



Application for the Santa Clara Valley Water District Youth Commission

Please complete this application in its entirety and submit a signed copy. Applications are valid for one year from the date of receipt and are public record. This application is available online at valleywater.org/youthcommission. For assistance, please contact the Youth Commission program at youthcommission@valleywater.org.

A. APPLICANT CONTACT INFORMATION

Name of Committee: Valley Water Youth Commission	
Applicant Name (First, Middle, Last): Jacob W Henig	
Applicant Preferred Name (If different from name above):	
Applicant Home Phone:	Applicant Cell Phone:
Applicant E-mail:	
Mailing Address (Street Address, City, State, ZIP):	
To identify your Valley Water Director and District, go to the Local Information GIP Map Tool . Enter your home address into the search box (top left) and expand the <i>SCVWD Board of Directors Boundaries</i> section from the menu bar (left) to identify your Board Member and District number.	
Board Member Name: John L Vaerla	Board Member District #: 1

B. PARENT/GUARDIAN CONTACT INFORMATION (If applicant is under 18 years old, the section below must be completed by parent/guardian.)

Parent/ Guardian Name (First, Middle, Last):		
Guardian Home Phone:	Guardian Work Phone:	Guardian Cell Phone:
Mailing Address (Street Address, City, State, ZIP):		
Guardian E-mail:		
Do you have a current contractual relationship with the Santa Clara Valley Water District? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No		
If Yes, please describe:		
Do you consent to Valley Water staff contacting the applicant directly by phone and/or email? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
If No, please explain:		



C. VOLUNTEER & EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

List up to three volunteer or extracurricular experiences that align with the Valley Water Youth Commission and provide brief descriptions (50 words or less).

DATE(S):	NAME:	BRIEF DESCRIPTION:
May 2024	Uvas Creek Clean up	We picked up trash along the creek at Christmas Hill Park. We filled up two trash bags of garbage.
2022-2026	Student Leadership	I was in student council in 4th grade, where I supported others at school. In 6th grade, I was in ASB and in 8th too, where I was elected as a Public Relations Officer.
2025	Painting clases at Senior Center	I held a painting class for special needs adults at the Gilroy Senior Center and held a second painting class for seniors. We had a great time and painted some gorgeous paintings.

D. INTEREST AND AVAILABILITY

How did you hear about this committee opening?

District Website
 Social Media
 Committee Member (specify): _____
 School
 Director (specify): _____
 Other (specify): From a local community member

Please explain why you are interested in serving on the Youth Commission (150 words or less).

I want to help people become aware of where there water comes from and how it is a part of everyday life. Most people don't know where their water comes from and I wouldn't know either if not for my dad, or the signs on the 101 freeway. Water is important to our lives. Without it, our crops would die, we would not be able to live here, and our electronic servers would overheat. Valley Water plays a huge role and I would love to be a part of this youth commission.

Which of the following activities would you be interested in contributing to as a part of the Youth Commission?

Environmental stewardship and pollution prevention, such as supporting creek cleanups
 Community assistance such as supporting unhoused youth or creating care packages
 Public outreach, such as informing the community about Valley Water resources or social media campaigns

Are you available to attend all in-person quarterly committee meetings when scheduled? Yes No
 (Please go to valleywater.org/youthcommission for committee meeting schedule details.)

In addition to the 4 quarterly committee meetings, I understand I am expected to participate in additional subcommittee meetings via Zoom. Yes No

If you have a disability, what accommodations would you need to serve on this committee?



E. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

150 words or less:

1. What do you believe is the most pressing water or environmental issue we are facing as a county, and which issue is the most important or relevant to you personally?

The most pressing water issue in the county is the erratic water supply, which is caused by climate change. I remember in 2020, when there was a wildfire and I feared my house would burn down. It hadn't rained in months and one spark could set the whole area on fire. It got so close to our house, my dad packed our bags in case we had to leave. A couple of years later, it was the opposite. We were plummeted with a torrential atmospheric river of rain. The rain was so bad, schools shut down, roads closed, and entire fields of crops were destroyed because of too much water. And then there were those living in poverty, who were affected the most. To conclude, the most important issue in the County is that climate change is having a major impact on our water supply. It causes droughts and bursts of storms.

2. What do you hope to gain from being on the Youth Commission? What do you think you can contribute by being on the Youth Commission?

I hope to understand more about my community and to see how our county's utilities work. When I visited a water treatment plant in San Jose recently, I was fascinated by how dirty water becomes drinkable water. I would also like to gain more knowledge of Valley Water's importance in our community and how we can benefit from it. I can apply my leadership skills to share my knowledge of how Valley Water impacts the South County's water usage. I can also bring my technology skills, having designed websites.

F. EMERGENCY CONTACTS

In case of emergency, contact:		
Name:	Phone:	Relationship:
Name:	Phone:	Relationship:

I, hereby, attest that the information I have provided on this application is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I understand that all information provided is subject to verification and that misrepresentation or omissions may be cause for my immediate rejection as an applicant or termination from appointment to a committee.

If appointed to the Youth Commission, I further agree that photographs, pictures, slides, movies, livestreams or videos of me or that include me may be captured and created in connection with my participation in the Youth Commission without compensation from Valley Water and consent to Valley Water's use of these photographs, pictures, slides, movies, livestreams or videos for any lawful purpose.



I acknowledge and assume all risks associated with entering or using Valley Water properties, participating in related programs or activities, and the actions of others in those activities. I fully accept these risks and waive and release any current or future claims against Valley Water and its directors, officers, employees, and agents for any loss, damage, or injury. I also agree to hold harmless, defend, and indemnify these parties from any and all claims, liabilities, damages, costs, or expenses, including attorney's fees, arising directly or indirectly from my participation or presence at Valley Water properties and events.

I understand that participation in the Youth Commission is voluntary and have read and understand the provisions stated above.

Applicant Name: Jacob Windust Henig Grade: 8th

Applicant Signature: Jacob Henig School:

Date: April 27, 2026

If the applicant is under 18 years old, the section below must be completed by a parent or guardian.

This is to certify that as a parent/guardian of this applicant, my child has my permission to participate in the Youth Commission. I further certify that I have read and agree to the provisions stated above.

Parent/Guardian Name (print): Adam Henig

Relationship (print): father

Parent/Guardian signature: 

Date: April 27, 2026



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A. APPLICANT CONTACT INFORMATION

Name of Committee: Valley Water Youth Commission	
Applicant Name (First, Middle, Last): Navasiddhi Bochker	
Applicant Preferred Name (If different from name above):	
Applicant Home Phone: N/A	Applicant Cell Phone:
Applicant E-mail:	
Mailing Address (Street Address, City, State, ZIP):	
To identify your Valley Water Director and District, go to the Local Information GIP Map Tool . Enter your home address into the search box (top left) and expand the <i>SCVWD Board of Directors Boundaries</i> section from the menu bar (left) to identify your Board Member and District number.	
Board Member Name: John L. Varela	Board Member District #: 1

B. PARENT/GUARDIAN CONTACT INFORMATION (If applicant is under 18 years old, the section below must be completed by parent/guardian.)

Parent/ Guardian Name (First, Middle, Last):		
Guardian Home Phone:	Guardian Work Phone:	Guardian Cell Phone:
Mailing Address (Street Address, City, State, ZIP):		
Guardian E-mail:		
Do you have a current contractual relationship with the Santa Clara Valley Water District? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No		
If Yes, please describe:		
Do you consent to Valley Water staff contacting the applicant directly by phone and/or email? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
If No, please explain:		



C. VOLUNTEER & EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

List up to three volunteer or extracurricular experiences that align with the Valley Water Youth Commission and provide brief descriptions (50 words or less).

DATE(S):	NAME:	BRIEF DESCRIPTION:
Monthly Meeting + Hosted Events	Teens Reach	As Vice President and the youngest officer on the board, I co-lead monthly meetings and assist in organizing community events. I've contributed 80+ volunteer hours, with my role directly aligning with the Commission's goals of youth-led community advocacy.
Every Sunday + Performances	InFuse Educational Services	I teach weekly dance to neurodivergent students, preparing them for annual performances. With 75+ hours, I am stepping into the lead role as the youngest volunteer, managing class instruction and communicating with adults.

D. INTEREST AND AVAILABILITY

How did you hear about this committee opening?

District Website
 Social Media
 Committee Member (specify): _____
 School
 Director (specify): _____
 Other (specify): _____

Please explain why you are interested in serving on the Youth Commission (150 words or less).

I am interested in serving on the Youth Commission to bridge the gap between local government and the next generation. Through my role as Vice President of Teens Reach and my work teaching dance to neurodivergent students at InFuse, I have developed strong leadership, public speaking, and inclusive communication skills. I have learned how to manage responsibilities and advocate for diverse groups, plus qualities I hope to bring to the Commission. I am passionate about environmental stewardship and want to help my peers understand the importance of water conservation and local policy. I look forward to using my experience in community outreach to help Valley Water engage more effectively with youth, ensuring our voices are heard in protecting our natural resources for the future.

Which of the following activities would you be interested in contributing to as a part of the Youth Commission?

Environmental stewardship and pollution prevention, such as supporting creek cleanups
 Community assistance such as supporting unhoused youth or creating care packages
 Public outreach, such as informing the community about Valley Water resources or social media campaigns

Are you available to attend all in-person quarterly committee meetings when scheduled? Yes No
 (Please go to valleywater.org/youthcommission for committee meeting schedule details.)

In addition to the 4 quarterly committee meetings, I understand I am expected to participate in additional subcommittee meetings via Zoom. Yes No

If you have a disability, what accommodations would you need to serve on this committee?



E. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

150 words or less:

1. What do you believe is the most pressing water or environmental issue we are facing as a county, and which issue is the most important or relevant to you personally?

