

CEO BULLETIN



To: Board of Directors
From: Melanie Richardson, Interim CEO

Weeks of November 7, 2025 – November 20, 2025

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.

Item	IN THIS ISSUE
<u>1</u>	Safe, Clean Water Refill Station Grant Cancellation: Santa Clara County Office of Education's Educare California Silicon Valley Project
<u>2</u>	Safe, Clean Water Standard Grant Closeout: Saved By Nature's Headwaters to the Bay Project
<u>3</u>	Safe, Clean Water Standard Grant Closeout: West Valley Clean Water Program Authority's School Site Stormwater Quality Leadership Program Project
<u>4</u>	Valley Water Hosts Successful "Meet the Primes" Procurement Event
<u>5</u>	Winter Preparedness Workshop for External Agencies

1. Safe, Clean Water Refill Station Grant Cancellation: Santa Clara County Office of Education's Educare California Silicon Valley Project

In Fiscal Year (FY) 2025, Valley Water awarded the Santa Clara County Office of Education (SCCOE) a \$5,000 Safe, Clean Water Program F9 Refill Station Grant at Educare California Silicon Valley (Project). Santa Clara County Office of Education is a local educational agency committed to serving, inspiring, and promoting student and public-school access. The Project intended to install a new refill station component to an existing water fountain in the facility's central atrium. The station would have supported the Santee community in East San José, as well as families within Silicon Valley during the SCCOE's hosting of its early learning center, training facilities, and public events.

The agreement with SCCOE was executed on February 14, 2025. However, in June 2025, the Project site location permanently closed, preventing SCCOE from completing the Project and fulfilling the objectives outlined in the grant agreement. On August 15, 2025, SCCOE formally requested cancellation of the agreement. Following the cancellation, SCCOE returned the first payment to Valley Water, and the unused funds will be made available for future applications.

For further information, please contact Rachael Gibson at (408) 630-2884.

2. Safe, Clean Water Standard Grant Closeout: Saved By Nature's Headwaters to the Bay Project

In FY 2022, Valley Water awarded Saved By Nature a \$84,001.58 Safe, Clean Water Program F9 Standard Grant for their Headwaters to the Bay Project (Project). Saved By Nature completed the Project in March 2025 and submitted the final invoice items in June 2025, allowing for grant closeout.

Saved By Nature is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to connecting people to the outdoors through free and culturally relevant environmental education programs. The Project fostered watershed stewardship across Santa Clara County through 12 guided interpretive hikes and six river and creek beautifications. Activities emphasized "Leave No Trace" principles, climate change adaptation, and watershed education developed to align with Next Generation Science Standards. The Project provided outreach, equipment, materials, and staff support to provide free outdoor education programs to disadvantaged communities in Santa Clara County.

Key Outcomes:

- 300 participants engaged in 12 interpretive hikes, exceeding the original goal of 240 participants.
- Recruited 97 participants for six river cleanups and beautifications, contributing 180 volunteer hours in total and removed 1,470 pounds of litter.
- Completed six community outreach events, distributing 200 reusable water bottles, 150 educational guides, and 50 trail maps.

For further information, please contact Rachael Gibson at (408) 630-2884.

3. Safe, Clean Water Standard Grant Closeout: West Valley Clean Water Program Authority's School Site Stormwater Quality Leadership Program Project

In FY 2023, Valley Water awarded West Valley Clean Water Program Authority, now known as West Valley Stormwater Authority (WVSA), a \$44,000 Safe, Clean Water Program F9 Standard Grant for their School Site Stormwater Quality Leadership Program (Project). WVSA completed the Project on June 30, 2025 and submitted the final invoice items in August 2025, allowing for grant closeout.

WVSA is a public agency that serves the cities of Campbell, Monte Sereno, and Saratoga, and the Town of Los Gatos with the mission to provide collaborative stormwater management and pollution prevention efforts to meet water quality objectives and improve water quality. The Project was implemented at Louise Van Meter Elementary in Los Gatos and Rolling Hills Middle School in Los Gatos, where students studied stormwater pollution on their campuses by conducting visual storm drain inspections and learning about local watersheds and pollutants. The rain samples collected were analyzed and used to implement best management practices (BMPs) on their campuses to reduce pollutant runoff. Building on applied learning, students developed and completed School Site Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plans (SWPPPs) to reduce pollutants from flowing off their campus tailored to their school site. Students then presented their findings to families, peers, and local decision-makers, connecting classroom learning to real stormwater management activities.

