

To: Board of Directors
From: Melanie Richardson, Interim CEO

Weeks of May 23, 2025 – June 5, 2025

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. 2025 National River Cleanup Day

Valley Water, in partnership with the Creek Connections Action Group (CCAG), coordinated another successful National River Cleanup Day event in Santa Clara County on Saturday, May 17, 2025, from 9 a.m. to noon.

This year, 778 community members volunteered more than 2,200 hours at 43 cleanup sites throughout the county and removed an estimated 17,499 pounds of litter along 70 miles of creek bank, shorelines, and natural areas.

Valley Water Youth Commissioners and staff hosted a cleanup site along Coyote Creek in the City of Milpitas. Fourteen volunteers, including four Youth Commissioners, attended the site. Vice Chair Richard Santos also attended the Youth Commission-hosted site. District 2 Director, Shiloh Ballard, attended a cleanup site in her district where she helped clean Saratoga Creek near Homeridge Park in the City of Santa Clara.

In addition to general trash and debris, volunteers removed some interesting items, including a working game controller, an ironing board, a rice cooker, a drone, a lint roller, a wi-fi router, a Rubik's cube, batteries, and countless other items that don't belong in our waterways.

Valley Water will leverage the event's momentum to encourage volunteers to sign up for other Valley Water programs, such as the Adopt-A-Creek Program, Valley Water Youth Commission, and the upcoming California Coastal Cleanup Day event on September 20, 2025.

The CCAG is a consortium of public agencies that share the goal of protecting Santa Clara County's waterways. These agencies include Valley Water (we serve as the chair of the group), Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department, West Valley Stormwater Program Authority (which includes the cities of Campbell, Monte Sereno, Saratoga, and the Town of Los Gatos), and the cities of Santa Clara, Milpitas, Sunnyvale, Cupertino, Palo Alto, Morgan Hill, Gilroy, and San José.

For further information, please contact Rachael Gibson at (408) 630-2884.

2. 2025 Water Works Graduation Celebration

The 2025 Water Works Graduation was held on May 9, 2025 to mark the successful completion of the second cohort of Valley Water's Water Works program — an initiative designed to educate, inspire, and connect local college students with career pathways in the water industry.

The Water Works Academy introduces students to the world of water by offering a comprehensive curriculum that explores Valley Water, local water issues, and the intricacies of current and upcoming water projects within their communities. Career preparation, leadership, and networking skills are utilized to develop participants' career readiness. This immersive experience aims to foster a profound understanding of the significance of water management and conservation.

Vice Chair Santos and Director Hsueh addressed the graduates and audience and emphasized the importance of community-focused workforce development and the essential role these graduates will play in the future of the water industry. Chief Operating Officer Tina Yoke spoke of the collaboration between Valley Water staff and community-based to create opportunities that align with Valley Water's commitment to serving future generations. The event also recognized the mentors whose guidance and encouragement helped propel the graduates through the program and bridged the gap between learning and real-world application.

The event was a powerful reminder of the impact of intentional, community-centered workforce development. The Water Works program continues to provide tangible pathways to sustainable careers in the water industry. Congratulations to Valley Water's 2025 Water Works graduates.

For further information, please contact Patrice McElroy at (408) 630-3159.

3. Assisted Listening Solution for Board and Committee Meetings

Valley Water's is pleased to announce the deployment of an assisted listening solution to enhance accessibility for attendees of Valley Water's Board and Committee meetings. The new system uses an app called ListenWiFi, which works on both Android and Apple phones. ListenWiFi lets in-person meeting attendees to have meeting audio sent directly to any Bluetooth device connected to their phone, like hearing aids, headphones, or earbuds.

Getting started is simple:

1. Download the ListenWiFi app from Apple App Store, or Google Play Store.
2. Connect to the ValleyWater wireless network.
3. Open the app and select the ValleyWater venue.

This solution supports a more inclusive meeting environment by ensuring all attendees attending Valley Water's public Board and Committee meetings have equal access to audio content.

For further information, please contact Cecil Lawson at (408) 630-2424.

