

# CEO BULLETIN



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

## **Weeks of January 7 – January 20, 2022**

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. Planned Shutdown in February 2022 for Rinconada Water Treatment Plant**

The Rinconada Water Treatment Plant is scheduled to be shut down for seven (7) days, from Monday, February 7 to Monday, February 14, 2022, to facilitate underground piping work for the Residuals Remediation Project. Valley Water will also take this opportunity to perform other critical plant and pipeline maintenance activities. Performing these maintenance activities on a regular basis is essential to ensure that the plant's critical systems are reliable and remain in good working order. Barring any unforeseen circumstances, plant start up is scheduled for the morning of February 14, 2022.

West Pipeline retailers impacted by the upcoming outage are California Water Service Company, San Jose Water Company, and the cities of Santa Clara, Mountain View, and Sunnyvale. The impacted retailers will use their groundwater and/or alternate supplies to meet demands during the plant shutdown. Customers may notice a change in water characteristics and pressure during the shutdown. The shutdown schedule has been communicated to the retailers and Valley Water will continue to send periodic updates and reminders.

For further information, please contact Sam Bogale at (408) 630-3505.

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### **2. Safe, Clean Water Mini-Grant Closeout: Keep Coyote Creek Beautiful's Empire Gardens Elementary School Mural Project**

In Fiscal Year 2021, Valley Water awarded Keep Coyote Creek Beautiful a \$5,000 Safe, Clean Water Program D3 Mini-Grant for their Empire Gardens Elementary School Mural Project. Keep Coyote Creek Beautiful completed the Project on October 8, 2021 and submitted the final invoice items on December 3, 2021, allowing for grant closeout.

Keep Coyote Creek Beautiful (KCCB) is a non-profit organization that works with community groups, public agencies, and students to reclaim, restore, and beautify Coyote Creek. This mini-grant provided funding to support the installation of a mural on the campus of Empire Gardens Elementary School in San Jose, California. The Coyote Creek Watershed mural was designed by muralist Paul J. Gonzalez in collaboration with KCCB. This mural features elements of the creek ecosystem and educates students, teachers, and visitors about the natural wonders of Coyote Creek that runs alongside the school. As part of the project, KCCB hosted a nature walk on September 4, 2021 that was attended by Valley Water Director Barbara Keegan. KCCB also hosted a creek cleanup at Watson Park to allow the community to directly observe the nature elements and concepts included in the mural (watershed, wildlife, ecosystem). The newly painted mural serves as a reminder to the students about their direct impact on keeping the wildlife healthy by reducing litter, deterring graffiti, and participating in creek cleanups.

#### **Key Outcomes:**

- Installed one mural spanning 120 feet long by 10 feet high, which features animals, plants, and other wildlife present in the Coyote Creek Watershed.
- Hosted a nature walk with 11 attendees who participated in litter cleanup resulting in 5 bags of trash.
- Conducted 12 classroom presentations to introduce the project and to solicit ideas from students for mural content.
- Utilized social media to engage the community in the project, including 27 Facebook posts, 14 Instagram posts, 14 Twitter posts, 5 LinkedIn posts, and a YouTube video ([https://youtu.be/-9Nok\\_OUmd0](https://youtu.be/-9Nok_OUmd0)).
- Students surveyed on their takeaways commented that Coyote Creek is a “habitat for animals, fish, coyotes, butterflies, bees, racoons, woodpeckers, blue jays, and rabbits.”

For further information, please contact Marta Lugo at (408) 630-2237.

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### **3. Safe, Clean Water Mini-Grant Closeout: President and Board of Trustees of Santa Clara College's The Water Project**

In Fiscal Year 2021, Valley Water awarded the President and Board of Trustees of Santa Clara College (Grantee) a \$5,000 Safe, Clean Water Program D3 Restore Wildlife Habitat Mini-Grant for their grant project called The Water Project. The Grantee completed the Project on October 31, 2021 and submitted the final invoice items on December 17, 2021, allowing for grant closeout.

The President and Board of Trustees of Santa Clara College is a board that governs Santa Clara University operations. The mini-grant provided funding for a multi-media performance hosted by the Grantee with a mission to raise awareness and promote engagement surrounding modern-day water issues. The performance featured an integration of dance, choral music, animation, projected imagery and live text to celebrate and study society's cultural relationship to water. The Water Project aimed to educate the public and motivate action to be engaged with 21st century water issues, such as drought, aquifer depletion and large agriculture water use.

Three live performances were presented at Mayer Theatre on the Santa Clara University campus from October 1-3, 2021. The performances engaged a total of 427 attendees and the Grantee reported 11 feedback response surveys that highlighted how the performance compelled its audience to critically consider their relationship with water.

The Water Project was also compiled into a video that was made available to stream on October 8, 2021(<https://tinyurl.com/3ybytwkr>). A documentary film of the creative process behind The Water Project is expected to be complete in March 2022.

#### **Key Outcomes:**

- Engaged a total of 427 attendees from all three live performances.
  - 220 attendees on Friday, October 1, 2021.
  - 105 attendees on Saturday, October 2, 2021.
  - 102 attendees on Sunday, October 3, 2021.
- Reached 336 online views on the Water Project's video stream as of January 11, 2022.
- Received 11 responses from the post-event surveys which indicated that the performance engaged them to consider their relationship with water and issues surrounding water.

For further information, please contact Marta Lugo at (408) 630-2237.

