

SUMMARY FOR NOVEMBER & DECEMBER 2021  
Office of Civic Engagement Activities

## Youth Commission

On November 17, the Youth Commission held its quarterly meeting where the group was trained on the Brown Act and received updates from each working group: Job Shadowing & Mentorship, Creek Stewardship, Youth Citizen Science Network, and Public Art. The commissioners also received a presentation on Valley Water's drought emergency response and water conservation efforts. While finalizing their annual work plan, the Commission decided to incorporate drought and conservation efforts in each working group project.

## Creek Stewardship

ADOPT-A-CREEK JULY CLEANUP NUMBERS					
DATE	PARTNER	CREEK	# VOLUNTEERS	# MILES CLEANED	LBS TRASH
Nov 12	Santa Clara University	San Tomas Aquino	8	0.5	100
Nov 16	Christopher High School	Lions Creek	30	0.5	100
Nov 21	Kristin Apple	Guadalupe Reservoir	4	0.5	25
Nov 26	Tim Dobbins	Permanente Creek	3	0.25	10
Dec 18	Gunn Stewardship	Barron Creek	3	0.5	10

## Safe, Clean Water Grants and Partnerships

**FY22 Standard Grants Cycle.** Staff released the 2022 Standard Grant Guidelines and promoted it through email announcements and social media posts. Two informational workshops were held on December 9 and 15 with 30 participants in attendance. To promote the Standard Grants Application opening on January 3, staff prepared a video featuring Vice-Chair Kremen, social media posts, blog posts, media relations, e-blasts, and presentations, and are also meeting with prospective applicants. Lastly, staff redesigned the Standard Grants webpage to add more information and resources.

**Mini-Grant Closeout: Bay Area Ridge Trail Council's Ridge Trail Berryessa BioBlitz Project.** In FY21, Valley Water awarded Bay Area Ridge Trail Council a \$5,000 D3 mini-grant for their Ridge Trail Berryessa BioBlitz Project. The event took place along the Penitencia Creek Trail in San Jose, where residents recorded 287 observations of living things and documented 124 different species. The participants



Bay Area Ridge Trail Council's Mini-Grant: Local resident participates in BioBlitz event along Penitencia Creek Trail.

surveyed reported a stronger desire to care for local wildlife and watersheds. In addition, the grantee distributed over 800 multilingual informational brochures to the community.

**Mini-Grant Closeout: Grassroots Ecology's Embarcadero Road Habitat Corridor Project.** In FY20, Valley Water awarded Grassroots Ecology a \$5,000 D3 mini-grant. With this funding, Grassroots Ecology removed 964 sq. ft. of ivy mulch and installed 148 native plants to create a pollinator habitat corridor along Embarcadero Road in Palo Alto. They also hosted workday trainings for members of the San Jose Conservation Corps, AmeriCorps, and Primrose Way volunteers. They held a virtual presentation to the community about pollinator species and their relationship with native plants.

**Grant Closeout: Grassroots Ecology's Young Watershed Stewards Project.** In FY19, Valley Water awarded Grassroots Ecology a \$44,301 Safe, Clean Water Program B7 Grant. The grantee expanded their Youth Stewards Program to emphasize watershed stewardship and community engagement in the Matadero, San Francisquito, and Stevens Creek Watersheds. The 196 youth stewards tested water quality, installed 500 riparian plants, removed 200 pounds of trash, and provided community education.

**Grant Closeout: City of Mountain View's Advanced Metering Infrastructure Feasibility Study and Pilot Program Implementation Project.** In FY16, Valley Water awarded the City of Mountain View a \$50,000 Safe, Clean Water Program Priority A2 Water Conservation Research Grant for their Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) Feasibility Study and Pilot Program Implementation Project. They were able to determine a potential monetary benefit of \$7.9 million over 20 years and water savings as high as 41% in some cases and during some seasons if AMI is implemented.

## Education Outreach

The Education Outreach team supported 52 educators and reached 1,065 students through 60 virtual classroom presentations in November and December. They engaged 112 members of the public through seven Wonders of Water Wednesdays after-school enrichment programs and three public library programs.

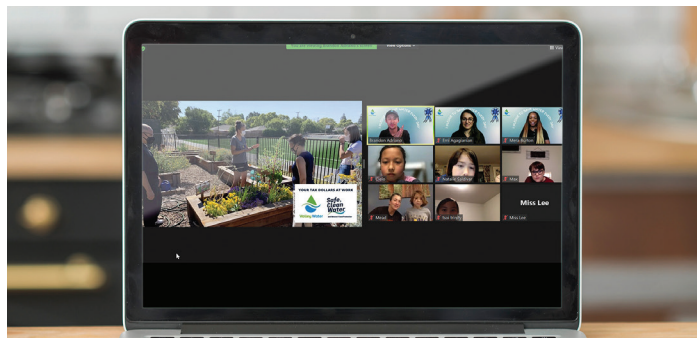
In November, the team posted three new videos to Valley Water's YouTube channel: the Spanish version of the Education Outreach video, "Carla la Conservacionista" and the English and Spanish versions of the Coyote Creek Classroom video.

