

CEO BULLETIN



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

Week of October 25 – October 31, 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. Calabazas Creek - Pollution Prevention Hotline Call

On October 7, 2019 at approximately 10:00am, Valley Water received a call on Valley Water's Pollution Prevention Hotline. A resident from the City of Cupertino reported a visible white foamy substance floating on top of the water in Calabazas Creek.

Valley Water responded within two hours of receiving the call, and upon inspection, identified an outfall that contained an unknown white material discharging directly into the creek. Valley Water made notifications to the California Office of Emergency Services, the City of Cupertino, and the City of San Jose. Valley Water worked in conjunction with both cities to identify the owner of the outfall, which was identified as belonging to the City of San Jose. After further investigation, the Inspector from the City of San Jose was able to identify the source of the discharge as a clogged and overflowing grease trap which belonged to a nearby restaurant.

Valley Water conducted the clean-up of Calabazas Creek and worked with the City of San Jose to coordinate clean-up of the pipelines connecting to the outfall. The City of San Jose also worked with the County Department of Environmental Health to have the grease trap cleared and cleaned.

For further information, please contact Tina Yoke at (408) 630-2385.

2. Keep Coyote Creek Beautiful (KCCB) BioBlitz Project - Mini-Grant Closeout

Keep Coyote Creek Beautiful, a Safe, Clean Water mini-grant recipient, recently completed their BioBlitz project. KCCB received a \$5,000 grant to engage community members in Santa Clara County with the urban environment and connect it with the greater watershed, by documenting photos of all living things, including plants, animals, bugs, birds, fish, water bugs, and other living things onto a mobile app called iNaturalist. The app allows scientists to correctly identify the species and be able to have a count of the species in that particular environment. Information uploaded into iNaturalist will be used by organizations such as the California Academy of Sciences who are working to build a comprehensive understanding of plant and animal habitat. Additionally, participants gain a greater awareness and knowledge of native species in their urban environment.

KCCB hosted three BioBlitz events, where people of all ages and abilities came together to identify and learn about the natural environment. In total, 194 people attended all three events. Participants identified 616 species of plants and animals and made over 2,890 observations. The majority were first time participants and indicated that they valued being in nature, learned from docents, and enjoyed seeing their world in a new way and at a micro level.

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

3. San Francisco Estuary Conference

Valley Water co-sponsored and participated in the 14th State of the San Francisco Estuary conference in Oakland on October 21-22, 2019. Zooey Diggory, Senior Biologist in the Environmental Mitigation and Monitoring Unit, authored and presented a poster with the San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority and HT Harvey and Associates titled: Multi-Benefit Projects are Real! Flood Protection, Sea Level Rise Resiliency, and Habitat Enhancement from the San Francisquito Creek Bay to Highway 101 Project. The poster highlighted the project's demonstration of the cross-jurisdictional and multi-disciplinary effort needed to prepare the estuary's ecosystems and communities for climate change. Valley Water also attended plenary talks and sessions on regional issues such as climate change resiliency, environmental justice and community engagement, resource agency policy updates, water quality contaminants, stormwater management, homelessness impacts and solutions, fisheries science, and more. The State of the Estuary conference is held every-other-year and is well attended by water agencies, water treatment utilities, regulatory agencies, research institutions, consultants, conservation and other non-profit organizations, community members, and students.

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

4. Kremen

**Provide Director Kremen with copies of all letters that have been sent constituents in Director Kremen's district in the last two years regarding Community Project Review Unit's inquiries and development proposals.
I-19-0017**

Scanned files of letters from December 20, 2017 to October 1, 2019, that were sent from Valley Water's Community Project Review Unit to constituents within Director Kremen's district were submitted to Director Kremen on October 24, 2019.

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