

OCTOBER 2025

Office of Civic Engagement Monthly Update



CREEK STEWARDSHIP

In October, two Adopt-A-Creek partners organized cleanups which engaged 31 volunteers. Their combined efforts cleaned 1.6 miles of Santa Clara County waterways and removed 70 pounds of litter from the banks of San Tomas Aquino Creek and Guadalupe Creek. Both partners are new to the program and joined in FY26.



1.6 miles cleaned
89.07 fiscal year-to-date



70 pounds of trash and recyclables
32,753 fiscal year-to-date



31 volunteers
2,106 fiscal year-to-date

EDUCATION OUTREACH

In October, staff reached youth from pre-K through 5th grade through classroom lessons, assemblies, and field trips. Staff visited classrooms to engage students in activities about pollution prevention and water conservation and hosted four schools visiting the Alamitos Outdoor Classroom at Valley Water Headquarters to experience hands-on learning about percolation ponds, threatened steelhead trout, and pollution prevention in our watershed.



728 youth
2,948 fiscal year-to-date



33 classroom lessons
110 fiscal year-to-date



1 assembly
7 fiscal year-to-date



4 field trips
6 fiscal year-to-date



Students discover ways to save water at home through an interactive reading of *The Little Blue Hen: A Conservation Story* at Tom Matsumoto Elementary School in San José.

WATER SUPPLY OUTREACH

Staff led nine tours of the Silicon Valley Advanced Water Purification Center in October, including monthly public tours, school visits, and one local government tour. Staff also participated in the Sustainability Fair hosted by the Environmental Resource Center at San José State University. Students on campus gathered around Valley Water's table to learn about the technologies that turn treated wastewater into purified water.



4 local government
21 fiscal year-to-date



166 total attendees
743 fiscal year-to-date



119 students & educators
407 fiscal year-to-date



4 Valley Water staff
64 fiscal year-to-date



39 public tour attendees
184 fiscal year-to-date



San José Councilmember Tordillos tours the Silicon Valley Advanced Water Purification Center.

YOUTH COMMISSION

In October, the Board approved two Youth Commission items: receipt of the Youth Commission's 2025 Accomplishments Report and recognition of outgoing members, as well as approval of the FY26 Youth Commission Work Plan, including their project recommendations. This year's project recommendations include the One Water Pitch youth video competition on water sustainability; a Data Accessibility Project leveraging Water Watch, the Microplastic Interception Program and Trash Pollution Heatmap; and the Creekside Community Care Project incorporating elements from Providing Safe Drinking Water.

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SAFE, CLEAN WATER GRANTS AND PARTNERSHIPS

Refill Station Grants

Closeouts:

- **Boys & Girls Clubs of Silicon Valley – Morgan Hill (El Toro) Clubhouse:** Through a FY25 \$5,000 Safe, Clean Water F9 Refill Station Grant, the grantee installed the first permanent refill station near the bathrooms, providing a reliable source of clean drinking water for more than 200 at-risk youth who attend after-school and summer programs. The refill station also supports at least 100 staff and volunteers year-round by improving access to clean water and reducing the use of disposable plastic bottles.

Mini-Grants

Events:

- **Escuela Xochitl Tonatiuh Inc. - Del Campo A La Mesa (From the Field to the Table) Project:** On October 15, staff attended a classroom lesson at Sunrise Middle School in San José. The lesson was a part of Escuela Xochitl Tonatiuh Inc.'s project titled Del Campo A La Mesa (From the Field to the Table) and is partially funded by a \$10,000 Safe, Clean Water F9 Mini-Grant. Approximately 30 students learned about water conservation, land stewardship, and gardening techniques. The students were also assigned a research project about environmental stewardship pertaining to subjects of their choice. These lessons and hands-on gardening activities will continue to engage students at Sunrise Middle School for the next school year.



Students at Sunrise Middle School learn about gardening techniques, such as weeding, composting, and cultivating healthy soils.

- **Mini-Grant Program Informational Workshop:** On October 21 and 29, staff hosted Mini-Grant Program Informational Workshops on Zoom. The workshops provided information on Valley Water's Mini-Grant Program, including eligibility, application requirements, and tips on submitting a mini-grant application. A combined total of 27 participants attended the workshops.

Standard Grants

Closeouts:

- **Grassroots Ecology – McClellan Ranch Community Garden Hedgerow Project:** Through a FY22 \$38,568.50 Safe, Clean Water F9 Standard Grant, Grassroots Ecology transformed an overgrown, trash-filled area of McClellan Ranch Nature Preserve in Cupertino into a thriving native plant hedgerow garden. The Project improved riparian and grassland meadow habitat, restored ecological connectivity along Stevens Creek in San José, and remediated pollutants from nearby uses. Activities included planting watershed-specific native species, removing invasive weeds, and engaging volunteers in restoration. The Project involved 304 community members who contributed over 780 volunteer hours during 16 workdays, resulting in more than 5,000 square feet of restored habitat with 21 native species installed.

LOOKING AHEAD

Silicon Valley Advanced Water Purification Center Tours & Presentations:

- NOV 4 Santa Clara University Department of Civil, Environmental, and Sustainable Engineering
- NOV 5 San José Councilmember Michael Mulcahy
- NOV 7, 8 Public Tour
- NOV 8 California Assemblymember Alex Lee's Young Legislators Program
- NOV 10 Girl Scouts of Northern California – Troop 62642
- NOV 12 Jane L. Stanford Middle School
- NOV 13 San José State University
- NOV 14 Pioneer Family Academy
- NOV 18 Andrew P. Hill High School
- NOV 20 Waldorf School of the Peninsula
- NOV 21 San José State University American Institute of Chemical Engineers
- NOV DEC 30 - 21 Silicon Valley Advanced Water Purification Center Maintenance Shutdown

Education Outreach Programs:

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| NOV 4 South Valley Middle School | NOV 19 Lincoln Elementary School |
| NOV 13 Ventana School | NOV 20 Monticello Academy at Alamitos Outdoor Classroom |
| NOV 18 Parkview Elementary School | NOV 24 Graystone Elementary School |

Youth Commission:

- NOV 19 Youth Commission Quarterly Meeting