

OCTOBER 2024

Office of Civic Engagement Monthly Update



CREEK STEWARDSHIP

In October, three Adopt-A-Creek partners conducted cleanups in Districts 2 and 4. Volunteers continue to utilize the Access Valley Water system to report cleanup data and other concerns in their adopted creek sections.

 9 volunteers 1,034 fiscal year-to-date	 1.25 miles cleaned 64 fiscal year-to-date	 493 pounds of trash & recyclables 35,145 fiscal year-to-date
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COASTAL CLEANUP DAY 2024	COASTAL CLEANUP DAY 2024
<p>953 VOLUNTEERS PICKED UP</p> <p>32,874 POUNDS</p> <p>OF LITTER FROM SANTA CLARA COUNTY WATERWAYS!</p> <p>That's the equivalent weight of 16 Great White Sharks!</p>	<p>953 VOLUNTEERS CLEANED UP</p> <p>56 MILES</p> <p>OF SANTA CLARA COUNTY WATERWAYS!</p> <p>That's the equivalent length of 5,914 Humpback Whales end-to-end!</p>
<p>THANK YOU, VOLUNTEERS!</p> <p>#CCD2024</p> 	<p>THANK YOU, VOLUNTEERS!</p> <p>#CCD2024</p> 

During Coastal Cleanup Day 2024, more than 900 volunteers removed over 42,000 pounds of trash from 56 miles of waterways in Santa Clara County.

EDUCATION OUTREACH

In October, staff reached students and educators in all districts through classroom lessons, school assemblies, field trips, and a school tabling event. In the "Three Little Pigs and the Bad Weather Wolf" assembly, students learned about flood preparedness. In the "Managing Our Precious Resource" assembly, students learned about how Valley Water was established, where our water comes from, and how everyone can participate in water conservation.





 1 field trip 1 fiscal year-to-date	 4 assemblies 15 fiscal year-to-date
 34 classroom lessons 55 fiscal year-to-date	 1,436 youth 4,143 fiscal year-to-date



Students at Toyon Elementary in San José engage in discussion about how they can conserve water every day.

WATER SUPPLY OUTREACH

In October, 141 people toured the Silicon Valley Advanced Water Purification Center, including water utility engineers from Brazil through the U.S. Water Partnership, as well as staff from the United States Bureau of Reclamation, the State Water Resources Control Board, and the City of San José. Staff also had a table at San José State University's annual Sustainability Fair, where they engaged with hundreds of students and faculty to discuss the benefits of purified water as a sustainable water solution. More than 200 people taste-tested Valley Water's advanced purified demonstration water. The month concluded with an event at Happy Hollow Park & Zoo's Senior Safari, where the staff engaged with over 200 seniors.

 33 public tour attendees 84 fiscal year-to-date	 141 total attendees 583 fiscal year-to-date
 108 industry proponents 162 fiscal year-to-date	 524 purified demonstration water samples 1,562 fiscal year-to-date



San José State University students and staff taste purified demonstration water at the annual Sustainability Fair.

YOUTH COMMISSION

On October 16, the Youth Commission held a special meeting to discuss and vote on project proposals submitted for consideration. Eighteen Youth Commissioners attended the meeting and voted to move forward with three projects. The selected projects aim to reduce waste in creeks, promote responsible waste management, and raise environmental awareness about the impact of trash. These proposals will go to the Board for approval in November. The next Youth Commission meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 20.



Youth Commissioners discuss project proposals at their second public meeting of the fiscal year.

COMMUNITY RATING SYSTEM

October officially kicks off the flood season, and as a lead member in Santa Clara County's Multi-Jurisdictional Program for Public Information (PPI), Valley Water partners with local communities to encourage all residents and businesses to "Get Flood Ready." This collaboration helps promote Valley Water's outreach and standardize flood-preparedness messaging throughout the county. This month, Valley Water provided outreach materials about flood preparedness to its partner communities to distribute at public events.

SAFE, CLEAN WATER GRANTS AND PARTNERSHIPS

Mini-Grants

Valley Water awarded Marshmallow Minds a \$10,000 Safe, Clean Water F9 Mini-Grant for their "Educate and Empower the Future Environmental Engineers Project." The project will provide environmental Science, Technology, Art, and Mathematics (STEAM) lessons for middle school students within the Franklin-McKinley School District in San José. The project will also engage educators in the school district by offering professional development and workshops to deliver the classroom programs, assemble STEAM kits, and create a project impact report for the community.

Closeout: In fiscal year 2023, Valley Water awarded Resource Area for Teaching a \$5,000 Safe, Clean Water F9 Mini-Grant for their "Water on the Move" RAFT Design Challenge and Unit Project. The project developed STEAM kits and a design challenge lesson plan for elementary school-aged students in Santa Clara County. Educators received hands-on training to pilot the lessons and STEAM kits and engaged a total of 370 students to help increase environmental literacy.

Standard Grants

Staff attended ReScape California's Ribbon Cutting and Community Education Day event, which celebrated the ReScape California/Earth Foundries' Bioswale Biochar Installation and Training Project. The project, funded by a \$95,982.95 Safe, Clean Water F9 Standard Grant, took place at Veggielution Community Farm in San José. The event started with opening remarks from Earth Foundries, Veggielution, and Valley Water staff, followed by the unveiling of the new bioswale. The event also included booths and informational tables hosted by project partners and other organizations.



ReScape California, project partners, and Valley Water staff celebrate the bioswale installation at Veggielution Community Farm in San José.

Closeout: In fiscal year 2021, Valley Water awarded Grassroots Ecology a \$49,980 Safe, Clean Water Program Grant for their Coyote-Stevens Watershed Community Project. The grantee partnered with Keep Coyote Creek Beautiful to conduct creek cleanup events along Coyote Creek in San José and Stevens Creek in Cupertino and host educational events, known as "Watershed Days," in Cupertino and Morgan Hill. The project included four cleanup events with 197 volunteers who removed over 16,700 pounds of trash. There were five "Watershed Days" events with approximately 1,000 participants.



Children learn about native wildlife in Santa Clara County at one of Grassroots Ecology's "Watershed Days" events in Morgan Hill.

LOOKING AHEAD

Education Outreach Programs:

- NOV 4 Cadwallader Elementary
- NOV 5 Discovery Falcon Charter School
- NOV 6 Allen at Steinbeck School
- NOV 12 Joseph Weller Elementary
- NOV 13 Alamos Field Trip for Monticello Academy
- NOV 14 Garden Gate Elementary
- NOV 18 Blue Hills Elementary
- NOV 20 Stockmeir Elementary
- NOV 21 Ledesma Elementary
- NOV 25 Graystone Elementary

Purification Center Tours and Presentations:

- NOV 5 Santa Clara University Environmental Engineering Class
- NOV 7 Brisbane Elementary
- NOV 8 Public Tour
- NOV 8 Heart For Christ School
- NOV 16 Public Tour

Mini-Grant Program Workshops:

- NOV 13 Virtual 12-1 p.m.
- NOV 19 Virtual 6-7 p.m.