

CARL GUARDINO  
President & CEO

Board Officers:  
STEVE MILLIGAN, Chair  
Western Digital Corporation  
JAMES GUTIERREZ, Vice Chair  
Intel  
RAQUEL GONZALEZ, Treasurer  
Bank of America  
GREG BECKER, Former Chair  
SVB Financial Group  
STEVE BERGLUND, Former Chair  
Trumble Inc.  
AART DE GEUS, Former Chair  
Synopsys  
TOM WERNER, Former Chair  
SunPower

Board Members:  
BOBBY BELL  
KLA-Tensor  
DAWNET BEVERLEY  
Dornette Financial Solutions  
GEORGE BLUMENTHAL  
University of California, Santa Cruz  
JOHN BOLAND  
KOED  
CARLA BORAGNO  
Genentech  
CHRIS BOYD  
Kaiser Permanente  
JOE BURTON  
Phonics  
RAMI BRANTZKY  
Sapphire Ventures  
GARY BRIGGS  
Facebook  
KEVIN COLLINS  
Accorture  
LISA DANIELS  
KPMG  
CHRISTOPHER DAWES  
Luzile Packard  
Children's Hospital Stanford  
JENNY DEARBORN  
SAP  
MICHAEL ENGH, S.J.  
Santa Clara University  
TOM FALLON  
Infraera  
JOHN GAUDER  
Comcast  
KEN GOLDMAN  
Hillshire  
DOUG GRAHAM  
Lockheed Martin  
LAURA GUO  
IBM  
STEFAN HECK  
Necto  
ERIC HOUZER  
Wells Fargo Bank  
AIDAN HUGHES  
ARUP  
JEFFREY JOHNSON  
San Francisco Chronicle  
TOM KEMP  
Centilly  
ARIF KHAKOO  
AMGEN  
ERIC KUTCHER  
McKinsey & Company  
JOHN LEDEK  
BD Biosciences  
ENRIQUE LÓRES  
HP Inc.  
MATT MAHAN  
Eligade  
TARKAN MÄNER  
Nexenta  
KEN MCNEELY  
AT&T  
GEN MINICUCCI  
Alaska Airlines  
KEVIN MURAI  
Symnex  
MARY PAPAZIAN  
San Jose State University  
JES PEDERSEN  
Webcor Builders  
ANDY PIERCE  
Stryker Endoscopy  
KIM POLESSE  
ClearStreet  
RYAN POPPLE  
Pictens  
RUDY REYES  
Verizon  
BILL RUH  
GE  
SHARON RYAN  
Bay Area News Group  
RON SEGE  
Echelon  
DARREN SWEELGROVE  
Johnson & Johnson  
JEFF THOMAS  
Nasdaq  
JED YORK  
San Francisco 49ers  
Established in 1978 by  
David Packard

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

Apr 30, 2018

## Re: Business Support for California WaterFix

Dear Chair Santos, Vice Chair LeZotte, and Santa Clara Valley Water District Directors,

In a historic decision earlier this month, the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (Met) voted to take a majority stake in the \$16.7 billion twin-tunnels WaterFix project, a plan championed by Governor Jerry Brown as a way of protecting the water supply for more than 25 million Californians, including millions of South Bay residents.

In October of last year you voted to participate in a lower cost, scaled down project, which made sense, given the fiscal realities of the time, including the lack of participation from Westlands and other water wholesalers. However, given Met's recent decision, we urge you to reconsider supporting the twin tunnel project. A full-scale project will give managers more flexibility in operating the tunnels, allow for greater diversions during years of high flows and help sustain Delta deliveries. In addition, as the report from your staff points out, a 9,000 cfs project would provide for greater water quality improvements and resiliency against earthquakes and climate change.

California is the sixth largest economy in the world, and Silicon Valley is a primary driver of our state's job creation and growth. Yet our success, the envy of much of the world, is at risk unless we move to protect our water supply. As business and civic leaders in the South Bay, we cannot stress enough the need to secure safe, clean, affordable drinking water for the health and economic well being of our region. The Silicon Valley Leadership Group supports WaterFix and we respectfully request that you do so as well.

As you know, California WaterFix is the plan to update aging infrastructure that brings clean, reliable water to our communities from the Sierra Nevada Mountains through the Sacramento San Joaquin Delta. Nearly half of the water that serves 2 million people here in the region, including 200,000 daily commuters, comes from the Delta, and a quarter of that is used for groundwater recharge. This high quality water is also used to improve the quality of other local and imported water supplies, increasing the amount of safe drinking water available for communities throughout the region.

This fresh water is at risk of contamination from salt water due to rising sea levels associated with climate change, as well as an earthquake, which would easily liquefy the existing earthen levees in the Delta. WaterFix provides a solution – in fact, the only viable and detailed solution – to address these risks and shore up the water supply we, and most Californians, rely on. We applaud the Water District for its work to double down on water recycling and conservation. But even this, we believe, will not be

sufficient to meet the region's future needs without WaterFix to help secure a baseline level of high quality water.

