

APRIL 2026

Office of Civic Engagement Monthly Update



CREEK STEWARDSHIP

April 19 through April 25, was National Volunteer Week. To recognize and celebrate volunteers, the Valley Water Board of Directors adopted a resolution expressing appreciation for the year-round contributions of Valley Water’s volunteers. Director Beall also authored a board column in San José Spotlight highlighting the vital role volunteers play in advancing Valley Water’s mission. Staff amplified these recognitions by sharing them with volunteers through social media, email, and newsletters. Additionally, thank-you cards were sent to Adopt-A-Creek partners and other cleanup coordinators in appreciation of their continued service and contributions over the past year.

Volunteers support our waterways year-round. In April, seven Adopt-A-Creek partners hosted cleanups, collectively contributing 258 volunteer hours and removing 1,223 pounds of trash across 5 miles of Guadalupe Creek, Saratoga Creek, Ross Creek, Coyote Creek, Sunnyvale East Channel, and Canoas Creek.

 **5 miles cleaned**
106 fiscal year-to-date

 **121 volunteers**
2392 fiscal year-to-date

 **1,223 pounds of trash and recyclables**
35,916 fiscal year-to-date

EDUCATION OUTREACH

Throughout the month, staff engaged youth from kindergarten through eighth grade through classroom lessons, assemblies, field trips, and public events. At the City of Santa Clara’s Earth and Arbor Day Celebration, Valley Water staff and H2Cool led elementary students in the Water Conservation Pledge. Students also learned about the importance of saving water and everyday conservation tips at the Synopsys Outreach Foundation’s Sciencepalooza and the City of San José’s Viva EscuelaSJ event at K.R. Smith Elementary School.

 **1,337 youth**
7,974 fiscal year-to-date

 **35 classroom lessons**
205 fiscal year-to-date

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

 **1 field trip**
12 fiscal year-to-date

 **3 public events**
5 fiscal year-to-date



Valley Water staff share water conservation tips and materials at Synopsys Outreach Foundation’s Sciencepalooza event in San José.

WATER SUPPLY OUTREACH

In April, staff led five tours at the Silicon Valley Advanced Water Purification Center. Tour attendees included members

of the public, Amazon Web Services employees, San José State University nursing students, and the Greater San José Chapter of the American Society of Safety Professionals.

Staff attended the Joint Recycled Water Policy Advisory Committee meeting at the San José City Hall and met with local government officials to provide updates on the Pure Water Silicon Valley Project and outreach initiatives. Staff also participated in three tabling events, including STEM Zone hosted by the City of Santa Clara at the Santa Clara Convention Center, Earth Day at San José State University, and Earth Day with Valley Water’s Green Team. At the Green Team’s Earth Day event, staff served boba tea made with advanced purified water and shared informational materials with Valley Water employees. In total, staff distributed 662 bottles throughout the month.

 **35 public tour attendees**
1,723 fiscal year-to-date

 **13 students**
235 fiscal year-to-date

 **66 total attendees**
1,417 fiscal year-to-date

 **662 bottles distributed**
1,723 current year-to-date



Vice Chair Santos, Director Beall, City of San José Councilmembers Pamela Campos and David Cohen, City of Santa Clara Councilmember Karen Hardy, and Valley Water staff sample advanced purified water at the Joint Recycled Water Policy Advisory Committee Meeting in San José.

YOUTH COMMISSION

Recruitment for the Youth Commission launched on April 16, to fill 11 anticipated vacancies for the upcoming school year. Commissioners will serve a two-year term and contribute to initiatives that promote water conservation, flood protection awareness, and environmental stewardship while building leadership and civic engagement skills. To ensure a strong applicant pool, staff implemented a comprehensive outreach approach, which included Nextdoor engagement, flyer distribution, and targeted social media campaigns and email outreach to key community groups. The application submission deadline was May 4, 2026.

SAFE, CLEAN WATER GRANTS AND PARTNERSHIPS

Refill Station Grants

Closeouts:

- **City of Gilroy - Refill Station Grant Project:** Through a \$5,000 FY 2024 Refill Station Grant, City of Gilroy installed a new water refill station at Wheeler Gym which serves members of the public of all ages, who use the facility to attend recreational classes and activities. The installation helps improve access to safe, clean drinking water as well as public health, hydration, and sustainability.

