



Valley Water

Clean Water • Healthy Environment • Flood Protection

Youth Commission: Bylaws and Expectations

Presented by Stephanie Simunic, Asst. Deputy Clerk II and Ricardo Barajas, Supervising Program Administrator
August 26, 2026

Mission Statement



Valley Water's mission is to provide Silicon Valley safe, clean water for a healthy life, environment, and economy.

Youth Commission Bylaws

4

- Purpose:

- 1.2.4** To assist the board with public policy, education, outreach, and all matters impacting the Santa Clara County youth and the water district. Foster greater involvement of youth in local government to inspire and develop future public policy leaders and professionals with an awareness of issues and activities relating to water supply, conservation, flood protection, and stream stewardship.

Youth Commission Bylaws continued...

- Membership:

2.1 Committee membership shall consist of the following:

Santa Clara Valley Water District Youth Commission

2.1.10 The Santa Clara Valley Water District Youth Commission shall be comprised of 21 Board-appointed members who reside and attend high school in Santa Clara County.

2.1.11 Each Director may nominate up to three at-large members of the Santa Clara Valley Water District Youth Commission.

Source: Board Resolution 17-75

Youth Commission Bylaws continued...

6

- Membership continued:

- 2.3 Members of the Santa Clara Valley Water District Youth Commission serve a two-year renewable term that begins upon appointment, or September 1 if a renewed appointment, and expires on August 31 of the year following appointment. Term of office for Committee members and alternates who are appointed mid-term shall begin upon appointment and run through August 31 of the year following appointment.

Source: Board Resolution 17-75

Youth Commission Bylaws continued...

7

- Officers and Duties:

- 3.1 The officers of each Committee shall be a Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson, both of whom shall be members of that Committee. The Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson shall be elected by the Committee.
- 3.3 The term of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson for the Santa Clara Valley Water District Youth Commission shall commence on September 1 and end on August 31 of the following year. However, the term of the first Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the Santa Clara Valley Water District Youth Commission will commence at the Santa Clara Valley Water District Youth Commission's first meeting and end on August 31 of the following year.

Source: Board Resolution 17-75

Youth Commission Bylaws continued...

8

- Meetings:

- 4.1 Meetings of the Committees shall be open and public and called in accordance with the Ralph M. Brown Act, Government Code Sections 54950 and following. Such meetings shall be held at the District Headquarters or such other place and time within Santa Clara County as the Board may designate.
- 4.3 Committees shall convene four times per year or more often, as authorized by the Board, except for the Agricultural Water Advisory Committee, which shall convene at least once a year, or more often, as authorized by the Board.

Source: Board Resolution 17-75

Expectations

- **Meeting Attendance:**

- While time commitments will vary depending upon schedules and workload, Board Committee members are expected to attend all scheduled meetings.
- Following **two or more** unexcused absences, the Board may choose to rescind a Board Committee member's appointment.
- An unexcused absence is defined as **failure to notify the Office of the Clerk of the Board at least 48 hours** in advance that the member will not attend the meeting.

- **Participation:**

- Participate in group discussions.

- **Maintain an active level of communication:**

- Always reply to emails, texts, voicemails, etc.



Resources

- **Advisory Committee Handbook:**
 - <https://www.valleywater.org/how-we-operate/committees/board-advisory-committees>
- **Advisory Committee Bylaws:**
 - **Board Resolution 17-75** (PROVIDING FOR AND DEFINING THE STRUCTURE AND FUNCTION OF ADVISORY COMMITTEES TO THE SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND REPEALING RESOLUTION 15-28).
- **Questions/Requests:**
 - Email **BOTH:**
 - Dave Leon daveleon@valleywater.org and
 - Youth Commission inbox youthcommission@valleywater.org

QUESTIONS





Valley Water

Clean Water • Healthy Environment • Flood Protection