BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

MINUTES

CLOSED SESSION AND REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, JUNE 23, 2026
11:00 AM

(Paragraph numbers coincide with agenda item numbers)

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL:

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

1.1. Roll Call.

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

Director Rebecca Eisenberg arrived as noted below.

Staff members in attendance were Melanie Richardson, Interim Chief Executive Officer; Linda Mason, Acting District Counsel; Candice Kwok-Smith, Clerk, Board of Directors; E. Aryee, A. Baker, L. Bankosh, A. Beaman, M. Bilski, J. Bourgeois, A Garcia, R. Gibson, V. Gin, A. Gschwind, W. Ho, M. Lugo, P. McElroy, T. Ndah, M. Poole, R. Ruiz, K. Struve, D. Taylor, B. Yerrapotu, and T. Yoke. Chief Operating Officer Chris Hakes represented Assistant Chief Executive Officer; and Deputy Operating Officer Jennifer Codianne represented Chief Operating Officer Chris Hakes.

2. 11:00 AM - CLOSED SESSION:

Linda Mason, Interim District Counsel, has advised Director Eisenberg that she has a disqualifying conflict of interest and should recuse herself from today's Closed Session meeting for Item 2.3. These rules are attached to the individual director, not Valley Water; accordingly, the director must recuse herself, not Valley Water. The risk of non-recusal falls solely on the director, not on Valley Water.

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

Director Eisenberg arrived.

2.1. CLOSED SESSION
CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - INITIATION OF LITIGATION
Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(4)
One Potential Case
(Continued from June 9, 2026)

2.2. CLOSED SESSION
PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION
Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957(b)(1)
Titles: Chief Executive Officer, District Counsel, and Clerk of the Board

2.3. CLOSED SESSION
CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - ANTICIPATED LITIGATION
Significant Exposure to litigation
Pursuant to Government Code section 54956.9(d)(2):
One Potential Case

2.4. District Counsel Report on Closed Session.

Linda Mason reported that the Board concluded its Closed Session with respect to Item 2.1 with all members participating. There is no reportable action.

With respect to Item 2.2 regarding the CEO and Board Clerk, all members participated. There is no reportable action.

With respect to Item 2.2 regarding District Counsel and Item 2.3, for clarification from the earlier announcement, Director Eisenberg was recused solely from Item 2.2 regarding District Counsel and Item 2.3. All other members participated. There is no reportable action.

3. 1:00 PM - TIME CERTAIN:

Upon returning from Closed Session, Chairperson Estremera left the meeting and did not return. Vice Chair Santos facilitated the remainder of the meeting.

3.1. Pledge of Allegiance/National Anthem.

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

3.2. Orders of the Day.

None.

Vice Chair Santos read the Board Meeting Decorum statement into the record, outlining the expectations for respectful and professional conduct during the proceedings.

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

Nays:	None
Abstains:	None
Recuses:	None
Absent:	Tony Estremera
Summary:	6 Yeas; 0 Nays; 0 Abstains; 1 Absent.

The motion passed by a voice vote.

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

Vice Chair Santos declared time open for public comment on any Item not on the agenda.

Doug Peterson, City of San Jose resident, addressed the Board.

3.4. Review Proposed Modifications to Projects E5 and F6 of the Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program and Set the Time and Place for the Public Hearing.

Recommendation:

A. Review and provide input on staff's proposed modifications to Projects E5 and F6 of the Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program; and

B. Set the time and place for a public hearing on the proposed modifications to Projects E5 and E6 of the Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program for 1:00 PM on July 14, 2026, at the Santa Clara Valley Water District Boardroom, 5700 Almaden Expressway, San Jose, California, and via Teleconference Zoom Board Meeting.

Jessica Collins, Business Planning and Analysis Manager, reviewed the information on this item as outlined in the attached Board Agenda Memo, and per the information contained in Attachment 4.

Vice Chair Santos declared time open for public comment.

Margaret Bruce, San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority representative; Jeffrey Shore; Thomas Rindfleisch, City of Palo Alto resident; and Hamilton Hitchings, City of Palo Alto resident, addressed the Board.

Motion:	The Board approved Staff Recommendation B and directed staff to provide responses to the questions raised during the Board meeting. The Board further directed staff to prepare a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document and make it available prior to the public hearing.

