

To: Board of Directors
From: Rick L. Callender, CEO

Weeks of July 22– August 4, 2023

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. Department of Water Resources approves Groundwater Sustainability Plan for North San Benito Subbasin

The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) requires that a groundwater sustainability agency (GSA) managing a basin ranked as medium- or high-priority submit a groundwater sustainability plan (GSP) or Alternative to a GSP to the Department of Water Resources (DWR) by certain statutory deadlines.

In addition to being the GSA for the Santa Clara and Llagas subbasins located entirely in Santa Clara County, Valley Water is the GSA for a small portion of the North San Benito Subbasin. This medium-priority basin is primarily located in San Benito County, so the San Benito County Water District GSA led GSP development with support from Valley Water. After being adopted by the Board of Directors for both agencies, the GSP was submitted to DWR in January 2022. DWR recently approved the North San Benito Subbasin GSP, indicating it substantially complies with GSP regulations and SGMA. The DWR assessment includes four recommendations the GSAs will need to address in the next plan update, due in January 2027. The assessment can be viewed on the SGMA portal at sgma.water.ca.gov.

Related to SGMA compliance, Valley Water has an approved Alternative to a GSP for the Santa Clara and Llagas subbasins and has submitted the first plan update to DWR for review.

For further information, please contact Greg Williams at (408) 630-2867.

2. Fuel Management Policy and Wildfire Resiliency Plan

Valley Water is in the planning stages for the development of a Fuel Management Policy (Policy) and a Wildfire Resiliency Plan (WRP) that will incorporate wildfire planning efforts in an integrated and programmatic way to inform Valley Water's core business while considering our responsibility to protect our land rights and High Value Resources and Assets (HVRAs). The WRP, which will focus on vegetation as a fuel source for wildfires, will provide land management approaches and recommended actions to reduce fire severity. It will protect sensitive ecological and cultural resources and support the ecological benefits of Santa Clara County's (SCC) riparian corridors and other identified Valley Water lands.

Valley Water recognizes that a key component of a WRP is the utilization of a science-based risk framework to establish integrated risk profiles to guide operational decisions for wildfire risk mitigation. To that end, Valley Water's current efforts are focused on the development of a comprehensive risk assessment and modeling framework to delineate risk profiles associated with Valley Water land rights and HVRAs. This effort, which is anticipated to be completed in FY24, will then inform the continued development of the Policy and WRP.

Throughout this effort Valley Water has been coordinating with both internal and external stakeholders to ensure a collaborative approach for the mitigation of wildfire risk throughout SCC. For example, Valley Water has been actively engaged with the SCC FireSafe Council as part of their effort to update the SCC Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP). Valley Water is a member of the CWPP Advisory Team and has provided input and direct engagement with the FireSafe Council and other participating agencies to support the CWPP update efforts.

In recognition of the partnership and contributions by Valley Water staff, **Valley Water's logo will be represented on the updated CWPP**, once completed. Valley Water will continue to engage with the SCC FireSafe Council and other external partners throughout the development and deployment of the WRP.

For further information, please contact Luz Penilla at (408) 630-2228.

3. Safe, Clean Water Mini-Grant Closeout: Science is Elementary's SiE Books Creek Cleanup Project

In FY 2021, Valley Water awarded Science is Elementary (Grantee) a \$5,000 Safe, Clean Water Program D3 Mini-Grant for their Science is Elementary (SiE) Books Creek Cleanup Project (Project). Grantee completed the Project on April 15, 2022, and submitted the final invoice items on May 9, 2023, allowing for grant closeout.

Science is Elementary is a nonprofit organization that provides innovative and high-quality science experiences to over 20,000 preschool and elementary school children living in low-income communities. The project consisted of developing an illustrated book which teaches students about keeping creeks clean from hazardous materials. Each book includes an adult guide with a science background and questions for caregivers and the books were printed in English and Spanish languages. The project also included assembling hands-on science kits to encourage students to develop scientific reasoning skills and engage their creativity, which complemented the book. The books and kits were distributed to second graders in Mountain View and Santa Clara.

Key Outcomes:

- Created a new book, *Jasmine and Jose Clean a Creek*, for second graders that discusses creek cleanup of hazardous materials and includes hands-on science activities. The book was printed in English and Spanish.
- Distributed 250 books and science kits to students and their families in Mountain View and Santa Clara schools.
- Engaged with 21 teen volunteers and three adults to assemble kits for distribution.

For further information, please contact Donald Rocha at (408) 630-2338.

4. Third Quarter Fiscal Year 2022-23 Financial Status Update

Valley Water's third quarter Fiscal Year 2022-23 closed on March 31, 2023. The third quarter financial status update presentation summarizes cash and investment balances, the debt portfolio and includes a detailed comparison, and analysis, of the budget to actual status of revenues and expenditures for all funds as of March 31, 2023.

The presentation was provided to the Board Audit Committee on June 21, 2023 and has been submitted to the Clerk of the Board as a Non-Agenda item for your reference.

For further information, please contact Darin Taylor at (408) 630-3068.

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