

RESOLUTION NO.12- 11

AN AMENDED AND RESTATED RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF  
THE SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT ADOPTING PROCEDURES  
FOR THE IMPOSITION OF GROUNDWATER PRODUCTION CHARGES

WHEREAS, Section 26 of the District Act includes provisions relating to imposition and notice and opportunity to be heard on the imposition of groundwater production charges, including the opportunity to contest the imposition; and

WHEREAS, Section 26 of the District Act provides the purposes for which groundwater production charges can be collected as follows:

1. To pay for construction, operation and maintenance of imported water facilities;
2. To pay for imported water purchases;
3. To pay for construction, operation and maintenance of facilities to conserve or distribute water including facilities for groundwater recharge, surface distribution, and purification and treatment of water;
4. To pay for debt incurred for the above purposes.

WHEREAS, Proposition 218, adopted on November 6, 1996, added Articles XIIC and XIID to the California Constitution which impose certain procedural and substantive requirements with respect to the imposition of certain new or increased fees and charges; and

WHEREAS, whether the District's groundwater production charge is assessed upon a parcel of property or upon a person as an incident of property ownership such that it is subject to proposition 218 is a subject currently before the courts and has not yet been finally decided; and

WHEREAS, regardless of whether the District is legally required to or not, the District Board believes it to be in the best interest of the community to align its practices with respect to the imposition of groundwater production charges to mirror the majority protest requirements of Article XIII D section 6 applicable to charges for water to the extent possible; and

WHEREAS, some of the requirements of the majority protest procedure are unclear and require further judicial interpretation or legislative implementation; and WHEREAS, the District Board believes it to be in the best interest of the community to record its decisions regarding implementation of the provisions relating to imposition of groundwater production charges and to provide the community with a guide to those decisions and how they have been made;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Board of Directors of Santa Clara Valley Water District does hereby resolve as follows:

**SECTION 1. Statement of Legislative Intent.** It is the Board of Director's intent in adopting this amended and restated resolution, to adopt the notice, hearing, and majority protest procedure proceedings that are consistent, and in conformance with, Articles XIIC and XIID of the California Constitution and with the Proposition 218 Omnibus Implementation Act and the provisions of other statutes authorizing imposition of water charges. To the extent that these requirements are legally required to supercede the requirements set forth in the District Act, these provisions are intended to prevail.

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**SECTION 2. Definition of Record Owner.** The District Act authorizes the groundwater production charge to be noticed and imposed on “owners or operators of water-producing facilities” which is not based on property ownership, while Article XIII D requires that notice be provided to the owner of a parcel whose name and address appears on the last equalized secured property tax assessment roll. In order to resolve the differences between these two approaches, the District will provide the required notice to the record owner of the property on which the water-producing facility is present, as well as to the owners or operators of water producing facilities (who are tenants of that real property directly liable to pay the groundwater production charge to the District).

**SECTION 3. Groundwater Production Charge Proceeding.** The following procedures will be used:

- A. Those Subject to the charge.** The Record Owners of existing water producing wells including water supply and extraction/environmental wells, whether currently active or not.
- B. Amount of Charge.** A formula or schedule of charges by which the customer can easily calculate the potential charge will be included in the notice. The charge must comply with the following substantive requirements:
  - 1. Revenues derived from the charge will not be used for any purpose other than that for which the charge is imposed.
  - 2. Revenues derived from the charge will not exceed the direct and indirect costs required to provide the service.
  - 3. The amount of the charge must not exceed the proportional cost of the service attributable to the property.
  - 4. No charge may be imposed for a service unless the service is actually used by, or immediately available to the owner.
  - 5. No charge can be imposed for general governmental services where the service is available to the public at large in substantially the same manner as it is to property owners.
- C. Notice.** The following guidelines apply to giving notice of the groundwater production charge.
  - 1. The record owner(s) of each parcel subject to the charge, meaning any parcel with a water-producing facility, will be determined from the last equalized property tax roll. If the property tax roll indicates more than one owner, each owner will be sent the notice. Where tenants are directly liable to pay the groundwater production charge to the District, they will also be provided with the notice.

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2. The notice must be sent at least forty-five (45) days prior to the date set for the public hearing on the charge.
3. Failure of any person to receive notice will not invalidate the proceedings.

