

CEO BULLETIN



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

Week of September 20 – September 26, 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. 35th Annual Coastal Cleanup Day - Saturday, September 21, 2019

Valley Water, in partnership with the Creek Connections Action Group (CCAG)*, coordinated a milestone 35th Annual Coastal Cleanup Day (CCD) event in Santa Clara County on Saturday, September 21, 2019.

Throughout the county, from Palo Alto to San Jose to Gilroy, the preliminary results include:

- 47 sites hosted
- 2,007 volunteers participated
- 53 miles of creek and shoreline cleaned

- Approximately 51,560 pounds of trash removed, which included 4,403 pounds of recyclables.

Preliminary results were shared after the event in a news release and on cleanacreek.org. Final results will be shared next week in a non-agenda memo along with a breakdown of results by jurisdiction.

Valley Water joined San Jose Mayor Liccardo in Battle for the Bay, a friendly cleanup challenge with Oakland's Mayor Libby Schaaf and San Francisco's Mayor London Breed. Media, social media and video outreach for the challenge helped boost participation in the days leading up to the event, which supplemented the already robust multi-lingual outreach and communications activities led by Valley Water over the past few months. These combined efforts culminated in a high number of sites cleaned and number of volunteers, while maintaining zero safety incidents.

Chair LeZotte, Vice Chair Hsueh, Director Varela, Director Keegan, Director Santos and Director Estremera greeted volunteers and participated in cleanup sites in their respective districts. The Valley Water Youth Commission sponsored and participated at Site 3: Calabazas Creek (Creekside Park) in Cupertino. Director Estremera was joined by Mayor Liccardo at Site 42: Coyote Creek in San Jose, along with Valley Water mascot H2Cool.

As always, we will be leveraging the momentum from this event to further encourage volunteers to sign up for National River Cleanup Day in May 2020, the year-round Adopt-A-Creek Program, and to support other Valley Water volunteer efforts.

*The Creek Connections Action Group (CCAG) is a consortium of public agencies and non-profit organizations that share a goal to protect Santa Clara County's waterways. These agencies include Valley Water (Chair), Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation, and the City of San José (Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services, Environmental Services Department), City of Santa Clara, City of Palo Alto, City of Sunnyvale, City of Milpitas, City of Cupertino, and West Valley Clean Water Program (Campbell, Monte Sereno, Saratoga and the Town of Los Gatos).

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

2. Community Appreciation Event and Legacy Sign Unveiling for the Main Avenue and Madrone Pipeline Restoration Project

On Thursday, September 19, Valley Water hosted a community appreciation event at the Coyote Pumping Plant and unveiled the future site and mockup of the Main Avenue and Madrone Pipeline Restoration Project legacy sign. This event marked the completion of major construction activities for The Main Avenue and Madrone Pipeline Restoration Project. This project installed approximately 2.6 miles of 24-inch to 36-inch diameter raw water pipelines, which are now capable of functioning at full operating capacity and conveying local and imported raw water from Anderson Reservoir and the Santa Clara Conduit to the Main Avenue Recharge Ponds and the Madrone Channel.

Twenty-nine people attended the event, including members of the public, Valley Water project staff, and City of Morgan Hill representatives. The City of Morgan Hill was represented by City Manager Christina Turner and Councilmembers John McKay and Yvonne Martinez Beltran. Live Oak High School Principal Tanya Calabretta was also in attendance. A reporter from the Morgan Hill Times was in attendance to cover the event.

Speakers included Director Varela and Morgan Hill City Councilmember John McKay. Director Varela's remarks highlighted the importance of this project in providing safe, clean and reliable

water to the residents of Morgan Hill and highlighted the upcoming Upper Llagas Flood Protection Project and current Coyote Warehouse Project. He also thanked the community for their patience and cooperation during construction of the project. Councilmember McKay expressed appreciation for the city's longstanding partnership with Valley Water and the importance of groundwater in the city's water supply.

The program was recorded by staff, and the video will be posted to the project website this month.

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

3. Crest Building Fall Protection Upgrades

As part of ongoing engineering fall protection survey and remediation safety activities, Valley Water has started the design, fabrication, and installation of permanent fall protection equipment on the roof of the Crest Building. Fall protection measures for this project include the design, fabrication, and installation of guardrails around the perimeter of the building atop the parapet wall, a three-foot ladder extension to the fixed ladder at the roof hatch, and a guardrail system with a self-closing gate around the roof hatch opening.

