if youth are given information, they will be the leaders in their communities.

Third, I believe that a lot of students don't understand how their own passions—such as music, sports, or technology—can be environmental solutions. Being involved in marching band, wind ensemble, symphony orchestra, and clubs like TRI-M (music tutoring volunteering) and MESH (volunteering to play music at senior homes), I've learned how to use leadership, creativity, and mentoring to build community. I believe those same skills can be used to help advance environmental literacy. Whether it is holding a benefit concert to help raise money or teaching students about sustainability, we can all play a role. If appointed, I'll bring my passion for teamwork, leadership, and service to raise awareness about local water issues, connect with schools and city leaders, and help create more opportunities for youth involvement.

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 really believe this is an awesome opportunity not just to learn, but to be able to directly contribute to something that matters to all of us—our water. What I would hope to gain from working on the Youth Commission is information regarding water management and how water policy is created at the local level. I am especially interested in learning about how youth voices can have an impact on environmental decisions and promoting sustainable practices. Working on this commission will help me develop leadership and communication skills. I would like to learn advocacy skills, teamwork, and public interaction—skills that would be useful for any profession, especially if I choose environmental science or public service. I would also like to get to know people with similar interests and learn from them on how they are dedicated to saving our planet. With regards to what I can provide, I am already fairly experienced in water filtration. I've always been passionate about all things water related, as I am a competitive swimmer, I love skiing, and I work as a lifeguard at the local pool. Furthermore, I've recently done a research project on using acoustic waves to filter microplastics in water, which furthered my passion for water. I'm the section leader of my school's marching band, so I hope to bring leadership and collaboration to the table. Additionally, I am a part of the Saratoga Youth Commission, which I hope prepares me well for the Water Youth Commission.



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. 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. For assistance, please contact the Office of Civic Engagement at (408) 630-2876.

A. CONTACT INFORMATION

Name of Committee: Valley Water Youth Commission			
Name (First, Middle, Last): Shrehan, Chatterjee			
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:

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:

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 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:



Valley Water

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.

Preferred Name (if different from application):	
School attending during the upcoming school year: Monta Vista High School	Grade level during the upcoming school year: 11th
Extra-Curricular Activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- MV Speech- FBLA- Research	Favorite Subjects: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Physics- Business
<p>To identify your director, go to 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.</p>	
Board Member's Name: Nai Hsueh	Board Member District #: 5

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?

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: Shrehan Chatterjee

Applicant Signature: Shrehan C.

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): Soumen Chatterjee

Relationship (print): Father

Parent/Guardian signature: S.C

Date: 5/26/25

Additional Pages:

B. Volunteer Experience

Dates	Name	Responsibilities
August 2024	Second Harvest Food Drive	I volunteered with Second Harvest of Silicon Valley, where I helped distribute food to families in need across the Santa Clara community. Through this experience, I gained a deeper understanding of local resource insecurity and the importance of efficient distribution systems. I had the opportunity to speak with struggling families and individuals face to face and help them out, which was a very fulfilling experience, and furthered my interest in serving my community.
October 2024 - March 2025 (2 hours per week)	Monta Vista Speech and Debate	I volunteered with MV Speech, where I taught public speaking skills to middle school students. This role allowed me to mentor younger peers, helping them build confidence, structure speeches, and express their ideas clearly. It deepened my appreciation for communication as a powerful tool for leadership and advocacy, skills I hope to bring to the Water Youth Commission in promoting water awareness and community engagement across our youth and citizens.

September 2024 - January 2025 (2 hours per week)	Community Service Volunteering	<p>As part of FBLA, I led a community service project focused on reducing food waste in local schools. We organized awareness events at libraries and school campuses to educate students and families about the environmental impact of food waste and simple strategies to minimize it. We volunteered at places like the YMCA and the Cupertino Library to hold composting sessions and workshops. This experience taught me how outreach and education can drive behavioral change, and it inspired me to tackle other environmental issues, like water conservation, with the same community-based approach.</p>
--	--------------------------------	---

C. Interest and Availability

Please describe your interest in serving on this committee:

Through various activities, I've developed a strong interest in water-related projects, research, and service. More specifically, I'm passionate about protecting our local water systems and ensuring a sustainable future for our community. Through science projects I've conducted on harmful algal blooms (HABs) and how degrading rubber affects aquatic environments, I've explored the deep connection between water quality, pollution, and ecosystem health. These experiences made me realize how critical it is to involve young people in water advocacy, not just in research, but in education and policy as well.

