



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

MINUTES

**CLOSED SESSION AND REGULAR BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2025
11:00 AM**

(Paragraph numbers coincide with agenda item numbers)

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL:

A Closed Session and Regular Meeting of the Santa Clara Valley Water District (Valley Water) Board of Directors was called to order at 11:00 a.m. in the Valley Water Headquarters Building Boardroom at 5700 Almaden Expressway, San Jose, California, and by Zoom teleconference.

1.1. Roll Call.

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

Directors Jim Beall and Rebecca Eisenberg arrived as noted below.

Staff members in attendance were Melanie Richardson, Interim Chief Executive Officer; Carlos Orellana, District Counsel; Candice Kwok-Smith, Clerk, Board of Directors; E. Aryee, A. Beaman, L. Bankosh, M. Bilski, S. Bogale, J. Bourgeois, T. Chinte, O. El-Qoulaq, A. Garcia, R. Gibson, V. Gin, J. Golka, A. Gordon, A. Gschwind, W. Ho, S. Inda, C. Lawson, A. Lee, M. Lugo, L. Mason, R. McCarter, P. McElroy, T. Ndah, L. Penilla, M. Poole, D. Rocha, R. Ruiz, K. Struve, D. Taylor, G. Williams, B. Yerrapotu, and T. Yoke. Chief Operating Officer Aaron Baker represented Assistant Chief Executive Officer Rita Chan, Deputy Operating Officer Samuel Bogale represented Chief Operating Officer Aaron Baker, and Deputy Operating Officer Jennifer Codianne represented Chief Operating Officer Christopher Hakes.

2. 11:00 AM - CLOSED SESSION:

Chairperson Estremera confirmed that the Board would adjourn to Closed Session to consider Items 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, and 2.4.

Carlos Orellana, District Counsel, with respect to item 2.4, the facts and circumstances giving rise to this closed session include various allegations of harassment, discrimination, abusive conduct, and retaliation.

Chairperson Estremera read the Board Meeting Decorum statement into the record, outlining the expectations for respectful and professional conduct during the proceedings.

Move to Approve: Richard Santos
Second: Shiloh Ballard
Yea: Shiloh Ballard, Tony Estremera, Richard Santos, John L. Varela, Nai Hsueh
Nay: None
Abstains: None
Recuses: None
Absent: Jim Beall, Rebecca Eisenberg
Summary: 5 Yea; 0 Nay; 0 Abstains; 2 Absent.

The Yeas have it, and the motion passed 6 to 1.

Two individuals addressed the Board regarding Agenda Item 2.4. Deborah Goldeen, residency not stated, and Peter Van Dyke, representing the Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter, provided public comment.

Directors Beall and Eisenberg arrived.

- 2.1. **CLOSED SESSION**
CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - PENDING LITIGATION
Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1)
Outdoor Solutions Landscape & Paver Supply v. Santa Clara Valley Water District, et al.
(Santa Clara County Superior Court, Case No. 24CV441153)
- 2.2. **CLOSED SESSION**
PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION
Title: District Counsel
Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957(b)(1)
- 2.3. **CLOSED SESSION**
PUBLIC EMPLOYEE DISCIPLINE
Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957(b)(1)
- 2.4. **CLOSED SESSION**
CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL
Anticipated Litigation
Significant Exposure to Litigation, Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(2)
Number of cases: multiple
- 2.5. District Counsel Report on Closed Session.

Carlos Orellana reported that, with respect to Items 2.1, 2.3, and 2.4, the Board met in Closed Session with all members participating, including Director Eisenberg, and took no reportable action. And turned it back over to the Chair for a report out on Item 2.2. The matter was then returned to the Chair for a report out on Agenda Item 2.2; however, no report was provided.

3. 1:00 PM - TIME CERTAIN:

3.1. Pledge of Allegiance/National Anthem.

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

3.2. Orders of the Day.

None.

Chairperson Estremera read the Board Meeting Decorum statement into the record, outlining the expectations for respectful and professional conduct during the proceedings.

