

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER  
DISTRICT**

**RESOLUTION 17- 75  
PROVIDING FOR AND DEFINING THE STRUCTURE AND FUNCTION OF  
ADVISORY COMMITTEES TO THE SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND REPEALING RESOLUTION 15-28**

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Directors of the Santa Clara Valley Water District as follows:

There have been established as advisory to the Santa Clara Valley Water District (District) Board of Directors (Board), in accordance with the District Act, the following committees (hereafter "Committees"), which shall continue in accordance with the provisions of this resolution:

1. Agricultural Water Advisory Committee (established by the District Act, which states ". . . The Board shall create an advisory committee consisting of farmers to represent users of agricultural water.");
2. Environmental and Water Resources Committee;
3. Santa Clara Valley Water Commission; and
4. Santa Clara Valley Water District Youth Commission.

**1. PURPOSE**

- 1.1 This resolution sets forth the purpose, activities, and membership guidelines of the Committees.
- 1.2 The Committees are established to assist the Board with policy review and development, provide comment on activities in the implementation of the District's mission for Board consideration, and to identify Board-related issues pertaining to the following:
  - 1.2.1 **Agricultural Water Advisory Committee:** agricultural water supply and use and groundwater production charges.
  - 1.2.2 **Environmental and Water Resources Committee:** water supply, flood protection, and environmental stewardship.
  - 1.2.3 **Santa Clara Valley Water Commission:** water supply, flood protection, and environmental stewardship.
  - 1.2.4 **Santa Clara Valley Water District Youth Commission:** public policy, education, outreach, and all matters impacting the Santa Clara County youth and the water district.

- 1.3 In accordance with Governance Process Policy-8, the specific duties of the Committees are to:
  - 1.3.1 Provide input on policy alternatives for Board deliberation.
  - 1.3.2 Provide comment on the activities in the implementation of the District's mission for Board consideration.
  - 1.3.3 Produce and present to the Board an Annual Accomplishments Report summarizing the outcomes of the Committee's annual Board-approved work plan.
  - 1.3.4 Further, in accordance with Governance Process Policy-3, when requested by the Board, the Advisory Committees may help the Board produce the link between the District and the public through information sharing to the communities they represent.
- 1.4 In carrying out these duties, the Committee members bring to the District their respective expertise and the interests of the communities they represent.

## **2. MEMBERSHIP**

- 2.1 Committee membership shall consist of the following:

### **Agricultural Water Advisory Committee**

- 2.1.1 The Agricultural Water Advisory Committee shall be comprised of 16 members who are farmers and reside or do business, as determined by the Board, within Santa Clara County.
- 2.1.2 The Agricultural Water Advisory Committee shall also be comprised of one member who owns a private well (non-retail) within Santa Clara County.
- 2.1.3 Each Director may nominate up to two farmers who reside and/or farm within the nominating Director's district. In the event that a Director is unable to nominate a farmer from his/her district, the Director may nominate a farmer from anywhere within Santa Clara County.
- 2.1.4 The Loma Prieta Resource Conservation District and the Santa Clara County Farm Bureau may each nominate one representative for appointment as long as the nominee is a farmer who resides or does business, as determined by the Board, within Santa Clara County.
- 2.1.5 The Agricultural Water Advisory Committee does not have alternate members.

**Environmental and Water Resources Committee**

- 2.1.6 Effective July 1, 2015, the Environmental and Water Resources Committee shall be comprised of 21 At-Large members, who reside or do business, as determined by the Board, within Santa Clara County.
- 2.1.7 Effective July 1, 2015, each Director may nominate up to three at-large members.

**Santa Clara Valley Water Commission**

- 2.1.8 The Santa Clara Valley Water Commission shall be comprised of 18 elected representatives: one from each City and Town in Santa Clara County, the County of Santa Clara, the Santa Clara County Open Space Authority, and the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District. Each elected representative may have at least one alternate who may be another elected official or staff person from the same jurisdiction.
- 2.1.9 All municipal representatives and alternates to the Santa Clara Valley Water Commission shall be appointed by their perspective agency.