What draws me to this commission specifically is its commitment to hands-on learning and real community impact. Initiatives like the Creek Stewardship and Water Quality Project, which educates commissioners about water quality through interactive activities and lab tours, and the Youth Citizen Science Network, which fosters collaboration with science organizations on water-related projects, really stand out to me as ways I can actively contribute while continuing to grow. I want to use my background and enthusiasm to help raise awareness,

collaborate with others, and bring creative solutions to challenges like water conservation and pollution, which are issues that I personally care about significantly.

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 environmental research experience, public speaking skills, and community engagement that make me well-suited for the Valley Water Youth Commission. I've conducted independent research projects on predicting harmful algal blooms in California and the effects of degrading rubber on aquatic environments, which gave me a solid understanding of water quality challenges and the science behind them. I received two third place awards at the Synopsys Science Fair as well as a regional nomination for the Junior Stockholm Water Prize for my work, and am in the process of publishing to a peer-reviewed journal.

I'm also skilled in communicating complex environmental issues to different audiences, through my volunteer work teaching public speaking to middle school students and running community events to reduce food waste as part of FBLA. As part of my community service in FBLA, I received a third place award at the state level, as well as a second place for an environmental data-science project. I was also accepted into COSMOS for an environmental-related program, which further highlights my continued interest in sustainability and water related skills I can apply in the Water Youth Commission.

I've volunteered with Second Harvest Food Bank and participated in local environmental outreach, which taught me the importance of teamwork, leadership, and civic responsibility, while earning volunteer hours. I'm confident in my ability to contribute thoughtfully to group discussions, engage with diverse perspectives, and help plan impactful community service initiatives aligned with the commission's goals.

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

As a member of the Valley Water Youth Commission, I would help the community by directly contributing to outreach campaigns that promote water conservation and pollution prevention. For example, I can help organize and lead student workshops at local libraries or schools to raise awareness about water quality issues like runoff pollution and harmful algal blooms, topics I've previously researched in depth. I also have experience planning and promoting awareness events through FBLA, which I can apply to create engaging campaigns that support the Commission's initiatives, such as Creek Cleanups or Youth Citizen Science projects.

Additionally, I can help improve community participation in projects like the annual Earth Day celebration by designing youth-led informational booths, hands-on activities, or social media challenges that target students in Cupertino and Santa Clara. With my background

teaching public speaking, I can help other youth commissioners or volunteers present at city meetings, classroom visits, or commission-led events more effectively. My goal would be to make Valley Water's youth-led efforts more visible, engaging, and educational across schools and neighborhoods in our region.

Supplemental Questionnaire:

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?

1. Drought and Water Supply Reliability

Santa Clara County's ongoing drought means mandatory water-use restrictions and mounting stress on our groundwater basins. Many teens don't realize that over 30% of our urban water comes from local aquifers, which recharge slowly and face overdraft risks. I would partner with Valley Water's Groundwater Recharge Program to bring pop-up "Recharge 101" demos to high schools, showing students how stormwater capture works and distributing free rain barrels through the Water-Efficient Landscape Rebate initiative, to help spread awareness about our water source among youth.

2. Urban Runoff & Creek Pollution

After every heavy rain, streets funnel oil, trash, and bacteria into Coyote and Stevens Creeks, closing popular swim spots and harming habitats. To tackle this, I can help organize stenciling events under Valley Water's Safe, Clean Water & Natural Flood Protection Program, training peers to mark drains with stencils and leading creek water-quality testing through the Youth Citizen Science Network. Additionally, I will focus more on creek-side cleanups through service and volunteering.

3. Low Youth Engagement in Water Policy

Despite living downstream of major decisions, most high schoolers feel excluded from water-management conversations. I'll leverage my public-speaking background to host "Youth Voices at the Board" workshops, with events such as mock water-district hearings where students draft policy proposals (ex. school-yard rain gardens) and then present them to actual Valley Water staff. This mirrors the Commission's mission to advise the Board on public outreach and water-education programs, as well as promoting awareness and action about water related issues in our community among youth.

