

Ken Ragghanti

San Jose, CA 95138

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December 2, 2015

Subject: Letter of Interest
Santa Clara Valley Water District
Board of Directors – District 1

I am seeking the opportunity to present my qualifications for appointment to the District 1 Board of Directors seat.

I've been fortunate to grow up, and spend most of my adult life in Santa Clara County. As an Eagle Scout much of my time was spent in recreation and conservation activities at trails and reservoirs in S.C. County. Much of my free time today is spent in recreation in our water resource areas. I have a personal bond and stake in "doing the right thing" when it comes to managing our water resources and protecting our quality of living.

I graduated from Leland High School and earned a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from the United State Military Academy at West Point, NY. My first career was in public service leading soldiers in the U.S. and abroad in the U.S. Army as a Captain in the Field Artillery. During this period I also earned a master's degree in Systems Management from the University of Southern California. I returned to San Jose, earned an MBA from Santa Clara University, and have worked in Information Technology hardware, software, and consulting in the public and private sector for 29 years.

Throughout my career in IT hardware, software, and consulting projects, my key skill has been bringing disparate groups together for complex problem solving. I've organized, planned, budgeted, proposed, cost-justified, presented, negotiated, closed, and managed implementation of many diverse, complex projects/solutions leveraging information technology to achieve/exceed complex objectives in the public and private sectors.

I view serving in the water district as an opportunity to return to a public service role in an area of highest importance to our community, and an area in which I have great personal passion and interest. I believe my experience in successfully bringing people together in the solution of complex problems will enable me to be a key contributor to the Santa Clara Valley Water District.


Ken Ragghanti



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): Ken Ragghianti			
Residence Address (Street Address, City, State, Zip): [REDACTED]			
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.

First, my passion for where we live, and my appreciation of the importance of intelligently managing our key natural resources. I've been fortunate to grow up, and spend most of my adult life in Santa Clara County. As an Eagle Scout much of my time was spent in recreation and conservation activities at trails and reservoirs in S.C. County. Much of my free time today is spent in recreation in our water resource areas. I have a personal bond and stake in "doing the right thing" when it comes to managing our water resources and protecting our quality of living.

Second, my experience in successfully bringing people together in the solution of complex problems. Throughout my career in IT hardware, software, and consulting projects, my key skill has been bringing disparate groups together for complex problem solving. I've organized, planned, budgeted, proposed, cost-justified, presented, negotiated, closed, and managed implementation of many diverse, complex projects/solutions leveraging information technology to achieve/exceed complex objectives in the public and private sectors.

Third, my willingness to understand different points of view, base recommendations on facts, fairness, and compassion.

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.

As stated above, my experience in successfully bringing people together in the solution of complex problems. Throughout my career in IT hardware, software, and consulting projects, my key skill has been bringing disparate groups together for complex problem solving. I've organized, planned, budgeted, proposed, cost-justified, presented, negotiated, closed, and managed implementation of many diverse, complex projects/solutions leveraging information technology to achieve/exceed complex objectives in the public and private sectors.

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?

A. I'm too new to this complex issue at this time to give final opinions. In general I favor predictable and stable fiscal/budgetary solvency, which parcel taxes certainly provide and our affluent community can generally support. However, an argument can be made this is water taxation without representation. California voters have demonstrated they are willing to pay for essential infrastructure, but it's reasonable to want to know the cost and ROI for what you are paying.

B. I believe they should be required to pay the costs. A reliable, renewable water supply directly benefits property values for everyone which includes these property owners.

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.

I believe the continuance of agricultural land use, and the preservation of open space in the County is in the public interest and a desirable goal for SCVWD to support within reason. The water district scenario of increasing agricultural water charge to 10% of non-agricultural water charge over a 10 year period seems like a reasonable policy given that only 17 of 16,000 irrigated acres would permanently fallow with a savings of \$2M for redirection.

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

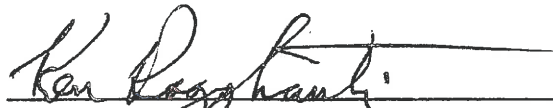
I think the key challenges will continue to be water supply and water quality, while successfully executing other projects such as recycling, flood control, and earthquake retrofits. There will be continuing pressure to do more with less. Which implies working smart, focusing on the right priorities, and measuring and managing effectively to complete projects on time and on budget.



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

1. Establish employee trust in executive management and a positive work environment.
2. Water supply and water quality
3. Focus on key project success/completion


Applicant Signature

12-2-2015
Date Signed