



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

## Weeks of April 24, 2026 – May 7, 2026

**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. Golden Mussel Detection at Valley Water's Water Treatment Plants and Response Update

In early April 2026, a juvenile golden mussel was identified at the raw water intake of the Penitencia Water Treatment Plant (PWTP), marking the first confirmed detection at a Valley Water facility. While significant, this detection is not unexpected, as PWTP receives water from the South Bay Aqueduct (SBA), which conveys Delta water where golden mussels have been present since 2024.

Additionally, in late April 2026, an adult golden mussel was discovered in raw water strainer at the Santa Teresa Water Treatment Plant. At the time, the plant was receiving San Luis water, where golden mussels have been present since September 2025.

At the state level, the Department of Water Resources continues to actively manage this invasive species within the aqueduct system, including prior targeted treatments and additional actions planned later this year. Similar detections at other regional agencies receiving the same source water indicate a broader system presence.

## Valley Water Operational Status and Response

There is no impact to drinking water quality or treatment performance. Water delivered to customers remains safe and fully compliant with all regulatory standards. Existing treatment processes are effective in removing mussels.

Operational impacts are limited to smaller components --such as small-diameter sampling lines and instrument connections --where buildup may occur over time. These are being proactively managed through routine flushing, cleaning, and redundant systems.

Targeted water supply adjustments are underway to limit potential spread. Deliveries of imported water are being reduced in select recharge ponds, supported by increased monitoring and greater use of local supplies where feasible. Releases of imported water to creeks are also being reduced, with ongoing customer coordination. Enhanced monitoring and coordination with state agencies and regional partners continue to support system reliability and resilience.

### Summary

This situation is being proactively managed with no disruption to service or water quality. Efforts remain focused on monitoring, limiting spread, protecting infrastructure, and maintaining operational resilience. We will continue to track developments and adjust as needed.

For further information, please contact Sam Bogale at (408) 630-3505.

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## 2. Public Hearing Notice for 2025 Urban Water Management Plan

Every five years, urban water suppliers in California are required by State law to prepare an Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP). Valley Water meets the definition of an urban water wholesaler and is currently preparing its 2025 UWMP. Valley Water's 2025 UWMP documents current and projected water supplies and demands over the next 25 years during normal and drought years, as well as water shortage contingency planning and conservation efforts. The plan provides an overall picture of past, current, and future water conditions and management in Santa Clara County.

As part of the UWMP adoption process, Valley Water is required to hold a public hearing to provide an opportunity for the public to review and provide input to the plan before it is adopted. Staff is targeting the June 9, 2026 Board meeting for the public hearing and plans to publish a public notice in local newspapers for two weeks in May 2026, once for each week. This notice will include the time and place of hearing, as well as the location where the plan is available for public inspection. Providing the requisite advance notice of the public hearing will enable formal participation by the community, retailers, and the cities and County of Santa Clara.

The public comment period commences with the release of the draft plan in early May and will last until the day of the public hearing. The plan adoption is tentatively scheduled for the same day, June 9, 2026, after the close of the public hearing.

After the public hearing and plan adoption, Valley Water's 2025 UWMP must be submitted to the Department of Water Resources by July 1, 2026.

For further information, please contact Kirsten Struve at (408) 630-3138.

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### **3. Safe, Clean Water Grant Closeout: Children's Discovery Museum's Exploration Portal: Preventing Pollution Project**

In Fiscal Year 2020, Valley Water awarded Children's Discovery Museum of San Jose (CDMSJ) a \$144,500 Safe, Clean Water Program B3 Grant for their Exploration Portal: Preventing Pollution Project. CDMSJ completed the Project in May 2025 and submitted the final invoice items in December 2025, allowing for grant closeout.

The Children's Discovery Museum of San Jose is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization that builds community through creating innovative educational experiences for children and inspiring lifelong learning. The Project delivered a new outdoor education space, the Exploration Portal, that showcases real-world pollution prevention strategies in action, including how to reduce runoff to the Guadalupe River, support groundwater supplies through pollution prevention techniques, and showcase building materials to reduce runoff, such as permeable hardscape.

