



Santa Clara Valley Water District Board of Directors

HQ. Bldg. Boardroom, 5700 Almaden Expressway, San Jose, California
Join Zoom Meeting: <https://valleywater.zoom.us/j/84454515597>

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING AGENDA

Thursday, April 23, 2026
3:00 PM

District Mission: Provide Silicon Valley safe, clean water for a healthy life, environment and economy.

DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Tony Estremera, Chair-District 6
Richard P. Santos, Vice Chair-District 3
John L. Varela-District 1
Shiloh Ballard-District 2
Jim Beall-District 4
Nai Hsueh-District 5
Rebecca Eisenberg-District 7

All public records relating to an open session item on this agenda, which are not exempt from disclosure pursuant to the California Public Records Act, that are distributed to a majority of the legislative body, will be available to the public through the legislative body agenda web page at the same time that the public records are distributed or made available to the legislative body. Santa Clara Valley Water District will make reasonable efforts to accommodate persons with disabilities wishing to participate in the legislative body's meeting. Please advise the Clerk of the Board Office of any special needs by calling (408) 630-2277.

MELANIE RICHARDSON
Interim Chief Executive Officer

CANDICE KWOK-SMITH
Clerk, Board of the Directors
(408) 630-3193
www.valleywater.org

Note: The finalized Board Agenda, exception items and supplemental items will be posted prior to the meeting in accordance with the Brown Act.

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Board of Directors
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Expressway, San Jose, California
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IMPORTANT NOTICES AND PARTICIPATION INSTRUCTIONS

Santa Clara Valley Water District (Valley Water) Board of Directors/Board Committee meetings are held as hybrid meetings, conducted in-person as well as by telecommunication, and are compliant with the provisions of the Ralph M. Brown Act.

To maximize public safety while maintaining transparency and public access, members of the public have the option to participate via teleconference/video conference or attend in person. To participate in the meeting via teleconference/video conference, please refer to the meeting link located at the top of the agenda. If attending in-person, you are required to comply with Ordinance 22-03 - AN ORDINANCE OF THE SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT SPECIFYING RULES OF DECORUM FOR PARTICIPATION IN BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS located at <https://s3.us-west-2.amazonaws.com/valleywater.org.if-us-west-2/f2-live/s3fs-public/Ord.pdf>

In accordance with the requirements of Gov. Code Section 54954.3(a), members of the public wishing to address the Board/Committee during public comment or on any item listed on the agenda, may do so by filling out a Speaker Card and submitting it to the Clerk or using the "Raise Hand" tool located in the Zoom meeting application to identify yourself in order to speak, at the time the item is called. Speakers will be acknowledged by the Board/Committee Chair in the order that requests are received and granted speaking access to address the Board. Written comments on any item on the agenda may be submitted to clerkoftheboard@valleywater.org or board@valleywater.org.

- Members of the Public may test their connection to Zoom Meetings at: <https://zoom.us/test>
- Members of the Public are encouraged to review our overview on joining Valley Water Board Meetings at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TojJpYCxXm0>

Valley Water, in complying with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), requests individuals who require special accommodations to access and/or participate in Valley Water Board of Directors/Board Committee meetings to please contact the Clerk of the Board's office at (408) 630-2277, at least 3 business days before the scheduled meeting to ensure that Valley Water may assist you.

This agenda has been prepared as required by the applicable laws of the State of

California, including but not limited to, Government Code Sections 54950 et. seq., and has not been prepared with a view to informing an investment decision in any of Valley Water's bonds, notes, or other obligations. Any projections, plans, or other forward-looking statements included in the information on this agenda are subject to a variety of uncertainties that could cause any actual plans or results to differ materially from any such statement. The information herein is not intended to be used by investors or potential investors in considering the purchase or sale of Valley Water's bonds, notes or other obligations and investors and potential investors should rely only on information filed by Valley Water on the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board's Electronic Municipal Market Access System for municipal securities disclosures and Valley Water's Investor Relations website, maintained on the World Wide Web at <https://emma.msrb.org/> and <https://www.valleywater.org/how-we-operate/financebudget/investor-relations>, respectively.

Under the Brown Act, members of the public are not required to provide identifying information in order to attend public meetings. Through the link below, the Zoom webinar program requests entry of a name and email address, and Valley Water is unable to modify this requirement. Members of the public not wishing to provide such identifying information are encouraged to enter "Anonymous" or some other reference under name and to enter a fictional email address (e.g., attendee@valleywater.org) in lieu of their actual address. Inputting such values will not impact your ability to access the meeting through Zoom.

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://valleywater.zoom.us/j/84454515597>

Meeting ID: 844 5451 5597

Join by Phone:

1 (669) 900-9128, 84454515597#

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL:

- 1.1. Roll Call.
- 1.2. Pledge of Allegiance/National Anthem.
- 1.3. Time Open for Public Comment on any Item not on the Agenda.

Notice to the public: Members of the public who wish to address the Board/Committee on matters not listed on the agenda may do so by completing a Speaker Card and submitting it to the Clerk, or by using the "Raise Hand" feature within the Zoom meeting application to request recognition. Speakers will be acknowledged by the Board/Committee Chair in the order requests are received and, when recognized, will be granted speaking access to address the Board/Committee.

