



SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

NON-AGENDA

October 18, 2024

Board Policy EL-7 Communication and Support to the Board
The BAOs shall inform and support the Board in its work.

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CEO BULLETIN



To: Board of Directors
From: Rick L. Callender, CEO

Weeks of October 04, 2024 – October 17, 2024

Board Executive Limitation Policy EL-7:

The Board Appointed Officers shall inform and support the Board in its work. Further, a BAO shall 1) inform the Board of relevant trends, anticipated adverse media coverage, or material external and internal changes, particularly changes in the assumptions upon which any Board policy has previously been established and 2) report in a timely manner an actual or anticipated noncompliance with any policy of the Board.

Item	IN THIS ISSUE
<u>1</u>	Municipal Regional Stormwater Permit FY 2023-2024 Annual Report Submittal
<u>2</u>	Permanente Letter of Map Revision (LOMR)
<u>3</u>	Planned Two-Day Rinconada Water Treatment Plant Shutdown from November 19 to November 21, 2024
<u>4</u>	Safe, Clean Water Mini-Grant Closeout: Resource Area for Teaching's Develop "Water on the Move" RAFT Design Challenge and Unit Project

1. Municipal Regional Stormwater Permit FY 2023-2024 Annual Report Submittal

Valley Water is a permittee of the Municipal Regional Stormwater NPDES Permit (MRP) and complies by implementing actions required by applicable portions of its major provisions, including operation and maintenance of storm drains from our facilities, green stormwater infrastructure, illicit discharge detection and elimination, public information and outreach, construction controls, and other actions. These compliance actions are reported annually to the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board (Water Board). The report provides data and narrative demonstrating Valley Water's compliance, progress, and accomplishments throughout the reporting year. Valley Water serves as Chair of the Santa Clara Valley Urban Runoff Pollution Prevention Program (SCVURPPP) Management Committee to work collaboratively with other permittees in the County to meet permit requirements. Major accomplishments for the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 reporting period include:

- As one of the few Santa Clara County Permittees with 24-hour availability to conduct stormwater pollution investigations, Valley Water received and responded to 144 reports.
- The Community Projects Review Unit's Code Enforcement Program processed 224 cases, including encroachments, illegal dumping, and discharges on Valley Water property.
- Updated the Construction Enforcement Response Plan and Monthly Environmental Compliance Inspection Report Form to keep construction sites compliant with the MRP and Construction General Permit.
- Captured and removed a total of 19.8 cubic yards (1.98 tons) of trash from trash booms deployed in Adobe Creek, Matadero Creek, Thompson Creek, and Lower Silver Creek.

The report also highlights Valley Water's public information and outreach program, including the popular Water Resources Education Outreach Program; Adopt-A-Creek and creek clean up events;

attendance at many in-person and virtual community events; and the Grants and Partnerships program.

Valley Water's 2023-2024 Stormwater Annual Report is available to the public on the State Water Resources Control Board Stormwater Multiple Application and Report Tracking System (SMARTS) at <https://smarts.waterboards.ca.gov/smarts/faces/SwSmartsLogin.xhtml> and on the Safe, Clean Water Project B2 Interagency Urban Runoff Program page under Reports and Documents: <https://www.valleywater.org/project-updates/b2-interagency-urban-runoff-program>.

For further information, please contact John Bourgeois at (408) 630-2990.

2. Permanente Letter of Map Revision (LOMR)

The Letter of Map Revision (LOMR) application to revise the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Insurance Rate Maps to reflect the flood protection projects on Permanente Creek became effective on September 5, 2024. The LOMR application was jointly filed by Valley Water, Santa Clara County, and the cities of Mountain View, Los Altos and Cupertino on April 18, 2022. A LOMR is FEMA's vehicle for changing their Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM); parcels located within the 100-year floodplain on the FIRM are required to purchase flood insurance if they carry federally backed loans. FEMA issued official notices (letters) to the cities and county on October 7, 2024.

The main change to the floodplain map (FIRM) is to remove floodplain areas that would flood to a depth of 1 ft or greater due to overbanking of Permanente Creek during a 100-year flow event. Property owners in these areas will now be able to remove the requirement for holding flood insurance. It is estimated that about 800 to 1000 parcels will be removed from the FEMA floodplain, with an additional ~2000 parcels removed from areas with 100-year risk of flooding to depths of less than one foot. Unfortunately, two parcels along the Permanente Diversion channel were also added to the floodplain. Note that counts are approximate because there are some factors that are impossible to determine, such as how lenders interpret the maps and/or whether properties do not carry federally backed loans.

Valley Water has performed outreach to all affected community members as follows:

- 1) Letters were sent to affected property owners on July 30, 2024, providing information about the LOMR, website resources, and contact information for affected communities and Valley Water, and
- 2) A website was developed with information about how to remove the flooding insurance requirement from qualifying properties which have been removed from FEMA's 100-year floodplain: <https://www.valleywater.org/project-updates/permanente-creek-flood-protection>

For further information, please contact John Bourgeois at (408) 630-2990.

3. Planned Two-Day Rinconada Water Treatment Plant Shutdown from November 19 to November 21, 2024

Starting on November 19, 2024, the Rinconada Water Treatment Plant (RWTP) will be shut down for two days to facilitate the Rinconada Reliability Improvement Project work. During this shutdown, the project team will upgrade two of the Plant's Programmable Logic Controllers. Valley Water will also take this opportunity to perform other preventive maintenance and improvement activities. Performing periodic preventive maintenance is essential to ensure that the water treatment plant's critical systems are safe, reliable, and remain in good working order.

During this shutdown, all West Pipeline (WPL) turnouts normally supplied by RWTP, except for the City of Mountain View, are expected to be impacted. Barring any unforeseen circumstances, the RWTP is scheduled to return to service on November 21, 2024.

The above stated shutdown schedule has also been communicated and coordinated with all WPL retailers. The retailers impacted by this shutdown will use their groundwater and/or alternate supplies to meet demand.

For further information, please contact Sam Bogale at (408) 630-3505.

4. Safe, Clean Water Mini-Grant Closeout: Resource Area for Teaching's Develop "Water on the Move" RAFT Design Challenge and Unit Project

In Fiscal Year 2023, Valley Water awarded Resource Area for Teaching a \$5,000 Safe, Clean Water Program F9 Mini-Grant for their *Water on the Move* RAFT Design Challenge and Unit (Project). Resource Area for Teaching completed the Project on May 31, 2024, and submitted the final invoice items on June 8, 2024, allowing for grant closeout.

Resource Area for Teaching is a nonprofit organization that offers educators practical learning resources that align with national content standards. The grant funds were used to support the development of Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics (STEAM) project kits and a curriculum for a design challenge offered to elementary school-aged students in Santa Clara County. The STEAM kits and curriculum were tested by educators and applied in classrooms to help teach environmental literacy. Students learned about flood protection and environmental stewardship by developing a solution for diverting water around or through an obstacle in the design challenge.

Key Outcomes:

- Hosted one workshop that engaged 12 educators in Santa Clara County to pilot the educational lessons and classroom STEAM kits.
- Engaged a total of 370 students who participated in the design challenge unit.
- Conducted post-event surveys for teachers who participated.
 - Teachers reported an 18% increase in confidence to lead STEAM activities after taking the workshop.
 - 100% of teachers felt "Very Inspired" to explore more environmental literacy topics and lessons with students.

For further information, please contact Rachael Gibson at (408) 630-2884.

