



California State Senate

SENATOR
JIM BEALL

FIFTEENTH SENATE DISTRICT

Handout 2.8-C
05/26/20

DISTRICT OFFICES
2105 S. BASCOM AVE.
SUITE 154
CAMPBELL, CA 95008
TEL (408) 558-1291
FAX (408) 558-1296

100 PASEO DE SAN ANTONIO
SUITE 209
SAN JOSE, CA 95113
TEL (408) 286-8318
FAX (408) 286-2338

May 25, 2020

Santa Clara Valley Water District Board of Directors
5700 Almaden Expressway
San Jose, CA 95118

Dear Chair Hsueh and Board Members,

I would like to encourage the Board to approve the use of a Project Labor Agreement (PLA) for the District's capital improvement program. I would further like to encourage the District to negotiate additional community benefits such as a Targeted Hire provision which would transform the PLA into a Community Workforce Agreement (CWA).

Both PLAs and CWAs have proven to be successful in ensuring that public funds are spent appropriately and wisely on the highest quality infrastructure construction. Both leverage the construction of public works to the greatest benefit of our community and our local workforce.

PLAs and CWAs provide inclusion and diversity by establishing local workforce development goals, to encourage the hiring of targeted segments of the population, such as veterans and minorities. Either can include goals or requirements for small business participation in construction projects.

These agreements attract the most reputable contractors by providing a level playing field and bringing the resources of the construction industry to Capital Improvement Program projects. Through a grievance procedure, nearly every jobsite issue or compliance problem is handled within the agreement. Most public-entity compliance departments see a sharp decline or cessation of all violating activity on covered projects, and thereby experience a savings on administrative costs.

A PLA/CWA is a big win for the District, for the local workforce, and for the community at large. A public entity could not ask for a better partner in Capital Improvement than the Santa Clara and San Benito Counties Building and Construction Trades Council, who regularly support and promote legislation and initiatives that are important to the community and public entities alike. Do not miss this opportunity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jim Beall".

Jim Beall,
Senator, District 15

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