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Richard Constantine  
[REDACTED]  
Morgan Hill, Ca 95037

Office of the Clerk of the Board  
5750 Almaden Expressway  
San Jose, Ca 95118

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Richard Constantine, and this letter is to express my desire to be considered for the position of District 1 Director of the Santa Clara Valley Water District.

I am currently a Council Member for the City of Morgan Hill and a Firefighter for the City of San Jose. I was elected to the council in 2010 and as you will discover from my application I have been very involved in many activities that, I feel, make me a highly qualified candidate for the Board. From my position on the water commission, to my experience with working as an advocate for a very diverse constituency, I believe that I can contribute to the standards and goals of the District.

It would be an honor and a privilege to work with the Board, and to serve the residents of District 1.

Respectfully,



Richard Constantine

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): Richard Constantine			
Residence Address (Street Address, City, State, Zip): [REDACTED] Morgan Hill. California 95037			
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.**

District 1 is a unique area. We have vast areas that have very different needs. As a member of the Morgan Hill city council I have experience working with residential, commercial and agricultural water users and I feel that I am well versed in the needs of the District.

Please see attached .

**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.**

Please see attached.

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?

Please see attached.

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 support the Open Space Credit, due to the fact that it involves more than just lower water rates for farmers. As any homeowner knows, the price of land is increasing at a rate that defy belief. If we increase the burden on farmers and make it harder for them to make a living we could be increasing the likely-hood of losing a very precious resource.

In a letter to SCVWD a few years ago, the Open Space Authority stated that the Open Space Credit is a key factor in maintaining economic viability of the County's remaining farmland. We must use every tool at our disposal to affect the kind of land use that promotes ground water recharge, flood risk reduction, habitat conservation, and saves jobs.

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

Please see attached.



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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. Completion and total financing of the Llagas Creek Flood Protection Project, and other flood protection projects in the region.
2. Expanding recycled water countywide as efficiently as possible.
3. Ensuring that employees are treated fairly and that diversity and inclusion is a priority

Applicant Signature

29 Nov 15

Date Signed

**District 1 application supplemental page for Richard Constantine**

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

As a longtime Morgan Hill resident, for 12 years, and an elected member of the Morgan Hill City Council (Council), I have direct, and current elected experience in providing elected oversight over an organization, which provides many of the same services as the Santa Clara Valley Water District (District).

The City of Morgan Hill has a strong public works department, which has coordinated and worked with the District on local flood protection projects. A Water Utility Department, which through our local efforts has become one of the leaders in water conservation in the County. A Finance and Budget Department, which is responsible for many of the duties that the District has to engage in regards to payroll, budgeting and finance.

In short, I have worked on Council to ensure that local jobs are created from our construction projects, that our water supply remains affordable, and that we move our Llagas Creek flood protection projects to completion, to protect our homes, schools and businesses from flooding.

Since I have been on the City Council I've gained a reputation for my commitment in ensuring that all residents have a voice with the City of Morgan Hill and my responsiveness to the residents when they reach out to me, no matter what the issue. I have been a voice for the fair treatment of employees and for diversity and inclusion. I initiated a multi cultural event in 2011 known as "Breaking the Sound Barrier." A play on the phrase "Breaking the Color Barrier." The event used music and dance to celebrate the multi-cultural diversity of Morgan Hill. I am known for working with variety of diverse constituencies and issues throughout Morgan Hill and the entire Valley be it Labor, business, women's issues, ethnic communities or otherwise.

In my five years on the Council I have championed several efforts, directly related to the Santa Clara Valley Water District. I was actively involved with the Safe Clean Water Campaign, 2012 Measure B, in the South County area. I assisted the campaign by making a video which was targeted to over 60,000 south county voters through social media. I have also participated in all of the Mayor and City Manager meetings that have occurred with the District since I have been on Council. I have consistently advocated to making sure that the Llagas Creek Flood Protection Project is funded and completed. I participated in the 2015 Santa Clara Valley Water District Drought Summit and was the identified spokesperson for the City of Morgan Hill on how we achieved our water conservation numbers.

I am committed to providing affordable safe clean water, fighting to build our local flood protection projects, expanding water recycling, the fair treatment of employees, and making sure that all residents have a voice within the Santa Clara Valley Water District. My past experience clearly demonstrates that I have a passion for water, flood protection, fiscal responsibility and transparency.

I am prepared to serve on the Board of Director's as an advocate for the people of the Santa Clara Valley and the residents of District 1 and respectfully request your support.

**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.**

**Elected and Governance Experience**

As mentioned earlier, as a Morgan Hill City Council member I have experience directly related to serving south county constituents and the public. I have served on the Council for five years and have experience with the following:

- Policy making and the development and implementation of local ordinances.
- Governance of elected bodies.
- Budgeting and development of the budget.
- The development and planning of Public Works projects.
- Water conservation, water supply financing, and drought response.
- Flood protection financing and lobbying for federal dollars.
- Upon the retirement of the Morgan Hill City Manager I was directly involved and responsible for the search, interviewing and hiring of our current City Manager.
- Member of both the Implementation & Governing Board of the Habitat Conservation Plan

**Santa Clara Valley Water District Related Experience**

Since I have been on the Council I have been directly involved in several areas that directly and indirectly impact the District.

- Current member of Santa Clara Valley Water District Water Commission since 2010
- Since 2010 Have attended all three Mayor/City Manager meetings with the District to discuss how to jointly work together in a more seamless fashion.
- Have actively requested multiple briefings from the District staff to determine how to ensure that the Llagas Creek Flood Protection Project is brought to completion.
- Actively worked with the Safe Clean Water Campaign, 2012 Measure B, in the South County area. I directly assisted the campaign by making a video that targeted over 60,000 south county voters through social media. The video can still be found on You Tube.
- 2015 Santa Clara Valley Water District Drought Summit participant and spokesperson.

**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?**

My understanding is that in 1963 the voters of Santa Clara County voted to tax themselves to pay for the water projects that would benefit the entire valley. I always respect and support a vote of the people. That said, as an elected official I am always open to looking for and discussing other means and methods for financing projects.

**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?**

As was done with the Safe Clean Water measure the entire Santa Clara County community benefited from the countywide assessment of the Special Tax. In particular with this special tax the residents of Palo Alto and Morgan Hill had larger levels of financial support, which were financed by the entire Santa Clara County community. The residents of Santa Clara County clearly understand that if one of the local community's floods, then the economic impact would affect their community as well.

Very similar with water supply, residents from all areas receive direct and indirect benefit as they travel to the adjacent communities, eat in the restaurants within the region, rely on the support of businesses in the region that depend on the water, eat the vegetable and fruits from the local farms which use the water, and would feel the economic pinch if an adjacent community was to be economically impacted due to an increase in the cost of their water supply.

I believe that taxes for the region go toward the good of the whole region.

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

The issues that will be facing the District in the next few years are all issues that I have directly worked on and will bring experience to the table.

I see the issues facing the District as follows. (these are not listed in order of importance)

1. Expanding recycled water throughout the region, both to respond to the drought and to ensure that the District has a sustainable supply of water.
2. Protecting the groundwater basin from subsidence due to drought.
3. Responding to the drought in a fashion where the public understands that just because we had a rainy season, we are still in a drought.
4. Funding and completing flood protection projects, both local projects like Llagas which have the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as a partner.
5. Responding to the El Nino storms and protecting communities from flooding.
6. Dealing with the fact that many of the District's public administrators and staff are retirement eligible and ensuring that we are attracting diverse applicants, which reflect our community.