**Santa Clara Valley Water District Youth Commission**

- 2.1.10 The Santa Clara Valley Water District Youth Commission shall be comprised of 21 Board-appointed members who reside and attend high school in Santa Clara County.
- 2.1.11 Each Director may nominate up to three at-large members of the Santa Clara Valley Water District Youth Commission.
- 2.2 Members and alternates (where applicable) of the Agricultural Water Advisory Committee, Environmental and Water Resources Committee, and Santa Clara Valley Water Commission serve a two-year renewable term that begins upon appointment, or January 1 if a renewed appointment, and expires on December 31 of the year following appointment. Term of office for Committee members and alternates who are appointed mid-year shall begin upon appointment and run through December 31 of the year following appointment.
- 2.3 Members of the Santa Clara Valley Water District Youth Commission serve a two-year renewable term that begins upon appointment, or September 1 if a renewed appointment, and expires on August 31 of the year following appointment. Term of office for Committee members and alternates who are appointed mid-term shall begin upon appointment and run through August 31 of the year following appointment.
- 2.4 Board appointed Committee members shall be held over until they are reappointed or successors are appointed by the Board.
- 2.5 Municipal appointed Committee members shall be held over until they are reappointed or successors are appointed by the County of Santa Clara and each City and Town therein.

- 2.6 Board member nominee appointments to Committees shall be subject to a majority vote of a quorum of the Board.
- 2.7 Following two or more consecutive unexcused absences, the Board may choose to remove a Board appointee. An unexcused absence is defined as failure to notify the District at least 48 hours in advance that the member will not attend the meeting.
- 2.8 Nothing in this resolution affects the eligibility of any current member of any Committee to serve out his or her current term, as long as the member continues to meet the eligibility criteria in effect when he or she was appointed to the Committee.

### **3. OFFICERS AND DUTIES**

- 3.1 The officers of each Committee shall be a Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson, both of whom shall be members of that Committee. The Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson shall be elected by the Committee.
- 3.2 The term of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the Agricultural Water Advisory Committee, Environmental and Water Resources Committee, and Santa Clara Valley Water Commission is one year commencing on January 1 and ending on December 31 and for no more than two consecutive terms. The Agricultural Water Advisory Committee, Environmental and Water Resources Committee, and Santa Clara Valley Water Commission shall elect their officers at the first meeting of the calendar year. All officers shall hold over in their respective offices after their term of office has expired until their successors have been elected and have assumed office.
- 3.3 The term of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson for the Santa Clara Valley Water District Youth Commission shall commence on September 1 and end on August 31 of the following year. However, the term of the first Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the Santa Clara Valley Water District Youth Commission will commence at the Santa Clara Valley Water District Youth Commission's first meeting and end on August 31 of the following year.
- 3.4 The Chairperson of each Committee shall have the following authority and duties:
  - (a) Preside at all meetings of the Committee;
  - (b) Facilitate productive meetings in accordance with posted Agenda and the Ralph M. Brown Act (open meeting law);
  - (c) Add items to the committee agenda;
  - (d) Invite speakers for any agenda item;
  - (e) Manage speaker time limits;

- (f) Facilitate communication of committee comments, requests, and recommendations to the Board of Directors;
  - (g) Report to the committee on decisions of the Board of Directors which impact the committee's activities; and
  - (h) Perform other such duties as the Committee may prescribe consistent with the purpose of the Committee.
- 3.5 The Vice-Chairperson shall perform the duties of the Chairperson in the absence or incapacity of the Chairperson. In case of the unexpected vacancy of the Chairperson, the Vice-Chairperson shall perform such duties as are imposed upon the Chairperson until such time as a new Chairperson is elected by the Committee.
- 3.6 Should the office of Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson become vacant during the term of such office, the Committee shall elect a successor from its membership at the earliest meeting at which such election would be practicable and such election shall be for the unexpired term of such office.
- 3.7 Should the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson know in advance that they will both be absent from a meeting, the Chair may appoint a Chairperson Pro-tempore to preside over that meeting. In the event of an unanticipated absence of both the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson, the Committee may elect a Chairperson Pro-tempore to preside over the meeting in their absence.

