



## SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT YOUTH COMMISSION MEETING

# MINUTES

**WEDNESDAY, August 20, 2025**

(Paragraph numbers coincide with agenda item numbers)

A special meeting of the Santa Clara Valley Water District Youth Commission (Youth Commission) was held on August 20, 2025, at Santa Clara Valley Water District, Headquarters Building Boardroom, 5700 Almaden Expressway, San Jose, CA 95118.

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

Youth Commission Clerk Dave Leon 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: Aadrit Talukdar and Abigail Ha-Neul Kim

District 2: Alonso Jose

District 3: Nina Yuan

District 4: Agata Bak, Ellie Zhou, and Bryce Chen

District 5: Aditya Shivakumar, Simran Soni, and Ethan Cheung

District 6: Sinit Hadgu, David Nguyen Huynh, and Ruhan Upreti

District 7: Doyoon Kim and Mina Van Roy

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

District 1: Ishaan Mandala

District 2: Betalem Berhanu

District 3: Prathik Janakiram and Parnika Sadhu

Members Andrew Lomio and Ishika Anand arrived at 6:12 p.m.

Directors in attendance were: Director Shiloh Ballard, District 2 and Director Nai Hsueh, District 5. Director John Varela, District 1, attended the meeting virtually.

Valley Water Staff in attendance were: Ricardo Barajas, Layla Forooghi, Andy Gschwind, Dave Leon, and Kristen Yasukawa.

Public in attendance were: Anon and Kris.

## **2. WELCOME**

Directors Varela, Ballard, and Hsueh provided opening remarks to the Commission.

## **3. OATH OF OFFICE**

Oaths of office were administered to new members in attendance.

## **4. INTRODUCTIONS**

### **A. VALLEY WATER STAFF**

Kristen Yasukawa, Ricardo Barajas, Layla Forooghi, Dave Leon, and Andy Gschwind introduced themselves to the Commission.

## **5. INTERACTIVE ACTIVITY**

The members participated in a "Four Corners" activity where four related options were introduced to the group and the members chose a corner that represented their opinion or preference. Once in their chosen corner, participants introduced themselves and explained their choice.

## **6. ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON AND VICE CHAIRPERSON.**

The Commission elected Aditya Shivakumar as Chairperson and Ellie Zhou as Vice Chairperson. Chairperson Shivakumar assumed the Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

## **7. TIME OPEN FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON ANY ITEM NOT ON THE AGENDA.**

There was no one who wished to speak.

## **8. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

### **8.1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES.**

Recommendation: Approve the May 29, 2025 meeting minutes

It was moved by Vice Chairperson Zhou, seconded by Member Doyoon Kim, and unanimously carried, to approve the May 29, 2025 Commission meeting minutes as submitted.

## **9. REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS**

### **9.1. RECEIVE PRESENTATION RELATING TO VALLEY WATER BOARD RESOLUTION NO. 17-75.**

Recommendation: Receive Presentation Relating to Board Resolution No. 17-75, which defines the structure and purpose of the Valley Water Youth Commission.

Ricardo Barajas and Dave Leon reviewed the information on this item, per the attached Committee Agenda Memo, and the corresponding presentation materials contained in Attachment 1 and were available to answer questions.

Without discussion, the Commission received the information and took no formal action.

## **9.2. RECEIVE BROWN ACT OVERVIEW AND TRAINING.**

Recommendation: Receive training regarding Brown Act requirements governing public meetings.

Andy Gschwind reviewed the information on this item, per the attached Committee Agenda Memo, and the corresponding presentation materials contained in Attachment 1 and was available to answer questions.

Without discussion, the Commission received the information and took no formal action.

## **9.3. UPDATE FROM SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT YOUTH COMMISSION'S WORKING GROUPS AND AD HOC COMMITTEES.**

Recommendation: Receive updates from working groups and ad hoc committees and make recommendations to the Board, as necessary.

Chairperson Shivakumar reported that the Creek Stewardship and Water Quality Outreach Project Group created a series of videos which began with a visit to the water quality lab, including a chain of custody simulation. A video of the lab day was screened for the Commission. He further noted that the project group hosted a National River Cleanup Day site where 32 bags of trash were collected from the waterways.

Member Huynh reported that the Education Outreach Program Project Group hosted a live informational outreach webinar to provide information relating to grant opportunities to school personnel and students.

Member Lomio reported that the Creekside Community Care Initiative Project Group is finalizing a blog that will highlight the projects completed by the Commission during the year.

The Commission received the information and took no formal action

## **9.4. REVIEW SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT YOUTH COMMISSION WORK PLAN, THE OUTCOMES OF BOARD ACTION OF COMMISSION REQUESTS; AND DISCUSS POSSIBLE ITEMS FOR THE COMMISSION'S NEXT MEETING AGENDA**

Recommendation: Review the Commission work plan to guide the Commission's discussions regarding policy alternatives and implications for Board deliberation and make recommendations as necessary.

Kristen Yasukawa reviewed the information on this item, per the attached Committee Agenda Memo, and the corresponding presentation materials contained in Attachment 1 and was available to answer questions.

Without discussion, the Commission received the information and took no formal action.

## **10. MANAGER'S REPORT**

Kristen Yasukawa reminded the members about the Commission retreat scheduled for Saturday, August 23, 2025, and provided information relating to the Commission's involvement in Coastal Cleanup Day.

Director Hsueh congratulated the newly elected officers and offered remarks to those who were nominated but not elected.

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

Without discussion, the Commission took no formal action.

**12. ADJOURN**

Chairperson Shivakumar adjourned the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

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

Approved:September 30, 2025