



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

MINUTES

**SPECIAL CLOSED SESSION BOARD MEETING
THURSDAY, JANUARY 29, 2026
6:00 PM**

(Paragraph numbers coincide with agenda item numbers)

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL:

A Special Closed Session Meeting of the Santa Clara Valley Water District (Valley Water) Board of Directors was called to order at 6:00 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, Rebecca Eisenberg, Nai Hsueh, Richard P. Santos, John L. Varela, and Tony Estremera, with Tony Estremera, Chairperson, presiding, constituting a quorum of the Board.

Staff members in attendance were Carlos Orellana, District Counsel, and Candice Kwok-Smith, Clerk, Board of Directors.

2. 6:00 PM - CLOSED SESSION:

Chairperson Estremera confirmed that the Board would adjourn to Closed Session to consider Items 2.1 and 2.2.

Carlos Orellana, District Counsel, reported that in regard to Item 2.2, the facts and circumstances giving rise to the Closed Session Item include various allegations of harassment, discrimination, abusive conduct, and retaliation.

2.1. CLOSED SESSION
PUBLIC EMPLOYEE DISCIPLINE
Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957(b)(1)

2.2. CLOSED SESSION
CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - ANTICIPATED LITIGATION
Significant Exposure to Litigation
Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(2)
Number of cases: multiple

2.3. District Counsel Report on Closed Session.

Upon return from Closed Session, the same Board members and staff were present.

District Counsel Carlos Orellana reported that the Board met in Closed Session on Items 2.1 and 2.2 with all members initially present. Pursuant to Ordinance 22-03, the Chairperson directed the removal of Director Eisenberg from the Closed Session. The Board took no reportable action.

3. ADJOURN:

Upon return from Closed Session, all members and staff were present, including Director Eisenberg.

Chairperson Estremera adjourned the meeting at 8:00 p.m. The Board will convene for the next Regular meeting at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 10, 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: February 24, 2026