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### **4. Sunnyvale Shoreline Resilience Vision**

In 2019, Valley Water and Google engaged the San Francisco Estuary Institute to develop a visioning document for the Sunnyvale shoreline area, called the Sunnyvale Shoreline Resilience Vision ("Vision"). The Vision group was formed, consisting of landowners and land managers along the San Francisco Bay shoreline from Stevens Creek to San Tomas Aquino Creek, to facilitate information sharing and identify ways to collaboratively address shared goals and challenges, including climate change adaptation. Key stakeholders include Valley Water, City of Sunnyvale, Google, Lockheed Martin, Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project. The Vision group convened around the shared goals of climate resilience, ecological restoration, increasing access to the Bay, and reducing risk and enhancing quality of life for workers and residents along the shoreline.

Between 2019 and 2021, the Vision group explored synergies between individual planning efforts to help coordinate actions towards shared objectives. The group came up with opportunities such as streamlining and improving the aging stormwater management system, enhancing ecological function and biodiversity in both the urban area and baylands, and developing a subregional shoreline adaptation approach.

Engagement in this Vision group has also provided an opportunity for all stakeholders to learn about the South San Francisco Bay Shoreline Feasibility Study, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) planning process, and how preparatory actions now can assist the USACE when Phase III of the South San Francisco Bay Shoreline Feasibility Study is initiated. The South San Francisco Bay Shoreline Phase III Feasibility Study's start is dependent on the receipt of federal funds.

Stakeholders are committed to continuing this collaboration and plan to stay closely coordinated around the anticipated South San Francisco Bay Shoreline Phase III Feasibility Study once funding is made available. The Sunnyvale Shoreline Resilience Vision executive summary of efforts to date was finalized in December 2021 and can be found at <https://www.valleywater.org/project-updates/creek-river-projects/E7-san-francisco-bay-shoreline-protection>.

For further information, please contact Rechelle Blank at (408) 630-2615.

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### **5. Two Day Shutdown Planned in January 2022 for the Silicon Valley Advanced Water Purification Center**

On January 20, 2022, the Silicon Valley Advanced Water Purification Center (SVAWPC) is planned to be shut down for two (2) days to perform critical repairs that were identified during the biennial electrical systems testing in December 2021.

During the shutdown, the quality of the water received by South Bay Water Recycling customers will change as purified water from the SVAWPC will not be available for blending. The SVAWPC is scheduled to return to service by the end of day on January 21, 2022.

For further information, please contact Sam Bogale at (408) 630-3505.

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### **6. Valley Water Hosts Pacheco Reservoir Expansion Project Draft Environmental Impact Report Virtual Public Meeting**

On January 13, 2022, Valley Water hosted a virtual public meeting on the Pacheco Reservoir Expansion Project Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR). Valley Water Board Members Chair Kremen, Vice Chair Varela and Director Santos attended the meeting and provided welcoming remarks. Director Hsueh also attended the virtual meeting. A combined total of 64 people participated in the virtual event through Zoom and Facebook Live.

The presentation provided an overview of the six project alternatives studied in the draft EIR, including a no project alternative. During the meeting, Valley Water responded to more than 20 inquiries related to the draft EIR. Participants were reminded that all comments regarding the document must be written and submitted by February 15, 2022.

A recording of the virtual public meeting is available on the Valley Water's Pacheco Project page at: <https://www.valleywater.org/project-updates/a1-pacheco-reservoir-expansion-project>.

For further information, please contact Rachael Gibson at (408) 781-4739.

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### 7. **Valley Water Submits Two-Year Mercury Progress Report to San Francisco Bay Regional Board**

On January 3, 2022, Valley Water submitted the 2020-2021 Progress Report on Methylmercury Control Measures in Reservoirs to the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board). Valley Water reports to the Regional Board every two years as part of its voluntary participation in the Guadalupe River Watershed Mercury Total Maximum Daily Load Program.

Fish in Guadalupe River Watershed water bodies are impacted by mercury from the historic New Almaden Mining District. Eating contaminated fish can have neurotoxic and reproductive effects on people and wildlife. Valley Water operates treatment systems in four reservoirs and Almaden Lake to attain regulatory targets for mercury in fish. These treatment systems are intended to prevent low-oxygen conditions from developing in bottom waters. This approach should decrease the amount of mercury available to the food chain. Valley Water monitors mercury in water and fish to evaluate the systems' effectiveness, reporting progress to the Regional Board every two years.

Mercury in fish is declining in Almaden, Guadalupe, and Stevens Creek reservoirs, although concentrations remain above regulatory targets. An unintended side effect of the treatment systems was warming of reservoir outflow. Valley Water is working with university researchers and the Regional Board to develop effective methods for mercury control that improve water quality. In addition to providing valuable information about mercury control strategies, Valley Water's studies have provided hands-on research experience to numerous student interns from local universities.

For further information, please contact John Bourgeois at (408) 630-2990.

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### 8. **Santos**

**Send letters/communications to creek owners, i.e. cities, County, school districts, private property owners, etc. requesting that they remove debris/obstructions on the portion(s) of the creek which they own.**

**R-21-0007**

Director Santos requested Valley Water send communications to creek owners, including cities, County, school districts and private property owners to clarify a property owners' responsibilities for managing the portion(s) of the creek on their property. This response will be included in the January 21, 2022 Non-Agenda Packet.

A letter, or other form of communication, will be sent to creekside property owners informing and reminding them that they have certain responsibilities to manage their lands. This communication will be sent this summer in preparation for the following winter storm season since property owners should not be encouraged to manage creek lands during the current winter season's high flow events and salmonid migration season. The communication includes two fact sheets that clarify stream maintenance responsibilities of both Valley Water and property owners and the beneficial aspects of large woody debris within creeks.

For additional information regarding creekside property management, visit our website: <https://www.valleywater.org/learning-center/healthy-creeks-and-ecosystems/creekside-property-program>.

For further information, please contact Jennifer Codianne at (408) 630-3876.

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