BOARD MEMBER REQUESTS and Informational Items

Report Name: Board Member Requests

Request	Request Date	Director	BAO/Chief	Staff	Description	20 Days Due Date	Expected Completion Date	Disposition
I-24-0016	10/10/24	Beall	Chan	Penilla	At the August 21, 2024 Board Audit Committee Meeting, Director Beall asked for information on how Valley Water is complying with a lobbying law, which requires disclosure when people lobby VW staff as it relates to projects in Valley Water's capital improvement plan.	10/30/24		

INCOMING BOARD CORRESPONDENCE

Board Correspondence (open)

Correspond No	Rec'd By District	Rec'd By COB	Letter To	Letter From	Description	Disposition	BAO/ Chief	Staff	Draft Response Due Date	Draft Response Submitted	Writer Ack. Sent	Final Response Due Date
C-24-0230	09/20/24	09/20/24	All	DOUG JACKSON	Email from Doug Jackson to Director Eisenberg (copied to the board), dated 09/20/24, inquiring about future plans for the Alamitos Creek.	Refer to Staff	Hakes	Codianne	09/28/24	-	n/a	10/04/24
C-24-0232	09/23/24	09/23/24	All	MARY DUNN	Email from Mary Dunn to the Board, dated 09/23/24, requesting that a downed tree behind 580 Matadero on Matadero Creek be inspected.	Refer to Staff	Hakes	Codianne	10/01/24	10/07/24	n/a	10/07/24
C-24-0242	10/08/24	10/08/24	All	JIM KUHL	Email from Jim Kuhl to the board, dated 10/08/24, providing public comment on the 10/08/24 agenda, item 5.2.	Noted and Filed	Chan	Mccarter	10/16/24	-	n/a	10/22/24
C-24-0246	10/10/24	10/10/24	All	ERIC LIEBSCHER	Email from Eric Liebscher to the board,	Refer to Staff	Hakes	Codianne	10/18/24	-	n/a	10/24/24

Correspond No	Rec'd By District	Rec'd By COB	Letter To	Letter From	Description	Disposition	BAO/ Chief	Staff	Draft Response Due Date	Draft Response Submitted	Writer Ack. Sent	Final Response Due Date
					dated 10/10/24, requesting their Access Valley Water - Case #AVW-016165 be reviewed.							
C-24-0250	10/11/24	10/15/24	All	BRIAN MCCORMICK	Email from Brian McCormick to Director Keegan, dated 10/15/24, requesting Valley Water create a policy to allow removal of unhoused camps/tents within 300 feet of residential property.	Refer to Staff	Hakes	Bilski Codianne	10/23/24	-	n/a	10/29/24

From: [Joey Childs](#)
To: [Board of Directors](#)
Subject: Re: Partnership Opportunity for Christmas Toy Drive
Date: Wednesday, October 9, 2024 9:48:43 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

***** This email originated from outside of Valley Water. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. *****

Dear Nai Hsueh,

I hope this message finds you well. I truly appreciate the swift response to my inquiry. Additionally, I am grateful for your consideration.

Toys For Tots is a wonderful organization. We work closely with them— I am very happy to hear that you can support them.

I would be honored to work with you in the future if the opportunity arises. Please keep our organization in consideration.

Warm regards,
Joey Childs

Joey Childs, Founder
Joey's Toy Drive
www.JoeyToyDrive.org



From: Candice Kwok-Smith <ckwok-smith@valleywater.org> on behalf of Board of Directors <board@valleywater.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 8, 2024 11:52 AM
To: Joey Childs <info@Joeytoydrive.org>
Subject: FW: Partnership Opportunity for Christmas Toy Drive

Sent on Behalf of Chair Hsueh:

Dear Joey Childs,

On behalf of Valley Water, we thank Joey's Toy Drive for your commitment to bringing joy to Bay Area families during the holiday season and for the inquiry. Unfortunately, we already have an established toy drive partnership in place.

Our Veterans employee resource group (ERG), in collaboration with the Network & Activities for Parents ERG, has proudly partnered with the United States Marine Corps' Toys for Tots annual drive. Our ERGs have placed collection boxes at various campus locations for the past ten years, allowing employees to contribute new, unwrapped toys.

Thank you again for considering Valley Water for this partnership. Regrettably, we cannot support a second toy drive collection effort at this time. If you have any questions, please contact Rosie Cofre, Office of Racial Equity, Diversity & Inclusion (REDI) unit manager, at rcofre@valleywater.org.

Sincerely,



Nai Hsueh
Chair, District 5

C-24-0237

From: Joey Childs <info@Joeystoydrive.org>
Sent: Monday, September 30, 2024 1:31 PM
To: Board of Directors <board@valleywater.org>
Subject: Partnership Opportunity for Christmas Toy Drive

***** This email originated from outside of Valley Water. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. *****

Dear Valley Water Team,

I hope this message finds you well. My name is Joey Childs, and I am the founder of Joey's Toy Drive, a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing holiday joy to underprivileged children in the San Francisco Bay Area.

This year, we are organizing our annual toy drive and would love the opportunity to partner with Valley Water. We believe that setting up a toy collection at your offices could engage your employees and contribute significantly to our mission of bringing smiles to children in need.

In 2023 alone, we collected over **12,500 toys and partnered with 51 organizations**, including

several schools, to support families during the holiday season. A collaboration with Valley Water would not only help us reach more children but also demonstrate your commitment to community service and social responsibility.

We would be happy to provide collection bins and promotional materials to facilitate the process. If you're interested, we can discuss logistics and any support you might need.

Thank you for considering this opportunity to make a difference in the lives of children and families in our community. I look forward to the possibility of working together.

Warm regards,
Joey Childs

Joey Childs, Founder

Joey's Toy Drive

www.JoeyToyDrive.org



From: [Michele King](#)
To: [Board of Directors](#)
Subject: FW: climate history for the west coast
Date: Thursday, October 10, 2024 8:21:03 AM

Hi Adelina,
Please include the below email in next week's NA.
Thanks,
Michele

From: Peter Van Dyke
Sent: Wednesday, October 9, 2024 10:21 PM
To: Nicole Merritt <NMerritt@valleywater.org>
Subject: climate history for the west coast

***** This email originated from outside of Valley Water. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. *****

Hello Nicole,
I wanted to share this research paper with the board of directors, the AWAC, and pertinent staff. It provides good information about climate and how it has been changing in Western North America since the ice age started to recede twelve thousand years ago. The first link is a detailed scientific paper by the European Geosciences Union. The second link is a UC Davis summary of the European geoscience research paper.

<https://cp.copernicus.org/articles/19/199/2023/>

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2023/02/230227161425.htm>

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Board of Directors; Jim Beall](#)
Subject: FW: Access Valley Water - Case #AVW-016165
Date: Thursday, October 10, 2024 2:58:03 PM

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Hello,
Please review my case, as well as the current state of the area referenced.
Regards,
Eric Liebscher

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, October 10, 2024 2:55 PM
To: 'Feliciano Aguilar' <faguilar@valleywater.org>
Subject: RE: Access Valley Water - Case #AVW-016165

Hello Felice,
I see that the pollution and trash continue to accumulate there, both on land and in the water.
What can be done to address this , or at least raise the issue with the responsible parties?
Regards,
Eric

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, September 18, 2024 9:10 AM
To: 'Feliciano Aguilar' <faguilar@valleywater.org>
Subject: RE: Access Valley Water - Case #AVW-016165

Hi Felice,
Thank you for the direct email response.
I have seen over the last few days that one of the larger contributors to the pollution & “junk” problems in the area has been removed- thank you to those responsible!

Unfortunately, there is still a great deal of trash and pollution near or at the water’s edge, as well as flowing into the water. I hope this can be dealt with.

I don’t quite understand the “Caltrans property” distinction vs Valley Water- is the area directly under the highway, but including the lake not subject to VW control? What is the best way to report/deal with the water pollution?

Best Regards,
Eric

From: Feliciano Aguilar <faguilar@valleywater.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 17, 2024 10:03 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Access Valley Water - Case #AVW-016165



Clean Water • Healthy Environment • Flood Protection

Hi Eric,

Thank you for contacting Valley Water with your concerns. This location along Guad Ponds has been an ongoing issue for us regarding encampments. Under our current work instruction Valley Water is unable to remove camped individuals in most situations from our property. Alternatively, we're doing our best to manage encampment occupied space within federal case law to limit the amount of accumulated debris.

The area directly under the 85 overpass is Caltrans property. I have a meeting scheduled with Caltrans on 9/23 to address this issue.

We recently performed a clean up on Valley Water lands 9/16.

Our next cleanup on Valley Water property through this reach is scheduled for 9/25-9/26.

We advise contacting the fire department if unpermitted fires are observed and the police for any illegal activity. These are services Valley Water doesn't provide and we'd do the same in similar circumstances.

