

SUMMARY FOR APRIL 2022

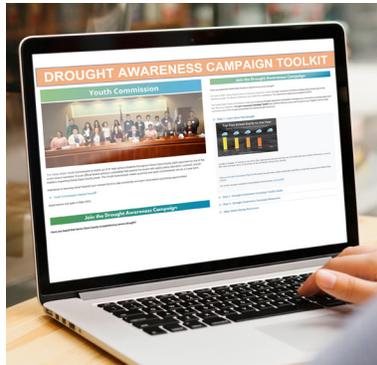
Office of Civic Engagement Activities



YOUTH COMMISSION

The Youth Commission launched their Drought Awareness Campaign Toolkit (DACT) to engage their peers about the ongoing drought in our region. The DACT is available on the Youth Commission’s webpage: <https://www.valleywater.org/youthcommission>.

The DACT contains information about the drought in Santa Clara County, social media and video resources, suggested ways to promote drought awareness in your community, fun conservation stickers, and links to Valley Water’s Water Saving Resources. The drought awareness videos include “Carla the Conscious Conservationist!” and “Sam Saves Water!” which contain water conservation tips and drought messaging.



Drought Awareness Campaign Toolkit on the Youth Commission webpage

CREEK STEWARDSHIP

ADOPT-A-CREEK CLEANUP NUMBERS					
DATE	PARTNER	CREEK	# of VOLUNTEERS	# of MILES CLEANED	LBS of TRASH & RECYCLABLES
April 10	Gunn Stewardship	Barron Creek	4	0.5 mi	10 lbs

PUBLIC ART PROGRAM

Pilot Mural at Blossom Hill Annex. In April, the Youth Commissioners worked with artist Paul J. Gonzalez to refine the mural art design to present it to the Board of Directors, who approved the design on May 10.

Public Art Strategic Plan. Staff is working with The Cultural Planning Group to develop a Public Art Strategic Plan for Valley Water. The consultant will conduct industry research and an assessment of Valley Water’s public art opportunities to create a comprehensive Public Art Strategic Plan, anticipated to be completed in 2023.



Proposed refined mural artwork design by the Youth Commission and artist Paul J. Gonzalez for the Blossom Hill Annex building.

SAFE, CLEAN WATER GRANTS AND PARTNERSHIPS

FY22 Standard Grants Cycle. In April, the Grants team continued preparing the funding recommendations made by the evaluation panelists for the 21 applications received for the FY22 Standard Grant Cycle, which closed on March 4. Staff will present the FY22 Standard Grant Cycle funding recommendations to the Board of Directors for awarding in May 2022.

Standard Grant Closeout. In FY18, Valley Water awarded Breathe California of the Bay Area a \$35,000 Safe, Clean Water Program B7 Grant for their Youth for a Cool Earth Project. The grant helped fund a 10-week, in-person youth program using the Oxygen for You (O24u) curriculum that aligns with the California Education and the Environment Initiative curriculum principles. As a result, students received leadership and peer mentoring training focused on global warming, its causes and effects, and why it is something they should care about.

Mini-Grantee Event. On April 20, Grants staff and Director Hsueh attended Baker Home and School Club’s ribbon-cutting event to celebrate the completion of Baker Elementary School’s Outdoor Classroom and Garden Project. The Project was awarded a \$5,000 Safe, Clean Water D3 mini-grant to help fund the fence installation, irrigation extension, school garden construction, including garden boxes, plantings, compost bins, delivery of a storage shed, as well as the construction of an outdoor classroom area, including seating stumps, weatherboard, and a whiteboard. Director Hsueh provided short remarks and received a tour of the newly installed space. The event was attended by students, school staff, and garden volunteers. The completed garden is now an innovative, hands-on space for students in kindergarten to 5th grades to learn about plants, the diversity of wildlife, water-wise practices, and much more.



Director Hsueh provided opening remarks at the ribbon-cutting event for Baker Elementary School’s outdoor classroom and garden.



The new garden includes a variety of garden beds, such as an edible garden and sensory garden.

