

# **Governance Policies of the Board**

## **III. Ends**

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**Title:** Mission and General Principles

**Category:** Ends

**Policy No. E-1**

Adopted: June 15, 1999  
Chair: Larry Wilson

Latest Revision: February 23, 2021  
Chair: Tony Estremera

The Board of Directors revised and adopted this policy at its public meeting on the latest revision date.

## District Mission

Provide Silicon Valley safe, clean water for a healthy life, environment, and economy.

## General Principles

Accordingly, the Board of the District 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 future of all communities served.
- 1.2. Effective public engagement by Valley Water is achieved through transparent, open communication that 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 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 the Valley Water mission.
- 1.5. Recognize that 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

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surface treatments. This includes the naming of facilities in a manner that is respectful of all diverse communities.

- 1.7 Valley Water is committed to environmental justice and shall provide for the fair treatment and meaningful engagement of all people regardless of race, color, gender identify, disability status, national origin, tribe, culture, income, immigration status, or English language proficiency, with respect to the planning, projects, policies, services, and operations of Valley Water. Environmental Justice is achieved when all people receive:
- equitable consideration in the planning and execution of flood protection, water supply, safe drinking water, water resources stewardship projects, and protection from environmental and health hazards, and
  - equal access to Valley Water's decision-making process.

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**Title:** Water Supply (WS)

**Category:** Ends

**Policy No. E-2**

Adopted: January 18, 2005  
Chair: Richard Santos

Latest Revision: August 20, 2012  
Chair: Linda J. LeZotte

The Board of Directors revised and adopted this policy at its public meeting on the latest revision date.

There is a reliable, clean water supply for current and future generations. [See BAO Interpretation](#)

Accordingly, the following goals and objectives are adopted:

## **WS GOAL**

- 2.1. Current and future water supply for municipalities, industries, agriculture, and the environment is reliable.

### **WS Objective**

- 2.1.1. Aggressively protect groundwater from the threat of contamination and maintain and develop groundwater to optimize reliability and to minimize land subsidence and salt water intrusion. [See BAO Interpretation](#)
- 2.1.2. Protect, maintain, and develop local surface water. [See BAO Interpretation](#)
- 2.1.3. Protect, maintain, and develop imported water. [See BAO Interpretation](#)
- 2.1.4. Protect, maintain, and develop recycled water. [See BAO Interpretation](#)
- 2.1.5. Maximize water use efficiency, water conservation, and demand management opportunities. [See BAO Interpretation](#)
- 2.1.6. Prepare for and respond effectively to water utility emergencies. [See BAO Interpretation](#)

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## WS GOAL

2.2. Raw water transmission and distribution assets are managed to ensure efficiency and reliability.

### WS Objective

2.2.1. Raw water transmission and distribution assets are managed to ensure efficiency and reliability. *See BAO Interpretation*

## WS GOAL

2.3. Reliable high quality drinking water is delivered.

### WS Objective

2.3.1. Meet or exceed all applicable water quality regulatory standards. *See BAO Interpretation*

2.3.2. Maintain effective relationships with the retailer and other stakeholders to ensure high quality, reliable drinking water. *See BAO Interpretation*

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**Title:** Natural Flood Protection (NFP)

**Category:** Ends

**Policy No. E-3**

Adopted: December 21, 2004  
Chair: Joe Judge

Latest Revision: July 22, 2013  
Chair: Nai Hsueh

The Board of Directors revised and adopted this policy at its public meeting on the latest revision date.

There is a healthy and safe environment for residents, businesses and visitors, as well as for future generations. [See BAO Interpretation](#)

Accordingly, the following goals and objectives are adopted:

## **NFP GOAL**

3.1. Provide natural flood protection for residents, businesses, and visitors.

### **NFP Objective**

- 3.1.1. Protect parcels from flooding by applying an integrated watershed management approach that balances environmental quality and protection from flooding. [See BAO Interpretation](#)
- 3.1.2. Preserve flood conveyance capacity and structural integrity of stream banks, while minimizing impacts on the environment and protecting habitat values. [See BAO Interpretation](#)

## **NFP GOAL**

3.2. Reduce potential for flood damages.

### **NFP Objective**

- 3.2.1. Promote the preservation of flood plain functions. [See BAO Interpretation](#)
- 3.2.2. Reduce flood risks through public engagement. [See BAO Interpretation](#)
- 3.2.3. Prepare and respond effectively to flood emergencies countywide to protect life and property. [See BAO Interpretation](#)

# Governance Policies of the Board

**Title:** Water Resources Stewardship (WRS)

**Category:** Ends

**Policy No. E-4**

Adopted: April 20, 2004  
Chair: Joe Judge

Latest Revision: July 28, 2014  
Chair: Tony Estremera

The Board of Directors revised and adopted this policy at its public meeting on the latest revision date.

There is water resources stewardship to protect and enhance watersheds and natural resources and to improve the quality of life in Santa Clara County. [See BAO Interpretation](#)

Accordingly, the following goals and objectives are adopted:

## WRS GOAL

4.1. Protect and restore creek, bay, and other aquatic ecosystems.

### WRS Objective

4.1.1. Preserve creeks, bay, and ecosystems through environmental stewardship. [See BAO Interpretation](#)

4.1.2. Improve watersheds, streams, and natural resources. [See BAO Interpretation](#)

4.1.3. Promote the protection of creeks, bay, and other aquatic ecosystems from threats of pollution and degradation. [See BAO Interpretation](#)

4.1.4. Engage and educate the community in the protection of water quality and stream stewardship. [See BAO Interpretation](#)

4.1.5. Prepare and respond to emergencies that threaten local waterways. [See BAO Interpretation](#)

4.1.6. To the extent within practicable control of the District, adopt a strategy to restore the salmonid fishery on identified salmonid streams within fifteen years of strategy adoption by creating suitable accessible spawning and rearing habitats.



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## WRS GOAL

- 4.2. Improved quality of life in Santa Clara County through appropriate public access to trails, open space, and District facilities.

### WRS Objective

- 4.2.1. Support healthy communities by providing access to additional trails, parks, and open space along creeks and in the watersheds. [See BAO Interpretation](#)
- 4.2.2. Support healthy communities by providing appropriate public access to District facilities. [See BAO Interpretation](#)

## WRS GOAL

- 4.3. Strive for zero net greenhouse gas emission or carbon neutrality.

### WRS Objective

- 4.3.1. Reduce greenhouse gas emissions to achieve carbon neutrality by 2020. [See BAO Interpretation](#)