



SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT YOUTH COMMISSION MEETING

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# MINUTES

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**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26, 2020  
6:00 PM**

(Paragraph numbers coincide with agenda item numbers)

A regular meeting of the Santa Clara Valley Water District Youth Commission (Youth Commission) was held on August 26, 2020, teleconference via Zoom.

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Ms. Sherilyn Tran called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**1.1 ROLL CALL**

A quorum was established with 15 Members present.

**Members in attendance were:**

<u>Jurisdiction</u>	<u>Representative</u>	<u>Representative</u>	<u>Representative</u>
District 1	Paula Escobar	Ishita Verma	
District 2	Colin Lim	Elise Mullen	Soren Ryan-Jensen
District 3	Matthew Walsh		
District 4	Aroshi Ghosh	Vedant Janapaty	
District 5	Hillary Chang	Alden Hughes	Michael Zhao
District 6	Kathryn Bravo	Tammy Cao	Nilansh Dey Ghosh
District 7	Ye'ela Bronicki	Arushi Saxena*	

**Members not in attendance were:**

<u>Jurisdiction</u>	<u>Representative</u>	<u>Representative</u>	<u>Representative</u>
District 1	Jonathan Xia		
District 4	Anousha Athreya		

Board members in attendance were: Director Nai Hsueh and Director Barbara Keegan Board Representatives.

Staff members in attendance were: Julie Abbatelli, Ricardo Barajas, Glenna Brambill, Lilian Bui, Mera Burton, Rick Callender, Rachael Gibson, Andrew Gschwind, Janet Hedley, Peggy Lam, Marta Lugo, Blanca Sanchez-Cruz, KJ Scott and Sherilyn Tran.

Guest in attendance: Director Richard P. Santos (Valley Water).

**2. TIME OPEN FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON ANY ITEM NOT ON AGENDA**

There was no one present who wished to speak.

**3. WELCOME**

We had welcoming remarks from Ms. Marta Lugo, the new Executive Oversight for the Youth Commission, Board Chair and Youth Commission Board Representative Director Nai Hsueh, Board Representative Director Barbara Keegan, guest Director Richard P. Santos and new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Mr. Rick Callender, Esq.

**4. INTERACTIVE ACTIVITY**

Ms. Janet Hedley and Ms. Mera Burton facilitated the interactive activity, where the Youth Commissioners worked on an interactive poll and were asked to think about: "How will you use your involvement in the Youth Commission to have a positive impact on the issues that you care about."

\*Ms. Arushi Saxena, logged on at 6:16 p.m.

**5. MANAGER'S REPORT**

Ms. Sherilyn Tran reported on the annual retreat coming up, development of the Commission's workplan and potential activities. There is a vacancy for District 7 so there will be an active recruitment and we could use assistance from the Youth Commission.

**6. OATH OF OFFICE:**

Ms. Glenna Brambill, administered the oath of office to the following new Youth Commissioners:

Ms. Paula Escobar, District 1

Mr. Colin Lim and Mr. Soren Ryan-Jensen, District 2

Mr. Mathew Walsh, District 3

Ms. Aroshi Ghosh and Mr. Vedant Janapaty, District 4

Ms. Hillary Chang, District 5 and

Mr. Nilansh Dey Ghosh, District 6

The returning Youth Commissioners are:

Ms. Ishita Verma, District 1

Ms. Elise Mullen, District 2

Mr. Alden Hughes and Mr. Michael Zhao, District 5

Ms. Kathryn Bravo and Ms. Tammy Cao, District 6

Ms. Ye'ela Bronicki and Ms. Arushi Saxena, District 7

All Youth Commissioners made quick introductory remarks on their backgrounds, hobbies, and other interests.

## **7. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR**

### **7.1 ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR**

Mr. Michael Zhao by majority vote was elected as Youth Commission Chair and Ms. Ishita Verma by majority vote was elected as Youth Commission Vice Chair.

## **8. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

### **8.1 APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

It was moved by Mr. Michael Zhao, seconded by Ms. Ishita Verma, and by majority vote carried, to approve the May 27, 2020, Santa Clara Valley Water District Youth Commission meeting minutes as presented. Three abstentions by Mr. Soren Ryan-Jensen, Mr. Matthew Walsh and Mr. Nilansh Dey Ghosh.

## **9. ACTION ITEMS**

### **9.1 UPDATE FROM SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT YOUTH COMMISSION'S WORKING GROUPS**

Chair Michael Zhao reviewed the following:

The Youth Commission reported on the following activities:

Chair Michael Zhao reported on behalf of the Career Shadowing and Mentorship Working Group stating that the February 2020 Job Shadow Day was a great success.

Mr. Ricardo Barajas reported on behalf of the Creek Stewardship Working Group, that every Saturday in September, Californians will take to their streets, sidewalks, and parks for this year's socially distanced coastal cleanup.

Ms. Janet Hedley reported on behalf of the Youth Citizen Science Network Working Group needing to get input for upcoming activities and projects.

Ms. Peggy Lam gave an update on the Adopt-A-Bench project of the 7 benches in each District and showed approved artwork designed by guest artist Mr. Paul J. Gonzalez.

The Youth Commission took no action.

### **9.2 REVIEW AND DISCUSS SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT YOUTH COMMISSION WORK PLAN, AND PROPOSE THE COMMISSION'S NEXT MEETING AGENDA**

Ms. Glenna Brambill reviewed the materials as outlined in the agenda item

Introduced new District Counsel Representative, Mr. Andrew Gschwind, who will be going over the District Act. Additional agenda items will be orientation, meeting conduct, and other meeting processes.

The Youth Commission took no action. The next meeting is scheduled for November 18, 2020

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

Ms. Glenna Brambill reported no action items for Board advisement.

**11. ADJOURN**

Chair Michael Zhao adjourned at 7:12 p.m. to the next regular meeting on Wednesday, November 18, 2020, at 6:00 p.m., via teleconference (Zoom). {This date subject is to change.}

Glenna Brambill  
Board Committee Liaison  
Office of the Clerk of the Board

Approved: 11-18-2020