I strongly encourage you to join our Board's Committee meeting (ECCC) to address any additional concerns regarding the unhoused.

Here are the instruction to find more information:

Web Link - <https://www.valleywater.org/>

Click Link - Board of Directors (banner on the top right)

Click Link – Committees (left side title)

Click Subcategory – Board Committees

Click Title – Environmental Creek Cleanup Committee (Formerly Homeless Encampment Committee)

Please reach out with any additional questions.

Thank you,
Felice Aguilar
408-630-3727

Santa Clara Valley Water District | 5750 Almaden Expressway, San Jose, CA 95118-3686 | www.valleywater.org



thread::zYlytB4HFRqa-keb7wrOUiA::

From: [Mike Kraus](#)
To: [Board of Directors](#); [Richard Santos](#)
Cc: [Jennifer Codianne](#); [Mark Bilski](#); [District4@sanjoseca.gov](#); [Mayor Matt Mahan](#); [PNA Distribution](#); [Elva Wilson](#); [Kip.Harkness@sanjoseca.gov](#); [Otto Lee](#); [Cindy Chavez](#)
Subject: Penitencia Neighborhood Association feedback on the Unhoused
Date: Saturday, October 12, 2024 5:14:31 AM
Attachments: [Unhoused of San Jose - 101124 - Rev\(1\).pdf](#)
[Mike.Kraus.PNA.Biz.Card.pdf](#)

***** This email originated from outside of Valley Water. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. *****

Dear Madam Chair, Director Richard Santos (et al),

At the Santa Clara Valley Water District Board of Directors Special Meeting on the Unhoused people & Environment Summit held Friday, 10/11/24, I was limited to 1 minute for public comments and was not able to articulated entirely the Penitencia Neighborhood Association (PNA) public comments. For this reason, I am providing my chart package for your information. Please consider this for the record.

I commend Valley Water's

Thank you in advance

Mike Kraus
President-Penitencia Neighborhood Association
Cell: 1.408.242.0823
Web Page: www.Penitenciaassociation.com



Together, we can do more!

Mike Kraus, President

mkraus94@gmail.com

1 408 242 0823 | [@PenitenciaWatch](#)

www.PenitenciaAssociation.com

PNA: Over 500 members on 67 streets and courts located in the Upper Penitencia Creek region of the City of San Jose, CA, District 4

Unhoused of the City of San Jose

Michael Kraus
President of Penitencia Neighborhood Association

Introduction

Michael Kraus - President of Penitencia Neighborhood Association

- Neighborhood Association of 620 members located in the Upper Penitencia Creek region of the city of San Jose in District 4
- Issue:
 - There exist a sector of society within the state of California, county of Santa Clara and city of San Jose for multiple reasons that are unable to generate the income to obtain the basic elements of food, shelter and clothing for themselves.
 - Mental health
 - Addiction
 - Loss of job or income
- Impact:
 - The unfortunate are forced to live along rivers / creeks, roadways and lots, becoming a, nuisance, a safety, an environmental impact and eyesore to the remaining members of society - we as a community find this Unacceptable

UNHOUSED OF SAN JOSE

SOLUTION

- Until society as a whole, working through our elected government officials and other agencies, provides the necessary resources to rectify the basic needs for the unfortunate, this issue will continue
 - The issue can be solved by an integrated inter-agency monitored and controlled financial budget allocations from the Federal, state, county and municipalities via bonds, taxes and funding.
 - As a society, we need to step up and provide the necessary resources and the recipients must be held accountable
 - An integrated inter-agency resource allocated plan needs to be formulated
 - Reintroduction of mental hospitals
 - Substance abuse rehabilitation facilities
 - Permanent and Interim housing

UNHOUSED OF SAN JOSE

- We are reasonable people seeking reasonable solutions to complex problems.
- Thank You - Michael Kraus

Adelina Del Real

From: AI Alternative [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, October 14, 2024 9:58 PM
To: Rebecca Eisenberg
Cc: Clerk of the Board; Nai Hsueh; Candice Kwok-Smith
Subject: Re: Rebecca Eisenberg is a genius and needs to be celebrated

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

*** This email originated from outside of Valley Water. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. ***

Rebecca,

I am a real person, who lives in your district, and I happen to spend time in Palo Alto a few days a week (the recent southbound repaving on ECR has made driving much more smooth these days, don't you think?)

Let me tell you what is *actually* frustrating, Rebecca, as others on the GoodReads thread have also compassionately articulated. All you have done with your *words*, is provide and continue to double down on weak, racist, and ignorant justifications for the genocide that Israel is committing in Palestine, which has now spread into the invasion and killing of civilians AND attacks on UN peacekeepers in Lebanon. All you have done with your *words*, is defend these barbarous acts while at the same time dehumanize all Palestinian people by, as one commenter pointed out, never once referencing the Palestinian people or the 41 thousand of them murdered. Based on your *words*, I can only imagine the kind of defense (or celebration) you plan to write in response to last night's hospital bombing which led to refugees being burned alive in their tents. Or maybe you'll find some way to make yourself the victim, again.

Based on your *words*, I find you to be a disgusting human being, Rebecca. I do not believe you deserve to be in a position to represent me, my neighbors, or any other civilized person because you stand for hate, murder, and the dehumanization of an entire race of people. I understand that this note will probably have no effect on your current position as I am just a lone common person who has just happened to come across your hateful *words* on a message board. I understand that my words, nor the words of other commenters on your post, will not change your morally wrong views. I just wanted you to know that there is at least one person out there who is willing to call you out on your hateful propaganda. It's just a bonus that your colleagues know what kind of trash human you are.

See you around, Rebecca.

On Mon, Oct 7, 2024 at 11:44 PM Rebecca Eisenberg <Reisenberg@valleywater.org> wrote:

Hello,

What is so frustrating about these anonymous attacks is that they are made in a way where I am not given a chance to respond. I am constantly being told I am violating the Brown Act for responding to misogynist, antisemitic, and simply mean attacks on me. What makes this even more frustrating is that Valley Water consistently claims that it does not distribute anonymous ad hominem (that is a LATIN phrase) attacks, yet it does do that when it comes to me.

So, in keeping to the rules, I am responding only to the anonymous complainant from what is likely a non-working email address, and also to the Clerk, ccing only the Board Chair and the Board Officer.

Dear Clerk/Chair: Kindly distribute my response as I am not allowed to do so.

Here is my response:

This call for my stepping down, which was made on the one-year anniversary of the most deadly and heinous attack on Jews since the Holocaust, feels like intentional intimidation.

As I have said repeatedly, members of my extended family, close family friends, children of some of my personal friends, were impacted by Hamas's massacre and (proven) rape of 2000+ Israelis and the kidnapping of 250 more that occurred exactly one year ago today. I and so many people whom I love are gone or in pain. Hamas and its (proven, real) butchering and raping of so many Israelis, murdering infants in their cribs, young children in preschool, parents in front of children, children in front of parents, dismembering humans, shooting teenage girls and women in the face while raping them, shooting teenage girls in the vagina, cutting off teenage girls' and women's breasts, legs, facial features, rapes of boys, men, senior citizens, all on Israeli soil during a High Holy Day, at a time when a ceasefire existed remains traumatizing and incapacitating for so many of us.

To be attacked, on the one year anniversary of this unspeakable, heinous, egregious horror, based on a BOOK REVIEW I gave is an intentional attack on the only Jewish member of this Board. This attack was made with the knowledge that doing so on the one year anniversary of October 7 would be triggering, terrifying, and unsettling. Why couldn't this anonymous person (whom I don't believe for a second lives in my District) just post on Goodreads like everyone else? If they don't like my review, fine. I have written 700 reviews. They can look at a different review. I am a reader and a reviewer.

I owe no one an apology, and no one a response.

That said, I believe that the response to speech is more speech. It is NOT a call for censorship.

So I responded to this anonymous troll on GoodReads, which I copy/paste below. I actually hope that some of you read my original review. And I encourage you to read more of my reviews. My favorite authors are listed on the account page was attached. I keep my reviews public because I believe in reading, writing, and the power of both.

