

CEO BULLETIN



To: Board of Directors
From: Rick L. Callender, CEO

Weeks of August 28 – September 10, 2020
Corrected Version

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. Cannabis Plants and the Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office

In recent weeks, Valley Water encountered cannabis plants growing in parts of the Guadalupe River and contacted local law enforcement to provide support for situations like this where safety may become an issue. While municipal police departments do not have services to deal with this type of encounter, Valley Water has coordinated with the Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office that operates a marijuana eradication team funded by the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). On September 4, 2020, an eradication operation was performed in the Guadalupe River by the County Sheriff's Office in coordination with Valley Water. Valley Water appreciates the support from the County Sheriff's Office for making these services available and will continue to work with our local law enforcement agencies moving forward as situations arise.

For further information, please contact Alex Gordon at (408) 630-2637.

2. Completion of Planning Phase for Palo Alto Flood Basin Tide Gate Structure Replacement Project

The Planning Phase for the Palo Alto Flood Basin Tide Gate Structure Replacement Project (Project) is complete and the Project is moving forward into the Design Phase. The existing 1957 tide gate structure provides 100-year flood protection for Matadero, Barron, and Adobe Creeks, and protects residential and commercial parcels and Highway 101 from coastal flooding. An emergency repair was performed to control seepage underneath the tide gate structure in 2012. Pursuant to the emergency work, another repair to the tide gate structure was attempted in 2017 which was unsuccessful. Following the attempted repair, a structural assessment was made by a consultant which resulted in a recommendation to fully replace the tide gate structure.

The replacement tide gate structure will provide continued flood protection, takes into consideration future sea level rise in alignment with the South San Francisco Bay Shoreline Phase II Feasibility Study effort, and maintains existing basin habitat and trail recreation. A Project Definition Report and Planning Study Report (PSR) have been completed. The PSR was completed on August 10, 2020 and is posted at the project website <https://www.valleywater.org/pafbtidegates>. A project update was presented to the Valley Water Board on February 11, 2020. Valley Water also hosted a virtual public meeting on June 24, 2020 to present the project background, objectives, design concepts, and target project schedule. The current estimated total project cost is \$33 million and is being funded by Valley Water's Watershed Stream Stewardship Fund 12.

The Draft CEQA (California Environmental Quality Act) Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) has been prepared and is anticipated to be posted for public review in September 2020 on the project website. Current project schedule anticipates the MND will be final in November 2020 (contingent on the number of comments received). Environmental permit application submissions are planned for October 2020, seeking authorization by September 2021. Extensive pre-application coordination with regulatory agencies has been conducted and is ongoing. Construction on the replacement Structure is anticipated to start in Fall 2022 and be completed by Fall 2025, pending acquisition of all necessary environmental permits.

For further information, please contact Rechelle Blank at (408) 630-2615

3. State Grant Funding Opportunities for the Calabazas and San Tomas Aquino Creek Realignment Project, a part of Salt Ponds A5-11 Restoration (Project Number 20444001)

The feasibility study for the Calabazas and San Tomas Aquino Creek Realignment Project identified a partnership opportunity to integrate the creek realignment with planned tidal marsh restoration of the A8 Ponds within the Don Edwards S.F. Bay National Wildlife Refuge. The integrated project, a partnership between Valley Water, the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, would realign the two creek channels into the A8 Ponds and breach the ponds to initiate marsh restoration while minimizing any adverse impacts due to implementing the realignment project ahead of the SBSRP A8 Ponds tidal restoration. The project would provide a natural sediment source for the restoration while reducing channel maintenance dredging and aims to create more than 1,500 acres of natural, resilient shoreline habitat. The integrated project is estimated to cost up to \$25 million for planning, design, and construction. The overall project number 20444001 has sufficient budget in the latest Capital Improvement Program (CIP) to cover \$1.810M, the estimated total remaining cost of planning, monitoring and study, CEQA/NEPA analysis and documentation, design, and permitting if the requested amounts from Measure AA and Prop 68 grants are awarded. Currently there is no funding for the estimated construction cost of \$19.5M.

