

EDUCATION OUTREACH

In July, staff reached youth and educators in Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, and 7 through summer programming with the Boys & Girls Clubs of Silicon Valley and CompassPoint Mentorship. Students participated in interactive programs on topics such as steelhead trout, the water cycle, watersheds, and purified water through The Water We Share lesson. Staff also reached youth through public library events in the Bascom Branch Library, the Almaden Branch Library, and the Alviso Branch Library in San José.


576 youth

7 classroom lessons

1 summer program

1 field trip

3 libraries

YOUTH COMMISSION

In July, the Board of Directors approved the appointment of 11 new Youth Commissioners. All appointees have accepted their nominations and will represent their respective districts. The first quarterly Youth Commission meeting with the newly appointed cohort is scheduled for Wednesday, August 20.

WATER AMBASSADORS

Valley Water hosted Get the Scoop: Summer Updates event, the first event for Water Ambassadors from all cohort years. A panel of Valley Water subject matter experts answered questions on key topics, including the Anderson Dam Seismic Retrofit Project, the Good Neighbor Program, purified water, and water rates. Water Ambassadors also received a presentation highlighting Valley Water programs and sampled aguas frescas made with purified water. Director Ballard, also a Water Ambassador, provided opening remarks. Vice Chair Santos and Director Hsueh attended the event, along with Assistant Chief Executive Officer Rita Chan. A total of 18 Water Ambassadors participated, including 15 in person and three virtually.



Director Ballard addresses Water Ambassadors during opening remarks at the Get the Scoop: Summer Updates event in San José.

WATER SUPPLY OUTREACH

In July, staff led 15 tours of the Silicon Valley Advanced Water Purification Center. Among the 383 attendees were youth students, university students, community organization members, a lawyer from the City of San José, and Valley Water staff. Tour participants learned about the importance of diversifying water sources and how advanced technologies can help Santa Clara County achieve this goal.

To kick off a new fiscal year, staff distributed purified water demonstration bottles at the City of San José Councilmember Domingo Candela's 4th of July Festival at Lake Cunningham, Valley Water's Supervisor Core Training, and the Happy Hollow Senior Safari. Staff also collaborated with Pondside Café to make aguas frescas with purified water for staff and the Water Ambassadors at Valley Water Headquarters in San José. Altogether, staff distributed 2,466 purified water demonstration bottles.


2,466 bottles distributed

383 total attendees

262 students and educators

29 community organization members

32 public tour attendees


Water Ambassadors sample aguas frescas made with purified water at the Get the Scoop: Summer Updates event in San José.

CREEK STEWARDSHIP

Four Adopt-A-Creek partners braved the heat to conduct cleanups in July. Their combined efforts leveraged four volunteer hours to remove 561 pounds of trash along 2.7 miles of Coyote Creek, Guadalupe River, Regnart Creek, and Rodeo Creek in Districts 1, 3, and 5.

California Coastal Cleanup Day is Saturday, September 20. Registration for volunteering as a site coordinator will remain open through August 30. General volunteer registration will open in mid-August. Interested volunteers can visit www.cleanacreek.org for more information.


2.7 miles cleaned

561 pounds of trash and recyclables

42 volunteers

SAFE, CLEAN WATER GRANTS AND PARTNERSHIPS

Refill Station Grants

In FY 2025, Valley Water closed out two \$5,000 Safe, Clean Water Refill Station Grant projects. One grant funded Oak Grove School District’s new refill station at Del Roble Elementary School in San José, benefiting over 400 students and staff. The other grant helped Walden West Outdoor School Foundation install a refill station at Walden West Outdoor School in Saratoga, providing clean water access for more than 7,000 students each year and supporting environmental education throughout Santa Clara County. These Refill Station Grant projects help improve water access and promote sustainability in the community.

Mini-Grants

In July, Valley Water awarded WestGate Church a \$10,000 Safe, Clean Water Mini-Grant to design a mural in San José focusing on water conservation and environmental awareness. The mural project will involve community volunteers in its creation. Additionally, in FY 2025, Valley Water closed out two \$5,000 Safe, Clean Water Mini-Grant projects, one with CompassPoint Mentorship and another with STEMBoost Corporation. CompassPoint Mentorship completed its mural project at Hellyer County Park, which included a youth camp on environmental stewardship. STEMBoost Corporation’s Safe and Clean Water Starts from Children Project provided water science classes and water conservation kits to 238 students at Lincoln Elementary School in Cupertino. These Mini-Grant projects aim to enhance community engagement and environmental education.



Students at Lincoln Elementary School in San José learn about water conservation and pollution prevention through hands-on experiments and take-home projects.

Standard Grants

Ignited Education received \$126,870.50 in funding through the FY 2023 Safe, Clean Water F9 Standard Grant Program for its Santa Clara Water Weeks: Environmental Project. As part of this project, Ignited Education held an event at the Silicon Valley Advanced Water Purification Center for educators in Santa Clara County. Attendees toured the facility and learned about advanced treatment processes and the role of recycled water as a future sustainable water supply. In addition to touring the facility, attendees learned about Valley Water’s Refill Station Grants, Mini-Grants, and the Let’s Go! Field Trip Fund, which offers up to \$1,000 to reimburse transportation costs for eligible school field trips to the Silicon Valley Advanced Water Purification Center.

LOOKING AHEAD

Creek Stewardship

- AUG 8 Volunteer Recognition Night at the San Jose Giants
- AUG 30 Coastal Cleanup Day Site Coordinator Registration Deadline

Silicon Valley Advanced Purification Center Tours & Presentations:

- AUG 1 Public Tour
- AUG 4 San Jose Conservation Corps + Charter School
- AUG 9 Public Tour
- AUG 21 Rotary Club of Cupertino
- AUG 22 Environmental Volunteers
- AUG 22 City of Santa Clara

Education Outreach Programs:

- AUG 5 Dr. Roberto Cruz Alum Rock Branch Library
- AUG 6 Emma Prusch Farm Regional Park Outdoor Adventure Camp
- AUG 7 Edenvale Branch Library
- AUG 12 Evergreen Branch Library
- AUG 13 Calabazas Branch Library
- AUG 20 Biblioteca Latinoamericana Branch Library
- AUG 26 East San José Carnegie Branch Library
- AUG 28 Cambrian Branch Library

Youth Commission:

- AUG 20 Youth Commission Quarterly Meeting
- AUG 23 Youth Commission Retreat