Move to Approve:	Richard Santos
Second:	Shiloh Ballard
Yea:	Shiloh Ballard, Jim Beall, Rebecca Eisenberg, Tony Estremera, Richard Santos, John L. Varela, Nai Hsueh
Nays:	None
Abstains:	None
Recuses:	None
Absent:	None
Summary:	7 Yea; 0 Nays; 0 Abstains; 0 Absent.

The Yea's have it, and the motion passed unanimously.

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

Martin Espinoza, NorCal Carpenters, provided a comment on Sites Reservoir.

There were 3 people providing comments to the Board regarding labor negotiations: Robert Ewing, Employees Association Bargaining Unit President; Katie Muller, Engineers Society Bargaining Unit President; and Jonathan Burgess, Professional Managers Association Bargaining Unit President;

Peter Van Dyke, Loma Prieta, provided comment on Director Ballard's memo.

3.4. Vice Chairperson Richard Santos' 25th Anniversary Recognition

Recommendation: Recognize Vice Chairperson Richard Santos for 25 years of service as a Board Director.

Chairperson Estremera recognized District 3 Director Richard P. Santos on his 25th anniversary.

Supervisor Lee's Communications Director, Grace Stetson, on behalf of District 3 Santa Clara County Supervisor Otto Lee, presented a Certificate of Commendation to Vice Chair Santos in recognition of his 25 years of service to the Santa Clara Valley Water District.

The Board noted the information without formal action.

3.5. Conduct a Public Hearing to Consider Adopting a Resolution of Necessity Relating to the Acquisition of Real Property Interests from AJS Investment Group, LLC, Necessary to Complete the Coyote Creek Flood Protection Project, Project No. 26174043, APN 237-02-062, Real Estate File No. 4021-436 (San Jose, District 2).

Recommendation:

- A. Open and conduct a Public Hearing to consider adoption of a Resolution of Necessity relating to the acquisition of real property interests from AJS Investment Group LLC, necessary to complete the Coyote Creek Flood Protection Project, Project No. 26174043;
- B. Close the Public Hearing; and
- C. Adopt the Resolution DETERMINING AND DECLARING THE PUBLIC NECESSITY FOR THE ACQUISITION OF CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY OR INTERESTS IN REAL PROPERTY BY EMINENT DOMAIN FOR THE COYOTE CREEK FLOOD PROTECTION PROJECT (PROJECT NO. 26174043) (CODE OF CIVIL PROCEDURE SECTIONS 1245.220, et seq.), by a two-thirds vote.

Chairperson Estremera opened the Public Hearing.

Bhavani Yerrapotu, Deputy Operating Officer, reviewed the information on this Item, per the attached Board Agenda Memo and per the information contained in Attachment 3.

Chairperson Estremera declared time open for public comments and, seeing no one present who wished to speak, requested a motion to close the Public Hearing.

Motion: Close the public hearing.

Move to Approve: Richard Santos
Second: Nai Hsueh
Yea: Shiloh Ballard, Jim Beall, Rebecca Eisenberg, Tony Estremera, Richard Santos, John L. Varela, Nai Hsueh
Nay: None
Abstain: None
Recuse: None
Absent: None
Summary: 7 Yeas; 0 Nays; 0 Abstains; 0 Absent.

The yeas have it, and the motion passed unanimously.

Motion: Adopt Resolution No. 2025-67 DETERMINING AND DECLARING THE PUBLIC NECESSITY FOR THE ACQUISITION OF CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY OR INTERESTS IN REAL PROPERTY BY EMINENT DOMAIN FOR THE COYOTE CREEK FLOOD PROTECTION PROJECT (PROJECT NO. 26174043)

(CODE OF CIVIL PROCEDURE SECTIONS 1245.220, et seq.), by a two-thirds vote.

Move to Adopt: John L. Varela
Second: Shiloh Ballard
Yea: Shiloh Ballard, Jim Beall, Tony Estremera, Richard Santos, John L. Varela, Nai Hsueh
Nay: Rebecca Eisenberg
Abstain: None
Recuse: None
Absent: None
Summary: 6 Yea; 1 Nay; 0 Abstain; 0 Absent.

The yeas have it, and the motion passed 6 to 1.