While others may push back on the plan, we urge you to focus on the fact that there is no other practicable, comprehensive and economically viable plan to supply the volume of water our region needs. While we support investing in local water supply projects, we believe the Delta will continue – for quite some time – to be an important source of water for our region.

As community leaders we are also very conscious of the fact that access to safe, affordable drinking water is a social justice issue. It is important to us that our communities continue to have access to affordable water that they need to thrive. While we respect the fact that WaterFix is not inexpensive, we believe it is important to invest in the continued security and economic vitality of our region. And what could be more vital than water?

As with any large public works project, we understand that there are concerns about potential cost overruns. However, we believe the cost of doing nothing is far costlier to the businesses, people and the environment. And, as you know, the project is among the most affordable sources of water for our region.

We also understand there are concerns about the environmental health of the Delta. WaterFix, with its advanced fish screens and its science-based design, makes use of the best current technology to help protect vulnerable fish populations in the Delta. By moving the points of water diversions, and utilizing advanced screens to protect vulnerable species, the project will help restore more natural river flows and benefit fish. Furthermore, as staff points out in their report to you, the full 9,000 cfs project would have greater environmental benefits.

Businesses have made this region their home, bringing innovation and jobs, but the sustained growth and economic success of the region — the envy of the world — will be cut short without a major investment in our water infrastructure. We believe that in order to protect our economy and way of life, we need to invest in new water infrastructure, just as we did in the 1960s.

We believe that WaterFix is what's needed to secure our future and we respectfully request that you support the project as well.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our staff lead, Mike Mielke, Sr. Vice President of Environment & Energy at 408-501-7858 or [mmielke@svlg.org](mailto:mmielke@svlg.org).

We deeply appreciate your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Carl Guardino  
President & CEO  
Silicon Valley Leadership Group

# Silicon Valley Leadership Group Members Agree: WaterFix is Critical to Secure the Water We Need

**Dan Gordon**  
COO  
Gordon Biersch  
Brewing



**Hannah Gordon**  
General Counsel  
San Francisco 49ers



**Jenny Dearborn**  
CLO  
SAP



**Bob Kieve**  
President  
Empire Broadcasting  
Corp



**Kari Saragusa**  
Senior Advisor  
Lehigh Hanson



**Aart de Geus**  
Founder & CEO  
Synopsis



**Kevin Murai**  
President & CEO  
Synnex Corp



**Dawnet Beverley**  
SVP & Managing Director  
Donnelley Financial



**Raul Vazquez**  
CEO  
Opportun



**Mark Adams**  
CEO  
Lumileds



**Suresh Babu**  
Tiquant Inc.



**Paul F. Gentzkow**  
President & CEO  
Robert Half  
Robert Half



**Michael R. Van Every**  
President & CEO  
Republic Urban Properties  
REPUBLIC URBAN PROPERTIES LLC  
WEST COAST DIVISION

**Guy Gecht**  
CEO  
EFI



**Jerry Mix**  
President  
Finelite  
**FINELITE**  
Better Lighting

**Tom Kemp**  
Co-Founder & CEO  
Centrify



**Matt Mahan**  
CEO  
Brigade Media  
BRIGADE



**Chris Metzger**  
SVP / Division Manager  
Mott MacDonald



**Andy Coan**  
President & CEO  
Splice



**Manish Tandon**  
CEO  
CSS Corp



**Russell Spektor**  
Executive Vice  
President  
Direct Resource  
Management, Inc.



**Andy Pierce**  
President  
Stryker Endoscopy  
**stryker**



**Rami Rahim**  
CEO  
Juniper Networks  
JUNIPER  
NETWORKS



**Rob Steinberg**  
Chairman  
Steinberg



**Tom Hayse**  
President & CEO  
ETM Electromatic Inc.



**Lou Ramondetta**  
President  
Surplus Service  
Surplus Service®



**Ty Walrod**  
Co-Founder & CEO  
Bright Funds



**Ned Finkle**  
VP  
NVIDIA



**Marc van den Berg**  
Partner  
DBL Partners  
DBL PARTNERS  
DOUBLE BOTTOM LINE VENTURE CAPITAL



**Najat Badriyeh**  
President & CEO  
Naprotek, Inc.



**William Hadaya**  
President  
WMH



**Celeste Volz Ford**  
CEO  
Stellar Solutions, Inc.



**Zachary F. Bookman**  
CEO  
OpenGov



**Jordan Epstein**  
CEO  
Stroll Health



**Sonu Ratra**  
President  
Akraya  
AKRAYA  
Trusted Talent



**Chris Larsen**  
Executive Chairman  
Ripple  
ripple



**Carl Guardino**  
President & CEO  
Silicon Valley Leadership  
Group  
SILICON VALLEY  
LEADERSHIP GROUP



**Pedro Espinoza**  
Founder & CEO  
SmileyGo Corp.  
SMILEYGO

