

CEO BULLETIN



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

Weeks of January 8, 2026 – January 22, 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. Safe, Clean Water Grant Closeout: Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition's Wheels and Waterways Project

In Fiscal Year 2021, Valley Water awarded Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition (SVBC) a \$50,000 Safe, Clean Water Program B7 Grant for their Wheels and Waterways Project (Project). SVBC completed the Project in May 2025 and submitted the final invoice items in November 2025, allowing for grant closeout.

Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that promotes safer, more sustainable communities through bicycling. The Project supported a quarterly community bike ride series at creek trail locations throughout Santa Clara County, including Guadalupe River, Coyote Creek, Penitencia Creek, and Stevens Creek. Each ride combined guided educational stops, expert speakers, and hands-on creek cleanups to teach participants about watershed stewardship, water conservation, flood protection, riparian ecosystem health, and environmental justice. The Project also recruited new beginner riders, working with 23 local partners to expand community confidence in sustainable transportation.

Key Outcomes:

- Engaged 376 residents through 17 educational bike rides across four creek trail systems.
- Removed 6,230 pounds of trash during six cleanup events and transported waste by bicycle and bicycle trailers along the Guadalupe River, Coyote Creek, Penitencia Creek, and Stevens Creek.
- Increased awareness of watershed health, flood protection, and sustainable mobility through six educational group rides.

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

2. Safe, Clean Water Mini-Grant Closeout: Bay Area Ridge Trail Council's Ridge Trail Service Day Project

In Fiscal Year 2025, Valley Water awarded Bay Area Ridge Trail Council (BARTC) a \$10,000 Safe, Clean Water Program F9 Mini-Grant for their Ridge Trail Service Day (Project). BARTC completed the Project in November 2025 and submitted the final invoice items in December 2025, allowing for grant closeout.

Bay Area Ridge Trail Council is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to creating and sustaining the trail network in Santa Clara County and around the San Francisco Bay Area through stewardship, partnerships, and community engagement. The grant funds supported the BARTC's Ridge Trail Service Day, an annual volunteer stewardship event at three Santa Clara County locations, including Sierra Vista Open Space Preserve in San José, Sanborn County Park's Skyline Trail in Saratoga, and Coyote Creek Trail at Tully Ballfields in San José. In total, 125 volunteers and staff contributed 315 volunteer hours, and conducted trail maintenance, habitat restoration, and debris removal.

Key Outcomes:

- Improved public access by maintaining and restoring two miles of trail and removing 104 bags of trash.
- Strengthened regional collaboration in Santa Clara County through partnerships with five organizations supporting conservation and trail stewardship.
- Promoted the Project and raised awareness about trail stewardship through social media and newsletters reaching over 30,000 followers.

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

3. Safe, Clean Water Mini-Grant Closeout: Children's Discovery Museum of San Jose's Guadalupe River Watershed Exhibit Project

In Fiscal Year 2024, Valley Water awarded Children's Discovery Museum of San Jose (CDMSJ) a \$5,000 Safe, Clean Water Program F9 Mini-Grant for their Guadalupe River Watershed Exhibit (Project). CDMSJ completed the Project on October 24, 2025, and submitted the final invoice items in November 2025, allowing for grant closeout.

The Children's Discovery Museum of San Jose is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to inspiring learning through interactive, hands-on exhibits for children and families. The Project supported the creation of a permanent, outdoor exhibit in the museum's environmental education area, Bill's Backyard, at the Junior Ranger Station in San José.

The exhibit features a detailed three-dimensional watershed model and map that highlights different geographical features and demonstrates the impact of human activity on the local watershed. The exhibit serves as an educational tool to promote the importance of watershed protection and water conservation. Multilingual signage in English, Spanish, and Vietnamese provides accessible environmental education for diverse audiences.

Key Outcomes:

- Invited 52 fourth- and fifth-grade students to engage with the exhibit and participate in a post-visit survey.
- 87% of students agreed that they improved their understanding of watersheds after visiting the outdoor exhibit at the Children's Discovery Museum.
- 85% of students demonstrated awareness of human impacts on local watersheds.

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

4. Safe, Clean Water Refill Station Grant Closeout: AchieveKids' Valley Water Refill Station Project

In Fiscal Year 2025, Valley Water awarded AchieveKids a \$5,000 Safe, Clean Water Program F9 Refill Station Grant for their Valley Water Refill Station Project located in San José. AchieveKids completed the Project and submitted the final invoice items on June 11, 2025, allowing for grant closeout.

AchieveKids is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to empowering students with individualized support, confidence, and lifelong learning in special education. The new water refill station replaced an existing water fountain near a high-traffic area next to the bathrooms, where it is easily accessible for students and visitors. The installation improves water access during programming and supports youth, staff, and visitors.

Key Outcomes:

- Installed a new refill station serving over 80 students and staff daily, as well as during community events.
- Expanded clean water access for students from kindergarten through 12th grade.
- Supports access to clean drinking water, as well as student health, hydration, and sustainability.

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

5. Safe, Clean Water Standard Grant Cancellation: Downtown Streets, Inc.'s Upper Penitencia Creek Cleanup, Outreach, and Revitalization Project

In Fiscal Year 2022, Valley Water awarded Downtown Streets, Inc. a \$78,782.72 Safe, Clean Water Program F9 Standard Grant for their Upper Penitencia Creek Cleanup, Outreach, and Revitalization Project (Project). The Project intended to reduce trash and pollution along a three-mile stretch of Upper Penitencia Creek between Berryessa Road and Highway 680 while providing workforce development opportunities for individuals experiencing or at risk of homelessness. The Project also intended to strengthen community stewardship and support unhoused residents through cleanups, outreach, and educational events.

The agreement was executed on May 9, 2024, with an initial end date of May 9, 2029. The Project achieved partial progress, including the removal of trash, engagement of volunteers, and outreach activities. On September 11, 2025, Downtown Streets provided a formal notice of contract termination citing financial and political challenges and ceased operations on October 31, 2025. As a result of the early termination, \$33,948.28 of the total project budget remained unspent.

Key Outcomes:

- Removed 194,464 cubic yards of trash from the Upper Penitencia Creek area.
- Hosted 106 community cleanup events, engaging a total of 212 volunteers.
- Distributed 364 hygiene kits to individuals during outreach efforts.
- Conducted outreach at 106 different sites to support unhoused residents and connect them with resources.

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