3.6. Conduct a Public Hearing to Consider Adopting a Resolution of Necessity Relating to the Acquisition of Real Property Interests from Tripp Avenue Housing Associates, LP, Necessary to Complete the Coyote Creek Flood Protection Project, Project No. 26174043, APN 249-64-025, Real Estate File Nos. 4021-347 and 4021-450 (San Jose, District 2).

Recommendation: A. Open and conduct a Public Hearing to consider adoption of a Resolution of Necessity relating to the acquisition of real property interests from Tripp Avenue Housing Associates, LP, necessary to complete the Coyote Creek Flood Protection Project, Project No. 26174043;
B. Close the Public Hearing; and
C. Adopt the Resolution DETERMINING AND DECLARING THE PUBLIC NECESSITY FOR THE ACQUISITION OF CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY OR INTERESTS IN REAL PROPERTY BY EMINENT DOMAIN FOR THE COYOTE CREEK FLOOD PROTECTION PROJECT (PROJECT NO. 26174043) (CODE OF CIVIL PROCEDURE SECTIONS 1245.220, et seq.), by a two-thirds vote.

Chairperson Estremera opened the Public Hearing.

Bhavani Yerrapotu reviewed the information on this Item, per the attached Board Agenda Memo and per the information contained in Attachment 3.

Chairperson Estremera declared time open for public comments and, seeing no one present who wished to speak, requested a motion to close the Public Hearing.

Motion: Close the public hearing

Move to Approve: Shiloh Ballard
Second: Nai Hsueh
Yea: Shiloh Ballard, Jim Beall, Rebecca Eisenberg, Tony Estremera, Richard Santos, John L. Varela, Nai Hsueh

Nays: None
Abstains: None
Recuses: None
Absent: None
Summary: 7 Yeas; 0 Nays; 0 Abstains; 0 Absent.

The yeas have it and the motion passed unanimously.

Motion: Adopt Resolution No. 2025-68 DETERMINING AND DECLARING THE PUBLIC NECESSITY FOR THE ACQUISITION OF CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY OR INTERESTS IN REAL PROPERTY BY EMINENT DOMAIN FOR THE COYOTE CREEK FLOOD PROTECTION PROJECT (PROJECT NO. 26174043) (CODE OF CIVIL PROCEDURE SECTIONS 1245.220, et seq.), by a two-thirds vote.

Move to Adopt: John L. Varela
Second: Nai Hsueh
Yea: Shiloh Ballard, Jim Beall, Tony Estremera, Richard Santos, John L. Varela, Nai Hsueh
Nays: Rebecca Eisenberg
Abstains: None
Recuses: None
Absent: None
Summary: 6 Yeas; 1 Nays; 0 Abstains; 0 Absent.

The yeas have it, and the motion passed 6 to 1.

REGULAR AGENDA:

4. CONSENT CALENDAR:

Chairperson Estremera removed Item 4.2 from the Consent Calendar for individual consideration, and the Board considered Consent Calendar Items 4.1 and 4.3 through 4.5 under one motion.

4.1. Adopt a Resolution Declaring Santa Clara Valley Water District's 2026 Monthly Cultural Observances.

Recommendation: Adopt a Resolution DECLARING SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT'S 2026 CULTURALLY SIGNIFICANT OBSERVANCES MONTHLY CALENDAR.

4.3. Accept the Work as Complete and Direct the Clerk to File the Notice of Completion of Contract and Acceptance of Work for the Santa Clara Conduit Inspection and Rehabilitation Project - Phase 2, as part of the 10-Year Pipeline Inspection and Rehabilitation Project, Con-Quest Contractors Inc., Contractor, Project No. 95084002, Contract No. C0697 (Morgan Hill, Gilroy, Unincorporated San Benito County, and Unincorporated Santa Clara County, District 1).

Recommendation: A. Accept the work on the Santa Clara Conduit Inspection and Rehabilitation Project - Phase 2, as part of the 10-Year Pipeline Inspection and

Rehabilitation Project, Project No. 95084002, Contract No. C0697 as complete; and

B. Direct the Clerk of the Board to sign the Notice of Completion of Contract and Acceptance of Work and submit for recording to the Santa Clara County Clerk-Recorder.

4.4. Approval of Minutes.

Recommendation: Approve the minutes.