**D. Groundwater Production Charge Protest.** The following guidelines apply to the protest procedure:

1. The notice will be mailed to all affected Record Owners at least forty-five (45) days prior to the date of the public hearing on the proposed charge.
2. Written protests must be forwarded to the Clerk of the Board by mail or in person, sealed in an envelope which conceals the contents, with the property address or APN written on the outside of the envelope. To be counted, protests must be received no later than the date for return of protests stated on the notice, or the close of the public hearing, whichever is later.
3. A protest must be signed under penalty of perjury. For properties with more than one Record Owner, a protest from any one will count as a protest for the property. No more than one protest will be counted for any given property.
4. Only protests with original signatures will be accepted. Photocopied signatures will not be accepted. Protests will not be accepted via e-mail. Protests must be submitted in sealed envelopes identifying the property on which the well is located, and include the legibly printed name of the signator. Protests not submitted as required by this amended and restated resolution will not be counted.
5. This proceeding is not an election.
6. Written Protests must remain sealed until the tabulation of protests commences at the conclusion of the public hearing. A written protest may be submitted, or changed, or withdrawn by the person who submitted the protest prior to the conclusion of the public testimony on the proposed charge at the public hearing.
7. Prior to the public hearing, neither the protest nor the envelope in which it is submitted will be treated as a public record, pursuant to the Government Code section 6254(c) and any other applicable law, in order to prevent potential unwarranted invasions of the submitter's privacy and to protect the integrity of the protest process.

**E. Tabulating Protests.** The following guidelines apply to tabulating protests:

1. It will be the responsibility of the Clerk of the Board to determine the validity of all protests. The Clerk will accept as valid all protests except those in the following categories:
  - a. A photocopy which does not contain an original signature;
  - b. An unsigned protest;



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- c. A protest without a legible printed name;
- d. A protest which appears to be tampered with or otherwise invalid based upon its appearance or method of delivery or other circumstances;
- e. A protest submitted to the District via e-mail;
- f. A protest submitted in an envelope that does not have the address or APN written on the outside of the envelope;
- g. A protest signed by someone other than the Record Owner for the APN.

The Clerk's decision, after consultation with the District Counsel, that a protest is invalid is final.

- 2. An impartial person, designated by the governing board, who does not have a vested interest in the outcome of the proposed charge will tabulate the written protests submitted, and not withdrawn. The impartial person may be a member of the Clerk of the Board Office.
- 3. A Record Owner who has submitted a protest may withdraw the protest at any time up until the conclusion of the final public hearing on the charge.
- 4. A property owner's failure to receive notice of the charge will not invalidate the proceedings conducted under this procedure.

**F. Public Hearing**

- 1. At the public hearing, the District Board will hear and consider all public testimony regarding the proposed charge and accept written protests until the close of the public hearing, which hearing may be continued from time to time.
- 2. The District Board may impose reasonable time limits on both the length of the entire hearing and the length of each speaker's testimony.
- 3. At the conclusion of the hearing, the Clerk of the Board, or other neutral person designated to do the tabulation will complete tabulation of the protests from Record Owners, including those received during public hearing.
- 4. If it is not possible to tabulate the protests on the same day as the public hearing, or if additional time is necessary for public testimony, the District Board may continue the public hearing to a later date to receive additional testimony, information or to finish tabulating the protests; or may close the public hearing and continue the item to a future meeting to finish tabulating the protests.
- 5. If according to the final tabulation of the protests from Record Owners, the number of protests submitted against the proposed increase of the groundwater production charge within a groundwater production charge zone exceeds 50% plus one of either: (a) the identified number of parcels within that groundwater production charge zone, or (b) the identified number of owners and operators within that groundwater production charge zone who are subject to the increased groundwater production charge, then a "majority protest" exists and the District

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Board of Directors will not impose any increase to the groundwater production charge within that groundwater production charge zone.

**SECTION 4**

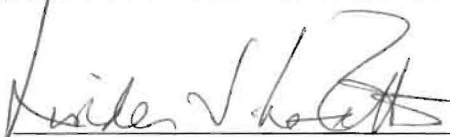
Resolution No.11-03 adopted by the District on January 25, 2011 and Resolution No. 10-06 adopted by the District on January 26, 2010 are both hereby amended and restated in their entirety as set forth in this amended and restated resolution. This amended and restated resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Directors of Santa Clara Valley Water District by the following vote on February 14, 2012.

AYES: Directors T. Estremera, D. Gage, J. Judge, P. Kwok, R. Santos, B. Schmidt,  
L. LeZotte  
NOES: Directors None  
ABSENT: Directors None  
ABSTAIN: Directors None

SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

By:



LINDA J. LEZOTTE  
Chair/Board of Directors

ATTEST: MICHELE L. KING, CMC

  
Clerk/Board of Directors