



SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

NON-AGENDA

October 24, 2025

Board Policy EL-7 Communication and Support to the Board
The BAOs shall inform and support the Board in its work.

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7	BMR/IBMR Weekly Reports: 10/23/25
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	<u>INCOMING BOARD CORRESPONDENCE</u>
12	Board Correspondence Weekly Report: 10/23/25
14	Email from John Kenevey to Melanie Richardson, CEO and other Valley Water staff (copied to the Board), dated 10/15/25, making demands for reform and seeking community solutions for the Rinconada neighborhood. C-25-0147
23	Email from John Kenevey to Lilian Dennis (copied to the Board), dated 10/15/25, thanking her for providing Valley Water's claim form and confirming that they will send it to the Clerk of the Board by 10/24/25. C-25-0148
26	Email from John Kenevey to Aimee Green (copied to the Board) dated 10/15/25, providing final formal notification regarding the agenda items that will be presented at the upcoming community meeting at the Rinconada Water Treatment Plant on 10/21/25. C-25-0149
30	Email from Kent Vincent to Director Hsueh (copied to the Board), dated 10/15/25, inquiring about the removal of eucalyptus trees along Regnart Creek in Cupertino. C-25-0150
31	Email from Peng Zhang to Director Eisenberg, dated 10/16/25, requesting assistance with a tree pruning issue behind their property. C-25-0151
32	Email from John Kenevey to Michael Potter, Director Eisenberg, the board, and other Valley Water staff, dated 10/17/25, informing them that they will expand the focus of their forensic investigation. C-25-0152
40	Email from John Kenevey, dated 10/17/25, to Melanie and the Board, indicating the 10/17/25 deadline for immediate explanation of flagrant policy violations, residential intrusion and gross inefficiencies at Rinconada WTP. C-25-0153
50	Email from John Kenevey to Emmanuel Aryee, (copied to the Board), dated 10/17/25, informing them that 10/17/25 is the deadline for providing an explanation regarding the operational failures impacting their property. C-25-0154
56	Email from John Kenevey dated 10/18/25, to Emmanuel Aryee, (copied to the Board), indicating administrative ineptitude confirms systemic dereliction of duty. C-25-0155

62	Email from John Kenevey dated 10/19/25, to Melanie Richardson and the Board, regarding DRAFT Investigative Dossier Submitted to State & Federal Agencies - Mandating Action on Compensation. C-25-0156
74	Email from John Kenevey dated 10/19/25, to Yolanda Cervantes, (copied to the Board), regarding public request for Valley Water EIR Critical Analysis, C-25-0157
80	Email from John Kenevey dated 10/19/25 to Mike Potter, (copied to the Board), regarding Saturday Work at Rinconada WTP. C-25-0158
88	Email from John Kenevey dated 10/19/25 to Aimee Green, (copied to the Board), regarding Public Agenda Items for Upcoming Board Meeting – Governance Crisis, Fiduciary Negligence, and Compensation Liability. C-25-0159
92	Email from John Kenevey dated 10/21/25 to Mike Potter, Linh Hoang and Rachael Gibson, (copied to the board), regarding Saturday Work at Rinconada WTP. C-25-0160
102	Email from John Kenevey dated 10/21/25 to all, (Copied to the Board) regarding The Open Secret of Valley Water Dysfunction - External Accountability is Now Mandatory. C-25-0161
115	Email from Ryan Dang of The Epoch Times, dated 10/16/25, to Director Eisenberg, (copied to the Board) inviting her to appear on the California Insider Talk Show. C-25-0162
117	Email from Ryan Dang of The Epoch Times, dated 10/16/25, to Director Estremera, (copied to the Board) inviting him to appear on the California Insider Talk Show, C-25-0163
119	Email from Ryan Dang of The Epoch Times, dated 10/16/25, to Director Hsueh, (copied to the Board) inviting her to appear on the California Insider Talk Show. C-25-0164
121	Email from Ryan Dang of The Epoch Times, dated 10/16/25, to Director Beall, (copied to the Board) inviting him to appear on the California Insider Talk Show. C-25-0165
123	Email from Ryan Dang of The Epoch Times, dated 10/16/25, to Director Santos, (copied to the Board) inviting him to appear on the California Insider Talk Show. C-25-0166
125	Email from Ryan Dang of The Epoch Times, dated 10/16/25, to Director Ballard, (copied to the Board) inviting her to appear on the California Insider Talk Show. C-25-0167
127	Email from Ryan Dang of The Epoch Times, dated 10/16/25, to Director Varela, (copied to the Board) inviting him to appear on the California Insider Talk Show. C-25-0168
129	Email from Suzanne Brenner, dated 10/11/25 to Director Ballard regarding the spraying of Roundup on their property. C-25-0169
	<u>OUTGOING BOARD CORRESPONDENCE</u>
131	Letter from Director Hsueh to Regnart Creek neighbors, dated 10/16/25, responding to their inquiry about the removal of eucalyptus trees.
133	Email from Director Beall to Martin Wagner, dated 10/16/25, responding to their inquiry regarding Camden Ponds.
136	Email from Director Ballard to Jane O'Donnell, dated 10/20/25, responding to construction on their street.

CEO BULLETIN



To: Board of Directors
From: Melanie Richardson, Interim CEO

Weeks of October 10, 2025 – October 23, 2025

Board Executive Limitation Policy EL-7:

The Board Appointed Officers shall inform and support the Board in its work. Further, a BAO shall 1) inform the Board of relevant trends, anticipated adverse media coverage, or material external and internal changes, particularly changes in the assumptions upon which any Board policy has previously been established and 2) report in a timely manner an actual or anticipated noncompliance with any policy of the Board.

Item	IN THIS ISSUE
1	Municipal Regional Stormwater NPDES Permit FY 2024-2025 Annual Report Submittal

1. Municipal Regional Stormwater NPDES Permit FY 2024-2025 Annual Report Submittal

Valley Water’s Watershed Stewardship and Planning Division is pleased to announce the Municipal Regional Stormwater Permit Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-2025 Annual Report (Stormwater Annual Report) was submitted on September 30, 2025. Valley Water is a permittee of the Municipal Regional Stormwater National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit (MRP) and serves as Chair of the Santa Clara Valley Urban Runoff Pollution Prevention Program (SCVURPPP) Management Committee to work collaboratively with other permittees in the County to meet permit requirements. Valley Water complies with the MRP by implementing actions required by applicable portions of its major provisions, including operation and maintenance of storm drains from our facilities, green stormwater infrastructure, illicit discharge detection and elimination, public information and outreach, construction controls, and other actions. These compliance actions are reported annually to the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board. The Stormwater Annual Report provides data and narrative demonstrating Valley Water’s compliance, progress, and accomplishments throughout the reporting year.

Major accomplishments for the FY 2024-2025 reporting period include:

- As one of the few Santa Clara County Permittees with 24-hour availability to conduct stormwater pollution investigations, Valley Water received and responded to 171 reports.
- Completed a combined total of 705 Public Outreach and Citizen Events both internally and externally (through SCVURPPP partnership) county-wide, which included the popular Water Resources Education Outreach Program; Adopt-A-Creek and creek clean up events; attendance at many in-person and virtual community events; and the Grants and Partnerships program.
- Captured and removed a total of 44 cubic yards (4.4 tons) of trash from trash booms deployed in Adobe Creek, Matadero Creek, Thompson Creek, and Lower Silver Creek.

The Stormwater Annual Report also highlights Valley Water's water conservation programs, pesticide controls, best management practices to control unlicensed discharges, and stormwater quality hard asset management plan. As a new requirement under the MRP, Valley Water prepared a fiscal analysis of estimated costs incurred to comply with the permit. It is estimated that \$20.3 million was expended in FY 2024-2025 to meet compliance.

Valley Water's 2024-2025 Stormwater Annual report is available to the public on the State Water Resources Control Board Stormwater Multiple Application and Report Tracking System (SMARTS) through the Public User Menu, Storm Water Reports-Municipal search tool at <https://smarts.waterboards.ca.gov/smarts/faces/SwSmartsLogin.xhtml> and on the Safe, Clean Water Project B2 Interagency Urban Runoff Program page under Reports and Documents: www.valleywater.org/b2-interagency-urban-runoff-program.

For further information, please contact John Bourgeois at (408) 630-2990.

BOARD MEMBER REQUESTS and Informational Items

Report Name: Board Member Requests

Request	Request Date	Director	BAO/Chief	Staff	Description	20 Days Due Date	Expected Completion Date	Disposition
R-25-0010	10/14/25	Beall Eisenberg	Chan	Garcia Mccarter	At the 10/14/25 board meeting, Directors Beall and Eisenberg requested a breakdown of Pacheco costs to-date and copies of consultant agreements.	11/04/25		

TO: Rachael Gibson, Chief of External Affairs**FROM:** Marta Lugo, Deputy
Administrative Officer**SUBJECT:** Federal Government Recap:
October 1-17, 2025**DATE:** October 22, 2025

In an effort to keep senior staff apprised of the changing federal landscape in 2025, the Office of Government Relations prepares regular communications that summarize key actions and issues that impact Valley Water. Given the importance of many of these actions to Valley Water funding and operations, staff will also share these updates with the Board on a biweekly basis or as needed. The enclosed document includes the summary of major relevant federal information from October 1-17, 2025.



Marta Lugo, Deputy Administrative Officer
Offices of Government Relations and REDI

FEDERAL RECAP: October 1-17, 2025

Government Shutdown - Week 4

As we enter week 4 of the shutdown, **Democrats and Republicans remain at a total standstill**. The Senate has been in session since October 1, voting on several measures without success to end the shutdown. Meanwhile, the House has been in recess since late September and Speaker Johnson maintains that he will not call the House back to town until the Senate passes the House-passed continuing resolution (CR) to reopen the government.

Impacts to Valley Water Projects:

The longer this shutdown drags on, the more we will see impacts at federal agencies. Staff is closely watching for any impacts to Valley Water projects, programs, or permits, and we are keeping congressional offices informed. Those staff are appreciative of such updates and want to help in any way they can. At this time, the primary impacts appear to be delays in response time, including receipt of reimbursement funds. **There are no impacts to project timelines or operations at this time.**

Judge Halts Federal Terminations:

On October 16, **a federal district court judge issued a temporary restraining order against the Trump administration's termination of employees** at EPA, Department of Energy, and other agencies. The judge ruled that the administration could not use the government shutdown as the basis to permanently terminate federal employees and said she'd provide a written order to follow.

Congressional Offices:

Congressional offices remain open, although each office has its own staffing plan. Mandatory programs like Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid, SNAP, and Veterans benefits will continue through the shutdown, but agency staffing levels will likely impact processing time.

Status of Federal Agency Operations:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

- Life and property protection activities (dam safety, flood risk management, and emergency operations) continue. Recreation areas are generally closed. Most project planning, permitting, and administrative work is suspended. **USACE expects to furlough 1,119 of its 36,610 employees.**
- What a CR means for Corps projects and studies:
 - Because the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers depends on annual project-specific appropriations, CRs have particular consequences:
 - Ongoing work continues, but no new studies or projects can begin until a full-year bill is enacted.
 - Funding rigidity: CRs limit how funds can be shifted among accounts, making it harder to respond to changing needs.
 - Momentum stalls: Projects poised to begin construction or feasibility phases are delayed.
 - Planning uncertainty: Districts and sponsors cannot reliably forecast future timelines or funding streams.
- Bureau of Reclamation

- California-Great Basin regional employees continued working through October 17. Now that that date has passed, the agency will likely be forced to begin furloughing additional employees.
- Federal Emergency Management Agency
 - Disaster response and recovery for declared emergencies continue. **Many preparedness, mitigation, and grant activities are on pause.** National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) has lapsed, meaning no new policies or renewals can be issued during the shutdown. Claims on existing policies can continue with available funds.
- Environmental Protection Agency
 - Under EPA's Contingency Plan, **nearly 90 percent of staff have been furloughed.** Emergency environmental response, safe drinking water testing, and Superfund site activities that prevent threats to health and property continue. Permitting, most inspections, enforcement actions, and research publications are paused.
- Fish and Wildlife Service
 - Essential operations continue for public safety, protection of property, and law enforcement. This includes wildlife law enforcement, firefighting, and management of endangered species where life or habitat could be immediately at risk. **Most refuge visitor services, education programs, and grant activities are suspended. Scientific research, habitat restoration, and many conservation planning functions pause until funding is restored.**

Bureau of Reclamation – Acting Commissioner

The administration has withdrawn the nomination of Ted Cooke to be Commissioner for the Bureau of Reclamation due to unspecified concerns. Scott Cameron, a political appointee, has now been appointed Acting Commissioner. He had been serving as the Acting Assistant Secretary for Water and Science at Interior until Andera Travnicek was confirmed to that post this month.

No Extension of NFIP

House GOP leaders have said they will not exempt the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), now lapsed, from the government shutdown. Senator John Kennedy (R-LA) wants Senate GOP leaders to hold a standalone vote on reopening the NFIP, but House leaders have said they are not willing to put the measure on the floor. During the shutdown, the program can pay out claims for existing policyholders but new policies cannot be written.

FEMA Withholds More Disaster Funds

Consistent with the administration's intent to shift disaster planning and recovery to the states, **FEMA has been delaying and cancelling disaster declarations and payments to communities**, adding new hurdles to access some grant funds and cutting off the flow of money intended to boost resilience and prevent future disasters from causing so much damage. Part of the delay is attributable to **new grant requirements**, including a mandate that states prove that their population estimates do not include people who have been deported. Population estimates are used to calculate grant awards.

INCOMING BOARD CORRESPONDENCE

Board Correspondence (open)

Correspond No	Rec'd By District	Rec'd By COB	Letter To	Letter From	Description	Disposition	BAO/ Chief	Staff	Draft Response Due Date	Draft Response Submitted	Writer Ack. Sent	Final Response Due Date
C-25-0169	10/11/25	10/11/25	Ballard	SUZANNE BRENNER	Email from Suzanne Brenner, dated 10/11/25 to Director Ballard regarding the spraying of Roundup on their propoerty	Refer to Staff	Hakes	-	10/19/25	10/11/25	n/a	10/25/25
C-25-0156	10/19/25	10/19/25	All	JOHN KENEVEY	Email dated 10/19/25, to Melanie and the board, regarding DRAFT Investigative Dossier Submitted to State & Federal Agencies - Mandating Action on Compensation	Refer to Staff	Baker	Aryee	10/27/25	-	n/a	11/02/25
C-25-0153	10/17/25	10/17/25	All	JOHN KENEVEY	Email from John Kenevey, dated 10/17/25, to Melanie and the Board, indicating the 10/17/25 deadline for immediate explanation of flagrant	Refer to Staff	Baker	Aryee	10/25/25	-	n/a	10/31/25

Correspond No	Rec'd By District	Rec'd By COB	Letter To	Letter From	Description	Disposition	BAO/ Chief	Staff	Draft Response Due Date	Draft Response Submitted	Writer Ack. Sent	Final Response Due Date
					policy violations, residential intrusion and gross inefficiencies at Rinconada WTP							

From: [John Kenevey](#)
To: [CEO](#); [Theresa Chinte](#)
Cc: [Rebecca Eisenberg](#); [Board of Directors](#); [Candice Kwok-Smith](#); [Valley Water Risk Manager](#); [Aimee Green](#)
Subject: Re: DEMAND FOR IMMEDIATE EXPLANATION: Flagrant Policy Violations, Residential Intrusion, and Gross Inefficiency at Rinconada WTP Site (Project No. 93294057)
Date: Wednesday, October 15, 2025 11:24:11 AM

*** This email originated from outside of Valley Water. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. ***

TO: Melanie Richardson, interim CEO (CEO@valleywater.org)

SUBJECT: FINAL ULTIMATUM: Immediate Demand for Institutional Overhaul, Compensation, and Public Apology.

Dear Ms. Richardson (interim-CEO), Ms. Chinte (Chief of staff for the interim-CEO), and Members of the Board,

This communication is an immediate response to the comprehensive institutional information I have gathered regarding the executive management and governance of Valley Water.

My disappointment that neither the Chief of Staff nor the Public Relations Officer informed me of the CEOs leave of absence due to an internal investigation. This intentional concealment of vital information is **emblematic of the institutional dysfunction and lack of transparency** the Rinconada community has witnessed and endured for the past decade of the RWTP project.

Ms. Melanie Richardson these communications are all to you as acting CEO for Valley Water.

The Institutional Fraud and Cover-Up Confirmed

Through my forensic analysis I now understand the delay and negligence that caused the 14-year delay of the RWTP project and the documented safety failures (Hazmat incident, privacy violations, \$179M contract collapse) is now inextricably linked to a governance structure facing accusations of criminal corruption and self-dealing:

- **CEO Under Investigation:** The fact that the Chief Executive Officer, Rick Callender, has been on **fully paid administrative leave** while earning over **\$600,000 per year** and traveling internationally on the public dime, despite being under investigation for **sexual harassment, retaliation, and criminal corruption**, is an outrageous breach of fiduciary duty.
- **Interim CEO Scandal:** The current Interim CEO, Melanie Richardson, is potentially earning up to **\$1 million per year** (including her \$23,333 monthly pension) while having a documented history of overseeing contracts with her husband's firm (RMC) that were subject to a DA investigation for **fraudulent billing and alleged misappropriation of up to \$103 million** in taxpayer funds.
- **Destruction of Evidence:** The District is actively pursuing a costly lawsuit

against a sitting Director to compel the destruction of **2,000 pages of documentary evidence** that allegedly incriminates Valley Water officers and Directors, a clear indication of a concerted cover-up effort.

Non-Negotiable Demands for Reform and Community Remedy

The systemic abuse of power and financial resources, which led directly to the collapse of the \$179 million RWTP contract despite internal audit warnings about high-risk procurement, mandates nothing less than a complete institutional overhaul.

Rinconada's loss of habitability is a direct result of leadership dysfunction, the Board needs to commit to the following remedial path:

1. **Public Apology and Acknowledgment of Dysfunction:** The interim CEO and the entire Valley Water Board must issue a formal, unreserved public apology to the Rinconada community, both online and in the next public forum (October 21st), acknowledging the decade of negligence and systemic dysfunction.
2. **Executive Removal and Independent Search:**
 - o CEO Rick Callender must be **immediately and permanently removed** from employment.
 - o The next Chief Executive Officer must be an **"outsider"** hired by an **independent body** to break the institutional cycle of corruption and self-dealing.
3. **Resignation of Compromised Governance Leadership:** All non-elected Board-Appointed Officers and senior staff who oversaw the destruction of public trust must resign.
4. **Open Investigation and Compensation for Negligence:** The Board must publicly commit to initiating an **open, independent forensic investigation** into the misuse of funds on the RWTP project with a view to compensating the entire community for negligence and loss of habitability.

Intent to Escalate to Federal and State Authorities

Valley Water's capital program relies on a "diverse array of funding sources", which includes state and federal cost-sharing agreements and grants. I will continue my forensic analysis to understand which, if any, **federal and state authorities are investigating RWTP**, including the California Attorney General's office and relevant federal agencies responsible for overseeing public works funding.

Sincerely,

John Kenevey

On Fri, Oct 10, 2025 at 5:58 PM John Kenevey [REDACTED] wrote:

SUBJECT: MANDATORY CLARIFICATION & FINAL NOTICE: The Scope of October 17th Response Must Address Audited Systemic Failure and Compensation Liability

Dear Mr. Callender, and Members of the Executive Team,

I appreciate Mr. Aryee email acknowledging my inquiry and for confirming receipt of my correspondence. However, Mr. Callender, I am very disappointed by your **lack of confirmation** of my correspondence. I must formally and unequivocally reject the scope defined in Mr. Aryee's response. The matter at hand is not a request for an update on "Project Phases 3-6." It is a demand for executive accountability and financial resolution for the **systemic institutional negligence** that caused this project to collapse.

The failures that necessitate my Expanded Compensation Claim are directly linked to the massive financial mismanagement and governance failures that have plagued the RWTP:

The Documented Failure of Project Governance

The RWTP project's financial and operational crisis is not an anomaly; it is a direct, predictable outcome of known control deficiencies:

1. **Contractual Collapse and Forensic Analysis:** The initial construction contract for the RWTP (C0601), originally valued at **\$179 million**, failed to execute the planned scope, resulting in its effective collapse and subsequent re-scoping after the acceptance of Phases 1 and 2 for \$152.8 million. This failure was so profound that Valley Water was forced to commission an external consultant to conduct a **forensic analysis** to determine the key financial and operational risks and then spend millions more on design **"re-packaging and re-bidding"** for the remaining phases.
2. **Highest Risk Warning Ignored:** The failure of this massive capital contract occurred during the precise period when Valley Water's own independent auditor (TAP International) had formally designated **Contract Change Order Management and Procurement** as areas of **"highest risk"** to the District. This confirms that the project collapsed due to a **failure of governance** to implement controls against fraud and negligence in the face of known, critical audit findings.

Final Demand for October 17, 2025

The deadline of **October 17, 2025**, is established as the date by which the **Executive Team and Legal Counsel** must present a substantive resolution to the District's severe, documented liability exposure. Any response that fails to address the following is deemed inadequate:

1. **Mandatory Compensation Offer:** A formal, written negotiation offer from **Risk Management/Legal Counsel** regarding the **Expanded Compensation Claim** (including the necessary funding for the garage conversion, triple-pane windows, and roof replacement).
2. **Accountability for Fiduciary Failure:** A response addressing the systemic issues that caused the failure, including the CEO's **\$577K salary and 20% premium policy** and the Board's **5% pay raise** amidst the \$222 million deficit.

Please be advised: If the response provided on October 17th is not a substantive

settlement offer, all available information regarding the failed \$179 million contract, the forensic analysis, and the audit findings proving systemic control deficiencies will be immediately utilized to **request the Board initiate a full independent forensic investigation into fraud and negligence in the RWTP procurement process.**

Sincerely,

John Kenevey

On Wed, Oct 8, 2025 at 5:21 PM John Kenevey [REDACTED] wrote:

SUBJECT: FORMAL ESCALATION & ATTACHED PROOF: Undeniable Documentation of Institutional Negligence and Policy Failure Dating to RWTP Project Inception (URGENT)

Dear Mr. Callender, Ms. Chinte, and Members of the Board,

This is a critical update to my correspondence sent earlier today, which detailed the systemic operational failures and the necessity of immediate compensation. I have added Ms. Chinte, Chief of Staff, to this thread, as the subject matter and attached evidence demand executive-level **crisis intervention and action.**

Upon meticulous review of my decade-long archive of correspondence with Valley Water, I have retrieved and am attaching documentation that provides **undeniable proof** of the institutional negligence that has characterized the RWTP project since its inception in 2015. This evidence confirms that the most intrusive and damaging failures were raised and actively defended by staff **ten years ago.**

Indisputable Evidence: 2015 Policy Defense and Engineering Failure

Please review the attached original email correspondence, dated Fri, 9 Oct 2015, along with the attached video file. This documentation conclusively negates any possible claim that the District was unaware of, or is not responsible for, the current climate of operational incompetence:

1. **Direct Proof of Privacy Violation and Defense (2015 Email):** The attached email thread confirms that Valley Water staff not only placed the security hut and associated infrastructure (previously the port-a-potties) directly in front of my front bedroom window but **actively defended that placement** when challenged. This document proves that the ~18-month or longer intrusion into my personal life which rendered my bedroom unusable was a conscious, policy-backed institutional decision.
2. **Documented Engineering Failure (Attached Video):** The attached video shows a **double-barreled heavy-duty truck stuck at the facility gate** in 2015, unable to make the turn due to the gate's inadequate size and location. This incident, which necessitated truck traffic driving onto my personal path and damaging property, was known to the project team at the start of the project. This is irrefutable proof of initial engineering and site planning failure, which compounded noise and dust pollution problems for

years.

The True Cost of Documented Incompetence

The documentation provided today demonstrates conclusively that the current project leadership and the institutional culture they inherited has been **unwilling to create a safe or tolerable environment** for residents. The failures I outlined in the previous email (Hazmat cover-up, chronic light pollution, and weekend excavation) are simply the most recent symptoms of a pattern of negligence that began with the staff's decision to defend a security guard looking into my private home in 2015.

The massive volume of documentation I possess demonstrates that I do not need to rely on the soon to be filed CPRA requests to prove the District's liability; the documentation is already prepared. We expect Ms. Chinte to intervene immediately to coordinate a final agreement on the **expanded compensation claim** (including the garage conversion) to reflect the true cost of this decade of negligence.