EDUCATION OUTREACH

In April, the Education Outreach team (EO) supported 43 educators and reached 1,078 students through 37 virtual classroom presentations. EO engaged 95 members of the public through four Wonders of Water Wednesdays after-school enrichment programs and two public library programs. EO also supported a STEAM Night event for the school community at Cherrywood Elementary and Earth Day events at three schools in the county, supplying drought awareness materials, stickers, and native seeds for the students to plant. At the Water Conservation and Demand Management Committee Meeting, EO staff also presented an update on the Youth Commission Drought Awareness Campaign.



Drought Awareness Campaign Stickers.

EDUCATION OUTREACH PRESENTATION NUMBERS			
MONTH	STUDENTS & EDUCATORS	PUBLIC ATTENDEES	YEAR TO DATE
July - March	5,490	870	6,360
April	1,121	95	1,216
TOTAL	6,611	965	7,576

FY22 Goal: Reach at least 10,000 students and 1,000 members of the public.

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

Chandru Vittal, a current member of the 2022 Water 101 Academy and speech pathologist at Vargas Elementary in Sunnyvale, has taken the lead in bringing drought awareness to his school. Valley Water staff has met with Chandru



Water 101 Academy Class in session.

to discuss ways to work together to share water knowledge and promote drought awareness in the Vargas Elementary School community. Staff shared resources, including "Carla the Conscious Conservationist," a video animation focusing on five quick tips to save water. Chandru plans on using Valley Water materials and resources for his curriculum.

In April, staff hosted two Water 101 Academy sessions: April 6 - Watershed Works in Action, and April 27 - Water is Life. Chair Pro Tem Varela and Directors Santos and Estremera were in attendance during these sessions to address the participants and show their support. The participants have one more session in May before the graduation in June.

WATER SUPPLY OUTREACH

During April, the Water Supply Outreach (WSO) team gave six public and private virtual tours of the Silicon Valley Advanced Water Purification Center. One of the private tours was onsite with Dr. Steve Jackson, chair of the Santa Clara County Medical Association

Environmental Health Committee (SCCMA). The tour is part of our collaboration with SCCMA to raise awareness of Valley Water's water reuse efforts and the Purified Water Projects among physicians in Santa Clara County.

The WSO team also reached out to cities along the project pipeline route. As a result, staff co-hosted a virtual tour with the City of Mountain View Public Library and arranged a summer 2022 tour series with Los Altos Community Center.



WSO collaborated with Mountain View Public Library to conduct a virtual tour to 27 participants. Staff assisted with a robust question and answer session.

DATE	WATER INFRASTRUCTURE AND PURIFICATION CENTER TOURS	FY 22 TOTAL ATTENDEES
July to Mar		1,689
April 6	Peninsula Interfaith Climate Action	12
April 7	Del Roble Elementary School	38
April 13	SJSU Water Resources Management Class	8
April 22	SJSU Graduate Engineering Class	3
April 22	Mountain View Public Library	27
April 28	San Jose Public Library	25
April TOTAL:		113
TOTAL (Current for FY 2022)		1,802

FY22 Goal: Conduct public/private tours of the SVAWPC in any of our tour formats (live, virtual, or self-guided) for at least 1,000 attendees.

COMMUNITY RATING SYSTEM

Staff and Santa Clara County CRS communities are working on developing the 2021 Multi-Jurisdictional Program for Public Information (PPI) Annual Evaluation Report (FY22, Year 1). The deadline for initial input from the CRS communities is May 1. Staff will schedule the next meeting based on Doodle Poll results from the Santa Clara CRS User Groups and PPI Committee. The primary meeting objective is to complete the PPI Annual Evaluation Report.

Looking Ahead

Education Outreach supports Summer Camps

- June 16 - Greene Scholars Science Camp at SJSU
- June 30 - 4-H Summer Camp at Escuela Popular

SVAWPC tours

- June 16 - Public tour in collaboration with Los Altos Recreation & Community Services
- June 23 - Public tour in collaboration with San Jose Public Library

Water 101 Academy

- June 1 - Water 101 Academy Graduation

Youth Commission

- June-July - Recruitment for vacant seats in Youth Commission