

CEO BULLETIN



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

Weeks of October 24, 2025 – November 6, 2025

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. Office of Communications Awards and Nominations

On October 2, 2025, Valley Water received a first-place California Association of Public Information Officers (CAPIO) STAR Award for its video "A Story of Resilience" in the Consultant/Education category. The video spotlights fisheries biologists from the Environmental Mitigation and Monitoring Unit as they conducted annual surveys of Central California Coast Steelhead.

Valley Water was also recognized as a finalist in the Consultant Brand Awareness category for its partnership with the San Jose Sharks. As part of a broader branding campaign, Valley Water produced a series of videos featuring Sharks defenseman Mario Ferraro, mascot SJ Sharkie, and Valley Water's mascot, H2Cool.

Valley Water has also been selected as a finalist for the 2025 Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) Excellence in Communications Award and the national Public Relations Daily Award for our Summer 2024 – Spring 2025 Water Conservation Campaign. The campaign featured stories by community members who have transformed their yards with the help of our landscape rebate program. Innovative strategies, such as geo-targeting single-family homes and delivering materials in the user's language of choice, maximizing the campaign's reach and engagement.

This summer, Valley Water was recognized by the National Association of Flood & Stormwater Management Agencies (NAFSMA) for promoting public awareness about flooding and emergency preparedness during the past winter season. NAFSMA's second-place national award for Excellence in Communications underscored our commitment to ensuring that residents in high-risk flood areas know the potential dangers, have signed up for alerts, and can find locations to obtain free sandbags in emergencies.

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

2. Planned 3-Week Silicon Valley Advance Water Purification Center (SVAWPC) Shutdown: November 30 – December 21, 2025

Starting November 30, 2025, the Silicon Valley Advanced Water Purification Center (SVAWPC) will be shut down for three weeks to perform annual maintenance and a major replacement of micro-filtration (MF) membranes.

During the shutdown, Valley Water will also inspect the center's electrical system, and rehabilitate key equipment used in critical processes. Periodic preventive maintenance ensures the center remains safe, reliable, and fully operational. Maintenance activities requiring a full plant shutdown are coordinated with the San José–Santa Clara Regional Wastewater Facility, which supplies secondary-treated wastewater to SVAWPC. Shutdowns are scheduled for periods of lower recycled water demand.

South Bay Water Recycling customers may notice minor changes in water characteristics due to the temporary suspension of purified water blending from SVAWPC. The center is scheduled to return to service by end of day on December 21, 2025.

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

3. Planned 6-Month West Pipeline (WPL) Shutdown – Phase I (October 30, 2025 – April 28, 2026)

Beginning October 30, 2025, the West Pipeline (WPL), the primary distribution pipeline served by the Rinconada Water Treatment Plant (RWTP), will enter the initial lockout/tagout phase on selected turnouts in preparation for the full WPL shutdown. The complete shutdown and the start of project construction activities are scheduled for November 1, 2025, marking the start of Phase I of the WPL Project. This phase includes installing a line valve at Quito Road in Saratoga, conducting pipeline inspections and repairs, rehabilitating appurtenances, and performing other maintenance and upgrade work. The pipeline is scheduled to return to service by April 28, 2026.

During this period, RWTP will operate intermittently and continue supplying water to San Jose Water Company's More Avenue Turnout. Concurrent construction associated with the Rinconada Reliability Improvement Project and other maintenance activities will also occur at RWTP. The shutdown schedule has been coordinated with all WPL retailers, who will use groundwater and/or alternative supplies to meet demand.

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

4. Safe, Clean Water Refill Station Closeout: Boys & Girls Clubs of Silicon Valley's Morgan Hill (El Toro) Clubhouse

In Fiscal Year (FY) 2025, Valley Water awarded Boys & Girls Clubs of Silicon Valley (BGCSV) a \$5,000 Safe, Clean Water Program F9 Refill Station Grant for their Morgan Hill (El Toro) Clubhouse (Project). BGCSV completed the Project and submitted the final invoice items on June 18, 2025, allowing for grant closeout.

The Morgan Hill (El Toro) Clubhouse serves more than 200 at-risk youth annually through after-school and summer programs. Previously, drinking water was provided through portable water jugs carried daily by staff. The Project installed a new refill station near the bathrooms and provides a reliable source of clean drinking water. The installation improves water access during programming and supports youth, staff, and volunteers.

