

February 24, 2026

US EPA Region 9 (WTR-2-2)
Attn: Luisa Valiela
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

Subject: Letter of Support from Santa Clara Valley Water District for BACWA's Clean Water Together proposal

Dear San Francisco Bay Geographic Program Office Proposal Reviewer:

On behalf of Santa Clara Valley Water District (Valley Water), I am writing to express our strong support of the proposal titled "Clean Water Together – A Coalition Proposal for Regional Nutrient Solutions" submitted by BACWA, with partners at the San Francisco Estuary Partnership (SFEP), East Bay Municipal Utility District, Central Contra Costa Sanitation District, East Bay Dischargers Authority, Dublin San Ramon Services District, the City of South San Francisco, Mt. View Sanitary District, Sanitation Agency of Southern Marin, City of Burlingame, in response to the EPA's Notice of Funding Opportunity Number: EPA-R9-SFBay-26-0.

Through on-the-ground implementation, targeted research, regional collaboration, and development of a nutrient trading framework, this effort will enable publicly owned treatment works (POTWs) to leverage site-specific opportunities while contributing to broader, system-wide nutrient and contaminant management strategies. We believe this coalition will generate valuable insights and inform practical, scalable approaches to wastewater nutrient management across the Bay Area and nationally. These efforts directly support regional collaboration and help protect the San Francisco Bay while advancing sustainable water reuse solutions.

Valley Water plays a critical role in advancing recycled and purified water programs in South Bay and is actively leading technical studies and evaluations focused on managing reverse osmosis concentrate (ROC), a by-product of advanced water purification. We recognize the importance of integrated regional solutions that address nutrients, emerging contaminants, and concentrate management in a manner that is technically sound, environmentally protective, and economically feasible.

We are particularly supportive of the diverse approaches outlined in the proposal, which include:

- **Process Intensification:** Piloting advanced technologies like Membrane Aerated Bioreactors (MABR) and Densified Activated Sludge (DAS) to reduce nutrients within existing plant footprints more efficiently and quickly.
- **Nature-Based Solutions (NBS):** Advancing projects like the "First Mile " Horizontal Levee and floating wetland islands to provide reduction of nutrients and other contaminants while enhancing habitat and flood resilience.
- **Market-Based Solutions:** Developing a regional nutrient trading program to leverage site-specific opportunities and achieve cost-effective aggregate load reductions.

Valley Water will play an active role in reviewing technical products, participating in workgroups and workshops, and coordinating to ensure project outcomes are technically sound, regionally aligned, and applicable to

advancing nutrient management and strategies in South Bay. This study will provide Valley Water and the City of San José with the information needed to determine whether to advance a nature-based solution for ROC management, nutrient reduction, and control of contaminants of emerging concern (CECs).

We look forward to contributing to the success of this project and collaborating with the broader team. Should you have any questions regarding this letter, please do not hesitate to contact Medi Sinaki, P.E., Senior Engineer, via email at msinaki@valleywater.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Hossein Ashktorab".

Hossein Ashktorab, Ph.D.
Recycled and Purified Water Unit Manager
Valley Water (Santa Clara Valley Water District)

cc: M. Sinaki