

NOVEMBER 2025

# Office of Civic Engagement Monthly Update



## WATER SUPPLY OUTREACH

In November, staff led 13 tours of the Silicon Valley Advanced Water Purification Center. These tours included monthly public tours, as well as private tours for youth, university students and local government representatives. Attendees were fascinated by the technology and infrastructure that turns secondary-treated wastewater into purified water. San José Councilmember Michael Mulcahy and members of California Assemblymember Alex Lee's Young Legislators Program received tours and Vice Chair Santos provided remarks at the beginning of each tour.

-  **291 total attendees**  
1,034 fiscal year-to-date
-  **6 local government**  
27 fiscal year-to-date
-  **221 students & educators**  
627 fiscal year-to-date
-  **11 community group**  
78 fiscal year-to-date
-  **53 public tour attendees**  
237 fiscal year-to-date



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

## YOUTH COMMISSION

The Youth Commission held its quarterly meeting on Wednesday, November 19. At the meeting, the commissioners provided updates on their Board approved projects including the Creekside Community Care project, Data Accessibility project, and One Water Pitch video contest project. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 28, 2026.



Youth Commissioners participate in a bingo icebreaker to help members get to know one another.

## CREEK STEWARDSHIP

In November, Adopt-A-Creek program partners organized seven creek cleanups along Guadalupe Creek, Lower Silver Creek, Madrone Channel, Regnart Creek, and San Tomas Aquino Creek. These cleanups engaged a total of 91 volunteers and removed 637 pounds of trash from 3.32 miles of Santa Clara County waterways.

-  **3.32 miles cleaned**  
92.37 fiscal year-to-date
-  **637 pounds of trash and recyclables**  
33,390 fiscal year-to-date
-  **91 volunteers**  
2,197 fiscal year-to-date

## EDUCATION OUTREACH

In November, staff reached youth from kindergarten through 6th grade through classroom lessons and field trips. Staff visited classrooms to engage students in learning, discussion, and activities regarding pollution prevention and water conservation. In addition, 5th-grade students from Monticello Academy in Santa Clara visited the Alamitos Outdoor Classroom at Valley Water Headquarters to learn about percolation ponds, steelhead trout, and pollution prevention in our watershed.

-  **491 youth**  
3,439 fiscal year-to-date
-  **22 classroom lessons**  
132 fiscal year-to-date
-  **1 field trip**  
7 fiscal year-to-date



Sixth-grade students at South Valley Middle School in Gilroy learn about how Valley Water serves Santa Clara County before engaging in activities regarding plastic pollution and water conservation.

## SAFE, CLEAN WATER GRANTS AND PARTNERSHIPS

### Refill Station Grants

#### Closeouts:

- **Morgan Hill Unified School District - Barrett Elementary School, Los Paseos Elementary School, and PA Walsh STEAM Academy:** Through three FY25 \$5,000 Safe, Clean Water F9 Refill Station Grants, Morgan Hill Unified School District installed three refill stations at Barrett Elementary School in Morgan Hill, Los Paseos Elementary School in San José, and PA Walsh STEAM Academy in Morgan Hill.

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Since their installations, Barrett Elementary School’s refill station has filled 8,617 water bottles to date, Los Paseos Elementary School’s refill station has filled 19,759 water bottles to date, and PA Walsh STEAM Academy’s refill station has filled 7,000 water bottles to date.

**Mini-Grants**

**Awards:**

- **Compasspoint Mentorship – Vasona Lake County Park - Pier Bathroom and YSI Murals:** Through a \$10,000 FY26 Safe, Clean Water F9 Mini-Grant, the grantee will install two murals at two locations within Vasona Lake County Park in Los Gatos. Each mural will be designed with input from the community led by a local artist and will display elements of local flora and fauna. The Grantee will host a week-long youth camp including activities like mural painting, educational discussions of the park’s ecosystem, and trash cleanups.

**Site Visits:**

- **Bay Ridge Trail Council – Ridge Trail Service Day:** On November 8, staff attended Bay Area Ridge Trail Council’s Ridge Trail Service Day at the Sierra Vista Open Space Preserve in San José. The Project was partially funded by a \$10,000 Safe, Clean Water F9 Mini-Grant. Approximately 15 volunteers supported environmental stewardship and improved flood protection by clearing overgrown vegetation and shaping an outer slope along the hiking path, helping water drain safely down the hillside rather than pooling on the trail. Volunteers also widened the walking path by carefully digging into the hillside, creating a safer and more accessible route for hikers.



Staff join volunteers at Sierra Vista Open Space Preserve in San José for Ridge Trail Service Day to clear vegetation and improve trail drainage and safety.

**Standard Grants**

**Closeouts:**

- **Saved By Nature – Headwaters to the Bay Project:** Through a FY22 \$84,001.58 Safe, Clean Water F9 Standard Grant, the Grantee completed its Headwaters to the Bay Project, advancing watershed stewardship across Santa Clara County through 12 guided interpretive hikes and six river and creek beautifications. The Project emphasized “Leave No Trace” principles, watershed education aligned with Next Generation Science Standards, and provided outreach and staff support for disadvantaged communities. Activities engaged 300 hike participants, recruited 97 volunteers who contributed 180 hours and removed 1,470 pounds of litter, and delivered six community outreach events that distributed reusable water bottles, educational guides, and trail maps.
- **West Valley Stormwater Authority – School Site Stormwater Quality Leadership Program:** Through a FY23

\$44,000 Safe, Clean Water F9 Standard Grant, the Grantee completed a stormwater education program at Louise Van Meter Elementary and Rolling Hills Middle School. The Project engaged 360 students and five teachers, conducted 10 storm drain inspections, analyzed 10 certified stormwater samples, implemented best management practices, developed two School Site Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plans, and delivered two student presentations to school communities, including local decision-makers. Teachers also received training and materials to continue stormwater and watershed education beyond the grant term.

**WATER 101 ACADEMY**

Valley Water is now accepting applications for the 2026 Water 101 Academy, a free program that educates community members on local water issues and Valley Water’s role in providing safe, clean water. Applications are due Friday, January 9, 2026. Interested individuals can learn more and apply at [valleywater.org/water101](http://valleywater.org/water101).

**LOOKING AHEAD**

**Silicon Valley Advanced Water Purification Center  
Tours & Presentations:**

- DEC 2 Landscape Committee
- DEC 3 Backflow Prevention Specialists, Inc.
- NOV 30 - DEC 21 Silicon Valley Advanced Water Purification Center Maintenance Shutdown

**Education Outreach Programs:**

- DEC 1 Mount Pleasant Voices College-Bound Academies
- DEC 2 Saint Andrew’s Episcopal School
- DEC 4 Blue Hills Elementary School
- DEC 8 Russo/McEntee Academy
- DEC 9 Washington Open Elementary School at Alamos Outdoor Classroom
- DEC 10 French American School of Silicon Valley
- DEC 11 South Peninsula Hebrew Day School
- DEC 15 Campbell School of Innovation
- DEC 16 Oster Elementary School at Alamos Outdoor Classroom
- DEC 17 Blue Hills Elementary School
- DEC 18 Oster Elementary School at Alamos Outdoor Classroom

**Water 101 Academy:**

- JAN 9 Deadline to apply to the Water 101 Academy