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Mini-Grants

Awards:

- Our City Forest – Community Nursery Upgrades:**
 Valley Water awarded a \$10,000 FY26 Mini-Grant to Our City Forest for its Community Nursery Upgrades Project. The project entails enhancements to the organization’s nursery center to improve water conservation and the health of local plants. Participants will have the opportunity to learn and receive resources on sustainable water management practices.
- City of Cupertino - McClellan Ranch Preserve Environmental Education Center:**
 Valley Water awarded the City of Cupertino a \$10,000 FY26 Mini-Grant to support enhancements to the Environmental Education Center in McClellan Ranch Preserve in Cupertino. These enhancements include a new enviroscape model depicting a watershed and ideal creek conditions, informational signage, and new terrariums and aquariums for its animal ambassadors. The project will engage third-grade students through its Creek Tour Program where they will learn about pollution prevention, environmental stewardship, and natural flood protection.

Standard Grants

Applications for the 2026 Standard Grants Program closed on Friday, April 24. In May, the grant evaluation panels will finalize their reviews and score the eight applications received. The evaluation panel’s funding recommendations will be presented to the Valley Water Board of Directors for approval in June.

Closeouts:

- Children’s Discovery Museum – Exploration Portal: Preventing Pollution Project:**
 Through a \$144,500 FY20 Safe, Clean Water Standard Grant, Children’s Discovery Museum delivered a new outdoor education space, the Exploration Portal, that showcases real-world pollution prevention strategies in action, including how to reduce runoff to the Guadalupe River, support groundwater supplies through pollution prevention techniques, and showcase building materials to reduce runoff, such as permeable hardscape.
- City of Morgan Hill – Madrone Channel Trail Improvement Project:**
 Through a \$120,000 FY19 Safe, Clean Water Standard Grant, the City of Morgan Hill enhanced 1.8 miles of a new 7-foot wide Class I bicycle and pedestrian trail from East Main Avenue to Tennant Avenue along the Madrone Channel, located east of U.S. Highway 101 in Morgan Hill. The trail provides accessible connections for walkers and bikers, linking the south end of Morgan Hill to the north end away from vehicle traffic.

Water 101 Academy

The new Water 101 Academy cohort completed their first three lessons this month, moving one step closer to becoming Water Ambassadors.

In the first session on April 2, Chair Estremera provided opening remarks. Participants received presentations covering an overview of Valley Water and the Safe Clean Water & Natural Flood Protection Program.

The second session on April 16, focused on “Where does your water come from?” and included presentations about Water

Utility Enterprise, imported water, water supply planning, and water conservation programs.

The third session on April 30, was dedicated to “Watershed Works In Action.” Participants received a watershed overview presentation, and learned about the Stream Maintenance Program, Good Neighbor program, Upper Llagas Creek Flood Protection Project, and Coyote Creek Project.

WATER RATE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

In April, WRAP assisted 222 households by paying water bills totaling \$87,082.



222 households assisted
1,173 fiscal year-to-date



\$87,082 paid
\$488,140 fiscal year-to-date

LOOKING AHEAD

Creek Stewardship:

MAY 6 Site Coordinator Training for National River Cleanup Day

MAY 16 National River Cleanup Day

Education Outreach Programs:

MAY 4 Marshall Pomeroy Elementary School

MAY 7 Capri Elementary School

MAY 11 San Martín/Gwinn Environmental Science Academy

MAY 13 Vargas Elementary School

MAY 14 Ben Painter Elementary School

MAY 18 Country Lane Elementary School

MAY 20-21 West Valley Elementary School

MAY 27 Nimitz Elementary School

MAY 28 Glen View Elementary School

Youth Commission:

MAY 4 Youth Commission Application Deadline

MAY 20 Youth Commission Quarterly Meeting and Graduation

Water 101 Academy:

MAY 14 Water 101 Academy Session 4

MAY 20 Water 101 Academy Infrastructure Bus Tour