Here is my response, which I again be asked to be distributed with the public record to the extent that the initial anonymous complaint is:

<https://www.goodreads.com/review/show/6893478544?type=review>

I have written more than 700 reviews on Goodreads. Sometimes people agree with them, sometimes people disagree with them. Only this one book review has resulted in calls for me to step down from elected office, where I serve on a Board where am the only LGBTQ+ and Jewish member.

The people who are campaigning for the only Jewish and gay person to be removed from elected office claim that I must be removed from office because I insist that Jews deserve to exist as a religion, which is something that cannot happen if Jews lack a place to live where they will not be killed for being Jewish. Israel was created as a homeland for Jews because no country was willing to take in the

millions of Jewish refugees after the Holocaust. There was, and is, no other place for Jews to go if Israel is destroyed. This insistence that Jews be allowed to live is, in their minds, racism.

I view their insistence that Jews should have no right to live anti-semitism, and the UN and all other international organizations agree with me. It is literally a fundamental tenet of the definition of anti-semitism. To be an anti-semite is to insist that Jews have no right to live.

Honestly, I have dealt with so much misogyny and antisemitism and antisemitic misogyny and misogynist antisemitism in my life, not to mention all the homophobia and lesbian-hating that underlies so much of people's perceptions, that I can take all the hate that is thrown at me. I don't like it. It hurts me. But it is the tax I pay for being female, bisexual, and Jewish. I pay it willingly because I like life.

What really bothers more is that no one else here seems to have read the darn book!! This is GoodReads -- read the book! I read the book and I have opinions. All your opinions above are about me, but my opinions are about the book. Read. The. Book.

That said, because non-readers keep bringing up these things, and no response is necessary or deserved here, I can't help it: I need to correct a some factual errors that commenters here continually to cling to, and replace them with TRUTHs:

That said, I need to correct a some factual errors that commenters here continually to cling to, and replace them with TRUTHs:

1. Ethnic cleansing: Jews are not allowed to LIVE anywhere else in the Middle East other than in Israel. As such, Jews are treated worse than if they faced apartheid (not defending apartheid) in every Islamist country: they aren't given few rights -- they have zero rights, including the right to live. If Israel is destroyed, 7 million Jews will be exterminated. The Jewish religion will fail to exist. So who exactly is being ethnically cleansed?

2: Apartheid. Israel is not an apartheid state. The West Bank -- which is not Israel -- is extremely problematic. It is the only place that Coates admitted he spent time, and the West Bank, as I mentioned, is not Israel. As I wrote above, Jews, Israelis, and Zionists have a multitude of different views about the West Bank. The majority of ZIONISTS are not happy with the situation in the West Bank. So please stop calling Zionists evil when the majority of Zionists agree that things need to change in the West Bank. How in the world does your name calling help your cause? Yes, the situation in the West Bank is awful. But the West Bank is not Israel.

3. Genocide: South Africa sued and it was tried before an international court with a majority of members of the jury representing Muslim countries. This court and this jury determined that as a matter of fact and law, Israel is not engaging in genocide. Israel is engaging in war. Israel's ratio of number of combatants vs. civilians killed is among the highest of any war in any time -- even though the terrorists that Israel is targeting openly admit that they use civilians as human shields. Hamas placed all of its headquarters and military sites in residential homes, hospitals, schools, and mosques. That violates numerous international laws. Israel has been doing its best to target only the active terrorists, which would be much easier if they would stop hiding out in residences and underground beneath hospitals, schools, mosques, and homes. If you still do not recognize that this is happening, I urge you to get your information from a source other than TikTok and YouTube.

What is it like in Israel? Let me tell you!

1. Arab Muslims make up 20-30% of the population in Israel. They are welcomed and valued as equals.
2. Arab Muslims enjoy 100% of the civil rights of Jews in Israel.
3. Arab Muslims are represented in all ranks of Israeli society -- they are some of the most successful business owners; they are academics; they run charitable organizations; and they serve in all capacities of government.
4. Currently 12 Arab Muslims serve in the Israeli elected Congress, called the Knesset. They were duly elected, including by Jews.
5. There is at least one political party in the Israeli government that is mostly or all Arab Muslim. Sometimes they side with other parties. Sometimes they don't.
6. Israel is a coalition democracy, so becoming Prime Minister means having the support of most coalition members. There are MANY coalition governments including other successful economies and democracies, e.g. Germany.
7. Most surveys report that approximately 85% of Israelis disapprove of Netanyahu and would like to replace him.
8. Because Israel is a Democracy, an unpopular prime minister is replaced through democratic processes. S/he/they are not assassinated.
9. Israel is one of the most equal places on our planet for women. Women are drafted to serve in the army like men. Women enjoy leadership roles in Israel that they still have not seen in the US. Israel had a female prime minister approximately 60 years ago, while the US still has not had a female president (Here is hoping for November!)
10. Israel is the ONLY country in the Middle East where LGBTQia+ people are allowed to LIVE. In all Islamist countries, it is criminal to be gay, lesbian, bisexual, transexual, queer, questioning, intersex, asxual, aromantic, or non-straight in any other way. I am an LGBTQ+ person. I could move to Israel and be valued and welcomed. If I moved to any Islamist country -- which I could not do because I am Jewish -- I would be guilty of the highest crime and executed.
11. One of the best Queer Pride Celebrations is in Tel Aviv! I hope to attend this upcoming June. Many of the queer people who celebrate Pride in Israel are Muslim, Christian, Druze, Hindu, and all sorts of other religions. The Jewish religion has ZERO prohibitions on being LGBTQia2S+; in fact, it is a Jewish value to welcome and value all people.
12. EVERY street sign and public sign in Israel's largest cities, e.g. Tel Aviv, is given in three languages: Hebrew, Arabic, and English. Name one other country that is so language-inclusive.
13. Most Arab Israelis enjoy living in Israel. Surveys show that they overwhelmingly enjoy the freedoms they enjoy in Israel (because they enjoy all freedoms) and the opportunities they have in Israel (because they have all opportunities).
and finally, to repeat:

14. In *every* Islamist Middle Eastern country including the 22 countries that surround Israel, Jews have zero human rights. Jews have zero human rights because they are not allowed even to live there.

I have to believe that most people do not know these facts/any facts. They have never been to Israel to see for themselves. They don't believe me when I tell them because I am Jewish. They are blinded by their own unconscious antisemitism, which they project onto me and call me racist.

I stand by my opinion and repeat it with an even louder voice: Arguing for the survival of seven million Jews and that the Jewish religion should not be eliminated from our planet is not racism.

And here, so much blah blah blah by people who did not even read the book.

I read the book, and have problems with it. I am allowed to have problems with it. If you disagree, disagree. The response to speech is more speech.

So for those of you demanding that I take down this review, that use the most egregious anti-semitic tropes against me, even -- so ironically, so hypocritically, so irrationally -- calling me racist for standing up for a minority religion to have the right to exist -- what I say is this:

The response to speech is more speech. Read the book. Read any book. If you disagree with my POV, fine. But I will not take down my posts simply because you don't like what I say, especially when all I say is true.

Our world would be so vastly improved if more people were willing to question what they were told, if they could do their own research, visit countries firsthand, talk to actual people (not here or elsewhere on the Internet), and use disagreement as an opportunity to learn more. Instead of being scared and feeling offended by a different opinion, try asking: "Why do you think that? What evidence do you have? Where did you learn that?" Actually look at other sources. And be willing to learn. This is one of countless reasons I love to read. Reading is a great way to learn. Speech is wonderful - so please engage in it, both by listening to others and by learning how to be effective in using your own. Thank you for considering.

Hurray for books!

