

MINUTES OF THE
PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE OF
VISTA IRRIGATION DISTRICT

October 5, 2023

A meeting of the Public Affairs Committee of Vista Irrigation District was held on Thursday, October 5, 2023, at the offices of the District, 1391 Engineer Street, Vista, California.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Sanchez called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Committee members present: Sanchez and Kuchinsky.

Staff present: Brent Reyes, Management Analyst; and Shallako Goodrick, Director of Administration.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved as presented.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT TIME

No public comments were presented on items not appearing on the agenda.

5. 2023 ANNUAL REPORT AND 2024 SPRING NEWSLETTER

See staff report attached hereto.

The Committee and staff discussed the content the Committee would like to see in the 2023 Annual Report. Both Committee members agreed that the Annual Report should focus on the District's 100th Anniversary. The Committee also suggested including an article about the flume replacement project.

The Committee suggested the 2024 spring newsletter also focus on the 100th Anniversary, the flume replacement project and harmful algae blooms at Lake Henshaw. Chair Sanchez suggested including an article regarding infrastructure improvements.

6. SCHOLARSHIP CONTEST

See staff report attached hereto.

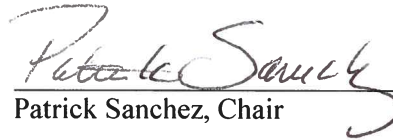
Chair Sanchez recommended no changes to the budget for the Scholarship Contest. The Committee felt that last year's essay question did not encourage meaningful responses by the students. Chair Sanchez recommended changing the essay question; Committee member Kuchinsky proposed using an essay topic related to the District's recent 100th Anniversary. The Committee requested staff keep the existing Scholarship Contest procedures unchanged, and develop a new essay question related to the District's 100th Anniversary.

7. COMMENTS BY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

None were presented.

8. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Committee, at 11:26 a.m. Chair Sanchez adjourned the meeting.


Patrick Sanchez, Chair

ATTEST:



Lisa R. Soto, Secretary
Board of Directors
VISTA IRRIGATION DISTRICT



**PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
STAFF REPORT**

Agenda Item: 5

Meeting Date: October 5, 2023
Prepared By: Brent Reyes
Reviewed By: Shallako Goodrick
Approved By: Brett Hodgkiss

SUBJECT: 2023 ANNUAL REPORT AND 2024 SPRING NEWSLETTER

RECOMMENDATION: Discuss information to be contained in the 2023 Annual Report and 2024 Spring Newsletter.

PRIOR BOARD ACTION: None.

FISCAL IMPACT: Printing costs for a four-page newsletter are estimated at \$3,000. Based on information received from InfoSend, the District's bill printing and mailing service provider, staff does not anticipate any additional postage costs associated with inserting the newsletter in with the water bills. Design and layout of the annual report and newsletter are performed in-house by District staff. There is no cost associated with posting an electronic version of each document to the District's website.

SUMMARY: Each year the District prepares an annual report that includes summary financial statements, demographic data and articles about various water related topics, such as infrastructure improvements and water supply conditions. Prior to beginning the layout and design process, staff meets with the Committee to receive input regarding the contents of annual report. Staff is working on the 2023 Annual Report and would like to get the Committee's ideas for content.

Staff is also formulating ideas for the 2024 spring newsletter and would like to get the Committee's thoughts on the content for the newsletter.

DETAILED REPORT: Since the first edition, the annual report has been primarily a financial report, in that it focused on the District's audited financial statements. Over the years, the emphasis has shifted to providing informational articles, demographics and other statistical data shown in graphs. Only summary financial statements are now included in the annual report since detailed financial information is available in the District's Annual Comprehensive Financial Report, which may be accessed on the District's website.

In recent years, the annual report has only been produced in an electronic format. In lieu of printing the annual report, which had very limited distribution, the decision was made to develop an expanded newsletter and mail to all customers with their water bills. The newsletter has included some articles and demographic information from the annual report as well as other relevant/timely information.



**PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
STAFF REPORT**

Agenda Item: 6

Meeting Date: October 5, 2023
Prepared By: Brent Reyes
Reviewed By: Shallako Goodrick
Approved By: Brett Hodgkiss

SUBJECT: SCHOLARSHIP CONTEST

RECOMMENDATION: Review and provide feedback on draft application materials, including the essay question and timeline for the Vista Irrigation District Scholarship Contest.

PRIOR BOARD ACTION: On May 3, 2023, the Board awarded six scholarships to the contest winners, two in the amount of \$2,000 and four in the amount of \$1,500 (totaling \$10,000).

FISCAL IMPACT: \$10,000 for the scholarship contest is included in the budget.

SUMMARY: Each year, the District invites high school seniors who live or go to school within its service area to compete for a scholarship. The purpose of the scholarship program is to increase student knowledge and awareness of water related issues affecting the District and its customers. Students who compete for a scholarship must complete an essay and provide a one page personal statement related to their background and/or goals; selection criteria also include community involvement or volunteer service, and letters of recommendation.

In May 2021, the Board opted to increase the scholarship contest budget from \$6,000 to \$10,000 to increase student participation and provide flexibility in contest awards.