To sustain the Project beyond the grant term, teachers received materials and training to ensure that students could continue stormwater and watershed education. Students also participated in two career pathways presentations led by professionals from the California Stormwater Quality Association (CASQA), gaining exposure to environmental careers and earning internship credit for college and scholarship applications.

Key Outcomes:

- Implemented the Project at Louise Van Meter Elementary and Rolling Hills Middle School, engaging 360
- students and five teachers in stormwater education.
- Conducted 10 storm drain inspections and analyzed 10 certified stormwater lab samples.
- Designed and implemented best management practices and developed two School Site Stormwater Pollution
- Prevention Plans (SWPPPs).
- Delivered two student presentations to school communities.
 - Attendees included Director Beall and City of Campbell councilmembers.

For further information, please contact Rachael Gibson at (408) 630-2884.

4. Valley Water Hosts Successful “Meet the Primes” Procurement Event

On October 30, 2025, Valley Water hosted its Procurement “Meet the Primes” event in its Water Quality Lab parking lot. The two-hour event brought together more than 100 businesses, including prime consultants and contractors, sub-consultants, sub-contractors, and suppliers. The purpose of the event was to create a direct connection between small and diverse types of businesses and Valley Water, while also promoting collaboration among vendors. This initiative supports Valley Water’s ongoing commitment to expanding access to contracting and to strengthening the vendor community that supports our projects and programs.

Twenty prime firms hosted dedicated booths to share information about upcoming opportunities and potential partnerships. Valley Water’s Procurement staff engaged vendors throughout the event, providing guidance on upcoming solicitations, qualification requirements, and procurement procedures.

Valley Water targeted outreach to attract small and diverse types of businesses aligned with the agency’s upcoming procurement pipeline and staff ensured smooth event logistics, managed registration and vendor introductions, and provided technical assistance to firms seeking to register on PlanetBids.

Feedback from participants was overwhelmingly positive, with many praising the opportunity to meet directly with prime contractors and Valley Water staff. Vendors expressed appreciation for the transparency and accessibility of information shared during the event and indicated strong interest in future engagement opportunities.

The event strengthened Valley Water’s vendor base by expanding relationships with qualified small businesses and primes, contributing to a more competitive marketplace. It also advanced the agency’s Small Business Enterprise policy objectives and reinforced Valley Water’s leadership in fostering local business growth and interagency collaboration.

For more information, please contact Tony Ndah at (408) 630-2208.

5. Winter Preparedness Workshop for External Agencies

On October 30, 2025, Valley Water’s Office of Emergency Services (OES) hosted its annual Winter Preparedness Workshop for local agencies including the County of Santa Clara, City of San Jose, City of Palo Alto, City of Milpitas, City of Morgan Hill and many others. The purpose of the workshop is to inform agency partners of Valley Water preparedness efforts for the Winter season. Vice Chair Richard Santos provided opening comments, and Cindy Martinez, Senior Management Analyst for Office of Emergency Services, hosted the workshop.

The Winter Preparedness Workshop was conducted as a hybrid event. Approximately half of attendees participated in person, and the other half joined by Zoom. The workshop had over 70 participants that included representatives from the following Valley Water partner agencies:

- City of Cupertino
- City of Gilroy
- City of Milpitas
- City of Morgan Hill
- City of Mountain View
- City of Palo Alto
- City of San Jose
- City of Santa Clara
- City of Sunnyvale
- County of Santa Clara
- Los Altos Hills County Fire Department
- NASA
- National Weather Service
- Red Cross
- San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority
- San Jose Water Company

Valley Water presentations delivered during the workshop included Emergency Services, Public Information, Reservoir Operations, Watersheds Field Operations, Hydrology & Hydraulics Support, Sandbag Operations, and Drones in Flood Operations. External presentations were also provided regarding Regional Coordination & Resource Support from Santa Clara County Office of Emergency Management, and the Winter Outlook with the National Weather Service. This workshop is a critical annual event in preparation of the Winter season as Valley Water continues to coordinate and communicate with its partner agencies.

For further information, please contact Alexander Gordon at (408) 630-2637.