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[back to top](#)

Notify me when people comment

comment

[add book/author](#) (some html is ok)

From: AI Alternative [REDACTED]

Sent: Monday, October 7, 2024 2:22 AM

To: Board of Directors <board@valleywater.org>; John Varela <jvarela@valleywater.org>; Barbara Keegan

<BKeegan@valleywater.org>; Richard Santos <rsantos@valleywater.org>; Jim Beall <JBeall@valleywater.org>; Nai Hsueh <NHsueh@valleywater.org>; Tony Estremera <TEstremera@valleywater.org>
Cc: Rebecca Eisenberg <Reisenberg@valleywater.org>
Subject: Rebecca Eisenberg is a racist and needs to be removed from Valley Water

***** This email originated from outside of Valley Water. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. *****

Hello Board Members of Valley Water,

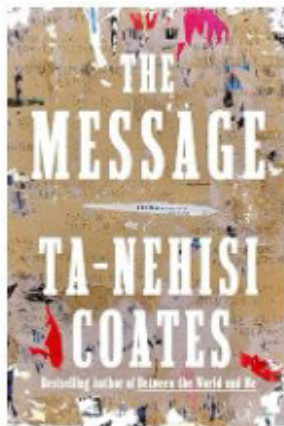
It has come to my attention that board member Rebecca Eisenberg has recently posted anti-Islam, anti-Arab, and pro-genocide sentiment online. Her racist post can be found in the comments section of GoodReads: <https://www.goodreads.com/review/show/6893478544> as well in screenshots I've attached below as insurance in case she deletes her post. Her public profile: <https://www.goodreads.com/user/show/16218812-rebecca-eisenberg>

It is astonishing, disgusting, and embarrassing that an elected official who represents people of all backgrounds and faiths would make these remarks in a public forum. This is unacceptable and she needs to be removed from her position immediately. Maybe then, she'll stop posting her pro-hate propaganda.

I'm looking forward to your response. Please let me know if contacting local media will help in the pursuit to rid this board of an inhumane official.

Thank you,
Concerned citizen of District 7 (Mountain View)

Rebecca Eisenberg's Reviews > The Message



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The Message

by Ta-Nehisi Coates



Rebecca Eisenberg's review

Oct 01, 2017



This is a profoundly disappointing, and even dangerous, book in a time when anti-semitic propaganda is at its highest point since the Holocaust. In *The Message*'s longest essay, a frighteningly misguided and non-researched essay about Palestine from the point of view of the terrorist, Ta-Nehisi Coates gets things very, very wrong -- not just factually, but also ethically.

In *The Message*, Ta-Nehisi Coates transforms the aggressor into the victim. He denies the reality of the most powerful and aggressive conquering force in the modern world -- extremist Islamists -- and falls into the lazy mass media dynamic of confusing peaceful Muslims with terrorist Islamists.

These Islamists, led by the Islamists who violently conquered Iran and numerous other countries surrounding Israel, murder peaceful Middle Eastern people on a daily basis. Dr. Coates could benefit from understanding the context -- that the same Islamist terrorists that seek to destroy Israel (it's in their Charter which Coates declines to read) actually murder more Muslims than any other religious group. The same terrorist Islamists seeking to destroy Israel from Gaza and the West Bank, also violently oppress indigenous people in Yemen (Houthis), Lebanon (Hezbollah), Iran, and in a dozen other countries, using Muslim people as human shields and violently destabilize countries. This is not complicated.

What is baffling is how Coates's pathological drive to defend wrongdoers deprives him of his ability to advocate on behalf of Christians, Muslims, and all other indigenous people who, as I write, are living under terrorist-enforced Sharia law, murdered for being gay, for being a woman, or for being anything other than extremist Islamist. Ever contemplate

his slanted 10-day trip to make provably incorrect assumptions and harmful, bigoted, sweeping conclusions.

Perhaps the most striking and troubling perceptual and intellectual error Coates makes is in his conflation of the situation in the West Bank with Gaza. While admitting he never visited Gaza, and omitting reference to Hamas's deadly massacre on Simchat Torah, he assumes that the disputed territories faced similar circumstances. Coates could open the newspaper or read a book; he is shamefully misguided: the West Bank is occupied, but Gaza has not been occupied for almost 20 years.

Specifically: Israel has been occupying the West Bank as a disputed territory ever since Israel successfully defended itself from the invasion by terrorists in 1967. Many Israelis claimed the right to the West Bank as a result of a war it did not start. Some consider the occupation of the West Bank to be necessary to protect Israel from the terrorist groups that still seek to destroy Israel, in Jordan, Lebanon, and Iran (and elsewhere!). Many Zionists seek a more peaceful resolution to the West Bank, where all people can live peacefully, yet Israel nonetheless is protected from terrorists. There is no unity of opinion about the West Bank by Israelis or Jews or ZIONISTS. Coates gets this entirely wrong.

Not only that, but Coates also conflates the controversial situation in the West Bank with the Gaza Strip, which has not been occupied for almost 20 years. Israel completely pulled all troops and even displaced all Jews who had been living in Gaza in 2007. There was no "resistance to occupation" in Gaza because there was no occupation when Hamas invaded Israel and murdered and raped thousands of innocent people. Gaza had been left alone. Yet Coates sympathizes and hero-worships the rapists and murderers who broke a 20-year cease fire in response to absolutely nothing other than their desire to wipe Israel off the map (something, need I repeat, that it states in its charter!).

How is that complicated?

(Sidebar facts: the West Bank was actually a part of Jordan until Jordan relinquished all claim to it in 1950, yet there h

on a football-field sized geographic region of Arab countries where -- a very relevant point -- Jews are not allowed. Being a Zionist means that one believes that Jews should have the ability to survive as an ethnicity. If advocating for minority religion to avoid extermination is racist, then ... I cannot imagine a way to end that sentence.

Coates does not care. Although not all Zionists agree that the West Bank should be occupied, ALL (as does anyone with knowledge) agree that Gaza was not under occupation when Hamas invaded Israel and cruelly and inhumanely killed, tortured and raped so many people. Even if Gaza were under occupation (which it was not), there is no defense for rape, torture, and murder of human beings, and Coates should know that. There is NOTHING that can justify the rape, torture, and murder of people.

Given Coates's previous works, which I greatly respected and enjoyed, including *Between The World and Me*, I was surprised to see Dr. Coates's decline into mainstream propaganda. While his previous work was commendable and enlightening, this book is irresponsible, non-researched and dangerous to all people truly fighting for freedom and peace from terrorism in the Middle East.

In sum, while Coates claims he writes only what he knows he is either profoundly self-unaware or intentionally lying. This is a very low point for a professor of ethics. Coates is desperate to blame Israel for Hamas's egregious inhumanity that he embraces antisemitic lies to do so. While this thinking is dangerously common amongst mass media and social media content creators, it is also unethical, lazy, and incorrect. Coates, based on his previous work, should have known better.

Coates's statement that he may have been one of the terrorists that invaded a separate country, murdered and raped children, teenagers, babies, the elderly and so many more, and continue TO THIS DAY to hold more than 100 people, including women and children, hostage under the most inhumane conditions, reflects a complete destruction of his mind and soul. That he wrote this and defends it is



737 ratings (4.12 avg)
401 reviews

Rebecca Eisenberg

Follow

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Details

Palo Alto, CA (5 mi)

Activity

Joined in January 2013, last active this month

Interests

I am a vegan climate crusader with 2 dogs and cats. I love animals, plants, and water. I am 10 Type 1 Enneagram, double Aries, Libra rising

Favorite Books

#DiverseBooks #womenauthors Africanfuturi: (Nnedi Okorafor) Cli Fi (Margaret Atwood); sci fiction (Becky Chambers), Future-predicting SI (Octavia Butler); Triple-Hugo-winning Fantasy (NK Jemisin). I often despise Pulitzer books; w they know?

About Me

I love to read.

REBECCA'S FAVORITE BOOKS



REBECCA'S BOOKSHELVES

read (734)

to-read (810)

ari-books (11)

currently-reading (9)

best-of-best (55)

Stats |

REBECCA IS CURRENTLY READING



Rebecca Eisenberg is currently reading

I'm Starting to Worry About This Black Box of Doom

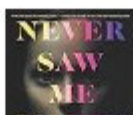
by Jason Pargin (Goodreads Author)

bookshelves: currently-reading

Oct 04, 2024 10:21PM · comment

Want to Read

Rate this book



Rebecca Eisenberg is currently reading

Never Saw Me Coming

by Vera Kurian (Goodreads Author)

Want to Read

Rate this book

Adelina Del Real

From: Rebecca Eisenberg
Sent: Tuesday, October 15, 2024 12:25 AM
To: Clerk of the Board
Cc: Clerk of the Board; Nai Hsueh; Candice Kwok-Smith; Rick Callender; Rebecca Eisenberg
Subject: Re: Rebecca Eisenberg is a genius and needs to be celebrated

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Michele & Rick -

Please block this anonymous harasser from being able to email me. I will not tolerate this antisemitic bullying. If you do not understand why this is antisemitic, then perhaps it is time that we bring in someone from the ADL to explain.

