

CEO BULLETIN



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

Weeks of April 5 – April 18, 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. Bay-Delta Plan Update: Healthy Rivers and Landscapes Program

New information regarding the Healthy Rivers and Landscapes Program has been posted for the California State Water Resources Control Board (State Board) to review ahead of a 3-day workshop planned for April 24-26, 2024. These materials are being provided to support the State Board's process for updating the Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Bay-Delta Plan). The recent submittal, a significant milestone, will be used by the State Board to develop a program of implementation and further evaluate the Healthy Rivers and Landscapes Program.

Valley Water will review the new materials and tune into the State Board's workshop to follow the dialogue regarding the Healthy Rivers and Landscapes Program. The State Board has stated that they plan to adopt updates to the Bay-Delta Plan in late 2024 or early 2025.

For background, last September 2023, the State Board released a draft staff report to comply with the California Environmental Quality Act and inform the public of the proposed updates to the Bay-Delta Plan. The draft staff report identifies year-round inflow requirements on the Sacramento River and its tributaries as one implementation pathway. It also identified the Voluntary Agreement proposal, now called the "Healthy Rivers and Landscapes Program," as an alternative implementation pathway. This alternative includes flow commitments from each tributary, habitat restoration projects, and a science program. It has been under development by water agencies, State agencies, and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation for several years.

The workshop notice can be viewed here:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_info/calendar/docs/2024/mar/notice_vaworkshop_030824.pdf

For further information, please contact Vincent Gin at (408) 630-2633.

2. Safe, Clean Water Mini-Grant Closeout: Marshmallow Minds' A Tough Trek – Salmon Migration in a Warm Planet Project

In Fiscal Year 2023, Valley Water awarded Marshmallow Minds (Grantee) a \$5,000 Safe, Clean Water Program F9 Mini-Grant for their A Tough Trek – Salmon Migration in a Warm Planet Project. The Grantee completed the Project on January 15, 2024 and submitted the final invoice items on January 31, 2024, allowing for grant closeout.

Marshmallow Minds is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization that provides accessible and engaging education to school-aged children from under-resourced communities. Grant funds were used to implement a pilot environmental STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art and math) education program for elementary school-aged children from Title-1 schools in Santa Clara County. The Grantee, in collaboration with graduate students from the University of California, Santa Barbara, designed a lesson plan with content that educated students about the effects of temperature on marine organisms. The Grantee also assembled STEAM kits provided by Family Giving Tree, a nonprofit organization, for the students to use for hands-on classroom activities. Students and teachers participated in self-reflection surveys at the end of each lesson.

Key Outcomes:

- Engaged a total of 84 students from four Title-1 classrooms in Franklin-McKinley School District.
 - Conducted eight hours of lessons for two weeks.
- Assembled 100 STEAM kits.
- Reported more than 80% of the students shared that they learned Design Thinking, a problem-solving process, through the pilot program from Marshmallow Minds.

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

3. Safe, Clean Water Refill Station Grant Closeout: Sunnyvale Congregational Christian Church of American Samoa's Valley Water Refill Station Project

In Fiscal Year 2024, Valley Water awarded the Sunnyvale Congregational Christian Church of American Samoa (Grantee) a \$5,000 Safe, Clean Water Program F9 Valley Water Refill Station Grant for their Valley Water Refill Station Project at Sunnyvale Congregational Christian Church of American Samoa. The Grantee completed the Project on January 21, 2024 and submitted the final invoice items on February 18, 2024, allowing for grant closeout.

The Sunnyvale Congregational Christian Church of American Samoa is a faith-based nonprofit organization located in Sunnyvale. Grant funds were used to purchase and install a new water bottle refill station at the church where both church members and community members have access to during church hours and events hosted by the Grantee.

Key Outcomes:

- Installed one new water bottle refill station at Sunnyvale Congregational Christian Church of American Samoa.
- Saved over 100 plastic water bottles within a month of installation.
- Promotes the use of reusable water bottles and reduces the amount of plastic water bottle waste generated.

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

4. Tamien Nation Training Conducted for the South San Francisco Bay Shoreline Phase 1 Project

On March 19, 2024, Chairwoman Quirina Geary of Tamien Nation, conducted training for 12 staff members from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, State Coastal Conservancy, and Valley Water for the South San Francisco Bay Shoreline Phase 1 Project (Project). The cultural sensitivity training provided insight into Tamien Nation traditional cultural practices and what to look for during construction/excavation on the Project, and procedures to be taken when potential tribal cultural resources/remains are discovered. For context, construction of Shoreline Phase I Project, Reaches 1-3 began in December 2021 and is anticipated to be completed in Summer 2025. No cultural artifacts have been found at the site since start of construction.

For further information, please contact Bhavani Yerrapotu at (408) 630-2735.

5. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Finalizes Drinking Water Regulations for Six PFAS

On April 10, 2024, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) established Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) for six per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). MCLs are enforceable drinking water standards. Individual MCLs were set to 4 parts per trillion (ppt) for PFOA and PFOS and 10 ppt for PFNA, PFHxS, and GenX. The rule also regulates combined amounts of four PFAS chemicals (PFNA, PFHxS, PFBS, and GenX) via a calculated Hazard Index. A Hazard Index greater than 1 is considered an MCL exceedance.

Public water systems need to test their water supply for these six PFAS by 2027 and include the results in Consumer Confidence Reports. Starting in 2029, water systems that detect these six PFAS above the established limits must implement solutions to ensure drinking water delivered to customers does not exceed these limits. Water systems must also notify the public if levels of regulated PFAS exceed these new standards.

Valley Water conducted voluntary quarterly monitoring from 2020 to 2021, at its three drinking water treatment plants, which serve seven local water retailers. None of the six PFAS regulated under the new EPA rule were detected in Valley Water's treated water. Water supplied by Valley Water continues to meet all federal and state regulatory requirements, including the new PFAS drinking water limits, and is safe to drink. Currently, Valley Water does not anticipate a significant impact to its treatment plant operations.

PFOA and PFOS have been detected at and just above the MCL in two of three wells in Valley Water's Campbell Well Field. However, water from these emergency supply wells has never been delivered to retailers or the public. We continue to closely monitor PFAS at the Campbell Well Field.

Some water retailer wells are expected to be impacted by this EPA rule and may need to implement treatment or other actions to decrease PFAS below the MCLs.

Valley Water will continue to collaborate with regulatory agencies and water retailers to assess impacts to local supplies and to evaluate potential sources and treatment technologies. Valley Water will also continue to provide timely, transparent communication to customers and the public.

For further information, please contact Vincent Gin at (408) 630-2633.

6. Keegan

Director Keegan requested staff to provide the Board with a complete list of agreements, associated dollar amounts, and the selection process that was used for consultant AECOM Technical Services Inc.

R-24-0007

The response to BMR R-24-0007 is included in the board's April 12, 2024 Non-Agenda package.

For further information, please contact Tony Ndah at (408) 630-2208.
