

AUGUST 2025

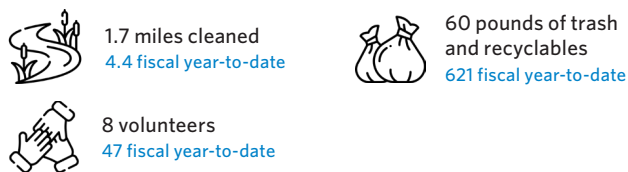
# Office of Civic Engagement Monthly Update



## CREEK STEWARDSHIP

Three Adopt-A-Creek partners conducted cleanups in August. Their combined efforts leveraged eight volunteer hours to remove 60 pounds of trash along 1.7 miles of Guadalupe Creek, Saratoga Creek, and Sunnyvale West Channel in Districts 2, 3, and 4.

California Coastal Cleanup Day is on Saturday, September 20. Staff have been conducting outreach to recruit site coordinators and will begin recruiting general volunteer participants leading up to the cleanup day.



## EDUCATION OUTREACH

Throughout August, staff reached youth and educators in Districts 1, 2, 4, 5, and 6 through public library story time events. Youth and parents enjoyed the Three Little Pigs story, which discusses flood preparedness. Staff also presented outdoor summer programming at the City of San José's Outdoor Adventure Camp at Emma Prusch Farm Regional Park in San José.



## WATER SUPPLY OUTREACH

In August, staff conducted seven tours at the Silicon Valley Advanced Water Purification Center. Among the attendees were members of an environmental organization, a community organization, a school, and local government. The tours highlighted the value of water reuse as we face threats to our water supply.

Staff also distributed purified water bottles at internal and external events. Internally, staff promoted purified water at the monthly Town Hall and served aguas frescas made from purified water at the Headquarters cafeteria. Staff provided cases of purified water bottles and educational materials for employees to share with their communities. Staff also provided information and served purified water at Valley Water's Supervisor Core Training, the Office of Civic Engagement Retreat, the Employee Resource Group Leaders Meeting, and a special event for the Raw Water Division.

Externally, staff distributed purified water at 11 events. These events included a Rotary Club of San José meeting attended by Director Ballard, a health fair, city-wide picnic, music festival, and Valley Water Night at the San José Giants. At Valley Water Night, staff distributed 810 purified water bottles, the most given out at a single event. In total, staff distributed 4,182 bottles during the month.



Director Ballard and staff educate the community about purified water at a Rotary Club of San José meeting.

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## YOUTH COMMISSION

In August, the Youth Commission held its first FY26 quarterly meeting of the year, during which the Commissioners conducted leadership elections. Commissioner Aditya Shivakumar (District 5) was elected Chair, and Commissioner Ellie Zhou (District 4) was elected Vice Chair. The meeting also featured presentations on the Valley Water Board Resolution that defines the Youth Commission's structure and purpose, an overview of Commissioner roles and expectations, and a Brown Act training to ensure compliance with open meeting laws. In addition, Commissioners provided updates on the progress of their respective FY25 projects.

Later that month, the Commissioners participated in an online retreat that opened with remarks from Director Hsueh. A total of nine Commissioners attended, engaging in activities designed to build community, learn more about Valley Water, and strengthen connections through team-building exercises such as a fun Jeopardy-style game. The retreat sparked creativity, fostered collaboration, and prepared the Commission for a successful and impactful year ahead.



*The Valley Water Youth Commission stands together, ready to represent the voices of youth across Santa Clara County at the first quarterly meeting of FY26.*

## SAFE, CLEAN WATER GRANTS AND PARTNERSHIPS

### Refill Station Grants

In August, Valley Water advanced its Safe, Clean Water Refill Station Grant Program by both completing and awarding new projects in Morgan Hill. The agency closed out two \$5,000 FY25 grants that funded the installation of refill stations at the Morgan Hill Community and Cultural Center and the Morgan Hill Aquatics Center. At the Community and Cultural Center, the project installed a multifunction refill station outdoors where it is easily accessible from the splash pad, lawn, and outdoor amphitheater. At the Aquatics Center, the new station now serves more than 25,000 summer visitors and 1,700 swim lesson participants annually.

In addition, Valley Water awarded two new refill station grants. The first was to the City of Morgan Hill for a second refill station at the Community and Cultural Center. This refill station will be located indoors near the restrooms, providing convenient access for individuals using the meeting and event rooms. The second grant was awarded to MHOSC, the nonprofit organization operating the Morgan Hill Outdoor Sports Center, for a second refill station at that facility. The station will be installed near the soccer turf, close to the bleachers and parking lot, ensuring easy access for athletes, spectators, and visitors.



*A refill station grant funded the new multifunction refill station at Morgan Hill Community and Cultural Center.*

### Mini-Grants

In August, Valley Water awarded a \$10,000 Safe, Clean Water F9 Mini-Grant to Grassroots Ecology for their Stevens Creek FLOW (Fieldwork for Learning and Observing Waterways) Project. The project will conduct monthly water quality monitoring in the Lower Peninsula Watershed and engage young adults and interns in environmental stewardship and pollution prevention efforts.

## LOOKING AHEAD

### Creek Stewardship:

- SEP 10 California Coastal Cleanup Day Site Coordinator Training
- SEP 20 California Coastal Cleanup Day

### Education Outreach Programs:

- SEP 9 Stratford School Los Gatos Belcatos Park
- SEP 15 Canoas Elementary School
- SEP 16 Sakamoto Elementary School
- SEP 17 Joyce Ellington Branch Library
- SEP 22 Baker Elementary School
- SEP 25 West Valley Elementary School
- SEP 30 Eaton Elementary School

### Grants and Partnerships Program:

- SEP 23 Mini-Grant Program Informational Workshop (Virtual)

### Purification Center Tours and Presentations:

- SEP 12 Public Tour
- SEP 13 Public Tour