DETAILED REPORT: Staff has prepared a draft application package and brochure for the Committee's review and feedback. The scholarship contest requirements, as presented in the draft application package, are the same as last year. Application packages and brochures will be distributed to high school counselors within the District's jurisdictional boundaries in December, and follow-up e-mails will be made to counselors to ensure the application materials were received. Additional scholarship promotional efforts will include issuing a news release and announcing the program on the District's website; application materials will also be made available on the District website.

As proposed, application packages would be due to the District by 4:00 p.m. on Friday February 23, 2024. The Committee, which serves as the competition judges, could meet in the following weeks (based on Committee members' availability) to review the applications and recommend a winner(s). The Committee's recommendation for the winner could then be submitted to the Board for consideration at a meeting in April. A certificate could then be presented to the winner at the next scheduled Board meeting. As in the past, once the student has enrolled at a university, college or vocational school District staff will forward a check to the school on behalf of the student(s).

ATTACHMENTS: Draft scholarship application package and brochure



SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION PACKAGE

Vista Irrigation District (VID) invites local high school seniors to compete for scholarship(s) to college, university or vocational (trade) schools from VID. Up to six scholarships may be awarded; the minimum scholarship award amount is \$1,000 and the maximum scholarship award amount is \$3,000. Winners will be selected based on the quality and originality of an essay prepared by the applicant as well as school and community involvement. Applications will not be accepted if all criteria are not met, including correct formatting. **Applicants must submit each of the following documents in PDF format by 4:00 PM on Friday February 23, 2024:**

1. Completed application form.
2. School/Community involvement:
 - a. One letter of recommendation from a high school faculty member.
 - b. One letter of character reference from a personal or professional associate.
3. A personal statement (**two pages or less, Arial font, 12 point type, with 1 inch margins top, bottom, left and right, and line spacing set to 1½**). Suggested topics include the student's reasons for applying for the scholarship or seeking a higher education, the student's educational/career goals, personal background or interests.
4. An essay (**two pages, Arial font, 12 point type, with 1 inch margins top, bottom, left and right, and line spacing set to 1½**) addressing the following topic:

Imagine a day without water. Choose any future profession that you are interested in, such as firefighter, nurse, chef, caregiver, lawyer, construction worker, etc., and write about what a day without water would be like working in that profession.

The essay will be judged on originality, creativity, grammar/spelling and your response to the essay topic above.

Students may obtain an application package from their High School Counselor or download it from the district's website (www.vidwater.org). For questions, please call Brent Reyes at (760) 597-3107 or email scholarships@vidwater.org.

A completed application package must be received via e-mail at scholarships@vidwater.org or at Vista Irrigation District, 1391 Engineer Street, Vista, CA 92081-8840, **by 4:00 PM on Friday February 23, 2024.**

VID will review qualified applications and select winner(s) who will receive scholarships. Once enrolled at a college, university or vocational school, VID will send a check directly to the school on scholarship recipient's behalf.



2024 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

(Competition is open to all high school seniors who live or attend school in VID's service area)

Name: _____

Telephone number and best time to call: _____

Address: _____

High School: _____

How did you learn about the VID Scholarship? _____

Post high school education plans (college, vocational school, etc.)

Service and/or other extracurricular activities performed through school or volunteer organizations, community groups, church or clubs, etc. (Include contact name/telephone for verification where possible)

Honors or special recognitions received (school or other)

If employed, job title and total hours per week: _____

Job Responsibilities: _____

Who Said Money for College is Hard to Find?

*Talk to your
school counselor or visit
Vista Irrigation District's
website at
www.vidwater.org
to download a
fillable .pdf
application to apply for
the scholarship.*



Brent Reyes
1391 Engineer Street
Vista, CA 92081

Email: scholarships@vidwater.org
(760) 597-3107

Applications and additional information are
available on Vista Irrigation District's website at
www.vidwater.org



2024 Scholarship Contest

**Do you need money
for college?**



Vista Irrigation District Scholarship Contest

Up to six scholarships may be awarded; the minimum scholarship award amount is \$1,000 and the maximum scholarship award amount is \$3,000. The purpose of the scholarship program is to increase knowledge and awareness of water related issues impacting the community.

Students may download a fillable .pdf application package at www.vidwater.org or email scholarships@vidwater.org to have the application materials emailed to them. Applications are also available through high school counseling offices.

Applications must be received at the District's office by **4:00 p.m. on February 23, 2024**. Eligible students must live or go to school within the Vista Irrigation District service area.



COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarship Awards

***Applicable for College,
University or Vocational School***

**Maximum Award
\$3,000**

**Minimum Award
\$1,000**

Applying is Easy!

*Submit the following to VID
by
4:00 p.m.
February 23, 2024*

- ◆ Completed application form.
- ◆ One letter of recommendation from a high school faculty member.
- ◆ One letter of character reference from a personal or professional associate.
- ◆ A personal statement. Suggested topics include reasons for applying for the scholarship or seeking a higher education, educational & career goals, personal background or interests.
- ◆ A two-page essay addressing the following topic/question:

Imagine a day without water.

Choose any future profession that you are interested in, such as firefighter, nurse, chef, caregiver, lawyer, construction worker, etc., and write about what a day without water would be like working in that profession.