

2025 Youth Commission Accomplishments Report

The annual work plan establishes a framework for committee discussion and action during the annual meeting schedule. The committee work plan is a dynamic document, subject to change as external and internal issues impacting Valley Water occur and are recommended for committee discussion. Subsequently, an annual committee accomplishments report is developed based on the work plan and presented to the Valley Water Board of Directors.

ITEM	WORK PLAN ITEM BOARD POLICY	MEETING DATE	ACCOMPLISHMENT DATE AND OUTCOME
1	Election of Chair and Vice Chair	8-21-2024	<u>Accomplished August 21, 2024:</u> The Youth Commission elected Niharika Koduru as the 2024-2025 Chair and Maitreya Banerjee as the 2024-2025 Vice Chair.
2	Oath of Office - Youth Commission Members	8-21-2024	<u>Accomplished August 21, 2024:</u> Dave Leon administered the Oath of Office to 14 Youth Commissioners: District 1: Lorelei Henry District 2: Ca Nha Dang, Andrew Lomio, and Niharika Koduru District 3: Prathik Janakiram and Nina Yuan District 4: Agata Bak, Ellie Zhou, and Christopher Barsoum District 5: Aditya Shivakumar and Vice Chairperson Daphne Zhu District 6: David Huynh District 7: Maitreya Banerjee and Oded Bronicki
3	Brown Act Review and Training	8-21-2024	<u>Accomplished August 21, 2024:</u> Andrew Gschwind gave a review and training on the Brown Act. The Youth Commission took no action.
4	Santa Clara Valley Water District Youth Commission Orientation	8-21-2024	<u>Accomplished August 21, 2024:</u> Ricardo Barajas gave an orientation presentation to the Youth Commission along with the expectations and regulations for the Commission to follow when attending and conducting meetings. The Youth Commission took no action.

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5	Review Work Plan, the Outcomes of Board Action of Committee Requests, and the Committee's Next Meeting Agenda	8-21-2024 10-16-2024 11-20-2024 1-22-2025 5-29-2025	<u>Accomplished August 21, 2024:</u> - Chairperson Niharika Koduru introduced: - The first video of the Youth Commission Career Day video project series. - Youth Commissioner Ca Nha Dang reported on: - Purified Water Outreach Working Group plans a post on social media inviting school environmental clubs to visit the water purification center. - Nick Ingram reported on: - Information relating to the September 21, 2024, Coastal Cleanup Day and invited the Commissioners to contact him if there is interest in participating or hosting a cleanup site. - Daphne Zhu reported on: - The Youth Community Science Network Working Group blog posts relating to where water comes from, water pollutants, and water purification are in the final editing stages. - Kristen Yasukawa provided information: - Relating to the Commission moving from the previously established working groups to a project-based model for Commission work. - It was moved by Youth Commission member Daphne Zhu, seconded by Chairperson Niharika Koduru, and unanimously carried to adopt a project-based approach in place of working groups. - Kristen Yasukawa reported on: - Kristen Yasukawa provided information relating to the Commission retreat and distributed a QR code that leads to a poll to gauge interest in the subject matter to be discussed at the retreat. She further reported that the Lexington Reservoir site will be the Youth Commission site for Coastal Cleanup Day.

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			<u>Accomplished October 16, 2024:</u> A special meeting was held to discuss and vote on the project proposals that were submitted. After reviewing the proposals, a straw poll was conducted to help gauge general interest and narrow down options before taking a vote. Each commissioner showed their top three projects by placing up to three stickers on the board in the section with their preferred project title. An additional project was created, Water Quality Outreach Project, combining elements from two other project proposals. The Youth Commission voted and moved forward with the Creekside Community Care Initiative Project, the Youth Commission Education Outreach Program Project, and the Water Quality Outreach Project. <u>Accomplished November 20, 2024:</u> Chair Koduru noted that the Board approved the revised Commission work plan. Director Hsueh noted that the Board is impressed by the Commission's initiative on the three projects. The Board approved the work plan on Tuesday, November 12. <u>Accomplished January 22, 2025:</u> The Commission took no action.
6	Youth Commission Annual Retreat	9-28-2024	<u>Accomplished September 28, 2024:</u> The Youth Commission attended the Annual Youth Commission Retreat via Zoom. The Youth Commission participated in an icebreaker activity to get them to learn more about each other. Staff gave an intro presentation about Valley Water. The activity "Hidden Water" was also presented, where it gave the Youth Commission an understanding of direct and indirect water use by mapping their water footprint. The Youth Commission also discussed ideas for potential project proposals. The retreat ended with a virtual scavenger hunt where they worked in individual teams to solve the riddles and puzzles.

