



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

MINUTES

**SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29, 2026
5:00 PM**

(Paragraph numbers coincide with agenda item numbers)

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL:

A Special Meeting of the Santa Clara Valley Water District (Valley Water) Board of Directors was called to order at 5:00 p.m. in the Valley Water Headquarters Building Boardroom at 5700 Almaden Expressway, San Jose, California, and by Zoom teleconference.

1.1. Roll Call.

Board members in attendance were Shiloh Ballard, Jim Beall, Nai Hsueh, Richard P. Santos, John L. Varela, and Tony Estremera, Chairperson presiding, constituting a quorum of the Board. Director Rebecca Eisenberg arrived as noted below.

Staff members in attendance were Melanie Richardson, Interim Chief Executive Officer; Carlos Orellana, District Counsel; Candice Kwok-Smith, Clerk, Board of Directors; E. Aryee, A. Baker, L. Bankosh, M. Bilski, S. Bogale, J. Bourgeois, R. Chan, J. Codianne, R. Gibson, J. Golka, A. Gordon, C. Hakes, C. Lawson, A. Lee, R. McCarter, P. McElroy, T. Ndah, L. Penilla, D. Rocha, K. Struve, D. Taylor, B. Yerrapotu, and T. Yoke.

1.2. Pledge of Allegiance/National Anthem.

Director Varela led all present in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

1.3 Time Open for Public Comment on any Item not on the Agenda.

Chairperson Estremera read the Board Meeting Decorum statement into the record, outlining the expectations for respectful and professional conduct during the proceedings.

Move to Approve: Richard Santos
Second: Nai Hsueh
Yeas: Shiloh Ballard, Jim Beall, Rebecca Eisenberg, Nai Hsueh, Richard Santos, John L. Varela, Tony Estremera

Nays: None
Abstains: None
Recuses: None
Absent: Rebecca Eisenberg
Summary: 6 Yeas; 0 Nays; 0 Abstains; 1 Absent.

The motion passed by voice vote.

Chairperson Estremera declared time open for public comment on any item not on the agenda. No one was present who wished to speak.

2. 5:00 PM - TIME CERTAIN:

- 2.1. Conduct a Public Hearing to Consider the Santa Clara Valley Water District's Capital Improvement Program Draft Fiscal Years 2027-31 Five-Year Plan.

Recommendation: A. Open and conduct a Public Hearing to receive public comments and Board feedback regarding the Santa Clara Valley Water District's Capital Improvement Program Draft Fiscal Years 2027-31 Five-Year Plan; and
 B. Continue the Public Hearing to the subsequent Special Board Meeting for the Budget Work Study Sessions currently scheduled for April 30, 2026, and conclude the Public Hearing at the regularly scheduled Board Meeting on May 12, 2026.

Chairperson Estremera opened the Public Hearing.

Luz Penilla, Assistant Officer, reviewed the information on this item per the attached Board Agenda Memo.

Chairperson Estremera declared time open for public comments and, seeing no one present who wished to speak, continued the Public Hearing to May 12, 2026.

- 2.2. Work-Study Session to Consider the Fiscal Year 2026-27 Proposed Operating and Capital Rolling Biennial Budget.

Recommendation: A. Receive, review, and discuss Santa Clara Valley Water District's Fiscal Year 2026-27 Proposed Rolling Biennial Budget;
 B. Receive comments and input from the public regarding the Fiscal Year 2026-27 Proposed Rolling Biennial Budget;
 C. Incorporate any changes deemed necessary into the Fiscal Year 2026-27 Proposed Rolling Biennial Budget; and
 D. Continue this item, if needed, to the April 30, 2026, Special Board Meeting - Budget Work-Study Session.

Director Eisenberg arrived.

The Board convened a work-study session to review the Proposed Operating and Capital Rolling Biennial Budget for Fiscal Year 2026–27.

Melanie Richardson, Interim Chief Executive Officer, introduced the item and provided an overview in accordance with the attached Board Agenda Memorandum. Staff presented the accompanying materials outlined in Handout 2.2-A as follows: Darin Taylor, Chief Financial Officer, reviewed Slides 1–44 and

Slide 104; Patrice McElroy, Deputy Administrative Officer, reviewed Slides 45-46; Rachael Gibson, Chief of External Affairs, reviewed Slides 47-51; Tina Yoke, Chief Operating Officer, reviewed Slides 52-56; Rita Chan, Assistant Chief Executive Officer, reviewed Slides 57-68; Aaron Baker, Chief Operating Officer, reviewed Slides 69-86; Chris Hakes, Chief Operating Officer, reviewed Slides 87-103; and Carlos Orellana, District Counsel, reviewed Slide 108.

Chairperson Estremera utilized Santa Clara Valley Water Districts' Ordinance 22-03, and Director Eisenberg was removed from the meeting for disrupting the orderly progress of the meeting.

3. CLERK REVIEW AND CLARIFICATION OF BOARD REQUESTS:

None.

4. ADJOURN:

Chairperson Estremera adjourned the meeting at 7:50 p.m. and confirmed the cancelation of the Special Meeting scheduled for April 30, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. The Board will convene for the next Regular Board meeting at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 12, 2026, in the Santa Clara Valley Water District Headquarters Building Boardroom, 5700 Almaden Expressway, San Jose, California, and via Zoom teleconference.

Candice Kwok-Smith
Clerk, Board of Directors

Approved:

Date: May 26, 2026

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