

To: Board of Directors  
From: Norma J. Camacho, CEO

## Chief Executive Officer Bulletin Week of May 31 – June 6, 2019

### Board Executive Limitation Policy EL-7:

*The Board Appointed Officers shall inform and support the Board in its work. Further, a BAO shall 1) inform the Board of relevant trends, anticipated adverse media coverage, or material external and internal changes, particularly changes in the assumptions upon which any Board policy has previously been established and 2) report in a timely manner an actual or anticipated noncompliance with any policy of the Board.*

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### 2019 State Legislative Days in Sacramento

On May 21 and May 22, 2019, Chair LeZotte and Director Keegan led Valley Water advocacy efforts in Sacramento for two (2) days of successful meetings with numerous state legislators, key department heads, and administration officials. The busy schedule included over 20 meetings in which the Directors and staff discussed this year's priority issues.

Meetings with Karla Nemeth, Director of the Department of Water Resources, and Chuck Bonham, Director of the Department of Fish and Wildlife, focused on regulatory permitting, Delta conveyance, the voluntary agreements, and flood control funding. There also were meetings with most of the Santa Clara County legislative delegation as well as with representatives of the Senate and Assembly leadership and relevant legislative policy committee chairs. Topics discussed included our sponsored bill AB 707 (Kalra) Valley Water Public Works Contracting, problematic ballot label requirements, regulatory permitting, flood protection funding, the Anderson Dam Seismic Retrofit Project, and the Pacheco Reservoir Expansion Project.

The Directors' participation in meetings increases Valley Water's profile in Sacramento, allows access to senior officials, and provides an opportunity to advocate for the water supply, flood protection, and environmental policy interests of the people of Santa Clara County. Valley Water is

following up on action items identified in the meetings and will keep the Board informed about state policy developments.

For further information, please contact Rachael Gibson at (408) 630-2884

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### **State Assembly Passes Valley Water Public Works Contracting Bill**

On May 30, 2019, AB 707 (Kalra) Valley Water Public Works Contracting, our sponsored bill to increase Valley Water's competitive bidding threshold to \$50k, was passed on the Assembly floor in a vote of 73-0. After the bill was amended on the floor on May 29, 2019, the Construction Industry Force Account Council, the California State Council of Laborers, and California-Nevada Conference of Operating Engineers removed their opposition, noting that they would continue to work with the author's office on the amendments.

The amendments were negotiated by Assembly member Kalra's office acting as a liaison between the opponents and Valley Water. The opponents raised concerns over Valley Water's "force account" limit, which is the labor cost above which public works must be contracted rather than done by in-house staff. Valley Water's labor leaders were engaged throughout the process to help ensure our unions' voices were heard and their jobs were protected, and the negotiated amendments to AB 707 now achieve those goals.

The amended bill now increases Valley Water's competitive bidding threshold from \$25k to \$50k, increases our force account limit from \$5k to \$50k while maintaining existing exceptions, and adds new exceptions to the force account limit for environmental preservation and habitat management. AB 707 now moves to the Senate for further consideration.

For further information, please contact Rachael Gibson at (408) 630-2884.

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### **Rinconada Water Treatment Plant Public Meeting**

On Wednesday, June 12, 2019, Valley Water will host a public meeting at the Rinconada Water Treatment Plant to update the neighborhood on the progress of the Reliability Improvement Project (Project). This 6:00 PM meeting satisfies Valley Water's commitment to stakeholders to conduct quarterly meetings on work that is modernizing operations at the more than 50-year-old facility.

Assistant Officer, Aaron Baker, will serve as the Master of Ceremonies. The attendance and participation of Directors Kremen and Hsueh has been requested. The agenda includes a progress report on Phase 2 (two) of the five-phase Project. Phase 3 (three) is expected to begin in early 2020. Capital Engineering Manager, Mike Munson, who has led the project through planning, design and construction, is retiring in late June 2019. As such, the agenda will include this announcement and the introduction of Capital Engineering Manager, Emmanuel Aryee, as the new project manager.

For further information, please contact Rick Callender at (408) 630-2017.

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### **Calabazas Creek Rehabilitation Project from Miller Avenue to Bollinger Road**

The Calabazas Creek Rehabilitation Project (Project) objectives are to repair and stabilize channel banks that are eroding at 11 locations along the Calabazas Creek. The current schedule is to advertise for construction in spring 2020, subject to obtaining permits. It is anticipated that the construction will take two (2) seasons and be completed in October 2021.

After a right of way survey was performed, the Project team discovered 44 parcels with misaligned property line fences, including 19 parcels that affect the Project's repair work and access to the repair sites. Notifications were sent out on April 11, 2019, to all 44 parcel property owners. As of May 30, 2019, responses were received from 40 out of 44 parcel property owners agreeing to correct the misaligned property line fence and to remove any of their personal items located on the Valley Water land. Among the four (4) parcels lacking agreements, only two (2) parcels conflict with proposed repair work.

Valley Water has made the following recommendations to address the misaligned property line fencing:

- Secure a contractor via public bidding process to remove the old fence and install a new wood fence along the correct property line within eight (8) months for the 40 property owners that already agreed to the correction of the misaligned fences.
- Provide additional time for the four (4) property owners lacking agreements for further communication and resolution of the misaligned fences.

For further information, please contact Ngoc Nguyen at (408) 630-2632.

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#### **4S Ranch Groundwater Bank Update**

On May 28, 2019, the San Jose Mercury News published an article referring to Valley Water's negotiations towards purchasing the 4S Ranch in Western Merced County. Valley Water continually reviews opportunities for groundwater banking to supplement its existing Semitropic banking arrangements in Kern County. In each case considered, Valley Water's approach is to bring in Valley Water surplus water in wet years and withdraw that water for use during droughts.

In this context, Valley Water considered the possibility of establishing a groundwater bank on the 4S Ranch.

However, staff have decided to no longer explore this opportunity.

For further information, please contact Garth Hall at (408) 630-2750.

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#### **Varela**

Director Varela requested staff to follow up with JJSV Talent Partnership Program representative regarding the expansion of the existing Internship Program.

I-19-0008

Valley Water received information regarding Silicon Valley Talent Partnership and is continuing to explore the opportunity for Valley Water to possibly expand the internship program. Valley Water will reach out to JJSV Talent Partnership directly to discuss this further.

For further information, please contact Anna Noriega at (408) 630-3089.

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