Santa Clara Valley Water District Youth Commission FAQ

Deadline extended to Friday, March 2.

- **What is the Youth Commission?**
  - The Youth Commission provides high school students with the opportunity and experience to be public policy leaders and advocates for their community. Commissioners will have the chance to be involved in issues and public policies relating to water supply, conservation, flood protection, and stream stewardship.
- **What is the goal of the Youth Commission?**
  - To inspire, educate, and develop leadership skills that will carry the next generation into a sustainable water future. As the state's water issues become increasingly complex, our need for inspired young leaders grows. The goal is to increase our community's awareness of "one world, one water."
- **What does Santa Clara Valley Water District do?**
  - The Santa Clara Valley Water District manages water resources and provides stewardship for the county's five watersheds, including 10 reservoirs, hundreds of miles of streams and groundwater basins. The water district also provides flood protection throughout Santa Clara County.
- **How often does the Youth Commission meet?**
  - The Youth Commission will meet approximately 6 times a year, which includes quarterly commission meetings and educational opportunities in between these meetings. Location of meetings will be in the Headquarters Building: 5700 Almaden Expressway, San Jose, 95118. Meeting schedule and agenda will be posted when available. Refreshments and snacks will be provided at each meeting.
- **What is the term length of the position?**
  - Term length is 2-years.
- **When will the first meeting be held?**
  - Appointments by the Board of Directors will be made in late April in which selected students will be invited to an evening board meeting to be appointed. An orientation/ educational session for appointed commissioners will be held in either May or June. The first official *commission meeting* is anticipated to be held in fall once the new school year begins.
- **What day of the week will meetings be held?**
  - To be determined based on upon availability of majority of the appointees and Board of Directors
- **What will be the timing of the meetings?**
  - To be determined. Quarterly Commission Meetings will likely be held during after school hours between 5:30pm-8:30pm.
- **What activities will commissioners engage in?**
  - Learn about current water issues and local public policies, and make recommendations to the board
  - Opportunity to job shadow with professionals at the district
  - Tour of state-of-the-art water treatment and reclamation facilities
  - Possibility of conducting presentations at board meetings
  - Participate in service learning stewardship opportunities
- **Is there a cost to apply?**
  - There is no cost to apply or participate.

Last revised on 2/16/2018

- **What is the structure of the commission?**
  - 3 high school students per board member district; a total of 21 high school students will be appointed as Youth Commissioners to represent Santa Clara County's diverse population. A chair and vice chair will be selected at the first meeting. Members will serve a 2-year term unless they graduate before their term ends.
- **Why you should apply to the Youth Commission?**
  - Gain real experience in the field of Public Policy
  - On-site experience into water career opportunities
  - Networking opportunities with Water District professionals
  - Leadership training and development
  - Knowledge and awareness of how we manage our County's complex water resources
  - Foster meaningful friendships with other empowered young leaders
  - Build connections with your local community
  - Letters of recommendation for college applications upon successful completion of the program
  - Community service hours for graduation requirements
- **What if I'm a Junior/Senior, can I apply?**
  - All high school grades are welcome to apply
  - Juniors and Seniors will only be able to serve until graduation of high school.
- **Am I eligible to apply if I am currently 13 years-old attending middle school as an eighth grader, but will enter high school in the fall?**
  - Yes, 8th graders entering high school in the fall can apply
- **What role do the board members play? What are the extra activities?**
  - Youth commission meetings are quarterly and commissioners will assist board members by researching and recommending water policies that are important and affect youth. There will also be an educational session every other month such as tours, presentations, etc. to help students gain knowledge and experience in water resources management.
- **What has the Youth Commission done in past years, and how have members connected with the community regarding water issues and environmental stewardship?**
  - This year's youth commission is different than years prior which focused efforts on educational sessions. This year the youth commission will be a formal commission with appointments made by board members and a charter that will focus on hands-on policy work in water topics that are of interest to youth.
- **How do I apply?**
  - Please visit the following webpage: https://www.valleywater.org/how-we-operate/committees/board-advisory-committees
  - Mail or submit signed applications via email youthcommission@valleywater.org **by March 2, 2016**
- **Is a P.O. Box address acceptable in deciding my district?**
  - A residence location is needed to verify county residence and district area.
- **Can I include my resume with my volunteer experience?**
  - Yes, although it is not required. But, you can submit one if you'd like.
- **Is transportation provided?**
  - Please contact the committee liaisons for more information regarding transportation issues.
- **What does "Name of Committee" on the application mean?**
  - Please list the official name: Santa Clara Valley Water District Youth Commission.
- **How do I find out my district number and board member?**

- If you go onto https://www.valleywater.org and scroll down to “The Water District in Your Area” you will see a map. Enter your zip code and it will list your district number and board member. If you can’t find link or experience problems, staff will enter in the district number for you as long as you list your home residence address.

- **What is the interview process for the youth commission?**
  - After initial application screening, the Board of Directors will determine which applications to move forward with and whether or not to conduct interviews with selected candidates, if needed. The Clerk of the Board will work with staff to schedule interviews with perspective commissioners around mi-March.
- **When will I be notified if I have been appointed as a Youth Commissioner?**
  - You will be notified by e-mail or phone call by mid-April.
- **Who can I contact if I have more questions?**
  - Contact: youthcommission@valleywater.org