At any rate, I will be forwarding this email to my attorney, to the ADL, and to the Attorney General. I ask again that you protect me from this online harassment, cyber bullying, and antisemitism. It is against the law and ethically wrong.

If this account were run by google, I would have the means to block this address. If you do not know how to do this first hand, I would appreciate you forwarding to IT. It is triggering being sent these emails on Jewish Holidays. The fact that he sent his first email on Oct 7 was intolerable and egregious.

Kindly confirm.

Best,
Rebecca

PS at least he kept the subject line.

From: Al Alternative [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, October 14, 2024 9:58 PM
To: Rebecca Eisenberg <Reisenberg@valleywater.org>
Cc: Clerk of the Board <clerkoftheboard@valleywater.org>; Nai Hsueh <NHsueh@valleywater.org>; Candice Kwok-Smith <ckwok-smith@valleywater.org>
Subject: Re: Rebecca Eisenberg is a genius and needs to be celebrated

*** This email originated from outside of Valley Water. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. ***

Rebecca,

I am a real person, who lives in your district, and I happen to spend time in Palo Alto a few days a week (the recent southbound repaving on ECR has made driving much more smooth these days, don't you think?)

Let me tell you what is *actually* frustrating, Rebecca, as others on the GoodReads thread have also compassionately articulated. All you have done with your *words*, is provide and continue to double down on weak, racist, and ignorant justifications for the genocide that Israel is committing in Palestine, which has now spread into the invasion and killing of civilians AND attacks on UN peacekeepers in Lebanon. All you have done with your *words*, is defend these barbarous acts while at the same time dehumanize all Palestinian people by, as one commenter pointed out, never once referencing the Palestinian people or the 41 thousand of them murdered. Based on your *words*, I can only imagine the kind of defense (or celebration) you plan to write in response to last night's hospital bombing which led to refugees being burned alive in their tents. Or maybe you'll find some way to make yourself the victim, again.

Based on your *words*, I find you to be a disgusting human being, Rebecca. I do not believe you deserve to be in a position to represent me, my neighbors, or any other civilized person because you stand for hate, murder, and the dehumanization of an entire race of people. I understand that this note will probably have no effect on your current position as I am just a lone common person who has just happened to come across your hateful *words* on a message board. I understand that my words, nor the words of other commenters on your post, will not change your morally wrong views. I just wanted you to know that there is at least one person out there who is willing to call you out on your hateful propaganda. It's just a bonus that your colleagues know what kind of trash human you are.

See you around, Rebecca.

On Mon, Oct 7, 2024 at 11:44 PM Rebecca Eisenberg <Reisenberg@valleywater.org> wrote:

Hello,

What is so frustrating about these anonymous attacks is that they are made in a way where I am not given a chance to respond. I am constantly being told I am violating the Brown Act for responding to misogynist, antisemitic, and simply mean attacks on me. What makes this even more frustrating is that Valley Water consistently claims that it does not distribute anonymous ad hominem (that is a LATIN phrase) attacks, yet it does do that when it comes to me.

So, in keeping to the rules, I am responding only to the anonymous complainant from what is likely a non-working email address, and also to the Clerk, ccing only the Board Chair and the Board Officer.

Dear Clerk/Chair: Kindly distribute my response as I am not allowed to do so.

Here is my response:

This call for my stepping down, which was made on the one-year anniversary of the most deadly and heinous attack on Jews since the Holocaust, feels like intentional intimidation.

As I have said repeatedly, members of my extended family, close family friends, children of some of my personal friends, were impacted by Hamas's massacre and (proven) rape of 2000+ Israelis and the kidnapping of 250 more that occurred exactly one year ago today. I and so many people whom I love are gone or in pain. Hamas and its (proven, real) butchering and raping of so many Israelis, murdering infants in their cribs, young children in preschool, parents in front of children, children in front of parents, dismembering humans, shooting teenage girls and women in the face while raping them, shooting teenage girls in the vagina, cutting off teenage girls' and women's breasts, legs, facial features, rapes of boys, men, senior citizens, all on Israeli soil during a High Holy Day, at a time when a ceasefire existed remains traumatizing and incapacitating for so many of us.

To be attacked, on the one year anniversary of this unspeakable, heinous, egregious horror, based on a BOOK REVIEW I gave is an intentional attack on the only Jewish member of this Board. This attack was

made with the knowledge that doing so on the one year anniversary of October 7 would be triggering, terrifying, and unsettling. Why couldn't this anonymous person (whom I don't believe for a second lives in my District) just post on Goodreads like everyone else? If they don't like my review, fine. I have written 700 reviews. They can look at a different review. I am a reader and a reviewer.

I owe no one an apology, and no one a response.

That said, I believe that the response to speech is more speech. It is NOT a call for censorship.

So I responded to this anonymous troll on GoodReads, which I copy/paste below. I actually hope that some of you read my original review. And I encourage you to read more of my reviews. My favorite authors are listed on the account page was attached. I keep my reviews public because I believe in reading, writing, and the power of both.

Here is my response, which I again be asked to be distributed with the public record to the extent that the initial anonymous complaint is:

<https://www.goodreads.com/review/show/6893478544?type=review>

I have written more than 700 reviews on Goodreads. Sometimes people agree with them, sometimes people disagree with them. Only this one book review has resulted in calls for me to step down from elected office, where I serve on a Board where am the only LGBTQ+ and Jewish member.

The people who are campaigning for the only Jewish and gay person to be removed from elected office claim that I must be removed from office because I insist that Jews deserve to exist as a religion, which is something that cannot happen if Jews lack a place to live where they will not be killed for being Jewish. Israel was created as a homeland for Jews because no country was willing to take in the millions of Jewish refugees after the Holocaust. There was, and is, no other place for Jews to go if Israel is destroyed. This insistence that Jews be allowed to live is, in their minds, racism.

I view their insistence that Jews should have no right to live anti-semitism, and the UN and all other international organizations agree with me. It is literally a fundamental tenet of the definition of anti-semitism. To be an anti-semite is to insist that Jews have no right to live.

Honestly, I have dealt with so much misogyny and antisemitism and antisemitic misogyny and misogynist antisemitism in my life, not to mention all the homophobia and lesbian-hating that underlies so much of people's perceptions, that I can take all the hate that is is thrown at me. I don't like it. It hurts me. But it is the tax I pay for being female, bisexual, and Jewish. I pay it willingly because I like life.

What really bothers more is that no one else here seems to have read the darn book!! This is GoodReads -- read the book! I read the book and I have opinions. All your opinions above are about me, but my opinions are about the book. Read. The. Book.

That said, because non-readers keep bringing up these things, and no response is necessary or deserved here, I can't help it: I need to correct a some factual errors that commenters here continually to cling to, and replace them with TRUTHs:

That said, I need to correct a some factual errors that commenters here continually to cling to, and replace them with TRUTHs:

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I have to believe that most people do not know these facts/any facts. They have never been to Israel to see for themselves. They don't believe me when I tell them because I am Jewish. They are blinded by their own unconscious antisemitism, which they project onto me and call me racist.

I stand by my opinion and repeat it with an even louder voice: Arguing for the survival of seven million Jews and that the Jewish religion should not be eliminated from our planet is not racism.

And here, so much blah blah blah by people who did not even read the book.

I read the book, and have problems with it. I am allowed to have problems with it. If you disagree, disagree. The response to speech is more speech.

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Hurray for books!

