

**Rachael Gibson**  
**Director of Government Relations**  
**Office of Government Relations**  
**Valley Water**

Rachael Gibson is the Director of Government Relations for Valley Water's Office of Government Relations, where she oversees the operation of the Office and is responsible for Valley Water's government relations, public policy strategy, and advocacy related activities at the local, state and federal levels of government. Rachael advances Valley Water's interests through the federal, state, and local arenas and finds creative legislative solutions needed to overcome policy and regulatory challenges.



Rachael also has extensive experience advocating for specific legislative and regulatory policy issues that impact Valley Water's operations and initiatives, including advocating for and advancing critical water supply, flood protection, and environmental stewardship initiatives that benefit Silicon Valley's residents and businesses. Rachael was a key advocate for renewing Valley Water's Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection special parcel tax, which passed by an overwhelming margin of 74%, the highest approval rate for a countywide special tax in Santa Clara County's history. Rachael also serves as the Public Information Officer for Valley Water's Emergency Operations Center during emergencies, including the Coyote Creek Flood in 2017, where she dealt first-hand with the effects of flooding on communities of concern in the heart of Silicon Valley. Finally, Rachael serves as the Environmental and Climate Justice Committee Chair for the California/Hawaii State Conference of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, where she fights for socially just and equitable policies that protect communities of concern from suffering disproportionately from environmental and climate-related impacts.

Prior to joining Valley Water, Rachael served as a senior policy advisor to a regional elected official and successfully lobbied and advocated for several landmark policy initiatives in the areas of land use, parks and recreation, and agriculture. She has a Bachelor of Science from San Jose State University in Environmental Studies, with a focus on Environmental Impact Assessment, and has spent her career focused on analyzing environmental impacts on communities, and crafting strategies and practices to address them so that all are afforded equal protections from environmental impacts.