



[Draft] Handout for 5/12/26: Letter to Board Members Regarding water rates

From moverland@valleywater.org

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 1 attachment (185 KB)

Letter to Valley Water Board Members.pdf;

Hello Valley Water Board of Directors,

Councilmember Candelas has provided a letter regarding the budget, water rates, and the CIP 5 year plan for the May 12, 2026 Board of Directors meeting.

I have attached the letter to this email.

Thanks,

Aadit Agrahara (He/Him)

City of San José | Office of Councilmember Domingo Candelas

Community Outreach and Policy Advisor

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Domingo Candelas

Councilmember, District 8

April 20, 2026

Santa Clara Valley Water District Board of Directors
Valley Water Headquarters
5750 Almaden Expressway
San José, CA 95118

Dear Chair Tony Estremera and Members of the Board:

As the City Councilmember representing Evergreen and East San José, I write to share concerns regarding potential increases to wholesale water rates. The majority of my constituents are customers of the City’s retail water system, San José Municipal Water. As a result, any increase in wholesale rates imposed by the Santa Clara Valley Water District is ultimately passed on to our local ratepayers.

I respectfully urge the Board to carefully and thoughtfully evaluate any proposed rate adjustments, with particular attention to the impact on vulnerable residents, including families and those on fixed incomes.

I raised these concerns during a recent meeting of the Santa Clara Valley Water Commission and appreciated the Board members and staff who engaged in that discussion. That spirit of collaboration is essential as the District enters what has been described as an “era of investment” to safeguard the reliability and safety of our region’s water supply.

At the same time, the current economic climate—marked by rising housing, food, and energy costs—places increasing pressure on working families. This reality underscores the importance of prudent fiscal management, disciplined cost controls, and thoughtful prioritization of expenditures.

While I recognize the critical need to invest in infrastructure and ensure long-term water reliability, it is equally important to maintain affordability for ratepayers. I believe it is possible to strike a balance that advances necessary capital improvements while minimizing financial burdens on the communities we serve.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and continued partnership.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Domingo Candelas".

Domingo Candelas, Councilmember

District 8, City of San José