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[] Notify me when people comment

comment

[add book/author](#) (some html is ok)

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Sent: Monday, October 7, 2024 2:22 AM
To: Board of Directors <board@valleywater.org>; John Varela <jvarela@valleywater.org>; Barbara Keegan <BKeegan@valleywater.org>; Richard Santos <rsantos@valleywater.org>; Jim Beall <JBeall@valleywater.org>; Nai Hsueh <NHsueh@valleywater.org>; Tony Estremera <TEstremera@valleywater.org>
Cc: Rebecca Eisenberg <Reisenberg@valleywater.org>
Subject: Rebecca Eisenberg is a racist and needs to be removed from Valley Water

*** This email originated from outside of Valley Water. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. ***

Hello Board Members of Valley Water,

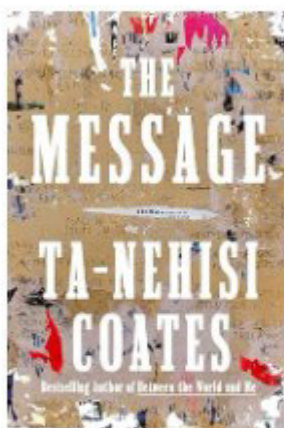
It has come to my attention that board member Rebecca Eisenberg has recently posted anti-Islam, anti-Arab, and pro-genocide sentiment online. Her racist post can be found in the comments section of GoodReads: <https://www.goodreads.com/review/show/6893478544> as well in screenshots I've attached below as insurance in case she deletes her post. Her public profile: <https://www.goodreads.com/user/show/16218812-rebecca-eisenberg>

It is astonishing, disgusting, and embarrassing that an elected official who represents people of all backgrounds and faiths would make these remarks in a public forum. This is unacceptable and she needs to be removed from her position immediately. Maybe then, she'll stop posting her pro-hate propaganda.

I'm looking forward to your response. Please let me know if contacting local media will help in the pursuit to rid this board of an inhumane official.

Thank you,
Concerned citizen of District 7 (Mountain View)

Rebecca Eisenberg's Reviews > The Message



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The Message

by Ta-Nehisi Coates



Rebecca Eisenberg's review

Oct 01, 2017



This is a profoundly disappointing, and even dangerous, book in a time when anti-semitic propaganda is at its highest point since the Holocaust. In *The Message*'s longest essay, a frighteningly misguided and non-researched essay about Palestine from the point of view of the terrorist, Ta-Nehisi Coates gets things very, very wrong -- not just factually, but also ethically.

In *The Message*, Ta-Nehisi Coates transforms the aggressor into the victim. He denies the reality of the most powerful and aggressive conquering force in the modern world -- extremist Islamists -- and falls into the lazy mass media dynamic of confusing peaceful Muslims with terrorist Islamists.

These Islamists, led by the Islamists who violently conquered Iran and numerous other countries surrounding Israel, murder peaceful Middle Eastern people on a daily basis. Dr. Coates could benefit from understanding the context -- that the same Islamist terrorists that seek to destroy Israel (it's in their Charter which Coates declines to read) actually murder more Muslims than any other religious group. The same terrorist Islamists seeking to destroy Israel from Gaza and the West Bank, also violently oppress indigenous people in Yemen (Houthis), Lebanon (Hezbollah), Iran, and in a dozen other countries, using Muslim people as human shields and violently destabilize countries. This is not complicated.

What is baffling is how Coates's pathological drive to defend wrongdoers deprives him of his ability to advocate on behalf of Christians, Muslims, and all other indigenous people who, as I write, are living under terrorist-enforced Sharia law, murdered for being gay, for being a woman, or for being anything other than extremist Islamist. Ever contemplate

his slanted 10-day trip to make provably incorrect assumptions and harmful, bigoted, sweeping conclusions.

Perhaps the most striking and troubling perceptual and intellectual error Coates makes is in his conflation of the situation in the West Bank with Gaza. While admitting he never visited Gaza, and omitting reference to Hamas's deadly massacre on Simchat Torah, he assumes that the disputed territories faced similar circumstances. Coates could open the newspaper or read a book; he is shamefully misguided: the West Bank is occupied, but Gaza has not been occupied for almost 20 years.

Specifically: Israel has been occupying the West Bank as a disputed territory ever since Israel successfully defended itself from the invasion by terrorists in 1967. Many Israelis claimed the right to the West Bank as a result of a war it did not start. Some consider the occupation of the West Bank to be necessary to protect Israel from the terrorist groups that still seek to destroy Israel, in Jordan, Lebanon, and Iran (and elsewhere!). Many Zionists seek a more peaceful resolution to the West Bank, where all people can live peacefully, yet Israel nonetheless is protected from terrorists. There is no unity of opinion about the West Bank by Israelis or Jews or ZIONISTS. Coates gets this entirely wrong.

Not only that, but Coates also conflates the controversial situation in the West Bank with the Gaza Strip, which has not been occupied for almost 20 years. Israel completely pulled all troops and even displaced all Jews who had been living in Gaza in 2007. There was no "resistance to occupation" in Gaza because there was no occupation when Hamas invaded Israel and murdered and raped thousands of innocent people. Gaza had been left alone. Yet Coates sympathizes and hero-worships the rapists and murderers who broke a 20-year cease fire in response to absolutely nothing other than their desire to wipe Israel off the map (something, need I repeat, that it states in its charter!).

How is that complicated?

(Sidebar facts: the West Bank was actually a part of Jordan until Jordan relinquished all claim to it in 1950, yet there h

on a football-field sized geographic region of Arab countries where -- a very relevant point -- Jews are not allowed. Being a Zionist means that one believes that Jews should have the ability to survive as an ethnicity. If advocating for minority religion to avoid extermination is racist, then ... I cannot imagine a way to end that sentence.

Coates does not care. Although not all Zionists agree that the West Bank should be occupied, ALL (as does anyone with common knowledge) agree that Gaza was not under occupation when Hamas invaded Israel and cruelly and inhumanely killed, tortured and raped so many people. Even if Gaza were under occupation (which it was not), there is no defense for rape, torture, and murder of human beings, and Coates should know that. There is NOTHING that can justify the rape, torture, and murder of people.

Given Coates's previous works, which I greatly respected and enjoyed, including *Between The World and Me*, I was surprised to see Dr. Coates's decline into mainstream propaganda. While his previous work was commendable and enlightening, this book is irresponsible, non-researched and dangerous to all people truly fighting for freedom and peace from terrorism in the Middle East.

In sum, while Coates claims he writes only what he knows, he is either profoundly self-unaware or intentionally lying. This is a very low point for a professor of ethics. Coates is desperate to blame Israel for Hamas's egregious inhumanity that he embraces antisemitic lies to do so. While this thinking is dangerously common amongst mass media and social media content creators, it is also unethical, lazy, and incorrect. Coates, based on his previous work, should have known better.

Coates's statement that he may have been one of the terrorists that invaded a separate country, murdered and raped children, teenagers, babies, the elderly and so many more, and continue TO THIS DAY to hold more than 100 people, including women and children, hostage under the most inhumane conditions, reflects a complete destruction of his mind and soul. That he wrote this and defends it is



737 ratings (4.12 avg)
401 reviews

Rebecca Eisenberg

Follow

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Details

Palo Alto, CA (5 mi)

Activity

Joined in January 2013, last active this month

Interests

I am a vegan climate crusader with 2 dogs and cats. I love animals, plants, and water. I am 10 Type 1 Enneagram, double Aries, Libra rising

Favorite Books

#DiverseBooks #womenauthors Africanfuturi: (Nnedi Okorafor) Cli Fi (Margaret Atwood); sci fiction (Becky Chambers), Future-predicting SI (Octavia Butler); Triple-Hugo-winning Fantasy (NK Jemisin). I often despise Pulitzer books; w they know?

About Me

I love to read.

REBECCA'S FAVORITE BOOKS



REBECCA'S BOOKSHELVES

read (734)

to-read (810)

ari-books (11)

currently-reading (9)

best-of-best (55)

Stats |

REBECCA IS CURRENTLY READING



Rebecca Eisenberg is currently reading

I'm Starting to Worry About This Black Box of Doom

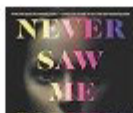
by Jason Pargin (Goodreads Author)

bookshelves: currently-reading

Oct 04, 2024 10:21PM · comment

Want to Read

Rate this book



Rebecca Eisenberg is currently reading

Never Saw Me Coming

by Vera Kurian (Goodreads Author)

Want to Read

Rate this book

From: [Board Correspondence](#)
To: [Board of Directors](#)
Subject: FW: Possible NEW "unhoused removal" policy
Date: Tuesday, October 15, 2024 10:39:51 AM

Please assign below email to Chris/Jen/Mark.

