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201 Vallecitos de Oro - San Marcos, California - 92069 - (760) 744-0460

## Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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Contact: Chris Robbins  
(760) 330-1450

### **Transparency Certificate of Excellence Awarded to Vallecitos Water District**

**San Marcos, CA** — The Vallecitos Water District received the District Transparency Certificate of Excellence by the Special District Leadership Foundation (SDLF) in recognition of its outstanding efforts to promote transparency and good governance. California SDLF Public Affairs Field Coordinator, Chris Palmer, and California SDLF Board Member, Jo MacKenzie, were on hand to recognize Vallecitos for completing the essential requirements.

“This award is a testament to Vallecitos Water District’s commitment to both open and transparent government,” said Jim Hernandez, Board President. “The entire District is to be commended for their contributions that empower the public with information and facilitate engagement and oversight.” To receive the award, a special district must demonstrate the completion of essential governance transparency requirements, including conducting ethics training for all board members, properly conducting open and public meetings, and filing financial transactions and compensation reports to the State Controller in a timely manner.

For more than 60 years, Vallecitos Water District has been the community’s water and wastewater specialists, providing water, wastewater, and reclamation services to San Marcos; the community of Lake San Marcos; parts of Carlsbad, Escondido and Vista and other unincorporated areas in north San Diego County. The Vallecitos Water District currently serves a population of more than 100,000 within its 45-square-mile boundary.

SDLF is an independent, non-profit organization formed to promote good governance and best practices among California’s special districts through certification, accreditation, and other recognition programs.

Special districts are independent public agencies that deliver core local services to communities, such as water, wastewater treatment, fire protection, parks and recreation, healthcare, sanitation, mosquito abatement, ports, libraries, public cemeteries and more. Districts are established by voters and their funding is approved by voters to meet specific needs through focused service. They can be specially molded to serve large regions or small neighborhoods depending on the need.



*From left to right: Vallecitos Board Member, Mike Sannella; SDLF Board Member Jo MacKenzie; SDLF Public Affairs Field Coordinator, Chris Palmer; Vallecitos Board President, Jim Hernandez; Vallecitos Board Member, Betty Evans; Vallecitos Board Member, Craig Elitharp; Vallecitos Board Vice President Hal Martin.*

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**About Vallecitos Water District:** As an independent, special district, Vallecitos is dedicated to providing water, wastewater and reclamation services to over 100,000 people in a 45-square-mile area that includes the City of San Marcos; the community of Lake San Marcos; portions of Carlsbad, Escondido and Vista; and other surrounding unincorporated areas. The public is invited to Board meetings, taking place at 5:00 p.m. the first and third Wednesday of each month at Vallecitos' Administration Building - 201 Vallecitos de Oro, San Marcos. Board meetings are also televised on San Marcos TV. Visit [www.san-marcos.net/smtv](http://www.san-marcos.net/smtv) for a complete programming schedule.