I believe the most pressing issue in Santa Clara County is water conservation and sustainability during cycles of drought. While we often focus on immediate supply, the long-term challenge is changing community habits to make conservation a permanent lifestyle. This is personally relevant to me because I see a concerning difference between the environmental policy and the daily actions of the public. Growing up in San Jose, I've seen how vital local creeks and reservoirs are to our ecosystem. I want to help ensure that our county's water future is secure, not just through infrastructure, but through education and public awareness that resonates with younger generations.

2. What do you hope to gain from being on the Youth Commission? What do you think you can contribute by being on the Youth Commission?

From this Commission, I hope to gain a deeper understanding of public policy and environmental governance. I want to see firsthand how the local government makes decisions that affect millions of residents. In return, I can contribute strong leadership and inclusive communication skills. My experience as Vice President of Teens Reach has taught me how to organize events while being an InFuse volunteer taught me how to effectively communicate with youth, while my work at InFuse has taught me how to adapt information for diverse audiences. I am a dedicated worker who isn't afraid to take on responsibility, and I can bridge the gap between Valley Water and the youth in my community to ensure our voices are part of the conversation.

F. EMERGENCY CONTACTS

In case of emergency, contact:		
Name:	Phone:	Relationship:
Name:	Phone:	Relationship:

I, hereby, attest that the information I have provided on this application is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I understand that all information provided is subject to verification and that misrepresentation or omissions may be cause for my immediate rejection as an applicant or termination from appointment to a committee.

If appointed to the Youth Commission, I further agree that photographs, pictures, slides, movies, livestreams or videos of me or that include me may be captured and created in connection with my participation in the Youth Commission without compensation from Valley Water and consent to Valley Water's use of these photographs, pictures, slides, movies, livestreams or videos for any lawful purpose.

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A. APPLICANT CONTACT INFORMATION

Name of Committee: Valley Water Youth Commission	
Applicant Name (First, Middle, Last): Chloe Jang	
Applicant Preferred Name (If different from name above): Chloe	
Applicant Home Phone:	Applicant Cell Phone:
Applicant E-mail:	
Mailing Address (Street Address, City, State, ZIP):	
To identify your Valley Water Director and District, go to the Local Information GIP Map Tool . Enter your home address into the search box (top left) and expand the <i>SCVWD Board of Directors Boundaries</i> section from the menu bar (left) to identify your Board Member and District number.	
Board Member Name: Shiloh Ballard	Board Member District #: District 2

B. PARENT/GUARDIAN CONTACT INFORMATION (If applicant is under 18 years old, the section below must be completed by parent/guardian.)

Parent/ Guardian Name (First, Middle, Last):		
Guardian Home Phone:	Guardian Work Phone:	Guardian Cell Phone:
Mailing Address (Street Address, City, State, ZIP):		
Guardian E-mail:		
Do you have a current contractual relationship with the Santa Clara Valley Water District?		<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No
If Yes, please describe:		
Do you consent to Valley Water staff contacting the applicant directly by phone and/or email?		<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
If No, please explain:		

C. VOLUNTEER & EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

List up to three volunteer or extracurricular experiences that align with the Valley Water Youth Commission and provide brief descriptions (50 words or less).		
DATE(S):	NAME:	BRIEF DESCRIPTION:
7/7/25 - 7/25/25 8/9/25	SVYCA Summer Academy- Annual Summit Volunteering	Participated in the Silicon Valley Youth Climate Action's first Summer Academy for the month of July and then volunteered at their annual IMPACT Summit by helping run all main room speaker panels smoothly.
7/3/25 - 7/31/25	Norman Mineta Bay Area Summer Academy	Learning opportunity where I was introduced to environmental justice, transportation planning, air quality management, and more through exposure to sessions with the Bay Area's regional government agencies (MTC, ABAG, BCDC, and the Air District).
October 2023 - Now (ongoing)	Dreamkick Taekwondo	Regular volunteering at my Taekwondo dojang leading classes, teaching a wide range of students the art of the sport. Have received multiple awards such as the President's Volunteer Service Award and more.

D. INTEREST AND AVAILABILITY

How did you hear about this committee opening? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District Website <input type="checkbox"/> Committee Member (specify): _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Director (specify): _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Social Media <input type="checkbox"/> School <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (specify): Email: _____	
Please explain why you are interested in serving on the Youth Commission (150 words or less). I was six years old when I read about Mari Copeny and the Flint Water Crisis and was struck by how someone my age could achieve such an enormous impact just by showing that she cared- and I wondered if I could help make the same impact in my community as well. I started noticing how grimy the water was in the local creek. I noticed when severe rainfall caused sewage to spill into Oakland waterways, just an hour away from my neighborhood. Through volunteer work with organizations like Silicon Valley Youth Climate Action, I learned about climate advocacy and taking action by presenting to local councils. By serving on the Youth Commission, I hope to channel my passion for the water resources field of environmental science into working with local leaders to improve water conservation and sustainability.	
Which of the following activities would you be interested in contributing to as a part of the Youth Commission? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Environmental stewardship and pollution prevention, such as supporting creek cleanups <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Community assistance such as supporting unhoused youth or creating care packages <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public outreach, such as informing the community about Valley Water resources or social media campaigns	
Are you available to attend all in-person quarterly committee meetings when scheduled? <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No (Please go to valleywater.org/youthcommission for committee meeting schedule details.)	
In addition to the 4 quarterly committee meetings, I understand I am expected to participate in additional subcommittee meetings via Zoom. <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	
If you have a disability, what accommodations would you need to serve on this committee? N/A	

E. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

150 words or less:

1. What do you believe is the most pressing water or environmental issue we are facing as a county, and which issue is the most important or relevant to you personally?

I believe that specifically in our country as well as in California overall, drought brought on by climate change has consistently been and always will be an environmental issue that we face together. California has had recorded droughts since the 1900s, and although we periodically experience some rainfall, the summers are increasingly hotter and longer as a result of the slow but steady impacts of global climate change. As someone who's grown up in both the Southern and Northern parts of the state, the rising heat isn't something that has gone unnoticed over the years. Oftentimes, the autumn months after the school year starts will still feel as hot and dry as the weather was over summer break. The rapidly rising temperatures- an affect that many students around the county can feel- are an alarming warning to the escalating climate emergency.

2. What do you hope to gain from being on the Youth Commission? What do you think you can contribute by being on the Youth Commission?

By being on the Youth Commission, I hope to gain an even deeper insight and understanding into water conservation and sustainability, as well as teamwork and advocacy skills essential to working in environmental science and other careers that have community impact. The Valley Water Youth Commission gives students like me the opportunity to build connections with both fellow peers as well as with the Valley Water Board of Directors- creating valuable experiences that will stay with us long after our terms on the advisory board are over. The Youth Commission also provides the chance to point my passion for water conservation and sustainability towards actually making a tangible difference in my community. I hope to contribute not just my unending passion but also my determination, out-of-the-box thinking, and hardworking presence to the board advisory committee.

F. EMERGENCY CONTACTS

In case of emergency, contact:		
Parents (listed below)		
Name:	Phone:	Relationship:
Name:	Phone:	Relationship:

I, hereby, attest that the information I have provided on this application is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I understand that all information provided is subject to verification and that misrepresentation or omissions may be cause for my immediate rejection as an applicant or termination from appointment to a committee.


If appointed to the Youth Commission, I further agree that photographs, pictures, slides, movies, livestreams or videos of me or that include me may be captured and created in connection with my participation in the Youth Commission without compensation from Valley Water and consent to Valley Water's use of these photographs, pictures, slides, movies, livestreams or videos for any lawful purpose.

I acknowledge and assume all risks associated with entering or using Valley Water properties, participating in related programs or activities, and the actions of others in those activities. I fully accept these risks and waive and release any current or future claims against Valley Water and its directors, officers, employees, and agents for any loss, damage, or injury. I also agree to hold harmless, defend, and indemnify these parties from any and all claims, liabilities, damages, costs, or expenses, including attorney's fees, arising directly or indirectly from my participation or presence at Valley Water properties and events.

I understand that participation in the Youth Commission is voluntary and have read and understand the provisions stated above.

Applicant Name: Chloe Jang

Grade: 10

Applicant Signature: 

School: _____

Date: 04/24/2026

If the applicant is under 18 years old, the section below must be completed by a parent or guardian.

This is to certify that as a parent/guardian of this applicant, my child has my permission to participate in the Youth Commission. I further certify that I have read and agree to the provisions stated above.

Parent/Guardian Name (print): Jihoon Jang

Relationship (print): Father

Parent/Guardian signature: 

Date: 04/24/2026

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A. APPLICANT CONTACT INFORMATION

Name of Committee: Valley Water Youth Commission	
Applicant Name (First, Middle, Last): Nitya, Sree, Kavuri	
Applicant Preferred Name (If different from name above):	
Applicant Home Phone:	Applicant Cell Phone:
Applicant E-mail:	
Mailing Address (Street Address, City, State, ZIP):	
To identify your Valley Water Director and District, go to the Local Information GIP Map Tool . Enter your home address into the search box (top left) and expand the <i>SCVWD Board of Directors Boundaries</i> section from the menu bar (left) to identify your Board Member and District number.	
Board Member Name: Shiloh Ballard	Board Member District #: 2

B. PARENT/GUARDIAN CONTACT INFORMATION (If applicant is under 18 years old, the section below must be completed by parent/guardian.)

Parent/ Guardian Name (First, Middle, Last):		
Guardian Home Phone:	Guardian Work Phone:	Guardian Cell Phone:
Mailing Address (Street Address, City, State, ZIP):		
Guardian E-mail:		
Do you have a current contractual relationship with the Santa Clara Valley Water District? <input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No		
If Yes, please describe:		
Do you consent to Valley Water staff contacting the applicant directly by phone and/or email? <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No		
If No, please explain: The applicant doesn't have a phone yet, would be great if you could contact through email		

C. VOLUNTEER & EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

List up to three volunteer or extracurricular experiences that align with the Valley Water Youth Commission and provide brief descriptions (50 words or less).