In December, the team presented "Water Cycle Boogie" to the San Jose Public Library after-school science program. Attendees drew a water cycle diagram, sang a song, and learned how to protect and save water every day.

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The team also hosted a STEAM Night for Latimer School, where the program “Mapping Landforms” gave students a chance to learn about the landforms and bodies of water in Santa Clara County. One of the night’s highlights was congratulating the Latimer School community for their newly built Outdoor Classroom/Garden that was funded by Valley Water’s Safe, Clean Water Mini-Grants program.

EDUCATION OUTREACH PRESENTATION NUMBERS			
MONTH	STUDENTS AND EDUCATORS	PUBLIC ATTENDEES	YEAR TO DATE
Jul – Oct	1,638	338	1,976
Nov	807	45	852
Dec	310	67	377
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,755</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>3,205</b>



Students and families map landforms and waterways at Latimer Elementary STEAM Night.

## Water Supply Outreach

WATER SUPPLY OUTREACH NUMBERS		
DATE	WATER INFRASTRUCTURE AND PURIFICATION CENTER TOURS	FY 22 TOTAL ATTENDEES
Jul – Oct		778
Nov 1-18	SVAWPC Public Tours (2)	43
Nov 1-29	SVAWPC Private Tours (5)	74
Dec 1-17	SVAWPC Public Tour (1)	14
Dec 1-17	SVAWPC Private Tours (6)	172
<b>November &amp; December TOTAL:</b>		<b>303</b>
<b>TOTAL (Current for FY 2022)</b>		<b>1,081</b>

**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.

In November and December, the Water Supply Outreach team hosted 14 public and private tours of the Silicon Valley Advanced Water Purification Center, including private tours with the De Anza Kiwanis Club, City of Palo Alto Public Works Department staff, City of Sunnyvale Finance Department staff, and an onsite private tour with Fremont City Councilmember Teresa Keng and Director Santos. The team also met with



On November 15, the Water Supply Outreach Team and Associate Civil Engineer Dave Tucker presented an SVAWPC virtual tour to 19 staff members of the City of Palo Alto Public Works Department.

Mothers Out Front Silicon Valley and the Almaden Hills United Methodist Church to discuss conservation, water reuse, and the Purified Water Project. Staff also met with Santa Clara County Medical Association leaders to discuss a continued partnership to raise awareness and support for the Purified Water Project among public health leaders and the medical community in Santa Clara County.

## Volunteer Program

The current Water Ambassadors continued their robust outreach in support of Valley Water’s conservation efforts, most recently by reposting drought messages on Nextdoor and social media. Additionally, Water Ambassadors assisted in completing 300 more Do-It-Yourself Water Wise Indoor Survey Kits to help support our Conservation team. One ambassador took 20 of these kits to distribute at the Woodland Estates Neighborhood Association meeting in Morgan Hill.

## Community Rating System

As part of Valley Water’s annual Flood Awareness Campaign, the Floodplain Mailer (FPM) was sent to residents and businesses in Santa Clara County’s Special Flood Hazard Areas. The mailer informs thousands of property owners and residents living near creeks and rivers at risk of flooding how Valley Water works with communities to reduce flood risks. City and County Managers and Public Works and Planning Directors were notified of the mailer since it can generate short-term increases in calls regarding FEMA flood zone designations. Staff is coordinating with all cities and the County to provide copies of the FPM for their flood readiness outreach efforts, which ensures Valley Water’s compliance with the 2021 Multi-Jurisdictional Program for Public Information (PPI).

## Looking Ahead

### Water Infrastructure Virtual Tours (all tours from 5:30–6:30 p.m.)

- February 1 - WIT Stop #3: Flood Protection, Healthy Environments and Conservation
- February 15 - WIT Stop #4: Water Reuse and Purified Water

### Wonders of Water Wednesdays After-School Enrichment Series

- January 26 - The Three Little Pigs and the Bad Weather Wolf

### STEAM Night with Valley Water (virtual)

- January 25 - Latimer Elementary STEAM Night

### San Jose Public Library (virtual)

- January 27 - “Science for Kids” After-School Program-Creek Story

### FY22 Standard Grants Cycle

- January 25 - Virtual informational session #4
- March 4 - Online application deadline