

To: **Board of Directors**
From: **Norma J. Camacho, CEO**

Chief Executive Officer Bulletin

Week of January 11 - 17, 2019

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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Safe, Clean Water FY19 Mini-Grants Program Grant Award – Grassroots Ecology

Living Classroom, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, with a mission to inspire children to learn about and value our natural world through garden-based education, was awarded \$5,000 through the district's Mini-Grants Program for their Equity in Environmental Literacy Project (Project).

Living Classroom's Project involves planning and supervising community building workdays, which will engage community members in planting native trees and under story plants, creating interpretive signs, restoring wildlife habitats, while educating participants on the value of native plants in helping to restore the native ecology.

The Project intends to involve at least 100 school parents, students, staff, and local community members from each school campus taking part in Living Classroom's beautification and wildlife habitat projects, for a total of at least 300 school and community volunteers.

Success of the Project will be determined based on oral and written participant testimonials during and after the events (workdays), as well as a quiz to be taken by volunteers before and

after taking part in the project. A key feature of the project is the fact that it will be drawing low-income students from three (3) elementary schools in the City of Mountain View- Theuerkauf Elementary, Mistral Elementary, and Monta Loma Elementary.

The total budget of the program is \$32,000, with \$27,000 of that made up of in-kind services.

For further information, please contact Rick Callender at (408) 630-2017.

Emergency Services and Security Unit Hosts FBI on Tour of District Facilities

In December 2018, a Special Agent from the Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI), Weapons of Mass Destruction Unit Oakland Field Office met with the security manager of San Jose Water and the district and suggested that the Special Agent visit the District and get an "eyes on" view of critical facilities that are instrumental in delivering water to Santa Clara County. The district hosted the tour on January 8, 2019, enabling the Special Agent to gain a deeper understanding of water delivery.

The district coordinated a tour of the Pacheco Pass Pumping Plant, Anderson Dam, Santa Teresa Water Treatment Plant, and Vasona Metering Station. During the tour water delivery was discussed, but also vulnerabilities and effects if critical facilities were compromised. The asset owners for Santa Teresa Water Treatment Plant and Vasona Metering Station provided the Special Agent guided tours of these facilities.

The Special Agent was highly impressed with the professionalism and knowledge of the assets' staff and was grateful for the tour. The Special Agent greatly increased his knowledge of water delivery as it pertained to his duties, along with gaining a valuable understanding of where many critical district assets are physically located, which was particularly important since the Special Agent is new to California's greater Bay Area. The FBI is an important federal agency as it is tasked with critical infrastructure protection from terrorist threats and this tour helped foster good will between the District and FBI. The Special Agent looks forward to participating in or supporting district projects in the future.

For further information, please contact Tina Yoke at (408) 630-2385.

Governor Newsom Proposes 2019-20 State Budget

On January 10, Governor Gavin Newsom presented his proposed 2019-20 State Budget with total expenditures of \$209 billion, a 4% increase over last year. In his presentation, the Governor spoke briefly about the California WaterFix, saying he is "committed to conveyance," but "concerned about twin tunnels." He added that his administration is assessing personnel at the State Water Board now, likely referring to the reappointment or replacement of Felicia Marcus and other senior staff.

The Governor backed away from the re-establishment of redevelopment agencies as a means to build more affordable housing, saying the state is spending more on housing in his budget than it ever did under redevelopment. Indeed, the proposed budget would spend \$7.7 billion across numerous departments and programs to address the housing shortage and homelessness throughout the state. The debate as to whether to re-establish redevelopment agencies is important for the district because, historically, a redevelopment agency's share of property taxes

was taken from funds originally intended for counties, schools, and special districts. This debate is happening because Assembly Member David Chiu (D-San Francisco) has introduced AB 11, a bill that would re-establish redevelopment agencies, albeit by giving potentially impacted entities such as the district the option to decline the sharing of property tax revenue.

Referring to the tax on water bills proposed by Senator Bill Monning (D-Carmel) to fund safe drinking water programs for disadvantaged communities, Newsom said, "We have to get the Monning fee done," and his budget proposes the creation of a fund in which to deposit the proceeds. Most observers expect some form of a fee on water bills to be proposed by the administration, either through a legislative bill or a budget trailer bill.

Regarding staffing at state agencies to speed the release of flood subvention funds and to expedite environmental permitting, there appears to be no staffing increases in the proposed budget for these purposes. The district is considering what further steps to take to call attention to continued delays in environmental permitting. The district also will continue to evaluate state budget proposals and apprise the board of any impacts on the district.

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

Update on drought damaged and diseased eucalyptus trees along Saratoga Creek

On April 6, 2018, the district reported the removal of 26 hazardous eucalyptus trees along Saratoga Creek between Cox Ave and Prospect Road in the CEO Bulletin. These trees were a part of a larger grove of potentially hazardous trees in this reach where numerous tree failures have occurred following the multi- year drought, and onset of disease and decay fungi.

Targets below the trees include high-value homes and properties and PG&E distribution lines. Access to the trees is highly limited due to the power lines, adjacent private property, encroachments onto district property by some property owners, and the creek itself. The removal of the 26 trees was accomplished by a crane from an access location on the opposite bank by a specialty tree service company experienced with this type of work around power lines.

Following the drought in 2015, bark beetle outbreaks, decay fungi, branch failure, and tree mortality have increased exponentially. Last year, wood samples from 10 trees throughout the reach were tested by a pathology lab at UC Berkley confirming the presence of fungus and root rot. Because roots within the grove are intertwined, the decay and fungus readily transmit from tree to tree. The lab also provided a tree failure rating of high to very high for the trees sampled.

The district is currently developing a detailed work plan for a project to remove the remaining 106 eucalyptus trees and restore the creek side habitat, which is required as mitigation for the impacts of the tree removal effort. Due to the restricted access, seasonal and bird nesting work windows, and the size and number of trees, removal will be phased over the next three (3) years. Pending compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and permit approval from jurisdictional regulatory agencies, the project is expected to begin the end of Summer 2019. Timing and details are subject to modification as the plan develops.

Due to the complexities of site access, several access points will be included and selected with utmost consideration for the safety of staff, the public, and work flow process efficiency. Since a large portion of the eucalyptus removals are located closer to Cox Avenue, it will be extremely important to obtain access from Cox Avenue along the east bank for both the tree removal and

the native plant restoration. The district is currently working with PG&E, AT&T and Comcast to remove obstructions that are blocking access at this time.

Activities for the restoration of the native habitat will begin as trees are removed. In preparation, the district has initiated invasive plant removal efforts. These initial efforts concentrate on removing invasive vegetation and non-native annual grasses, decreasing the competition for native vegetation. Once invasive vegetation has been removed, we will continue performing site maintenance and monitoring for the next five (5) to seven (7) years to ensure that invasive plants do not repopulate the site and project success criteria are met.

Creekside neighbors have been informed of the invasive plant removal efforts and have been provided an update on the removal of the remaining trees and restoration work. Additional meetings are anticipated with small groups of the neighbors to provide more details of the upcoming work and how it may impact the neighborhood.

For further information, please contact Sue Tippets at (408) 630-2253.

Varela

**Staff is to schedule an update on CA WaterFix for second meeting in January 2019.
R-18-0017**

Water Utility Enterprise staff is scheduled to bring an update on the CA Waterfix to the board, January 22, 2019, the second meeting in January 2019.

For further information, please contact Garth Hall at (408) 630-2750.