Valley Water is preparing applications for Proposition 68 and Measure AA grant funding for up to \$2 million and \$1.5 million, respectively, to offset planning, design, and permitting costs. Valley Water will submit a letter of intent for the Proposition 68 funds and will seek authorization from the Valley Water Board of Directors (Board) for the application on October 27, 2020, and for Measure AA funding on October 13, 2020. The draft feasibility study report is being finalized and will be presented to the Board for its approval to proceed to planning prior to the end of the year. If the Board does not approve proceeding to planning then Authority will be notified, and grant funding will not be further pursued. Valley Water will present a proposed budget, schedule and future funding strategies for the integrated project during the October 19, 2020 Capital Improvement Project (CIP) Committee Meeting.

For further information, please contact Darin Taylor at (408) 265-3068.

4. Valley Water hosting CivicSpark Fellows this year

This year, Valley Water is hosting two CivicSpark Fellows who began their service year on September 1, 2020. The Local Government Commission (LGC), a nonprofit organization, is administering the CivicSpark program, as part of the federal AmeriCorps program. The CivicSpark Program provides capacity building services to local governments in California through project implementation activities performed by LGC teams; LGC staff and CivicSpark Fellows. Through project service, Fellows gain hands-on experience tackling the most pressing environmental and social equity problems facing communities today. CivicSpark Fellows have provided over 518,000 hours of service to California's communities and succeeded in a wide range of local sustainability and resilience actions. Valley Water previously hosted a CivicSpark Fellow to assist in the early development of the Climate Change Action Plan.

Maggie O'Shea will support the Environmental Planning Unit in completing the Climate Change Action Plan for Board approval, conduct any needed outreach, and assist with development of an implementation program to further define specific actions and metrics. Desiree Sausele will support the Water Supply Planning and Conservation Unit with collecting and reviewing important data and literature on water temperature, as well as developing temperature models for both reservoirs and river reaches.

For further information, please contact Lisa Bankosh at (408) 630-2618 or Vincent Gin at (408) 630-2633.

5. Water Management Agreements executed in August 2020

Pursuant to Executive Limitations (EL) EL-5.1.6 and EL-5.3.3, the Valley Water Chief Executive Officer is required to inform the Valley Water Board on a timely basis when imported water management agreements are executed. Imported water management agreements executed in August 2020 are summarized below.

Agreement between the Department of Water Resources and Santa Clara Valley Water District Approving Operations Under the 2020 Consolidated Place of Use Petition (#A4385X), August 3, 2020: allows for water exchange of up to 75,000 acre-feet between the State Water Project and Central Valley Project (CVP) to facilitate the delivery of Valley Water's CVP supplies through the South Bay Aqueduct; provides flexibility needed for effective management of Valley Water's imported water deliveries in 2020 and 2021.

For further information, please contact Vincent Gin at (408) 630-2633

6. Youth Commission Quarterly Meeting

On August 26, 2020, the Valley Water Youth Commission hosted their first quarterly virtual meeting. Sixteen (16) youth commissioners attended the meeting and were applauded for their leadership and service. The meeting included the swearing-in of new youth commissioners, election of the Youth Commission Chair and Vice Chair, updates from various working groups, and future commission agenda items.

Nine (9) new youth commissioners were sworn-in and the new Chair, Michael Zhao, and Vice Chair, Ishita Verma, were elected. Updates were also provided from the following working groups: The Creek Stewardship Program, Career Shadowing & Mentorship, Youth Citizen Science Network, and Adopt-A-Bench Project. A date is also being confirmed for an upcoming virtual annual Youth Commission retreat,

There is currently one vacancy on the Valley Water Youth Commission in District 7. The application deadline for the vacant seat is September 14, 2020.

The next virtual Valley Water Youth Commission meeting will be on November 18, 2020.

For further information, please contact Marta Lugo at (408) 630-2237.

7. Kremen

At the 9/8/20 Board meeting, Director Kremen requested that staff investigate whether the proposed Pacheco Pumping Plant fire suppression system will function if there is a power outage.

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The fire suppression system improvements to be constructed via contract awarded by the Valley Water Board of Directors on September 8, 2020 include installation of a 24-hour battery backup system in the event external power is lost at the site.

Pacheco Pumping Plant's main electrical system also has an existing standby generator for life safety support.

For further information, please contact Heath McMahon at (408) 630-3126.
