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## **Press Release**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### **Vallecitos Water District Receives Two Awards from the Special District Leadership Foundation**

San Marcos, CA – The Vallecitos Water District (VWD) recently received two awards from the Special District Leadership Foundation (SDLF). VWD received the District Transparency Certificate of Excellence in recognition of its outstanding efforts to promote transparency and good governance. VWD also received the “District of Distinction – Silver Level” accreditation for its sound fiscal management policies and practices in district operations.

“The Transparency Certificate of Excellence award is a testament to VWD’s commitment to open government,” said, Mike Sannella, VWD Board President. “Our staff is to be commended for their contributions that empower the public with information that facilitates engagement and oversight.” To receive the award, VWD demonstrated the completion of essential governance transparency requirements, including conducting ethics training for all board members, properly conducting open and public meetings, and filing financial transactions and compensation reports to the State Controller in a timely manner.

“For the District of Distinction – Silver Level accreditation, SDLF provides an independent audit review of the last three years of the district’s operations to ensure prudent fiscal practices,” said Neil McCormick, SDLF Chief Executive Officer. The committee members who review the audits are volunteers from the special district community, including district controllers, directors of finance and certified general managers.

In addition, the District's Board of Directors and executive staff must also show proof of educational training in public governance, as well as compliance with ethics and harassment prevention training. Furthermore, in order to receive the recognition, the District's website must include posting of transparency requirements, including: election procedures and deadlines, posted board meeting schedules and agendas, current district budget, most recent financial audit, and a list of compensation of Board members and staff or a link to the State Controller's webpage with the data.

The VWD has provided water, wastewater, and reclamation services to San Marcos; the community of Lake San Marcos; parts of Carlsbad, Escondido and Vista and other unincorporated areas in north San Diego County for more than 65 years. Originally founded as the San Marcos County Water District in 1955 by a group of local citizens, the District was formed in accordance with Division 12 of the Water Code to provide imported water from Northern California and the Colorado River. The San Marcos County Water District continued to grow as an independent, special district and in May of 1989, changed its name to the Vallecitos Water District. Today, VWD currently serves a population of more than 105,000 within its 45-square-mile boundary.

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**About Vallecitos Water District:** *As an independent, special district, Vallecitos is dedicated to providing water, wastewater and reclamation services to over 105,000 people in a 45-square-mile area that includes San Marcos; the community of Lake San Marcos; portions of Carlsbad, Escondido and Vista; and other surrounding unincorporated areas.*

*Due to the evolving situation with the COVID-19 Novel Coronavirus and Executive Order N-29-20, Vallecitos holds board meetings via teleconferencing. The public is encouraged to watch or listen to the meeting from their homes and observe the meeting electronically or listen in by phone. The District's Board meetings are held on the first and third Wednesday of each month at 5:00 p.m. To provide public comments prior to the meeting, submit comments via e-mail at [PublicComment@VWD.org](mailto:PublicComment@VWD.org) up to 90 minutes in advance of the meeting. Comments received are handled by the Clerk of the Board of Directors as if submitted in person. All written comments that are received at least 90 minutes before the meeting will be provided to the Board, and a record of the receipt of comment will be noted during the meeting. To comment during the meeting or to watch or listen to the live meeting, go to [www.vwd.org/meetings](http://www.vwd.org/meetings). Board meetings are also televised on San Marcos TV. Visit [www.san-marcos.net/smtv](http://www.san-marcos.net/smtv) for a complete programming schedule.*