Move to Approve:	Nai Hsueh
Second:	Shiloh Ballard
Yeas:	Shiloh Ballard, Jim Beall, Rebecca Eisenberg, Nai Hsueh, John L. Varela, Richard Santos,
Nays:	None
Abstains:	None

Recuses: None
Absent: Tony Estremera
Summary: 6 Yeas; 0 Nays; 0 Abstains; 1 Absent.

The motion passed by a voice vote.

REGULAR AGENDA:

4. CONSENT CALENDAR:

The Board considered Consent Calendar Items 4.1 through 4.6 under one motion.

4.1. Adopt Recommended Positions on Federal Legislation: H.R. 3717 (Harder) / S. 4603 (Schiff) - Golden Mussel Eradication and Control Act; S. 4536 (Rosen) - Protecting America's Drinking Water from Extreme Temperatures Act; And Other Legislation That May Require Consideration by the Board.

Recommendation:
A. Adopt a Position of "Support and Amend" on H.R. 3717 (Harder) / S. 4603 (Schiff) - Golden Mussel Eradication and Control Act; and
B. Adopt a Position of "Support" on S. 4536 (Rosen) - Protecting America's Drinking Water from Extreme Temperatures Act.

4.2. Approve Memorandum of Understanding for Cost Sharing Between Santa Clara Valley Water District and San Benito County Water District for an Updated North San Benito Groundwater Basin Groundwater Sustainability Plan in the Amount of $1,634 Annually and $8,170 Over a Five-Year Term.

Recommendation:
A. Approve Memorandum of Understanding for Cost Sharing Between Santa Clara Valley Water District and San Benito County Water District for development and implementation of a Groundwater Sustainability Plan Update for the North San Benito Groundwater Basin in the Amount of $1,634 annually and $8,170 over a five-year term; and
B. Authorize the Chief Executive Officer, or their designee, to sign the Memorandum of Understanding.

4.3. Consider and Approve Nominations for Two-Year Committee Appointments and Reappointments to the Santa Clara Valley Water Youth Commission.

Recommendation: Consider and approve nominations for two-year appointments and reappointments to the Santa Clara Valley Water Youth Commission.

4.4. Approve the Board of Directors' Quarterly Expense Report for the Quarter Ending March 31, 2026.

Recommendation: A. Review the Board of Directors' Quarterly Expense Report for the quarter ending March 31, 2026; and
B. Approve the Report if the reimbursements comply the Board Policy.

4.5. Approval of Minutes from May 26, 2026.

Recommendation: Approve the minutes from May 26, 2026.

4.6. Accept the CEO Bulletin for the Weeks of June 5 - 18, 2026.

Recommendation: Accept the CEO Bulletin.

Motion: Approve Consent Calendar Items 4.1 through 4.6, under one motion, as follows: adopt a position of support and amend on H.R. 3717 (Harder) / S. 4603 (Schiff) - Golden Mussel Eradication and Control Act, and adopt a position of support on S. 4536 (Rosen) - Protecting America's Drinking Water from Extreme Temperatures Act, as contained in Item 4.1; approve the Memorandum of Understanding for cost sharing between Santa Clara Valley Water District and San Benito County Water District for development and implementation of a Groundwater Sustainability Plan Update for the North San Benito Groundwater Basin in the Amount of $1,634 annually and $8,170 over a five-year term and authorize the Chief Executive Officer, or their designee, to sign the Memorandum of Understanding, as contained in Item 4.2; consider and approve nominations for two-year appointments and reappointments to the Santa Clara Valley Water Youth Commission, as contained in Item 4.3; approve the Board of Directors' Quarterly Expense Report for the Quarter Ending march 31, 2026, as contained in Item 4.4; approve the minutes from May 26, 2026, as contained in Item 4.5; and accept the CEO Bulletin, as contained in Item 4.6.

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

The motion passed by a voice vote.

5. BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

5.1. Board Committee Reports.

The Board reviewed the meeting summaries and agendas for the April 6, 2026 Agricultural Water Advisory Committee (AWAC), April 20, 2026 Environmental and Water Resources Committee (EWRC), May 13, 2026 Stream Planning and Operations Committee (SPOC), and May 20, 2026, SCVWD Youth Commission, as contained in Handouts 5.1-A and 5.1-D, respectively, and no formal action was taken. Copies of the Handouts were distributed to the Board and made available to the public.

6. WATER UTILITY ENTERPRISE:

The Board considered this item without a staff presentation.

6.1. Approve the Agreement with National Water Research Institute (NWRI) to Provide Technical Support Services for the California Validation (CalVal) Program and Expedite Technical Guidance Necessary for the Pure Water Silicon Valley Project for a Total Not-to-Exceed fee of $500,000.

