



SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT YOUTH COMMISSION MEETING

MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, April 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 April 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 6:05 p.m.

1.1 ROLL CALL

A quorum was established with 15 members present.

Members in attendance were:

District 1: Ishaan Mandala and Ana Torrico

District 2: Chairperson Emma Gao, Niharika Koduru, and Ca Nha Dang

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

District 4: Agata Bak and Sairama Nishita Kakulpati

District 5: Grace Liu

District 6: Samuel Alvarez and Jonathan Lopez

District 7: Maitreya Banerjee and Oded Bronicki

Members not in attendance were:

District 1: Lorelei Henry

District 4: Bryan Blair

District 5: Vice Chairperson Daphne Zhu and Sophie Beck

District 6: Nialnish (Neil) Dey Ghosh

District 7: Patrick Van Kerchove

Valley Water Staff in attendance were Brandon Adriano, John Bourgeois, Lakeisha Bryant, Nicholas Ingram, Dave Leon, Clarissa Sangalang, and Kristen Yasukawa.

Public in attendance was: Heather Wang and Director John Varela.

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

Melissa Liu, County of Santa Clara Office of Children and Families Policy, invited the Commissioners to attend a student wellness event scheduled for Saturday, April 27, 2024.

5. MANAGER'S REPORT

Director John Varela provided remarks to the Commission and congratulated the graduating members of the Commission.

John Bourgeois provided remarks to the Commission relating to environmental stewardship and how Valley Water balances water supply needs and environmental needs.

Chairperson Gao moved the agenda to Item 3.

3. OATH OF OFFICE

Oaths of office were not administered.

4. INTERACTIVE ACTIVITY

Brandon Adriano provided envelopes with members' journaling questions from the August 2023 meeting. The Commission then played a game called Statues.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

6.1 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Nishita Kakulapati, seconded by Maitreya Banerjee, and unanimously carried, to approve the January 17, 2023 Commission meeting minutes as submitted.

7. REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS

7.1 UPDATE FROM SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT YOUTH COMMISSION'S WORKING GROUPS AND AD HOC COMMITTEES

Commissioners Kulkarni and Kakulapati reported that the Career Day Working Group has encountered difficulties hosting an in-person Career Day event due to budgeting and resources, so the group has instead decided to pivot to a social media campaign that highlights Valley Water careers by using a Choose Your Own Adventure model.

Commissioners Bak and Liu reported on behalf of the Creek Stewardship Working Group, stating that National River Cleanup Day is scheduled for May 18, 2024, and that Commission members and Valley Water staff will participate, and encouraged the Commissioners to sign up.

Commissioner Bak stated that the Purified Water Outreach Working Group planned to invite other youth commissioners across the County to the Silicon Valley Advanced Water Purification Center, but due to logistical issues, the group is now performing outreach to environmental clubs and other youth groups encouraging them to visit the Center independently.

Members of the Youth Community Science Network Working Group reported on their meetings with subject matter experts relating to two articles currently being drafted.

Chairperson Gao provided information relating to the Policy Writing Ad Hoc Committee, stating that the group chose to focus on the Board's goal of addressing encampments of unsheltered people. The Committee presented information to the Commission as a whole and received feedback from the Commissioners.

It was moved by Commissioner Bronicki, and seconded by Commissioner Kulkarni, and unanimously carried that the Commission delegate authority to the Ad Hoc Committee to incorporate feedback given

by the Commission into the document and forward the completed document to the Board for consideration.

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

The Commission considered this Item without a staff presentation.

The Commission received the information and took no formal action.

7.3. RECOGNITION OF OUTGOING YOUTH COMMISSION MEMBERS

Chairperson Gao read a statement from Vice Chairperson Daphne Zhu, who was unable to attend due to a school trip.

Kristen Yasukawa presented the graduating members of the Youth Commission with a Certificate of Recognition for their service, and each graduate was given the opportunity to address the Commission.

1. Ana Torrico - representing District 1 (Director Varela)
2. Chairperson Emma Gao - representing District 2 (Director Keegan)
3. Anika Kulkarni - representing District 3 (Director Santos)
4. Ivan Zhang - representing District 3 (Director Santos)
5. Sairama Nishita Kakulpati - representing District 4 (Director Beall)
6. Sophie Beck - representing District 5 (Director Hsueh)
7. Nialnish (Neil) Dey Ghosh
8. Samuel Alvarez – representing District 6 (Director Estremera)
9. Patrick Van Kerchove – representing District 7 (Director Eisenberg)

Following the presentation, Chairperson Gao provided closing remarks to the Commission.

8. CLERK REVIEW AND CLARIFICATION OF COMMISSION REQUESTS TO THE BOARD

The Commission took no action.

9. ADJOURN

Chairperson Gao adjourned the meeting at 7:13 p.m. to the next regular meeting on Wednesday, August 21, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

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

Approved: August 21, 2024