Ms. Chinte, as the Chief of Staff, and Mr. Callender, as the Chief Executive Officer, you must recognize that this level of persistent institutional failure is now subject to the most intense **public scrutiny and external review**. This paper trail, which now spans the entire 10-year project duration and documents policy breaches, safety risks, and operational incompetence, creates an imminent risk of severe reputational consequence for the District and its leadership, especially when juxtaposed against the tripling of the timeline to complete the project, the increases in water rates to support the project, the budget shortfalls and the continued increases in compensation at the executive and board level, 'The Paradox of Cost and Accountability'

The compensation claim, now expanded to include the garage conversion, is the direct and justifiable financial consequence of the negligence that began in 2015. We expect immediate and decisive intervention from your office to finalize this remediation plan.

Further administrative delay in resolving this historic negligence will be interpreted as a political choice to defend institutional failures, thereby escalating the matter to the **public domain through all available channels**.

Sincerely,

John Kenevey

On Wed, Oct 8, 2025 at 8:49 AM John Kenevey [REDACTED] wrote:

**SUBJECT: FORMAL ESCALATION & EXPANDED LIABILITY CLAIM:
Unacceptable Decennial Pattern of Operational Failures, Privacy Violation,
and Executive Compensation Disparity at RWTP**

Dear Mr. Callender,

I am forwarding the recent operational complaint sent to your project management team, which details gross policy breaches—including unauthorized weekend excavation and chronic, unmitigated light pollution.

This escalation is a demand for direct executive intervention. The failures documented below are not merely technical oversights; they are evidence of a systemic breakdown in institutional responsibility and a profound inability to engage with or protect the community throughout the entire **10-year duration** of the Rinconada Water Treatment Plant (RWTP) project. I express immense fatigue and anger at the sustained negligence.

A Decade of Institutional Negligence and Intimate Intrusion

The current project team failures are tragically consistent with a pattern of operational negligence that began when this project first mobilized:

- **Intrusion and Privacy Violation (18 Months):** At the project's start, the construction team first placed the portable toilets, and subsequently the permanent security hut, on the hill directly in front of my primary front bedroom window. A security guard routinely stood on the deck, looking directly into my private home and bedrooms, this was very unnerving to my wife and family. This egregious and unnerving invasion of privacy required approximately **18 months of constant complaint** to various staff members before the position was finally relocated.
- **Safety Risk and Security Failures:** The original entry gate was inappropriately sized, resulting in heavy trucks routinely driving off the access road, over my front bushes, and breaking the concrete path to gain entry. The gate as it stands today is due to my petitioning RWTP to 'fix' the issue, this took ~3 years to remedy. Furthermore, for nearly a year, a security car was permitted to sit parked in front of the gate, looking directly into my home, a situation I was eventually informed was due to **disgruntled employee threats** against the facility. This is a critical failure of site security that turned the residential neighborhood into a security outpost without community warning.
- **Unmitigated Pollution:** Throughout this entire decade-long period—from 2015 to the present day—the residential structural damage, extreme noise pollution and pervasive dust contamination were never properly assessed, accounted for, or mitigated, demonstrating a complete lack of regard for the health and welfare of those living immediately adjacent to the construction zone.

The Expectation of Empathy and Compensation

These failures, compounded by the previous **Hazmat incident** and the current violations, justify the financial demands being made. It is impossible to reconcile this pattern of institutional incompetence with the fiscal realities of Valley Water's leadership:

- You, Mr. Callender, are the CEO, and your reported **Total Wages exceed \$577,000**, underpinned by an internal policy that dictates your pay be **20% higher** than your next subordinate.

- The Board members who oversee this compensation recently voted themselves a **5% raise** while the District faced a substantial **\$222 million budget deficit** and instituted a hiring freeze.

The compensation received by the executive and governance staff imposes a moral and legal obligation to act decisively and ethically. We require the Board and executive leadership to show immediate empathy and accept full responsibility for the immense, decade-long disruption and property liability.

Expanded Compensation Demand (Garage Conversion)

Due to the cumulative, sustained effects of the structural, noise, light, and privacy intrusions, the front bedroom has been functionally unusable for a majority of the last ten years.

Therefore, upon further counsel, the property remediation claim currently under review by Risk Management is now **expanded** to include the necessary cost of converting the garage space into a habitable bedroom. This action is the absolute minimum requirement to restore the original level of residential function and privacy that Valley Water's project has systematically destroyed.

We expect immediate, direct intervention from your office to finalize the comprehensive compensation package, including this expanded claim. Any further delay in resolving this historic negligence will be interpreted as a willful decision to expose the District to public scrutiny regarding its executive compensation and its profound failure to protect the community.

Sincerely,

John Kenevey

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **John Kenevey** [REDACTED]
Date: Wed, Oct 8, 2025 at 6:42 AM
Subject: DEMAND FOR IMMEDIATE EXPLANATION: Flagrant Policy Violations, Residential Intrusion, and Gross Inefficiency at Rinconada WTP Site (Project No. 93294057)
To: Emmanuel Aryee <earyee@valleywater.org>, <bponce@valleywater.org>, <mmendez@valleywater.org>
Cc: <CEO@valleywater.org>, <reisenberg@valleywater.org>, <Board@valleywater.org>, <ckwok-smith@valleywater.org>, Aimee Green <AGreen@valleywater.org>

SUBJECT: DEMAND FOR IMMEDIATE EXPLANATION: Flagrant Policy Violations, Residential Intrusion, and Gross Inefficiency at Rinconada WTP Site (Project No. 93294057)

Dear Mr. Aryee, Mr. Ponce, and Ms. Mendez,

As the technical leadership responsible for the Rinconada Water Treatment Plant (RWTP) Reliability Improvement Project—an endeavor that has catastrophically ballooned into a projected 14-year construction timeline your team’s recent operational decisions demonstrate a continued failure to adhere to stated policy and respect basic residential habitability.

Please consider this communication a formal demand for immediate answers and documentation regarding three distinct, highly disruptive, project activities that directly contravene expected professional standards.

1. Flagrant Violation of Weekend Work Policy

This past weekend, your project team conducted heavy **excavation** work directly outside my property, starting at 7:00 AM and concluding at 4:00 PM. This activity produced noise pollution that can only be accurately described as being at a **nightclub level**.

Inquiry:

- Please immediately provide the specific policy language authorizing external, heavy excavation work on a weekend. The published community policy explicitly states that only indoor work is authorized during weekends.
- Provide all records indicating that the neighboring community was formally notified of this flagrant policy violation and the severity of the associated noise intrusion. If no such notice exists, explain who authorized the deviation and why the surrounding residents were excluded from the decision-making process.
- Provide the community impact report for this project.

2. Unauthorized and Unmitigated Light Pollution

For over a year, a high-intensity security light, presumably installed by the project, has been shining directly onto my property after dark and remains on all night. This light intrusion renders our front bedroom utterly **unusable** due to the sleep disturbance it causes. Furthermore, standard window blinds are useless given the unique shape of the upper window architecture.

Inquiry:

- Provide the Community Impact Report or lighting plan that justified the installation of this specific light fixture, including documentation of the light pollution study conducted to ensure compliance with local ordinances regarding residential illumination.
- Explain why zero mitigation efforts have been undertaken over the past year to redirect, shield, or time-limit this security lighting, despite the obvious and immediate impact on my home.
- Provide the community impact report for this installation.

3. Gross Inefficiency and War Zone Noise (Pipe Installation)

Over the course of the recent summer months, the installation of a pipe feeding into a drain took an excessively long and indefensible period to complete. The noise generated by this process; best described as **war zone-like steel on steel grinding**, was relentless.

Inquiry:

- For this specific implementation (a seemingly basic engineering task), provide a detailed breakdown of the internal **engineering schedule** and the actual person-hours expended. Justify why this task required such an exorbitant duration, leading to continuous, extreme noise pollution for neighboring residents.
- Provide the Community Impact Report and notification records regarding this specific installation, including the noise impact, dust pollution impact and timeline. Explain why the community was never warned of the severity or length of this acoustical intrusion.

The Direct Link to Systemic Accountability and Liability

These repeated failures in basic policy adherence, communication, and project efficiency are the direct consequences of the systemic operational and governance issues that have plagued the RWTP project for over a decade, resulting in its protracted 14-year schedule.

Your technical failures directly support the claim that the District is liable for the resulting property damage, safety risks (e.g., the previous Hazmat incident), and loss of residential habitability. We formally demand that these issues be immediately addressed, resolved, and documented.

We expect a complete, detailed response to these three operational inquiries, including all requested documentation, within five (5) business days. Your prompt action is necessary to minimize the financial and political exposure that these ongoing failures are creating for Valley Water's leadership.

Sincerely,

John Kenevey

From: [John Kenevey](#)
To: [Lilian Dennis](#); [CEO](#); [Candice Kwok-Smith](#); [Theresa Chinte](#)
Cc: [Valley Water Risk Manager](#); [Rebecca Eisenberg](#); [Board of Directors](#)
Subject: Re: Claim Clarification
Date: Wednesday, October 15, 2025 11:24:21 AM

***** This email originated from outside of Valley Water. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. *****

SUBJECT: RE: Claim Form & Rejection of Six-Month Limitation - Continuous Institutional Negligence and Loss of Residential Habitability (RWTP)

Dear Ms. Dennis,

Thank you for sending the prescribed claim form and confirming October 6, 2025, as the claim date. I will ensure the completed form is submitted to the Clerk of the Board by the October 24, 2025, deadline as required by Government Code §910.

I must, however, formally and explicitly **reject the unilateral limitation** imposed by your statement that the claim is restricted to damages incurred only within the six months prior to October 6, 2025.

The damages asserted in my Expanded Compensation Claim - including the required garage conversion, triple-pane window mitigation, and external remediation—do not arise from a single, discrete event. They arise from a pattern of **continuous, compounding institutional negligence, ongoing nuisance, and loss of residential habitability** spanning the entire decade-long duration of the Rinconada Water Treatment Plant Reliability Improvement Project, which has been catastrophically prolonged due to the failures detailed in my prior executive correspondence.

To suggest that a claim for continuous injury resulting from a 14-year construction schedule - which has included undisclosed **Hazmat incidents, months of defended privacy violations,** and the collapse of a **\$179 million construction contract** - is subject to a standard six-month limitation is legally and factually unacceptable.

This claim for damages is the direct financial consequence of the very **systemic corruption and fiduciary negligence** currently under executive review, which includes the Interim CEO's conflicts of interest (RMC scandal) and the CEO's paid administrative leave amidst criminal investigation.

I will address the continuous nature of the damages in full detail, but for the purpose of this claim submission, Valley Water is on formal notice that the claim covers the entire period of the project's negligence.

I look forward to receiving a substantive settlement offer from **Risk Management/Legal Counsel on October 17, 2025**, that reflects the severity and duration of the District's liability.

Sincerely,

John Kenevey

On Tue, Oct 14, 2025 at 5:59 PM Lilian Dennis <ldennis@valleywater.org> wrote:

Hello Mr. Kenevey:

We need to clarify that this only applies to the timely portion of your claim, but not anything more than six months before October 6, 2025.

Risk Management Unit

From: Valley Water Risk Manager <RiskManager@valleywater.org>

Sent: Tuesday, October 14, 2025 4:00 PM

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: Claim

Dear Mr. Kenevey:

Valley Water requires claimants to submit claims for personal injury or property damage on Valley Water's prescribed claim form in compliance with Government Code § 910. We will honor October 6, 2025, as the date of the claim providing the attached Valley Water claim form is completed and submitted to the Clerk of the Board by Friday, October 24, 2025.

Submit the completed form electronically to:

clerkoftheboard@valleywater.org

-or-

Mail the completed form to:

Clerk of the Board

Santa Clara Valley Water District

5750 Almaden Expressway

San Jose, California 95118

Please include any photographs or invoices/estimates that you may have at this time.

If you have any questions, you can contact the Risk Management Unit at (408) 630-2213 or at RiskManager@valleywater.org

Regards,

Risk Management Unit

From: [John Kenevey](#)
To: [Aimee Green](#)
Cc: [CEO](#); [Theresa Chinte](#); [Rebecca Eisenberg](#); [Board of Directors](#); [Candice Kwok-Smith](#); [Valley Water Risk Manager](#); [Emmanuel Aryee](#)
Subject: Re: FORMAL NOTICE: Public Agenda Items for Upcoming Board Meeting – Governance Crisis, Fiduciary Negligence, and Compensation Liability
Date: Wednesday, October 15, 2025 11:24:31 AM

*** This email originated from outside of Valley Water. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. ***

SUBJECT: FORMAL DEMAND: Revised Public Meeting Agenda (Oct. 21) – Accountability for Governance Crisis, Criminal Corruption, and Public Apology

Dear Ms. Green,

This email serves as the final, formal notification regarding the non-negotiable agenda items that will be presented during the public comment period of the upcoming community meeting on Tuesday, October 21st, at the Rinconada Water Treatment Plant.

The crisis at Valley Water is no longer administrative; it is a **systemic governance failure** that threatens the financial and legal integrity of the District. The Executive Team's decision to conceal critical information regarding the true scale of the corruption - while demanding rate increases from the public - is an indictment of the institution's integrity.

I. Public Agenda: The Paradox of Corruption and Accountability

The public presentation will focus on the catastrophic failure of fiduciary duty, which is the root cause of the decade of residential negligence:

- **Executive Corruption and Cover-Up:** The public will be informed that the CEO, Rick Callender, has been on **fully paid administrative leave since mid-December 2024** (salary ~\$512,886/year) while under investigation for **sexual harassment, retaliation, and criminal corruption**.
- **Destruction of Evidence:** The Board is currently spending hundreds of thousands of ratepayer dollars on a lawsuit to compel a Director to destroy **2,000 pages of documentary evidence** that allegedly incriminates Valley Water Officers and Directors.
- **Interim CEO Conflict:** The Interim CEO, Melanie Richardson, who is potentially earning **\$1 million annually** (salary + pension), faces a documented history of conflict and fraud allegations regarding her firm (RMC Consulting) receiving **multi-million dollar contracts** and is now actively seeking to run against a current Board member.
- **Infrastructure Collapse:** The subsequent failure of the RWTP's initial **\$179 million construction contract** occurred despite internal audits warning that **procurement and change order management were the District's areas of "highest risk"**.

II. Non-Negotiable Demands for Structural Remedy

The resolution of the community's chronic loss of habitability requires the Board committing to the following institutional overhaul:

1. **Mandatory Public Apology:** The CEO and the entire Valley Water Board must issue a formal, unreserved public apology to the community in the public forum (October 21st) and online, acknowledging the decade of negligence and the systemic dysfunction.
2. **Immediate Executive Removal and Independent Search:** CEO Rick Callender must be **immediately and permanently removed** from employment. The search for the next CEO must be conducted by an independent, external body to ensure the new leader is an "**outsider**" with no ties to the current compromised management.
3. **Governance Resignations:** All non-elected Board-Appointed Officers and senior staff who oversaw this destruction of public trust, including the current Chairman of the Board, must resign.
4. **Community Compensation and Forensic Investigation:** The Board must publicly commit to initiating an **open, independent forensic investigation** into fraud and negligence within the \$461 million RWTP project and publicly commit to **compensating the community** for loss of habitability due to institutional negligence.

III. Notice of Imminent External Escalation

I am continuing my investigation and will **report at the meeting if the appropriate federal and state authorities**, including the California Attorney General's office and relevant federal agencies responsible for overseeing public works funding are investigating Valley Water.

The October 17th deadline for Risk Management to provide a substantive offer is final. The agenda for the public meeting is now set.

Sincerely,

John Kenevey

On Fri, Oct 10, 2025 at 6:09 PM John Kenevey [REDACTED] wrote:

SUBJECT: FORMAL NOTICE: Public Agenda Items for Upcoming Public Meeting – Governance Crisis, Fiduciary Negligence, and Compensation Liability

Dear Ms. Green,

This email serves as a formal notification, provided to you in your capacity as Public Relations Officer, regarding the high-priority governance and fiduciary items that will be presented during the upcoming neighborhood meeting.

As you are aware (via the ongoing correspondence copied above), the District is currently managing a crisis involving systemic operational negligence at the Rinconada Water Treatment Plant (RWTP) and extreme financial liability—liability that is now proven to be the direct result of documented institutional failures.

The objective of presenting this information publicly is to compel the Board of Directors to demonstrate a necessary commitment to fiscal prudence and accountability, a commitment that has been demonstrably absent during the decade-long RWTP project failure.

I. Public Agenda Item: The Paradox of Cost and Accountability

The public presentation will focus on the fundamental paradox of Valley Water asking ratepayers to absorb a 9.9% wholesale rate increase to fund failing infrastructure while the agency's leadership simultaneously prioritizes self-interest over fiscal restraint.

This includes public discussion of:

- The Board's unanimous decision to approve a **5% pay raise** for themselves while enforcing a staff hiring freeze due to a **\$222 million budget deficit**.
- The controversial policy mandating that the Chief Executive Officer's total compensation, which exceeded **\$577,000 in 2024**, must be inflated by a **20% premium** over the highest-paid executive beneath him.
- The direct link between this irresponsible spending structure and the catastrophic failure of the RWTP's initial **\$179 million construction contract (C0601)**, which was abandoned and required expensive forensic analysis due to project collapse.

II. Measures to Restore Public Trust and Fiduciary Prudence

The Board will be formally requested to adopt the following four measures immediately:

1. **Immediate Revision of Executive Compensation Policy:** Valley Water must eliminate the internal policy requiring the CEO's salary to maintain a fixed percentage premium (the 20% rule) over subordinate executives. Future compensation must be determined solely through independent benchmarking against the market median of comparable public water agencies.
2. **Imposition of Governance Cost Restraint:** The Board of Directors should immediately rescind or freeze any recent compensation increases until the District's documented budget deficits are structurally eliminated and fiscal reserves are stabilized. Director compensation must be aligned with the same level of austerity imposed on District staff during cost-control periods.
3. **Mandatory Capital Project Budgetary Oversight:** Given the scale and complexity of the CIP, the District should mandate quarterly, public-facing reports on all capital projects exceeding a \$100 million threshold. These reports must detail budget variance, schedule deviations, and provide comprehensive justification for all major inter-fiscal year fund reallocations.
4. **Enhanced Transparency in Rate Justification:** To improve public acceptance of necessary rate hikes, the District must explicitly detail the exact percentage of the rate increase dedicated to essential capital investment (like the RWTP) versus the portion allocated to operational overhead and administrative functions.

Please ensure the Executive Team is aware of this public agenda. The initiation of a formal audit investigation into the RWTP procurement failures and the subsequent release of all supporting documentation will be the inevitable next step if Risk Management fails to present a good-faith resolution to the Expanded Compensation Claim (including the garage conversion) before the meeting date.

Sincerely,

John Kenevey

From: [Kent Vincent](#)
To: [Nai Hsueh](#)
Cc: [Board of Directors](#)
Subject: Regnart Creek tree demolition
Date: Wednesday, October 15, 2025 1:48:29 PM

***** This email originated from outside of Valley Water. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. *****

I am writing on behalf of outraged neighbors along Regnart Creek in Cupertino where Valley Water is currently **destroying** the appearance of the neighborhood by removing the large, beautiful eucalyptis trees along the creek. The neighborhood now looks **awful** and I'm sure property values will be negatively impacted. In my case, the very trees you are removing are the reason we elected to purchase our home on November Dr.

I understand that the District wants to abate fire issues, fallen branch and fallen tree issues along the creek. This is something that can be handled by proper trimming just as each neighbor having large trees on their own property must do. In Cupertino, such trees are designated as heritage trees that owners and neighbors must petition the city to remove.

Can we stop the destruction?

Kent Vincent
Cupertino


From: [Peng Zhang](#)
To: [Rebecca Eisenberg](#)
Cc: [Board of Directors](#)
Subject: Tree pruning and safety hazard behind my property in Mountain View
Date: Thursday, October 16, 2025 9:48:44 AM

***** This email originated from outside of Valley Water. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. *****

Dear Rebecca

My name is Peng Zhang and I'm the owner of 1663 Tulane Dr., Mountain View. I am writing to request your immediate attention regarding an unresolved tree pruning issue behind my property.

In August, per my request, a Valley Water staff member (Abigail Stokes) visited my home to inspect several large trees extending over my backyard fence. During the visit, Abigail confirmed that these trees are rooted along the creek bank—outside my property line—and therefore fall under Valley Water's responsibility to maintain and prune. She also acknowledged that the overgrown branches pose a safety hazard, and informed me that pruning would be scheduled within 3–4 weeks.

However, more than two months have passed with no progress or communication. When I followed up last week, I was told that the work “may be done in the next few months,” despite the previously confirmed safety concerns. Since then, several branches have already fallen into my yard, increasing the risk to both my property and my family.

Given that Valley Water has confirmed responsibility for these trees and recognized the safety hazard, I respectfully request that this matter be prioritized and that pruning be scheduled as soon as possible. Please provide an estimated timeframe for the work.

Thank you for your time and your prompt attention to this important safety issue.

Best,
Peng

From: [John Kenevey](#)
To: [Michael Potter](#); [Melanie Richardson](#); [Rebecca Eisenberg](#); [Board of Directors](#); [Candice Kwok-Smith](#)
Cc: [Aimee Green](#)
Subject: Re: Saturday Work at Rinconada
Date: Friday, October 17, 2025 5:30:27 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)

*** This email originated from outside of Valley Water. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. ***

Michael, it won't take me long to find out who you report into and the broader organizational structure and budget.

My forensic investigation will broaden its focus to understand who in the press and PR industry valley water has on the payroll.

You now have the option of cooperating with me and providing that information ahead of time.

All of this information will get rolled up into a forensic report and delivered to state and federal agencies.

Sincerely,

John Kenevey

On Wed, Oct 15, 2025 at 10:53 PM John Kenevey <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Thank you. Who do you report into (name/title)?

John

On Wed, Oct 15, 2025 at 11:27 AM Michael Potter <MPotter@valleywater.org> wrote:

Hello Mr. Kenevey-

We have met before; I am Aimee's supervisor and have been the emcee for our Rinconada community meetings.

Thanks,

Mike Potter

From: John Kenevey <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, October 15, 2025 11:25 AM
To: Aimee Green <AGreen@valleywater.org>
Cc: Michael Potter <MPotter@valleywater.org>

Subject: Re: Saturday Work at Rinconada

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Michael as you have been added to the thread please introduce yourself.

Thank you.

John

On Wed, Oct 15, 2025 at 11:23 AM Aimee Green <AGreen@valleywater.org> wrote:

Hi John,

You can reach our interim CEO, Melanie Richardson, at her email address below.

mrichardson@valleywater.org

Thank you,

AIMEE GREEN

Pronouns: she/her
PUBLIC INFORMATION REPRESENTATIVE II

Office of Communications

agreen@valleywater.org

Tel. (408) 630-2342



SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

[5750 Almaden Expressway, San Jose CA 95118](https://www.valleywater.org)
www.valleywater.org

Clean Water · Healthy Environment · Flood Protection

From: John Kenevey [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, October 14, 2025 4:12 PM
To: Aimee Green <AGreen@valleywater.org>
Subject: Re: Saturday Work at Rinconada

***** This email originated from outside of Valley Water. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. *****

Aimee,

You might have told me that there is an interim CEO, Melanie Richardson, as the CEO is on paid leave while he is being investigated for various allegations.

Please provide me with Melanie Richardson's email address.

John

On Wed, Oct 8, 2025 at 8:59 AM Aimee Green <AGreen@valleywater.org> wrote:

Hi John,

Please see Theresa's email address.

Tchinte@valleywater.org.

Best Regards,

Aimee

From: John Kenevey [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, October 8, 2025 7:20:12 AM
To: Aimee Green <AGreen@valleywater.org>
Subject: Re: Saturday Work at Rinconada

***** This email originated from outside of Valley Water. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. *****

Aimee,

Please provide me with the email for Theresa Chinte, Chief of Staff to the CEO.

Thank you,

John

On Tue, Oct 7, 2025 at 7:24 AM Aimee Green <AGreen@valleywater.org> wrote:

Hi John,

As requested, the Rinconada Water Treatment Plant Reliability Improvement Project team and their contacts are below.

Emmanuel Aryee, P.E

Deputy Operating Officer

Water Utility Capital Division

earyee@valleywater.org

Brandon Ponce, P.E.

Capital Engineering Manager

Treatment Plants Project Delivery Unit

bponce@valleywater.org

Monica Mendez, P.E.

Senior Engineer

Water Utility Capital Division

mmendez@valleywater.org

Thank you,

AIMEE GREEN

Pronouns: she/her

PUBLIC INFORMATION REPRESENTATIVE II

Office of Communications

agreen@valleywater.org

Tel. (408) 630-2342



SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

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www.valleywater.org

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From: John Kenevey [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, October 7, 2025 6:08 AM
To: Aimee Green <AGreen@valleywater.org>
Subject: Re: Saturday Work at Rinconada

***** This email originated from outside of Valley Water. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. *****

Hi Aimee,

You've had an entire business day to send me the emails addresses of the project team at Rinconada as we discussed on our 10am call yesterday. When can I expect them?