DATE(S):	NAME:	BRIEF DESCRIPTION:
2018-present	Girl Scouts	Active member participating in leadership development and community service. Completed journeys focused on environmental stewardship, teamwork, and advocacy. Currently working toward the Gold Award on a project aimed at supporting and improving resources for a local school.
2024-present	Community Service and Volunteering	Volunteer at local food banks and tutor students in academic subjects. Additionally, every Sunday my family prepares and distributes trays of food to unhoused individuals, supporting those in need and giving back to the community.
2022-present	Athletics and Academics	Involved in two sports while maintaining strong academic performance. Manage multiple commitments through organization, discipline, and consistency, showing the ability to stay responsible across academics, athletics, and community involvement.

D. INTEREST AND AVAILABILITY

How did you hear about this committee opening?

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District Website | <input type="checkbox"/> Social Media |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Committee Member (specify): _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> School |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Director (specify): _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify): _____ |

Please explain why you are interested in serving on the Youth Commission (150 words or less).

I am interested in serving on the Youth Commission because I want to be more directly involved in decisions and projects that impact my community's environment and daily life. Through Girl Scouts, I've learned how to take initiative and follow through on long-term goals, including my current Gold Award project supporting a local elementary school. That experience made me realize I want to contribute beyond individual service projects and be part of broader community efforts. I am also interested in understanding how water and environmental decisions are made at the local level, since these issues affect everyone but are not always visible in everyday life. I want to learn how organizations like Valley Water plan and implement solutions, while also bringing a youth perspective to outreach and engagement. I hope to help make environmental awareness more accessible and relevant to students like me.

Which of the following activities would you be interested in contributing to as a part of the Youth Commission?

- Environmental stewardship and pollution prevention, such as supporting creek cleanups
- Community assistance such as supporting unhoused youth or creating care packages
- Public outreach, such as informing the community about Valley Water resources or social media campaigns

Are you available to attend all in-person quarterly committee meetings when scheduled? Yes No
 (Please go to valleywater.org/youthcommission for committee meeting schedule details.)

In addition to the 4 quarterly committee meetings, I understand I am expected to participate in additional subcommittee meetings via Zoom. Yes No

If you have a disability, what accommodations would you need to serve on this committee?

None

E. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

150 words or less:

1. What do you believe is the most pressing water or environmental issue we are facing as a county, and which issue is the most important or relevant to you personally?

One of the most pressing issues in Santa Clara County is not just water scarcity, but how disconnected people can feel from it. Many residents rely on water every day without thinking about where it comes from or how limited it can be, especially during droughts.

This matters to me because I've seen how small, consistent actions—like the weekly community service my family does—can make a real difference over time. I think the same idea applies to water: long-term change starts with everyday habits.

To address this, I believe we need stronger outreach that makes water issues feel more personal and relevant, especially to younger generations. When people understand their role in conservation, they are more likely to take responsibility. Building that awareness is just as important as any technical solution.

2. What do you hope to gain from being on the Youth Commission? What do you think you can contribute by being on the Youth Commission?

I hope to gain a clearer understanding of how decisions about water are made at the local level and how those decisions affect different parts of the community. I'm especially interested in seeing how ideas turn into real programs and outreach efforts.

Through my experience in Girl Scouts and my Gold Award project, I've learned how to take a long-term idea and turn it into something practical that helps others. I also regularly tutor students and participate in weekly food distribution with my family, which has taught me consistency, responsibility, and how to connect with people from different backgrounds.

I believe I can contribute by bringing that same mindset—focused on follow-through and community impact—while also helping make outreach more relatable to students and young people.

F. EMERGENCY CONTACTS

In case of emergency, contact:		
Name:	Phone:	Relationship:
Name:	Phone:	Relationship:

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I acknowledge and assume all risks associated with entering or using Valley Water properties, participating in related programs or activities, and the actions of others in those activities. I fully accept these risks and waive and release any current or future claims against Valley Water and its directors, officers, employees, and agents for any loss, damage, or injury. I also agree to hold harmless, defend, and indemnify these parties from any and all claims, liabilities, damages, costs, or expenses, including attorney's fees, arising directly or indirectly from my participation or presence at Valley Water properties and events.

I understand that participation in the Youth Commission is voluntary and have read and understand the provisions stated above.

Applicant Name: Nitya Kavuri

Grade: 9

Applicant Signature: 

School: _____

Date: 5/3/2026

If the applicant is under 18 years old, the section below must be completed by a parent or guardian.

This is to certify that as a parent/guardian of this applicant, my child has my permission to participate in the Youth Commission. I further certify that I have read and agree to the provisions stated above.

Parent/Guardian Name (print): Lakshmi N Kavuri

Relationship (print): Father

Parent/Guardian signature: 

Date: 5/3/2026



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A. APPLICANT CONTACT INFORMATION

Name of Committee: Valley Water Youth Commission	
Applicant Name (First, Middle, Last): Clarice Yasmine Golpayegani	
Applicant Preferred Name (If different from name above): Clarice	
Applicant Home Phone:	Applicant Cell Phone:
Applicant E-mail:	
Mailing Address (Street Address, City, State, ZIP):	
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Board Member Name: Jim Beall	Board Member District #: 4

B. PARENT/GUARDIAN CONTACT INFORMATION (If applicant is under 18 years old, the section below must be completed by parent/guardian.)

Parent/ Guardian Name (First, Middle, Last):		
Guardian Home Phone:	Guardian Work Phone:	Guardian Cell Phone:
Mailing Address (Street Address, City, State, ZIP):		
Guardian E-mail:		
Do you have a current contractual relationship with the Santa Clara Valley Water District? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
If Yes, please describe: I am currently employed by the Valley Water as a senior water resources specialist.		
Do you consent to Valley Water staff contacting the applicant directly by phone and/or email? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
If No, please explain:		



C. VOLUNTEER & EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

List up to three volunteer or extracurricular experiences that align with the Valley Water Youth Commission and provide brief descriptions (50 words or less).

DATE(S):	NAME:	BRIEF DESCRIPTION:
From 06-01-2025 - Ongoing	National Charity League (NCL)	Completed 50+ volunteer hours across more than eight NCL events, supporting organizations like Second Harvest Food Bank. Served as Membership Recognition Chair and selected as incoming Secretary.
From 08-15-2025 - Ongoing	Presentation High School Ambassador and Green clu	Represent the school at events and promote involvement through outreach. Help create and share information with peers, encourage participation, and support service initiatives such as community projects.
From 02-01-2018 - Ongoing	Los Gatos Ballet & Junior Guild	Company member performing multiple times each year. Through Junior Guild, helped plan and organize youth and community events, building engagement, teamwork, and connection between art and the community.

D. INTEREST AND AVAILABILITY

How did you hear about this committee opening?

District Website
 Social Media
 Committee Member (specify): _____
 School
 Director (specify): _____
 Other (specify): My mom

Please explain why you are interested in serving on the Youth Commission (150 words or less).

I care deeply about water and environmental issues and want to be more involved in my community. Listening to a few Valley Water's public meetings showed me how decisions about water supply, sustainability, and infrastructure directly impact our community. I am also inspired by my mom's passion for protecting source water quality and addressing emerging contaminants like microplastics and invasive species. Watching her dedication has motivated me to take initiative as well. I want to represent youth voices, become more familiar with the environmental challenges facing my community, and help make water issues more accessible and relevant to my generation. I am also motivated to continue developing my leadership skills so I can better advocate for my community and support meaningful initiatives.

Which of the following activities would you be interested in contributing to as a part of the Youth Commission?

Environmental stewardship and pollution prevention, such as supporting creek cleanups
 Community assistance such as supporting unhoused youth or creating care packages
 Public outreach, such as informing the community about Valley Water resources or social media campaigns

Are you available to attend all in-person quarterly committee meetings when scheduled? Yes No
 (Please go to valleywater.org/youthcommission for committee meeting schedule details.)

In addition to the 4 quarterly committee meetings, I understand I am expected to participate in additional subcommittee meetings via Zoom. Yes No

If you have a disability, what accommodations would you need to serve on this committee?
 N/A



E. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

150 words or less:

1. What do you believe is the most pressing water or environmental issue we are facing as a county, and which issue is the most important or relevant to you personally?

I believe one of the most pressing environmental issues our county faces is ensuring access to clean, reliable water as drought, climate change, pollution, and aging infrastructure continue to impact our water supply. This issue is especially meaningful to me because I've seen its impact both locally and globally. During the 2021–2022 drought in Santa Clara County, I experienced firsthand how quickly water restrictions changed daily life. At the time, I made small adjustments like taking shorter showers, but I didn't fully understand the urgency. As I became more aware, I started paying closer attention to water conservation at home, including drought-friendly landscaping, rainwater management, and more mindful water use. My perspective deepened further through travel. In places like Colombia and Dubai, I saw how access to clean water can vary widely depending on climate, infrastructure, and resources. These experiences made me realize that access to clean water is not just a local challenge, but a global one that requires awareness, responsibility, and action at every level.

2. What do you hope to gain from being on the Youth Commission? What do you think you can contribute by being on the Youth Commission?

I hope to gain hands-on experience addressing environmental challenges while learning how local policies and projects are developed and implemented. I am also interested in understanding Valley Water's work in water supply management, water quality, recycled water, and long-term sustainability in the face of climate change. Participating in the board/committee meetings would also help me understand how complex decisions are made and strengthen my critical thinking and problem-solving skills. In return, I believe I can contribute by bringing a youth perspective and helping bridge the gap between Valley Water and my community. I want to support outreach efforts by making water issues more accessible and relevant to young people, whether through education, social media, or community events. I also bring strong organizational, teamwork, and leadership skills, which I would use to help plan initiatives, collaborate with other members, and encourage greater youth involvement in environmental action. By combining my interest in water issues with my ability to engage others, I hope to make a meaningful and lasting impact for my community.

