

November 30, 2015

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Forrest W. Williams

San Jose, CA 95123

Office of the Clerk of the Board  
Santa Clara Valley Water District  
5750 Almaden Expressway  
San Jose, CA 95118

Dear Clerk of the Board:

I am submitting my application for consideration for appointed to the Santa Clara Valley Water District Board to complete the unexpired term of former SCVWD Board Member Dennis Kennedy.

Enclosed you will find the following:

- Completed and signed Application
- Brief Bio

I completed the application per the instructions. If I missed any items, please contact me and I will supply them.

Thanks for your consideration.

Sincerely,

*Forrest Williams*

Forrest Williams  
Applicant



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): Forrest Williams			
Residence Address (Street Address, City, State, Zip): [REDACTED] San Jose, CA 95123			
Home Phone: [REDACTED]	Work Phone: N/A	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.

I want to join the Santa Clara Valley Water District Board and work to achieve their mission of providing Silicon Valley with safe, clean water for a healthy life, environment and economy. As a former San Jose Councilmember, I worked very closely with the Board of Directors on water issues that impacted Silicon Valley. I supported their efforts to purify recycled water (Reverse Osmosis) so it could be used to recharge aquifers. I encouraged and supported desalinization as an alternative water supply for the future. I also supported flood control mitigation efforts by the Water District. These examples are meant to show my past working relationship with the Water District. I bring experience and a record of performance and support to the Board of Directors. I am committed to the mission of the District and will work hard, smart to see it fulfilled. It would be an honor to be appointed to the SCVWD Board to complete the unexpired term of former Boardmember Dennis Kennedy and work to achieve the Board's mission.

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 have over 40 years of Technology Management experience( Boeing, GE, IBM), 20 years of Elected Management experience (Oakgrove School District Trustee 12 years, San Jose City Council 8 years), 8 years appointed experience (San Jose Planning Commission). I have held positions in many non-profit organizations (Santa Clara Valley Science and Engineering Fair Association, Lyric Theatre, SJ Mission Chamber Orchestra, Black Infant Health, San Jose Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, First African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church). I believe these many years of demonstrated experience have equipped me with the necessary skills to work with the Board of Directors to achieve their missions.

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?

RESPONSE (A)

My first step would be to do a cost/benefit analysis to determine the costs and benefits of the State Water Project(s) to property owners and water consumers. The primary benefit of using parcel taxes is the available resource to the Board to get water projects done in the District. The voters give authorization to the Board to make the best decision for the fulfillment of the District's mission. The net is, parcel taxes give the Board greater authority, management and control over District projects. Relying on consumers only to pay for State Water Project(s) could limit the Board's ability to deliver water projects to all of the constituents of Silicon Valley, hence, not fulfilling the District's mission. The availability of resources is key to mission fulfillment.

RESPONSE (B): SEE ATTACHMENT I, PAGE 2A of 3

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.

Firstly, I would review the Boards position on this complicated issue, and secondly, I would review the impacts of continuing the present policy of subsidizing agricultural water rates verses reducing the rates to allow SCVWD to pursue conservation, reduced water rates and other water projects in the District. It is complicated. Either decision will have an impact. Agriculture is a major contributor to the economy of the District, Silicon Valley and State of California. Food is needed to sustain a healthy life, which is needed to sustain Silicon Valley. Agriculture needs water to produce food. Reducing the subsidy could impact food production, which could have an impact on the economy of the region and state. However, if reducing the subsidy can be accomplished such as not to impact the economy of agriculture, I would support reducing the subsidy, allowing the District to use these funds to be used for conservation, reduced water rates and other water projects. This is a complicated issue with long range implications.

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

1. Developing alternative water sources to manage drought conditions
2. Water conservation
3. Adequate water for agriculture
4. Adequate resources to pursue water projects in the District
5. Flood control management

## **ATTACHMENT I**

**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?

### **RESPONSE (B)**

Again, I would evaluate the costs/benefits to determine what is best for the District. Often times, benefits are received indirectly. Example: My children have finished elementary and high school, but I still pay parcel taxes to the school district in which I live. Since I have no children in the district, should I have to pay the parcel tax? The answer is yes. I am getting an indirect benefit by having an educated populous. The same analogy can be applied to those property owners that live in SCVWD and don't receive water from SCVWD. There may be other benefits that they are receiving as the results of other water projects in the District. If the property owners live in SCVWD, although they are not able to receive water from SCVWD, they should pay the same parcel taxes as those who are receiving water from SCVWD. I also believe that the Board should review this situation to determine the indirect benefits that are being received by the property owners and publish the results.



APPLICATION FOR  
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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?
1. My first priority would be to better understand the Board policies, procedures, projects and priorities, meet all of the employees that are employed by SCVWD; contact the constituents of the District, applicable local, state and federal agencies and elected officials that have a 'water' relationship with the District; and contact those to whom the District provide water services.
  2. My second priority would be to pursue the reuse off recycled water for aquifer recharge. The reuse of water and is an effective resource for drought protection.
  3. My third priority would be to pursue a more cost effective way to implement desalinization as an additional water resource. My research shows that Solar Desalinization offers many opportunities for cost effective desalinization.

Ernest Williams  
Applicant Signature

12/1/2015  
Date Signed

## **BRIEF BIO**

**Forrest Williams**  
**11/30/2015**

Forrest is a 48-year resident of San José, living in Blossom Valley in the Oak Grove School District and East Side Union High School District, within Santa Clara Valley Water District 1. Presently, he is a member of the Oak Grove School District Bond Oversight Committee, a Santa Clara County Commissioner, Boardmember (Past President) of the Santa Clara Valley Science and Engineering Fair Association and is a Boardmember of the Black Infant Health Advisory Board.

Elected to the San José City Council in November 2000, re-elected in November 2004 and completed his term in 2008, due to term limits. He represented more than 92,000 residents of the Santa Teresa/Edenvale/Coyote Valley area of south San José.

Prior to his election to the San José City Council, he served three terms (12 years) as a Trustee of the Oak Grove School District and served as a City of San José Planning Commissioner for 8 years, Vice President of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Silicon Valley, and a Board Member for the South Valley Family YMCA.

Recently, January 23, 2014, the Oak Grove School Board honored Forrest for his community service by naming a new gymnasium in his honor.

He was employed by the IBM Corporation for 35 years as Development Engineer, Senior Program Manager and Storage Consultant for IBM in Japan. His Engineering education includes the following degrees: BSEE, MSEE and DEECs; and is a veteran of the United States Army Signal Corp.

Forrest and his wife, Dorothy, are retired. They have been happily married for over 51 years and have two adult children (both professional engineers) and 3 grandchildren.

*Forrest Williams*