Recommendation:	Approve the Standard Non-Consultant Agreement with the National Water Research Institute, to provide technical support services for the CalVal Program and expedite technical guidance necessary for the Pure Water Silicon Valley Project for a total not-to-exceed fee of $500,000.
Move to Approve:	John L. Varela
Second:	Nai Hsueh
Yeas:	Shiloh Ballard, Jim Beall, Rebecca Eisenberg, Nai Hsueh, John L. Varela, Richard Santos
Nays:	None
Abstains:	None
Recuses:	None
Absent:	Tony Estremera
Summary:	6 Yeas; 0 Nays; 0 Abstains; 1 Absent.

The motion passed by a voice vote.

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7. WATERSHEDS:

None.

8. ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER:

The Board considered this Item without a staff presentation.

8.1. Approve and execute Amendment No. 2 to Agreement No. A4932A with Stillwater Sciences, for Regulatory Permitting Services for the Anderson Dam Seismic Retrofit Project, Project No. 91864005, Increasing the Not-to-Exceed Fee by $1,251,113 for a Revised Total Not-to-Exceed Fee of $4,169,706. (Morgan Hill, District 1).

Recommendation: Approve and execute Amendment No. 2 to Agreement No. A4932A with Stillwater Sciences, for regulatory permitting services for the Anderson Dam Seismic Retrofit Project, Project No. 91864005, increasing the not-to-exceed fee by $1,251,113 for a revised total not-to-exceed fee of $4,169,706.

Ryan McCarter, Deputy Operating Officer, reviewed the information on this Item as outlined in the attached Board Agenda Memo.

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

The motion passed by a voice vote.

9. EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:

9.1. Approve Fiscal Year 2026 Standard Grants for the Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program.

Recommendation:

A. Review and discuss staff's recommendations for Fiscal Year 2026 Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program (Safe, Clean Water Program) standard grant awards;

B. Authorize the Chief Executive Officer or designee to approve and execute non-consultant agreements for four (4) standard grant projects at a total not-to-exceed amount of $1,776,760; and

C. Authorize reallocating the remaining Fiscal Year 2026 standard grant funding towards Fiscal Year 2027.

Amy Fonseca, Program Administrator, reviewed the information on this Item as outlined in the attached Board Agenda Memo, and per the information contained in Attachment 4.

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

The motion passed by a voice vote.

10. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER:

10.1. CEO and Chiefs' Reports.

Racheal Gibson, Chief of External Affairs, reviewed the attached Office of Communication Activities Summary, identified as Handout 10.1-A, respectively herein. Copies of the Handouts were distributed to the Board and made available to the public.

11. ADMINISTRATION:

None.

12. DISTRICT COUNSEL:

None.

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

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

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

Candice Kwok-Smith, Clerk, Board of Directors, reviewed the information on this Item as outlined in the attached Board Agenda Memo.

The Board noted the information without formal action.

14. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Director Beall reported no updates.

Director Eisenberg reported no updates.

Director Ballard reported attending a Joint Town Hall meeting with Assemblyman Patrick Ahrens, a Delta Conveyance Authority (DCA) meeting, a Board Policy and Monitoring Committee (BPMC) meeting; an Ad Hoc meeting; attended the Santa Cruz Mountains Trail Stewardship event; attended the Valley Water Live Town Hall meeting; and various meetings with staff.

Director Hsueh reported attending the aforementioned BPMC, and Ad Hoc meetings; a meeting with the District Counsel Recruiter; a Capital Improvement Program (CIP) committee meeting; and various meetings with staff.

Director Varela reported attending a meeting of the Pajaro River Watershed Flood Prevention Authority.

Vice Chair Santos reported attending Agenda Review, 2:1 with the CEO, the aforementioned Pajaro River Watershed Flood Prevention Authority meeting; a Penitencia Water Treatment Plant Residuals Management Neighborhood Meeting; and various meetings with staff.

15. CLERK REVIEW AND CLARIFICATION OF BOARD REQUESTS:

None.

16. ADJOURN:

Director Varela adjourned the meeting at 2:17 p.m. in honor of Ernie Avila’s wife’s passing. The Board will reconvene for its next Regular meeting at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, July 14, 2026, at the Santa Clara Valley Water District Headquarters Building Boardroom, 5700 Almaden Expressway, San José, California, and via Zoom teleconference.

Candice Kwok-Smith
Clerk, Board of Directors

Approved:

Date:

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