

FEBRUARY 2026

# Office of Civic Engagement Monthly Update



## CREEK STEWARDSHIP

In February, five Adopt-A-Creek volunteers conducted cleanups. Their combined effort contributed 51 volunteer service hours to remove approximately 161 pounds of litter from the banks of Guadalupe Creek, Guadalupe Reservoir, Regnart Creek, Stevens Creek, and Ross Creek. Adopt-A-Creek volunteers continue to use the Access Valley Water system to report cleanup results, request trash pickup, and report large debris and other concerns related to creeks.

 **1.65 miles cleaned**  
101.13 fiscal year-to-date

 **35 volunteers**  
2,271 fiscal year-to-date

 **161 pounds of trash and recyclables**  
34,693 fiscal year-to-date



The Branham High School Congressional Awards Club cleaned up Ross Creek in San José.

## EDUCATION OUTREACH

In February, staff reached youth in Pre-K through fifth grade through classroom lessons and public events. Students participated in interactive lessons about water conservation and plastic pollution prevention. Staff also attended San José State University's Science Extravaganza, an annual event in San José aimed at inspiring the next generation of STEM leaders. Students participated in a discussion about the importance of watershed stewardship and created their own watershed models.

 **455 youth**  
5,977 fiscal year-to-date

 **15 classroom lessons**  
137 fiscal year-to-date

 **1 assembly**  
2 fiscal year-to-date



Students attending San José State University's Science Extravaganza event in San José learn about the ways Valley Water serves Santa Clara County.

## WATER SUPPLY OUTREACH

In February, staff led four tours of the Silicon Valley Advanced Water Purification Center (SVAWPC). Staff also participated in the American Society of Civil Engineers Young Members Forum Engineers Week, facilitating The Water We Share lesson for high school students from Live Oak High School in Morgan Hill and Independence High School in San José. Staff also hosted the Bay Area Potable Reuse Outreach Collaboration meeting, a group for water outreach professionals to discuss best practices for building public support for potable reuse. There, they presented on Valley Water's employee engagement initiative for purified water. Staff concluded the month with a tabling event at Valley Water's 11th Annual Landscape Summit, where they provided education on purified water and promoted tours of the SVAWPC. Finally, staff served as a guest speaker for the East Bay Municipal Utility District's Water Wednesday Series Webinar on "Coming Clean: Advanced Purified Water in the Bay Area."

 **40 public tour attendees**  
297 fiscal year-to-date

 **80 total attendees**  
1,204 fiscal year-to-date

 **40 students & educators**  
684 fiscal year-to-date

 **107 bottles distributed**  
205 current year-to-date



A Silicon Valley Advanced Water Purification Center tour attendee takes a photo with staff after a special Valentine's Day tour.

## SAFE, CLEAN WATER GRANTS AND PARTNERSHIPS

### Standard Grants

The 2026 Standard Grants Program launched on February 23 with \$1.87 million in total available funding for Implementation Grants. Public agencies can apply for up to \$500,000 per project to fund shovel-ready construction or large-scale capital projects that advance Safe, Clean Water Program priorities in Santa Clara County. On March 11, staff will host a virtual informational workshop where applicants can learn more about eligibility requirements and the application process. The deadline to apply is April 24.

### Closeouts:

- Marshmallow Minds - Safe Birds, Safe Waters:**  
 Through a \$54,880 FY22 Safe, Clean Water F9 Grant, Marshmallow Minds implemented an environmental STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) education initiative serving over 1,000 middle school students across seven schools in Santa Clara County. The Project combined classroom learning and hands-on restoration work at Alviso Marina County Park, including invasive plant removal, planting native species, and using Chibitronic STEAM kits for an interactive lesson.

### WATER RATE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Valley Water staff issued a news release on the Water Rate Assistance Program (WRAP) in early February to announce the funding of \$1 million in community relief funds. Telemundo 48, a local Spanish-language TV station, interviewed Sacred Heart Community Service and Valley Water staff, as well as a community member who received WRAP assistance. This fiscal year, WRAP assisted approximately 800 households by paying \$332,000 in water bills.



A Telemundo 48 reporter interviews a community member about Valley Water's Water Rate Assistance Program.

## LOOKING AHEAD

### Silicon Valley Advanced Water Purification Center Tours and Presentations:

- MAR 5 Trū School
- MAR 6 Public Tour
- MAR 14 Public Tour
- MAR 16 San José State University
- MAR 16 Valley Water's Next Gen Career Pathways Program
- MAR 17 Office of Congressman Ro Khanna
- MAR 19 Backflow Prevention Specialists, Inc.
- MAR 20 Valley Water's Next Gen Career Pathways Program
- MAR 23 San José City College
- MAR 24 San José City College
- MAR 25 San José City College

### Education Outreach Programs:

- MAR 4 Selma Olinder Elementary School
- MAR 5 French American School of Silicon Valley
- MAR 9 Stocklmeir Elementary School
- MAR 11 Christa McAuliffe Elementary School
- MAR 12 Joseph Weller Elementary School
- MAR 18 Bertha Taylor Elementary School
- MAR 19 Eliot Elementary School
- MAR 25 Noddin Elementary School
- MAR 26 Saint Andrews Episcopal School
- MAR 30 Braly Elementary School