4.5. Accept the CEO Bulletin for the Weeks of November 21, through December 4, 2025.

Recommendation: Accept the CEO Bulletin.

Motion: The Board considered Consent Calendar Items 4.1 and 4.3 through 4.5 under one motion. Adopt Resolution No. 2025-69 DECLARING SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT'S 2026 CULTURALLY SIGNIFICANT OBSERVANCED MONTHLY CALENDAR, by roll call vote as contained in Item 4.1; accept the work on the Santa Clara Conduit Inspection and Rehabilitation Project - Phase 2, as part of the 10-Year Pipeline Inspection and Rehabilitation Project, Project No. 95084002, contact No. C0697 as complete, and direct the Clerk of the Board to sign the Notice of Completion of Contract and Acceptance of Work and to submit it for recording to the Santa Clara county Clerk Recorder, as contained in Item 4.3; Approve the minutes for October 28, 2025, as contained in Item 4.4; and accept the CEO Bulletin, as contained in Item 4.5.

Move to Approve: Richard Santos
Second: Shiloh Ballard
Yea: Shiloh Ballard, Jim Beall, Rebecca Eisenberg, Tony Estremera, Richard Santos, John L. Varela, Nai Hsueh
Nay: None
Abstain: None
Recuse: None
Absent: None
Summary: 7 Yea; 0 Nays; 0 Abstain; 0 Absent.

The yeas have it and the motion passed unanimously.

4.2. Adopt Recommended Positions on Federal Legislation: H.R. 6229 (Schrier) - Restoring WIFIA Eligibility Act of 2025; H.R. 6204 (Lee) - Large-Scale Water Recycling Reauthorization Act; H.R. 5414 (Van Drew) - Dam Assessment and Mitigation Support (DAMS) Act; And Other Legislation That May Require Consideration by the Board.

Recommendation: A. Adopt a Position of "Support" on H.R. 6229 (Schrier) - Water Infrastructure Finance and

	Innovation Act (WIFIA) Amendments of 2025[ED1][BZ2];
B.	Adopt a Position of "Support" on H.R. 6204 (Lee) - Large-Scale Water Recycling Reauthorization Act; and
C.	Adopt a Position of "Support and Amend" on H.R. 5414 (Van Drew) - Dam Assessment and Mitigation Support (DAMS) Act.
Motion:	Adopt a Position of Support on H.R. 6229, (Schrier) Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act, amendments of 2025; adopt a position of support on H.R. 6204 (Lee) - Large-Scale Water Recycling Reauthorization Act; and adopt a position of support and amend on H.R. 5414 (Van Drew) - Dam Assessment and Mitigation Support (Dams) Act as contained in Item 4.2.
Move to Adopt:	Richard Santos
Second:	John L. Varela
Yea:	Shiloh Ballard, Jim Beall, Tony Estremera, Richard Santos, John L. Varela, Nai Hsueh
Nay:	Rebecca Eisenberg
Abstains:	None
Recuses:	None
Absent:	None
Summary:	6 Yea; 1 Nay; 0 Abstains; 0 Absent.

The yeas have it, and the motion passed 6 to 1.

5. **BOARD OF DIRECTORS:**

5.1. **Board Committee Reports.**

The Board reviewed the information on the October 22, 2025, Santa Clara Valley Water Commission, and December 8, 2025, Water Supply and Demand Management Committee, and December 10, 2025, Board Policy and Monitoring Committee meeting summaries and agendas contained in Handouts 5.1-A, 5.1-B, and 5.1-C, respectively, and noted the information without formal action. Copies of the Handouts were distributed to the Board and made available to the public.

5.2. Consider the November 19, 2025, Board Audit Committee Recommendation for Performance Audits to include in the 2026 Annual Audit Plan; Approve the 2026 Annual Audit Plan; and Provide Further Direction to Staff and the Chief Audit Executive as Needed.

Recommendation: Consider the November 19, 2025, Board Audit Committee Recommendation for Performance Audits to include in the 2026 Annual Audit Plan:

- A. Approve the 2026 Annual Audit Plan; and
- B. Provide further direction to staff and the Chief Audit Executive as needed.

George Skiles, Sjoberg Evashenk Consulting, Inc., reviewed the information on this item, per the attached Board Agenda Memo.