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7	Proposed Policy Writing Project	8-21-2024 8-27-2024 3-13-2025 5-29-2025	<u>Accomplished August 21, 2024:</u> Director Hsueh reported on: - Informing the Commission that the Policy Writing Subcommittee item is scheduled to be heard by the Board of Directors on August 27, 2024. - Youth Commissioner Daphne Zhu and Grace Liu presented the Youth Commission's Policy Writing Project to the Board. The Board proceeded to defer the project to the Environmental Creek Cleanup Committee for consideration. <u>Accomplished March 13, 2025:</u> Office of Civic Engagement Staff reported at the Environmental Creek Cleanup Committee on behalf of the Policy Writing Project Group: - Staff noted that the recommendations in the Proposed Plan have been evaluated and implemented, where applicable. - The Youth Commission developed an implementation project based on the Proposed Plan, called the Creekside Community Care Initiative (CCCI) Project. The CCCI Project was approved by the Board on November 12, 2024 as part of the Youth Commission's fiscal year 25 (FY25) work plan. - The CCCI Project implemented elements of recommendations in the Proposed Plan, including establishing community partnerships and providing resources to unhoused youth in Santa Clara County. - As part of the CCCI Project, the Youth Commission partnered with the Bill Wilson Center, a non-profit organization that provides services and resources to runaway and unhoused youth and families in Santa Clara County. The Youth Commission established a collection of hygiene items and assembled them into 100 hygiene kits, including a brochure on pollution prevention education and resources. - Recommendation 1.1 of the Proposed Plan focused on securing funding for safe sleeping sites on Valley Water land and supporting an established community land trust through financial

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			contributions or land donations to promote affordable housing. Staff reported that while Valley Water's budget does not allow for directly financing housing projects or establishing a land trust, the agency is collaborating with external partners to develop interim housing and shelter solutions. Through a collaborative use agreement, Valley Water has partnered with the City of San José to provide land at Cherry Avenue for Emergency Interim Housing. Additionally, the City has evaluated four other Valley Water properties as potential safe sleeping sites. Staff continues to explore other opportunities for interim and permanent housing on underutilized parcels. <u>Accomplished May 29, 2025:</u> Ricardo Barajas reported that the Policy Writing Ad Hoc Committee's proposed plan to address environmental concerns relating to the unhoused population in Santa Clara County, stating that the Creekside Community Care Initiative, which included the hygiene kit distribution, was a result of those efforts.
8	Creekside Community Care Initiative Project	10-16-2024 11-20-2024 1-22-2025 5-29-2025	<u>Accomplished October 16, 2024:</u> The Youth Commission voted and moved forward with the Creekside Community Care Initiative Project. This project aims to provide unhoused individuals with necessity kits containing trash bags, hygiene items, and a reference guide indicating the locations of designated trash cans to reduce littering. <u>Accomplished November 20, 2024:</u> Member Kim reported that the Creekside Community Care Initiative Project Group met on November 19, 2024 and received a presentation from the Bill Wilson Center.

