

## Fw: Valley Water and San Jose Public Comment: San Jose Resident OPPOSED to 10 % Water Rate Increase

City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>

Fri 3/19/2021 8:59 AM

To: Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

### Office of the City Clerk | City of San José

200 E. Santa Clara St., Tower 14<sup>th</sup> Floor

San Jose, CA 95113

Main: 408-535-1260

Fax: 408-292-6207

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**From:** Sandra Randles [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Friday, March 19, 2021 8:55 AM

**To:** City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>

**Subject:** Valley Water and San Jose Public Comment: San Jose Resident OPPOSED to 10 % Water Rate Increase

[External Email]

Dear San Jose City Council

We urge Santa Clara Valley Water District and City Staff to reconsider their and the community's needs they serve before making any recommendation for a rate increase. Certainly, any increase approaching 10% is absolutely out of line in today's Covid times and recovery. Despite the bright side of having vaccines and there being a light at the end of the tunnel; we are still on the road to recovery and especially for those who need it most, it is not over yet.

Rate increases and systemic takeaways seem to be just proforma these days by utilities and institutions. Santa Clara Valley Water District's proposal for increasing rates is just another example of this. This is coming at a time when we are just now maybe beginning to come out of a pandemic and a financial crisis. The stock market might be doing great, but most who need it, haven't seen any increase in their income. Increases in the DOW or the NASDAQ are not helping them while they are struggling just to make ends meet. The federal government has just approved trillions more dollars in aid to people and business's who need it. Santa Clara Valley Water District's proposal to raise rates is akin to them dipping their hands in the pot for a piece of the action when there are others who really need this assistance. Instead, if these water rate increases go through, these people will just have to turn around and give their relief funds to the water district, PG&E, higher gas prices and they will still be behind on their rent or mortgages and struggling to put food on the table, heating or cooling their homes, and getting their children schooled.

We are opposed to this rate increase.

Respectfully,

Rex and Sandra Randles

San Jose District 8 residents

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**Fw: Vote No on Water Rate Increase**

City Clerk &lt;city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov&gt;

Fri 3/19/2021 9:10 AM

To: Agendadesk &lt;Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov&gt;

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San Jose, CA 95113

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**From:** Jeremy Barousse [REDACTED]**Sent:** Thursday, March 18, 2021 10:06 PM**To:** City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>**Cc:** McGarrity, Patrick <Patrick.McGarrity@sanjoseca.gov>; Lam, Victoria <Victoria.Lam@sanjoseca.gov>; Arenas, Sylvia <sylvia.arenas@sanjoseca.gov>**Subject:** Vote No on Water Rate Increase

[External Email]

Dear Santa Clara Valley Water Board of Trustees,

I urge the Board to vote against any increases in water rates in the upcoming fiscal year. The COVID-19 pandemic has hurt a lot of families in San Jose, and while we start to slowly re-open, many families are still experiencing detrimental economic hardship. By increasing water rates, it would put more strain on already stressed households, and families will be forced with the tough decision of whether to pay their increased water bill, or pay rent or buy groceries.

I urge that the Board stand up for San Jose families, and deter against any rate increases for the upcoming fiscal year. Here in Santa Clara Valley, we don't leave anyone behind.

Respectfully,

Jeremy Barousse

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**Fw: Water Rate Increase: Santa Clara Valley Water District**

City Clerk &lt;city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov&gt;

Fri 3/19/2021 9:11 AM

To: Agendadesk &lt;Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov&gt;

**Office of the City Clerk | City of San José**200 E. Santa Clara St., Tower 14<sup>th</sup> Floor

San Jose, CA 95113

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**From:** Janet Holt [REDACTED]**Sent:** Thursday, March 18, 2021 9:06 PM**To:** City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>**Cc:** McGarrity, Patrick <Patrick.McGarrity@sanjoseca.gov>; Lam, Victoria <Victoria.Lam@sanjoseca.gov>; Arenas, Sylvia <sylvia.arenas@sanjoseca.gov>**Subject:** Water Rate Increase: Santa Clara Valley Water District

[External Email]

ref: Water Board Meeting March 19, 2021 Proposed Rate Increase Agenda Item 6 (21-557)

Dear City Clerk and Santa Clara Valley Water Board,

Please advocate for a no water rate increase this year from Valley Water. The financial effects of the Covid-19 pandemic are still not fully realized by many residents. The unprecedented hardships paying for food, shelter and utilities have squeezed too many residents. To hike water rates now by almost 10% could mean some people may have their water shut down. There must be a better way to stretch the continuing services from Valley Water without increasing pricing. Could there be an incremental rate hike or an upcoming project delayed until we are fully functional as a society with people back to work once again?

Thank you,

Janet Holt

Neighborhood Advocate and Neighborhood Association Board Member in District 8

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