From: Barbara Keegan <BKeegan@valleywater.org>
Sent: Friday, October 11, 2024 5:38 PM
To: Board Correspondence <boardcorrespondence@valleywater.org>
Subject: Re: Possible NEW "unhoused removal" policy

Please refer to staff
Sent from my iPad

On Oct 11, 2024, at 5:01 PM, BRIAN MCCORMICK [REDACTED] wrote:

***** This email originated from outside of Valley Water. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. *****

Ms. Keegan,

I live on Los Gatos Creek & in the past have had cooperation from VWD in evicting homeless tents that were just 20 ft from my back fence..

then The VWD STOPPED doing that... citing "Covid Rules"

Now, I hear you will soon vote on a new "remove unhoused camps/tents"....

My request is Simple:

Put in a policy whereby Valley Water REMOVES unhoused camps/tents... from WITHIN 300 feet of a residential property !!

That policy would allow the District to help better the SAFETY of residents like my wife & I.

Just as important: The Valley Water District must comply with the Federal Clean Water Act.
Or face big fines.

So...

I hope you agree with me... and have a new Policy that removes/evicts

homeless camps/tents/garbage... from within 300 feet of residents property lines.

I will be watching to see what is done.

I think its the VWD's JOB to REMOVE these homeless tents from your property-- to comply with the Feds Clean Water Act !!

And its up to the City of SJ & County of Santa Clara to keep building new temp housing... that is THEIR job... not yours.

Thank you
Brian McCormick



From: [Néstor De la O Vargas](#)
To: [Linh Hoang](#); [Meghan Azralon](#); [Board of Directors](#)
Subject: KCCB Cleanup on 11/2
Date: Tuesday, October 15, 2024 4:30:41 PM
Attachments: [241102-Cleanup-IG Post.png](#)

***** This email originated from outside of Valley Water. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. *****

Hello,

KCCB has scheduled a cleanup on 11/2. Passing you more details!

Ridge Trail Service Day - Creek and Trail Cleanup

Location: 748 Story Rd, San Jose, CA 95112

Sat Nov 2nd

9AM to 12PM

Join Keep Coyote Creek Beautiful, City of San Jose - Parks, Recreation & Neighborhood Service and Bay Area Ridge Trail Council for a community creek cleanup event. Meet new people; improve a neighborhood park; build community around a shared sense of service.

Free litter kits!

Groups Welcome

Community service hours available.

Hosted by Keep Coyote Creek Beautiful and City of San Jose - Parks, Recreation & Neighborhood Services - Volunteer Management Unit, and Bay Area Ridge Trail Council

RSVP: <https://241102-cleanup.eventbrite.com/?aff=vw>

Sincerely,

Néstor De la O Vargas

Event Assistant

Keep Coyote Creek Beautiful

408.660.3339

KeepCoyoteCreekBeautiful.org

From: [Néstor De la O Vargas](#)
To: [Linh Hoang](#); [Board of Directors](#); [Meghan Azralon](#)
Subject: KCCB BioBlitz on 11/16
Date: Tuesday, October 15, 2024 5:29:08 PM
Attachments: [241116-BioBlitz-IG Post.png](#)

***** This email originated from outside of Valley Water. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. *****

Hello,

Keep Coyote Creek Beautiful has scheduled an event on November 16th. Passing you more details!

Fall BioBlitz at Hellyer Park

Location: 996 Hellyer Ave, Cottonwood Lake - Southwest trail entrance, San Jose, CA 95111

Sat Nov 16th

9AM-11:30AM

Join Keep Coyote Creek Beautiful, Bioblitz Club, Santa Clara Valley Bird Alliance, and Peninsula Open Space Trust for a BioBlitz!

A BioBlitz is an event that focuses on finding and identifying as many species as possible in a specific area over a short period of time. At a BioBlitz, scientists, families, students, teachers, and other community members work together to get an overall count of the plants, animals, fungi, and other organisms that live in a place.

Join the BioBlitz at Hellyer Park where you and experts come together to explore, document, and catalog all of the living things that reside there.

Docents will guide you and teach you to use the iNaturalist app on your smartphone to record all the living things you encounter. Flowers, trees, butterflies, dragonflies, and beetles, birds, and squirrels. We love them all - now let's go find them!

The best part? All you need to participate is a smart phone with the iNaturalist app!

So bring your family and prepare for an in-depth tour of this great trail.

Community service hours available

Hosted by Keep Coyote Creek Beautiful , Bioblitz Club, Santa Clara Valley Bird Alliance, and Peninsular Open Space Trust. Registrants will be added to the email contact lists of each organization to receive their monthly e-newsletter

RSVP: <https://241116-bioblitz.eventbrite.com/?aff=vw>

Sincerely,
Néstor De la O Vargas
Event Assistant
Keep Coyote Creek Beautiful

408.660.3339

KeepCoyoteCreekBeautiful.org

Ridge Trail Day of Service



**ADOPT
A PARK**

SAN JOSE
**PARKS, RECREATION &
NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES**
SAN JOSE
Building Community Through Fun



COYOTE CREEK CLEANUP

NOVEMBER 2ND: 9AM-12PM

RIDGE TRAIL SERVICE DAY

NOV 2 | 9AM-12PM

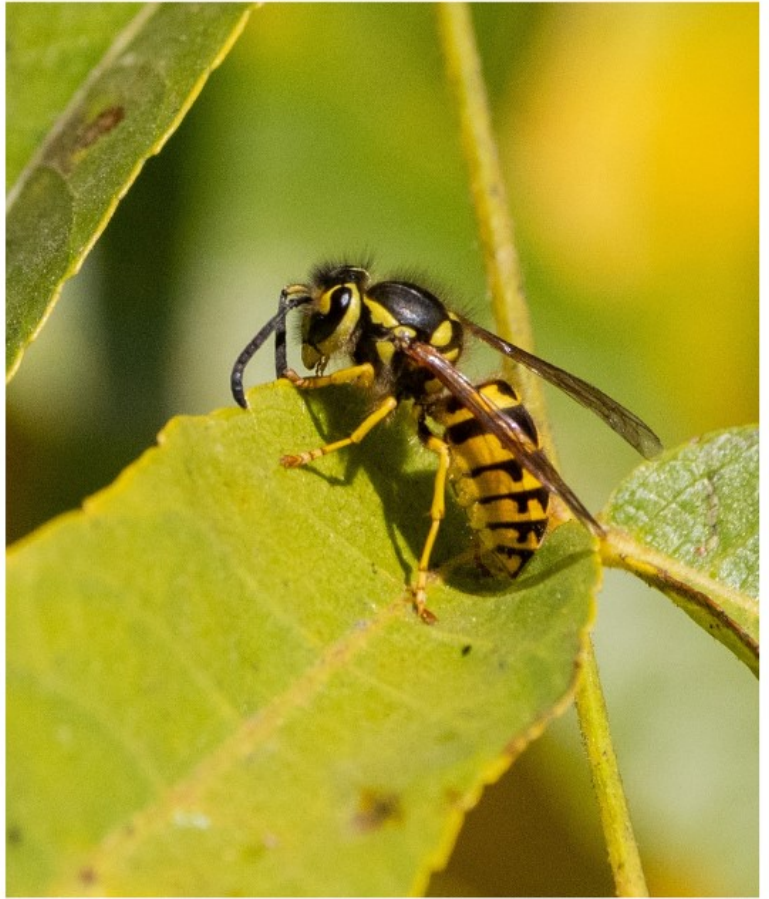


COYOTE CREEK & TRAIL CLEANUP



Happy Hollow Parking Lot
748 Story Road, San Jose, CA 95112





HELLYER PARK BIOBLITZ

NOVEMBER 16: 9AM-1130AM



COMMUNITY
SERVICE
HOURS!!



Become a Community Scientist

HELLYER PARK BIOBLITZ



November 16th | 9am-1130am



Join experts to explore nature
& document what lives in this park!

