

JUNE 2024

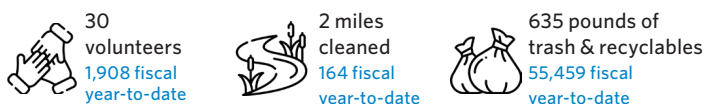
# Office of Civic Engagement Monthly Update



## CREEK STEWARDSHIP

In June, four Adopt-A-Creek partners collected more than 600 pounds of trash from Valley Water Districts 2, 4, 5, and 7. Adopt-A-Creek volunteers continue to use the Access Valley Water system to request trash pickup and report concerns in their adopted sections following cleanups. Additionally, two new Adopt-A-Creek partners joined the program:

- Advanced Micro Devices - Ross Creek, San Jose (Valley Water District 4)
- Kenneth Reiller - Llagas Creek, San Martin (Valley Water District 1)



## EDUCATION OUTREACH

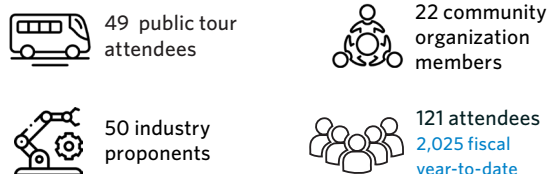
In June, staff reached Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 through in-person lessons, field trips, and tours. Teachers participating in field trips and tours with the Ignited Externship and Santa Clara County Office of Education Splash! programs experienced hands-on lessons that are available for their students and learned about opportunities for grants, volunteerism, and other student programs. Youth at Boys & Girls Clubs and YMCA programs learned about steelhead trout through interactive games.



Students at the YMCA Hughes Summer Program in Santa Clara use movement to remember landforms and bodies of water found in watersheds.

## WATER SUPPLY OUTREACH

In June, Water Supply Outreach (WSO) conducted six tours, engaging 121 participants. The month began with an infrastructure bus tour for the 2024 Water 101 Academy, which included tours of the Water Quality Lab, Anderson Dam Seismic Retrofit project, a grant project at the Coyote Creek Visitor's Center, the Silicon Valley Advanced Water Purification Center, South San Francisco Bay Shoreline Project, McKelvey Park Detention Basin, and the Rinconada Water Treatment Plant. Additionally, Education Outreach and WSO hosted workshops and tours for educators with Ignited Education and the Santa Clara County Office of Education Splash! programs. The event highlighted classroom curriculum and field trip opportunities for students in Santa Clara County. The month concluded with two tours for Walsh Construction, the largest design-build construction company in North America. WSO hosted a purified water bottle tasting booth at Valley Water's all employee Live Town Hall event to raise awareness and support for purified water from all staff.



Water Supply Outreach and Recycled and Purified Water staff handed out purified water demonstration bottles to over 200 employees at the Live Town Hall event on June 27

## WATER 101 ACADEMY

The Water 101 Academy held its fifth and last session on June 1 with an in-person water infrastructure bus tour. The tour included seven stops at Valley Water facilities and projects throughout the County. The 33 guests included Water 101 Academy participants, Youth Commission members, and Water Ambassadors. Vice Chair Richard Santos joined the group at the Silicon Valley Advanced Water Purification Center, where he spoke briefly about the history of the area, water supply, and the Water Resources Protection Zone Ordinance.

Following the tour, the Water 101 Academy program held an in-person graduation ceremony on June 4, where 18 participants received certificates of completion and officially became Water Ambassadors. Chair Hsueh provided opening remarks, and Vice Chair Santos, Director Varela, Director Keegan, and Director Beall attended. The graduates gave positive feedback on their academy experience and the graduation event.



During their infrastructure bus tour, the Water 101 Academy Program visited multiple sites, including the Anderson Dam Seismic Retrofit Project.

## COMMUNITY RATING SYSTEM

The Santa Clara County CRS Users Group/Program for Public Information (PPI) Committee completed the FY24 Annual Evaluation Report of the 2021 Program for Public Information (PPI). Working with the PPI Committee and the Santa Clara County CRS Users Group, Valley Water compiled all report components to reflect our countywide flood readiness outreach efforts. To comply with CRS Program requirements, each CRS participating community must send the FY24 report to their respective governing body and FEMA with their annual recertification packet. Staff shared the report with the Board of Directors as a non-agenda item.

## SAFE, CLEAN WATER GRANTS AND PARTNERSHIPS

### Standard Grants

On June 1, staff participated in Grassroots Ecology's Coyote Creek Habitat Day 2024 in partnership with Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department and Keep Coyote Creek Beautiful. The event was held at the Coyote Creek Visitor Center at Anderson Lake County Park in Morgan Hill, where 180 participants learned about the local environment, habitat, and watershed. This event was partially funded by a \$49,980 Safe, Clean Water grant for Grassroots Ecology's Coyote/Stevens Creek Watershed Community Engagement Project.

On June 21, the Children's Discovery Museum hosted a ribbon-cutting event for their Exploration Portal: Preventing Pollution Project. The new outdoor space was funded in part by Valley Water through a \$144,500 Safe, Clean Water grant. Vice Chair Santos provided remarks along with other guests of honor, including County Supervisor Cindy Chavez, City of San Jose Councilmember Omar Torres, and Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority General Manager Andrea Mackenzie. The 90 attendees and children enjoyed a short program and the project unveiling.

On June 21, the Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition hosted their Solstice Family Fun Ride along Stevens Creek Trail event in Mountain View. This is one of multiple rides funded partly through a \$50,000 Safe, Clean Water grant for their Wheels and Waterways Project. The approximately 55 participants enjoyed music and fun activities while learning about Stevens Creek and the South Bay shoreline.



Vice Chair Richard Santos celebrates the grand unveiling of Children's Discovery Museum's Exploration Portal exhibit alongside (left to right) Andrea Mackenzie, Cindy Chavez, Marilee Jennings, Omar Torres, and exhibit donors.

## LOOKING AHEAD

### Purification Center Tours and Presentations:

JULY 11	Tech Trek	JULY 20	Public Tour
JULY 12	Public Tour	JULY 23	California Naturalist - San Jose Conservation Corps.
JULY 16	Enlighten Heart Education Center	AUG 2	Public Tour
JULY 18	Dir. Varela and Pacheco Storm Water District and County of San Benito staff	AUG 10	Public Tour

### Education Outreach Programs:

JULY 10	4-H Nature Explorers Camp at Escuela Popular	JULY 22	Boys & Girls Club Morgan Hill Clubhouse
JULY 15	Boys & Girls Club Smythe Clubhouse	JULY 23	Morgan Hill Library: Lunch at the Library
JULY 16	Almaden Lake Park Summer Program	JULY 30	Almaden Lake Park Summer Program
JULY 18	Alum Rock Park Summer Program	AUG 1	Alum Rock Park Summer Program