John

On Mon, Oct 6, 2025 at 8:32 AM Aimee Green <AGreen@valleywater.org> wrote:

Hi John,

Thank you for letting me know, I'll call you after 10 a.m.

Talk to you soon,

Aimee

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: John Kenevey [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, October 6, 2025 8:30:17 AM
To: Aimee Green <AGreen@valleywater.org>
Subject: Re: Saturday Work at Rinconada

***** This email originated from outside of Valley Water. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. *****

Thanks Aimee. I'll be unable to pick up until after 10am fyi.

Thanks,

John

On Mon, Oct 6, 2025 at 7:03 AM Aimee Green <AGreen@valleywater.org> wrote:

Good Morning John,

I am following up to the voicemails you left for me on Saturday. Thank you for reaching out to me!

I plan to call you after 8 am to get more details, and wanted you to know I am in communication with our Rinconada team regarding the construction noise.

Thank you,

AIMEE GREEN

Pronouns: she/her

PUBLIC INFORMATION REPRESENTATIVE II

Office of Communications

agreen@valleywater.org

Tel. (408) 630-2342



SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

[5750 Almaden Expressway, San Jose CA 95118](https://www.valleywater.org)

www.valleywater.org

Clean Water · Healthy Environment · Flood Protection

From: [John Kenevey](#)
To: [CEO](#); [Theresa Chinte](#); [Melanie Richardson](#)
Cc: [Rebecca Eisenberg](#); [Board of Directors](#); [Candice Kwok-Smith](#); [Valley Water Risk Manager](#); [Aimee Green](#); [Lilian Dennis](#); [Michael Potter](#)
Subject: Re: DEMAND FOR IMMEDIATE EXPLANATION: Flagrant Policy Violations, Residential Intrusion, and Gross Inefficiency at Rinconada WTP Site (Project No. 93294057)
Date: Friday, October 17, 2025 5:55:06 AM

*** This email originated from outside of Valley Water. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. ***

SUBJECT: FINAL NOTICE – OCTOBER 17, 2025 DEADLINE: Executive Resolution Required for Compensation and Systemic Liability

Dear Ms. Richardson and Members of the Board,

This email serves as a formal reminder that **today, October 17, 2025**, is the established deadline for Valley Water's Risk Management and Legal Counsel to provide a substantive and comprehensive compensation offer regarding the Expanded Compensation Claim.

I maintain the expectation that a formal compensation package will be received today. I am writing to ensure there is absolute clarity regarding the District's belief that this payment will somehow resolve the broader crisis:

Compensation is Not a Negotiation Chip to Halt Investigation

The payment of my compensation claim addresses only the **private financial liability** created by a decade of residential negligence, safety failures (Hazmat, privacy violations), and the ensuing loss of habitability—damages that are verifiably linked to the catastrophic failure of the RWTP project's original planning, execution and governance (or lack thereof).

I need to be unequivocally clear: **This compensation package is not, and will never be, a negotiation chip to halt my forensic investigation and the ultimate delivery of that complete report to state and federal agencies.**

The dysfunction at Valley Water requires a structural, independent remedy that extends far beyond a single residential settlement. The current leadership has demonstrated not only an inability but an unwillingness to enact the necessary ethical and operational remedies, as evidenced by the following facts:

- The collapse of the **\$179 million construction contract (C0601)** despite internal audits warning that **procurement and change order management** were Valley Water's "highest risk" areas.
- The continued payment of CEO Rick Callender's **\$512,886 salary** and travel expenses while he is on leave and under investigation for criminal corruption.
- The District's current expenditure of ratepayer funds on a lawsuit to compel the **destruction of 2,000 pages of documentary evidence.**

- The fact that the Interim CEO, Melanie Richardson, is potentially collecting a **\$1 million annual salary/pension** while possessing a documented history of fraud allegations regarding millions in RMC consulting contracts.

This profound crisis of governance and fiduciary negligence requires an outside party to force institutional change.

You, and all members of the executive management team, are public servants employed by and accountable to the taxpayer who funds this agency through continuous rate hikes. I assure you that my efforts will continue until the systemic corruption is fully exposed and accountability to the ratepayer is secured.

I anticipate the comprehensive offer from Legal Counsel by the end of today.

Sincerely,

John Kenevey

On Wed, Oct 15, 2025 at 7:23 PM John Kenevey [REDACTED] wrote:

TO: Melanie Richardson, interim CEO (CEO@valleywater.org)

SUBJECT: FINAL ULTIMATUM: Immediate Demand for Institutional Overhaul, Compensation, and Public Apology.

Dear Ms. Richardson (interim-CEO), Ms. Chinte (Chief of staff for the interim-CEO), and Members of the Board,

This communication is an immediate response to the comprehensive institutional information I have gathered regarding the executive management and governance of Valley Water.

My disappointment that neither the Chief of Staff nor the Public Relations Officer informed me of the CEOs leave of absence due to an internal investigation. This intentional concealment of vital information is **emblematic of the institutional dysfunction and lack of transparency** the Rinconada community has witnessed and endured for the past decade of the RWTP project.

Ms. Melanie Richardson these communications are all to you as acting CEO for Valley Water.

The Institutional Fraud and Cover-Up Confirmed

Through my forensic analysis I now understand the delay and negligence that caused the 14-year delay of the RWTP project and the documented safety failures (Hazmat incident, privacy violations, \$179M contract collapse) is now inextricably linked to a governance structure facing accusations of criminal corruption and self-dealing:

- **CEO Under Investigation:** The fact that the Chief Executive Officer, Rick Callender, has been on **fully paid administrative leave** while earning over **\$600,000 per year** and traveling internationally on the public dime, despite

being under investigation for **sexual harassment, retaliation, and criminal corruption**, is an outrageous breach of fiduciary duty.

- **Interim CEO Scandal:** The current Interim CEO, Melanie Richardson, is potentially earning up to **\$1 million per year** (including her \$23,333 monthly pension) while having a documented history of overseeing contracts with her husband's firm (RMC) that were subject to a DA investigation for **fraudulent billing and alleged misappropriation of up to \$103 million** in taxpayer funds.
- **Destruction of Evidence:** The District is actively pursuing a costly lawsuit against a sitting Director to compel the destruction of **2,000 pages of documentary evidence** that allegedly incriminates Valley Water officers and Directors, a clear indication of a concerted cover-up effort.

Non-Negotiable Demands for Reform and Community Remedy

The systemic abuse of power and financial resources, which led directly to the collapse of the \$179 million RWTP contract despite internal audit warnings about high-risk procurement, mandates nothing less than a complete institutional overhaul.

Rinconada's loss of habitability is a direct result of leadership dysfunction, the Board needs to commit to the following remedial path:

1. **Public Apology and Acknowledgment of Dysfunction:** The interim CEO and the entire Valley Water Board must issue a formal, unreserved public apology to the Rinconada community, both online and in the next public forum (October 21st), acknowledging the decade of negligence and systemic dysfunction.
2. **Executive Removal and Independent Search:**
 - CEO Rick Callender must be **immediately and permanently removed** from employment.
 - The next Chief Executive Officer must be an "**outsider**" hired by an **independent body** to break the institutional cycle of corruption and self-dealing.
3. **Resignation of Compromised Governance Leadership:** All non-elected Board-Appointed Officers and senior staff who oversaw the destruction of public trust must resign.
4. **Open Investigation and Compensation for Negligence:** The Board must publicly commit to initiating an **open, independent forensic investigation** into the misuse of funds on the RWTP project with a view to compensating the entire community for negligence and loss of habitability.

Intent to Escalate to Federal and State Authorities

Valley Water's capital program relies on a "diverse array of funding sources", which includes state and federal cost-sharing agreements and grants. I will continue my forensic analysis to understand which, if any, **federal and state authorities are investigating RWTP**, including the California Attorney General's office and relevant

federal agencies responsible for overseeing public works funding.

Sincerely,

John Kenevey

On Fri, Oct 10, 2025 at 5:58 PM John Kenevey [REDACTED] wrote:

SUBJECT: MANDATORY CLARIFICATION & FINAL NOTICE: The Scope of October 17th Response Must Address Audited Systemic Failure and Compensation Liability

Dear Mr. Callender, and Members of the Executive Team,

I appreciate Mr. Aryee email acknowledging my inquiry and for confirming receipt of my correspondence. However, Mr. Callender, I am very disappointed by your **lack of confirmation** of my correspondence. I must formally and unequivocally reject the scope defined in Mr. Aryee's response. The matter at hand is not a request for an update on "Project Phases 3-6." It is a demand for executive accountability and financial resolution for the **systemic institutional negligence** that caused this project to collapse.

The failures that necessitate my Expanded Compensation Claim are directly linked to the massive financial mismanagement and governance failures that have plagued the RWTP:

The Documented Failure of Project Governance

The RWTP project's financial and operational crisis is not an anomaly; it is a direct, predictable outcome of known control deficiencies:

1. **Contractual Collapse and Forensic Analysis:** The initial construction contract for the RWTP (C0601), originally valued at **\$179 million**, failed to execute the planned scope, resulting in its effective collapse and subsequent re-scoping after the acceptance of Phases 1 and 2 for \$152.8 million. This failure was so profound that Valley Water was forced to commission an external consultant to conduct a **forensic analysis** to determine the key financial and operational risks and then spend millions more on design "**re-packaging and re-bidding**" for the remaining phases.
2. **Highest Risk Warning Ignored:** The failure of this massive capital contract occurred during the precise period when Valley Water's own independent auditor (TAP International) had formally designated **Contract Change Order Management and Procurement** as areas of "**highest risk**" to the District. This confirms that the project collapsed due to a **failure of governance** to implement controls against fraud and negligence in the face of known, critical audit findings.

Final Demand for October 17, 2025

The deadline of **October 17, 2025**, is established as the date by which the **Executive Team and Legal Counsel** must present a substantive resolution to the

District's severe, documented liability exposure. Any response that fails to address the following is deemed inadequate:

1. **Mandatory Compensation Offer:** A formal, written negotiation offer from **Risk Management/Legal Counsel** regarding the **Expanded Compensation Claim** (including the necessary funding for the garage conversion, triple-pane windows, and roof replacement).
2. **Accountability for Fiduciary Failure:** A response addressing the systemic issues that caused the failure, including the CEO's **\$577K salary and 20% premium policy** and the Board's **5% pay raise** amidst the \$222 million deficit.

Please be advised: If the response provided on October 17th is not a substantive settlement offer, all available information regarding the failed \$179 million contract, the forensic analysis, and the audit findings proving systemic control deficiencies will be immediately utilized to **request the Board initiate a full independent forensic investigation into fraud and negligence in the RWTP procurement process.**

Sincerely,

John Kenevey

On Wed, Oct 8, 2025 at 5:21 PM John Kenevey [REDACTED] wrote:

SUBJECT: FORMAL ESCALATION & ATTACHED PROOF: Undeniable Documentation of Institutional Negligence and Policy Failure Dating to RWTP Project Inception (URGENT)

Dear Mr. Callender, Ms. Chinte, and Members of the Board,

This is a critical update to my correspondence sent earlier today, which detailed the systemic operational failures and the necessity of immediate compensation. I have added Ms. Chinte, Chief of Staff, to this thread, as the subject matter and attached evidence demand executive-level **crisis intervention and action.**

Upon meticulous review of my decade-long archive of correspondence with Valley Water, I have retrieved and am attaching documentation that provides **undeniable proof** of the institutional negligence that has characterized the RWTP project since its inception in 2015. This evidence confirms that the most intrusive and damaging failures were raised and actively defended by staff **ten years** ago.

Indisputable Evidence: 2015 Policy Defense and Engineering Failure

Please review the attached original email correspondence, dated Fri, 9 Oct 2015, along with the attached video file. This documentation conclusively negates any possible claim that the District was unaware of, or is not responsible for, the current climate of operational incompetence:

1. **Direct Proof of Privacy Violation and Defense (2015 Email):** The

attached email thread confirms that Valley Water staff not only placed the security hut and associated infrastructure (previously the port-a-potties) directly in front of my front bedroom window but **actively defended that placement** when challenged. This document proves that the ~18-month or longer intrusion into my personal life which rendered my bedroom unusable was a conscious, policy-backed institutional decision.

2. **Documented Engineering Failure (Attached Video):** The attached video shows a **double-barreled heavy-duty truck stuck at the facility gate** in 2015, unable to make the turn due to the gate's inadequate size and location. This incident, which necessitated truck traffic driving onto my personal path and damaging property, was known to the project team at the start of the project. This is irrefutable proof of initial engineering and site planning failure, which compounded noise and dust pollution problems for years.

The True Cost of Documented Incompetence

The documentation provided today demonstrates conclusively that the current project leadership and the institutional culture they inherited has been **unwilling to create a safe or tolerable environment** for residents. The failures I outlined in the previous email (Hazmat cover-up, chronic light pollution, and weekend excavation) are simply the most recent symptoms of a pattern of negligence that began with the staff's decision to defend a security guard looking into my private home in 2015.

The massive volume of documentation I possess demonstrates that I do not need to rely on the soon to be filed CPRA requests to prove the District's liability; the documentation is already prepared. We expect Ms. Chinte to intervene immediately to coordinate a final agreement on the **expanded compensation claim** (including the garage conversion) to reflect the true cost of this decade of negligence.

Ms. Chinte, as the Chief of Staff, and Mr. Callender, as the Chief Executive Officer, you must recognize that this level of persistent institutional failure is now subject to the most intense **public scrutiny and external review**. This paper trail, which now spans the entire 10-year project duration and documents policy breaches, safety risks, and operational incompetence, creates an imminent risk of severe reputational consequence for the District and its leadership, especially when juxtaposed against the tripling of the timeline to complete the project, the increases in water rates to support the project, the budget shortfalls and the continued increases in compensation at the executive and board level, 'The Paradox of Cost and Accountability'

The compensation claim, now expanded to include the garage conversion, is the direct and justifiable financial consequence of the negligence that began in 2015. We expect immediate and decisive intervention from your office to finalize this remediation plan.

Further administrative delay in resolving this historic negligence will be interpreted as a political choice to defend institutional failures, thereby

escalating the matter to the **public domain through all available channels.**

Sincerely,

John Kenevey

On Wed, Oct 8, 2025 at 8:49 AM John Kenevey [REDACTED] wrote:

**SUBJECT: FORMAL ESCALATION & EXPANDED LIABILITY CLAIM:
Unacceptable Decennial Pattern of Operational Failures, Privacy
Violation, and Executive Compensation Disparity at RWTP**

Dear Mr. Callender,

I am forwarding the recent operational complaint sent to your project management team, which details gross policy breaches—including unauthorized weekend excavation and chronic, unmitigated light pollution.

This escalation is a demand for direct executive intervention. The failures documented below are not merely technical oversights; they are evidence of a systemic breakdown in institutional responsibility and a profound inability to engage with or protect the community throughout the entire **10-year duration** of the Rinconada Water Treatment Plant (RWTP) project. I express immense fatigue and anger at the sustained negligence.

A Decade of Institutional Negligence and Intimate Intrusion

The current project team failures are tragically consistent with a pattern of operational negligence that began when this project first mobilized:

- **Intrusion and Privacy Violation (18 Months):** At the project's start, the construction team first placed the portable toilets, and subsequently the permanent security hut, on the hill directly in front of my primary front bedroom window. A security guard routinely stood on the deck, looking directly into my private home and bedrooms, this was very unnerving to my wife and family. This egregious and unnerving invasion of privacy required approximately **18 months of constant complaint** to various staff members before the position was finally relocated.
- **Safety Risk and Security Failures:** The original entry gate was inappropriately sized, resulting in heavy trucks routinely driving off the access road, over my front bushes, and breaking the concrete path to gain entry. The gate as it stands today is due to my petitioning RWTP to 'fix' the issue, this took ~3 years to remedy. Furthermore, for nearly a year, a security car was permitted to sit parked in front of the gate, looking directly into my home, a situation I was eventually informed was due to **disgruntled employee threats** against the facility. This is a critical failure of site security that turned the residential neighborhood into a security outpost without community warning.
- **Unmitigated Pollution:** Throughout this entire decade-long period—from 2015 to the present day—the residential structural damage, extreme noise pollution and pervasive dust contamination were never properly

assessed, accounted for, or mitigated, demonstrating a complete lack of regard for the health and welfare of those living immediately adjacent to the construction zone.

The Expectation of Empathy and Compensation

These failures, compounded by the previous **Hazmat incident** and the current violations, justify the financial demands being made. It is impossible to reconcile this pattern of institutional incompetence with the fiscal realities of Valley Water's leadership:

- You, Mr. Callender, are the CEO, and your reported **Total Wages exceed \$577,000**, underpinned by an internal policy that dictates your pay be **20% higher** than your next subordinate.
- The Board members who oversee this compensation recently voted themselves a **5% raise** while the District faced a substantial **\$222 million budget deficit** and instituted a hiring freeze.

The compensation received by the executive and governance staff imposes a moral and legal obligation to act decisively and ethically. We require the Board and executive leadership to show immediate empathy and accept full responsibility for the immense, decade-long disruption and property liability.

Expanded Compensation Demand (Garage Conversion)

Due to the cumulative, sustained effects of the structural, noise, light, and privacy intrusions, the front bedroom has been functionally unusable for a majority of the last ten years.

Therefore, upon further counsel, the property remediation claim currently under review by Risk Management is now **expanded** to include the necessary cost of converting the garage space into a habitable bedroom. This action is the absolute minimum requirement to restore the original level of residential function and privacy that Valley Water's project has systematically destroyed.

We expect immediate, direct intervention from your office to finalize the comprehensive compensation package, including this expanded claim. Any further delay in resolving this historic negligence will be interpreted as a willful decision to expose the District to public scrutiny regarding its executive compensation and its profound failure to protect the community.

Sincerely,

John Kenevey

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **John Kenevey** [REDACTED]

Date: Wed, Oct 8, 2025 at 6:42 AM

Subject: DEMAND FOR IMMEDIATE EXPLANATION: Flagrant Policy Violations, Residential Intrusion, and Gross Inefficiency at Rinconada WTP Site (Project No.

93294057)

To: Emmanuel Aryee <earyee@valleywater.org>, <bponce@valleywater.org>, <mmendez@valleywater.org>

Cc: <CEO@valleywater.org>, <reisenberg@valleywater.org>, <Board@valleywater.org>, <ckwok-smith@valleywater.org>, Aimee Green <AGreen@valleywater.org>

SUBJECT: DEMAND FOR IMMEDIATE EXPLANATION: Flagrant Policy Violations, Residential Intrusion, and Gross Inefficiency at Rinconada WTP Site (Project No. 93294057)

Dear Mr. Aryee, Mr. Ponce, and Ms. Mendez,

As the technical leadership responsible for the Rinconada Water Treatment Plant (RWTP) Reliability Improvement Project—an endeavor that has catastrophically ballooned into a projected 14-year construction timeline your team’s recent operational decisions demonstrate a continued failure to adhere to stated policy and respect basic residential habitability.

Please consider this communication a formal demand for immediate answers and documentation regarding three distinct, highly disruptive, project activities that directly contravene expected professional standards.

1. Flagrant Violation of Weekend Work Policy

This past weekend, your project team conducted heavy **excavation** work directly outside my property, starting at 7:00 AM and concluding at 4:00 PM. This activity produced noise pollution that can only be accurately described as being at a **nightclub level**.

Inquiry:

- Please immediately provide the specific policy language authorizing external, heavy excavation work on a weekend. The published community policy explicitly states that only indoor work is authorized during weekends.
- Provide all records indicating that the neighboring community was formally notified of this flagrant policy violation and the severity of the associated noise intrusion. If no such notice exists, explain who authorized the deviation and why the surrounding residents were excluded from the decision-making process.
- Provide the community impact report for this project.

2. Unauthorized and Unmitigated Light Pollution

For over a year, a high-intensity security light, presumably installed by the project, has been shining directly onto my property after dark and remains on all night. This light intrusion renders our front bedroom utterly **unusable** due to the sleep disturbance it causes. Furthermore, standard window blinds are

useless given the unique shape of the upper window architecture.

Inquiry:

- Provide the Community Impact Report or lighting plan that justified the installation of this specific light fixture, including documentation of the light pollution study conducted to ensure compliance with local ordinances regarding residential illumination.
- Explain why zero mitigation efforts have been undertaken over the past year to redirect, shield, or time-limit this security lighting, despite the obvious and immediate impact on my home.
- Provide the community impact report for this installation.

3. Gross Inefficiency and War Zone Noise (Pipe Installation)

Over the course of the recent summer months, the installation of a pipe feeding into a drain took an excessively long and indefensible period to complete. The noise generated by this process; best described as **war zone-like steel on steel grinding**, was relentless.

Inquiry:

- For this specific implementation (a seemingly basic engineering task), provide a detailed breakdown of the internal **engineering schedule** and the actual person-hours expended. Justify why this task required such an exorbitant duration, leading to continuous, extreme noise pollution for neighboring residents.
- Provide the Community Impact Report and notification records regarding this specific installation, including the noise impact, dust pollution impact and timeline. Explain why the community was never warned of the severity or length of this acoustical intrusion.

The Direct Link to Systemic Accountability and Liability

These repeated failures in basic policy adherence, communication, and project efficiency are the direct consequences of the systemic operational and governance issues that have plagued the RWTP project for over a decade, resulting in its protracted 14-year schedule.

Your technical failures directly support the claim that the District is liable for the resulting property damage, safety risks (e.g., the previous Hazmat incident), and loss of residential habitability. We formally demand that these issues be immediately addressed, resolved, and documented.

We expect a complete, detailed response to these three operational inquiries, including all requested documentation, within five (5) business days. Your prompt action is necessary to minimize the financial and political exposure that these ongoing failures are creating for Valley Water's leadership.

Sincerely,
John Kenevey

From: [John Kenevey](#)
To: [Emmanuel Aryee](#); [CEO](#); [Theresa Chinte](#); [Melanie Richardson](#)
Cc: [Brandon Ponce](#); [Monica Mendez](#); [Rebecca Eisenberg](#); [Board of Directors](#); [Aaron Baker](#); [Candice Kwok-Smith](#); [Aimee Green](#); [Michael Potter](#); [Lilian Dennis](#)
Subject: Re: DEMAND FOR IMMEDIATE EXPLANATION: Flagrant Policy Violations, Residential Intrusion, and Gross Inefficiency at Rinconada WTP Site (Project No. 93294057)
Date: Friday, October 17, 2025 6:00:54 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

*** This email originated from outside of Valley Water. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. ***

SUBJECT: FORMAL DEMAND: UNACCEPTABLE FAILURE TO PROVIDE MANDATED DOCUMENTATION – Proof of Gross Operational Negligence at RWTP (October 17th Deadline)

Dear Mr. Aryee,

This correspondence is being sent today, **October 17, 2025**, which is the deadline you personally committed to providing a thorough explanation and documentation regarding the recent operational failures impacting my property.

Your previous attempt to minimize this crisis as a simple update on "Project Phases 3-6" was unequivocally rejected. Your failure to produce the promised information today is an unacceptable administrative dereliction that perfectly encapsulates the decade of institutional negligence the Rinconada community has endured.

The Intolerable Cost of Operational Negligence

My family's quality of life has been severely impacted by the mismanagement of this project for 10 years, and your continued inability to provide accountability will not be tolerated. This most recent spate of policy violations—including the nightclub-level weekend excavation, the sustained light pollution into my bedroom, and the "war zone" pipe installation noise—requires mandatory pre-authorization and mitigation documents that your team has failed to produce.

I hereby demand the immediate production of the following, without delay:

- 1. Community Impact Reports (CIRs) / Noise and Dust Studies:** Provide all mandatory pre-construction Community Impact Reports, Noise Studies, and Dust Mitigation Plans that were required **before** commencing:
 - The unauthorized weekend excavation work.
 - The installation of the unshielded, high-intensity, all-night security lighting.
 - The extended duration of the steel-on-steel pipe grinding noise.
- 2. Negligence Confirmed:** I fully anticipate that these critical Community Impact Reports and Noise Studies do not exist for these specific, highly intrusive activities. Their absence constitutes **gross operational negligence** by your department, confirming that staff willfully executed severe project intrusions without any mandated assessment of the impact on the neighboring community.

Accountability to the Taxpayer

This gross mismanagement, which leads directly to the loss of residential habitability, is happening under the watch of an executive management team that is prioritizing self-interest over fiduciary duty:

- The CEO, Rick Callender, remains on fully paid leave, receiving his **\$512,886 annual salary** while under investigation for criminal corruption.
- The Interim CEO has a documented history of conflict involving **fraud allegations** relating to multi-million dollar contracts.

Your technical failure to control a construction site - a basic function of your role - is indefensible in this context. It confirms that the project's financial collapse (the failed \$179 million contract) and its subsequent 14-year delay are the direct result of unchecked staff incompetence.

