

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
VISTA IRRIGATION DISTRICT

December 19, 2018

A meeting of the Public Affairs Committee of Vista Irrigation District was held on Wednesday, December 19, 2018, at the offices of the District, 1391 Engineer Street, Vista, California.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Sanchez called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Committee members present: Patrick Sanchez and Richard Vásquez.

Staff present: Brett Hodgkiss, General Manager and Marlene Kelleher, 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. SCHOLARSHIP CONTEST

See staff report attached hereto.

The Committee and staff discussed restructuring the scholarship contest, keeping in mind the ideas talked about with the Board as well as the goal of increasing participation. The Committee decided to offer up to six scholarships with a minimum scholarship award amount of \$1,000 and a maximum scholarship amount of \$3,000, providing the Committee (and Board) the flexibility to award multiple scholarships based on the quality of the applications. The Committee also, as discussed with the Board, removed the requirement for an applicant to provide his or her grade point average on the application form.

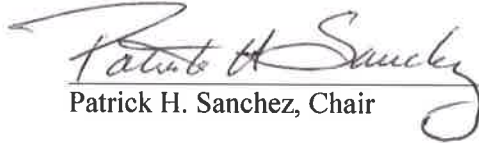
The Committee and staff reviewed and briefly discussed promotion of the scholarship contest to local high schools. The Committee suggested providing a copy of the updated scholarship contest promotional brochure to the Board in February.

6. COMMENTS BY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

None were presented.

7. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Committee, at 10:30 a.m. Chair Sanchez adjourned the meeting.


Patrick H. Sanchez, Chair

ATTEST:


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



**PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
STAFF REPORT**

Meeting Date:
Prepared By:

December 19, 2018
Brett Hodgkiss

SUBJECT: SCHOLARSHIP CONTEST

RECOMMENDATION: Consider changes to the Vista Irrigation District scholarship contest.

PRIOR BOARD ACTION: On April 18, 2018, the Board awarded a \$1,500 scholarship to the contest winner and two \$750 scholarships to the runners-up.

FISCAL IMPACT: \$6,000 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. At the conclusion of last year's awards presentation, the Public Affairs Committee indicated to the Board they would like to look at making changes to the scholarship contest to increase participation. The Committee informed the Board it would meet to discuss ideas for restructuring the contest and bring its recommendations to the Board for consideration.

At the December 5, 2018 Board meeting, the Committee presented its ideas for restructuring the scholarship contest, most notably by advertising multiple scholarship awards, increasing the scholarship award amounts and removing the requirement to submit school transcripts, with goal of increasing participation. The Board discussed several ideas to create additional flexibility in administering the scholarship contest and increase participation; ideas included advertising a maximum number of scholarships and a maximum scholarship amount as well as removing the requirement for an applicant to list his/her grade point average on the scholarship application. The Board authorized the Committee to restructure the scholarship contest as necessary to meet the previously stated goal.

DETAILED REPORT: The draft application package that was presented to the Board on December 5, 2018 has been edited to remove the requirement that an applicant list his/her grade point average on the application; the number of scholarships and the scholarship award amounts as well as all other requirements remain the same, pending Committee review and discussion.

Once finalized, staff will distribute application packages and promotional brochures to high school counselors within the District's jurisdictional boundaries. Follow-up calls will be made to counselors to make sure the application materials and brochure are received. Additional scholarship promotional efforts will include placing information about the scholarship in high schools' monthly scholarship bulletins and on daily video bulletins (if space is available), issuing a news release, and announcing the program on our website. Application materials will also be made available on the District website.

As proposed, application packages would be due to the District by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, March 1, 2019. 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 the winners. The Committee's recommendation for the winners could then be submitted to the Board for consideration at a meeting in April. A certificate could be presented to the winners at the next scheduled Board meeting. As in the past, once the students have enrolled at a university, college or vocational school District staff will forward a check to the school on behalf of the student(s).

ATTACHMENT: Draft scholarship application package



SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION PACKAGE

Vista Irrigation District (VID) invites local high school seniors to compete for scholarships of \$3,000, \$2,000 and \$1,000 from VID. Winners will be selected based on the quality and originality of 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 by 5:00 PM on Friday, March 1, 2019:**

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/question:

Water-use efficiency is an important aspect of ensuring a reliable supply of water in the San Diego region. Explain what specific actions you have taken to use water efficiently and how you can (or do) encourage water-use efficiency in your community.

The essay will be judged on originality and demonstrated understanding of the question. Students may obtain an application package from their Scholarship Counselor or from VID by contacting Alisa Nichols at (760) 597-3173. The application package and related materials are also available on the district's website (www.vidwater.org).

A completed application package must be submitted to the Vista Irrigation District, 1391 Engineer Street, Vista, CA 92081-8840, **by 5:00 PM on Friday, March 1, 2019.**

VID will review qualified applications, select first, second, and third place winners who will receive \$3,000, \$2,000 and \$1,000 scholarships, respectively. Once enrolled at a college, university or vocational school, VID will send a check directly to the school on scholarship recipient's behalf.



2019 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

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

Name: _____

Telephone number and best time to call: _____

Address: _____

High School: _____

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: _____