Peter Van Dyke, Loma Prieta Resource Conservation District, provided public comment.

Move to Approve: Jim Beall
Second: Shiloh Ballard
Yea: Shiloh Ballard, Jim Beall, Rebecca Eisenberg, Tony Estremera, Richard Santos, John L. Varela, Nai Hsueh
Nay: None
Abstain: None
Recuse: None
Absent: None
Summary: 7 Yea; 0 Nay; 0 Abstain; 0 Absent.

The yeas have it, and the motion passed unanimously.

6. WATER UTILITY ENTERPRISE:

6.1. Receive Report of Bids, Ratify Addenda, Waive Minor Irregularities, Approve the Contingency Fund, and Award the Construction Contract to Mountain Cascade, Inc., for the Penitencia Water Treatment Plant Residuals Management Project, Project No. 93234044, Contract No. 0711 in the Sum of \$90,569,600 (City of San Jose, District 3).

Recommendation: A. Ratify Addenda No(s). 1 through 10 to the Contract Documents for the Penitencia Water Treatment Plant Residuals Management Project;
B. Waive minor irregularities in Mountain Cascade, Inc.'s bid;
C. Award the Construction Contract to Mountain Cascade, Inc., located in Livermore, CA, in the sum of \$90,569,600; and
D. Approve a contingency sum of \$13,585,440 and authorize the Chief Executive Officer or designee to approve individual change orders up to the designated amount.

Deputy Operating Officer Emmanuel Aryee reviewed the information on this item per the attached Board Agenda Memo.

Move to Approve: Nai Hsueh
Second: Richard Santos
Yea: Shiloh Ballard, Jim Beall, Rebecca Eisenberg, Tony Estremera, Richard Santos, John L. Varela, Nai Hsueh
Nay: None
Abstain: None
Recuse: None
Absent: None
Summary: 7 Yea; 0 Nay; 0 Abstain; 0 Absent.

The yeas have it, and the motion passed unanimously.

7. WATERSHEDS:

7.1. Approve Amendment No. 3 to Agreement No. A4306A with GEI Consultants, Inc. for On-Call Planning & Design Services for Water Resources and Stewardship, CAS File No. 4968, Increasing the Fee by \$500,000 for a Total Revised Fee of \$1,500,000, Extending the Term to December 31, 2026, incorporating terms required by the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act loan agreement, and updating other administrative changes.

Recommendation: Approve Amendment No. 3 to Agreement No. A4306A with GEI Consultants, Inc. for On-Call Planning & Design Services for Water Resources and Stewardship, CAS File No. 4968, Increasing the Fee by \$500,000 for a Total Revised Fee of \$1,500,000, Extending the Term to December 31, 2026, incorporating terms required by the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act loan agreement, and updating other administrative changes.

Lisa Bankosh, Assistant Officer, reviewed the information on this item per the attached Board Agenda Memo

Move to Approve:	Nai Hsueh
Second:	Richard Santos
Yea:	Shiloh Ballard, Jim Beall, Tony Estremera, Richard Santos, John L. Varela, Nai Hsueh
Nay:	Rebecca Eisenberg
Abstains:	None
Recuses:	None
Absent:	None
Summary:	6 Yea; 1 Nay; 0 Abstains; 0 Absent.

The yeas have it, and the motion passed 6 to 1.

Director Eisenberg stated that the opposition to the item was based on a preference for hiring new staff to perform the work rather than retaining consultants.

7.2. Approve Amendment No. 3 to Agreement No. A4307A with Environmental Science Associates (ESA) for On-Call Planning & Design Services for Water Resources and Stewardship, CAS File No. 4968, Increasing the Fee by \$500,000 for a Total Revised Fee of \$1,500,000, Extending the Term to December 31, 2026, incorporating terms required by the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act loan agreement, and updating other administrative changes.

Recommendation: Approve Amendment No. 3 to Agreement No. A4307A with Environmental Science Associates (ESA) for On-Call Planning & Design Services for Water Resources and Stewardship, CAS File No. 4968, Increasing the Fee by \$500,000 for a Total Revised Fee of \$1,500,000, Extending the Term to December 31, 2026, incorporating terms required by the Water Infrastructure Finance and

Innovation Act loan agreement, and updating other administrative changes.

