



201 Vallecitos de Oro - San Marcos, California - 92069 - (760) 744-0460

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 8, 2024

Contact: Chris Robbins
(760) 330-1450

Vallecitos Water District receives Re-accreditation with a “Transparency Certificate of Excellence”

San Marcos, CA – Last night, the Vallecitos Water District (VWD) was honored for achieving re-accreditation with a “Transparency Certificate of Excellence” issued by the Special District Leadership Foundation (SDLF). This recognition is given to organizations for their outstanding efforts to promote a transparent, well-governed public agency.



From left to right: VWD Board Member, Erik A. Groset; VWD Board Member, Craig Elitharp; SDLF Senior Public Affairs Field Coordinator, Chris Palmer; VWD Board President, Tiffany Boyd-Hodgson; VWD Board Member, Jim Hernandez; VWD Board Vice President, Jim Pennock.

“This award is a testament to Vallecitos’ commitment to open government,” said Vallecitos Board President Dr. Tiffany Boyd-Hodgson. “The Board of Directors along with District staff are to be commended for their contributions that empower the public with information and facilitate engagement and oversight.”

Special District Leadership Foundation Senior Public Affairs Field Coordinator Chris Palmer was on hand to recognize Vallecitos for completing the essential governance transparency requirements, including conducting ethics training for all Board members, properly hosting open and public meetings, and filing financial transactions and compensation reports to the State Controller in a timely manner.

Furthermore, the District fulfilled the 19 website requirements, granting the public easy access to important information such as Board agendas, past minutes, current District budget and the most recent financial audit.

The last part of the certification process included demonstrated outreach that properly engaged the public in Vallecitos' governance through regular distribution of newsletters as well as public budget hearings.

The Special District Leadership Foundation is an independent, non-profit organization formed to promote good governance and best practices among California's special districts through certification, accreditation, and other recognition programs.

To receive the recognition, Vallecitos' 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. Vallecitos' 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. More information on VWD's transparency efforts can be found here: www.vwd.org/transparency.

####

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.*