F. EMERGENCY CONTACTS

In case of emergency, contact:		
Name:	Phone:	Relationship:
Name:	Phone:	Relationship:

I, hereby, attest that the information I have provided on this application is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I understand that all information provided is subject to verification and that misrepresentation or omissions may be cause for my immediate rejection as an applicant or termination from appointment to a committee.

If appointed to the Youth Commission, I further agree that photographs, pictures, slides, movies, livestreams or videos of me or that include me may be captured and created in connection with my participation in the Youth Commission without compensation from Valley Water and consent to Valley Water's use of these photographs, pictures, slides, movies, livestreams or videos for any lawful purpose.



I acknowledge and assume all risks associated with entering or using Valley Water properties, participating in related programs or activities, and the actions of others in those activities. I fully accept these risks and waive and release any current or future claims against Valley Water and its directors, officers, employees, and agents for any loss, damage, or injury. I also agree to hold harmless, defend, and indemnify these parties from any and all claims, liabilities, damages, costs, or expenses, including attorney's fees, arising directly or indirectly from my participation or presence at Valley Water properties and events.

I understand that participation in the Youth Commission is voluntary and have read and understand the provisions stated above.

Applicant Name: Clarice Yasmine Golpayegani Grade: 9

Applicant Signature:  Clarice Yasmine Golpayegani School: _____
Signed by: 53EF18385B3C4A1...


Date: 5/4/2026

If the applicant is under 18 years old, the section below must be completed by a parent or guardian.

This is to certify that as a parent/guardian of this applicant, my child has my permission to participate in the Youth Commission. I further certify that I have read and agree to the provisions stated above.

Parent/Guardian Name (print): ATLASI DANESHVAR

Relationship (print): Mother

Parent/Guardian signature:  _____
DocuSigned by: D74E242E28F1408...

Date: 5/4/2026

Application for the Santa Clara Valley Water District Youth Commission

Please complete this application in its entirety and submit a signed copy. Applications are valid for one year from the date of receipt and are public record. This application is available online at valleywater.org/youthcommission. For assistance, please contact the Youth Commission program at youthcommission@valleywater.org.

A. APPLICANT CONTACT INFORMATION

Name of Committee: Valley Water Youth Commission	
Applicant Name (First, Middle, Last): Ellie Yunwoo Kim	
Applicant Preferred Name (If different from name above): Ellie	
Applicant Home Phone:	Applicant Cell Phone:
Applicant E-mail:	
Mailing Address (Street Address, City, State, ZIP):	
To identify your Valley Water Director and District, go to the Local Information GIP Map Tool . Enter your home address into the search box (top left) and expand the <i>SCVWD Board of Directors Boundaries</i> section from the menu bar (left) to identify your Board Member and District number.	
Board Member Name: Jim Beall	Board Member District #: 4

B. PARENT/GUARDIAN CONTACT INFORMATION (If applicant is under 18 years old, the section below must be completed by parent/guardian.)

Parent/ Guardian Name (First, Middle, Last):		
Guardian Home Phone:	Guardian Work Phone:	Guardian Cell Phone:
Mailing Address (Street Address, City, State, ZIP):		
Guardian E-mail:		
Do you have a current contractual relationship with the Santa Clara Valley Water District?		<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No
If Yes, please describe:		
Do you consent to Valley Water staff contacting the applicant directly by phone and/or email?		<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
If No, please explain:		

C. VOLUNTEER & EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

List up to three volunteer or extracurricular experiences that align with the Valley Water Youth Commission and provide brief descriptions (50 words or less).

DATE(S):	NAME:	BRIEF DESCRIPTION:
12/9/2025 - present	Grease2Green	I have founded an environmental club at school called Grease2Green. We are dedicated to reducing the waste of water and used cooking oil by transforming it into recycled soap and promoting eco-friendly actions!
1/20/2025 - present	Let Nature Sing	I am part of Let Nature Sing, a student-led nonprofit that raises environmental awareness through music and live performances and supports environmental organizations through donations from our events.
5/7/2025 - present	Second Harvest of Silicon Valley Volunteer	I volunteer at the Second Harvest Center! My mom and I have been going there three to four times a month since 8th grade. We sort all types of foods like pears, carrots, and bread that will be shipped out to food deserts.

D. INTEREST AND AVAILABILITY

How did you hear about this committee opening?

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District Website | <input type="checkbox"/> Social Media |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Committee Member (specify): _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> School |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Director (specify): _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify): _____ |

Please explain why you are interested in serving on the Youth Commission (150 words or less).

I founded an environmental club called Grease2Green, where we repurpose used cooking oil into soap. Since 2026, I have already led three impactful events in my community: collecting used cooking oils from restaurants and club members, a soap lab where everyone gets to participate in making the soap, and the GoGreen challenge, where we post our everyday lives and the small things we do to reduce waste. My peers and I have saved 2.2 million liters of water so far! I'm constantly thinking of new ways I can lead my community to save water and conserve nature, so I believe serving on the Youth Commission would make a great experience and opportunity for me to grow and share ideas with our community.

Which of the following activities would you be interested in contributing to as a part of the Youth Commission?

- Environmental stewardship and pollution prevention, such as supporting creek cleanups
- Community assistance such as supporting unhoused youth or creating care packages
- Public outreach, such as informing the community about Valley Water resources or social media campaigns

Are you available to attend all in-person quarterly committee meetings when scheduled? Yes No
 (Please go to valleywater.org/youthcommission for committee meeting schedule details.)

In addition to the 4 quarterly committee meetings, I understand I am expected to participate in additional subcommittee meetings via Zoom. Yes No

If you have a disability, what accommodations would you need to serve on this committee?

N/A

E. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

150 words or less:

1. What do you believe is the most pressing water or environmental issue we are facing as a county, and which issue is the most important or relevant to you personally?

Although there are many pressing issues, I personally believe that water quality issues are at large today. From agricultural runoff to wastewater management gaps, these are all problems everyone faces everyday. Both of these issues contribute heavily to the decline in the quality of our water, especially when most of the time they are nonpoint sources. In my own experience, I can form connections between our society's everyday behaviors, especially with how we dispose of our used cooking oils. When it's poured down drains, it can enter sewer systems, contributing to blockages or even make its way into stormwater systems. Because of this, improving awareness and systems around proper waste disposal feels important to me.

2. What do you hope to gain from being on the Youth Commission? What do you think you can contribute by being on the Youth Commission?

I hope to gain a better understanding of environmental issues from a worldwide perspective and improve my leadership and communication skills. I can't wait to experience unique ways to advocate for our Earth's water quality and sustainability with the Youth Commission! What makes my perspective unique is that I connect environmental issues to everyday behaviors, especially through used cooking oil and its impact on wastewater systems. I also bring hands-on leadership experience as the founder of Grease2Green. Through my actions, my club and I have saved an estimated amount of \$2,294.50. I have many great ideas to contribute, and I believe I will be a strong voice for youth and environmental awareness.

F. EMERGENCY CONTACTS

In case of emergency, contact: John Kim or Eunju Kim		
Name:	Phone:	Relationship:
Name:	Phone:	Relationship:


I, hereby, attest that the information I have provided on this application is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I understand that all information provided is subject to verification and that misrepresentation or omissions may be cause for my immediate rejection as an applicant or termination from appointment to a committee.

If appointed to the Youth Commission, I further agree that photographs, pictures, slides, movies, livestreams or videos of me or that include me may be captured and created in connection with my participation in the Youth Commission without compensation from Valley Water and consent to Valley Water's use of these photographs, pictures, slides, movies, livestreams or videos for any lawful purpose.

I acknowledge and assume all risks associated with entering or using Valley Water properties, participating in related programs or activities, and the actions of others in those activities. I fully accept these risks and waive and release any current or future claims against Valley Water and its directors, officers, employees, and agents for any loss, damage, or injury. I also agree to hold harmless, defend, and indemnify these parties from any and all claims, liabilities, damages, costs, or expenses, including attorney's fees, arising directly or indirectly from my participation or presence at Valley Water properties and events.

I understand that participation in the Youth Commission is voluntary and have read and understand the provisions stated above.

Applicant Name: Ellie Kim

Applicant Signature:  _____

Date: 04/16/2026

If the applicant is under 18 years old, the section below must be completed by a parent or guardian.

This is to certify that as a parent/guardian of this applicant, my child has my permission to participate in the Youth Commission. I further certify that I have read and agree to the provisions stated above.

Parent/Guardian Name (print): Eunju Kim

Relationship (print): Mother

Parent/Guardian signature:  _____

Date: 04/16/2026

Application for the Santa Clara Valley Water District Youth Commission

Please complete this application in its entirety and submit a signed copy. Applications are valid for one year from the date of receipt and are public record. This application is available online at valleywater.org/youthcommission. For assistance, please contact the Youth Commission program at youthcommission@valleywater.org.

A. APPLICANT CONTACT INFORMATION

Name of Committee: Valley Water Youth Commission	
Applicant Name (First, Middle, Last): Anaira, Anurag, Phadke	
Applicant Preferred Name (If different from name above):	
Applicant Home Phone:	Applicant Cell Phone:
Applicant E-mail:	
Mailing Address (Street Address, City, State, ZIP):	
To identify your Valley Water Director and District, go to the Local Information GIP Map Tool . Enter your home address into the search box (top left) and expand the <i>SCVWD Board of Directors Boundaries</i> section from the menu bar (left) to identify your Board Member and District number.	
Board Member Name: Nai Hsueh	Board Member District #: 5

B. PARENT/GUARDIAN CONTACT INFORMATION (If applicant is under 18 years old, the section below must be completed by parent/guardian.)