Valley Water has completed the fabrication and installation of the three-foot ladder extension at the roof hatch opening and has begun fabricating the guardrails for future installation. All Crest Building fall protection upgrades are expected to be completed no later than early November.

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

4. Guadalupe River – Tasman to I-880 Community Meeting

Valley Water hosted a community meeting to provide information about the Guadalupe River – Tasman to I-880 flood protection project on Monday, September 23, 2019, at Hughes Elementary School in Santa Clara. Director Richard Santos and members of the public were in attendance.

Project staff provided a presentation detailing the project, and facilitated break-out sessions with residents to gather input regarding project conceptual alternatives. The public meeting was streamed on Facebook Live.

A completed project will restore the river's flood protection level to its design capacity of a 100-year flood and provide natural flood protection for residents and businesses. The project limits are from Tasman Drive in Santa Clara to Interstate 880 near Airport Parkway in San Jose. The project is currently in the planning phase with Valley Water evaluating the best possible alternatives to reducing flood risks. A completed project will provide protection from flooding and preserve structural integrity of stream banks.

Future meetings are planned for winter 2020 and spring 2020.

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

5. Pondside Cafe: New Features - Online Ordering and Gift Card Balances

As part of ongoing cafeteria customer service enhancements, the Pondside Cafe (a.k.a. Headquarters Cafeteria) now offers online ordering and the ability to check gift card balances.

Online Ordering

Valley Water employees can now more quickly order and pick-up meals at the Pondside Cafe. Available 7:00 a.m.- 3:00 p.m., Breakfast, Lunch, Drinks and other convenient Grab & Go Items can be ordered and paid for on-line. The system will also send a text when it's ready!

To get started with online ordering, visit the Cafeteria: Pondside Cafe website on [Aqua.gov](#) and choose "Order Online" or select the Pondside Café App on your District-Issued Smartphone.

Gift Card Balances

Gift card balances can be now be checked on-line and funds can be added on-line. To check balances and/or add funds, visit the Cafeteria: Pondside Cafe website on [Aqua.gov](#) and choose "Gift Card Balance" and enter the 16-digit number on the back of the card for more information. Gift cards can also be purchased at the register at the Pondside Cafe.

For further information, please contact Michael Cook at (408) 630-2424.

6. Release of Public Review Draft of Semitropic Groundwater Sustainability Plan

The Semitropic Groundwater Sustainability Agency (Semitropic GSA) recently released a public review draft of their Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP), in preparation for GSP submission requirements of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). Santa Clara Valley Water District (Valley Water) has been involved in the Semitropic Groundwater Banking Program (Semitropic Bank), which operates in the same sub-basin managed by the Semitropic GSA which was classified by DWR as "high priority" under SGMA. This classification generally indicates sub-basins with significant reliance on local groundwater supplies, many of which are among the most vulnerable to overdraft, land subsidence, and other undesirable and adverse impacts to groundwater quality. GSP and SGMA guidance documents are due to the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) for review by January 2020 for all "high priority" sub-basins. The draft document is available on-line at apps.geiconsultants.com/semitropicgcp.

The draft GSP details Semitropic's service area within the Kern County Groundwater Sub-Basin, including hydrogeologic info and the establishment of sustainable management criteria pursuant to SGMA guidelines. The document also states that Semitropic GSA will ultimately maintain authority over specific management and enforcement actions related to SGMA within their service area, which includes Semitropic Bank facilities. References to the Semitropic Bank, or matters involving third-party groundwater banking, are limited; however, the draft GSP highlights Semitropic's ongoing and planned 'conjunctive use programs' (i.e., coordinated surface water and groundwater management efforts) used to minimize groundwater overdraft conditions. These concepts include water banking on behalf of Semitropic Bank partners, which helps stabilize local groundwater levels and supplies, as critical to their groundwater sustainability objectives going forward.

Valley Water planning studies have assumed the Semitropic Bank will continue to serve as the primary source of Valley Water's out-of-County storage and a critical source of dry year supplemental supply. Semitropic has assured Valley Water that Semitropic Bank operations will not be affected by SGMA; however, Valley Water is working with Semitropic to better understand the banking program's role in the GSP to verify this claim. No specific proposals for Semitropic Bank alterations or revisions to contractual obligations for compliance with SGMA are identified in the draft GSP, nor have any been submitted to Valley Water or other groundwater banking partners. Additional information should become available as the Semitropic GSA continues public and stakeholder engagement, and as DWR commences review of the submitted GSP documents.