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

Serving on the Valley Water Youth Commission would allow me to deepen my interest in water science and environmental policy while contributing meaningfully to my community. I'm especially interested in exploring water quality, drought resilience, and youth education around sustainable water usage. While I've already studied issues like harmful algal blooms and the impact of degrading rubber on aquatic systems, I want to go beyond the science by understanding how water management decisions are made and how youth can be a part of that process. This Commission offers the unique opportunity to engage in civic learning, participate in water-related projects, and advise the Board, all while advocating for long-term water sustainability in our region. My end goal is to create a tangible impact in the community around me about an issue I've explored mainly from a science perspective so far, not necessarily direct action and policy. I'm also more than excited to spend time volunteering and picking up waste for a cause which I love to support.

I believe I can contribute a strong combination of outreach skills and scientific curiosity. Through FBLA, I've helped organize community awareness campaigns on environmental issues at libraries and schools, and I've taught younger students in public speaking programs. These experiences would allow me to communicate water issues in a relatable way to diverse youth audiences, something which the Commission values. Whether it's helping plan a community clean-up, contributing to educational outreach, or giving youth perspective on water issues facing Santa Clara County, I'm ready to bring energy, initiative, and a willingness to learn and lead in areas that truly matter, and about an issue which matters to me personally.



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. 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. For assistance, please contact the Office of Civic Engagement at (408) 630-2876.

A. CONTACT INFORMATION

Name of Committee: Valley Water Youth Commission			
Name (First, Middle, Last): Erik M. Garcia			
Home Phone:	Work Phone:	Cell Phone:	Fax:
Mailing Address: (Street Address, City, State, ZIP)			
E-mail:			
If Applicable, Present Employer (Name and Address): NA	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:
Thanksgiving 2021-2024	Downtown Streets Team	Assisted in preparing Thanksgiving Meal for the homeless. I prepped the food, cooked 18 trays of green beans, transported and served food.
November 2024	Campaign for Congressman Sam Liccardo	Helped with the Campaign for the now elected Congressman Sam Liccardo, distributed flyers door to door, assisted in town halls held for the

C. INTEREST AND AVAILABILITY

How did you hear about this committee opening?

District Website

Social media

Committee Member (please specify):

School

Director (please specify):

Other (please specify):

Please describe your interest in serving on this committee:

I have a interest in joining the Valley Water Youth Commission for two reasons, first is I enjoy riding my bike as I live close to many bike trails which go along waterways such as Guadalupe River and Coyote Creek. I see first hand the issues in the San Jose waterways and secondly I enjoy fishing and understand the importance of maintaining waterways for environmental reasons.

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

I feel qualified for this commission because I have extensive knowledge of wildlife and ecosystem that the San Clara County waterways support. I have also helped clear waterways during the heavy rain season to help ensure the water drains properly and minimizes debris getting into the waterways. Along with being part of beach clean up crews similarly I have volunteered with the non profit Downtown Streets Team which helps beautify San Jose parks and creeks.

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

The community would benefit from my participation because I speak to many in my community about issues with waterways such as local fishermen who have expressed their concern for the lack of fish in the Guadalupe River due to pollution. I am also bilingual in Spanish and could reach additional community members when trying to educate and bring awareness to issues concerning our local waterways.

Are you available to attend committee meetings when scheduled? (please go to 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?

NA

D. EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

In case of emergency, contact:

1. Name: _____ Phone: _____

2. Name: _____ Phone: _____



Valley Water

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.

Preferred Name (if different from application):	
School attending during the upcoming school year: Willow Glen High School	Grade level during the upcoming school year: 11th
Extra-Curricular Activities: Soccer, Swimming, Surfing, Concurrent enrollment, Beach Clean up Club, Tutoring students in Math and helping translate curriculum to Spanish speaking	Favorite Subjects: Math, History, Science
<p>To identify your director, go to 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.</p>	
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?

