

MINUTES
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETING
of the
WEST VALLEY WATER DISTRICT
July 28, 2025

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Garcia called the meeting to order at 12:10 p.m.

Attendee Name	Present	Absent	Arrived
Angela Garcia	☒	☐	
Kelvin Moore	☒	☐	
Socorro Pantaleon	☒	☐	
John Thiel	☒	☐	
Linda Jadeski	☒	☐	
Mary Jo Hartley	☒	☐	

II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

III. DISCUSSION ITEMS

The Committee began with discussion item #3.

3. IE Works Update

Gracie Torres, Chair of IE Works, provided an update on the program's progress, including the release of an RFP to bring on program management support and expand signatory participation. Juan Villa, representing “Beyond the Message”, the firm selected through the RFP process, introduced himself to the committee, shared his role in strengthening partnerships and expressed interest in meeting with both the committee and staff to collaborate on outreach strategies

Elizabeth Troups provided an update on a grant application submitted by IE Works for the State High Road Training Partnership funding. There are 83 applicants competing for \$18 million in available funding and award notifications are expected in September or October.

WVWD

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1. Federal Update (Verbal)

David Turch & Associates representative Jones provided an update on Fiscal Year (FY) 26 appropriations indicating Congressman Pete Aguilar submitted \$3 million for the SCADA upgrade and the project now stands at \$1.09 million after review by the Interior Subcommittee. FY 24 Scope Adjustment: WVWD is working with Congressman Aguilar's office to revise the Bunker Hill project scope and EPA Region 9 may need to be involved. Grant Status: There is no update yet from the Bureau of Reclamation regarding the submitted AMI grant. Ribbon Cutting Coordination: Mr. Jones will be working with Congressman Aguilar's scheduler to confirm dates for the Roemer Ribbon Cutting.

2. State Legislative Update (Verbal)

California Strategies representative Olsen provided an overview of legislation SB 394, SB 707, and AB 339.

4. Prop 218 Communication Outreach Update

Manager of Public Outreach and Government Affairs Pantaleon provided an overview of the Value of Water campaign that will begin in a few weeks, and proposed Prop 218 outreach with stakeholder, community members, and customers.

5. Updates to the External Affairs Committee

Manager of Public Outreach and Government Affairs Pantaleon presented the "Day in the Life" video series featuring Water Distribution Operators and indicating there will be a new video each month featuring a new department. Ms. Pantaleon also reviewed Mascot Outreach featuring Women in Water, Careers in Water, and observed water weeks, and indicated staff will be meeting with Rialto Unified School District to discuss future education initiatives.

6. Social Media Report June - July

Senior Public Outreach and Government Affairs Representative Hartley presented the Social Media report and reviewed the trends and highlights.

7. 2025 Poster Contest

Manager of Public Outreach and Government Affairs Pantaleon indicated that staff will begin promoting the 2025 poster contest with the theme "Being in my water saving era means...."

IV. ADJOURN

Director Garcia adjourned the meeting at 1:32 p.m.

ATTEST:

Paola Lara

Paola Lara, Acting Board Secretary

Minutes were approved on September 29, 2025 by the External Affairs Committee of the West Valley Water District.

WVWD

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