The Board considered this Item without a staff presentation.

Move to Approve: John L. Varela
Second: Nai Hsueh
Yea: Shiloh Ballard, Jim Beall, Tony Estremera, Richard Santos, John L. Varela, Nai Hsueh
Nay: Rebecca Eisenberg
Abstains: None
Recuses: None
Absent: None
Summary: 6 Yea; 1 Nay; 0 Abstains; 0 Absent.

The yeas have it and the motion passed 6 to 1.

Director Eisenberg stated that the opposition to the item was based on a preference for hiring new staff to perform the work rather than retaining consultants.

7.3. Authorize Acquisition of Real Property Interests from San Jose Water Company for the Coyote Creek Flood Protection Project, Project No. 26174043, APNs 467-13-055, 467-13-056, 467-13-002, 467-13-003, 472-11-016, 472-12-058, 472-12-071, 477-12-024, and 477-20-033, Real Estate File Nos. 4021-367, 4021-458, 4021-464, 4021-465, 4021-472, 4021-473, 4021-498, 4021-506, 4021-521, 4021-525, and 4021-526 (San Jose, Districts 2 and 6).

Recommendation: A. Authorize the Interim Chief Executive Officer to execute a Right of Way Agreement between San Jose Water Company and the Santa Clara Valley Water District for acquisition of real property interests on APNs 467-13-055, 467-13-056, 467-13-002, 467-13-003, 472-11-016, 472-12-058, 472-12-071, 477-12-024, and 477-20-033, for the price of \$2,932,950, based upon the terms and conditions as set forth in the Agreement;
B. Authorize the Interim Chief Executive Officer to accept the Quit Claim Deed (4021-525 and 4021-526) from San Jose Water Company;
C. Authorize the Interim Chief Executive Officer to accept the Easement Deeds (4021-367 and 4021-498) from San Jose Water Company; and
D. Authorize the Interim Chief Executive Officer to accept the Temporary Construction Easement Deeds (4021-506, 4021-521, 4021-458, 4021-464, 4021-465, 4021-472, and 4021-473) from San Jose Water Company.

Deputy Operating Officer Bhavani Yerrapotu reviewed the information on this item per the attached Board Agenda Memo.

Move to Approve: Nai Hsueh

Second:	Jim Beall
Yea:	Shiloh Ballard, Jim Beall, Rebecca Eisenberg, Tony Estremera, Richard Santos, John L. Varela, Nai Hsueh
Nays:	None
Abstains:	None
Recuses:	None
Absent:	None
Summary:	7 Yea; 0 Nays; 0 Abstains; 0 Absent.

The yeas have it, and the motion passed unanimously.

8. ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER:

None.

9. EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:

None.

10. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER:

10.1. CEO and Chiefs' Reports.

Chief Operating Officer Aaron Baker updated the Board on the State Water Project allocation for next year. On December 1, 2025, the Department of Water Resources (DWR) announced an initial 10 percent project allocation, reflecting a conservative forecast. DWR will continue to monitor snowpack and precipitation in the coming months and adjust the allocation based on accumulated conditions.

Acting Chief Operating Officer Jenn Codianne provided an update on ongoing negotiations with the San Jose Unified School District regarding the Selma Olinger School property. An in-person negotiation session is scheduled for December 18, with the goal of reaching an agreement. Staff plans to bring a more comprehensive update and any potential action items to the Board in January.

Chief of External Affairs Rachael Gibson reviewed the attached Office of Civic Engagement Monthly Update, identified as Handout 10.1-A; Office of Government Relations Summary for November 2025, identified as Handout 10.1-B, respectively herein. Copies of the Handouts were distributed to the Board and made available to the public.

11. ADMINISTRATION:

None.

12. DISTRICT COUNSEL:

None.

13. BOARD POLICY PLANNING CALENDAR/PROPOSED FUTURE BOARD AGENDA ITEMS:

13.1. Review the Fiscal Year 2026 Board Policy Planning Calendar.

Recommendation: Review the Fiscal Year 2026 Board Policy Planning Calendar.

