



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

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# MINUTES

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**SPECIAL BOARD MEETING  
THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 2026  
3:00 PM**

(Paragraph numbers coincide with agenda item numbers)

**1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL:**

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 Carlos Orellana, District Counsel and Candice Kwok-Smith, Clerk, Board of Directors.

1.2. Pledge of Allegiance/National Anthem.

Vice Chairperson Santos led all present in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

None.

**2. 3:00 PM - TIME CERTAIN:**

2.1. Chief Executive Officer Recruitment Employee and Community Input Session.

Recommendation: The Board will receive input from Santa Clara Valley Water District employees and the community on leadership traits, style, and thoughts on priorities for the next Valley Water Chief Executive Officer.

Chairperson Estremera introduced the item as outlined in the attached Board Agenda Memorandum and introduced Drew Gorgey, Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Columbia Ltd., a firm specializing in executive recruitment for local governments, who will facilitate the meeting.

Chairperson Estremera declared the time open for public comment.

Director Eisenberg arrived.

20 statements regarding the Chief Executive Officer Recruitment process were received from: Eric Leitterman, Vice President, Engineers' Society; Anonymous speaker; Wendy Murphy, Valley Water employee; Samantha Greene, Valley Water employee; Zooey Diggory, Valley Water employee; Nicholas Ingram, Valley Water employee; Andria Uliana, Valley Water employee; Andrew Garcia, Valley Water employee; Todd Bridgen, Valley Water employee; Shannon Bane, Valley Water employee; Steven De La O, Valley Water employee; Sadie Lum, Valley Water employee; Betsy Megas, a San Jose resident; Katie Muller, Valley Water employee; Ryan McCarter, Valley Water employee; Doug Muirhead, a Morgan Hill resident; Katja Irvin, Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter; and Shani Kleinhaus, of undisclosed residency.

Directors Ballard and Varela left the meeting and did not return.

**3. ADJOURN:**

Chairperson Estremera adjourned the meeting at 6:00 p.m. The Board will reconvene for its next Closed Session and Regular meeting at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, April 26, 2026, at the Santa Clara Valley Water District Headquarters Building Boardroom, 5700 Almaden Expressway, San José, California, and via Zoom teleconference.

Candice Kwok-Smith  
Clerk, Board of Directors

Approved:

Date: