

JOHN B. PEREZ, D.D.S.
GENERAL DENTISTRY

GILROY, CALIFORNIA 95020

December 2, 2015

Clerk of the Board:

I am interested in applying for the opening on the Santa Clara Valley Water District Board for District One. My name is John B. Perez, D.D.S. I am a life-long resident of Santa Clara County and have been a practicing General Dentist in Gilroy for the last thirty-five years. I currently reside at 9000 Manfroy Ranch Road, Gilroy, California.

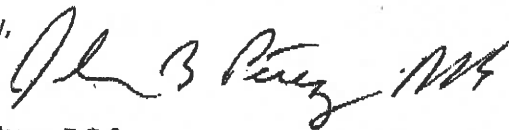
As a concerned citizen I have an interest in water usage and water safety not only locally but internationally as well. For the past few years, I have been involved in an international water project located in Huautla, Oaxaca, Mexico harvesting and storing water for the largely indigenous population in the region. The project has completed two water projects for the region and, now, the villagers do not have to spend hours in search of water with water now pumped to the villages.

In addition, to my dental practice, I also farm organically in the Gilroy area. I farm mostly row crops on my thirty-eight acre farm. I am aware of the water needs of the local farmers as well as having an interest in water usage in other areas of our communities.

I am attaching my application and supplemental questions for your review.

Thank you in advance for consideration of my application.

Sincerely,



John B. Perez, D.D.S.

Santa Clara Valley Water District



**APPLICATION FOR
SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS - DISTRICT 1**

Please complete this application in its entirety and submit an original signed copy along with a letter of interest containing your name, residence address, occupation, summary of interest in the position, and any other relevant qualifications and experience, to the Office of the Clerk of the Board at 5750 Almaden Expressway, San Jose, California 95118, by 4:00 p.m. Wednesday, December 2, 2015.

A. CONTACT INFORMATION

Name (First, Last): John B. Perez, D.D.S.			
Residence Address (Street Address, City, State, Zip): [REDACTED] Gilroy, CA			
Home Phone: [REDACTED]	Work Phone: [REDACTED]	Cell Phone: [REDACTED]	E-Mail: [REDACTED]

B. QUALIFYING SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTIONS (Please use separate sheet of paper if necessary)

1. Explain why you think you should be appointed to the District 1 Board of Directors seat.

As a concerned citizen and life-long resident of Santa Clara County; I have an interest in water usage and water safety not only locally but internationally as well. For the past several years I have been involved in an international water project located in Huautla, Oaxaca, Mexico harvesting and storing water for the largely indigenous population of the area. To date we have completed two water projects which are currently serving nine villages which now have water routed directly to their villages. I am also a small organic farmer in the Gilroy area so I have an interest on the availability of safe clean water for my farming needs. I have also held elective office having served as a College Trustee for the Gavilan Joint Community College District. In the eight years I served as a Trustee I was on the Board Budget and Facilities Committees and in this capacity was responsible for college policies and for the implementation of initiatives mandated by the Chancellor's Office and the Governing Board.

2. Describe the experience you have that will assist you with the responsibilities required of you while serving as a member of the Board of Directors.

I believe that the eight years that I served on the Gavilan Board of Trustees assisted me in understanding my role in the formation of college policies and procedures, the working of a budget and its implications for the college administration, staff, and students and the integral part that the college serves in its community. I became an advocate for shared governance and student access. My organic farming experience gives me a better understanding of the issues facing South County farmers as well other farmers country-wide and will be a key component that I will bring to the Santa Clara Valley Water District Board. Lastly, I am a practicing general dentist so I am familiar with the needs of the small business owners.

3. A. What are your detailed thoughts on the current SCVWD practice of using parcel (property) taxes for State Water Project costs versus having the water consumers pay for 100% of these costs?

B. If some of the costs are to be paid by property owners, should certain property owners who are not able to receive any water from the SCVWD despite asking for water, be required to pay the costs?

I accept the premise that the State Water Project is for the benefit of its citizens. The SCVWD should continue the practice of using property taxes for state water project costs. If some of the property owners are requesting Santa Clara County water and are denied or the water is not available to them they should not be required to pay.

4. Agricultural water rates in both North and South County are heavily subsidized by water consumers and tax payers in Morgan Hill, Gilroy and others. Please explain your reasoning behind supporting the continuation of the rapidly expanding "open space credit" expense or reducing that expense so the SCVWD can use those funds for conservation, reduced water rates and other projects.

This is the big elephant in the room. Agriculture does account for 80-90% of all water usage. You have heard or seen all the arguments: Us farmers feed the world. As a general rule farmers don't have the ability to pass their costs to the public. The prices the farmers receive are determined by brokers. The agricultural sector will still need to be subsidized. The District should look into the definition of who or what is a farmer. Is a farmer, a small Oaxacan Farmer, farming 10-20 acres growing seasonal crops? A percentage increase in their water bill will make a difference of whether he remains viable or not. Or is a farmer a group of speculators who purchase farmland with the expectation of growing almonds with heavily subsidized water usage for export? It is in the interest of the public to maintain and support the farming community so that open space can be maintained.

5. What do you think will be the most significant challenges that the District will be facing in the next few years?

I think that the most significant challenges that the SCVWD will face in the next few years are the following:

Communication and marketing to the public on water conservation. We should not have to convince the public that "El Nino" will take care of our water needs and therefore there is no need to conserve water. Water conservation should be an on-going effort and its education to the public and private sectors should be our number one priority.

Water Recycling should also be a continuous and on-going effort County-wide. The capturing and storage of gray water should also be an option for landscaping needs. These projects should be done in collaboration with the Public Health Department.

Santa Clara Valley Water District

**APPLICATION FOR
SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS - DISTRICT 1**

6. What three items would be your highest priority if you are appointed as a SCVWD District 1 Board Member?

The highest priority if I were appointed as a SCVWD District Board Member would be the following:

1. The pursuit of collection and storage of gray water. My understanding is that in Australia it is illegal not to collect gray water, here in Santa Clara County it is illegal if you do.
2. The continued subsidization of the agriculture sector. If an increase is required it should be done over a period of time.
3. A continued effort to educate the public on the need to conserve and recycle our precious commodity - water.


Applicant Signature

12/2/15
Date Signed