

Environmental Justice Amendments to Board Governance End Policies

Policy No. E-1: Mission and General Principles

A. Amend Ends Policy E-1 items 1.1—1.6 to reflect Valley Water's Environmental Justice values to read as follows.

General Principles

Accordingly, the Board of Valley Water has adopted directions to the BAOs as to the intended results, organizational products, impacts, benefits, outcomes, recipients, and their relative worth (what good for which recipients at what costs). In implementing Board directions, staff will be guided by the following general principles:

- 1.1. An integrated, socially equitable, and balanced approach in managing a sustainable water supply, effective natural flood protection, and healthy watersheds is essential to the prepare for the future of all communities served.
- 1.2. Effective public engagement by Valley Water in accomplishing the District mission is achieved through transparent, open communication that involves the diverse community and key stakeholder groups in a transparent and open manner, informs and generates participation among all communities, including disadvantaged communities, communities of color, and communities with limited English proficiency, as well as other key stakeholders.
- 1.3. Collaboration with government, academic, private, non-governmental, and non-profit organizations, as well as diverse and disadvantaged communities is integral to accomplishing the District Valley Water mission.
- 1.4. A net positive impact on the environment and providing benefits equitably across all communities is required in order to accomplish is important in support of the District mission and is reflected in all that we do. the Valley Water mission.
- 1.5. Recognize that District Valley Water operations and services are critical to the economic vitality of Silicon Valley, ensuring that economic benefits are equitable for all communities that we serve.
- 1.6. As standard practice, all work products shall be visually pleasing, sustainable, cost-effective, culturally appropriate, equitable across all communities and reflect the characteristics of the surrounding urban setting and natural habitat using appropriate materials, colors, shapes, art works, vegetation, and surface treatments. This includes the naming of facilities in a manner that is respectful of all diverse communities.

B. Amend Ends Policy E-1 to add item 1.7, a General Principle focused on environmental justice, that would read as follows.

- 1.7. Valley Water is committed to eEnvironmental justice and shall provide for is the fair treatment and meaningful engagement involvement of all people regardless of race, color, gender identity, disability status, national origin, tribe, culture, -or income, immigration status, or English language proficiency, with respect to the planning, projects, policies, services, and operations of Valley Water. development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies. Environmental Justice is This goal will be achieved when all people receive everyone enjoys:
- Equitable consideration in the planning and execution of flood protection, water supply, safe drinking water, water resource stewardship projects, and the same degree of protection from environmental and health hazards, and
 - equal access to the Valley Water's decision-making process to have a healthy environment in which to live, learn, and work.;

Glossary

Amend the Glossary of the Board Governance Policies to include the following definition.

“disadvantaged community”

Disadvantaged community is an area whose residents are disproportionately impacted from a combination of economic, health, and environmental burdens, such as poverty, high unemployment, environmental pollution, the presence of hazardous waste, or environmental degradation. These communities often are comprised of people who have suffered historical discrimination based on race, color, national origin, tribe, culture, income, immigration status, or English language proficiency.

For the purposes of Valley Water policies, projects, services, and programs, disadvantaged communities include any of the following:

- Low-income households (Household incomes below 80 percent of the Area Median Income (AMI) in Santa Clara County, as of 2020 AMI for average household of three is \$100,950, however AMI is updated annually;
- Low-income census tracts (Census tracts where aggregated household incomes are less than 80 percent of the Area Median Income for Santa

Clara County), as of 2020 AMI for average household of three is \$100,950, however AMI is updated annually

- An area defined by California Environmental Protection Agency (pursuant to Section 39711 of the California Health and Safety Code), using the CalEnviroScreen tool, which was developed to determine communities most burdened by environmental, socioeconomic and health factors.

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