#### **4. MEETINGS**

- 4.1 Meetings of the Committees shall be open and public and called in accordance with the Ralph M. Brown Act, Government Code Sections 54950 and following. Such meetings shall be held at the District Headquarters or such other place and time within Santa Clara County as the Board may designate.
- 4.2 Special meetings may be called by the Board and conducted in accordance with Section 54956 of the Government Code.
- 4.3 Committees shall convene four times per year or more often, as authorized by the Board, except for the Agricultural Water Advisory Committee, which shall convene at least once a year, or more often, as authorized by the Board.
- 4.4 The Board approves and sets all Committee annual work plans and meeting agendas. Committee meeting agendas will be considered pre-approved by the Board once it has approved each of the annual Advisory Committee work plans. Modifications to meeting agendas will be considered by the Board, or Board Chair, as needed, through a review of the pre-approved work plans when it receives and considers Committee policy recommendations, comments, and requests, staff recommended modifications, and requests by members of the public. The Board may also initiate modifications to pre-approved work plans at any time.

- 4.5 Notices of each meeting, together with an agenda, the draft minutes of the preceding meeting, and supporting meeting materials, shall be provided to the Committee members no less than ten business days in advance.
- 4.6 Any Committee meeting in which all items on the Agenda are informational, excluding the approval of meeting minutes, will be cancelled and notification sent from the Clerk of the Board at least ten days prior to the scheduled meeting date.
- 4.7 A majority of the appointed members of the Committee or their alternates is required to constitute a quorum for the purposes of conducting its business and exercising its powers and for all other purposes. If the Clerk of the Board, or his/her designated representative (Clerk), has been notified at least two business days in advance of a scheduled meeting that a quorum will not be present, the Clerk will cancel the meeting and notice the membership of the cancellation.
- 4.8 In the event that a Committee meeting is cancelled due to the lack of a quorum, upon concurrence of the Committee Chair and the Board Representative, the Committee meeting may be re-scheduled or re-convened to a specified date, time, and place.
- 4.9 In the event a quorum of the Committee is not present at the scheduled start time of the meeting, or is lost during the meeting, at the discretion of the Chair of each Advisory Committee, individual Committee members present in the room may proceed to hear informational agenda items, including any staff reports. No action shall be taken on any agenda item when a quorum does not exist. No official record of statements made by individual Committee members, staff, or members of the public will be created. However, if a quorum is achieved at any time, action items may be heard, discussed, and voted upon.
- 4.10 Except for such actions to adjourn, action of the Committee may be taken only upon the affirmative vote of not less than a majority of the appointed members or their alternates present. The voting on all matters shall be by voice vote unless a roll call vote is called for by any member of the Committee. Only appointed Committee members or appointed alternates (who are sitting in an appointed member's stead) may vote on a matter.
- 4.11 Discussion on any agenda item by either Committee members or by any member of the general public may be limited, at the discretion of the Chairperson, to such length of time as the Chairperson may deem reasonable under the circumstances.
- 4.12 The Committee may adjourn any regular or special meeting to a time and place specified in the order of adjournment.

## **5. SUB-COMMITTEES**

- 5.1 Subcommittees of Board Advisory Committees will not be recognized. However, less than a quorum of Committee members may meet informally outside of meetings in accordance with Ralph M. Brown Act requirements.

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND REPEALING RESOLUTION 15-28**

RESOLUTION 17- 75

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Resolution No. 15-28 is hereby repealed.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Directors of Santa Clara Valley Water District by the following vote on

AYES: Directors T. Estremera, R. Santos, N. Hsueh, G. Kremen,  
L. LeZotte, J. Varela

NOES: Directors None

ABSENT: Directors B. Keegan

ABSTAIN: Directors None

SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT



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JOHN L. VARELA  
Chair/Board of Directors

ATTEST: MICHELE L. KING, CMC



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Clerk/Board of Directors

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