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			<u>Accomplished January 22, 2025:</u> Members Koduru and Lomio provided two updates on the Creekside Community Care Project. First, they shared progress on the informational flyers created to solicit donations for hygiene kits. The project group has also been working on two blog posts: one has already been published (1/8), while the other is still in progress. Additionally, an email will be sent regarding the upcoming visit to the Bill Wilson Center. The goal is to assemble 100 hygiene kits with the help of donations, and promotional efforts are underway to gather all the necessary items. <u>Accomplished May 29, 2025:</u> Member Lomio reported that on February 10, 2025, the Creekside Community Care Initiative Project Group assembled 100 hygiene kits, which were distributed on February 23 while taking a tour of the Bill Wilson Center. He also noted blog posts that were uploaded to the Valley Water website relating to various topics.
9	Youth Commission Education Outreach Program	10-16-2024 11-20-2024 1-22-2025 5-29-2025	<u>Accomplished October 16, 2024:</u> The Youth Commission voted and moved forward with the Youth Commission Education Outreach Program. This project aims to establish a Youth Commission Education Program and work with local high schools and youth organizations to raise awareness about the environment and Valley Water opportunities. <u>Accomplished November 20, 2024:</u> Member Shivakumar noted that the Education Outreach Program Project Group is focusing on creating presentations to area high schools relating to the mini-grant program, water refill stations, and field trips to water purification facilities. He further noted that the presentations are planned for February and March 2025, and stated that a survey has been sent to the members to collect information on water refilling stations at schools in the area.

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			<u>Accomplished January 22, 2025:</u> Member Shivakumar provided two updates on the Education Outreach Project. First, a poll was created to identify schools with the greatest need for water refill stations and grants. A total of 14 active youth commissions were identified in the county and will be contacted to help spread the word about the survey. The project group is also scheduling two virtual presentations to share information about available grants, including the water refill station grants, mini-grant program, and field trip fund. <u>Accomplished May 29, 2025:</u> Member Shivakumar reported that the Education Outreach Program Project Group organized webcasts for school groups interested in Valley Water's grant programs, and the webcasts aired April 2 and 12, 2025.
10	Water Quality Outreach Project	10-16-2024 11-20-2024 1-22-2025 5-29-2025	<u>Accomplished October 16, 2024:</u> The Youth Commission voted and moved forward with the Water Quality Outreach project. This project aims to collect water quality data and promote the Access Valley Water app and cleanup events. <u>Accomplished November 20, 2024:</u> Vice Chairperson Banerjee reported that the Creek Stewardship and Water Quality Outreach Project Group is considering a series of educational videos relating to water testing in people's homes. Member Shivakumar stated that the group is considering hosting a website for data availability. <u>Accomplished January 22, 2025:</u> Member Zhou provided two updates on the Creek Stewardship and Water Quality Outreach Project. First, YC will participate in a lab tour where they will gain an understanding of the water testing processes, as well as learn how water is collected and analyzed. Second, the project group plans to create a guide or video to help people access water quality data and testing information. A poll with possible dates for the lab tour will be sent to YC for final selection.

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			<u>Accomplished May 29, 2025:</u> Member Zhou reported that the Creek Stewardship and Water Quality Outreach Project Group toured the water quality lab and participated in a hands-on chain of custody activity which shows how scientists track a sample of water from collection to lab testing. She further noted that the Working Group created several educational videos on various topics relating to water quality, and that the Project Group hosted a National River Cleanup Day site in Milpitas.
11	Recognition of Outgoing Youth Commission Members	5-29-2025	<u>Accomplished May 29, 2025:</u> Staff presented the following with a certificate of recognition and a gift bag: 1. Lorelei Henry - representing District 1 (Director Varela) 2. Niharika Koduru - representing District 2 (Director Ballard) 3. Ca Nha Dang - representing District 2 (Director Ballard) 4. Christopher Barsoum - representing District 4 (Director Beall) 5. Daphne Zhu - representing District 5 (Director Hsueh) 6. Grace Liu - representing District 5 (Director Hsueh) 7. Jonathan Lopez - representing District 6 (Director Estremera) 8. Oded Bronicki - representing District 7 (Director Eisenberg) 9. Maitreya Banerjee - representing District 7 (Director Eisenberg) The graduates spoke about their plans and appreciation for being able to participate in the Valley Water Youth Commission.