

Stanford University

SUSTAINABILITY AND ENERGY MANAGEMENT

Vanessa De La Piedra, P.E., Unit Manager *via email to vdelapiedra@valleywater.org* April 24, 2020
Groundwater Monitoring and Analysis Unit
SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT
5750 Almaden Expressway
San Jose, CA 95118

Subject: April 28, 2020 Board of Directors Meeting – Agenda Items 2.3 and 2.4

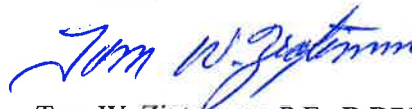
Dear Ms. De La Piedra:

Stanford University (“Stanford”) offers these summary comments on agenda items 2.3 and 2.4 for the April 28, 2020 meeting of the Board of Directors (“Board”) of the Santa Clara Valley Water District (“District”). As detailed in the staff reports and supporting documents for agenda items 2.3 and 2.4, those matters relate to the District’s groundwater benefit zones and the Groundwater Benefit Zone Study (“Benefit Study”) conducted by the District. For many years now Stanford and the District have been engaged in an ongoing discussion regarding the relative benefits to the Stanford and North County area from the District’s activities in the Santa Clara Subbasin (“Subbasin”). As evidenced in Stanford’s previously submitted comments and correspondence regarding the Benefit Study, Stanford disputes the District’s position that the Stanford area benefits from District activities in the Subbasin and that Stanford is properly included in the District’s Zone W-2. The technical evidence demonstrates that: (1) District activities in the southern portion of the Subbasin do not benefit groundwater conditions in the Stanford area; and (2) the activities and actions of Stanford and others in the northern portion of the Subbasin (e.g., importation of surface water from the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission and reduced groundwater pumping) are responsible for maintaining and protecting groundwater conditions in the Stanford area. (See, Attachment A – hydrograph showing the impact of imported water projects on groundwater levels in the Subbasin.) With respect to the latter point, the technical evidence shows that total groundwater recharge in the Stanford area far exceeds the amount of groundwater supply pumping in the area (by Stanford and others). Stanford intends to meet with District staff to provide and discuss additional technical analysis related to the points noted above.

Stanford respectfully requests that the Board remove the Stanford area from District groundwater benefit zones and terminate groundwater production charges in the Stanford area. Further, Stanford requests that any resolution adopting the boundaries of a groundwater benefit zone include language providing for the future review and revision of the boundaries in accordance with hydrogeologic data supporting such review and revision.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,



Tom W. Zigterman, P.E., D.DRE
Director, Water Resources & Civil Infrastructure

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Attachment A: Impact of Imported Water Projects on Groundwater Levels