There are many issues in Santa Clara County involving the water and the environment that effect young people. It's hard to choose just three, but if I have to choose the first would be pollution. All across Santa Clara parks and trails pollution is a major problem with garbage and debris all along the ways, this doesn't effect only the youth but also the wildlife as I have seen birds being injured or trapped in garbage and fish washing up dead and caught in plastic. The second issue is the lack of biodiversity along the waterways such as Guadalupe River in Downtown San Jose there is no space for wildlife along the river as it goes from river to bike trail leaving no space for anything else. In some of the parts that there is space its cement which is not sustainable for supporting wildlife. The third issue is the lack of education surrounding the local environment and current environmental issues. I see this among my peers at school who don't know about any wildlife or how to help with the environmental issues. If appointed to the Youth Commission I would share my first hand experience of issues in the environment and help educate youth about what they can do to help our local waterways and make a positive impact to the environment.

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 knowledge about how Valley Water works and deals with issues while being on the Youth Commission. I would like to learn how my generation can make a impact to our waterways and reverse some of the damage that has been caused. I am certain I can bring lots of personal experience with issues I have seen in the environment and especially along the waterways in Santa Clara County. I would like to help find solutions to the issues I have seen and be a voice for the youth that frequents the rivers and trails.

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: Erik Garcia

Applicant Signature: 

Date: 5/20/25

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): Erika Laguna

Relationship (print): Mother

Parent/Guardian signature: 

Date: 5/20/25



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. 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. For assistance, please contact the Office of Civic Engagement at (408) 630-2876.

A. CONTACT INFORMATION

Name of Committee: Valley Water Youth Commission			
Name (First, Middle, Last): Nhi Phuong Duong			
Home Phone: N/A	Work Phone: N/A	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? Yes No If Yes, please describe (if more space is needed, please attach additional pages): No			

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:
Jan 2nd, 2024 - June 5th, 2024	Leadership Student at Quimby Oak Middle School	Helping with school events, helping around campus with teachers and students. Setting up spirit days, making online posts, and setting up dances.
Sep 19th, 2024 - June 6th, 2025	Leadership Student at Evergreen Valley High School	Helping, setting and cleaning school events (HOCO, BOTC, Winterfest...) Helping teachers with documents and
Dec 20th, 2024 - June 6th, 2025	Intern ASB officer (Cougar Connections) at EVHS	Directed Shadow Day, Welcome Rally and Orientation week, Teacher Appreciation Week. Help directed BOTC and spirit days at EVHS.

And more, please take a look of my resume: [Nhi Duong Resume](#)

C. INTEREST AND AVAILABILITY

How did you hear about this committee opening?

District Website Social media

Please describe your interest in serving on this committee:

I'm more passionate than ever about serving the community and giving back in meaningful ways. Being on this committee would allow me to grow through new experiences, connect with others, and make a positive impact, not just in the community, but in my everyday life as well. I want to take this opportunity to actually learn and lead, along with contributing in any way I can.

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

I'm a teenager in San Jose, and I care deeply about environmental issues, especially water conservation and sustainability. I have experience leading community service projects, including a Youth Organization named Paws Action to collect, recycle and use the profit from there to support feral cats to have a better life. I believe the environment is the most important and the most expensive thing the universe has given this Earth, so protecting it is everyone's job, and I'm looking for opportunities to make a little bit more impact in my community.

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

I bring a strong passion for service, a willingness to listen and learn, and a drive to take action. As a student leader, I understand how to connect with youth and encourage others to care about issues like water conservation and environmental responsibility. I can help bridge the gap between Valley Water and young people in our area by bringing fresh ideas, spreading awareness, and supporting community outreach. My goal is to inspire more youth involvement and make a real, positive impact in the community.

Are you available to attend committee meetings when scheduled? (please go to valleywater.org/youthcommission for committee meeting schedule details) Yes No If No, please describe: Yes, hope to see you soon!

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

I do not require any accommodations, thank you so much!

D. EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

In case of emergency, contact:

1. Name:

2. Name:



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.

