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January 6, 2024

To the Board of Directors, Santa Clara Valley Water District

Re: Letter in Support of Director Barbara Keegan for Selection as Board Chair

Thank you for allowing me to submit this letter in strong support of the selection of Director Barbara Keegan as Chair of the Board of Directors. As you may know, I currently serve as Chair of the Independent Monitoring Committee (IMC), established pursuant to the Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection program (Measure S). However, I submit this letter on my personal behalf.

It is tempting to support Director Keegan because the Board's last three Chairs have all been men, or because tradition weighs heavily towards elevating the Vice Chair to the Chair role, but my endorsement of Director Keegan is based on merit. As only one of two engineers on the current Board, it is essential that someone with Director Keegan's background, experience and qualifications assume this important role at this critical juncture. The Board is facing what might be the most challenging array of decisions in the history of the District – how to fulfill its mission to supply adequate water to the Valley's residents, businesses and agricultural interests, while at the same time address the impacts of climate change, meet the requirements of groundwater management, and provide flood protection, all while managing our resources while retrofitting and rebuilding the largest dam and reservoir in the District.

Certainly, if ever there was a time when we need someone with Director's professional background and experience as a civil engineer, former Division Manager and Assistant Director for two, large public works departments, and a commitment to integrity and excellence, this is that time.

Thank you for your consideration of my unconditional support for the selection of Vice Chair Barbara Keegan as the next Chair of the Board of Directors.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey B. Hare

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