



March 12, 2024

Santa Clara Valley Water District
5750 Almaden Expressway
San Jose, CA 95118

To the Santa Clara Valley Water District Board of Directors:

In light of the recent report released on February 19, 2024, regarding the conduct of Board of Director Rebecca Eisenberg, as the Santa Clara County's Assembly delegation from California's Asian American & Pacific Islander Legislative Caucus, we write to the Board to recommend approving her censure and for the Director to issue public apologies for her offensive statements to the harmed parties.

Santa Clara Valley Water District serves our community as a nationally recognized water resources management agency, meaning elected officials are and should be held to a higher standard of honesty, integrity, and inclusivity. The findings from the report commissioned by the District are troubling in substantiating nine complaints against Director Eisenberg of harassing or offensive conduct to the CEO, District Counsel, and other employees, as well as taking confidential documents without permission.

The report includes an incident where Director Eisenberg tells Board Chair Nai Hsueh that "English isn't your first language so I want to make sure you understand," and referencing Chair Hsueh having English as her second language on several occasions during the meeting, which warrants a public apology to Board Chair Hsueh. At a time in our country where the Asian American & Pacific Islander community is facing its highest rates of hate crimes from xenophobia and Trump's rhetoric regarding COVID-19, such comments may be explained away in the name of being inclusive when such comments "other" Asian American & Pacific Islander and immigrant community members in a hurtful and demeaning manner through language discrimination. We as a community can expect more from our elected officials to fulfill the mission of Valley Water to "create an inclusive work environment, which reflects and supports the diversity of the community and enriches our perspectives."

We recommend that the Board move forward with the motion of censuring Director Eisenberg and urge Director Eisenberg to issue public apologies for her statements to Board Chair Hsueh and other harmed parties, in addition to cultural competency training. Thank you for your careful consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Evan Low".

Evan Low
Assemblymember, 26th District – San José/Silicon Valley
Chair, California Asian American & Pacific Islander Legislative Caucus

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Alex Lee".

Alex Lee
Assemblymember, 24th District – San José/Silicon Valley
Member, California Asian American & Pacific Islander Legislative Caucus

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ash Kalra".

Ash Kalra
Assemblymember, 25th District – San José
Member, California Asian American & Pacific Islander Legislative Caucus