Parent/ Guardian Name (First, Middle, Last):		
Guardian Home Phone:	Guardian Work Phone:	Guardian Cell Phone:
Mailing Address (Street Address, City, State, ZIP):		
Guardian E-mail:		
Do you have a current contractual relationship with the Santa Clara Valley Water District?		<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No
If Yes, please describe:		
Do you consent to Valley Water staff contacting the applicant directly by phone and/or email?		<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
If No, please explain:		

C. VOLUNTEER & EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

List up to three volunteer or extracurricular experiences that align with the Valley Water Youth Commission and provide brief descriptions (50 words or less).		
DATE(S):	NAME:	BRIEF DESCRIPTION:
Jan 2026- Present	El Camino Health Hospital Volunteer	Selected for a competitive hospital volunteer cohort. Support patient care, assist staff, escort patients for transportation, and provide weekly piano performances to improve patient experience. Built firsthand understanding of how essential systems, including water and sanitation, impact public health and community well-being.
Aug 2025 - Present	Sacred Heart Community Service (Volunteer)	Assist with food distribution and essential services for underserved families. Gained perspective on resource access and community needs, which reinforces the importance of reliable infrastructure and equitable distribution of basic necessities.
Nov 2024 - Present	Hearts and Minds Activity Center (Volunteer)	Work with seniors with Alzheimer's and dementia through activities and engagement. Developed empathy and awareness of how environmental conditions and public resources affect vulnerable populations, which aligns with community-focused decision-making.

D. INTEREST AND AVAILABILITY

<p>How did you hear about this committee opening?</p> <p> <input type="checkbox"/> District Website <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social Media </p> <p> <input type="checkbox"/> Committee Member (specify): _____ <input type="checkbox"/> School </p> <p> <input type="checkbox"/> Director (specify): _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify): _____ </p>
<p>Please explain why you are interested in serving on the Youth Commission (150 words or less). Every decision about water is a tradeoff. Use too much and you risk shortages. Store too much and you risk flooding. Get it wrong and entire communities feel it. That complexity is why I want to serve on the Valley Water Youth Commission. I am drawn to problems where there is not one obvious answer and where technical, environmental, and community needs all have to be balanced. In the hospital, I have learned you cannot treat a patient by just looking at numbers like heart rate or blood pressure. You must listen and understand the whole person. I would bring that same mindset here by looking beyond data and considering real community impact. I pay attention, ask insightful questions, listen to my peers' suggestions, and follow through with a solid plan. I would come into this role ready to contribute, represent student perspectives, and be someone the commission can rely on.</p>
<p>Which of the following activities would you be interested in contributing to as a part of the Youth Commission?</p> <p> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Environmental stewardship and pollution prevention, such as supporting creek cleanups <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Community assistance such as supporting unhoused youth or creating care packages <input type="checkbox"/> Public outreach, such as informing the community about Valley Water resources or social media campaigns </p>
<p>Are you available to attend all in-person quarterly committee meetings when scheduled? <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No (Please go to valleywater.org/youthcommission for committee meeting schedule details.)</p>
<p>In addition to the 4 quarterly committee meetings, I understand I am expected to participate in additional subcommittee meetings via Zoom. <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No</p>
<p>If you have a disability, what accommodations would you need to serve on this committee?</p>

E. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

150 words or less:

1. What do you believe is the most pressing water or environmental issue we are facing as a county, and which issue is the most important or relevant to you personally?

If the Sunnyvale East and West Channels failed during a major storm, thousands of homes and businesses could flood within hours. This kind of risk shows how water infrastructure decisions directly affect daily life. One of the most pressing issues in our county is balancing flood protection with long-term water supply and environmental sustainability. Projects like the Sunnyvale Channels are critical for safety, however they also reflect a larger challenge: managing water in a way that protects communities while adapting to climate change and limited local supply. I am especially interested in this intersection of engineering, policy, water in healthcare, and real-world impact. Through my hospital volunteering, I have learned that good decisions require looking beyond surface data and understanding the full system. I bring that same mindset here. I would approach this role ready to engage deeply and learn how leaders like Director Hsueh evaluate complex tradeoffs that affect both infrastructure and community outcomes.

2. What do you hope to gain from being on the Youth Commission? What do you think you can contribute by being on the Youth Commission?

I want to move from knowing water issues exist to understanding how solutions are actually built. I am especially interested in how projects like the Sunnyvale East and West Channels or recycled water systems go from proposal to approval. Learning directly from Board Directors, engineers, staff, and peers about how financial and environmental decisions come together is something I am unable to get in a classroom. I also hope to collaborate with students across the county who face different water challenges and broaden my perspective.

In terms of contribution, I bring a data-driven mindset and a strong interest in systems. I can analyze trends like water usage or conservation impact and help translate that into insights that are easy for students to understand. As a Sunnyvale resident, I am also interested in how recycled water and local creek health affect my community, and I can help bridge Valley Water's work to students through clear communication and outreach.

F. EMERGENCY CONTACTS

In case of emergency, contact:

Name:	Phone:	Relationship:
Name:	Phone:	Relationship:

I, hereby, attest that the information I have provided on this application is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I understand that all information provided is subject to verification and that misrepresentation or omissions may be cause for my immediate rejection as an applicant or termination from appointment to a committee.

If appointed to the Youth Commission, I further agree that photographs, pictures, slides, movies, livestreams or videos of me or that include me may be captured and created in connection with my participation in the Youth Commission without compensation from Valley Water and consent to Valley Water's use of these photographs, pictures, slides, movies, livestreams or videos for any lawful purpose.

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I understand that participation in the Youth Commission is voluntary and have read and understand the provisions stated above.


Applicant Name: Amaira PhadkeGrade: 9thApplicant Signature: Amaira

School: _____

Date: 04/03/2026

If the applicant is under 18 years old, the section below must be completed by a parent or guardian.

This is to certify that as a parent/guardian of this applicant, my child has my permission to participate in the Youth Commission. I further certify that I have read and agree to the provisions stated above.

Parent/Guardian Name (print): Namrata ShettyRelationship (print): MotherParent/Guardian signature: Date: 04/03/2026



Application for the Santa Clara Valley Water District Youth Commission

Please complete this application in its entirety and submit a signed copy. Applications are valid for one year from the date of receipt and are public record. This application is available online at valleywater.org/youthcommission. For assistance, please contact the Youth Commission program at youthcommission@valleywater.org.

A. APPLICANT CONTACT INFORMATION

Name of Committee: Valley Water Youth Commission	
Applicant Name (First, Middle, Last): Archer Dickinson	
Applicant Preferred Name (If different from name above):	
Applicant Home Phone:	Applicant Cell Phone:
Applicant E-mail:	
Mailing Address (Street Address, City, State, ZIP):	
To identify your Valley Water Director and District, go to the Local Information GIP Map Tool . Enter your home address into the search box (top left) and expand the <i>SCVWD Board of Directors Boundaries</i> section from the menu bar (left) to identify your Board Member and District number.	
Board Member Name: Nai Hsueh	Board Member District #: 5

B. PARENT/GUARDIAN CONTACT INFORMATION (If applicant is under 18 years old, the section below must be completed by parent/guardian.)

Parent/ Guardian Name (First, Middle, Last):		
Guardian Home Phone:	Guardian Work Phone:	Guardian Cell Phone:
Mailing Address (Street Address, City, State, ZIP):		
Guardian E-mail:		
Do you have a current contractual relationship with the Santa Clara Valley Water District? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No		
If Yes, please describe:		
Do you consent to Valley Water staff contacting the applicant directly by phone and/or email? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
If No, please explain:		



C. VOLUNTEER & EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

List up to three volunteer or extracurricular experiences that align with the Valley Water Youth Commission and provide brief descriptions (50 words or less).

DATE(S):	NAME:	BRIEF DESCRIPTION:
2025-2026	MESH	I volunteer with MESH as a student teacher, where I help teach younger students with lower levels how to play the euphonium. It's been really rewarding to support them and see their progress.
2025-2026	MATH CLUB	I volunteer at my high school's math club, where I help other students with math. When I was in middle school, high school volunteers helped me in the same way, so I wanted to give back and support others too.
2025-2026	N/A	I once rescued an injured bird by a creek and brought it to a wildlife rescue center in San Jose. I also reported a dead bobcat near Saratoga Creek to local wildlife authorities to help protect the water.

D. INTEREST AND AVAILABILITY

How did you hear about this committee opening?

District Website
 Social Media
 Committee Member (specify): _____
 School
 Director (specify): _____
 Other (specify): _____

Please explain why you are interested in serving on the Youth Commission (150 words or less).

Growing up with Saratoga Creek right in my backyard, I spent my childhood observing its shifts between the rainy and dry seasons. This early connection to nature taught me exactly how vital water is to our daily lives. I want to join the Youth Commission bc too many government programs go unnoticed. This platform is meaningful—it genuinely values young people and gives us a direct line to the Valley Water Board. High schoolers are creative, capable, and ready to step up. I want to contribute by sharing environmental ideas, discussing policy, and using our generation's social media skills to effectively educate and engage my peers.

Which of the following activities would you be interested in contributing to as a part of the Youth Commission?

Environmental stewardship and pollution prevention, such as supporting creek cleanups
 Community assistance such as supporting unhoused youth or creating care packages
 Public outreach, such as informing the community about Valley Water resources or social media campaigns

Are you available to attend all in-person quarterly committee meetings when scheduled? Yes No
 (Please go to valleywater.org/youthcommission for committee meeting schedule details.)

