



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

MINUTES

**SPECIAL SOUTH COUNTY BOARD MEETING
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22, 2026
7:00 PM**

(Paragraph numbers coincide with agenda item numbers)

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL:

A Special Meeting of the Santa Clara Valley Water District (Valley Water) Board of Directors was called to order at 7:00 p.m. in the City of Morgan Hill, 17575 Peak Avenue, Morgan Hill, California, and by Zoom teleconference.

1.1. Roll Call.

Board members in attendance were Jim Beall, Rebecca Eisenberg, Nai Hsueh, Richard P. Santos, John L. Varela, and Tony Estremera, Chairperson presiding, constituting a quorum of the Board.

Director Shiloh Ballard arrived as noted below.

Staff members in attendance were Melanie Richardson, Interim Chief Executive Officer; Nicole Merritt, Acting Clerk, Board of Directors; A. Baker, D. Taylor, and T. Yoke. Program Administrator Michael Potter represented Chief of External Affairs Rachael Gibson, and Senior Assistant District Counsel Mark Poole represented District Counsel Carlos Orellana.

1.2. Pledge of Allegiance/National Anthem.

Director Varela led all present in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Sean Mulligan, Holiday Lake Estates Board Member, expressed gratitude for the settlement that will be used to build fencing and wildfire measures, including communication infrastructure.

Director Shiloh Ballard arrived.

2. 7:00 PM - TIME CERTAIN:

- 2.1. Conduct the Continued Public Hearing on the February 2026 Annual Report on the Protection and Augmentation of Water Supplies and Recommended Increases in Groundwater Production Charges, Surface Water Charges, and Recycled Water Charges for Fiscal Year 2026-27; Consider Staff's Recommendation Concerning Setting of State Water Project Tax.

(Continued from April 14, 2026)

- Recommendation:
- A. Conduct the continued Public Hearing pursuant to Section 26.6 of the District Act to consider Santa Clara Valley Water District's Fiscal Year (FY) 2026-27 Annual Report on the Protection and Augmentation of Water Supplies and recommended increases to groundwater production charges (between 6.6% to 9.4%), surface water charges (between 6.9% to 9.4%) and recycled water charges (between 4.8% to 6.8%);
 - B. Hear public comments from groundwater producers and any interested persons regarding the Report and recommendations;
 - C. Consider any written protests to proposed surface water rate increases;
 - D. Consider staff's recommendation to set the State Water Project tax in an amount sufficient to pay next year's State Water Project costs (excluding Delta Conveyance Project costs) to avoid severe water rate impacts and keep rates feasible;
 - E. Direct staff to review such Report with, and solicit comments from, Santa Clara Valley Water District's advisory committees; and
 - F. Continue the Public Hearing regarding this Report and proposed charges to the April 28, 2026, Closed Session and Regular Meeting at 1:00 pm.

Chairperson Estremera opened the Public Hearing.

Aaron Baker, Chief Operating Officer, reviewed the information on this Item per the attached Board Agenda Memo, and Carmen Narayanan, Financial Planning and Revenue Manager, reviewed the information contained in Attachment 2.

Chairperson Estremera declared time open for public comments and, seeing no one present who wished to speak, continued the Public Hearing to April 28, 2026.

3. ADJOURN:

Chairperson Estremera adjourned the meeting at 8:17 p.m. The Board will reconvene for its next Regular Meeting at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 28, 2026, at the Santa Clara Valley Water District Headquarters Building Boardroom, 5700 Almaden Expressway, San José, California, and via Zoom teleconference.

Nicole Merritt
Acting Clerk, Board of Directors

Approved:

Date: May 12, 2026

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