

Handout 2.6-B
4/9/19

13830 Campo Vista Lane
Los Altos Hills, CA 94022
April 1, 2019

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

Re. Feedback on Proposed Water Charges

Thank you for the notice of your public hearings and welcoming of community feedback. There is a matter that has me rather puzzled.

There is an enormous difference (\$1,289 vs \$27.02, i.e., 48 times) between the charge for agricultural and non-agricultural use of water via wells. It is understandable the production of agricultural products is beneficial to the community and such production needs to be a viable business. So if agriculture in our area has a very low profit margin, then it probably needs to be subsidized, and the source of those subsidies needs to be addressed. Logically the source should come from the general community that benefits from the agricultural products produced. However, it currently appears to come from excessive charges to non-agriculture well users. Surely it is unfair to demand so much subsidy from this relatively small portion of the community.

I recognize that there is a 'law' that the cost for agricultural uses of water cannot be greater than 25% of the cost for non-agricultural use; however, 25% is so much larger than the current 2.1% (\$27/\$1289).

Sincerely, Paul Jensen

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paul Jensen". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name "Sincerely, Paul Jensen".

PS. I notice that VWD is proposing to increase the 2.1% ratio to 8.75%, still requiring a very large subsidy from non-agricultural users.