In addition to the 4 quarterly committee meetings, I understand I am expected to participate in additional subcommittee meetings via Zoom. Yes No

If you have a disability, what accommodations would you need to serve on this committee?



E. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

150 words or less:

1. What do you believe is the most pressing water or environmental issue we are facing as a county, and which issue is the most important or relevant to you personally?

I've seen firsthand how the creek behind my backyard changes btw the dry and rainy seasons. During the dry months, it can go almost completely dry for weeks, and I worry about the trees and wildlife that depend on it. Without water, plants struggle and animals lose a key source they rely on. With rainfall becoming less predictable, I think we need smarter ways to store and manage water so people don't have to worry about shortages. We also rely a lot on state water, so becoming more self-sufficient matters. At the same time, many people don't realize how their actions affect local water systems. That's why public outreach and community involvement are so important. Young people, especially, know how to use social media—we should take responsibility for spreading awareness.

2. What do you hope to gain from being on the Youth Commission? What do you think you can contribute by being on the Youth Commission?

I hope to become more aware and involved as a community member. Being part of the Youth Commission would help me pay more attention to local issues and stay engaged in the future. I also want to contribute through action, not just ideas. I believe everything is a learning experience- whether it's making a short video, organizing an event, or participating in activities. These are all ways to build real skills while serving the community.

F. EMERGENCY CONTACTS

In case of emergency, contact:		
Name:	Phone:	Relationship:
Name:	Phone:	Relationship:

I, hereby, attest that the information I have provided on this application is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I understand that all information provided is subject to verification and that misrepresentation or omissions may be cause for my immediate rejection as an applicant or termination from appointment to a committee.

If appointed to the Youth Commission, I further agree that photographs, pictures, slides, movies, livestreams or videos of me or that include me may be captured and created in connection with my participation in the Youth Commission without compensation from Valley Water and consent to Valley Water's use of these photographs, pictures, slides, movies, livestreams or videos for any lawful purpose.



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I understand that participation in the Youth Commission is voluntary and have read and understand the provisions stated above.

Applicant Name: Archer Dickinson

Grade: 9

Applicant Signature: Signed by:
Archer Dickinson
963A78BE14074FA...

School: _____

Date: 5/1/2026

If the applicant is under 18 years old, the section below must be completed by a parent or guardian.

This is to certify that as a parent/guardian of this applicant, my child has my permission to participate in the Youth Commission. I further certify that I have read and agree to the provisions stated above.

Parent/Guardian Name (print): Nengneng Song

Relationship (print): Mother

Parent/Guardian signature: DocuSigned by:
Nengneng Song
65C5B9B1B6724D7...

Date: 5/1/2026

Application for the Santa Clara Valley Water District Youth Commission

Please complete this application in its entirety and submit a signed copy. Applications are valid for one year from the date of receipt and are public record. This application is available online at valleywater.org/youthcommission. For assistance, please contact the Youth Commission program at youthcommission@valleywater.org.

A. APPLICANT CONTACT INFORMATION

Name of Committee: Valley Water Youth Commission	
Applicant Name (First, Middle, Last): RITHVIK ARUN	
Applicant Preferred Name (If different from name above): Vik	
Applicant Home Phone:	Applicant Cell Phone:
Applicant E-mail:	
Mailing Address (Street Address, City, State, ZIP):	
To identify your Valley Water Director and District, go to the Local Information GIP Map Tool . Enter your home address into the search box (top left) and expand the <i>SCVWD Board of Directors Boundaries</i> section from the menu bar (left) to identify your Board Member and District number.	
Board Member Name: Tony Estremera	Board Member District #: 6

B. PARENT/GUARDIAN CONTACT INFORMATION (If applicant is under 18 years old, the section below must be completed by parent/guardian.)

Parent/ Guardian Name (First, Middle, Last):		
Guardian Home Phone:	Guardian Work Phone:	Guardian Cell Phone:
Mailing Address (Street Address, City, State, ZIP):		
Guardian E-mail:		
Do you have a current contractual relationship with the Santa Clara Valley Water District? <input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No		
If Yes, please describe:		
Do you consent to Valley Water staff contacting the applicant directly by phone and/or email? <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No		
If No, please explain:		

C. VOLUNTEER & EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

List up to three volunteer or extracurricular experiences that align with the Valley Water Youth Commission and provide brief descriptions (50 words or less).

DATE(S):	NAME:	BRIEF DESCRIPTION:
07/25/2025 - current	XPRIZE Wildfire	Worked as part of the only highschool team to reach the XPRIZE Wildfire global finals. Helped develop software and sensorbased solutions for early wildfire detection. Gained experience in environmental risk, community safety and real-world problem solving in a global scheme.
Summer 2025	Cathedral of Faith Community Outreach & Stand4Food	Volunteered at weekly food distribution events by bagging groceries, organizing supplies, and loading food into cars for families in need. Supported a high-volume community program that helps reduce food insecurity and strengthens local outreach efforts
Summer 2024 & 2025	HoopRight Basketball	Volunteered to teach kids basketball skills and ball handling during summer camp.

D. INTEREST AND AVAILABILITY

How did you hear about this committee opening?

District Website
 Social Media
 Committee Member (specify): _____
 School
 Director (specify): _____
 Other (specify): SVAWPC tour Zanker Rd

Please explain why you are interested in serving on the Youth Commission (150 words or less).

I am interested in the Youth Commission because I want to understand how water systems work in our county and how young people can contribute to longterm sustainability. I am preparing to join my high school's XPRIZE Water team, and learning about real water management challenges, such as drought resilience, groundwater recharge, and pollution prevention. This will help me build meaningful solutions. I want to serve my community, learn from experts, and help raise awareness among other students.

Which of the following activities would you be interested in contributing to as a part of the Youth Commission?

Environmental stewardship and pollution prevention, such as supporting creek cleanups
 Community assistance such as supporting unhoused youth or creating care packages
 Public outreach, such as informing the community about Valley Water resources or social media campaigns

Are you available to attend all in-person quarterly committee meetings when scheduled? Yes No
 (Please go to valleywater.org/youthcommission for committee meeting schedule details.)

In addition to the 4 quarterly committee meetings, I understand I am expected to participate in additional subcommittee meetings via Zoom. Yes No

If you have a disability, what accommodations would you need to serve on this committee?
 None needed.

E. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

150 words or less:

1. What do you believe is the most pressing water or environmental issue we are facing as a county, and which issue is the most important or relevant to you personally?

One of the most pressing issues in Santa Clara County is longterm water reliability during drought cycles. Climate change is reducing snowpack (for example for 2026 we are at second lowest measurement ever in sierra snowpack) and increasing demand, which puts pressure on groundwater and imported water supplies. Personally, I am most interested in water purification and recycling technologies, because they can help create sustainable, local sources of clean water. I want to learn how Valley Water manages these challenges and how youth can support conservation and public education.

2. What do you hope to gain from being on the Youth Commission? What do you think you can contribute by being on the Youth Commission?

I hope to gain a deeper understanding of how water systems, flood protection, and environmental restoration work in our county. This knowledge will help me contribute meaningfully to my school's XPRIZE Water team and future STEM projects. I can contribute strong research skills, creativity, and a passion for environmental problemsolving. I enjoy working with teams, organizing events, and helping other students learn about water conservation and sustainability.

F. EMERGENCY CONTACTS

In case of emergency, contact:		
Name:	Phone:	Relationship:
Name:	Phone:	Relationship:

I, hereby, attest that the information I have provided on this application is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I understand that all information provided is subject to verification and that misrepresentation or omissions may be cause for my immediate rejection as an applicant or termination from appointment to a committee.

If appointed to the Youth Commission, I further agree that photographs, pictures, slides, movies, livestreams or videos of me or that include me may be captured and created in connection with my participation in the Youth Commission without compensation from Valley Water and consent to Valley Water's use of these photographs, pictures, slides, movies, livestreams or videos for any lawful purpose.

I acknowledge and assume all risks associated with entering or using Valley Water properties, participating in related programs or activities, and the actions of others in those activities. I fully accept these risks and waive and release any current or future claims against Valley Water and its directors, officers, employees, and agents for any loss, damage, or injury. I also agree to hold harmless, defend, and indemnify these parties from any and all claims, liabilities, damages, costs, or expenses, including attorney's fees, arising directly or indirectly from my participation or presence at Valley Water properties and events.

I understand that participation in the Youth Commission is voluntary and have read and understand the provisions stated above.

Applicant Name: RITHVIK ARUN

Applicant Signature: 

Date: 4/16/2026

If the applicant is under 18 years old, the section below must be completed by a parent or guardian.

This is to certify that as a parent/guardian of this applicant, my child has my permission to participate in the Youth Commission. I further certify that I have read and agree to the provisions stated above.

Parent/Guardian Name (print): SENDILLNATHAN ARUNAHCALAM

Relationship (print): FATHER

Parent/Guardian signature: 

Date: 4/16/2026



Application for the Santa Clara Valley Water District Youth Commission

Please complete this application in its entirety and submit a signed copy. Applications are valid for one year from the date of receipt and are public record. This application is available online at valleywater.org/youthcommission. For assistance, please contact the Youth Commission program at youthcommission@valleywater.org.

A. APPLICANT CONTACT INFORMATION

Name of Committee: Valley Water Youth Commission	
Applicant Name (First, Middle, Last): Zander Yu	
Applicant Preferred Name (If different from name above):	
Applicant Home Phone:	Applicant Cell Phone:
Applicant E-mail:	
Mailing Address (Street Address, City, State, ZIP):	
To identify your Valley Water Director and District, go to the Local Information GIP Map Tool . Enter your home address into the search box (top left) and expand the <i>SCVWD Board of Directors Boundaries</i> section from the menu bar (left) to identify your Board Member and District number.	
Board Member Name: Tony Estremera	Board Member District #: 6

B. PARENT/GUARDIAN CONTACT INFORMATION (If applicant is under 18 years old, the section below must be completed by parent/guardian.)

