

CREEK STEWARDSHIP

In December, five Adopt-A-Creek volunteers conducted cleanups. Their combined effort leveraged 22 volunteer service hours to remove approximately 786 pounds of litter from the banks of Guadalupe Creek, Ross Creek, Permanente Creek, and Sunnyvale East Channel. Adopt-A-Creek volunteers continue to use the Access Valley Water system to report cleanup results, request trash pickup, and report large debris and other concerns related to creeks.



1.5 miles cleaned
94.89 fiscal year-to-date



786 pounds of trash and recyclables
34,285 fiscal year-to-date



10 volunteers
2,220 fiscal year-to-date

EDUCATION OUTREACH

In December, staff reached students in transitional kindergarten through fifth grade through classroom lessons, assemblies, and field trips. Third graders from Oster Elementary School in San José and fifth graders from Washington Open Elementary School in Santa Clara experienced hands-on learning at the Alamitos Outdoor Classroom, including making watershed maps, exploration of percolation through various materials, and playing a game to experience challenges that steelhead trout face.



754 youth
4,193 fiscal year-to-date



24 classroom lessons
95 fiscal year-to-date



3 field trips
10 fiscal year-to-date



1 assembly
8 fiscal year-to-date



Third graders from Oster Elementary School learn about the steelhead trout life cycle during a field trip at the Alamitos Outdoor Classroom in San José.

WATER SUPPLY OUTREACH

Staff hosted 34 visitors at the Silicon Valley Advanced Water Purification Center (SVAWPC) in December. Staff discussed the importance of creating a sustainable water supply and the role that treated wastewater plays in providing safe, clean water to Santa Clara County. A tour was hosted for the Valley Water Landscape Committee, where Vice Chair

Santos attended and provided welcome remarks. Industry professionals also toured the SVAWPC and attendees were interested in learning about purified water and how to discuss it with their own communities.



6 community group members
84 fiscal year-to-date



4 Valley Water staff
68 fiscal year-to-date



24 industry proponents
24 fiscal year-to-date



34 total attendees
1,068 fiscal year-to-date



Vice Chair Santos and members of the Valley Water Landscape Committee complete their tour of the SVAWPC.

WATER 101 ACADEMY

Staff continued recruitment for the Water 101 Academy scheduled to start in spring 2026. Outreach channels include Valley Water's social media accounts, newsletters, and website updates, as well as requesting the help of the current Water Ambassadors. The deadline for Santa Clara County residents to apply is Friday, January 16, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. at valleywater.org/water101.

How Will You Serve Your Community?

Creek Steward

Community Advocate

Water Champion

Resource Liaison

Community Voice

Join Valley Water's
WATER 101 ACADEMY
Class of 2026

Apply to be part of Valley Water's diverse network of leaders and advocates willing to serve the community as Water Ambassadors.

FREE community leadership program.
LEARN about current and future water projects underway in your community.
UNDERSTAND local water issues, opportunities and challenges in the water industry.
NETWORK with other community leaders and advocates.

Eligibility Requirements:

- Resident of Santa Clara County
- At least 18 years old
- Must complete at least 80% of the program
- Remain active Water Ambassadors for at least two years after graduation

DEADLINE TO APPLY: January 16, 2026, at 5 p.m.

Apply:
valleywater.org/water101

Contact Us:
WaterAmbassadorProgram@valleywater.org
408-630-2723

Water 101 Academy Schedule*

- ↑ Session 1 - April 2, 2026
- ↑ Session 2 - April 16, 2026
- ↑ Session 3 - April 30, 2026
- ↑ Session 4 - May 14, 2026
- ↑ Session 5 - May 30, 2026 (in-person)
- ↑ Graduation - June 4, 2026 (in-person)

Sessions 1-4 will be held tentatively via Zoom every other Thursday, from 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Session 5 will be an in-person infrastructure tour of various Valley Water facilities.

*Dates subject to change

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SAFE, CLEAN WATER GRANTS AND PARTNERSHIPS

Refill Station Grants

Closeouts:

- Jackson Oaks Association - Clubhouse Deck:**
Through a FY25 \$5,000 Safe, Clean Water F9 Refill Station Grant, Jackson Oaks Association in Morgan Hill installed its first permanent refill station outside the clubhouse between two outdoor bathrooms, providing convenient access for residents and visitors. The station serves more than 500 homes in the Jackson Oaks community and supports preschoolers, school-age children, college students, and adults who use the playground, pool, and clubhouse year-round.

Mini-Grants

Valley Water awarded \$10,000 Safe, Clean Water F9 Mini-Grants to each of the following grantees for a total grant award amount of \$30,000.

- Chopsticks Alley Art Inc. - Flow & Flourish:** The project entails three free educational workshops focused on water conservation, art, and culture in San José, with a final event at Chopsticks Alley Art Inc.’s gallery showcasing local artwork focused on water and culture.
- Be In Nature - Meet the Water:** The project entails a free, 12-month outdoor environmental educational program for students K-12 in Bernal-Gulnac-Joice Ranch, San José.
- Bay Area Older Adults - Watershed & Wildlife Education Walks:** The project entails six outdoor environmental education walks for older adults in Santa Clara County. Participants will learn about their local watersheds and Valley Water’s water conservation and restoration efforts.

Closeouts:

- Local Ecology and Agriculture Fremont - Film on Hydroponics and Film on Water-Saving Hügeltkultur Bed:**
Through two FY23 \$5,000 Safe, Clean Water F9 Mini-Grants, Local Ecology and Agriculture Fremont produced two educational videos highlighting water-efficient gardening methods. One video showcased hydroponics as an accessible, water-saving growing technique, and another video demonstrated how to build Hügeltkultur beds in both large garden plots and small spaces to conserve water and improve soil health. Both films were screened at community garden events across Santa Clara County and shared online by partner environmental organizations, collectively engaging over 11,000 residents. Together, the Projects expanded community awareness of practical, sustainable gardening practices that support long-term water conservation.

YOUTH COMMISSION

In December, the Valley Water Youth Commission kicked off a hygiene kit donation drive to support unhoused youth in Santa Clara County through its Creekside Community Care Project in partnership with the Bill Wilson Center. The Youth Commission successfully received donations to create 100 hygiene kits and will deliver them to the Bill Wilson Center, which provides critical services to unhoused youth.

LOOKING AHEAD

Silicon Valley Advanced Water Purification Center
Tours and Presentations:

JAN 9

Public Tour

JAN 10

Public Tour

JAN 12

Office of Government Relations Consultants

Education Outreach Programs:

JAN 6

Graystone Elementary School

JAN 7

Gardner Bullis Elementary School

JAN 8

Joseph Weller Elementary School

JAN 12

Silicon Valley Academy

JAN 13

Sedgwick Elementary School

JAN 15

Noddin Elementary School

JAN 20

Evergreen Branch Library Teens Reach Program

JAN 21

Sakamoto Elementary School

JAN 22

Briarwood Elementary School

JAN 26

Evergreen Elementary School

JAN 27

Agnew Elementary School

JAN 28

Anderson (Alex) Elementary School

JAN 29

Eliot Elementary School

Youth Commission:

JAN 28

Quarterly Youth Commission Meeting

Water 101 Academy:

JAN 16

Water 101 Academy application deadline