Preferred Name (if different from application):	
School attending during the upcoming school year: Evergreen Valley High School	Grade level during the upcoming school year: 10th Grade
Extra-Curricular Activities: Leadership Student, ASB officer (Cougar Connections), Paws Action Founder, and Colors in Dream Volunteer Coordinator.	Favorite Subjects: I like all of them, each subject has something I want to learn.
<p>To identify your director, go to 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.</p>	
Board Member's Name: Director Rebecca Eisenberg	Board Member District #: 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 young people in Santa Clara County face serious environmental challenges, including water scarcity due to droughts, pollution in local waterways, and the environmental impacts of homelessness. These issues affect both public health and the sustainability of our community. If appointed to the Youth Commission, I will work to raise awareness about water issues or concerns, like on social media or new marketing ways. By engaging in youth action that protects our natural resources and creates a cleaner environment with more young people who truly understand how to protect this environment, not just water.

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

I hope to gain leadership experience and a deeper understanding of how local government works, especially in an environment where I can work with more people and gain more perspective from them. I want to develop my personal skills like communication, teamwork, and problem solving while working on real life issues that impact people around me. I believe I can contribute new ideas and positive energy to the Youth Commission.

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: Nhi Duong

Applicant Signature: 

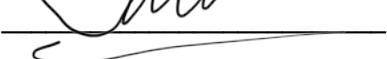
Date: 05/08/25

If the 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): Thi Duong

Relationship (print): Mother - Daughter 

Parent/Guardian signature: 

Date: 05/08/25

Form: Application for a Santa Clara Valley Water District



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. 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. For assistance, please contact the Office of Civic Engagement at (408) 630-2876.

A. CONTACT INFORMATION

Name of Committee: Valley Water Youth Commission			
Name (First, Middle, Last): Ellie Arielle Katz			
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:
10/24 - now, every other sunday	Friendship Circle	Friendship circle's goal is to give kids with special needs a friend. I have a buddy with down syndrome and autism, and she and I spend a few hours doing whatever she wants to do while making sure she +
6/11/24, 6/13/24, 6/20/24, 6/25/24, 6/27/24	Discovery Shop Volunteer	The American Cancer Society owns a chain of second hand stores called discovery shops. All profits from donations that are sold are donated to cancer research and patient support programs I worked +
10/13/24, 10/17/24, 10/20/24, 10/24/24, 10/27/24, 10/31/24	Patrick Ahrens Intern	I spent a month interning for Patrick Ahrens, who was running for State Assembly this past election. I canvassed and did phone banking to encourage +

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 interested in serving on the Santa Clara Valley Water District Youth Commission because I care deeply about the environment, and I want to do what I can to protect our community. Water is a critical and often overlooked resource, especially in California, due to how common droughts are. I want to be part of a group that works on addressing real-world issues affecting our county, and to learn more about everything I can do to preserve the water supply we have. +

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

I have strong communication and teamwork skills, which I've developed through volunteering and working with my dance team. I love talking to others about things I am passionate about, and spreading awareness about issues in our community. I've also learned a lot about the environment, both in and out of school, and I look forward to learning more about water conservation specifically.

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

As a teenager in Santa Clara County, I understand the importance of involving youth in decisions that affect our Earth. By serving on the Youth Commission, I bring a fresh and unique perspective to water sustainability issues. I believe that by educating young people on environmental issues, specifically water conservation, in more engaging ways, we can build a stronger and more informed community that can begin to protect and preserve our water supplies.

Are you available to attend committee meetings when scheduled? (please go to 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

Valley Water

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

Preferred Name (if different from application): Ellie Katz	
School attending during the upcoming school year: Mountain View High School	Grade level during the upcoming school year: 10th
Extra-Curricular Activities: Dance team, Math classes, Volunteering	Favorite Subjects: English and Math
<p>To identify your director, go to 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.</p>	
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 currently facing are trash pollution, lack of awareness, and water scarcity. Everywhere we go - from streets to creeks - there is waste. It's harming wildlife and contaminating our water supplies. Nevertheless, not enough is done to clean up our community, in part because many young people are unaware of the negative impacts on local ecosystems. Without an understanding of where our water comes from and how it gets polluted, teens have no idea how to fix the rising problem around them, or even how severe the problem is becoming. On top of this, California continues to face persistent droughts and unpredictable climate conditions, which have led to severe water shortages throughout the region. Combined with population growth and increased water demand, this creates a serious long-term challenge. If appointed, I will work to spread awareness about water scarcity through community projects and education. I want to help organize cleanups, create social media campaigns, and support organizations that promote water conservation. By connecting with other teens and amplifying our voices, I hope to make these environmental challenges more acknowledged for our generation.

