



February 7, 2020

Valley Water Board of Directors
5750 Almaden Expressway
San Jose, CA 95118

RE: February 11, 2020 Agenda Item 2.1 Chief Executive Officer Recruitment Stakeholder Participation

Dear Chair Hsueh and Members of the Board,

The Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter, Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society, Green Foothills, the California Native Plant Society, the Citizens Committee to Complete the Refuge, Keep Coyote Creek Beautiful, and the South Bay Clean Creeks Coalition thank the Santa Clara Valley Water District (Valley Water) for the opportunity to provide input regarding the process to select a Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to lead Valley Water into the future.

We live in times of great changes in climate and weather patterns, scarce water resources, rising seas, and an existential threat to many of our planet's species – including many aquatic and riparian species in our area. Engineering solutions alone no longer suffice to guarantee water supplies, protect us from flooding, and sustain our ecosystems and the species that depend on them. Thus, it is imperative that the next Valley Water CEO has significant experience and deep understanding of watershed stewardship, including both planning and implementation. The next CEO should have the ability to integrate stewardship of water bodies and waterways into water supply and flood control projects in ways that improve ecological function beyond mitigation, and protect our most vulnerable but valuable biological resources. We believe that an understanding of biological processes of aquatic and riparian ecosystems is critically needed.

We recommend using an interview panel and a search committee in order to find the best possible person to fill this position. We request that a representative from our organizations should be assigned to the interview panel.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Katja Irvin
Conservation Committee co-chair
Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter

Shani Kleinhaus, Ph.D.
Environmental Advocate
Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society

Alice Kaufman, Legislative Advocacy Director
Green Foothills

Eileen McLaughlin
Board Member
Citizens Committee to Complete the Refuge

Linda Ruthruff
Conservation Chair
California Native Plant Society
Santa Clara Valley Chapter

Deb Kramer
Program Manager
Keep Coyote Creek Beautiful

Steve Holmes
Executive Director
South Bay Clean Creeks Coalition