Be advised that your failure to provide the requested documentation today will be reported to the Board as definitive justification to escalate the matter. The District's liability for my family's diminished quality of life will be pursued to the fullest extent possible.

Sincerely,

John Kenevey

On Sat, Oct 11, 2025 at 12:17 AM John Kenevey [REDACTED] wrote:

SUBJECT: MANDATORY CLARIFICATION: Required Scope for October 17th Response – Immediate Resolution of Systemic Liability and Compensation Claim

Dear Mr. Aryee,

Thank you for confirming receipt of my correspondence and setting a response date of Friday, October 17, 2025.

However, I must formally and explicitly reject the limited scope you defined. My communications to you, the Board, the CEO, and the Risk Management are not simply requests for an update on "Project Phases 3-6." They are formal demands for executive accountability and financial resolution regarding a decade of documented institutional negligence and high-risk operational failures. You should fully address my concerns listed to you in my original email starting with last weekend's breach of policy.

The Mandated Scope of Response for October 17, 2025

The response required by the Executive Team must definitively address the following mandatory issues. Any response that fails to include a substantive offer and explanation on these points will be deemed wholly inadequate:

1. **Compensation and Legal Liability:** The response must be a formal communication from **Risk Management/Legal Counsel** regarding the **Expanded Compensation**

Claim. This claim includes the full remediation package (triple-pane windows, roof, and the cost of garage conversion) required to restore habitability after years of intrusion. I expect a concrete negotiation offer, not an administrative update.

2. **Safety and Policy Failures:** The response must provide official acknowledgment and explanation for the systemic failures that underpin this liability, including:
 - The **unannounced Hazmat cleanup** outside my property.
 - The institutional decision, confirmed by 2015 internal correspondence, to **defend the privacy violation** caused by placing the security hut directly in front of my bedroom window.
 - The internal rationale for continuing the **CEO's 20% compensation premium** amidst the \$222 million budget deficit .
3. **The Status of Legal Discovery:** Please be formally advised that comprehensive **California Public Records Act (CPRA) Requests** are fully prepared and ready for submission to the Records Management Center. These requests seek all documentation related to the above safety incidents, policy violations, and policy defense decisions dating back to 2015.

The deadline of October 17, 2025, is established as the date by which the **Executive Team and Legal Counsel** must present a substantive resolution to the District's severe liability exposure. Any attempt by your staff to provide a project status report in lieu of addressing these core financial and safety liabilities will be interpreted as a failure of executive management to contain the escalating risk to the District's public reputation.

The submission status of the prepared CPRA requests is contingent entirely upon the adequacy and good faith of the substantive compensation offer provided by Risk Management on that date.

Sincerely,

John Kenevey

On Fri, Oct 10, 2025 at 8:21 AM Emmanuel Aryee <EAryee@valleywater.org> wrote:

Hi Mr. Kenevey,

Thank you for your emails to board members, executive team members and staff. We will have responses to your concerns regarding the Rinconada Water Treatment Plant Reliability Project Phases 3-6 by Friday, Oct. 17, 2025.

Thank you again.

EMMANUEL ARYEE, P.E

Deputy Operating Officer

Water Utility Capital Division

Tel. (408) 630-3074 / Cel: (408) 669-6782

Santa Clara Valley Water District is now known as:



From: John Kenevey [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, October 8, 2025 6:43 AM
To: Emmanuel Aryee <EAryee@valleywater.org>; Brandon Ponce <BPonce@valleywater.org>; Monica Mendez <MMendez@valleywater.org>
Cc: CEO <ceo@valleywater.org>; Rebecca Eisenberg <Reisenberg@valleywater.org>; Board of Directors <board@valleywater.org>; Candice Kwok-Smith <ckwok-smith@valleywater.org>; Aimee Green <AGreen@valleywater.org>
Subject: DEMAND FOR IMMEDIATE EXPLANATION: Flagrant Policy Violations, Residential Intrusion, and Gross Inefficiency at Rinconada WTP Site (Project No. 93294057)

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John Kenevey

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To: [Emmanuel Aryee](#)
Cc: [CEO](#); [Rebecca Eisenberg](#); [Board of Directors](#); [Aaron Baker](#); [Candice Kwok-Smith](#); [Aimee Green](#); [Brandon Ponce](#); [Monica Mendez](#); [Melanie Richardson](#); [Michael Potter](#); [Yolanda Cervantes](#); [Lilian Dennis](#); [PublicRecords](#)
Subject: Re: DEMAND FOR IMMEDIATE EXPLANATION: Flagrant Policy Violations, Residential Intrusion, and Gross Inefficiency at Rinconada WTP Site (Project No. 93294057)
Date: Saturday, October 18, 2025 5:59:41 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

*** This email originated from outside of Valley Water. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. ***

SUBJECT: FINAL REJECTION AND LEGAL WARNING: Administrative Ineptitude Confirms Systemic Dereliction of Duty (Deadline Missed: October 17, 2025)

Dear Mr. Aryee,

I am in receipt of your correspondence attempting to unilaterally extend the deadline for a substantive executive response to October 31, 2025.

Let me be entirely clear: **I formally reject this administrative extension and the attempt to deflect this executive crisis.**

October 17, 2025, was the mandated deadline for **Risk Management/Legal Counsel** to provide a concrete, substantive offer on the Expanded Compensation Claim., was the mandated deadline for you to provide a response to a basic inquiry. Your communication—which admits to a total lack of readiness despite receiving comprehensive documentation and executive mandates - does not resolve the crisis; it **compounds the evidence of institutional failure.**

Your inability to coordinate a basic administrative response within the established timeframe, even with the involvement of the CEO, the Chief of Staff, and the Board, is precisely the type of **operational ineptitude** that has destroyed my family's quality of life for the past decade and is now costing the taxpayer millions.

The True Reason for the Delay

The documents you claim you need "additional time" to review - privacy intrusion, community security, and the audit findings regarding the failed \$179 million RWTP contract - are historical administrative records. Their availability is instantaneous, yet your team remains functionally paralyzed.

The public will readily understand that the real reason for this delay is not administrative complexity, but the **Executive Team's functional inability to craft a legally coherent defense** against the charges of systemic corruption and abuse of public funds:

- The CEO, who continues to receive his **\$512,886 salary** while under investigation for **criminal corruption**, cannot be defended.

The Interim CEO's history of conflict and fraud allegations relating to contracts up to **\$103 million** cannot be defended.

- The District's expenditure of taxpayer funds on a lawsuit to compel the **destruction of 2,000 pages of evidence** cannot be defended.

The Board and executive leadership, by watching their staff publicly fumble a basic administrative response, are confirming to the public that their **derelection of duty permeates the entire organization**, rendering it unable to function at its most basic level. This is precisely why a basic retro-fit project that was originally scheduled for five years has ballooned into a 15-year catastrophe.

Be advised: The deadline for resolution has been missed. The evidence of administrative and executive paralysis will now be utilized immediately to initiate the **full independent forensic investigation** into fraud and negligence as previously detailed.

Sincerely,

John Kenevey

On Sat, Oct 18, 2025 at 12:10 AM Emmanuel Aryee <EAryee@valleywater.org> wrote:

Hi Mr. Kenevey,

I informed you through an email (see below) below on **October 10, 2025**, that “We will have responses to your concerns regarding the Rinconada Water Treatment Plant Reliability Project Phases 3-6 by Friday, **Oct. 17, 2025.**” Since then, we have received more additional correspondence from you.

This is to acknowledge receipt of your additional correspondence.

You have already received a response from our Risk Management department, and you may expect a response to your requests for records soon.

With respect to your questions, including questions from your additional correspondence, we have determined that we will need additional time to respond. You may expect a response **on or before October 31, 2025.**

Thank You.

EMMANUEL ARYEE, P.E

Deputy Operating Officer

Water Utility Capital Division

Tel. (408) 630-3074 / Cel: (408) 669-6782

Santa Clara Valley Water District is now known as:



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Sent: Friday, October 10, 2025 8:21 AM

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Cc: CEO <ceo@valleywater.org>; Rebecca Eisenberg <Reisenberg@valleywater.org>; Board of Directors <board@valleywater.org>; Aaron Baker <ABaker@valleywater.org>; Candice Kwok-Smith <ckwok-smith@valleywater.org>; Aimee Green <AGreen@valleywater.org>

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outside my property, starting at 7:00 AM and concluding at 4:00 PM. This activity produced noise pollution that can only be accurately described as being at a **nightclub level**.

Inquiry:

- Please immediately provide the specific policy language authorizing external, heavy excavation work on a weekend. The published community policy explicitly states that only indoor work is authorized during weekends.
- Provide all records indicating that the neighboring community was formally notified of this flagrant policy violation and the severity of the associated noise intrusion. If no such notice exists, explain who authorized the deviation and why the surrounding residents were excluded from the decision-making process.
- Provide the community impact report for this project.

2. Unauthorized and Unmitigated Light Pollution

For over a year, a high-intensity security light, presumably installed by the project, has been shining directly onto my property after dark and remains on all night. This light intrusion renders our front bedroom utterly **unusable** due to the sleep disturbance it causes. Furthermore, standard window blinds are useless given the unique shape of the upper window architecture.

Inquiry:

- Provide the Community Impact Report or lighting plan that justified the installation of this specific light fixture, including documentation of the light pollution study conducted to ensure compliance with local ordinances regarding residential illumination.
- Explain why zero mitigation efforts have been undertaken over the past year to redirect, shield, or time-limit this security lighting, despite the obvious and immediate impact on my home.
- Provide the community impact report for this installation.

3. Gross Inefficiency and War Zone Noise (Pipe Installation)

Over the course of the recent summer months, the installation of a pipe feeding into a drain took an excessively long and indefensible period to complete. The noise generated by this process; best described as **war zone-like steel on steel grinding**, was relentless.

Inquiry:

- For this specific implementation (a seemingly basic engineering task), provide a detailed breakdown of the internal **engineering schedule** and the actual person-hours expended. Justify why this task required such an exorbitant duration, leading to continuous, extreme noise pollution for neighboring residents.
- Provide the Community Impact Report and notification records regarding this specific installation, including the noise impact, dust pollution impact and timeline. Explain why the community was never warned of the severity or length of this acoustical intrusion.

The Direct Link to Systemic Accountability and Liability

These repeated failures in basic policy adherence, communication, and project efficiency are the direct consequences of the systemic operational and governance issues that have plagued the RWTP project for over a decade, resulting in its protracted 14-year schedule.

Your technical failures directly support the claim that the District is liable for the resulting property damage, safety risks (e.g., the previous Hazmat incident), and loss of residential habitability. We formally demand that these issues be immediately addressed, resolved, and documented.

We expect a complete, detailed response to these three operational inquiries, including all requested documentation, within five (5) business days. Your prompt action is necessary to minimize the financial and political exposure that these ongoing failures are creating for Valley Water's leadership.

Sincerely,

John Kenevey

From: [John Kenevey](#)
To: [CEO](#); [Theresa Chinte](#); [Melanie Richardson](#)
Cc: [Rebecca Eisenberg](#); [Board of Directors](#); [Candice Kwok-Smith](#); [Valley Water Risk Manager](#); [Aimee Green](#); [Lilian Dennis](#); [Michael Potter](#); [PublicRecords](#)
Subject: Re: DEMAND FOR IMMEDIATE EXPLANATION: Flagrant Policy Violations, Residential Intrusion, and Gross Inefficiency at Rinconada WTP Site (Project No. 93294057)
Date: Sunday, October 19, 2025 8:41:40 AM
Attachments: [DRAFT - Valley Water EIR Critical Analysis.pdf](#)

*** This email originated from outside of Valley Water. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. ***

SUBJECT: FORMAL TRANSMITTAL: DRAFT Investigative Dossier Submitted to State & Federal Agencies - Mandating Action on Compensation (ATTACHED)

Dear Ms. Richardson and Members of the Board,

The executive deadline for providing a substantive compensation offer has passed, and your organization has failed to meet this mandate, instead resorting to administrative delays.

This email serves as the official transmittal of the **attached Investigative Dossier: Systematic Fiduciary Collapse, Procurement Fraud and Environmental Regulatory crisis at Valley Water**. This is **one of four forensic reports** that I have compiled. These comprehensive reports consolidate all public domain evidence of malfeasance and will be forwarded to the relevant state and federal oversight agencies to initiate a full, independent forensic investigation. **There are four reports because the malfeasance is so broad and so deep**. The attached is a rebuttal of the notion that a 2015 EIR is used as a community impact assessment by Mr Ayree and team.

The report finds that the institutional crisis at Valley Water is rooted in structural corruption that has directly caused the decade-long failure of the RWTP project and warrants immediate criminal and financial review:

Key Findings of Fiduciary Failure and Statutory Violation:

1. **Illegal Contract Splitting:** The report documents the apparent intentional evasion of competitive bidding via the sole-source Cordoba Corporation contract (A4242G), awarded for **\$224,900** and then immediately expanded by **6,500%** to over **\$14.7 million**. This methodology provides prima facie evidence of a direct violation of the **California Public Contract Code §S 20150.11§**.
2. **Compromised Executive Leadership:** The District's two highest offices are compromised:
 - o **CEO Rick Callender** is receiving his **\$512,886 salary** while on paid administrative leave and under investigation for **criminal corruption and misconduct**.
 - o **Interim CEO Melanie Richardson** is serving despite her documented history of overseeing contracts with her husband's firm (RMC) that were

subject to DA investigation for **fraudulent billing and conflict of interest**.

3. **Judicial Obstruction:** VW spent **\$143,694** in ratepayer funds pursuing a lawsuit against a Director to compel the **destruction of 2,000 pages of documentary evidence** relating to alleged wrongdoing, demonstrating a concerted effort to conceal high-level misconduct.
4. **Project Collapse:** The initial **\$179.8 million** RWTP contract collapsed due to "poor workmanship", despite internal audits designating procurement as the agency's "**highest risk**" area.
5. **Failure of environmental compliance:** The project's internal crisis management documents themselves provide "new information of substantial importance" triggering the SEIR requirement. The acknowledgement in 2018 that the construction was plagued by "poor workmanship" and the "failure of the construction contractor to comply with Contract Documents" is direct evidence that environmental compliance may have failed. (**see attached report**)

Final Mandate

This Final Investigative Dossier confirms that the Executive Team and Board have engaged in systemic dereliction of duty.

While the report[s] is being formally submitted to external authorities this week, the resolution of my **Expanded Compensation Claim** (including the garage conversion and property remediation) remains the immediate and specific financial liability owed to the Rinconada community. I require an immediate, comprehensive offer from Risk Management to resolve this private liability.

Be advised: **Payment of the compensation claim is not, and will not be, a negotiation chip to halt the independent forensic investigation.** Accountability for the taxpayer is now the priority.

Sincerely,

John Kenevey

On Fri, Oct 17, 2025 at 1:54 PM John Kenevey [REDACTED] wrote:

SUBJECT: FINAL NOTICE – OCTOBER 17, 2025 DEADLINE: Executive Resolution Required for Compensation and Systemic Liability

Dear Ms. Richardson and Members of the Board,

This email serves as a formal reminder that **today, October 17, 2025**, is the established deadline for Valley Water's Risk Management and Legal Counsel to provide a substantive and comprehensive compensation offer regarding the Expanded Compensation Claim.

I maintain the expectation that a formal compensation package will be received today. I am writing to ensure there is absolute clarity regarding the District's belief

that this payment will somehow resolve the broader crisis:

Compensation is Not a Negotiation Chip to Halt Investigation

The payment of my compensation claim addresses only the **private financial liability** created by a decade of residential negligence, safety failures (Hazmat, privacy violations), and the ensuing loss of habitability—damages that are verifiably linked to the catastrophic failure of the RWTP project's original planning, execution and governance (or lack thereof).

I need to be unequivocally clear: **This compensation package is not, and will never be, a negotiation chip to halt my forensic investigation and the ultimate delivery of that complete report to state and federal agencies.**

The dysfunction at Valley Water requires a structural, independent remedy that extends far beyond a single residential settlement. The current leadership has demonstrated not only an inability but an unwillingness to enact the necessary ethical and operational remedies, as evidenced by the following facts:

- The collapse of the **\$179 million construction contract (C0601)** despite internal audits warning that **procurement and change order management** were Valley Water's "highest risk" areas.
- The continued payment of CEO Rick Callender's **\$512,886 salary** and travel expenses while he is on leave and under investigation for criminal corruption.
- The District's current expenditure of ratepayer funds on a lawsuit to compel the **destruction of 2,000 pages of documentary evidence.**
- The fact that the Interim CEO, Melanie Richardson, is potentially collecting a **\$1 million annual salary/pension** while possessing a documented history of fraud allegations regarding millions in RMC consulting contracts.

This profound crisis of governance and fiduciary negligence requires an outside party to force institutional change.

You, and all members of the executive management team, are public servants employed by and accountable to the taxpayer who funds this agency through continuous rate hikes. I assure you that my efforts will continue until the systemic corruption is fully exposed and accountability to the ratepayer is secured.

I anticipate the comprehensive offer from Legal Counsel by the end of today.

Sincerely,

John Kenevey

On Wed, Oct 15, 2025 at 7:23 PM John Kenevey [REDACTED] wrote:

TO: Melanie Richardson, interim CEO (CEO@valleywater.org)

SUBJECT: FINAL ULTIMATUM: Immediate Demand for Institutional Overhaul, Compensation, and Public Apology.

Dear Ms. Richardson (interim-CEO), Ms. Chinte (Chief of staff for the interim-CEO), and Members of the Board,

This communication is an immediate response to the comprehensive institutional information I have gathered regarding the executive management and governance of Valley Water.

My disappointment that neither the Chief of Staff nor the Public Relations Officer informed me of the CEOs leave of absence due to an internal investigation. This intentional concealment of vital information is **emblematic of the institutional dysfunction and lack of transparency** the Rinconada community has witnessed and endured for the past decade of the RWTP project.

Ms. Melanie Richardson these communications are all to you as acting CEO for Valley Water.

The Institutional Fraud and Cover-Up Confirmed

Through my forensic analysis I now understand the delay and negligence that caused the 14-year delay of the RWTP project and the documented safety failures (Hazmat incident, privacy violations, \$179M contract collapse) is now inextricably linked to a governance structure facing accusations of criminal corruption and self-dealing:

- **CEO Under Investigation:** The fact that the Chief Executive Officer, Rick Callender, has been on **fully paid administrative leave** while earning over **\$600,000 per year** and traveling internationally on the public dime, despite being under investigation for **sexual harassment, retaliation, and criminal corruption**, is an outrageous breach of fiduciary duty.
- **Interim CEO Scandal:** The current Interim CEO, Melanie Richardson, is potentially earning up to **\$1 million per year** (including her \$23,333 monthly pension) while having a documented history of overseeing contracts with her husband's firm (RMC) that were subject to a DA investigation for **fraudulent billing and alleged misappropriation of up to \$103 million** in taxpayer funds.
- **Destruction of Evidence:** The District is actively pursuing a costly lawsuit against a sitting Director to compel the destruction of **2,000 pages of documentary evidence** that allegedly incriminates Valley Water officers and Directors, a clear indication of a concerted cover-up effort.

Non-Negotiable Demands for Reform and Community Remedy

The systemic abuse of power and financial resources, which led directly to the collapse of the \$179 million RWTP contract despite internal audit warnings about high-risk procurement, mandates nothing less than a complete institutional overhaul.

Rinconada's loss of habitability is a direct result of leadership dysfunction, the Board needs to commit to the following remedial path:

1. **Public Apology and Acknowledgment of Dysfunction:** The interim CEO

and the entire Valley Water Board must issue a formal, unreserved public apology to the Rinconada community, both online and in the next public forum (October 21st), acknowledging the decade of negligence and systemic dysfunction.

2. **Executive Removal and Independent Search:**

- o CEO Rick Callender must be **immediately and permanently removed** from employment.
- o The next Chief Executive Officer must be an "**outsider**" hired by an **independent body** to break the institutional cycle of corruption and self-dealing.

3. **Resignation of Compromised Governance Leadership:** All non-elected Board-Appointed Officers and senior staff who oversaw the destruction of public trust must resign.

4. **Open Investigation and Compensation for Negligence:** The Board must publicly commit to initiating an **open, independent forensic investigation** into the misuse of funds on the RWTP project with a view to compensating the entire community for negligence and loss of habitability.

Intent to Escalate to Federal and State Authorities

Valley Water's capital program relies on a "diverse array of funding sources", which includes state and federal cost-sharing agreements and grants. I will continue my forensic analysis to understand which, if any, **federal and state authorities are investigating RWTP**, including the California Attorney General's office and relevant federal agencies responsible for overseeing public works funding.

Sincerely,

John Kenevey

On Fri, Oct 10, 2025 at 5:58 PM John Kenevey [REDACTED] wrote:

SUBJECT: MANDATORY CLARIFICATION & FINAL NOTICE: The Scope of October 17th Response Must Address Audited Systemic Failure and Compensation Liability

Dear Mr. Callender, and Members of the Executive Team,

I appreciate Mr. Aryee email acknowledging my inquiry and for confirming receipt of my correspondence. However, Mr. Callender, I am very disappointed by your **lack of confirmation** of my correspondence. I must formally and unequivocally reject the scope defined in Mr. Aryee's response. The matter at hand is not a request for an update on "Project Phases 3-6." It is a demand for executive accountability and financial resolution for the **systemic institutional negligence** that caused this project to collapse.

The failures that necessitate my Expanded Compensation Claim are directly linked to the massive financial mismanagement and governance failures that

have plagued the RWTP:

The Documented Failure of Project Governance

The RWTP project's financial and operational crisis is not an anomaly; it is a direct, predictable outcome of known control deficiencies:

1. **Contractual Collapse and Forensic Analysis:** The initial construction contract for the RWTP (C0601), originally valued at **\$179 million**, failed to execute the planned scope, resulting in its effective collapse and subsequent re-scoping after the acceptance of Phases 1 and 2 for \$152.8 million. This failure was so profound that Valley Water was forced to commission an external consultant to conduct a **forensic analysis** to determine the key financial and operational risks and then spend millions more on design "**re-packaging and re-bidding**" for the remaining phases.
2. **Highest Risk Warning Ignored:** The failure of this massive capital contract occurred during the precise period when Valley Water's own independent auditor (TAP International) had formally designated **Contract Change Order Management and Procurement** as areas of "**highest risk**" to the District. This confirms that the project collapsed due to a **failure of governance** to implement controls against fraud and negligence in the face of known, critical audit findings.

Final Demand for October 17, 2025

The deadline of **October 17, 2025**, is established as the date by which the **Executive Team and Legal Counsel** must present a substantive resolution to the District's severe, documented liability exposure. Any response that fails to address the following is deemed inadequate:

1. **Mandatory Compensation Offer:** A formal, written negotiation offer from **Risk Management/Legal Counsel** regarding the **Expanded Compensation Claim** (including the necessary funding for the garage conversion, triple-pane windows, and roof replacement).
2. **Accountability for Fiduciary Failure:** A response addressing the systemic issues that caused the failure, including the CEO's **\$577K salary and 20% premium policy** and the Board's **5% pay raise** amidst the \$222 million deficit.

Please be advised: If the response provided on October 17th is not a substantive settlement offer, all available information regarding the failed \$179 million contract, the forensic analysis, and the audit findings proving systemic control deficiencies will be immediately utilized to **request the Board initiate a full independent forensic investigation into fraud and negligence in the RWTP procurement process.**

Sincerely,

John Kenevey

On Wed, Oct 8, 2025 at 5:21 PM John Kenevey [REDACTED] wrote:

SUBJECT: FORMAL ESCALATION & ATTACHED PROOF: Undeniable Documentation of Institutional Negligence and Policy Failure Dating to RWTP Project Inception (URGENT)

Dear Mr. Callender, Ms. Chinte, and Members of the Board,

This is a critical update to my correspondence sent earlier today, which detailed the systemic operational failures and the necessity of immediate compensation. I have added Ms. Chinte, Chief of Staff, to this thread, as the subject matter and attached evidence demand executive-level **crisis intervention and action**.

Upon meticulous review of my decade-long archive of correspondence with Valley Water, I have retrieved and am attaching documentation that provides **undeniable proof** of the institutional negligence that has characterized the RWTP project since its inception in 2015. This evidence confirms that the most intrusive and damaging failures were raised and actively defended by staff **ten years** ago.

