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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 – On April 20, 2016, the Vallecitos Water District (Vallecitos) was honored for achieving both the “District Transparency Certificate of Excellence” and “District of Distinction” accreditation by the Special District Leadership Foundation (SDLF). California SDLF Treasurer Jo MacKenzie 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. The SDLF 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.

Vallecitos received its first “District Transparency Certificate of Excellence” in 2014. The biannual accreditation is for sound fiscal management policies and practices in district operations. This recognition is given to organizations for their outstanding efforts to promote a transparent, well governed public agency. Once a district receives a “District Transparency Certificate of Excellence” award they are eligible to receive accreditation as a “District of Distinction.”

Vallecitos received its first “District of Distinction” accreditation last night at the award ceremony in the District’s Board room. Vallecitos is one of only 28 special districts, out of over 2,000 within the State of California, to obtain this recognition. “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, 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. 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 for Board members and staff or a link to the State Controller’s webpage with the data.

“These awards are a testament to the Vallecitos Water District’s commitment to open government,” said Vallecitos Board President Mike Sannella. “The Board of Directors, along with District staff, are to be commended for their efforts to empower the public with information and to facilitate public oversight and engagement.”



From left to right: VWD Board Member Hal Martin, VWD Board Member Jim Hernandez, VWD Board President Mike Sannella, SDLF Treasurer Jo MacKenzie, VWD Board Member Betty Evans, VWD Board Vice President Craig Elitharp.

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About Vallecitos Water District: *As an independent, special district, Vallecitos is dedicated to providing water, wastewater and reclamation services to approximately 97,000 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. The public is invited to Board meetings, taking place at 5 p.m. the first and third Wednesday of each month at Vallecitos’ Administration Building - 201 Vallecitos de Oro, San Marcos. Board meetings are also televised on San Marcos TV. Visit www.san-marcos.net/smtv for a complete programming schedule.*