

**MINUTES**  
**EXTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**of the**  
**WEST VALLEY WATER DISTRICT**  
**October 28, 2024**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Garcia called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

Attendee Name	Present	Absent	Arrived
Angela Garcia	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Daniel Jenkins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Socorro Pantaleon	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
John Thiel	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Mary Jo Hartley	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Kimberly Ceron	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Isabelle Medina	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

**II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Chair Garcia inquired if anyone from the public would like to speak. No requests were received, therefore Chair Garcia closed the public comment period.

**III. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**1. Updates to the External Affairs Committee.**

Manager of Public Outreach and Government Affairs Pantaleon provided an update on congratulatory letters that will be sent out to elected officials after the upcoming election; the filming of a video on the Districts history was completed and staff will receive the first version soon; and the RFP for consulting services for the Water Rates and Prop 218 Process is currently open and closes on November 13<sup>th</sup>. Director Garcia provided recommendations for Prop 218 Outreach.

Senior Public Outreach and Government Affairs Representative Hartley provided a report on the Succulent Pumpkin Workshop. Director Garcia recommended hosting a Wreath Succulent Workshop or an additional succulent workshop.

Public Outreach and Government Affairs Representative II Ceron provided an update on the 2024 Poster Contest indicating the winners will be recognized at the November 14<sup>th</sup> Board meeting.

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Senior Public Outreach and Government Affairs Representative Hartley provided an update on Making Conservation a California Way of Life and outreach materials produced. The Committee discussed the State definition of a disadvantaged community and whether the District provides services to those communities. Additionally, an update was provided on the work being done by our branding consultant, RMG.

In response to Director Garcia's question, Manager of Public Outreach and Government Affairs Pantaleon indicated there could be upcoming sponsorship requests for the holiday season, but the events would have to fit into the water nexus.

## 2. Federal Update.

David Turch & Associates representative Jones provided an update on Congressional elections; indicated he will be meeting with staff to prepare for the legislative session and appropriations requests; the Fiscal Year 2025 budget needs to be completed; and they are working with Congresswoman Torres staff regarding the funding for the Bloomington Alleyway Waterline Replacement program.

Additionally, a Legislative update was provided on H.R. 7525/S. 4673, the Special Districts Grant Accessibility Act, and the item will be presented to the Board of Directors for discussion and action.

## 3. State Legislative Update - October 2024.

California Strategies representative Olsen provided updates on the upcoming elections; indicated they will be analyzing and providing insight to the draft LIRA Legislation; and they are working with Assemblymember James Ramos' office to get a tour scheduled soon.

A report was provided that as the District continues to seek additional funding for the Nitrates study, California Strategies will schedule a call with the California Water Board – Division of Financial assistance to discuss funding opportunities through the State. Director Garica recommended contacting other Legislators and Manager of Public Outreach and Government Affairs Pantaleon indicated she is awaiting a response from Congresswoman Torres' Office.

## 4. September - October 2024 Social Media Report.

Public Outreach and Government Affairs Representative II Ceron provided the social media report including top posts and follower counts for September and October.

## 5. Earth Day 2025.

Manager of Public Outreach and Government Affairs Pantaleon provided a report on Earth Day and after analyzing the logistics such as costs, attendance, and community feedback while also keeping Prop 218 in mind, she recommended working with our local school districts to shift the annual event to a field trip where students can learn about the water industry. The Committee discussed this option and Miss Pantaleon will provide more information as it is available.

#### IV. ADJOURN

Chair Garcia adjourned the meeting at 7:18 p.m.

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elvia Dominguez".

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**Elvia Dominguez, Board Secretary**

Minutes were approved on March 24, 2025 by the External Affairs Committee of the West Valley Water District

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