Parent/ Guardian Name (First, Middle, Last):		
Guardian Home Phone:	Guardian Work Phone:	Guardian Cell Phone:
Mailing Address (Street Address, City, State, ZIP):		
Guardian E-mail:		
Do you have a current contractual relationship with the Santa Clara Valley Water District? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No		
If Yes, please describe:		
Do you consent to Valley Water staff contacting the applicant directly by phone and/or email? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
If No, please explain:		



C. VOLUNTEER & EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

List up to three volunteer or extracurricular experiences that align with the Valley Water Youth Commission and provide brief descriptions (50 words or less).

DATE(S):	NAME:	BRIEF DESCRIPTION:
05/09/2026	Berryessa Art Festival	Performed at Berryessa Art Festival for my middle school, and help teacher and organizer to coordinate the performance.
08/01/2025	ABS president	Responsibilities include bridging the gap between students and the school administration and organizing school spirit events and leading student council meetings.
08/01/2024	ABS vice president	Responsibilities include bridging the gap between students and the school administration and organizing school spirit events and leading student council meetings.

D. INTEREST AND AVAILABILITY

How did you hear about this committee opening?

District Website
 Social Media
 Committee Member (specify): _____
 School
 Director (specify): _____
 Other (specify): _____

Please explain why you are interested in serving on the Youth Commission (150 words or less).

As an incoming 9th-grade student at the independent high school, I am excited to embark on my high school journey by giving back to my community and advocating for sustainable water management in the Santa Clara Valley. I believe that starting my involvement with the Commission as a freshman is crucial because water issues are complex and require a holistic and dynamic approach. California, and particularly the Santa Clara Valley, has faced significant water challenges over time. We experienced droughts a few years ago and recently dealt with flooding during the rainy season. These issues demand a comprehensive understanding and a proactive response.

Which of the following activities would you be interested in contributing to as a part of the Youth Commission?

Environmental stewardship and pollution prevention, such as supporting creek cleanups
 Community assistance such as supporting unhoused youth or creating care packages
 Public outreach, such as informing the community about Valley Water resources or social media campaigns

Are you available to attend all in-person quarterly committee meetings when scheduled? Yes No
 (Please go to valleywater.org/youthcommission for committee meeting schedule details.)

In addition to the 4 quarterly committee meetings, I understand I am expected to participate in additional subcommittee meetings via Zoom. Yes No

If you have a disability, what accommodations would you need to serve on this committee?



E. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

150 words or less:

1. What do you believe is the most pressing water or environmental issue we are facing as a county, and which issue is the most important or relevant to you personally?

I believe the most pressing issue in Santa Clara County is climate resiliency, specifically managing the 'weather whiplash' between extreme drought and sudden, intense flooding. As our climate becomes more unpredictable due to global warming, the county must balance storing enough water for dry years while maintaining infrastructure that can protect our neighborhoods from flash floods. Personally, the issue of water conservation and education is most relevant to me. Living in San Jose, I see how much water is used on residential landscaping. I am passionate about how we can better educate my generation to view water as a finite resource rather than an infinite utility. As an incoming freshman, I want to lead initiatives that make 'water-wise' habits—like graywater use and native planting—the new standard for Silicon Valley families, ensuring we aren't just reacting to the next drought, but are prepared for it.

2. What do you hope to gain from being on the Youth Commission? What do you think you can contribute by being on the Youth Commission?

Serving on the Youth Commission is an opportunity for me to gain a professional understanding of public policy and the complicated engineering behind our county's water systems. While I've learned about the fundamentals of the environment, water cycle, and management in the classroom, I'm eager to witness how these concepts are practically applied to sustain a multi-million-strong population in the Santa Clara Valley.

Furthermore, I'm committed to honing my civic leadership skills. I aspire to learn how to effectively communicate with community leaders and board members, fostering collaboration among a diverse group of peers to achieve shared objectives. My goal is to become an informed and dedicated advocate for environmental sustainability in the Santa Clara Valley.

F. EMERGENCY CONTACTS

In case of emergency, contact:		
Name:	Phone:	Relationship:
Name:	Phone:	Relationship:

I, hereby, attest that the information I have provided on this application is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I understand that all information provided is subject to verification and that misrepresentation or omissions may be cause for my immediate rejection as an applicant or termination from appointment to a committee.

If appointed to the Youth Commission, I further agree that photographs, pictures, slides, movies, livestreams or videos of me or that include me may be captured and created in connection with my participation in the Youth Commission without compensation from Valley Water and consent to Valley Water's use of these photographs, pictures, slides, movies, livestreams or videos for any lawful purpose.



Application for the Santa Clara Valley Water District Youth Commission

Please complete this application in its entirety and submit a signed copy. Applications are valid for one year from the date of receipt and are public record. This application is available online at valleywater.org/youthcommission. For assistance, please contact the Youth Commission program at youthcommission@valleywater.org.

A. APPLICANT CONTACT INFORMATION

Name of Committee: Valley Water Youth Commission	
Applicant Name (First, Middle, Last): Cassia Dyer Seem	
Applicant Preferred Name (If different from name above): Cassy	
Applicant Home Phone:	Applicant Cell Phone:
Applicant E-mail:	
Mailing Address (Street Address, City, State, ZIP):	
To identify your Valley Water Director and District, go to the Local Information GIP Map Tool . Enter your home address into the search box (top left) and expand the <i>SCVWD Board of Directors Boundaries</i> section from the menu bar (left) to identify your Board Member and District number.	
Board Member Name: Rebecca Eisenberg	Board Member District #: 7

B. PARENT/GUARDIAN CONTACT INFORMATION (If applicant is under 18 years old, the section below must be completed by parent/guardian.)

Parent/ Guardian Name (First, Middle, Last):		
Guardian Home Phone:	Guardian Work Phone:	Guardian Cell Phone:
Mailing Address (Street Address, City, State, ZIP):		
Guardian E-mail:		
Do you have a current contractual relationship with the Santa Clara Valley Water District? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No		
If Yes, please describe:		
Do you consent to Valley Water staff contacting the applicant directly by phone and/or email? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
If No, please explain:		



C. VOLUNTEER & EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

List up to three volunteer or extracurricular experiences that align with the Valley Water Youth Commission and provide brief descriptions (50 words or less).

DATE(S):	NAME:	BRIEF DESCRIPTION:
July 2025 to Present	Scientific Research Paper on AI-driven automated det	Throughout the year, I have worked on creating a Remote Operating Vehicle that uses live detection to locate and map invasive species. Mapping key invasive species can lead to their more immediate removal, which will help mitigate the impact by climate change.
Sept, 2025 to Present	NOAA Youth Representative	I have been on NOAA as a youth representative where I advocate for ocean conservation and stewardship through project implementation. I have organized beach cleanups and shared presentations in my community about microplastic.
April 2025	San Francisco Climate Week	I gave a speech on microplastics in waterways, and their impact on the environment. Through scuba diving, I have observed microplastic pollution firsthand. This experience made me more comfortable in advocating in front of an assembly.

D. INTEREST AND AVAILABILITY

How did you hear about this committee opening?

District Website
 Social Media
 Committee Member (specify): _____
 School
 Director (specify): _____
 Other (specify): _____

Please explain why you are interested in serving on the Youth Commission (150 words or less).

Since I was 10 years old I have been scuba diving on the California coastline and seen how it has changed over time. Due to climate change, invasive species have flourished and runoff has suffocated animals in waterways. I want to combat water and conservation issues firsthand. Although I have experience with research and diving, I seek to better understand local water management decisions through serving on the Youth Commission. By participating in the decision-making process, I hope to include my perspective on management as a long time scuba diver and passionate environmentalist. In these meetings, I will collaborate with people who have the same drive as me for conserving our local waterways, preventing the spread of pollution to the ocean and other areas, and managing water ethically and sustainably.

Which of the following activities would you be interested in contributing to as a part of the Youth Commission?

Environmental stewardship and pollution prevention, such as supporting creek cleanups
 Community assistance such as supporting unhoused youth or creating care packages
 Public outreach, such as informing the community about Valley Water resources or social media campaigns

Are you available to attend all in-person quarterly committee meetings when scheduled? Yes No
 (Please go to valleywater.org/youthcommission for committee meeting schedule details.)

In addition to the 4 quarterly committee meetings, I understand I am expected to participate in additional subcommittee meetings via Zoom. Yes No

If you have a disability, what accommodations would you need to serve on this committee?
 none



E. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

150 words or less:

1. What do you believe is the most pressing water or environmental issue we are facing as a county, and which issue is the most important or relevant to you personally?

In Santa Clara County, the most relevant issue is water scarcity combined with climate-change driven drought. Rainfall has become more unpredictable, with cycles alternating between severe drought and intense rain storms. Due to higher temperatures, droughts will be longer and more frequent. Extended periods of drought can cause wildfires, which are harmful to property, wildlife habitat, and humans. Drought also strains ground water supplies, which leads to insufficient water for consumption and agriculture. Wildlife conservation is also an issue I am passionate about; pollutants in water can cause algal blooms, reduce oxygen levels, and damage ocean and wetland habitats alike. I care about this issue deeply because this affects all aspects of life in Santa Clara, as animals and humans are deprived of their basic necessity: clean water. Managing water sustainably not only protects ecosystems, but also ensures stable water supply for the region.

2. What do you hope to gain from being on the Youth Commission? What do you think you can contribute by being on the Youth Commission?