Key Outcomes:

- Provides reliable hydration for more than 200 youth participants annually.
- Supports 100+ volunteers and staff members with access to clean drinking water year-round.
- Installed the first permanent refill station at the Morgan Hill (El Toro) Clubhouse.

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5. Safe, Clean Water Refill Station Grants Closeout: Morgan Hill Unified School District's FY 2023 F9 Barrett Elementary School A4748R, Los Paseos Elementary School A4740R, and PA Walsh STEAM Academy A4752R

In FY 2023, Valley Water awarded Morgan Hill Unified School District (MHUSD) three \$5,000 Safe, Clean Water Program F9 Refill Grants for Barrett Elementary School, Los Paseos Elementary School, and PA Walsh STEAM Academy (Projects). MHUSD completed both the Los Paseos Elementary School and PA Walsh STEAM Academy refill stations on December 5, 2022, and the Barrett Elementary refill station on January 10, 2023. The final invoices for all three items were submitted on September 16, 2025, allowing for the grants' closeout.

Key Outcomes:

- MHUSD has installed water bottle refill stations at Barrett Elementary School, Los Paseos Elementary School, and PA Walsh STEAM Academy.
 - Strategically installed refill stations in high-traffic areas.
 - Increased accessibility to clean drinking water to students and faculty on campus.
 - Encouraged the use of reusable bottles and reduced reliance on plastic bottles.
 - Barrett Elementary School's multipurpose room refill station has filled 8,617 water bottles to date, and the playground refill station has filled 4,056 water bottles to date.
 - Los Paseos Elementary School refill station has filled 19,759 water bottles to date.
 - PA Walsh STEAM Academy refill station has filled 7,000 water bottles to date.

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

6. Safe, Clean Water Standard Grant Closeout: Grassroots Ecology's McClellan Ranch Community Garden Hedgerow

In FY 2022, Valley Water awarded Grassroots Ecology a \$38,568.50 Safe, Clean Water Program F9 Standard Grant for their McClellan Ranch Community Garden Hedgerow Project (Project). Grassroots Ecology completed the Project and submitted the final invoice items in June 2025, allowing for grant closeout.

Grassroots Ecology is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that engages and educates communities in the stewardship of local ecosystems through habitat restoration and environmental education. The Project transformed an overgrown, trash-filled corner of McClellan Ranch Nature Preserve in Cupertino into a thriving native plant hedgerow garden. The Project improved riparian and grassland meadow habitat, remediated pollutants from the adjacent community garden and animal ranch, and restored ecological connectivity along Stevens Creek. Activities supported by the grant included growing and planting watershed-specific native plants, removing invasive species, maintaining the plant site, and engaging volunteers in environmental restoration.

Key Outcomes:

- 304 community members engaged in 16 volunteer workdays and contributed over 780 volunteer hours in total.
 - 52% of volunteers were students between kindergarten through 12th grade.
 - 34% of volunteers were adults.
 - 14% of volunteers were young adults.
- Installed 21 native species with over 5,000 square feet of habitat planted.
- Removed invasive weeds including poison hemlock (*Conium maculatum*), stinging nettle (*Urtica urens*), and common horehound (*Marrubium vulgare*).

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

7. Valley Water's Public Meeting on the Rinconada Water Treatment Plant Reliability Improvement Project Phases 3-6

On October 21, 2025, Valley Water hosted the biannual community meeting about the Rinconada Water Treatment Plant Reliability Improvement Project Phases 3-6, to provide the latest status update on the project and share responses to neighborhood concerns received to date.

Before the hybrid public event began, interested participants who signed up earlier were given a brief tour of the construction project, which was held from the upper deck of the Rinconada Water Treatment Plant.

Directors Jim Beall, Shiloh Ballard and Rebecca Eisenberg attended the meeting, along with City of Saratoga Mayor Belal Aftab and City of Saratoga Councilmember Kookie Fitzsimmons. Fifteen community members attended and five people joined online via Zoom. The presentation was followed by a question-and-answer session.

A link to the recording of the public meeting is available on the project website and Valley Water's YouTube channel.

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