

CREEK STEWARDSHIP

In December, three Adopt-A-Creek partners held cleanup events in Districts 2, 3 and 4. Their combined cleanup efforts leveraged 52 hours of volunteer service to remove 480 pounds of litter from 2.5 miles of Santa Clara County waterways, including Ross Creek, Guadalupe Creek, and Guadalupe River. Adopt-A-Creek partners continue to utilize Access Valley Water to request trash pickup following creek cleanups and to report other information about their adopted creek section.

36
volunteers
1,183 fiscal
year-to-date

2.5 miles
cleaned
71.5 fiscal
year-to-date

480 pounds of
trash & recyclables
37,362 fiscal
year-to-date



Adopt-A-Creek partner Advanced Micro Devices Incorporated shows off some of the trash they collected along Ross Creek in San José.

EDUCATION OUTREACH

In December, staff reached 868 youth across Districts 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 through classroom lessons, field trips, and tabling. Staff welcomed fifth graders from Discovery Charter School and the Indigo Program within Earl Frost Elementary School to the Alamitos Outdoor Classroom, where students engaged in discussion and activities about groundwater recharge, pollution prevention in our watershed, and protection of steelhead trout.

3 field trips
5 fiscal year-to-date

11 schools
48 fiscal year-to-date

28 classroom lessons
110 fiscal year-to-date

868 youth
5,757 fiscal year-to-date



Fifth graders from the Indigo Program in San José learn about groundwater recharge, pollution prevention, and steelhead trout during their rainy-day field trip at Alamitos Outdoor Classroom.



Students from Discovery Charter School Falcon Campus learn about pollution, water runoff, and watersheds at the Alamitos Outdoor Classroom in San José.

YOUTH COMMISSION

In December, the Youth Commissioners met with their respective project groups to continue working on project deliverables. Activities included a presentation from the Water Quality Lab, planning a donation drive for hygiene kit items for the unhoused youth at the Bill Willson Center, and writing blog posts to educate the community about pollution in creeks and grant funding opportunities for schools. The next Youth Commission quarterly meeting will be on Wednesday, January 22.

WATER SUPPLY OUTREACH

In December, the Silicon Valley Advanced Water Purification Center (Purification Center) shut down for two weeks for its annual maintenance. Staff conducted a tour for 22 students pursuing their certification in backflow prevention and cross-connection control with Backflow Prevention Specialists, Inc. In the 2024 calendar year, staff hosted 1,678 visitors at the Purification Center.

 22 university students
629 fiscal year-to-date

 960 purified demonstration
water samples
3,656 fiscal year-to-date



Water industry technicians attend a tour of the Purification Center as part of their cross-connection training with Backflow Prevention Specialists, Inc.

SAFE, CLEAN WATER GRANTS AND PARTNERSHIPS

Standard Grants

Staff is finalizing preparations for the January 2025 launch of the new Standard Grant Program. This includes developing updated program guidelines and outreach materials as well as planning an open house and virtual workshops. Future efforts will concentrate on promoting the program and supporting applicants throughout the submission process.

The 2025 grant cycle will have \$1.87 million in total funding to support community projects that promote safe, clean drinking water, water conservation, flood protection, and environmental stewardship in Santa Clara County. The changes under the new program include:

- Streamlined application processes
- Reduced or eliminated match funding requirements
- Reimbursable grant project insurance costs
- Simpler reporting and reimbursement requirements

More information about the 2025 Standard Grant Program is available at valleywater.org/grants.

LOOKING AHEAD

Purification Center Tours and Presentations:

- JAN 18 Public Tour
- JAN 24 Gilroy/Morgan Hill Homeschool Group
- JAN 31 Valley Water High School Interns Tour

Education Outreach Programs:

- JAN 14 Stockmeir Elementary School
- JAN 15 Stockmeir Elementary School
- JAN 21 Pearl Zanker Elementary School
- JAN 22 Pomeroy Elementary School
- JAN 23 Summerdale Elementary School
- JAN 27 Country Lane Elementary School
- JAN 28 Norwood Creek Elementary School
- FEB 3 Adelante Dual Language School
- FEB 4 Los Arobles Literacy and Technology Academy
- FEB 6 West Valley Elementary School
- FEB 10 San Martin Gwinn Environmental Academy
- FEB 12 Sutter Elementary School
- FEB 13 Rosemary Elementary School

Grants and Partnerships Program:

- Mid-JAN Standard Grant Program Cycle opens

Youth Commission Program:

- JAN 22 Youth Commission Quarterly Meeting