

MINUTES OF THE
PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE OF THE
VISTA IRRIGATION DISTRICT

March 24, 2026

A meeting of the Public Affairs Committee of the Vista Irrigation District was held on Tuesday, March 24, 2026, at the offices of the District, 1391 Engineer Street, Vista, California.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Kuchinsky called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Committee members present: Kuchinsky and Nuñez.

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

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. SCHOLARSHIP CONTEST

See staff report attached hereto.

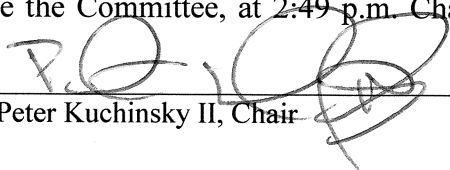
After discussion and careful consideration of the five eligible scholarship applications submitted to the District, the Committee recommended awarding a \$3,000 scholarship to Rahel Chiwai from Mission Vista High School, a \$2,500 scholarship to Taylor Sheridan from Rancho Buena Vista High School, and \$1,000 scholarships to Stephanie Aguilar from Mission Vista High School, Kawai Chau from Rancho Buena Vista High School, and Yahir Landeros from Vista High School.

6. COMMENTS BY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

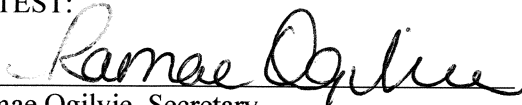
None were presented

7. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Committee, at 2:49 p.m. Chair Kuchinsky adjourned the meeting.


Peter Kuchinsky II, Chair

ATTEST:


Ranae Ogilvie, Secretary

Board of Directors
VISTA IRRIGATION DISTRICT



Agenda Item: 5

**PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
STAFF REPORT**

Board Meeting Date: March 24, 2026
Prepared By: Brent Reyes
Reviewed By: Shallako Goodrick
Approved By: Brett Hodgkiss

SUBJECT: SCHOLARSHIP CONTEST

RECOMMENDATION: Review application materials and select the winner(s) of Vista Irrigation District's 2026 scholarship contest.

PRIOR BOARD ACTION: On May 7, 2025, the Board awarded \$1,500 scholarships to Hailey Ahmed, Natalie Krahmer, Andrew Lee, Nathan Sleeper from Rancho Buena Vista High School, Nayleen Griffith from Vista High School and Christopher Rayo from Mission Vista High School.

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

SUMMARY: Each year, the District invites high school seniors who live 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 personal statement related to their background and/or goals; selection criteria also include community involvement or volunteer service a letter of recommendation.

DETAILED REPORT: In December 2025, application packets, which included a brochure for the scholarship contest, were provided to counselors of high schools located within or near the District's jurisdictional boundaries. Follow-up calls and e-mails were made to the counselors to ensure receipt of application materials and inquire as to students' interest in the program; additional scholarship promotional efforts included issuing a news release and promoting the contest on the District's website and San Diego County Water Authority's Water News Network webpage. Application materials were made available on the District's website. The District received five applications from high school seniors by the February 20, 2026 deadline.

Public Affairs Committee (Committee) members Kuchinsky and Nuñez are the judges for the contest. Applicants are rated based on the quality of their essay, personal statement, letter of recommendation and application. The Committee's recommendation for the winner(s) will be submitted to the Board for consideration at the April 15, 2026 Board meeting. The winner(s) will be acknowledged at the May 13, 2026 Board meeting. Once the student has enrolled at a college or vocational school and provides staff with the required information (proof of enrollment and school contact), District staff will forward a check in the amount of the scholarship award to the school on behalf of the student.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Scholarship Application Package
- Rating Sheet
- Scholarship Applications

VISTA IRRIGATION DISTRICT

2026 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION PACKAGE



Six
scholarships
up to \$3,000
available

Applications are due February 20, 2026



SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Vista Irrigation District (VID) invites local high school seniors that live within VID's service territory, 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 below are not met, including correct formatting.** Applicants must submit each of the following documents in PDF format by **4:00 PM on Friday February 20, 2026:**

1. Completed application form. **(15% of scoring)**
2. One letter of recommendation from a community member or high school faculty member (no family member recommendations will be accepted). **(10% of scoring)**
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**). Topics to include the student's reasons for applying for the scholarship, post high school education plans, the student's educational/career goals, personal background or interests. **(35% of scoring)**
4. An essay (**40% of scoring**) **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:

The Vista Irrigation District is fortunate to have its own local water supply, Lake Henshaw. Write an essay that addresses the challenges the District faces owning and managing Lake Henshaw as well as the benefits the lake provides District customers in the past, present, and future.

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 contact Brent Reyes at (760) 597-3107 or by email at 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 20, 2026.**

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.



2026 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

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

Name: _____ **Student Contact Number:** _____

Address, City, Zip: _____

Email Address: _____ **High School:** _____

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

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

Job Responsibilities: _____

Honors or special recognitions received (school or other)

2026 VID SCHOLARSHIP SELECTION

Applicant Name	Essay <i>(Knowledge of issue)</i> 40%	Personal Statement 35%	Completed Application Form 15%	Letter of Recommendation 10%	Comments
Stephanie Aguilar					
Kawai Chau					
Rahel Chiwai					
Yahir Pineda					
Taylor Sheridan					

Please rate the scholarship applicants on the basis of these four (4) areas: Essay (knowledge of issue), Personal Statement, Completed Application Form, and Letter of Recommendation. Please give a rating from 1-10 (10 being high) in each of the four areas. Feel free to add any additional comments that you might have on the applicants.

PLEASE BRING THIS COMPLETED SHEET WITH YOU TO THE PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETING.

Scholarship applications were provided to the Public Affairs Committee under separate cover.