4. Project of the Year Award for the Coyote Creek Flood Management Measures Project

The Coyote Creek Flood Management Measures Project received the 2025 Project of the Year Award from the American Public Works Association (APWA) Silicon Vally Chapter. APWA is an international educational and professional association of public agencies, private sector companies, and individuals dedicated to providing high quality public works goods and services.

The APWA Silicon Valley Chapter recognized the Coyote Creek Flood Management Measures Project as a public works project that demonstrated excellence in its design and construction. It was noted for its use of the hydraulic press-in method for the installation of sheet piles to minimize construction noise and vibration to minimize impacts to local residents and businesses as well as staying on schedule despite several setbacks through collaborative efforts of the contractor, engineer of record, construction management consultant, and project team. The APWA Silicon Valley Chapter Awards Ceremony was held on May 15, 2024.

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

5. Planned Shutdown at Pacheco Pumping Plant from June 3 to June 6, 2025

Valley Water and the Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) have a scheduled power shutdown at Pacheco Pumping Plant (PPP) from June 3 to June 6, 2025, to waterproof the roof of the Adjustable Speed Gallery and conduct biennial electrical testing of PPP. It is necessary to conduct the waterproof coating work during the dry season to ensure a faster curing time while the substation is de-energized for safety reasons. Therefore, Valley Water is performing both the waterproofing and electrical testing work during the same shutdown window to minimize the overall downtime.

While PPP is offline, San Luis Reservoir's source water will not be accessible to Valley Water. However, Valley Water will rely on another source to supply water to all three drinking water treatment plants, which will be fully supplied by imported water from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta via the South Bay Aqueduct (SBA). The water quality of the SBA is acceptable, and it should have no impact on the water retailers and their customers.

Offstream groundwater recharge operations in Morgan Hill will be interrupted for four days. Valley Water will increase the recharge activities after the shutdown period to make up the difference. Releases of imported water to Coyote Creek for groundwater recharge and environmental flows will be interrupted too, but Valley Water will immediately switch to local water from Coyote Reservoir, located a few miles upstream of Anderson Dam, to avoid any impacts on the fish and wildlife in the creek. State and federal resource agencies have been notified of the shutdown and the measures that Valley Water will take. Finally, untreated surface water permittees in South County, including agricultural surface water users and golf courses, have been notified of the planned shutdown.

For further information, please contact Greg Williams at (408) 630-2867.

6. Safe, Clean Water Mini-Grant Closeout: Smart Yards Education's Hands-On DIY Aquaponics Workshop Project

In Fiscal Year 2024, Valley Water awarded Smart Yards Education (Grantee) a \$5,000 Safe, Clean Water Program F9 Mini- Grant for their Hands-On Do-It-Yourself (DIY) Aquaponics Workshop (Project). Smart Yards Education completed the Project on December 18, 2024, and submitted the final invoice items in December 2024, allowing for grant closeout.

Smart Yards Education is a San José-based non-profit organization that teaches community members about water conservation and sustainable and regenerative practices to create ecologically balanced gardens in Silicon Valley. The Grantee utilized funding to produce an educational and hands-on workshop to introduce Santa Clara County residents to the principles, practices, and benefits of aquaponics. The workshop helped empower participants to build and maintain a small-scale aquaponics system to foster environmental stewardship, resource conservation, and sustainable food production at a grassroots level. The workshop engaged 5 attendees compared to the original target of 15. The turnout was attributed to the inclement weather and the timing of the event, which took place during the weekend following the Thanksgiving holiday.

Key Outcomes:

- Showcased sustainable and water-efficient methods for cultivating fresh produce in urban and drought-prone areas to 5 attendees.
- Utilized 5 credible sources to inform and provide industry-standard guides on integrated aquaculture and hydroponics.
- Provided hands-on construction learning in building a small-scale blue barrel aquaponic system.
- Discussed how to build a small-scale aquaponics system using a 55-gallon rain barrel and basic plumbing supplies.
- 100% of survey respondents would recommend the workshop to others.

For further information, please contact Rachael Gibson at (408) 630-2884.
