

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

## Weeks of August 23, 2024 – September 5, 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. Pipeline Maintenance Program Draft Environmental Impact Report

Valley Water is releasing a Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) on the Pipeline Maintenance Program (PMP) for public review beginning September 12, 2024, and ending on October 28, 2024. The preparation of the Draft EIR fulfills Valley Water's lead agency responsibility under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

The Draft EIR may be reviewed at <https://www.valleywater.org/public-review-documents>.

Written comments on the Draft EIR should be submitted electronically to [PMPCComments@valleywater.org](mailto:PMPCComments@valleywater.org), or by mail to Michael Coleman, Environmental Planner, Santa Clara Valley Water District, 5750 Almaden Expressway, San José, CA 95118, by 5 p.m. on October 28, 2024. At the conclusion of the public review period, Valley Water will prepare a formal response to comments, revise the Draft EIR as necessary, and prepare a Final EIR.

The PMP covers inspection, maintenance, rehabilitation and/or repair of all existing conveyance systems (including pipelines, and tunnels) for raw, treated, and recycled water that are owned and/or operated by Valley Water.

For further information, please contact Emmanuel Aryee at (408) 630-3074.

### **2. Safe, Clean Water Grant Closeout: City of Morgan Hill's West Little Llagas Creek Interpretive Wildlife Trail Project**

In Fiscal Year 2018, Valley Water awarded City of Morgan Hill a \$200,000 Safe, Clean Water Program D3 Grant for their West Little Llagas Creek Interpretive Wildlife Trail Project (Project). The City of Morgan Hill completed the Project on October 31, 2023, and submitted the final invoice items on May 24, 2024, allowing for grant closeout.

The Project established two miles of accessible trails next to the West Little Llagas Creek in Morgan Hill as part of the Upper Llagas Creek Flood Protection Plan. The Project created accessible pathways for pedestrians and cyclists of all ages and provided a safe outdoor space for fitness and recreation. It also offered the community an opportunity to learn about environmental stewardship and observe local wildlife. Various amenities were added to enhance safety and accessibility, including paving and striping the trail as well as installing handrails, binoculars, and waste receptacles. These improvements create public access that's safe for pedestrians and cyclists between Lake Silveira in Morgan Hill and Downtown Morgan Hill.

#### Key Outcomes:

- Established a two-mile accessible trail serving over 10,000 individuals annually from Morgan Hill and surrounding areas, providing a space for the community to access open space and learn about the environment at Lake Silveira.
- Installation of interpretive and wildlife viewing features, including binoculars, signage, and a bronze art structure of steelhead trout, to enhance the visitor experience and provide better access for observing local wildlife.
- Installation of two safe street crossings, which included a rectangular rapid flashing beacon at Middle Avenue and a high intensity activated crosswalk beacon at Watsonville Road, both located along West Little Llagas Creek Trail.

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

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### **3. Safe, Clean Water Mini-Grant Closeout: Compasspoint Mentorship FY 2023 F9 Hellyer Park Mural – Velodrome Restroom Project**

In Fiscal Year 2023, Valley Water awarded Compasspoint Mentorship a \$5,000 Safe, Clean Water Program F9 Mini-Grant for their Hellyer Park Mural - Velodrome Restroom (Project). Compasspoint Mentorship completed the Project on November 5, 2023, and submitted the final invoice items on June 13, 2024, allowing for grant closeout.

Compasspoint Mentorship is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that provides summer camp programs in Alviso and at Santa Clara University, and works on public art initiatives, having installed murals in various parks throughout Santa Clara County. The mini-grant provided funding to install a mural at Hellyer Park in San José that was designed by artist Xiangfei (Simon) Bai with feedback from the community. The Grantee collaborated with the Santa Clara County Parks & Recreation Department to obtain permits and develop the scope and budget for the Project. The mural helps beautify the park and educate parkgoers by displaying elements of local flora and fauna. The Project included a two-week long youth camp in June 2023, that incorporated activities like mural painting and discussions on environmental stewardship. The Grantee held a ribbon-cutting ceremony on November 5, 2023, to unveil the finished mural and administered a post-installation survey to collect the public's response towards the initiative.

### Key Outcomes:

- Engaged over 30 students in the mural planning, design, and installation.
- Hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony with approximately 50 participants, including Valley Water Director Estremera, representatives from the County of Santa Clara Parks and Recreation, and the City of San José.
- Reported that all post-installation respondents expressed satisfaction with the mural's beautification of the park restroom.
- Published a video on the mural creation process (link to video: <https://youtu.be/NUpTxLTV08k?si=bLyHkidxNEK9sWc>)

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

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#### **4. September is National Preparedness Month**

Since 2004, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has sponsored National Preparedness Month each September. It's evident that the County of Santa Clara, State of California, the United States of America, and the World continue to experience major disasters such as flooding and wildfires, and with the ongoing potential of a major earthquake occurring in the San Francisco Bay Region, there's no better time than September to be involved in emergency preparedness.

Valley Water has the responsibility to maintain ongoing critical services to the public, including during times of emergency and disaster. By focusing on preparedness efforts at the individual staff level, Valley Water is providing tools for staff and their families to become more resilient during these challenging events. This increased resiliency allows staff to return to work and continue public service.

This year's National Preparedness Month focus is "Preparing Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander Communities for Risks and Disasters."

The National Preparedness Month theme for 2024 is "Start a Conversation," where the annual campaign is to remind everyone that preparing for emergencies and disasters can keep them, their families, and their communities safe.

Each week in September, Valley Water's internal campaign will address different aspects of preparedness for individuals, families, and communities. With that, weekly preparedness messages will be shared with staff.

For further information, please contact Alexander Gordon at (408)-630-2637.

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