

# **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 identity, 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) Services

**Category:** Ends

**Policy No. E-2**

Adopted: January 18, 2005  
Chair: Richard Santos

Latest Revision: June 22, 2021  
Chair: Tony Estremera

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

Valley Water provides a reliable, safe, and affordable water supply for current and future generations in all communities served.

Accordingly, the following goals and objectives are adopted:

## **WS GOAL**

2.1. Meet 100 percent of annual water demand during non-drought years and at least 80 percent of demand in drought years.

## **WS GOAL**

2.2. Protect and sustain the county's existing, diverse water supplies.

### **WS Objective**

2.2.1. Manage groundwater to ensure sustainable supplies and avoid land subsidence.

2.2.2. Aggressively protect groundwater from the threat of contamination.

2.2.3. Protect imported water supplies and associated contracts and partnerships.

2.2.4. Protect and manage local surface water supplies and associated water rights.

2.2.5. Deliver reliable, high quality drinking water from water treatment plants.

## **WS GOAL**

2.3. Protect and maintain existing water infrastructure

### **WS Objective**

2.3.1. Plan for infrastructure maintenance and replacement to reduce risk of failure.

2.3.2. Prioritize funding for maintenance and replacement of existing water infrastructure over investments in new infrastructure.

2.3.3. Prepare for and respond effectively to water utility emergencies.

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## **WS GOAL**

2.4. Increase regional self-reliance through water conservation and reuse.

### **WS Objective**

- 2.4.1. Maximize utilization of all demand management tools.
- 2.4.2. Incentivize water use efficiency and water conservation.
- 2.4.3. Promote, protect and expand potable and non-potable water reuse.
- 2.4.4. Promote stormwater capture and reuse.

## **WS GOAL**

2.5. Manage water resources using an integrated, science-based approach.

### **WS Objective**

- 2.5.1. Plan for future water supply needs.
- 2.5.2. Promote efficient and reliable operation of water supply systems.
- 2.5.3. Promote water supply projects with multiple benefits, including environmental stewardship and flood protection.
- 2.5.4. Invest in and rely on science to support planning and decision-making.
- 2.5.5. Build and maintain effective partnerships to achieve water supply goals.

## **WS GOAL**

2.6. Promote access to equitable and affordable water supplies.

### **WS Objective**

- 2.6.1. Promote equal access to clean, safe, and affordable water supply across all communities served.
- 2.6.2. Maintain affordable water rates through cost-effective water supply investments and management.
- 2.6.3. Continue customer assistance and incentive programs.

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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](#)

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

**Category:** Ends

**Policy No. E-4**

Adopted: April 20, 2004  
Chair: Joe Judge

Latest Revision: June 22, 2021  
Chair: Tony Estremera

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

Water resources stewardship protects and enhances ecosystem health.

Accordingly, the following goals and objectives are adopted:

## **WRS GOAL**

4.1. Use a science-based, inclusive approach to protect Santa Clara County's watersheds and aquatic ecosystems for current and future generations.

### **WRS Objective**

- 4.1.1. Develop and share data to support resilient ecosystems and healthy populations of native species.
- 4.1.2. Monitor stream, reservoir, and Bay ecosystem health.
- 4.1.3. Use data to prioritize and equitably implement actions to reduce pollution, restore endangered species habitat, and enhance ecosystem function.

## **WRS GOAL**

4.2. Sustain ecosystem health while managing local water resources for flood protection and water supply.

### **WRS Objective**

- 4.2.1. Plan and design projects with multiple benefits, including protecting ecosystem functions, enhancing habitat, and improving connectivity, equitably in all regions of the county.
- 4.2.2. Operate Valley Water facilities to balance water supply, flood protection, and ecosystem sustainability.

## **WRS GOAL**

4.3. Encourage inclusive, sustainable management of water resources in the Bay-Delta and its watersheds to protect imported water supply.

### **WRS Objective**

- 4.3.1. Meet future water supply demand through diverse and coordinated water supply planning.
- 4.3.2. Promote holistic ecosystem management through science-based decision-making.



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- 4.3.3. Actively engage in the protection of source water quality through collaboration and funding.

## **WRS GOAL**

- 4.4. Prevent and address pollution of local streams, reservoirs, and the Bay, equitably across all communities. Protect waterbodies from pollution and degradation.

### **WRS Objective**

- 4.4.1. Encourage stormwater capture, treatment, and reuse.
- 4.4.2. Prepare and respond to spills and dumping that threaten local waterways.
- 4.4.3. Collaborate with agencies and nonprofits to address homelessness and its impacts to Santa Clara County Waterways.

## **WRS GOAL**

- 4.5. Engage the community to promote watershed stewardship by providing meaningful engagement in Valley Water programs for all people regardless of race, color, gender identity, disability status, national origin, tribe, culture, income, immigration status, or English language proficiency.

### **WRS Objective**

- 4.5.1. Provide appropriate and equal public access to Valley Water's streamside and watershed lands.
- 4.5.2. Engage and educate the community in stream and watershed protection.
- 4.5.3. Build partnerships to protect and enhance watersheds and aquatic ecosystems.

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**Title:** Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation

**Category:** Ends

**Policy No. E-5**

Adopted: July 13, 2021  
Chair: Tony Estremera

Latest Revision: July 13, 2021  
Chair: Tony Estremera

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

Valley Water is carbon neutral and provides equitable, climate-resilient water supply, flood protection, and water resource stewardship to all communities in Santa Clara County. This will be accomplished through the implementation of the Climate Change Action Plan.

Accordingly, the following goals and objectives are adopted:

## **CCMA GOAL**

5.1. Minimize greenhouse gas emissions from Valley Water's operations.

### **CCMA Objective**

- 5.1.1. Expand the use of clean technology in vehicles, equipment, and buildings, and develop carbon-efficient construction and service delivery practices.
- 5.1.2. Optimize energy use and expand renewable energy portfolio.
- 5.1.3. Incentivize low carbon practices, projects, and efforts by employees, contractors, and partners.

## **CCMA GOAL**

5.2. Adapt Valley Water's assets and operations to reduce climate change impacts.

### **CCMA Objective**

- 5.2.1. Improve the resiliency of Santa Clara County's water supply to drought and other climate change impacts.
- 5.2.2. Provide equitable protection from sea level rise and flooding, prioritizing disadvantaged communities.
- 5.2.3. Improve ecosystem resiliency through water resources stewardship.
- 5.2.4. Prepare for climate-related emergencies and provide equal access to information and services, particularly to disadvantaged communities.