None.

The Board referred Governance Process GP-10, Cost of Governance, to the Board Policy and Planning Committee and directed that it be added to the Committee's work plan.

13.2. Election of Board Chairperson and Vice Chairperson for Calendar Year 2026.

Recommendation: Nominate and elect a new Chairperson and Vice Chairperson for Calendar Year 2026.

Motion: Director Varela nominated Chairperson Tony Estremera and Vice Chairperson Richard Santos to serve as Chairperson and Vice Chairperson, respectively, for the 2026 calendar year.

Move to Approve: John L. Varela
Second: Nai Hsueh

Director Eisenberg offered a substitute motion.

Motion: Director Eisenberg nominated Director Ballard to serve as Chair for 2026. Director Ballard declined the nomination, and the motion failed for lack of a second.

Move to: Rebecca Eisenberg
Second: The motion did not receive a second and was lost.

Chairperson Estremera stated for the record that the substitute motion failed and that the Board would return to consideration of the original motion.

Motion: Director Varela nominated Chairperson Tony Estremera and Vice Chairperson Richard Santos to serve as Chairperson and Vice Chairperson, respectively, for the 2026 calendar year.

Move to Approve: John L. Varela
Second: Nai Hsueh
Yea: Shiloh Ballard, Jim Beall, Tony Estremera, Richard Santos, John L. Varela, Nai Hsueh
Nay: None
Abstain: Rebecca Eisenberg
Recuse: None
Absent: None
Summary: 6 Yea; 0 Nay; 1 Abstain; 0 Absent.

The yeas have it, and the motion passed.

14. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Director Beall reported attending the following meetings: a University of San Francisco student interview regarding foster care interns and mentor promotion; a Board Audit Committee (BAC) meeting; a Santa Clara County Special Districts Association (SCCSDA) meeting; a Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) meeting; an Interim Supportive Housing Community meeting at Cherry Avenue; a City of San José District 10 Leadership Coalition meeting; and a Creeks Cleanup Grant meeting with staff.

Director Eisenberg reported that she was a guest lecturer on negotiation skills at the Stanford Graduate School of Engineering. She wished everyone a happy Winter Solstice.

Vice Chairperson Santos reported attending a Board Ethics and Conduct Ad Hoc Committee meeting, a Water Supply and Demand Management Committee (WSDMC) meeting, a purification tour, and a Berryessa Citizens Advisory Council meeting. He thanked staff for attending the Santa Visits Alviso event.

Director Ballard reported attending the previously referenced WSDMC and SCCSDA meetings, a Labor Negotiations Ad Hoc Committee meeting, a meeting with Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren, attended the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) conference, and an AFSCME union meeting.

Director Hsueh reported attending the previously referenced WSDMC meeting, a Safe, Clean Water Independent Monitoring Committee meeting, a Sunnyvale Leadership Program presentation, a Labor Negotiations Ad Hoc Committee meeting, and various meetings with staff.

Director Varela reported attending a meeting with Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren, a Cal Fire realignment meeting in South County, a Holiday Lakes Homeowners Association meeting on feral pigs, and a meeting with the Mayor of Gilroy and unhoused advocates.

Chairperson Estremera reported attending Agenda Review and meetings with the interim CEO, the previously referenced ACWA conference and meetings with San Luis Delta-Mendota Water Authority and Contra Costa Water District on continued discussion on Los Vaqueros Reservoir, and Patterson Water District regarding water rights and relationship renewal, and various meetings with staff.

15. CLERK REVIEW AND CLARIFICATION OF BOARD REQUESTS:

Candice Kwok-Smith, Clerk of the Board, introduced Wendy Ho as the new Board Support Officer, extending a warm welcome and expressing confidence that the Board is in excellent hands with her leadership and support.

16. ADJOURN:

Chairperson Estremera adjourned the meeting at 3:18 p.m. The Board will convene for the next Special Closed Session Board meeting at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, December 17, 2025, in the Santa Clara Valley Water District Headquarters Building Boardroom, 5700 Almaden Expressway, San Jose, California, and via Zoom teleconference.

Candice Kwok-Smith
Clerk, Board of Directors

Approved:

Date: January 13, 2026

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