

CEO BULLETIN



To: Board of Directors
From: Norma J. Camacho, CEO

Week of September 27 – October 3, 2019

Board Executive Limitation Policy EL-7:

The Board Appointed Officers shall inform and support the Board in its work. Further, a BAO shall 1) inform the Board of relevant trends, anticipated adverse media coverage, or material external and internal changes, particularly changes in the assumptions upon which any Board policy has previously been established and 2) report in a timely manner an actual or anticipated noncompliance with any policy of the Board.

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1. 35th Annual Coastal Cleanup Day - Final Results

Valley Water, in partnership with the Creek Connections Action Group (CCAG)*, coordinated a milestone 35th Annual Coastal Cleanup Day (CCD) event throughout Santa Clara County on Saturday, September 21, 2019.

The final cleanup event results include:

- 47 sites hosted
- 2,166 volunteers participated (previous record was at 2,028 in the year 2017)
- 58 miles of creek and shoreline cleaned
- Approximately 53,297 pounds of trash removed, which included 4,405 pounds of recyclables.

For more information, including participating organizations, items found during the cleanup, and a breakdown of data by Board district area and city, please see this week's Non-Agenda packet.

*The Creek Connections Action Group (CCAG) is a consortium of public agencies and non-profit organizations that share a goal of protecting Santa Clara County's waterways. These agencies include Valley Water (Chair), Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation, and the City of San José (Parks Recreation and Neighborhood Services, Environmental Services Department), City of Santa Clara, City of Palo Alto, City of Sunnyvale, City of Milpitas, City of Cupertino, and West Valley Clean Water Program (Campbell, Monte Sereno, Saratoga and the Town of Los Gatos).

For further information, please contact Rick Callender at (408) 630-2017.

2. Environmental Working Group Releases PFAS Data in California

On September 25, 2019, the Environmental Working Group (EWG) released information indicating that drinking water sources for up to 74 community water systems have detected Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), according to EWG's review of data from the State's database. PFAS are a large group of man-made chemicals widely used in firefighting foams and non-stick coatings such as food paper packaging and cookware.

In March 2019, Valley Water received a monitoring order for the Campbell Well-field requiring four consecutive quarters of testing for PFAS. The State Water Resources Control Board - Division of Drinking Water (DDW) issued the monitoring orders in an effort to quantify occurrence of PFAS chemicals in drinking water sources around the State. The three Campbell Wells (A, B and C), along with 22 other wells in Santa Clara County, were targeted by DDW for an initial phase of monitoring, for being located within a 2-mile radius of the airport.

Valley Water has already conducted three rounds of well water sampling since August 2018. Low levels of PFAS were detected on both wells B and C in August 2018 and May 2019. Well A was non-detect for PFAS. The levels detected were below Notification Levels established by DDW. Valley Water also voluntarily tested its treated water at the three treatment plants and the results were non-detect.

Although low levels of PFAS were detected at the Campbell Wells, no water from the Campbell Wells has been delivered to our retailers since the wells were constructed, because they are intended for emergency use only.

For further information, please contact Bhavani Yerrapotu at (408) 630-2735.

3. San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority September 26, 2019 Board Meeting – Upstream of Highway 101 Final EIR Approval

On Thursday, September 26, 2019, the San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority (SFCJPA) Board held its monthly board meeting to discuss the San Francisquito Creek Flood Protection Project Upstream of Highway 101 reach. The board took public comment and held a discussion on approving the Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and Upstream of Highway 101 project reach. As one of the five-member agencies of the SFCJPA, Valley Water provides significant financial, staff and outreach support to the SFCJPA on flood protection projects.

During the board meeting, SFCJPA staff reviewed key project details and the comprehensive outreach effort with the board, including how outreach surpassed the requirements of CEQA and how the project evolved following consideration of public feedback. Members of the SFCJPA Board commended how exemplary the community outreach was during this process and that it went above and beyond expectations.

The SFCJPA Board voted unanimously to certify the Final Environmental Impact Report and passed a resolution approving the Upstream of Highway 101 reach of the San Francisquito Creek Flood Protection Project. The resolution allows SFCJPA staff to proceed with necessary planning and move the project forward.

The Upstream of Highway 101 reach is an important second phase of a larger effort designed to provide flood protection to more than 5,700 homes and businesses along San Francisquito Creek.

The first phase of this project, also known as the Bay to Highway 101 reach, completed major construction activities in December 2018. Construction on the Upstream of Highway 101 reach is expected to start in 2020 and last approximately two years.

For further information, please contact Rick Callender at (408) 630-2017.

4. Temporary Lease Extension Agreement for Intel's Freedom Bridge

Valley Water recently issued a 3-month temporary extension to January 1, 2020, to Intel for their Freedom Bridge crossing San Tomas Aquino Creek in the City of Santa Clara. The extension of the lease is to allow Intel time to develop a scope of work for removing the existing bridge and restoring the levees to their original conditions. It is anticipated that Intel will also need additional time to complete adequate environmental evaluation and obtain permits from various water resources agencies before they can begin construction work to remove the bridge and restore the levees to their original conditions.

For further information, please contact Ngoc Nguyen at (408) 630-2632.

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