



## SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT YOUTH COMMISSION MEETING

# MINUTES

**WEDNESDAY, January 17, 2024**

(Paragraph numbers coincide with agenda item numbers)

A regular meeting of the Santa Clara Valley Water District Youth Commission (Youth Commission) was held on January 17, 2024, at Santa Clara Valley Water District, Headquarters Building Boardroom, 5700 Almaden Expressway, San Jose, CA 95118.

### **1. CALL TO ORDER**

Youth Commission Chair Emma Gao called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m.

#### **1.1 ROLL CALL**

A quorum was established with 14 Members present.

##### **Members in attendance were:**

District 1: Lorelei Henry

District 2: Chairperson Emma Gao and Niharika Koduru

District 3: Parnika Sadhu, Ivan Zhang, and Anika Kulkarni

District 4: Agata Bak and Sairama Nishita Kakulpati

District 5: Grace Liu and Vice Chairperson Daphne Zhu

District 6: Samuel Alvarez

District 7: Maitreya Banerjee, Ordred Bronicki, and Patrick Van Kerchove

##### **Members not in attendance were:**

District 1: Ishaan Mandala and Ana Torico

District 2: Ca Nha Dang

District 4: Bryan Blair

District 5: Sophie Beck

District 6: Nialnish (Neil) Dey Ghosh and Jonathan Lopez

Valley Water Staff in attendance were Brandon Adriano, Ricardo Barajas, Rachael Gibson, Nicholas Ingram, Dave Leon, Elizabeth Park, Donald Rocha, and Clarissa Sangalang.

Public in attendance was: Jan.

**2. TIME OPEN FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON ANY ITEM NOT ON AGENDA**

There was no one who wished to speak.

**3. WELCOME**

Don Rocha, Elizabeth Park, and Dave Leon introduced themselves to the Commissioners.

**4. OATH OF OFFICE**

Oaths of office were not administered.

**5. INTERACTIVE ACTIVITY**

Brandon Adriano led a team-building game involving scooping marshmallows onto plates.

**6. MANAGER'S REPORT**

Don Rocha provided information relating to grants, public art projects.

Elizabeth Park provided information relating to the Education Outreach program.

Clarissa Sangalang and Brandon Adriano provided a summary of events held at the Commission retreat.

**7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**7.1 APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

It was moved by Daphne Zhu, seconded by Anika Kulkarni, and unanimously carried, to approve the November 15, 2023 Commission meeting minutes as submitted.

Chairperson Gao moved the agenda to Item No. 8.2.

**8. AGENDA ITEMS**

**8.2. RECEIVE INFORMATION RELATING TO BOARD OF DIRECTORS WORK PLAN STANDING ITEMS**

Donald Rocha reviewed the materials as outlined in the agenda item. Nicholas Ingram, Brandon Adriano, and Donald Rocha were available to answer questions.

The Commission received the information, took no formal action, and requested that staff report to the Commission relating to Valley Water's policy work and outreach to the unhoused community, including collaborations with municipalities and nonprofit service providers.

Chairperson Gao moved the agenda to Item No. 8.1.

**8.1. DISCUSS PROPOSED POLICY REVIEW PROJECT**

Donald Rocha reviewed the materials as outlined in the agenda item and was available to answer questions.

Chairperson Gao discussed goals for the project and recruitment for an ad hoc committee to discuss policies to review and submit to the full Commission and forward to the Board. Discussion ensued as to the function and purpose of an ad hoc committee, and Chairperson Gao requested that any members interested in serving on the ad hoc committee contact Dave Leon.

The Commission received the information, took no formal action, and requested that staff report to the Commission relating to specific policies for the ad hoc committee to bring to the full Commission.

Chairperson Gao moved the agenda to Item No. 8.3.

### **8.3 UPDATE FROM SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT YOUTH COMMISSION'S WORKING GROUPS**

Vice Chairperson Zhu and Commissioner Kulkarni reported on the Science Network Working Group's journalism initiative and expansion of influence in science fairs.

Vice Chairperson Zhu and Commissioner Kulkarni also reported on plans and goals for the Purified Water Outreach Working Group. They also reported on outreach to other Youth Commissions within the County and expansion of the Commission's social media presence.

Commissioner Bak reported on the Creek Stewardship Working Group creating outreach materials for activities including National River Cleanup Day and Coastal Cleanup Day.

Career Day Working Group, stating that Career Day will be in early June at Valley Water Headquarters. She noted that the Working Group wishes to create a media project to create awareness of the event. Nicholas Ingram was available to answer questions.

The Commission took no formal action.

### **8.4 REVIEW AND DISCUSS SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT YOUTH COMMISSION WORK PLAN, AND PROPOSE THE COMMISSION'S NEXT MEETING AGENDA**

Dave Leon reviewed the materials as outlined in the agenda item. Dave Leon and Donald Rocha were available to answer questions.

The Commission received the information, took no formal action, and requested that staff invite an expert in environmental stewardship to a future meeting.

## **9. CLERK REVIEW AND CLARIFICATION OF COMMISSION REQUESTS TO THE BOARD**

Dave Leon noted the requests made on Item Nos. 8.1, 8.2, and 8.4.

## **10. ADJOURN**

Chairperson Gao adjourned the meeting at 7:22 p.m. to the next regular meeting on Wednesday, April 17, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.

Dave Leon  
Assistant Deputy Clerk II  
Office of the Clerk of the Board

Approved: April 17, 2024

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