Indisputable Evidence: 2015 Policy Defense and Engineering Failure

Please review the attached original email correspondence, dated Fri, 9 Oct 2015, along with the attached video file. This documentation conclusively negates any possible claim that the District was unaware of, or is not responsible for, the current climate of operational incompetence:

1. **Direct Proof of Privacy Violation and Defense (2015 Email):** The attached email thread confirms that Valley Water staff not only placed the security hut and associated infrastructure (previously the port-a-potties) directly in front of my front bedroom window but **actively defended that placement** when challenged. This document proves that the ~18-month or longer intrusion into my personal life which rendered my bedroom unusable was a conscious, policy-backed institutional decision.
2. **Documented Engineering Failure (Attached Video):** The attached video shows a **double-barreled heavy-duty truck stuck at the facility gate** in 2015, unable to make the turn due to the gate's inadequate size and location. This incident, which necessitated truck traffic driving onto my personal path and damaging property, was known to the project team at the start of the project. This is irrefutable proof of initial engineering and site planning failure, which compounded noise and dust pollution problems for years.

The True Cost of Documented Incompetence

The documentation provided today demonstrates conclusively that the current project leadership and the institutional culture they inherited has been **unwilling to create a safe or tolerable environment** for residents. The failures I outlined in the previous email (Hazmat cover-up, chronic light pollution, and weekend excavation) are simply the most recent symptoms of a

pattern of negligence that began with the staff's decision to defend a security guard looking into my private home in 2015.

The massive volume of documentation I possess demonstrates that I do not need to rely on the soon to be filed CPRA requests to prove the District's liability; the documentation is already prepared. We expect Ms. Chinte to intervene immediately to coordinate a final agreement on the **expanded compensation claim** (including the garage conversion) to reflect the true cost of this decade of negligence.

Ms. Chinte, as the Chief of Staff, and Mr. Callender, as the Chief Executive Officer, you must recognize that this level of persistent institutional failure is now subject to the most intense **public scrutiny and external review**. This paper trail, which now spans the entire 10-year project duration and documents policy breaches, safety risks, and operational incompetence, creates an imminent risk of severe reputational consequence for the District and its leadership, especially when juxtaposed against the tripling of the timeline to complete the project, the increases in water rates to support the project, the budget shortfalls and the continued increases in compensation at the executive and board level, 'The Paradox of Cost and Accountability'

The compensation claim, now expanded to include the garage conversion, is the direct and justifiable financial consequence of the negligence that began in 2015. We expect immediate and decisive intervention from your office to finalize this remediation plan.

Further administrative delay in resolving this historic negligence will be interpreted as a political choice to defend institutional failures, thereby escalating the matter to the **public domain through all available channels**.

Sincerely,

John Kenevey

On Wed, Oct 8, 2025 at 8:49 AM John Kenevey [REDACTED] wrote:

SUBJECT: FORMAL ESCALATION & EXPANDED LIABILITY CLAIM: Unacceptable Decennial Pattern of Operational Failures, Privacy Violation, and Executive Compensation Disparity at RWTP

Dear Mr. Callender,

I am forwarding the recent operational complaint sent to your project management team, which details gross policy breaches—including unauthorized weekend excavation and chronic, unmitigated light pollution.

This escalation is a demand for direct executive intervention. The failures documented below are not merely technical oversights; they are evidence of a systemic breakdown in institutional responsibility and a profound inability to engage with or protect the community throughout the entire **10-year duration** of the Rinconada Water Treatment Plant (RWTP) project. I

express immense fatigue and anger at the sustained negligence.

A Decade of Institutional Negligence and Intimate Intrusion

The current project team failures are tragically consistent with a pattern of operational negligence that began when this project first mobilized:

- **Intrusion and Privacy Violation (18 Months):** At the project's start, the construction team first placed the portable toilets, and subsequently the permanent security hut, on the hill directly in front of my primary front bedroom window. A security guard routinely stood on the deck, looking directly into my private home and bedrooms, this was very unnerving to my wife and family. This egregious and unnerving invasion of privacy required approximately **18 months of constant complaint** to various staff members before the position was finally relocated.
- **Safety Risk and Security Failures:** The original entry gate was inappropriately sized, resulting in heavy trucks routinely driving off the access road, over my front bushes, and breaking the concrete path to gain entry. The gate as it stands today is due to my petitioning RWTP to 'fix' the issue, this took ~3 years to remedy. Furthermore, for nearly a year, a security car was permitted to sit parked in front of the gate, looking directly into my home, a situation I was eventually informed was due to **disgruntled employee threats** against the facility. This is a critical failure of site security that turned the residential neighborhood into a security outpost without community warning.
- **Unmitigated Pollution:** Throughout this entire decade-long period—from 2015 to the present day—the residential structural damage, extreme noise pollution and pervasive dust contamination were never properly assessed, accounted for, or mitigated, demonstrating a complete lack of regard for the health and welfare of those living immediately adjacent to the construction zone.

The Expectation of Empathy and Compensation

These failures, compounded by the previous **Hazmat incident** and the current violations, justify the financial demands being made. It is impossible to reconcile this pattern of institutional incompetence with the fiscal realities of Valley Water's leadership:

- You, Mr. Callender, are the CEO, and your reported **Total Wages exceed \$577,000**, underpinned by an internal policy that dictates your pay be **20% higher** than your next subordinate.
- The Board members who oversee this compensation recently voted themselves a **5% raise** while the District faced a substantial **\$222 million budget deficit** and instituted a hiring freeze.

The compensation received by the executive and governance staff imposes a moral and legal obligation to act decisively and ethically. We require the Board and executive leadership to show immediate empathy and accept full responsibility for the immense, decade-long disruption and property liability.

Expanded Compensation Demand (Garage Conversion)

Due to the cumulative, sustained effects of the structural, noise, light, and privacy intrusions, the front bedroom has been functionally unusable for a majority of the last ten years.

Therefore, upon further counsel, the property remediation claim currently under review by Risk Management is now **expanded** to include the necessary cost of converting the garage space into a habitable bedroom. This action is the absolute minimum requirement to restore the original level of residential function and privacy that Valley Water's project has systematically destroyed.

We expect immediate, direct intervention from your office to finalize the comprehensive compensation package, including this expanded claim. Any further delay in resolving this historic negligence will be interpreted as a willful decision to expose the District to public scrutiny regarding its executive compensation and its profound failure to protect the community.

Sincerely,

John Kenevey

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **John Kenevey** [REDACTED]
Date: Wed, Oct 8, 2025 at 6:42 AM
Subject: DEMAND FOR IMMEDIATE EXPLANATION: Flagrant Policy Violations, Residential Intrusion, and Gross Inefficiency at Rinconada WTP Site (Project No. 93294057)
To: Emmanuel Aryee <earyee@valleywater.org>, <bponce@valleywater.org>, <mmendez@valleywater.org>
Cc: <CEO@valleywater.org>, <reisenberg@valleywater.org>, <Board@valleywater.org>, <ckwok-smith@valleywater.org>, Aimee Green <AGreen@valleywater.org>

SUBJECT: DEMAND FOR IMMEDIATE EXPLANATION: Flagrant Policy Violations, Residential Intrusion, and Gross Inefficiency at Rinconada WTP Site (Project No. 93294057)

Dear Mr. Aryee, Mr. Ponce, and Ms. Mendez,

As the technical leadership responsible for the Rinconada Water Treatment Plant (RWTP) Reliability Improvement Project—an endeavor that has catastrophically ballooned into a projected 14-year construction timeline your team's recent operational decisions demonstrate a continued failure to adhere to stated policy and respect basic residential habitability.

Please consider this communication a formal demand for immediate answers and documentation regarding three distinct, highly disruptive,

project activities that directly contravene expected professional standards.

1. Flagrant Violation of Weekend Work Policy

This past weekend, your project team conducted heavy **excavation** work directly outside my property, starting at 7:00 AM and concluding at 4:00 PM. This activity produced noise pollution that can only be accurately described as being at a **nightclub level**.

Inquiry:

- Please immediately provide the specific policy language authorizing external, heavy excavation work on a weekend. The published community policy explicitly states that only indoor work is authorized during weekends.
- Provide all records indicating that the neighboring community was formally notified of this flagrant policy violation and the severity of the associated noise intrusion. If no such notice exists, explain who authorized the deviation and why the surrounding residents were excluded from the decision-making process.
- Provide the community impact report for this project.

2. Unauthorized and Unmitigated Light Pollution

For over a year, a high-intensity security light, presumably installed by the project, has been shining directly onto my property after dark and remains on all night. This light intrusion renders our front bedroom utterly **unusable** due to the sleep disturbance it causes. Furthermore, standard window blinds are useless given the unique shape of the upper window architecture.

Inquiry:

- Provide the Community Impact Report or lighting plan that justified the installation of this specific light fixture, including documentation of the light pollution study conducted to ensure compliance with local ordinances regarding residential illumination.
- Explain why zero mitigation efforts have been undertaken over the past year to redirect, shield, or time-limit this security lighting, despite the obvious and immediate impact on my home.
- Provide the community impact report for this installation.

3. Gross Inefficiency and War Zone Noise (Pipe Installation)

Over the course of the recent summer months, the installation of a pipe feeding into a drain took an excessively long and indefensible period to complete. The noise generated by this process; best described as **war zone-like steel on steel grinding**, was relentless.

Inquiry:

- For this specific implementation (a seemingly basic engineering task),

provide a detailed breakdown of the internal **engineering schedule** and the actual person-hours expended. Justify why this task required such an exorbitant duration, leading to continuous, extreme noise pollution for neighboring residents.

- Provide the Community Impact Report and notification records regarding this specific installation, including the noise impact, dust pollution impact and timeline. Explain why the community was never warned of the severity or length of this acoustical intrusion.

The Direct Link to Systemic Accountability and Liability

These repeated failures in basic policy adherence, communication, and project efficiency are the direct consequences of the systemic operational and governance issues that have plagued the RWTP project for over a decade, resulting in its protracted 14-year schedule.

Your technical failures directly support the claim that the District is liable for the resulting property damage, safety risks (e.g., the previous Hazmat incident), and loss of residential habitability. We formally demand that these issues be immediately addressed, resolved, and documented.

We expect a complete, detailed response to these three operational inquiries, including all requested documentation, within five (5) business days. Your prompt action is necessary to minimize the financial and political exposure that these ongoing failures are creating for Valley Water's leadership.

Sincerely,

John Kenevey

From: [John Kenevey](#)
To: [Yolanda Cervantes](#); [Emmanuel Aryee](#); [Aaron Baker](#); [Brandon Ponce](#); [Melanie Richardson](#); [Monica Mendez](#)
Cc: [PublicRecords](#); [Board of Directors](#); [Rebecca Eisenberg](#)
Subject: Re: FW: DEMAND FOR IMMEDIATE EXPLANATION: Flagrant Policy Violations, Residential Intrusion, and Gross Inefficiency at Rinconada WTP Site (Project No. 93294057)-RfPR 2025-6864
Date: Sunday, October 19, 2025 8:50:57 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[DRAFT - Valley Water EIR Critical Analysis.pdf](#)

*** This email originated from outside of Valley Water. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. ***

Hi Yolanda,

Thank you for the email. Using an EIR from 2015 is not advisable, please read the attached for your education.

I am embarrassed for you that Mr. Aryee and his project team would hide behind your email and this response and think that it is acceptable. It is yet another example of an organization that is dysfunctional and incapable of operating at a professional level.

Mr. Aryee you should resign, you are clearly in over your head.

Sincerely,
John Kenevey

On Fri, Oct 17, 2025 at 11:56 PM Yolanda Cervantes <YCervantes@valleywater.org> wrote:

Hello Mr. Kenevey,

The requests for public records listed in the email sent on 10/8/25 at 6:43 am were forwarded to the Records and Library Services Unit for processing.

For ease of communication, I have numbered each of your requests. Please see below a list of your requests as well as responses to each:

1. Flagrant Violation of Weekend Work Policy

- a. Please immediately provide the specific policy language authorizing external, heavy excavation work on a weekend.

Response: There is no record responsive to this request.

- b. Provide all records indicating that the neighboring community was formally notified of this flagrant policy violation and the severity of the associated noise intrusion. If no such notice exists, explain who authorized the deviation and why the surrounding residents were excluded from the decision-making process.

Response: There are no records responsive to this request. The work was not authorized by VW and VW is investigating why the work took place without authorization.

- c. Provide the community impact report for this project.

Response: There is no record responsive to this request. However, please note that there is an Environmental Impact Report and it can be found on the following link:

<https://www.valleywater.org/project-updates/rinconada-water-treatment-plant-reliability-improvement>

2. Unauthorized and Unmitigated Light Pollution

- a. Provide the Community Impact Report or lighting plan that justified the installation of this specific light fixture, including documentation of the light pollution study conducted to ensure compliance with local ordinances regarding residential illumination.

Response: There are no records responsive to this request. Valley Water staff have investigated this and found no high-intensity security light installed by the project.

- b. Explain why zero mitigation efforts have been undertaken over the past year to redirect, shield, or time-limit this security lighting, despite the obvious and

immediate impact on my home.

Response: Valley Water staff have investigated this and found no high-intensity security light installed by the project.

- c. Provide the community impact report for this installation.

Response: There is no record responsive to this request. However, please note that there is an Environmental Impact Report and it can be found on the following link:

<https://www.valleywater.org/project-updates/rinconada-water-treatment-plant-reliability-improvement>

3. Gross Inefficiency and War Zone Noise (Pipe Installation)

- a. For this specific implementation (a seemingly basic engineering task), provide a detailed breakdown of the internal **engineering schedule** and the actual person hours expended. Justify why this task required such an exorbitant duration, leading to continuous, extreme noise pollution for neighboring residents.

Response: VW staff are searching for a detailed breakdown of the internal engineering schedule and the actual person-hours expended was prepared. If such records exist, they will be provided. We anticipate providing an update on 10/31/25.

- b. Provide the Community Impact Report and notification records regarding this specific installation, including the noise impact, dust pollution impact and

timeline. Explain why the community was never warned of the severity or length of this acoustical intrusion.

Response: There is no record responsive to this request. However, please note that there is an Environmental Impact Report and it can be found on the following link: <https://www.valleywater.org/project-updates/rinconada-water-treatment-plant-reliability-improvement>

Regards,

Yolanda

YOLANDA M. CERVANTES

STAFF ANALYST

Records & Library Services Unit

Tel. (408) 630-2694

For records requests, please use:

PublicRecords@valleywater.org

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VALLEY WATER

5750 Almaden Expressway, San Jose CA 95118

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From: John Kenevey [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, October 8, 2025 6:43 AM
To: Emmanuel Aryee <EAryee@valleywater.org>; Brandon Ponce <BPonce@valleywater.org>;
Monica Mendez <MMendez@valleywater.org>
Cc: CEO <ceo@valleywater.org>; Rebecca Eisenberg <Reisenberg@valleywater.org>; Board of
Directors <board@valleywater.org>; Candice Kwok-Smith <ckwok-smith@valleywater.org>; Aimee
Green <AGreen@valleywater.org>
Subject: DEMAND FOR IMMEDIATE EXPLANATION: Flagrant Policy Violations, Residential Intrusion,
and Gross Inefficiency at Rinconada WTP Site (Project No. 93294057)

*** This email originated from outside of Valley Water. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. ***

SUBJECT: DEMAND FOR IMMEDIATE EXPLANATION: Flagrant Policy Violations, Residential Intrusion, and Gross Inefficiency at Rinconada WTP Site (Project No. 93294057)

Dear Mr. Aryee, Mr. Ponce, and Ms. Mendez,

As the technical leadership responsible for the Rinconada Water Treatment Plant (RWTP) Reliability Improvement Project—an endeavor that has catastrophically ballooned into a projected 14-year construction timeline your team’s recent operational decisions demonstrate a continued failure to adhere to stated policy and respect basic residential habitability.

Please consider this communication a formal demand for immediate answers and documentation regarding three distinct, highly disruptive, project activities that directly contravene expected professional standards.

1. Flagrant Violation of Weekend Work Policy

This past weekend, your project team conducted heavy **excavation** work directly outside my property, starting at 7:00 AM and concluding at 4:00 PM. This activity produced noise pollution that can only be accurately described as being at a **nightclub level**.

Inquiry:

- Please immediately provide the specific policy language authorizing external, heavy excavation work on a weekend. The published community policy explicitly states that only indoor work is authorized during weekends.
- Provide all records indicating that the neighboring community was formally notified of this flagrant policy violation and the severity of the associated noise intrusion. If no such notice exists, explain who authorized the deviation and why the surrounding residents were excluded from the decision-making process.
- Provide the community impact report for this project.

2. Unauthorized and Unmitigated Light Pollution

For over a year, a high-intensity security light, presumably installed by the project, has been shining directly onto my property after dark and remains on all night. This light intrusion renders our front bedroom utterly **unusable** due to the sleep disturbance it causes. Furthermore, standard window blinds are useless given the unique shape of the upper window architecture.

Inquiry:

- Provide the Community Impact Report or lighting plan that justified the installation of this specific light fixture, including documentation of the light pollution study conducted to ensure compliance with local ordinances regarding residential illumination.
- Explain why zero mitigation efforts have been undertaken over the past year to redirect, shield, or time-limit this security lighting, despite the obvious and immediate impact on my home.
- Provide the community impact report for this installation.

3. Gross Inefficiency and War Zone Noise (Pipe Installation)

Over the course of the recent summer months, the installation of a pipe feeding into

a drain took an excessively long and indefensible period to complete. The noise generated by this process; best described as **war zone-like steel on steel grinding**, was relentless.

Inquiry:

- For this specific implementation (a seemingly basic engineering task), provide a detailed breakdown of the internal **engineering schedule** and the actual person-hours expended. Justify why this task required such an exorbitant duration, leading to continuous, extreme noise pollution for neighboring residents.
- Provide the Community Impact Report and notification records regarding this specific installation, including the noise impact, dust pollution impact and timeline. Explain why the community was never warned of the severity or length of this acoustical intrusion.

The Direct Link to Systemic Accountability and Liability

These repeated failures in basic policy adherence, communication, and project efficiency are the direct consequences of the systemic operational and governance issues that have plagued the RWTP project for over a decade, resulting in its protracted 14-year schedule.

Your technical failures directly support the claim that the District is liable for the resulting property damage, safety risks (e.g., the previous Hazmat incident), and loss of residential habitability. We formally demand that these issues be immediately addressed, resolved, and documented.

We expect a complete, detailed response to these three operational inquiries, including all requested documentation, within five (5) business days. Your prompt action is necessary to minimize the financial and political exposure that these ongoing failures are creating for Valley Water's leadership.

Sincerely,

John Kenevey

From: [John Kenevey](#)
To: [Michael Potter](#); [Melanie Richardson](#); [Rebecca Eisenberg](#); [Board of Directors](#); [Candice Kwok-Smith](#)
Cc: [Aimee Green](#)
Subject: Re: Saturday Work at Rinconada
Date: Sunday, October 19, 2025 8:59:50 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)

*** This email originated from outside of Valley Water. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. ***

Michael,

Below is a section from one of four forensic reports I am working on in order to send to state and federal agencies for a full investigation into the malfeasance at RWTP. The last bolded sentence is what I'd suggest you internalize - **if Valley Water staff focused on results and doing the right thing** as opposed to internal dealing and manicuring a false image Valley Water would not be in the mess it is in.

Sincerely,
John Kenevey

*"This commitment to image management extends to external consultants. VW utilizes communications firms such as Rauch Communication Consultants, Inc., for strategic planning workshops. Furthermore, firms like Tripepi Smith, who specialize in providing marketing, technology, and public affairs services to California public agencies to help "leverage the internet to achieve their communication goals" , have worked with Valley Water Company and related entities. In the context of the RWTP project's massive failures, cost overruns, and allegations of legal misconduct, VW's demonstrated priority in funding a comprehensive strategic communications strategy and employing external PR professionals suggests the agency maintains an institutional mechanism to **proactively mitigate negative public reaction and protect executive reputation, potentially diverting financial and human resources away from core operational and oversight responsibilities.**"*

On Fri, Oct 17, 2025 at 1:30 PM John Kenevey [REDACTED] wrote:

Michael, it won't take me long to find out who you report into and the broader organizational structure and budget.

My forensic investigation will broaden its focus to understand who in the press and PR industry valley water has on the payroll.

You now have the option of cooperating with me and providing that information ahead of time.

All of this information will get rolled up into a forensic report and delivered to state and federal agencies.

Sincerely,

John Kenevey

On Wed, Oct 15, 2025 at 10:53 PM John Kenevey [REDACTED] wrote:

Thank you. Who do you report into (name/title)?

John

On Wed, Oct 15, 2025 at 11:27 AM Michael Potter <MPotter@valleywater.org> wrote:

Hello Mr. Kenevey-

We have met before; I am Aimee's supervisor and have been the emcee for our Rinconada community meetings.

Thanks,

Mike Potter

From: John Kenevey [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, October 15, 2025 11:25 AM
To: Aimee Green <AGreen@valleywater.org>
Cc: Michael Potter <MPotter@valleywater.org>
Subject: Re: Saturday Work at Rinconada

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Michael as you have been added to the thread please introduce yourself.

Thank you.

John

On Wed, Oct 15, 2025 at 11:23 AM Aimee Green <AGreen@valleywater.org> wrote:

Hi John,

You can reach our interim CEO, Melanie Richardson, at her email address below.

mrichardson@valleywater.org

Thank you,

AIMEE GREEN

Pronouns: she/her
PUBLIC INFORMATION REPRESENTATIVE II

Office of Communications

agreen@valleywater.org

Tel. (408) 630-2342



SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

[5750 Almaden Expressway, San Jose CA 95118](https://www.valleywater.org)
www.valleywater.org

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From: John Kenevey <jkenevey@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, October 14, 2025 4:12 PM
To: Aimee Green <AGreen@valleywater.org>
Subject: Re: Saturday Work at Rinconada

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Aimee,

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Please provide me with Melanie Richardson's email address.

John

On Wed, Oct 8, 2025 at 8:59 AM Aimee Green <AGreen@valleywater.org> wrote:

Hi John,

Please see Theresa's email address.

Tchinte@valleywater.org.

Best Regards,

Aimee

From: John Kenevey [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, October 8, 2025 7:20:12 AM
To: Aimee Green <AGreen@valleywater.org>

Subject: Re: Saturday Work at Rinconada

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Aimee,

Please provide me with the email for Theresa Chinte, Chief of Staff to the CEO.

Thank you,

John

On Tue, Oct 7, 2025 at 7:24 AM Aimee Green <AGreen@valleywater.org> wrote:

Hi John,

As requested, the Rinconada Water Treatment Plant Reliability Improvement Project team and their contacts are below.

Emmanuel Aryee, P.E

Deputy Operating Officer

Water Utility Capital Division

earyee@valleywater.org

Brandon Ponce, P.E.

Capital Engineering Manager

Treatment Plants Project Delivery Unit

bponce@valleywater.org

Monica Mendez, P.E.
Senior Engineer

Water Utility Capital Division

mmendez@valleywater.org

Thank you,

AIMEE GREEN

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From: John Kenevey <jkenevey@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, October 7, 2025 6:08 AM
To: Aimee Green <AGreen@valleywater.org>
Subject: Re: Saturday Work at Rinconada

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Hi Aimee,

You've had an entire business day to send me the emails addresses of the project team at Rinconada as we discussed on our 10am call yesterday. When can I expect them?

John

On Mon, Oct 6, 2025 at 8:32 AM Aimee Green <AGreen@valleywater.org> wrote:

Hi John,

Thank you for letting me know, I'll call you after 10 a.m.

Talk to you soon,

Aimee

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From: John Kenevey [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, October 6, 2025 8:30:17 AM
To: Aimee Green <AGreen@valleywater.org>
Subject: Re: Saturday Work at Rinconada

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Thanks Aimee. I'll be unable to pick up until after 10am fyi.

Thanks,

John

On Mon, Oct 6, 2025 at 7:03 AM Aimee Green <AGreen@valleywater.org> wrote:

Good Morning John,

I am following up to the voicemails you left for me on Saturday. Thank you for reaching out to me!

I plan to call you after 8 am to get more details, and wanted you to know I am in communication with our Rinconada team regarding the construction noise.

Thank you,

AIMEE GREEN

Pronouns: she/her

PUBLIC INFORMATION REPRESENTATIVE II

Office of Communications

agreen@valleywater.org

Tel. (408) 630-2342



From: [John Kenevey](#)
To: [Aimee Green](#); [Michael Potter](#)
Cc: [CEO](#); [Theresa Chinte](#); [Rebecca Eisenberg](#); [Board of Directors](#); [Candice Kwok-Smith](#); [Valley Water Risk Manager](#); [Emmanuel Aryee](#); [Melanie Richardson](#)
Subject: Re: FORMAL NOTICE: Public Agenda Items for Upcoming Board Meeting – Governance Crisis, Fiduciary Negligence, and Compensation Liability
Date: Sunday, October 19, 2025 9:16:52 AM

***** This email originated from outside of Valley Water. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. *****

Aimee,

It is a mistake not to coordinate with me prior to the public community meeting this week. I have little faith that Ms. Richardson will make a public apology, nor an honest explanation be provided to the community that Valley Water has abused for 10 years. The **organizational pathology** you are tasked with defending - a structure paralyzed by leadership under criminal investigation - is not capable of comprehending honest public engagement. These demands will be achieved through legal means, not a public meeting.