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 decisions around water are made, and how we can work to save our water. I want to learn how to advocate effectively and connect with other passionate teens who care about the environment like I do. I believe I can contribute dedication and a strong desire to create positive change. I'm passionate about raising awareness around water conservation, pollution, and climate-related issues. I also have experience organizing events and working with peers to make ideas happen, which I think would be valuable on the commission. Most of all, I want to be a voice for students in our county and help bring attention to the issues that matter to us most.

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: Ellie Katz

Applicant Signature: Ellie Katz

Date: 5/20/25

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): Vadim Katz

Relationship (print): Father

Parent/Guardian signature: Vadim Katz

Date: 05/20/2025



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. 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. For assistance, please contact the Office of Civic Engagement at (408) 630-2876.

A. CONTACT INFORMATION

Name of Committee: Valley Water Youth Commission			
Name (First, Middle, Last): Shrishti Sinha			
Home Phone:	Work Phone:	Cell Phone:	Fax:
Mailing Address: (Street Address, City, State, ZIP)			
E-mail: ss50982@pausd.us			
If Applicable, Present Employer (Name and Address): N/A	Job Title: Student at Gunn High School, Palo Alto, CA Club President and Founder, "Power of Water" Club		
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): N/A			

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:
November 2024 – May 2025 (Present)	<u>President / Founder of the Power of Water Club at Gunn High School</u> (Freshman Year)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Partner with NJ based non-profit Power Of Clean Water, to raise awareness about Global Water CrisisOrganize interactive activities on water conservationOrganize community awareness events
April 2025 – May 2025 (Present)	<u>Gunn Foundation</u> <u>PiE(Partners in Education)</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Design Annual reports and other Marketing MaterialsVolunteer at community outreach events
September 2023 – May 2024	Yearbook Managing Editor	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Lead student teams for layout & content creationEnsured deadlines were metCollaborated with student groups

C. INTEREST AND AVAILABILITY

How did you hear about this committee opening?

District Website

Social media

Committee Member (please specify):

School

Director (please specify):

Other (please specify):

Please describe your interest in serving on this committee:

I am interested in serving on this committee since I'm deeply passionate about water conservation, especially as the global water crisis continues to worsen. When I visited India, I witnessed firsthand the struggles of rural communities that lack access to clean drinking water. One of our helpers shared how she had to walk miles every day just to collect water for her family; an experience that opened my eyes to the harsh reality millions face daily. This deeply impacted me and reinforced the urgency of addressing global water scarcity.

Living in California, a state constantly battling droughts, I have always understood the importance of water conservation. However, with climate change accelerating, the need for responsible water use has never been more urgent. Despite widespread messaging, from government policies to social media campaigns, many privileged communities continue to take water for granted. The convenience of running water blinds us to the fact that, for many, access to clean water is a daily struggle.

Water is a fundamental human necessity, yet for millions around the world, it remains a privilege. Every choice we make, whether through policies or personal habits, directly impacts those who live with water insecurity. My goal is to raise awareness about the growing water crisis through advocacy, discussion, and action in our community. I want to shift the way water is valued and conserved through education and advocacy, making a tangible difference for those who need it most.

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

- I have collaborated with the Executive Director of Power of Clean Water, non-profit in New Jersey to establish the region's first high school "Power of Clean Water" student run club, a milestone for Water conservation and sustainability advocacy.
- In just a few months, I've recruited Power of Water club members to raise awareness about Water conservation and sustainability.
- I have organized several educational and awareness events at my high school and in the community to shed light on the water crisis and the need for water conservation in California.
- Member of Gunn High School student council, where we organize, plan and budget different events.
- Volunteered as Marketing Intern for the Gunn Foundation, designing Annual Report using CANVA.
- Volunteer for Partners in Education (PiE) for Community outreach, Fundraising, & advocacy.
- Volunteer as Artist for L.A. based non-profit Million Little creating art to represent incarcerated youth.

