

MAY 2024

Office of Civic Engagement Monthly Update



CREEK STEWARDSHIP

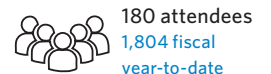
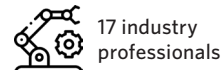
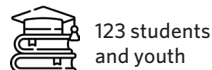
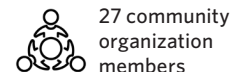
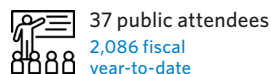
In support of the 32nd Annual National River Cleanup Day, Valley Water, in partnership with the Creek Connections Action Group, coordinated another successful cleanup event in Santa Clara County on Saturday, May 18. This year, there were 42 cleanup sites throughout all seven Valley Water districts. Around 700 volunteers cleaned 66 miles of creeks, shorelines, and natural areas, removing approximately 17,255 pounds of litter. Volunteers found some interesting items including a water heater tank, an iPhone, a wheelchair, and a beach ball. In addition to National River Cleanup Day, four of Valley Water's Adopt-A-Creek volunteers organized separate cleanup events throughout May in districts four, six, and seven.



Volunteers from the South Bay Yacht Club collected litter along the banks of Guadalupe River and Alviso Slough in San José during National River Cleanup Day.

EDUCATION OUTREACH

In May, the Education Outreach team reached districts one, three, five, six, and seven through virtual and in-person classroom lessons and public events. Middle school students learned about the interaction between natural and human-constructed water cycles, and elementary students explored concepts of water conservation and pollution prevention.



First-grade students at Nimitz Elementary School in Sunnyvale learn about how Valley Water serves Santa Clara County.

WATER 101 ACADEMY

The Water 101 Academy held its third and fourth virtual sessions in May. The session topics were Watershed Works in Action and Water is Life: Securing Our Future.

WATER SUPPLY OUTREACH

In May, Water Supply Outreach (WSO) hosted nine tours of the Silicon Valley Advanced Water Purification Center (Purification Center) and engaged 180 people from the community, including the Silicon Valley Leadership Group, San José Conservation Corps and Ellen Fletcher Middle School. On May 10, WSO staff supported the Recycled and Purified Water team in organizing the Direct Potable Reuse Workshop at Valley Water headquarters. For the workshop, staff coordinated a presentation with Dr. Steven Jackson, Chair of the Environmental Health Committee with the Santa Clara County Medical Association. Dr. Jackson shared the committee's support for adding purified water to Santa Clara County's drinking water supply and the importance of medical professionals supporting potable reuse. WSO staff presented an overview of Valley Water's public outreach efforts. The workshop attendees included doctors, engineers, local city staff and consultants.

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Water Supply Outreach staff explain the microfiltration process to San José Conservation Corps during a Purification Center tour.

remarks from Director Beall and an educational Enviroscape demonstration hosted by Valley Water’s Education Outreach program. A videographer helped document the day and interview the grantee staff about the event and their grant.



Director Jim Beall, Saved By Nature Vice President Pamela Campos, Founder and Executive Director Richard Tejada, and Program Manager Cece Moreno welcome hikers at HQ before they start the hike.

COMMUNITY RATING SYSTEM

On May 29, Community Rating System (CRS) program staff hosted the final fiscal year 2024 meeting for the CRS Users Group and Program for Public Information Committee, with approximately 15 staff representing 11 local communities. Participants discussed the Flood Awareness Campaign, outreach to residents in the Special Flood Hazard Area, and updates for the Multi-Jurisdictional Program for Public Information Annual Evaluation Report.

SAFE, CLEAN WATER GRANTS AND PARTNERSHIPS

On May 2 and 21, Grants staff hosted virtual workshops for the Mini-Grant and Refill Station Grant Programs. Twenty attendees received information about year-round funding opportunities and useful tips for successfully completing a mini-grant application. Recordings of the workshops are available at valleywater.org/grants.

Refill Station Grants

In FY 2024, Franklin-McKinley School District used its \$5,000 refill station grant to fund a new water bottle refill station at Stonegate Elementary School in San José. The refill station serves over 600 students and promotes the use of reusable water bottles among students, staff, and visitors.

Standard Grants

On May 11, Valley Water Grants, Communications, and Education Outreach staff attended Saved By Nature’s Headwaters to the Bay: Lake Almaden and Valley Water Headquarters (HQ) Hike event, partially funded by an \$84,001 Safe, Clean Water F9 Standard Grant. Thirteen participants began the day at Valley Water HQ, hiked around the Los Alamos Percolation Pond and Almaden Lake Park, and then headed back to HQ. The event included opening

LOOKING AHEAD

Purification Center Tours and Presentations:

- JUNE 11 Santa Clara County Office of Education Splash!
- JUNE 15 Public Tour
- JUNE 21 Walsh Construction
- JUNE 28 Ignited Externship
- JULY 11 Tech Trek
- JULY 12 Public Tour

Education Outreach Programs:

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| JUNE 12 YMCA Bowers Summer Learning | JUNE 25 Alamos Field Trip for Ignited Teachers |
| JUNE 13 YMCA Hughes Summer Learning | JULY 1 Boys & Girls Club Rocketship Fuerza Clubhouse |
| JUNE 17 Boys & Girls Club Alviso Clubhouse | JULY 2 YMCA ACE Summer Learning |
| JUNE 18 YMCA ACE Esperanza Summer Learning | JULY 8 Boys & Girls Club Rocketship Alma Clubhouse |
| JUNE 20 Alamos Field Trip for Greene Scholar Program | JULY 10 4-H Nature Explorers Camp at Escuela Popular School |
| JUNE 24 Boys & Girls Club Alum Rock Clubhouse | JULY 15 Boys & Girls Club Smythe Clubhouse |