Public comments shall be limited to three (3) minutes per speaker, or such other time as determined by the Chair. State law does not permit the Board/Committee to take action on, or engage in extended discussion of, any item not appearing on the posted agenda, except as otherwise authorized under applicable law. If Board/Committee action is requested, the matter may be scheduled for consideration at a future meeting.

All public comments requiring a response will be referred to staff for a written reply. The Board/Committee may take action on any item of business appearing on the posted agenda.

2. 3:00 PM - TIME CERTAIN:

- 2.1. Chief Executive Officer Recruitment Employee and Community Input Session. [26-0438](#)

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.

Manager: Patrice McElroy, 408-630-3159

Attachments: [*Handout 2.1-A: Jean-Marie White Comments](#)

3. ADJOURN:

- 3.1. The Board will convene for the next Closed Session and Regular meeting at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, April 28, 2026, in the Santa Clara Valley Water District Headquarters Building Boardroom, 5700 Almaden Expressway, San Jose, California, and via Zoom teleconference.



Santa Clara Valley Water District

File No.: 26-0438

Agenda Date: 4/23/2026
Item No.: 2.1.

BOARD AGENDA MEMORANDUM

Government Code § 84308 Applies: Yes No
(If "YES" Complete Attachment A - Gov. Code § 84308)

SUBJECT:

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.

SUMMARY:

Santa Clara Valley Water District (Valley Water) has engaged a consultant to assist the Board of Directors (Board) with the recruitment for the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) position, who will help us continue to fulfill our mission to serve the community. The Board would like your input to guide the search. We invite employees of Valley Water and the community to join us for this meeting. There will be two sessions. The first will take place between 3:00pm - 5:00pm with a focus on employee input. The second session will commence at 5:30pm, after the 30-minute break, wherein the focus will be on community input. While the sessions will be tailored to employees and the community, both are welcome to attend either session.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE IMPACT:

There are no Environmental Justice impacts associated with this item.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this item.

CEQA:

The recommended action does not constitute a project under CEQA because it does not have a potential for resulting in direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment.

ATTACHMENTS:

File No.: 26-0438

Agenda Date: 4/23/2026
Item No.: 2.1.

*Handout 2.1-A: Jean-Marie White Comments

UNCLASSIFIED MANAGER:
Patrice McElroy, 408-630-3159



Re: Share your feedback on Valley Water's next CEO — A Different Perspective

From hello@jmwhite.me <hello@jmwhite.me>

Date Thu 04/23/2026 08:46 AM

To Board of Directors <board@valleywater.org>

Cc CCA List <nagleepark@groups.io>

***** This email originated from outside of Valley Water. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. *****

Dear Valley Water Board of Directors,

Thank you for the invitation to provide feedback on your CEO search. I'm writing instead of attending Thursday's session — and that choice is actually the point I want to make.

I appreciate that the Board is moving quickly and has committed to a transparent process. Both of those things matter. But I'd encourage you to consider whether public input sessions like Thursday's are genuinely serving the community, or whether they risk becoming performative — a process that creates the appearance of broad participation without actually achieving it.

Here's my concern: the people who show up to a public meeting at 3pm on a Thursday are not a representative sample of your constituents. They are, almost by definition, the most organized and most motivated — advocates, interest groups, and stakeholders with specific agendas. Designing a CEO search around their input means optimizing for a narrow slice of the community, not the whole.

You were elected to exercise judgment on behalf of all of us. That is the mandate voters gave you. The most meaningful accountability you have to the public isn't a comment session — it's the next election. I'd rather you spend your energy finding the most competent, trustworthy leader Valley Water can attract, and then own that decision, than spend it managing a process designed to distribute the appearance of responsibility.

If public input is part of the process, I'd suggest keeping it tightly scoped: focus on the leadership profile and organizational priorities, not on candidate evaluation. And be honest with yourselves about who is actually in the room.

Valley Water deserves excellent leadership. I trust you to go find it.

Respectfully,

Jean-Marie White

450 S 16th St. San Jose CA 95112

Begin forwarded message:

From: Valley Water <valleywaterpr-valleywater.org@shared1.ccsend.com>

Subject: Share your feedback on Valley Water's next CEO

Date: April 20, 2026 at 16:08:42 PDT

To: web@jmwhite.me

Reply-To: valleywaterpr@valleywater.org



Share your feedback on Valley Water's next CEO

Dear Community Members,

Valley Water is beginning the search for our next Chief Executive Officer (CEO), and we are seeking your input as we work to identify a leader who will continue advancing our mission of serving the community.

You are invited to participate in a public input session with the Board of Directors on Thursday, April 23, at 3:00 p.m. in the Boardroom at Valley Water Headquarters, 5700 Almaden Expressway, San Jose. If you are unable to attend in person, you may also join us via [Zoom](#).

The session focusing on Valley Water employees will begin at 3:00 p.m., followed by a break at 5:00 p.m. The session will resume at 5:30 p.m. with a focus on members of the public. All employees and community members are welcome to attend any portion of the session.

Thank you for taking the time to share your feedback. Your participation is greatly appreciated, and we look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,
Tony Estremera
Chair, District 6
Valley Water Board of Directors

Valley Water | valleywater.org



Valley Water | 5750 Almaden Expressway | San Jose, CA 95118 US

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