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

As a passionate and engaged youth advocate for water conservation, I believe I can help bridge the gap between policy and community awareness—especially among students and younger audiences. By serving on the Valley Water Youth Commission, I would bring a unique perspective shaped by my own experience and hands-on community work.

Through my involvement with the Power of Clean Water club and the events I've led at my high school, I've learned how to connect with peers, raise awareness, and inspire action. I want to bring those same skills to this committee by helping develop outreach initiatives that resonate with youth and families across Santa Clara County.

I believe that when young people see someone their age involved in important community decisions, they're more likely to get engaged too. My participation can help amplify youth voices, expand local conservation education, and contribute to building a more water-conscious culture—starting right here in our schools and neighborhoods.

Are you available to attend committee meetings when scheduled? (please go to 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:**
- 2. Name:**



Valley Water

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.

Preferred Name (if different from application): Shrishti Sinha	
School attending during the upcoming school year: Henry M. Gunn High School	Grade level during the upcoming school year: 10 th Grade (Sophomore)
Extra-Curricular Activities: Water conservation Advocacy (Power of Water Club), Varsity soccer and Club competitive soccer, Art, Piano, Violin	Favorite Subjects: Engineering Design, Math, English
<p>To identify your director, go to 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.</p>	
Board Member's Name: Rebecca Eisenberg	Board Member District #: 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?

One of the top issues young people in Santa Clara County face is a **lack of awareness around water conservation and sustainability**. At Gunn High School, I've seen how students often don't realize the real-life impacts of water scarcity, especially in our drought-prone California. Through my work with the *Power of Clean Water* nonprofit, I founded their first student-led chapter to change that—organizing events that brought students together to learn, act, and advocate for responsible water use.

A second issue is that young adults **don't feel empowered or informed enough to take action**. Environmental education in schools can be limited or disconnected from students' everyday lives. That's why I organized awareness campaigns and info sessions at Gunn to connect students directly to these challenges in our own community.

The third issue is growing **climate anxiety among youth**, where students feel overwhelmed by the scale of environmental problems. I've learned that when we create spaces for students to engage, lead, and learn together, we turn anxiety into action—and that's exactly what I hope to bring to the Youth Commission.

If appointed, I'll use my experience to develop outreach that resonates with students—from youth-led presentations to school partnerships and social media. I'll work to amplify student voices and promote water education that is engaging, inclusive, and hopeful. My goal is to help young people realize that every action—no matter how small—makes a difference.

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 Valley Water Youth Commission, I hope to deepen my understanding of how water policy is shaped and how youth can play a role in real community solutions. I want to learn from experts and peers while contributing my perspective as a student leader passionate about water equity.

Through founding the *Power of Clean Water* club at Gunn High School, I've led student events and awareness campaigns that show how youth engagement can spark real impact. I hope to bring that same energy and creativity to the Commission—helping design outreach that speaks to students and raises awareness across the county.

I believe I can contribute by being a strong youth voice for education, equity, and action. I'm ready to learn, collaborate, and advocate for a future where every student understands the value of water and their role in protecting it.

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: Shrishti Sinha _____

Applicant Signature: 

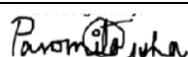
Date: 05/ 25/ 2025

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): Dr. Paromita Guha

Relationship (print): Mother



Parent/Guardian signature: _____

05/25/2025

Date: _____



April 28, 2025

To Whom It May Concern:

I am pleased to recommend Shrishti Sinha for the Global Youth Leadership Summit. In my role as Executive Director of Power of Clean Water, I've had the opportunity to work with many passionate young leaders, and Shrishti stands out among them.

Shrishti showed remarkable initiative by discovering our organization on her own and reaching out to me directly. She went on to establish our very first high school Power of Water student club — a milestone for our organization.

Her initiative is bookended by her tenacity to make things happen. In just a few months, she recruited club members and organized several educational and awareness events at her school and in the community to shed light on the global water crisis.

I have no doubt that Shrishti will be an asset to the Global Youth Leadership Summit. She exemplifies the qualities of a thoughtful, motivated, and impactful leader, and I recommend her without hesitation.

Sincerely,

Ilse Wolfe

Executive Director, Power of Clean Water

ilse@powerofwater.org