By being on the Youth Commission I will gain a deeper understanding of how policy-making is done at a local level that impacts my community directly. I have experience with national conservation issues, but have yet to understand how conservation is approached at a smaller scale; I would love to learn about this through serving on the Youth Commission. It will give me the opportunity to advocate for issues I care about deeply like environmental sustainability and ecosystem preservation. I also want to develop leadership, collaboration, and communication skills by working with people who are equally passionate about making a difference – both peers my age and other community stakeholders. I will contribute by showing strong interest and knowledge in environmental issues, particularly marine conservation. Observing how climate change has shaped my community firsthand has given me perspective on both the climate and conservation issues, as well as practical solutions for water management. I am curious and motivated to put in the work to educate my community, and hope to inspire them to advocate for sustainable manageme

F. EMERGENCY CONTACTS

In case of emergency, contact:		
Name:	Phone:	Relationship:
Name:	Phone:	Relationship:

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If appointed to the Youth Commission, I further agree that photographs, pictures, slides, movies, livestreams or videos of me or that include me may be captured and created in connection with my participation in the Youth Commission without compensation from Valley Water and consent to Valley Water’s use of these photographs, pictures, slides, movies, livestreams or videos for any lawful purpose.



I acknowledge and assume all risks associated with entering or using Valley Water properties, participating in related programs or activities, and the actions of others in those activities. I fully accept these risks and waive and release any current or future claims against Valley Water and its directors, officers, employees, and agents for any loss, damage, or injury. I also agree to hold harmless, defend, and indemnify these parties from any and all claims, liabilities, damages, costs, or expenses, including attorney's fees, arising directly or indirectly from my participation or presence at Valley Water properties and events.

I understand that participation in the Youth Commission is voluntary and have read and understand the provisions stated above.

Applicant Name: Cassia Dyer Seem Grade: 9

Applicant Signature:  School: _____
Signed by: D5696F2F6D30453...

Date: 4/26/2026

If the applicant is under 18 years old, the section below must be completed by a parent or guardian.

This is to certify that as a parent/guardian of this applicant, my child has my permission to participate in the Youth Commission. I further certify that I have read and agree to the provisions stated above.

Parent/Guardian Name (print): Sonia Seem

Relationship (print): Sonia Seem

Parent/Guardian signature: 
DocuSigned by: D1404AB5B185483...

Date: 4/26/2026

Application for the Santa Clara Valley Water District Youth Commission

Please complete this application in its entirety and submit a signed copy. Applications are valid for one year from the date of receipt and are public record. This application is available online at valleywater.org/youthcommission. For assistance, please contact the Youth Commission program at youthcommission@valleywater.org.

A. APPLICANT CONTACT INFORMATION

Name of Committee: Valley Water Youth Commission	
Applicant Name (First, Middle, Last): Shrishti Sinha	
Applicant Preferred Name (If different from name above): Shrishti (like Kristy with an S)	
Applicant Home Phone: _____	Applicant Cell Phone: _____
Applicant E-mail: _____	
Mailing Address (Street Address, City, State, ZIP): _____	
To identify your Valley Water Director and District, go to the Local Information GIP Map Tool . Enter your home address into the search box (top left) and expand the <i>SCVWD Board of Directors Boundaries</i> section from the menu bar (left) to identify your Board Member and District number.	
Board Member Name: Rebecca Eisenberg	Board Member District #: 7

B. PARENT/GUARDIAN CONTACT INFORMATION (If applicant is under 18 years old, the section below must be completed by parent/guardian.)

Parent/ Guardian Name (First, Middle, Last): _____		
Guardian Home Phone: _____	Guardian Work Phone: _____	Guardian Cell Phone: _____
Mailing Address (Street Address, City, State, ZIP): _____		
Guardian E-mail: _____		
Do you have a current contractual relationship with the Santa Clara Valley Water District?		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If Yes, please describe: _____		
Do you consent to Valley Water staff contacting the applicant directly by phone and/or email?		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
If No, please explain: _____		

C. VOLUNTEER & EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

List up to three volunteer or extracurricular experiences that align with the Valley Water Youth Commission and provide brief descriptions (50 words or less).		
DATE(S):	NAME:	BRIEF DESCRIPTION:
November 2024 – 2025	Founder & President, Power of Water Club	Founded a student-led water conservation club in partnership with a national nonprofit on water access, new Jersey based Power of Clean water. Organized educational workshops and outreach events to promote sustainable water use and raise awareness of global water challenges.
2025 – Present	Teen Advisory Board (TAB) Member, City of Palo Alto, CA	Collaborated with youth and community leaders to organize programs and initiatives for teens and tweens, helping amplify youth voices and increase engagement in civic and environmental issues.
2026 March - April	Acterra Waterpalooza Presenter	Collaborated with Acterra leadership to present on water conservation policy at Waterpalooza. Delivered a public presentation on CalEnviroScreen 5.0 (CES) and environmental equity, engaging community members on the importance of water policy and environmental justice. Additionally, set up and led a Power of Water booth alongside the Valley Water booth at the Love Our Earth Festival, focused on water conservation education, community outreach, and advocacy through interactive activities and conversations.

D. INTEREST AND AVAILABILITY

How did you hear about this committee opening? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District Website <input type="checkbox"/> Social Media <input type="checkbox"/> Committee Member (specify): _____ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> School <input type="checkbox"/> Director (specify): _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify): _____	
Please explain why you are interested in serving on the Youth Commission (150 words or less). I am interested in serving on the Valley Water Youth Commission because I am passionate about water conservation, policy, and youth engagement. Through founding the Power of Water Club at Gunn High School, developing a nationally recognized water conservation app, presenting at the Love Our Earth Festival on CalEnviroScreen 5.0 with Acterra, and being selected for the Girls in Science Fellowship studying Sierra Nevada groundwater retention, I have explored both local and global water challenges. These experiences have shown me that while many students care about environmental issues, they often lack accessible and engaging ways to connect advocacy with policy and real-world impact. I want to help bridge that gap by making water education and conservation efforts more interactive and inclusive for young people. Serving on the Commission would allow me to apply my experience in outreach, public speaking, and water advocacy to strengthen youth involvement in water policy.	
Which of the following activities would you be interested in contributing to as a part of the Youth Commission? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Environmental stewardship and pollution prevention, such as supporting creek cleanups <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Community assistance such as supporting unhoused youth or creating care packages <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public outreach, such as informing the community about Valley Water resources or social media campaigns	
Are you available to attend all in-person quarterly committee meetings when scheduled? <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No (Please go to valleywater.org/youthcommission for committee meeting schedule details.)	

In addition to the 4 quarterly committee meetings, I understand I am expected to participate in additional subcommittee meetings via Zoom. Yes No

If you have a disability, what accommodations would you need to serve on this committee? N/A

E. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

150 words or less:

1. What do you believe is the most pressing water or environmental issue we are facing as a county, and which issue is the most important or relevant to you personally?

One of the most pressing water issues in Santa Clara County is the combination of climate change, water inequity, and the need for better designed solutions. Tools like CalEnviroScreen 5.0 show that communities such as East Palo Alto facing higher environmental burdens, often have fewer resources to deal with drought, flooding, and water quality challenges. At the same time, climate change is making our water supply less reliable, with greater dependence on imported water.

For me personally, the most important issues are water conservation and water equity. I developed a water conservation app, WaterWise, which received 2nd place nationally in the STEM Next Nature Prize Challenge and a \$1,500 grant. Through this, I've seen how access to simple tools can help communities conserve water. I'm passionate about water conservation and hope to support outreach, and youth engagement efforts that make conservation more inclusive and impactful across Santa Clara County.

2. What do you hope to gain from being on the Youth Commission? What do you think you can contribute by being on the Youth Commission?

Through the Youth Commission, I hope to gain a deeper understanding of how water policy is shaped and how Valley Water uses data, research, and community input to guide decisions. I am especially interested in how tools like CalEnviroScreen 5.0 can inform equitable funding and outreach, and how youth voices can contribute to initiatives such as water education, conservation programs, and community projects like creek cleanups and school outreach programs.

As a STEM Next national 2nd place winner for a water conservation app, an Earthwatch Girls in Science fellow studying Sierra Nevada groundwater retention, and a Teen Advisory Board member working with city officials, I have learned how to connect research, policy, and community impact. I believe I can contribute strong communication and leadership skills, along with my experience in water advocacy and outreach in making water issues more accessible, engaging, and relevant for youth across Santa Clara County.

In case of emergency, contact:		
Name: _____	Phone: _____	Relationship: _____
Name: _____	Phone: _____	Relationship: _____

I, hereby, attest that the information I have provided on this application is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I understand that all information provided is subject to verification and that misrepresentation or omissions may be cause for my immediate rejection as an applicant or termination from appointment to a committee.

If appointed to the Youth Commission, I further agree that photographs, pictures, slides, movies, livestreams or videos of me or that include me may be captured and created in connection with my participation in the Youth Commission without compensation from Valley Water and consent to Valley Water's use of these photographs, pictures, slides, movies, livestreams or videos for any lawful purpose.

I acknowledge and assume all risks associated with entering or using Valley Water properties, participating in related programs or activities, and the actions of others in those activities. I fully accept these risks and waive and release any current or future claims against Valley Water and its directors, officers, employees, and agents for any loss, damage, or injury. I also agree to hold harmless, defend, and indemnify these parties from any and all claims, liabilities, damages, costs, or expenses, including attorney's fees, arising directly or indirectly from my participation or presence at Valley Water properties and events.

I understand that participation in the Youth Commission is voluntary and have read and understand the provisions stated above.

Applicant Name: Shrishti Sinha Grade: 10

Applicant Signature:  School: _____


Date: 04/27/2026

If the applicant is under 18 years old, the section below must be completed by a parent or guardian.

This is to certify that as a parent/guardian of this applicant, my child has my permission to participate in the Youth Commission. I further certify that I have read and agree to the provisions stated above.

Parent/Guardian Name (print): Subhas Sinha

Relationship (print): Father

Parent/Guardian signature: 

Date: 04/26/2026

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