

VALLEY CENTER MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT
MINUTES
Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors
Monday, January 5, 2026 — 2:00 P.M.

The Valley Center Municipal Water District Board of Directors' meeting was called to order by President Ferro at 2:00 PM. In the Board Room at 29300 Valley Center Rd.; Valley Center, CA 92082, and livestreamed on the District's website at www.vcmwd.org.

ROLL CALL

Board Members Present: *Directors Ferro, Holtz, Baker, Ness, and Stehly.*

Board Members Absent: *None*

Staff Members Present: *General Manager Leahy, District Engineer Grabbe, Manager of Accounting/Deputy Director of Finance & Administration Velasquez, Director of Operations and Facilities Lovelady, Director of IT Pilve, Administrative Assistant/Assistant Board Secretary Williams, Special Projects and Regulatory Compliance Manager Nichols, and General Counsel de Sousa.*

PUBLIC COMMENT(S)

President Ferro established for the record the process by which public comments are received by the Board; this process was also described in the Agenda for the meeting.

CLOSED SESSION ITEM

At any time during the regular session, the Board may adjourn to closed session to consider litigation, personnel matters, or to discuss with legal counsel matters within the attorney-client privilege. Discussion of litigation is within the attorney-client privilege and may be held in closed session (per Government Code § 54956.9).

1. A Closed Session was called by President Ferro at 3:07 PM pursuant to the following item:

- **Government Code §54956.9(d)(2) – Conference with Legal Counsel, Anticipated Litigation Significant exposure to litigation:** One potential case (Claim filed by Mike Appelman)

RECONVENE

Action: The Board came out of closed session at 2:13 PM. Upon motion by Stehly seconded by President Ferro, motion passed with 5 affirmative votes to reject the Government Code claim filed by Mike Appelman.

CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS

Consent calendar items will be voted on together by a single motion unless separate action is requested by a Board member, staff or member of the audience.

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2. **Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting Held Monday, December 15, 2025; and**
3. **Audit Demands.**

Action: Upon motion by Holtz, seconded by Ness; and carried with 5 affirmative votes, the previously listed consent calendar items were approved.

ACTION ITEM(S)

4. **Appointment of ACWA-JPIA Board Representative:**

Director of Finance & Administration Pugh presented the staff report and explained the need to appoint a District representative to the ACWA-JPIA Board of Directors due to the vacancy created by Director Smith's resignation.

The Board appointed President Ferro as the ACWA-JPIA Board Representative and directed staff to submit the required appointment form to ACWA-JPIA.

Action: Upon motion by Holtz, seconded by Ness; the Board appointed President Ferro as the District's ACWA-JPIA Board Representative.

5. **Appointment of the Valley Center Municipal Water District Representative on the San Diego County Water Authority Board Of Directors:**

General Manager Leahy presented the staff report regarding the expiration of the District's current SDCWA representative term and the need for Board action effective January 14, 2026.

The Board discussed the appointment and the continuation of District representation at the regional level.

Recommendation

Staff recommended that the Board adopt Resolution No. 2026-01 approving Gary Arant to serve as the representative of the Valley Center Municipal Water District on the Board of Directors of the San Diego County Water Authority.

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-01

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE VALLEY CENTER MUNICIPAL
WATER DISTRICT CONSENTING TO AND APPROVING THE APPOINTMENT OF
GARY ARANT AS THE REPRESENTATIVE OF VALLEY CENTER MUNICIPAL WATER
DISTRICT ON THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE SAN DIEGO COUNTY WATER
AUTHORITY**

Action: Upon motion by Holtz, seconded by Stehly; motion to approve the following Resolution passed with five (5) affirmative votes:

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Was adopted by the following vote, to wit:

AYES: *Directors Ferro, Holtz, Ness, Stehly and Baker.*
NOES: *None*
ABSENT: *None*

INFORMATIONAL ITEM(S)

6. General Information:

General Manager Leahy provided a general informational update to the Board.

Action: Informational item only; no Board action required.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' AB1234 REPORTS ON MEETINGS ATTENDED

None.

2:30 PM TIME CERTAIN SPECIAL ACTION AND PRESENTATION ITEMS (Items 7 and 8):

7. Adoption and Presentation to Gary T. Arant of Resolution No. 2026-02 Honoring Gary T. Arant for his 36 Years of Service to the Valley Center Municipal Water District:

The Board presented and adopted Resolution No. 2026-02, honoring Gary T. Arant for his 36 years of service to the Valley Center Municipal Water District.

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-02

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE VALLEY CENTER WATER DISTRICT RECOGNIZING AND COMMENDING GARY T. ARANT FOR THIRTY-SIX (36) YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE VALLEY CENTER WATER DISTRICT, FIFTY-THREE (53) YEARS OF PUBLIC SERVICE TO THE CALIFORNIA WATER INDUSTRY, AND PROCLAIMING DECEMBER 29 AS "WATER TITAN DAY"

Action: Upon motion by Stehly, seconded by Baker; motion to approve the following Resolution passed with five (5) affirmative votes:

Was adopted by the following vote, to wit:

AYES: *Directors Ferro, Holtz, Ness, Stehly and Baker.*
NOES: *None*
ABSENT: *None*

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8. **Presentations by Regional Representatives Honoring Gary T. Arant for his Service in the Water and Wastewater Industry:**

Regional representatives provided remarks recognizing Mr. Arant's service and contributions to the water and wastewater industry.

ADJOURNMENT

Action: Upon motion by Stehly seconded by Ness; motion passed with 5 affirmative votes, the regular meeting of the Board of Directors was adjourned at 2:59 PM.

ATTEST:

ATTEST:

Coral L. Williams, *Acting Board Secretary*

Enrico P. Ferro, *President*

Approved at a regularly scheduled Board Meeting on Monday, January 15, 2026