To walk into a public meeting after the communications I have had with Valley Water over the past two weeks, and not seek some level of coordination, is not how public relations works. You have my phone number. You (or Michael) should reach out.

Sincerely,
John Kenevey

On Wed, Oct 15, 2025 at 7:24 PM John Kenevey [REDACTED] wrote:

SUBJECT: FORMAL DEMAND: Revised Public Meeting Agenda (Oct. 21) – Accountability for Governance Crisis, Criminal Corruption, and Public Apology

Dear Ms. Green,

This email serves as the final, formal notification regarding the non-negotiable agenda items that will be presented during the public comment period of the upcoming community meeting on Tuesday, October 21st, at the Rinconada Water Treatment Plant.

The crisis at Valley Water is no longer administrative; it is a **systemic governance failure** that threatens the financial and legal integrity of the District. The Executive Team's decision to conceal critical information regarding the true scale of the corruption - while demanding rate increases from the public - is an indictment of the institution's integrity.

I. Public Agenda: The Paradox of Corruption and Accountability

The public presentation will focus on the catastrophic failure of fiduciary duty, which is the root cause of the decade of residential negligence:

- **Executive Corruption and Cover-Up:** The public will be informed that the CEO, Rick Callender, has been on **fully paid administrative leave since mid-December**

2024 (salary ~\$512,886/year) while under investigation for **sexual harassment, retaliation, and criminal corruption.**

- **Destruction of Evidence:** The Board is currently spending hundreds of thousands of ratepayer dollars on a lawsuit to compel a Director to destroy **2,000 pages of documentary evidence** that allegedly incriminates Valley Water Officers and Directors.
- **Interim CEO Conflict:** The Interim CEO, Melanie Richardson, who is potentially earning **\$1 million annually** (salary + pension), faces a documented history of conflict and fraud allegations regarding her firm (RMC Consulting) receiving **multi-million dollar contracts** and is now actively seeking to run against a current Board member.
- **Infrastructure Collapse:** The subsequent failure of the RWTP's initial **\$179 million construction contract** occurred despite internal audits warning that **procurement and change order management were the District's areas of "highest risk"**.

II. Non-Negotiable Demands for Structural Remedy

The resolution of the community's chronic loss of habitability requires the Board committing to the following institutional overhaul:

1. **Mandatory Public Apology:** The CEO and the entire Valley Water Board must issue a formal, unreserved public apology to the community in the public forum (October 21st) and online, acknowledging the decade of negligence and the systemic dysfunction.
2. **Immediate Executive Removal and Independent Search:** CEO Rick Callender must be **immediately and permanently removed** from employment. The search for the next CEO must be conducted by an independent, external body to ensure the new leader is an **"outsider"** with no ties to the current compromised management.
3. **Governance Resignations:** All non-elected Board-Appointed Officers and senior staff who oversaw this destruction of public trust, including the current Chairman of the Board, must resign.
4. **Community Compensation and Forensic Investigation:** The Board must publicly commit to initiating an **open, independent forensic investigation** into fraud and negligence within the \$461 million RWTP project and publicly commit to **compensating the community** for loss of habitability due to institutional negligence.

III. Notice of Imminent External Escalation

I am continuing my investigation and will **report at the meeting if the appropriate federal and state authorities**, including the California Attorney General's office and relevant federal agencies responsible for overseeing public works funding are investigating Valley Water.

The October 17th deadline for Risk Management to provide a substantive offer is final. The

agenda for the public meeting is now set.

Sincerely,

John Kenevey

On Fri, Oct 10, 2025 at 6:09 PM John Kenevey <[REDACTED]> wrote:

SUBJECT: FORMAL NOTICE: Public Agenda Items for Upcoming Public Meeting – Governance Crisis, Fiduciary Negligence, and Compensation Liability

Dear Ms. Green,

This email serves as a formal notification, provided to you in your capacity as Public Relations Officer, regarding the high-priority governance and fiduciary items that will be presented during the upcoming neighborhood meeting.

As you are aware (via the ongoing correspondence copied above), the District is currently managing a crisis involving systemic operational negligence at the Rinconada Water Treatment Plant (RWTP) and extreme financial liability—liability that is now proven to be the direct result of documented institutional failures.

The objective of presenting this information publicly is to compel the Board of Directors to demonstrate a necessary commitment to fiscal prudence and accountability, a commitment that has been demonstrably absent during the decade-long RWTP project failure.

I. Public Agenda Item: The Paradox of Cost and Accountability

The public presentation will focus on the fundamental paradox of Valley Water asking ratepayers to absorb a 9.9% wholesale rate increase to fund failing infrastructure while the agency's leadership simultaneously prioritizes self-interest over fiscal restraint.

This includes public discussion of:

- The Board's unanimous decision to approve a **5% pay raise** for themselves while enforcing a staff hiring freeze due to a **\$222 million budget deficit**.
- The controversial policy mandating that the Chief Executive Officer's total compensation, which exceeded **\$577,000 in 2024**, must be inflated by a **20% premium** over the highest-paid executive beneath him.
- The direct link between this irresponsible spending structure and the catastrophic failure of the RWTP's initial **\$179 million construction contract (C0601)**, which was abandoned and required expensive forensic analysis due to project collapse.

II. Measures to Restore Public Trust and Fiduciary Prudence

The Board will be formally requested to adopt the following four measures immediately:

1. **Immediate Revision of Executive Compensation Policy:** Valley Water must eliminate the internal policy requiring the CEO's salary to maintain a fixed percentage premium (the 20% rule) over subordinate executives. Future compensation must be determined solely through independent benchmarking against the market median of comparable public water agencies.
2. **Imposition of Governance Cost Restraint:** The Board of Directors should immediately rescind or freeze any recent compensation increases until the District's documented budget deficits are structurally eliminated and fiscal reserves are stabilized. Director compensation must be aligned with the same level of austerity imposed on District staff during cost-control periods.
3. **Mandatory Capital Project Budgetary Oversight:** Given the scale and complexity of the CIP, the District should mandate quarterly, public-facing reports on all capital projects exceeding a \$100 million threshold. These reports must detail budget variance, schedule deviations, and provide comprehensive justification for all major inter-fiscal year fund reallocations.
4. **Enhanced Transparency in Rate Justification:** To improve public acceptance of necessary rate hikes, the District must explicitly detail the exact percentage of the rate increase dedicated to essential capital investment (like the RWTP) versus the portion allocated to operational overhead and administrative functions.

Please ensure the Executive Team is aware of this public agenda. The initiation of a formal audit investigation into the RWTP procurement failures and the subsequent release of all supporting documentation will be the inevitable next step if Risk Management fails to present a good-faith resolution to the Expanded Compensation Claim (including the garage conversion) before the meeting date.

Sincerely,

John Kenevey

From: [John Kenevey](#)
To: [Michael Potter](#); [Linh Hoang](#); [Rachael Gibson](#)
Cc: [Melanie Richardson](#); [Rebecca Eisenberg](#); [Board of Directors](#); [Candice Kwok-Smith](#); [Aimee Green](#); [Yolanda Cervantes](#); [Lilian Dennis](#); [Emmanuel Arvee](#)
Subject: Re: Saturday Work at Rinconada
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 12:12:48 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image002.png](#)

*** This email originated from outside of Valley Water. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. ***

Thank you.

I would appreciate it if one of you could call me before this evening's public meeting — not because I'm looking to express my opinion at it; I'll be doing that at future official board meetings. Rather, because Valley Water owes this community an apology for the years of bullying, dishonesty, and mismanagement it has endured and I need to get an assurance that will happen. If you have not come to that conclusion after what I've exposed in the past two weeks you are all lying to yourselves.

Sincerely,

John Kenevey

On Mon, Oct 20, 2025 at 8:36 PM Michael Potter <MPotter@valleywater.org> wrote:

Hello Mr. Kenevey-

My apologies for the delay in responding to your emailed question about my reporting structure here at Valley Water.

I report to Linh Hoang (lhoang@valleywater.org) who manages the office of communications. Linh reports directly to Rachael Gibson (rgibson@valleywater.org) who is our Chief of External Affairs.

Sincerely,

MIKE POTTER
COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAM SUPERVISOR

Office of Communications

mpotter@valleywater.org

Tel. (408) 630-2878

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[5750 Almaden Expressway, San Jose CA 95118](https://www.valleywater.org)
www.valleywater.org

From: John Kenevey [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, October 17, 2025 5:30 AM
To: Michael Potter <MPotter@valleywater.org>; Melanie Richardson <mrichardson@valleywater.org>; Rebecca Eisenberg <Reisenberg@valleywater.org>; Board of Directors <board@valleywater.org>; Candice Kwok-Smith <ckwok-smith@valleywater.org>
Cc: Aimee Green <AGreen@valleywater.org>
Subject: Re: Saturday Work at Rinconada

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Michael, it won't take me long to find out who you report into and the broader organizational structure and budget.

My forensic investigation will broaden its focus to understand who in the press and PR industry valley water has on the payroll.

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On Wed, Oct 15, 2025 at 10:53 PM John Kenevey [REDACTED] wrote:

Thank you. Who do you report into (name/title)?

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Thanks,

Mike Potter

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Sent: Wednesday, October 15, 2025 11:25 AM
To: Aimee Green <AGreen@valleywater.org>

Cc: Michael Potter <MPotter@valleywater.org>

Subject: Re: Saturday Work at Rinconada

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Thank you.

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On Wed, Oct 15, 2025 at 11:23 AM Aimee Green <AGreen@valleywater.org> wrote:

Hi John,

You can reach our interim CEO, Melanie Richardson, at her email address below.

mrichardson@valleywater.org

Thank you,

AIMEE GREEN

Pronouns: she/her
PUBLIC INFORMATION REPRESENTATIVE II

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agreen@valleywater.org

Tel. (408) 630-2342



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Hi John,

Please see Theresa's email address.

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Best Regards,

Aimee

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Deputy Operating Officer

Water Utility Capital Division

earyee@valleywater.org

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Capital Engineering Manager

Treatment Plants Project Delivery Unit

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Monica Mendez, P.E.

Senior Engineer

Water Utility Capital Division

mmendez@valleywater.org

Thank you,

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Pronouns: she/her

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Thank you,

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From: [John Kenevey](#)
To: [CEO](#); [Theresa Chinte](#); [Melanie Richardson](#)
Cc: [Rebecca Eisenberg](#); [Board of Directors](#); [Candice Kwok-Smith](#); [Valley Water Risk Manager](#); [Aimee Green](#); [Lilian Dennis](#); [Michael Potter](#); [PublicRecords](#); [Linh Hoang](#); [Rachael Gibson](#); [Yolanda Cervantes](#); [Emmanuel Arvee](#); [Aaron Baker](#); [Monica Mendez](#); [Brandon Ponce](#)
Subject: Re: DEMAND FOR IMMEDIATE EXPLANATION: Flagrant Policy Violations, Residential Intrusion, and Gross Inefficiency at Rinconada WTP Site (Project No. 93294057)
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 4:18:15 AM

*** This email originated from outside of Valley Water. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. ***

SUBJECT: OBSERVATIONAL UPDATE: The Open Secret of Valley Water Dysfunction - External Accountability is Now Mandatory

Dear All,

This correspondence is to provide the Executive Team and board with an essential external perspective ahead of the community meeting this evening and the ongoing external investigations.

Over the past few days, I have engaged in conversations with multiple state and county politicians currently seeking office - they are readily available as they are seeking my vote. I made a simple inquiry regarding the financial controversies and management culture at Valley Water, specifically concerning insider dealings and the functional collapse of major capital projects.

I relay their consensus back to the executive leadership team with a degree of almost comical resignation: The institutional dysfunction, the financial conflicts, and the operational paralysis that you and your colleagues seem determined to conceal is, in fact, **common knowledge** in Sacramento and throughout Santa Clara County.

The Charm of the Open Secret

It is almost charming that an organization that pays its CEO over **\$512,000 annually** and spends \$143,694 fighting a lawsuit to compel the destruction of **2,000 pages of evidence** believes its misconduct is a secret - indeed the only people who do not know is the community that you have abused for ten years. On the contrary, your agency's decade-long failure to manage public funds and its susceptibility to insider dealings are staples of local political discourse. Politicians confirmed they have been fighting this exact dysfunction through various commissions for years. I have been told that the misconduct of the CEO goes back nearly 20 years, in other words you have enabled an individual who is under investigation for sexual misconduct, to roam the halls of your organization for nearly two decades. WOW!

The operational ineptitude demonstrated by your project team - which turns a five-year project into a 15-year spectacle - is merely the symptom of this widely known **dereliction of duty** at the governance level.

The End of Administrative Containment

The executive team can no longer pretend that this is a private administrative matter or a schedule update on "Phase 3-6." The entire state political class is already fully aware of the crisis.

The **Final Investigative Dossier**, which details the **illegal contract splitting** and the **criminal corruption investigation against the CEO**, is being formally transmitted this week. The opportunity for internal containment has vanished. I have little faith that the State will solve Valley Waters issues as they have clearly failed over a number of years so it will be Federal, D.O.G.E like entities that I will press on to ensure that the Rinconada community gets resolution.

The time for performative ignorance is over. I require the Executive Team to address the actual crisis - the structural corruption and the resulting community liability - immediately.

I expect an apology to the community in this evening's meeting.

Sincerely,

John Kenevey

On Sun, Oct 19, 2025 at 4:40 PM John Kenevey [REDACTED] wrote:

SUBJECT: FORMAL TRANSMITTAL: DRAFT Investigative Dossier Submitted to State & Federal Agencies - Mandating Action on Compensation (ATTACHED)

Dear Ms. Richardson and Members of the Board,

The executive deadline for providing a substantive compensation offer has passed, and your organization has failed to meet this mandate, instead resorting to administrative delays.

This email serves as the official transmittal of the **attached Investigative Dossier: Systematic Fiduciary Collapse, Procurement Fraud and Environmental Regulatory crisis at Valley Water**. This is **one of four forensic reports** that I have compiled. These comprehensive reports consolidate all public domain evidence of malfeasance and will be forwarded to the relevant state and federal oversight agencies to initiate a full, independent forensic investigation. **There are four reports because the malfeasance is so broad and so deep**. The attached is a rebuttal of the notion that a 2015 EIR is used as a community impact assessment by Mr Ayree and team.

The report finds that the institutional crisis at Valley Water is rooted in structural corruption that has directly caused the decade-long failure of the RWTP project and warrants immediate criminal and financial review:

Key Findings of Fiduciary Failure and Statutory Violation:

1. **Illegal Contract Splitting:** The report documents the apparent intentional evasion of competitive bidding via the sole-source Cordoba Corporation contract (A4242G), awarded for **\$224,900** and then immediately expanded by

6,500% to over **\$14.7 million**. This methodology provides prima facie evidence of a direct violation of the **California Public Contract Code §1S 20150.11§**.

2. **Compromised Executive Leadership:** The District's two highest offices are compromised:
 - o **CEO Rick Callender** is receiving his **\$512,886 salary** while on paid administrative leave and under investigation for **criminal corruption and misconduct**.
 - o **Interim CEO Melanie Richardson** is serving despite her documented history of overseeing contracts with her husband's firm (RMC) that were subject to DA investigation for **fraudulent billing and conflict of interest**.
3. **Judicial Obstruction:** VW spent **\$143,694** in ratepayer funds pursuing a lawsuit against a Director to compel the **destruction of 2,000 pages of documentary evidence** relating to alleged wrongdoing, demonstrating a concerted effort to conceal high-level misconduct.
4. **Project Collapse:** The initial **\$179.8 million** RWTP contract collapsed due to "poor workmanship", despite internal audits designating procurement as the agency's "**highest risk**" area.
5. **Failure of environmental compliance:** The project's internal crisis management documents themselves provide "new information of substantial importance" triggering the SEIR requirement. The acknowledgement in 2018 that the construction was plagued by "poor workmanship" and the "failure of the construction contractor to comply with Contract Documents" is direct evidence that environmental compliance may have failed. (**see attached report**)

Final Mandate

This Final Investigative Dossier confirms that the Executive Team and Board have engaged in systemic dereliction of duty.

While the report[s] is being formally submitted to external authorities this week, the resolution of my **Expanded Compensation Claim** (including the garage conversion and property remediation) remains the immediate and specific financial liability owed to the Rinconada community. I require an immediate, comprehensive offer from Risk Management to resolve this private liability.

Be advised: **Payment of the compensation claim is not, and will not be, a negotiation chip to halt the independent forensic investigation.** Accountability for the taxpayer is now the priority.

Sincerely,

John Kenevey

On Fri, Oct 17, 2025 at 1:54 PM John Kenevey [REDACTED] wrote:

SUBJECT: FINAL NOTICE – OCTOBER 17, 2025 DEADLINE: Executive

Resolution Required for Compensation and Systemic Liability

Dear Ms. Richardson and Members of the Board,

This email serves as a formal reminder that **today, October 17, 2025**, is the established deadline for Valley Water's Risk Management and Legal Counsel to provide a substantive and comprehensive compensation offer regarding the Expanded Compensation Claim.

I maintain the expectation that a formal compensation package will be received today. I am writing to ensure there is absolute clarity regarding the District's belief that this payment will somehow resolve the broader crisis:

Compensation is Not a Negotiation Chip to Halt Investigation

The payment of my compensation claim addresses only the **private financial liability** created by a decade of residential negligence, safety failures (Hazmat, privacy violations), and the ensuing loss of habitability—damages that are verifiably linked to the catastrophic failure of the RWTP project's original planning, execution and governance (or lack thereof).

I need to be unequivocally clear: **This compensation package is not, and will never be, a negotiation chip to halt my forensic investigation and the ultimate delivery of that complete report to state and federal agencies.**

The dysfunction at Valley Water requires a structural, independent remedy that extends far beyond a single residential settlement. The current leadership has demonstrated not only an inability but an unwillingness to enact the necessary ethical and operational remedies, as evidenced by the following facts:

- The collapse of the **\$179 million construction contract (C0601)** despite internal audits warning that **procurement and change order management** were Valley Water's "highest risk" areas.
- The continued payment of CEO Rick Callender's **\$512,886 salary** and travel expenses while he is on leave and under investigation for criminal corruption.
- The District's current expenditure of ratepayer funds on a lawsuit to compel the **destruction of 2,000 pages of documentary evidence.**
- The fact that the Interim CEO, Melanie Richardson, is potentially collecting a **\$1 million annual salary/pension** while possessing a documented history of fraud allegations regarding millions in RMC consulting contracts.

This profound crisis of governance and fiduciary negligence requires an outside party to force institutional change.

You, and all members of the executive management team, are public servants employed by and accountable to the taxpayer who funds this agency through continuous rate hikes. I assure you that my efforts will continue until the systemic corruption is fully exposed and accountability to the ratepayer is secured.

I anticipate the comprehensive offer from Legal Counsel by the end of today.

Sincerely,

John Kenevey

On Wed, Oct 15, 2025 at 7:23 PM John Kenevey [REDACTED] wrote:

TO: Melanie Richardson, interim CEO (CEO@valleywater.org)

SUBJECT: FINAL ULTIMATUM: Immediate Demand for Institutional Overhaul, Compensation, and Public Apology.

Dear Ms. Richardson (interim-CEO), Ms. Chinte (Chief of staff for the interim-CEO), and Members of the Board,

This communication is an immediate response to the comprehensive institutional information I have gathered regarding the executive management and governance of Valley Water.

My disappointment that neither the Chief of Staff nor the Public Relations Officer informed me of the CEOs leave of absence due to an internal investigation. This intentional concealment of vital information is **emblematic of the institutional dysfunction and lack of transparency** the Rinconada community has witnessed and endured for the past decade of the RWTP project.

Ms. Melanie Richardson these communications are all to you as acting CEO for Valley Water.

The Institutional Fraud and Cover-Up Confirmed

Through my forensic analysis I now understand the delay and negligence that caused the 14-year delay of the RWTP project and the documented safety failures (Hazmat incident, privacy violations, \$179M contract collapse) is now inextricably linked to a governance structure facing accusations of criminal corruption and self-dealing:

- **CEO Under Investigation:** The fact that the Chief Executive Officer, Rick Callender, has been on **fully paid administrative leave** while earning over **\$600,000 per year** and traveling internationally on the public dime, despite being under investigation for **sexual harassment, retaliation, and criminal corruption**, is an outrageous breach of fiduciary duty.
- **Interim CEO Scandal:** The current Interim CEO, Melanie Richardson, is potentially earning up to **\$1 million per year** (including her \$23,333 monthly pension) while having a documented history of overseeing contracts with her husband's firm (RMC) that were subject to a DA investigation for **fraudulent billing and alleged misappropriation of up to \$103 million** in taxpayer funds.
- **Destruction of Evidence:** The District is actively pursuing a costly lawsuit against a sitting Director to compel the destruction of **2,000 pages of documentary evidence** that allegedly incriminates Valley Water officers and Directors, a clear indication of a concerted cover-up effort.

Non-Negotiable Demands for Reform and Community Remedy

The systemic abuse of power and financial resources, which led directly to the collapse of the \$179 million RWTP contract despite internal audit warnings about high-risk procurement, mandates nothing less than a complete institutional overhaul.

Rinconada's loss of habitability is a direct result of leadership dysfunction, the Board needs to commit to the following remedial path:

1. **Public Apology and Acknowledgment of Dysfunction:** The interim CEO and the entire Valley Water Board must issue a formal, unreserved public apology to the Rinconada community, both online and in the next public forum (October 21st), acknowledging the decade of negligence and systemic dysfunction.
2. **Executive Removal and Independent Search:**
 - o CEO Rick Callender must be **immediately and permanently removed** from employment.
 - o The next Chief Executive Officer must be an "**outsider**" hired by an **independent body** to break the institutional cycle of corruption and self-dealing.
3. **Resignation of Compromised Governance Leadership:** All non-elected Board-Appointed Officers and senior staff who oversaw the destruction of public trust must resign.
4. **Open Investigation and Compensation for Negligence:** The Board must publicly commit to initiating an **open, independent forensic investigation** into the misuse of funds on the RWTP project with a view to compensating the entire community for negligence and loss of habitability.

Intent to Escalate to Federal and State Authorities

Valley Water's capital program relies on a "diverse array of funding sources", which includes state and federal cost-sharing agreements and grants. I will continue my forensic analysis to understand which, if any, **federal and state authorities are investigating RWTP**, including the California Attorney General's office and relevant federal agencies responsible for overseeing public works funding.

Sincerely,

John Kenevey

On Fri, Oct 10, 2025 at 5:58 PM John Kenevey [REDACTED] wrote:

SUBJECT: MANDATORY CLARIFICATION & FINAL NOTICE: The Scope of October 17th Response Must Address Audited Systemic Failure and Compensation Liability

Dear Mr. Callender, and Members of the Executive Team,

I appreciate Mr. Aryee email acknowledging my inquiry and for confirming receipt of my correspondence. However, Mr. Callender, I am very disappointed by your **lack of confirmation** of my correspondence. I must formally and unequivocally reject the scope defined in Mr. Aryee's response. The matter at hand is not a request for an update on "Project Phases 3-6." It is a demand for executive accountability and financial resolution for the **systemic institutional negligence** that caused this project to collapse.

The failures that necessitate my Expanded Compensation Claim are directly linked to the massive financial mismanagement and governance failures that have plagued the RWTP:

The Documented Failure of Project Governance

The RWTP project's financial and operational crisis is not an anomaly; it is a direct, predictable outcome of known control deficiencies:

1. **Contractual Collapse and Forensic Analysis:** The initial construction contract for the RWTP (C0601), originally valued at **\$179 million**, failed to execute the planned scope, resulting in its effective collapse and subsequent re-scoping after the acceptance of Phases 1 and 2 for \$152.8 million. This failure was so profound that Valley Water was forced to commission an external consultant to conduct a **forensic analysis** to determine the key financial and operational risks and then spend millions more on design "**re-packaging and re-bidding**" for the remaining phases.
2. **Highest Risk Warning Ignored:** The failure of this massive capital contract occurred during the precise period when Valley Water's own independent auditor (TAP International) had formally designated **Contract Change Order Management and Procurement** as areas of "**highest risk**" to the District. This confirms that the project collapsed due to a **failure of governance** to implement controls against fraud and negligence in the face of known, critical audit findings.

Final Demand for October 17, 2025

The deadline of **October 17, 2025**, is established as the date by which the **Executive Team and Legal Counsel** must present a substantive resolution to the District's severe, documented liability exposure. Any response that fails to address the following is deemed inadequate:

1. **Mandatory Compensation Offer:** A formal, written negotiation offer from **Risk Management/Legal Counsel** regarding the **Expanded Compensation Claim** (including the necessary funding for the garage conversion, triple-pane windows, and roof replacement).
2. **Accountability for Fiduciary Failure:** A response addressing the systemic issues that caused the failure, including the CEO's **\$577K salary and 20% premium policy** and the Board's **5% pay raise** amidst the \$222 million deficit.