#### **Key Outcomes:**

- The outdoor classroom introduced eight interactive exhibits for STEM-based (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) learning designed to engage children, families, and schools in hands-on learning about water conservation and watershed protection.
- Successfully hosted a grand opening event on June 21, 2024, attended by Vice Chair Santos as a guest speaker.
- Officially opened the Exploration Portal to the public on June 29, 2024.
- Engaged more than 250,000 children and adults through visits to the Exploration Portal during 2024-2025.

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

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### **4. Safe, Clean Water Grant Closeout: City of Morgan Hill's Madrone Channel Trail Improvement Project**

In Fiscal Year 2019, Valley Water awarded City of Morgan Hill a \$120,000 Safe, Clean Water Program D3 Grant for their Madrone Channel Trail Improvement Project. The City of Morgan Hill completed the Project on May 6, 2025, and submitted the final invoice items in November 2025, allowing for grant closeout.

The Project paved a new 7-foot wide Class I bicycle and pedestrian trail from East Main Avenue to Tennant Avenue along the Madrone Channel, located east of Highway 101 in Morgan Hill. The Project provides accessible connections for walkers and bikers, linking the south end of Morgan Hill to the north end away from vehicle traffic.

#### **Key Outcomes:**

- Enhanced 1.8 miles of new trail between Tennant Avenue and East Main Avenue.
- Increased annual Pedestrian usage: 15,196 to 16,146 (~6% increase)
- Increased annual Bicycle usage: 7,598 to 19,538 (~157% increase)
- Installed interpretive signage acknowledging Valley Water and the Safe, Clean Water Program as a funding source along the length of the new trail.
- Hosted a grand opening and ribbon-cutting ceremony attended by Director Varela, who provided opening remarks, City of Morgan Hill Mayor Mark Turner, Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority staff, and approximately 35 attendees.

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

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**5. Safe, Clean Water Refill Station Closeout: City of Gilroy's Wheeler Gym Project**

In Fiscal Year 2024, Valley Water awarded City of Gilroy a \$5,000 Safe, Clean Water Program F9 Refill Station Grant for their Wheeler Gym. The City of Gilroy completed the Project and submitted the final invoice items in August 2025, allowing for grant closeout.

The Wheeler Center located in Gilroy, is a public recreation facility operated by the Grantee and serves as the main headquarters for the Grantee's recreation programs. The gym hosts a wide range of classes and activities for residents of all ages, including fitness, arts, dance, karate, and sports. The City of Gilroy installed a new water refill station at the front entrance of the gym to provide convenient public access during sporting events and recreation classes when other areas of the facility may be closed.

**Key Outcomes:**

- Installed a new water refill station at the main entrance of the Wheeler Center.
- Increased access to clean drinking water for recreation program participants.
- Since its installation, the refill station has saved over 175 bottles of water.
- Supports the hydration of the public and residents of all ages year-round.

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

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**6. West Pipeline Update: Phase I Complete; Full Service to Resume with RWTP Startup on April 27, 2026**

The West Pipeline (WPL) --the primary distribution pipeline served by the Rinconada Water Treatment Plant (RWTP) --was taken out of service on November 1, 2025, to support Phase I of the WPL Inspection and Rehabilitation Project. This phase included the installation of a new line valve at Quito Road in Saratoga, pipeline inspections and repairs, rehabilitation of appurtenances, and other maintenance and system upgrades. During this six-month period, RWTP operated intermittently and continued supplying water to San Jose Water's More Avenue Turnout.

Construction for Phase I was completed, and staff began refilling the pipeline on March 25, 2026. Refilling and disinfection were completed on April 17, 2026, and flow has since been restored to the Mountain View and Valco Turnouts. The remaining WPL turnouts will return to service upon RWTP startup following the April 20 -27, 2026, shutdown for the Rinconada Reliability Improvement Project.

For further information, please contact Sam Bogale at (408) 630-3505.

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