For further information, please contact Garth Hall at (408) 630-2750.

7. South San Francisco Bay Shoreline Phase II Feasibility Study

The South San Francisco Shoreline Phase II Feasibility Study (Shoreline Phase II Study) will be a joint project among the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Santa Clara Valley Water District (Valley Water) and California State Coastal Conservancy (Conservancy). Valley Water and Conservancy are the non-federal sponsors (NFS) for this project. The Shoreline Phase II Study area extends from San Francisquito Creek in Palo Alto to Guadalupe River in San José and is divided into ten economic impact areas (EIAs). The purpose of the Shoreline Phase II Study is to determine the feasibility of implementing the following along the shoreline of the study area:

- i. Flood risk management improvements to provide coastal flood protection with consideration for sea level rise,
- ii. Environmental enhancements to restore lost tidal habitat (ecosystem restoration), and
- iii. Recreational opportunities.

The Feasibility Cost Share Agreement (FCSA) has been approved and signed by Valley Water and the Conservancy, and the USACE is expected to sign by September 30, 2019. Once the FCSA is executed by the USACE, USACE staff will officially begin planning process for the Shoreline Phase II Study.

The estimated cost for the Shoreline Phase II Study is \$3 million. The NFS cost share is 50% or \$1.5 million and will be funded by Valley Water's Safe Clean Water Program.

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

8. Valley Water Hosts Tabletop Exercise on Algal Toxin Response Plan

Cyanobacteria, or blue-green algae, are photosynthetic bacteria that naturally occur in surface waters, lakes, ponds and the ocean. Certain conditions, like drought and climate change, can cause blue-green algae to bloom and produce toxins creating harmful algal blooms (HABs). Valley Water is one of the Bay Area's leading agencies, not only in monitoring and identification of cyanobacteria, but also in response preparedness. Valley Water has a well-established and comprehensive Cyanotoxin Response Plan, which outlines active monitoring of cyanotoxins in water treatment plants, treatment process adjustments, as well as notification and communication strategies with regulators and retailers in the event of detection of algal toxins in the treated water.

On September 19, 2019, Valley Water hosted an algal toxin response tabletop exercise to enhance communication strategies and facilitate resource identification among Valley Water, treated water retailers, the State of California's Division of Drinking Water, and the Santa Clara County Departments of Public Health and Environmental Health in preparation for a potential detection of harmful algal toxins in the treated water. The event featured Stefan Cajina, Division of Drinking Water's North Coastal Section Chief, as the keynote speaker. A total of six regulatory agency representatives and ten retailers attended the event.

With the frequency of HABs and related media coverage increasing, the event couldn't have been more timely. Attendees actively participated in the exercise and provided valuable input regarding Valley Water's Cyanotoxin Response Plan, as well as identified opportunities for additional engagement and follow-up, especially on the need to align messaging and even perhaps conduct

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a similar workshop with Public Information Officers of our retailer's agencies. Valley Water looks forward to continuing to engage with both retailers and regulators on this important topic in the future.

For further information, please contact Bhavani Yerrapotu at (408) 630-2735.

9. Valley Water launches "We're Water People" public education campaign.

Valley Water has launched its public education campaign, "We're Water People." The ads highlight eight Valley Water employees and the jobs they do to help support clean water, a healthy environment and flood protection. This is the first public education campaign since Valley Water introduced a new logo, tagline and shortened moniker in February. Ads in four different languages will be highlighted on buses, grocery carts, convenience stores, print publications, online, social media, and radio. Special advertising will also take place at Levi's Stadium during the 49ers Monday night football game on Oct. 7. The campaign goes into December.

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

10. Youth Commission Water Quality Sampling Event along Stevens Creek with Grassroots Ecology

On Saturday, September 28, between 10:00am-12:30pm, members of Valley Water's Youth Commission and staff from Education Outreach will be attending a water quality sampling event hosted by Grassroots Ecology. This event has been organized by the Youth Commission Citizen Science Subcommittee whose aim is promote science careers and stewardship to youth through water quality testing opportunities, a goal resulting from the Youth Commission Workplan development session at the August retreat. The Youth Commissioners will test water quality at two locations along Stevens Creek starting at McClellan Ranch in Cupertino followed by Moss Rock above Stevens Creek Reservoir. They will test for pH, turbidity, dissolved oxygen levels, temperature, and conductivity at both sites as they assess the water quality at these two locations. The data collected will be added to Grassroots Ecology's water sampling data for Stevens Creek.

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