Please be advised: If the response provided on October 17th is not a substantive settlement offer, all available information regarding the failed \$179 million contract, the forensic analysis, and the audit findings proving systemic control deficiencies will be immediately utilized to **request the Board initiate a full independent forensic investigation into fraud and negligence in the RWTP procurement process.**

Sincerely,

John Kenevey

On Wed, Oct 8, 2025 at 5:21 PM John Kenevey [REDACTED] wrote:

SUBJECT: FORMAL ESCALATION & ATTACHED PROOF: Undeniable Documentation of Institutional Negligence and Policy Failure Dating to RWTP Project Inception (URGENT)

Dear Mr. Callender, Ms. Chinte, and Members of the Board,

This is a critical update to my correspondence sent earlier today, which detailed the systemic operational failures and the necessity of immediate compensation. I have added Ms. Chinte, Chief of Staff, to this thread, as the subject matter and attached evidence demand executive-level **crisis intervention and action.**

Upon meticulous review of my decade-long archive of correspondence with Valley Water, I have retrieved and am attaching documentation that provides **undeniable proof** of the institutional negligence that has characterized the RWTP project since its inception in 2015. This evidence confirms that the most intrusive and damaging failures were raised and actively defended by staff **ten years** ago.

Indisputable Evidence: 2015 Policy Defense and Engineering Failure

Please review the attached original email correspondence, dated Fri, 9 Oct 2015, along with the attached video file. This documentation conclusively negates any possible claim that the District was unaware of, or is not responsible for, the current climate of operational incompetence:

1. **Direct Proof of Privacy Violation and Defense (2015 Email):** The attached email thread confirms that Valley Water staff not only placed the security hut and associated infrastructure (previously the port-a-potties) directly in front of my front bedroom window but **actively defended that placement** when challenged. This document proves that the ~18-month or longer intrusion into my personal life which rendered my bedroom unusable was a conscious, policy-backed institutional decision.
2. **Documented Engineering Failure (Attached Video):** The attached video shows a **double-barreled heavy-duty truck stuck at the facility gate** in 2015, unable to make the turn due to the gate's

inadequate size and location. This incident, which necessitated truck traffic driving onto my personal path and damaging property, was known to the project team at the start of the project. This is irrefutable proof of initial engineering and site planning failure, which compounded noise and dust pollution problems for years.

The True Cost of Documented Incompetence

The documentation provided today demonstrates conclusively that the current project leadership and the institutional culture they inherited has been **unwilling to create a safe or tolerable environment** for residents. The failures I outlined in the previous email (Hazmat cover-up, chronic light pollution, and weekend excavation) are simply the most recent symptoms of a pattern of negligence that began with the staff's decision to defend a security guard looking into my private home in 2015.

The massive volume of documentation I possess demonstrates that I do not need to rely on the soon to be filed CPRA requests to prove the District's liability; the documentation is already prepared. We expect Ms. Chinte to intervene immediately to coordinate a final agreement on the **expanded compensation claim** (including the garage conversion) to reflect the true cost of this decade of negligence.

Ms. Chinte, as the Chief of Staff, and Mr. Callender, as the Chief Executive Officer, you must recognize that this level of persistent institutional failure is now subject to the most intense **public scrutiny and external review**. This paper trail, which now spans the entire 10-year project duration and documents policy breaches, safety risks, and operational incompetence, creates an imminent risk of severe reputational consequence for the District and its leadership, especially when juxtaposed against the tripling of the timeline to complete the project, the increases in water rates to support the project, the budget shortfalls and the continued increases in compensation at the executive and board level, 'The Paradox of Cost and Accountability'

The compensation claim, now expanded to include the garage conversion, is the direct and justifiable financial consequence of the negligence that began in 2015. We expect immediate and decisive intervention from your office to finalize this remediation plan.

Further administrative delay in resolving this historic negligence will be interpreted as a political choice to defend institutional failures, thereby escalating the matter to the **public domain through all available channels**.

Sincerely,

John Kenevey

On Wed, Oct 8, 2025 at 8:49 AM John Kenevey [REDACTED] wrote:
SUBJECT: FORMAL ESCALATION & EXPANDED LIABILITY CLAIM:

Unacceptable Decennial Pattern of Operational Failures, Privacy Violation, and Executive Compensation Disparity at RWTP

Dear Mr. Callender,

I am forwarding the recent operational complaint sent to your project management team, which details gross policy breaches—including unauthorized weekend excavation and chronic, unmitigated light pollution.

This escalation is a demand for direct executive intervention. The failures documented below are not merely technical oversights; they are evidence of a systemic breakdown in institutional responsibility and a profound inability to engage with or protect the community throughout the entire **10-year duration** of the Rinconada Water Treatment Plant (RWTP) project. I express immense fatigue and anger at the sustained negligence.

A Decade of Institutional Negligence and Intimate Intrusion

The current project team failures are tragically consistent with a pattern of operational negligence that began when this project first mobilized:

- **Intrusion and Privacy Violation (18 Months):** At the project's start, the construction team first placed the portable toilets, and subsequently the permanent security hut, on the hill directly in front of my primary front bedroom window. A security guard routinely stood on the deck, looking directly into my private home and bedrooms, this was very unnerving to my wife and family. This egregious and unnerving invasion of privacy required approximately **18 months of constant complaint** to various staff members before the position was finally relocated.
- **Safety Risk and Security Failures:** The original entry gate was inappropriately sized, resulting in heavy trucks routinely driving off the access road, over my front bushes, and breaking the concrete path to gain entry. The gate as it stands today is due to my petitioning RWTP to 'fix' the issue, this took ~3 years to remedy. Furthermore, for nearly a year, a security car was permitted to sit parked in front of the gate, looking directly into my home, a situation I was eventually informed was due to **disgruntled employee threats** against the facility. This is a critical failure of site security that turned the residential neighborhood into a security outpost without community warning.
- **Unmitigated Pollution:** Throughout this entire decade-long period—from 2015 to the present day—the residential structural damage, extreme noise pollution and pervasive dust contamination were never properly assessed, accounted for, or mitigated, demonstrating a complete lack of regard for the health and welfare of those living immediately adjacent to the construction zone.

The Expectation of Empathy and Compensation

These failures, compounded by the previous **Hazmat incident** and the current violations, justify the financial demands being made. It is impossible to reconcile this pattern of institutional incompetence with the fiscal realities of Valley Water's leadership:

- You, Mr. Callender, are the CEO, and your reported **Total Wages exceed \$577,000**, underpinned by an internal policy that dictates your pay be **20% higher** than your next subordinate.
- The Board members who oversee this compensation recently voted themselves a **5% raise** while the District faced a substantial **\$222 million budget deficit** and instituted a hiring freeze.

The compensation received by the executive and governance staff imposes a moral and legal obligation to act decisively and ethically. We require the Board and executive leadership to show immediate empathy and accept full responsibility for the immense, decade-long disruption and property liability.

Expanded Compensation Demand (Garage Conversion)

Due to the cumulative, sustained effects of the structural, noise, light, and privacy intrusions, the front bedroom has been functionally unusable for a majority of the last ten years.

Therefore, upon further counsel, the property remediation claim currently under review by Risk Management is now **expanded** to include the necessary cost of converting the garage space into a habitable bedroom. This action is the absolute minimum requirement to restore the original level of residential function and privacy that Valley Water's project has systematically destroyed.

We expect immediate, direct intervention from your office to finalize the comprehensive compensation package, including this expanded claim. Any further delay in resolving this historic negligence will be interpreted as a willful decision to expose the District to public scrutiny regarding its executive compensation and its profound failure to protect the community.

Sincerely,

John Kenevey

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **John Kenevey** [REDACTED]
Date: Wed, Oct 8, 2025 at 6:42 AM
Subject: DEMAND FOR IMMEDIATE EXPLANATION: Flagrant Policy Violations, Residential Intrusion, and Gross Inefficiency at Rinconada WTP Site (Project No. 93294057)
To: Emmanuel Aryee <earyee@valleywater.org>, <bponce@valleywater.org>, <mmendez@valleywater.org>
Cc: <CEO@valleywater.org>, <reisenberg@valleywater.org>

<Board@valleywater.org>, <ckwok-smith@valleywater.org>, Aimee Green
<AGreen@valleywater.org>

SUBJECT: DEMAND FOR IMMEDIATE EXPLANATION: Flagrant Policy Violations, Residential Intrusion, and Gross Inefficiency at Rinconada WTP Site (Project No. 93294057)

Dear Mr. Aryee, Mr. Ponce, and Ms. Mendez,

As the technical leadership responsible for the Rinconada Water Treatment Plant (RWTP) Reliability Improvement Project—an endeavor that has catastrophically ballooned into a projected 14-year construction timeline your team’s recent operational decisions demonstrate a continued failure to adhere to stated policy and respect basic residential habitability.

Please consider this communication a formal demand for immediate answers and documentation regarding three distinct, highly disruptive, project activities that directly contravene expected professional standards.

1. Flagrant Violation of Weekend Work Policy

This past weekend, your project team conducted heavy **excavation** work directly outside my property, starting at 7:00 AM and concluding at 4:00 PM. This activity produced noise pollution that can only be accurately described as being at a **nightclub level**.

Inquiry:

- Please immediately provide the specific policy language authorizing external, heavy excavation work on a weekend. The published community policy explicitly states that only indoor work is authorized during weekends.
- Provide all records indicating that the neighboring community was formally notified of this flagrant policy violation and the severity of the associated noise intrusion. If no such notice exists, explain who authorized the deviation and why the surrounding residents were excluded from the decision-making process.
- Provide the community impact report for this project.

2. Unauthorized and Unmitigated Light Pollution

For over a year, a high-intensity security light, presumably installed by the project, has been shining directly onto my property after dark and remains on all night. This light intrusion renders our front bedroom utterly **unusable** due to the sleep disturbance it causes. Furthermore, standard window blinds are useless given the unique shape of the upper window architecture.

Inquiry:

- Provide the Community Impact Report or lighting plan that justified the installation of this specific light fixture, including documentation of the light pollution study conducted to ensure compliance with local ordinances regarding residential illumination.
- Explain why zero mitigation efforts have been undertaken over the past year to redirect, shield, or time-limit this security lighting, despite the obvious and immediate impact on my home.
- Provide the community impact report for this installation.

3. Gross Inefficiency and War Zone Noise (Pipe Installation)

Over the course of the recent summer months, the installation of a pipe feeding into a drain took an excessively long and indefensible period to complete. The noise generated by this process; best described as **war zone-like steel on steel grinding**, was relentless.

Inquiry:

- For this specific implementation (a seemingly basic engineering task), provide a detailed breakdown of the internal **engineering schedule** and the actual person-hours expended. Justify why this task required such an exorbitant duration, leading to continuous, extreme noise pollution for neighboring residents.
- Provide the Community Impact Report and notification records regarding this specific installation, including the noise impact, dust pollution impact and timeline. Explain why the community was never warned of the severity or length of this acoustical intrusion.

The Direct Link to Systemic Accountability and Liability

These repeated failures in basic policy adherence, communication, and project efficiency are the direct consequences of the systemic operational and governance issues that have plagued the RWTP project for over a decade, resulting in its protracted 14-year schedule.

Your technical failures directly support the claim that the District is liable for the resulting property damage, safety risks (e.g., the previous Hazmat incident), and loss of residential habitability. We formally demand that these issues be immediately addressed, resolved, and documented.

We expect a complete, detailed response to these three operational inquiries, including all requested documentation, within five (5) business days. Your prompt action is necessary to minimize the financial and political exposure that these ongoing failures are creating for Valley Water's leadership.

Sincerely,
John Kenevey

From: [Ryan Dang](#)
To: [Board of Directors](#); [Rebecca Eisenberg](#)
Subject: Media Inquiry: Talk Show Invitation from the California Insider
Date: Thursday, October 16, 2025 11:28:52 PM

***** This email originated from outside of Valley Water. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. *****

Dear Santa Clara Valley District 7 Water Director, Ms. Rebecca Eisenberg,

We hope that you are doing well! The Epoch Times would like to invite *Ms. Eisenberg* to appear on the California Insider Talk Show located in Irvine, Orange County, to share your thoughts on California's main Reservoirs being at full capacity and the surrounding environmental impact, including droughts and floods.

As our mission is to speak the truth and shine light on important news, we recognize that your insights regarding California's agriculture, waterways, and environmental impacts will be valuable to our global audience.

Interview details:

- **First, we want to schedule a 30-minute Microsoft Teams video call with *Ms. Eisenberg* to discuss the subject's content, plan further travel logistics, and share some opinions with us.**
- Proceeding with a 40–50-minute in-depth interview at our studio in Irvine (will be scheduled after the Teams video call)
- Total filming time: Approximately 1 hour & 20 minutes

Let us know if you are interested and available to join our Talk Show in Irvine. **Please give us your earliest availability anytime during October, November, or December to schedule the Teams video call.** We are flexible with daily scheduling and can always accommodate your preferred time.

Once again, thank you very much for considering this invitation. We look forward to sharing *Ms. Rebecca Eisenberg's* expertise and vision with California Insider.

Best regards,

Ryan Dang

(714)548-1251

ryan.dang@epochtimesca.com

Assistant Producer | California Insider

California Insider is a dynamic television and podcast program hosted by Siyamak Khorrami with the Epoch Times Southern California. Our mission is to inform California residents by featuring in-depth interviews with leaders and professionals in California, discussing trending

topics and critical issues. California Insider is broadcast on NTD Television, reaching 30 million homes, and on multiple radio stations across the state. The show is distributed through The Epoch Times platform and our social media channels, reaching over 1 million subscribers.

<https://californiainsider.com/>

From: [Ryan Dang](#)
To: [Board of Directors](#); [Tony Estremera](#)
Subject: Media Inquiry: Talk Show Invitation from the California Insider
Date: Thursday, October 16, 2025 10:55:02 PM

***** This email originated from outside of Valley Water. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. *****

Dear Santa Clara Valley District 6 Water Director, *Mr. Tony Estremera*,

We hope that you are doing well! The Epoch Times would like to invite *Mr. Estremera* to appear on the California Insider Talk Show located in Irvine, Orange County, to share your thoughts on California's main Reservoirs being at full capacity and the surrounding environmental impact, including droughts and floods.

As our mission is to speak the truth and shine light on important news, we recognize that your insights regarding California's agriculture, waterways, and environmental impacts will be valuable to our global audience.

Interview details:

- **First, we want to schedule a 30-minute Microsoft Teams video call with *Mr. Estremera* to discuss the subject's content, plan further travel logistics, and share some opinions with us.**
- Proceeding with a 40–50-minute in-depth interview at our studio in Irvine (will be scheduled after the Teams video call)
- Total filming time: Approximately 1 hour & 20 minutes

Let us know if you are interested and available to join our Talk Show in Irvine. **Please give us your earliest availability anytime during October, November, or December to schedule the Teams video call.** We are flexible with daily scheduling and can always accommodate your preferred time.

Once again, thank you very much for considering this invitation. We look forward to sharing *Mr. Tony Estremera's* expertise and vision with California Insider.

Best regards,

Ryan Dang

(714)548-1251

ryan.dang@epochtimesca.com

Assistant Producer | California Insider

California Insider is a dynamic television and podcast program hosted by Siyamak Khorrami with the Epoch Times Southern California. Our mission is to inform California residents by featuring in-depth interviews with leaders and professionals in California, discussing trending topics and critical issues. California Insider is broadcast on NTD Television, reaching 30 million homes, and on multiple radio stations across the state. The show is distributed through The Epoch Times platform

and our social media channels, reaching over 1 million subscribers.

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From: [Ryan Dang](#)
To: [Board of Directors](#); [Nai Hsueh](#)
Subject: Media Inquiry: Talk Show Invitation from the California Insider
Date: Thursday, October 16, 2025 10:53:22 PM

***** This email originated from outside of Valley Water. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. *****

Dear Santa Clara Valley District 5 Water Director Nai Hsueh,

We hope that you are doing well! The Epoch Times would like to invite *Water Director Nai Hsueh* to appear on the California Insider Talk Show located in Irvine, Orange County, to share your thoughts on California's main Reservoirs being at full capacity and the surrounding environmental impact, including droughts and floods.

As our mission is to speak the truth and shine light on important news, we recognize that your insights regarding California's agriculture, waterways, and environmental impacts will be valuable to our global audience.

Interview details:

- **First, we want to schedule a 30-minute Microsoft Teams video call with *Water Director Nai Hsueh* to discuss the subject's content, plan further travel logistics, and share some opinions with us.**
- Proceeding with a 40–50-minute in-depth interview at our studio in Irvine (will be scheduled after the Teams video call)
- Total filming time: Approximately 1 hour & 20 minutes

Let us know if you are interested and available to join our Talk Show in Irvine. **Please give us your earliest availability anytime during October, November, or December to schedule the Teams video call.** We are flexible with daily scheduling and can always accommodate your preferred time.

Once again, thank you very much for considering this invitation. We look forward to sharing *Water Director Nai Hsueh's* expertise and vision with California Insider.

Best regards,

Ryan Dang

(714)548-1251

ryan.dang@epochtimesca.com

Assistant Producer | California Insider

California Insider is a dynamic television and podcast program hosted by Siyamak Khorrami with the Epoch Times Southern California. Our mission is to inform California residents by featuring in-depth interviews with leaders and professionals in California, discussing trending

topics and critical issues. California Insider is broadcast on NTD Television, reaching 30 million homes, and on multiple radio stations across the state. The show is distributed through The Epoch Times platform and our social media channels, reaching over 1 million subscribers.

<https://californiainsider.com/>

From: [Ryan Dang](#)
To: [Board of Directors; Jim Beall](#)
Subject: Media Inquiry: Talk Show Invitation from the California Insider
Date: Thursday, October 16, 2025 10:51:08 PM

***** This email originated from outside of Valley Water. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. *****

Dear Santa Clara Valley District 4 Water Director, *Mr. Jim Beall*,

We hope that you are doing well! The Epoch Times would like to invite *Mr. Jim Beall* to appear on the California Insider Talk Show located in Irvine, Orange County, to share your thoughts on California's main Reservoirs being at full capacity and the surrounding environmental impact, including droughts and floods.

As our mission is to speak the truth and shine light on important news, we recognize that your insights regarding California's agriculture, waterways, and environmental impacts will be valuable to our global audience.

Interview details:

- **First, we want to schedule a 30-minute Microsoft Teams video call with *Mr. Jim Beall* to discuss the subject's content, plan further travel logistics, and share some opinions with us.**
- Proceeding with a 40–50-minute in-depth interview at our studio in Irvine (will be scheduled after the Teams video call)
- Total filming time: Approximately 1 hour & 20 minutes

Let us know if you are interested and available to join our Talk Show in Irvine. **Please give us your earliest availability anytime during October, November, or December to schedule the Teams video call.** We are flexible with daily scheduling and can always accommodate your preferred time.

Once again, thank you very much for considering this invitation. We look forward to sharing *Water Director Jim Beall's* expertise and vision with California Insider.

Best regards,

Ryan Dang

(714)548-1251

ryan.dang@epochtimesca.com

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<https://californiainsider.com/>

From: [Ryan Dang](#)
To: [Board of Directors](#); [Richard Santos](#)
Subject: Media Inquiry: Talk Show Invitation from the California Insider
Date: Thursday, October 16, 2025 10:48:57 PM

***** This email originated from outside of Valley Water. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. *****

Dear Santa Clara Valley District 3 Water Director, *Mr. Richard P. Santos*,

We hope that you are doing well! The Epoch Times would like to invite *Mr. Richard Santos* to appear on the California Insider Talk Show located in Irvine, Orange County, to share your thoughts on California's main Reservoirs being at full capacity and the surrounding environmental impact, including droughts and floods.

As our mission is to speak the truth and shine light on important news, we recognize that your insights regarding California's agriculture, waterways, and environmental impacts will be valuable to our global audience.

Interview details:

- **First, we want to schedule a 30-minute Microsoft Teams video call with *Mr. Richard Santos* to discuss the subject's content, plan further travel logistics, and share some opinions with us.**
- Proceeding with a 40–50-minute in-depth interview at our studio in Irvine (will be scheduled after the Teams video call)
- Total filming time: Approximately 1 hour & 20 minutes

Let us know if you are interested and available to join our Talk Show in Irvine. **Please give us your earliest availability anytime during October, November, or December to schedule the Teams video call.** We are flexible with daily scheduling and can always accommodate your preferred time.

Once again, thank you very much for considering this invitation. We look forward to sharing *Water Director Richard Santos's* expertise and vision with California Insider.

Best regards,

Ryan Dang

(714)548-1251

ryan.dang@epochtimesca.com

Assistant Producer | California Insider

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<https://californiainsider.com/>

From: [Ryan Dang](#)
To: [Board of Directors](#); [Shiloh Ballard](#)
Subject: Media Inquiry: Talk Show Invitation from the California Insider
Date: Thursday, October 16, 2025 10:46:45 PM

***** This email originated from outside of Valley Water. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. *****

Dear Santa Clara Valley Water District 2 Director Shiloh Ballard,

We hope that you are doing well! The Epoch Times would like to invite *Water Director Ballard* to appear on the California Insider Talk Show located in Irvine, Orange County, to share your thoughts on California's main Reservoirs being at full capacity and the surrounding environmental impact, including droughts and floods.

As our mission is to speak the truth and shine light on important news, we recognize that your insights regarding California's agriculture, waterways, and environmental impacts will be valuable to our global audience.

Interview details:

- **First, we want to schedule a 30-minute Microsoft Teams video call with *Water Director Ballard* to discuss the subject's content, plan further travel logistics, and share some opinions with us.**
- Proceeding with a 40–50-minute in-depth interview at our studio in Irvine (will be scheduled after the Teams video call)
- Total filming time: Approximately 1 hour & 20 minutes

Let us know if you are interested and available to join our Talk Show in Irvine. **Please give us your earliest availability anytime during October, November, or December to schedule the Teams video call.** We are flexible with daily scheduling and can always accommodate your preferred time.

Once again, thank you very much for considering this invitation. We look forward to sharing *Water Director Shiloh Ballard's* expertise and vision with California Insider.

Best regards,

Ryan Dang

(714)548-1251

ryan.dang@epochtimesca.com

Assistant Producer | California Insider

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topics and critical issues. California Insider is broadcast on NTD Television, reaching 30 million homes, and on multiple radio stations across the state. The show is distributed through The Epoch Times platform and our social media channels, reaching over 1 million subscribers.

<https://californiainsider.com/>

From: [Ryan Dang](#)
To: [John Varela](#); [Board of Directors](#)
Subject: Media Inquiry: Talk Show Invitation from the California Insider
Date: Thursday, October 16, 2025 10:43:25 PM

***** This email originated from outside of Valley Water. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. *****

Dear Santa Clara Valley Water Director of District 1, Mr. John L. Varela,

We hope that you are doing well! The Epoch Times would like to invite *Mr. John Varela* to appear on the California Insider Talk Show located in Irvine, Orange County, to share your thoughts on California's main Reservoirs being at full capacity and the surrounding environmental impact, including droughts and floods.

As our mission is to speak the truth and shine light on important news, we recognize that your insights regarding California's agriculture, waterways, and environmental impacts will be valuable to our global audience.

Interview details:

- **First, we want to schedule a 30-minute Microsoft Teams video call with Mr. John Varela to discuss the subject's content, plan further travel logistics, and share some opinions with us.**
- Proceeding with a 40–50-minute in-depth interview at our studio in Irvine (will be scheduled after the Teams video call)
- Total filming time: Approximately 1 hour & 20 minutes

Let us know if you are interested and available to join our Talk Show in Irvine. **Please give us your earliest availability anytime during October, November, or December to schedule the Teams video call.** We are flexible with daily scheduling and can always accommodate your preferred time.

Once again, thank you very much for considering this invitation. We look forward to sharing *Mr. John Varela's* expertise and vision with California Insider.

Best regards,

Ryan Dang

(714)548-1251

ryan.dang@epochtimesca.com

Assistant Producer | California Insider

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topics and critical issues. California Insider is broadcast on NTD Television, reaching 30 million homes, and on multiple radio stations across the state. The show is distributed through The Epoch Times platform and our social media channels, reaching over 1 million subscribers.

