

05/26/20

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ASH KALRA
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, TWENTY-SEVENTH DISTRICT

May 22, 2020

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

RE: Item 2.8 - Consideration of Project Labor Agreement

Dear Chair Hsueh and Board Members,

It has been brought to my attention that Valley Water is considering Project Labor Agreements (PLA) for construction and rehabilitation capital projects. As the Chair of the California Assembly Labor and Employment Committee, I have long advocated for the fair protection of our workers and working families. Municipalities and government organizations are especially held to a higher standard to set an example of how we can have responsible contracting that protects the rights and working conditions of our California residents.

Santa Clara & San Benito Counties Building & Construction Trades Council (SC & SB BCTC) has been a great partner to ensure those protections are in place. When I worked closely with Valley Water on AB 707, my bill that updates the formal bidding process and adjusts account thresholds for contracting by Valley Water, SC & SB BCTC joined Valley Water in supporting the bill to create workable conditions for small businesses, and women and minority owned businesses, to compete for contracts.

Especially with our work on AB 707, which was signed into law by Governor Newsom, there is no doubt that Valley Water should support PLA's to provide a level playing field for contractors who obey wage-and-hour law, provide robust compliance to combat exploitive practices, and establish a stable set of conditions that attract high-performing contractors. I urge the Board of Directors to please support Project Labor Agreements and support our working families and communities of color. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ash Kalra".

ASH KALRA

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