

SEPTEMBER 2024

Office of Civic Engagement Monthly Update



CREEK STEWARDSHIP

In partnership with the Creek Connections Action Group, Valley Water hosted another successful Coastal Cleanup Day in Santa Clara County on September 21. This year, 49 cleanup sites throughout the county engaged more than 950 volunteers. Valley Water's Youth Commission hosted Site 11 at Alviso Slough in San José. Vice Chair Richard P. Santos and staff from California Senator Aisha Wahab's office visited the site and commended volunteers for their dedication to environmental stewardship. Collectively, volunteers removed 32,874 pounds of trash and recyclables from 56 miles of creeks and natural spaces. In addition to Coastal Cleanup Day, five Adopt-A-Creek partners conducted their own cleanup events earlier in September in Districts 3, 4, and 5.

 985 volunteers 1,025 fiscal year-to-date	 59 miles cleaned 63 fiscal year-to-date	 33,264 pounds of trash & recyclables 34,654 fiscal year-to-date
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Volunteers pick up litter along waterways throughout Santa Clara County during California Coastal Cleanup Day.

EDUCATION OUTREACH

In September, staff reached Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 through in-classroom lessons, assemblies, and library visits. Staff gave a new presentation titled "Managing Our Precious Resource" to third through fifth-grade students in San José, where participants learned about the history of Valley Water, where our water comes from, how we use it, and how we can all help conserve water every day.

 2 libraries 8 fiscal year-to-date	 8 assemblies 11 fiscal year-to-date
 14 classroom lessons 21 fiscal year-to-date	 1,422 youth 2,707 fiscal year-to-date



Students at Hughes Elementary in Santa Clara volunteer for a demonstration during an assembly on how Valley Water manages our water supply.



Students at Noble Elementary School in San José guess how many people live in Santa Clara County while learning about how Valley Water serves the community.

WATER SUPPLY OUTREACH

In September, 96 attendees toured the Silicon Valley Advanced Water Purification Center (Purification Center). One of the month's highlights was a tour for 73 members of Friends of Children with Special Needs, an organization that assists individuals in finding love, hope, respect, and support through community involvement. Staff also attended the annual California WaterReuse Conference where they presented on the Purification Center tour program and outreach strategies. In addition, over 500 of Valley Water's Purified Demonstration Water bottles were distributed at the conference's exhibit hall.

 73 youth students	 8 industry proponents
 15 public tour attendees	 96 total attendees 442 fiscal year-to-date

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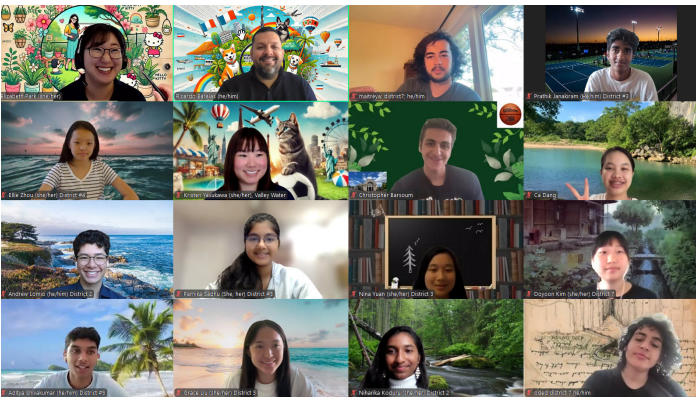
Staff presented Valley Water's tour program and outreach strategies at the 2024 California WaterReuse Conference.



Members of Friends of Children with Special Needs observe various water samples during a Purification Center tour.

YOUTH COMMISSION

On September 28, the Youth Commission held its annual retreat, where the commissioners had the chance to learn more about Valley Water and their fellow commissioners. The day started with welcoming remarks from Valley Water Board Chair Nai Hsueh and Youth Commission Chair Niharika Koduru. The Commissioners engaged in a series of educational and team-building activities that helped foster an environment of learning and collaboration. Fifteen of the 21 commissioners attended the virtual event.



The Youth Commission and staff share their virtual backgrounds during the annual retreat held on Zoom.

SAFE, CLEAN WATER GRANTS AND PARTNERSHIPS

Refill Station Grants

Valley Water awarded four refill station grants for a total award amount of \$20,000 to:

- Oak Grove School District - Del Roble Elementary School and Santa Teresa Elementary School
- City of Morgan Hill - Community and Cultural Center
- Saint Elizabeth Catholic Church - Parish Ministry Center

Each \$5,000 refill station grant will fund the purchase and installation of a refill station to increase drinking water access and help promote reusable water bottles.

Closeouts: In fiscal year 2024, Valley Water awarded the PTA California Congress of Parents Teachers and Students, Inc. a refill station grant to replace an existing water fountain at Pearl Zanker Elementary School in Milpitas with a combination water fountain/refill station. The new station serves over 600 students and encourages the use of reusable water bottles.



Valley Water's Refill Station Grant helped Pearl Zanker Elementary School upgrade its water fountain to a modern refill station.

LOOKING AHEAD

Education Outreach Programs:

OCT 9	Viva Escuela at Grant Elementary	OCT 24	Alamitos Field Trip for Washington Open Elementary
OCT 10	Oakwood School	OCT 28	McKinley Elementary
OCT 15	Tom Matsumoto Elementary	OCT 29	Noddin Elementary
OCT 16	Venture Christian Academy	OCT 30	John Sinott Elementary
OCT 17	Toyon Elementary	NOV 4	Cadwallader Elementary
OCT 21	McKinley Elementary	NOV 5	Discovery Falcon Charter School
OCT 22	Stockmeir Elementary	NOV 6	Allen at Steinbeck School

Purification Center Tours and Presentations:

OCT 11	Public Tour	OCT 19	Public Tour
OCT 15	Energy Recovery	OCT 24	Division of Drinking Water

Youth Commission:

OCT 16	Special Meeting
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Grants and Partnerships:

OCT 29	Mini-Grants Workshop	NOV 13	Mini-Grants Workshop
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