<https://californiainsider.com/>

From: [Candice Kwok-Smith](#)
To: [Board of Directors](#)
Subject: FW: The spraying of Roundup on Water District property adjacent to our house and spraying Roundup on our property on the creek bank
Date: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 9:45:29 AM

From: Suzanne Brenner [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, October 10, 2025 10:03 PM
To: Shiloh Ballard <SBallard@valleywater.org>
Subject: The spraying of Roundup on Water District property adjacent to our house and spraying Roundup on our property on the creek bank

*** This email originated from outside of Valley Water. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. ***

Ms. Ballard,

My husband and I own the property, [REDACTED] in San Jose. The Water District hired a company to spray Roundup, a known poison that can cause cancer, in the lot they own adjacent to our property. There was no signage posted alerting the public that this had been done nor warnings to stay off the area. They also sprayed Roundup on our property on the creek bank without contacting us or speaking to us before they started. We also live in a neighborhood with lots of pets and children and you are permitting this to be done in disregard to the ecological damage to Coyote Creek and wildlife and the people living here. The company that makes Roundup is now having to pay substantial compensation to people that have been impacted and sickened by this poison resulting in cancer diagnoses. The Water district might give some thought to this. As our board representative I am contacting you for help in this matter.

Suzanne Brenner and Fred Wiehe

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

OUTGOING BOARD CORRESPONDENCE

October 16, 2025

Dear Regnart Creek Neighbors,

Thank you for reaching out and sharing your concerns regarding the removal of eucalyptus trees near November Drive in Cupertino. We understand how much the surrounding landscape means to you, and we appreciate the opportunity to provide more context for this important work.

Valley Water is removing these trees to reduce public safety risks and to support the restoration of native riparian habitats. We recognize that any change to the natural environment, especially the removal of mature trees, can be deeply felt by the community and we sincerely apologize for the disruption or concern this may be causing. Please know this decision was not made lightly.

Why the Trees Are Being Removed

1. Fire Safety and Hazard Reduction

The trees being removed are **blue gum eucalyptus (*Eucalyptus globulus*)**—a species known to significantly increase fire risk in our region:

- **Highly flammable materials:** Eucalyptus trees shed large amounts of bark, leaves, and twigs that dry out quickly and create a thick, combustible layer on the ground.
- **Crown fire risk:** Their leaves contain flammable oils, and their bark often carries fire up into the canopy, intensifying fires and helping embers spread.
- **Hazardous structure:** These trees are also prone to large branch failures, as well as full tree collapses due to root rot or wind stress. Some neighbors have already reported fallen branches near their homes and driveways, further highlighting the safety concerns.

2. Supporting a Healthier, Native Habitat

Removing the eucalyptus trees also allows us to begin restoring the creek's **native riparian vegetation**, which is better adapted to local conditions and more resilient over time. Rather than planting new trees from nurseries, we are using a **passive restoration** approach and giving native species already present in the area (such as coast live oaks and elderberries) the space and sunlight to naturally recolonize.

This method helps to:

- Improve long-term creek **bank stability**
- Enhance **habitat for local wildlife**
- Promote a **more resilient and ecologically balanced watershed**

During this work, Valley Water contractors are taking care to protect existing native plants and trees in the area. We truly value your input and your care for the environment we share. If you have any further questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact Deputy Operating Officer Jennifer Codianne at JCodianne@valleywater.org or me at board@valleywater.org. We're happy to provide more information or connect directly.

Thank you again for your patience and understanding during this transition.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Nai Hsueh". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Nai Hsueh
Director, District 5

C-25-0150

From: [Candice Kwok-Smith](#) on behalf of [Board Correspondence](#)
To: [Aaron Baker](#); [Greg Williams](#); [Emelia Lamas](#)
Cc: [Board of Directors](#)
Subject: FW: I have a question about Camden ponds.
Date: Thursday, October 16, 2025 2:57:31 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

From: Candice Kwok-Smith **On Behalf Of** Board of Directors
Sent: Thursday, October 16, 2025 2:57 PM
To: 'andrewmartinwagner@gmail.com' <andrewmartinwagner@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: I have a question about Camden ponds.

Sent on Behalf of Director Beall:

Dear Andrew Martin Wagner,

Thank you for reaching out regarding the Camden Ponds. I was informed that staff have reached out to you directly on Friday, Oct. 10, to discuss the Camden Pond system, signage, and the role of County Parks in organizing fishing events. We appreciate your time and the opportunity to clarify our pond management operations.

If you have additional questions or concerns, you may contact Greg Williams, Deputy Operating Officer of the Raw Water Division, at Gwilliams@valleywater.org.

Thank you,



Jim Beall
Director, District 4

C-25-0132

From: AndrewMartin Wagner <andrewmartinwagner@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 30, 2025 9:45 AM

To: segnalazionianomalie@urg.va; parkinfo@prk.sccgov.org; Board of Directors
<board@valleywater.org>; ledwardenhiringunit@wildlife.ca.gov

Subject: I have a question about Camden ponds.

***** This email originated from outside of Valley Water. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. *****

As sturgeon season opens October 1st 2025, while I'm down there looking for bait to see where I'm allowed to catch it at either in Los Gatos Creek or Guadalupe River. There's interesting signage and it's been there for a while. Who knows how to count the ponds? Valley water says they have three large one and two small ones parks department says they have six ponds. Out of which of those in my allowed to use bait for sturgeon and striper in alviso close to the notch which is on valley water and Parks department's property I know I'm allowed to stand by the yacht club and fish there. Is someone allowed to fish the notch, if so what are the exact coordinates along Guadalupe slough.

I've emailed fish and wildlife district 3 before it I know I'm allowed to use a red crawdads that are non-indigenous to those ponds but transported from the ponds to the creek that is a question I needed to ask. So I might as well ask a couple questions who can count? It valley water can't count their own ponds how much money have they been taking and they ever been audited by the IRS just for not being able to count their own physical bodies of water as parks department says there are six. Valley water signage says there's three large and two small that does not equal out to six, which department is correct in their math. Out of a triangulation of you I chose to do parts department of Santa Clara county valley water which is located in Santa Clara county and also region 3 fish and wildlife which oversees Santa Clara county one of them being a federal entity fish and wildlife for a non-biased view.

If anybody would else like to know I am ordained minister the reason I put on that anomaly address I get responses from that from the Vatican on the independent contractor I'm here for legal matters with the district attorney's office as a victim for the last 3 years. I would like to go fishing I would like to know where I can go fishing at since I purchased both the fishing license and the sturgeon license.

I don't trust valley water too much because I know the EPA down there on the burnell site also known as the Santa Teresa super fund toxic waste not when they had gray water 2 years ago and they're reported on the news was reported on the news and one actually happens with two different things I

don't trust them. I can see that they can't even count their own ponds, with that being said who is correct in their amount of ponds they have that have been there since what 1935? I emailed the City of Campbell within a half hour of the city called me back and if I had any concerns with that and my concerns were answered by them to their ability but they do not have the ability to answer for valley water parks department or federal wildlife. If anybody wants one of my credentials out of the Vatican Prot/2024/1111/B895 is one of my many credentials where they call me Reverend. Those are legal credentials not just in this country but those are on an international credential list. Me being humble I'm asking where am I allowed to fish by the notch in alviso CA. I would like to know and I'm not just going to ask valley water because it seems apparently they can't count too well so I would like to know other things like where the parks department would allow me to stand out there in alviso and would district three fish and wildlife as well tell me the location since it's been since 2023 the last time they told me where I was allowed to be out there I've had a couple medical issues where I had a couple strokes I would like to go fishing. I still know how to do that with no problem.

Reverend Andrew Martin Wagner

<1000000682.jpg>

<1000000691.jpg>

<1000000684.jpg>

From: [Candice Kwok-Smith](#) on behalf of [Board Correspondence](#)
To: [Sally Castro](#); [Bhavani Yerrapotu](#); [Breanne Roderick](#)
Cc: [Board of Directors](#)
Subject: FW: Construction on my street and neighborhood
Date: Monday, October 20, 2025 2:47:48 PM

Good afternoon,

C-25-0145 is complete.

Thanks,
Candice

From: Shiloh Ballard <SBallard@valleywater.org>
Sent: Monday, October 20, 2025 2:17 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Candice Kwok-Smith <ckwok-smith@valleywater.org>
Subject: Re: Construction on my street and neighborhood

Hi Jane,

I am so sorry to hear that there is disruptive construction happening on your street. I asked staff to look into this and it sounds like this is not Valley Water doing the work. Does the A-frame or the postcard have a name of an entity?

It looks like you have reached out to the City of San Jose as well. In addition to them you may consider reaching out to your water retailer – San Jose Water. You can find how to contact them at this website: <https://www.sjwater.com/our-company/contact-us>. If you get hung up, let me know and I can help navigate you to someone. I find them to be very responsive when folks reach out.

If you have any further questions or comments regarding Valley Water, feel free to contact Cody Houston at (408) 630-3163 or chouston@valleywater.org.

Take care~

Shiloh Ballard
Director, District 2
C-25-0145

-----Original Message-----

From: Jane O'Donnell [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, October 10, 2025 4:49 PM
To: Board of Directors <board@valleywater.org>
Cc: mayor@sanjose.ca
Subject: Construction on my street and neighborhood

*** This email originated from outside of Valley Water. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. ***

Greetings

My name is Jane O'Donnell and I live at [REDACTED], San Jose CA 95126. I have a major complaint about the way the water department construction communication or lack of, has been handled on my street.

About 6 weeks ago A-boards appeared on our street and neighboring streets, stating no parking for about a month. We had received a post card informing us of some upcoming construction in the neighborhood. No details That was it!

Well, next came the ungodly noise of jackhammers beginning early in the morning. The movement caused plaster on my ceiling to crack. And it happened in my daughter's home next door. The noise was terrible, the dust blanketed every thing outside. The huge construction trucks blocking the street, the street closures which are always a surprise and the noise. Awful

I have sent several letters to the water department requesting a call with the person in charge and was told by several people that I would receive a call but that has yet to happen.

Here's my complaint besides the plaster damage, where is the communication? How hard would it be to let the neighbors know what is going on, the plan, the schedule? Maybe a public meeting at the library prior to this mess. A weekly schedule put in mailboxes. The name and phone number of a contact! Is there no PR team? Or maybe give out certifications for a pizza something to create good will!

And it's still ongoing. Yesterday morning we woke up to a port a potty in front of our house! Unacceptable! I live with a husband that's had a stroke and a 3 year old grandson. They are not early risers.

We are tax payers and water bill payers. This is no way to treat the community! And it continues!!!!

I look forward to hearing from you

Jane O'Donnell

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Candice Kwok-Smith](#) on behalf of [Board Correspondence](#)
To: [Christopher Hakes](#); [Breanne Roderick](#)
Cc: [Board of Directors](#)
Subject: FW: They are spraying glyphosate right now into the San Tomas Aquino creek
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 8:53:09 AM
Attachments: [F1_Vegetation_Control_&_Sediment_Removal_for_Capacity_Fact_Sheet.pdf](#)
[Herbicide Fact Sheet.PDF](#)

Hi everyone,

C-25-0135 is complete.

Candice

From: Shiloh Ballard <SBallard@valleywater.org>
Sent: Monday, October 20, 2025 3:00 PM
To: suds@sudsjain.com; Geordie.Zapalac@gmx.com
Cc: Candice Kwok-Smith <ckwok-smith@valleywater.org>
Subject: Fw: They are spraying glyphosate right now into the San Tomas Aquino creek

Hey Suds,

I heard back from staff and I've asked for a briefing on what policies we have in place to guide when we do/don't use icky stuff to solve stream maintenance issues. For the time being, my understanding is that the District uses Rodeo because manual labor is less effective than a chemical in tackling this particular invasive species and it has a low toxicity to salmonids. Also, this particular stream is not a salmonid stream. Of course, our field operations staff are licensed by the Dept of Pesticide Regulation.

That said, like you, I'd love to see the District use zero herbicides. In order to get to that point, I need to do some learning/homework to understand what the District's current rationale is on this, as well as past conversations on the topic, if any.

I'll report back once I learn a little more. Does the City of Santa Clara have policies that restrict herbicide use? I'd be interested to learn if you all have a trigger for when it's deemed okay.

And, Geordie - Thanks for flagging this.

Take it easy~
Shiloh

C-25-0135

From: Sudhanshu Jain <suds@sudsjain.com>
Sent: Monday, October 6, 2025 5:37 PM
To: Shiloh Ballard <SBallard@valleywater.org>
Cc: Geordie Zapalac <Geordie.Zapalac@gmx.com>
Subject: Fwd: They are spraying glyphosate right now into the San Tomas Aquino creek

*** This email originated from outside of Valley Water. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. ***

Hi Shiloh,

I know herbicides are easy to use and require less human labor but this doesn't seem right.

-- Suds

----- Forwarded Message -----

Subject: They are spraying glyphosate right now into the San Tomas Aquino creek
Date: Mon, 6 Oct 2025 08:15:43 -0700
From: Geordie Zapalac <Geordie.Zapalac@gmx.com>
To: Sudhanshu Jain <suds@sudsjain.com>

Hi Suds,

I was jogging on the San Tomas Aquino trail a few minutes ago and they are spraying Rodeo onto the plants growing in the water on the edge of the creek, between 7:15 am and 7:45 am today just upstream of the Central Expressway crossing.

I know it's Rodeo because when I was jogging back I called out to the worker spraying and asked "What are you spraying?" and he answered "The plants in the water." Then I asked "What are you spraying with?" and he answered "Rodeo".

Rodeo is the glyphosate herbicide, well-known to be a carcinogen. The creek is a spawning ground for steelhead trout and I see people fishing there all the time when the trout are spawning. There is a lot of wildlife in the creek that I see all the time when jogging, including many species of shore birds.

This is not ok. Glyphosate should never be used in any riparian habitat. I don't think it's

appropriate for agriculture either but the EPA refuses to ban it.

Thanks,
Geordie

This fact sheet addresses the concerns some people have raised regarding the use of glyphosate, the active ingredient in the Roundup® and Rodeo® herbicides, following listing by the state of California as a chemical known to cause cancer. Proposition 65, passed by California voters in 1986, mandates the state to list known carcinogens and post potential means of exposure to these chemicals. That is why posters are frequently seen in grocery stores, gas stations, mini-marts, and the like announcing these exposure sources. The listing of a chemical does not quantify the risk of exposure. It is important to understand that though there is some risk of being exposed to these chemicals, the exposure may be so low as to not be dangerous.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency quantifies risk as a function of toxicity and exposure ($\text{Risk} = \text{Toxicity} \times \text{Exposure}$). If there is very low exposure to a highly toxic chemical there is low risk. Alternately, if there is high exposure to a chemical with low toxicity, the risk is also low. Risk will be great when there is high toxicity and high exposure.

Santa Clara Valley Water District (Valley Water) selectively uses herbicide because the benefits outweigh the risk. Glyphosate is used for weed control on facilities owned by Valley Water, particularly on invasive non-native broadleaf plants and grasses. Valley Water operates hundreds of miles of maintenance roads which need to be maintained for fuel abatement and maintenance access to facilities for flood protection. Valley Water also maintains numerous other facilities, such as dams, pipelines, and pump stations. Additionally, in restoration and mitigation projects developed by Valley Water as conditions of federal and state permitting requirements, spot treatment of herbicide controls non-native plants, thus favoring the growth of native plants. In terms of manageability and cost effectiveness, the use of herbicide is essential to the functioning of many Valley Water operations, however Valley Water has an integrated vegetation management program in which other methods



*Treating invasive *Spartina alterniflora* (Smooth cordgrass) on South Bay Shoreline.*

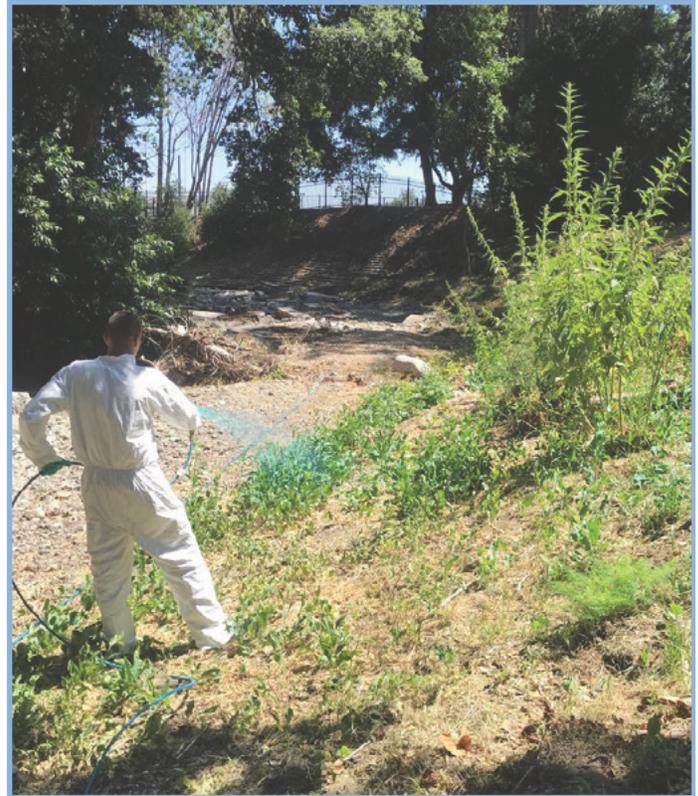
of weed control are utilized and favored when reasonably cost effective. This integrated approach uses mechanical, biological, and physical controls such as hand weed abatement, mechanical weed abatement, aquatic dyes for algae control, grazing, and hand removal of instream vegetation.

In the case of Valley Water's use of glyphosate, both the toxicity and the exposure are relatively low. Glyphosate functions by preventing plants from synthesizing proteins needed for plant growth; these proteins are found exclusively in plants and some microorganisms, not in humans or other animals. Glyphosate is applied directly to the plants; any excess that goes in the soil is bound up by the soil particles and rapidly broken down, so it does not mobilize easily to water bodies. Nor does glyphosate volatilize easily and become airborne.

Herbicides are used in a manner that is least disruptive to biological resources and all use must be preceded by the appropriate biological surveys and clearances. All herbicide applications must be preceded by a Pest Control Recommendation provided by a California licensed Pest Control Advisor. As safeguards, herbicide applications are not made within 24 hours of a half inch of predicted

rainfall, during high temperatures, or when wind conditions are exceeding 10 mph. When herbicides are utilized, sign postings include the date and time of application, the product's active ingredients, common name, and the time of allowable re-entry into the treated area. A Valley Water staff contact phone number shall be posted on the sign and the sign shall not be removed until after the specified re-entry interval, typically within an hour.

Employees of Valley Water are licensed in the application of herbicides by the State of California Department of Pesticide Regulation, which has robust testing and training requirements. The guidelines set forth by DPR tend to be more stringent than the federal EPA in terms of application, storage, and handling of pesticides, which is reflected in the labelling of chemicals in California. Valley Water employees are label trained on each herbicide annually, as well as trained in Best Maintenance Practices, and proper use of personal protective equipment (PPE). The agencies who permit Valley Water to perform vegetation control work have vetted and approved the use of herbicides for vegetation control, including: Regional Water Quality Control Board, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, National Marine Fisheries Service, and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. As stewards of the creeks, employees are cautious and judicious when it comes to the use of any herbicide, including glyphosate.



Valley Water staff applying foliar herbicide to invasive perennial pepperweed.

We speak your language

Si habla español y tiene preguntas sobre el contenido de este mensaje por favor de comunicarse con José Villarreal al JVillarreal@valleywater.org o (408) 630-2879.

Nếu bạn nói tiếng Việt và có thắc mắc về nội dung của thông báo này, xin vui lòng liên hệ với Ngọc Nguyen tại NNguyen@valleywater.org hoặc (408) 630-2632.

如果你說中文並對上述訊息有疑問, 請聯繫 Sarah Young, 電郵 SYoung@valleywater.org, 或者電話: (408) 630-2468.

Pollution hotline

To report illegal dumping of hazardous materials in, or around reservoirs and creeks, please call **1-888-510-5151**.

CONTACT US

For more information, contact Jennifer Codianne at (408) 630-3876 or by email at Jcodianne@valleywater.org. Or use our **Access Valley Water** customer request and information system at <https://delivr.com/2yukx> to find out the latest information on Valley Water projects or to submit questions, complaints or compliments directly to a Valley Water staff person.



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Safe, Clean Water
and Natural Flood Protection

PRIORITY F

PROJECT F1: Vegetation Control and Sediment Removal for Capacity

PRIORITY F Support public health and public safety for our community

YOUR TAX DOLLARS AT WORK



Valley Water

Safe,
Clean
Water

and Natural Flood Protection

About the Project

Project F1 supports Valley Water’s ongoing vegetation control and sediment removal activities that reduce flood risk by maintaining the design conveyance capacity of flood protection projects. The project includes controlling in-stream vegetation and tree growth and removing sediment at appropriate intervals. Before carrying out in-stream maintenance, Valley Water’s personnel perform biological pre-construction surveys to minimize environmental impacts. Any unavoidable impacts are mitigated through environmental restoration and improvement projects.

The project also helps fund future maintenance of flood protection projects completed under the Safe, Clean Water Program. It comprises two sub-projects that support Valley Water’s ongoing vegetation control and sediment removal activities. Specifically, they are:

- F1.1 Vegetation Control for Capacity
- F1.2 Sediment Removal for Capacity



Sediment removal at Sunnyvale East Channel.

Benefits

This project helps ensure existing flood protection projects continue to provide flood protection and improve and protect stream water quality.

Key Performance Indicator

Maintain completed flood protection projects for flow conveyance.

History of Santa Clara County Creeks

Historically, streams in Santa Clara County would slowly meander, soaking into the earth through gravels and aquifers, feeding seasonal ponds and wetlands that expanded and

contracted with flood and drought. Sediment and debris carried by these flows accumulated causing redirection of the stream’s course or flooding. As these wetlands and seasonal ponds were drained for agriculture and development, streams were channelized and neighborhoods were built, reducing the usable area for the streams to fan out naturally. As the population and agricultural use peaked, so too did the pumping of the Valley’s vast aquifer. As a result of aquifer depletion, the elevation of the valley floor subsided, prompting the need to construct levees and flood control structures. These structures would raise the elevation so that seasonal flows could be contained within a more narrow floodplain.

Releases from water storage facilities in the upper watersheds of our creeks sustain native fish populations and recharge ground water but also contribute to increased variation in seasonal vegetation density, sedimentation and erosion. Today, these channelized flood protection structures rush water through the landscape to keep the residents of Santa Clara County safe from floods. However, they require significant maintenance and repair given that human interventions have altered the natural role of the wetlands.



In-stream vegetation control at Los Coches Creek.

Sediment and Flow Conveyance

Sediment and debris washed downstream can restrict the flow of water in some areas. During a heavy storm, these restricted flow areas could cause water to back up, increasing the risk of flooding. Crews remove sediment to allow stormwater to flow through the creeks as designed. Selective removal of in-stream vegetation maintains flow conveyance in streams and riparian corridors. This work is performed in the warmer and low rain months in preparation for fall and winter flows. In salmonid streams, work must generally be done between June 15 and October 31, to allow for the upstream migration of spawning adult steelhead.



The Sunnyvale East Channel before sediment removal.



The Sunnyvale East Channel after sediment removal.

Vegetation and Flow Conveyance

Vegetation plays a dynamic role in the way streams behave. Grasses, herbs, shrubs, and trees sink their net-like roots deep into banks and covered by organic matter, form a natural filtration, soil erosion protection, and bank stabilizing subsoil network. This network of roots taps directly into the stream and the aerial parts of these plants form the riparian canopy. This canopy is vitally important—not just to birds and insects, but for water quality. In addition to being visually pleasing, the canopy's shade prevents the growth of algae, weeds, and cattails; lowers the water temperature, making it more suitable for wildlife and aquatic species.

While shaded creeks may be a desirable outcome, some of the vegetation eventually needs to be cleared out to maintain the design flow conveyance capacity. Valley Water works to identify creeks within its land rights that are in need of periodic maintenance.

Beneficial Reuse of Sediment for Restoration

To the extent possible, Valley Water coordinates its sediment removal work with **Safe, Clean Water Project D3: Sediment Reuse to Support Shoreline Restoration**. Removed sediment that meets specific reuse criteria is delivered to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service-owned Pond A8 to provide a suitable substrate

on which marsh vegetation can grow, helping to create and restore tidal marsh habitat. In addition to the environmental benefits, reusing sediment reduces disposal costs as the sediment would have otherwise been taken to landfills.

Funding

The project is funded in part by the voter-approved Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection (Safe, Clean Water) Program, under Project F1. The estimated total project cost is \$202.5 million, of which \$103.6 million is funded by Safe, Clean Water Program.

About Valley Water

Valley Water, with a history dating back to 1929, manages an integrated water resources system that includes the supply of clean, safe water, flood protection and stewardship of streams on behalf of Santa Clara County's 2 million residents.

For assistance

Access Valley Water Hotline:



A full list of projects in the **Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program** can be found at www.valleywater.org/safe-clean-water-and-natural-flood-protection-program.

CONTACT US

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