



SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT YOUTH COMMISSION MEETING

# DRAFT MINUTES

**WEDNESDAY, May 20, 2026**

(Paragraph numbers coincide with agenda item numbers)

A special meeting of the Santa Clara Valley Water District Youth Commission (Youth Commission) was held on May 20, 2026, at Santa Clara Valley Water District, Headquarters Building Boardroom, 5700 Almaden Expressway, San Jose, CA 95118.

## 1. CALL TO ORDER

Youth Commission Vice Chairperson Ellie Zhou called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

### 1.1 ROLL CALL

A quorum was established with 13 members present.

#### **Members in attendance were:**

District 1: Aadrit Talukdar

District 2: Alonso Jose

District 3: Prathik Janakiram, Parnika Sadhu, and Nina Yuan

District 4: Ellie Zhou, Agata Bak, and Bryce Chen

District 5: Simran Soni and Ethan Cheung

District 6: David Huynh

District 7: Ishika Anand, Doyoon Kim, and Mina Van Roy

#### **Members not in attendance were:**

District 1: Abigail Ha-Neul Kim and Ishaan Mandala

District 2: Andrew Lomio and Betalem Berhanu

District 5: Chairperson Aditya Shivakumar

District 6: Ruhan Upreti and Sinit Hadgu

Board appointees in attendance were: Director Shiloh Ballard, District 2, and Director Nai Hsueh, District 5.

Valley Water Staff in attendance were: Ricardo Barajas, Christie Heng, Dave Leon, Fiona Reyes, and Blanca Sanchez-Cruz.

**2. TIME OPEN FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON ANY ITEM NOT ON THE AGENDA.**

There was no one who wished to speak.

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**3.1. APPROVAL OF JANUARY 28, 2026 COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES.**

Recommendation: Approve the minutes.

It was moved by Member Anand, seconded by Member Kim, and unanimously carried, to approve the January 28, 2026 Commission meeting minutes as submitted.

**4. INTERACTIVE ACTIVITY**

The Commission members participated in a year-end reflections collage activity, some of which were presented to the Commission as a whole.

**5. MANAGER'S REPORT**

Ricardo Barajas reported that 70 miles and 14,000 pounds of trash were cleared on National River Cleanup Day. He further noted that recruitment is in progress to fill the vacancies being left by the graduating seniors, and that a survey is online for members to provide feedback on their experiences with the Commission.

**6. REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS**

**6.1. RECEIVE UPDATE FROM SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT YOUTH COMMISSION'S PROJECT GROUPS AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE BOARD AS NECESSARY**

Recommendation: Receive updates from project groups, staff and make recommendations to the Board, as necessary.

Member Kim reported that the Creekside Community Care Project Group concluded its work on the hygiene kit project, and the group created a video which was used in Commission recruitment efforts.

Member Anand stated that the One Water Pitch Project Group concluded its video contest on April 23. She noted that 12 students submitted seven videos, which were evaluated by Commissioners and subject matter experts, and announced the winners at the middle school and high school levels, stating that the winners have been notified prizes will be mailed to them.

Member Cheung reported that the Data and Accessibility Project Group collected 56.7 pounds of trash on National River Cleanup Day at the Alviso Slough.

The Commission received the information and took no formal action.

**6.2. REVIEW SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT YOUTH COMMISSION WORK PLAN, THE OUTCOMES OF BOARD ACTION OF COMMISSION REQUESTS; AND DISCUSS POSSIBLE ITEMS FOR THE COMMISSION'S NEXT MEETING AGENDA.**

Recommendation: Review the Youth Commission work plan to guide the commission's discussions regarding policy alternatives and implications for Board deliberation and make recommendations as necessary.

Without discussion, the Commission took no action.

### **6.3. RECOGNITION OF OUTGOING YOUTH COMMISSION MEMBERS**

Recommendation: Acknowledge and recognize outgoing Youth Commission Members.

Director Ballard provided remarks to the Youth Commission and presented the graduating members of the Commission with a Certificate of Recognition for their service, and each graduate was given the opportunity to address the Commission.

1. Ishaan Mandala - representing District 1 (Director Varela)
2. Aadrit Talukdar - representing District 1 (Director Varela)
3. Abigail Ha-Neul Kim - representing District 1 (Director Varela)
4. Andrew Lomio - representing District 2 (Director Ballard)
5. Alonso Jose - representing District 2 (Director Ballard)
6. Betalem (Betty) Berhanu - representing District 2 (Director Ballard)
7. Agata Bak - representing District 4 (Director Beall)
8. Aditya Shivakumar - representing District 5 (Director Hsueh)
9. David Nguyen Huynh - representing District 6 (Chair Estremera)
10. Sinit Hadgu - representing District 6 (Chair Estremera)
11. Doyoon Kim - representing District 7 (Director Eisenberg)

### **7. CLERK REVIEW AND CLARIFICATION OF COMMISSION REQUESTS TO THE BOARD**

The Commission took no action.

### **8. ADJOURN**

Vice Chairperson Zhou adjourned the meeting at 6:52 p.m.

Dave Leon  
Assistant Deputy Clerk II  
Office of the Clerk of the Board

Approved:

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