

To: Board of Directors
From: Tina Yoke, Acting CEO

Weeks of December 6, 2024 – December 19, 2024

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. San Francisquito Creek Multi-Agency Coordination Tabletop Exercise 12/4/24

On December 4, 2024, Valley Water hosted the annual San Francisquito Creek Multi-Agency Coordination (SFC MAC) Tabletop Exercise in Palo Alto. This event provided a no-fault environment for the SFC MAC members to discuss a challenging inclement weather scenario where the storm forecast was uncertain. The scenario included a wide range of potential precipitation, with the exercise forecast provided by the National Weather Service. The forecast included the possibility of extreme rain and significant flooding, which came to fruition within the exercise scenario.

The purpose of the exercise was to focus on the following core areas of emergency response:

- Public Information and Warning
- Planning
- Operational Coordination

Over 50 representatives from the SFC MAC and supporting agencies participated in the exercise, which included:

- City of Palo Alto
- City of Menlo Park
- City of East Palo Alto
- Stanford University
- Santa Clara County
- San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority
- Valley Water
- California Highway Patrol
- National Weather Service

The exercise was a success, given the challenging weather scenario. Without high confidence in the forecast from the National Weather Service, agencies had to make planning and resource decisions based on the potential of significant flooding to occur.

Agencies were able to coordinate on what information is critical, what resources would be deployed to support the emergency response, and key public information strategies. Valley Water shared its expertise regarding flood projections based on the weather forecast scenario, as well updated projections when the actual precipitation occurred during the exercise. Details were also provided on how Valley Water continues to assess potential flood situations, and how its Emergency Operations Center would support the SFC MAC during a similar event.

Emergency exercises are a critical component of any agency's preparedness efforts. Best practices and areas of improvement are identified in these exercises and shared with the participating agencies. Valley Water uses these exercises to validate planning and training efforts for preparedness, and to find ways to improve the agency's capability to respond and support impacted jurisdictions during emergencies.

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