

SUMMARY FOR MAY 2022

Office of Civic Engagement Activities



YOUTH COMMISSION

The Youth Commission Drought Awareness Social Media Campaign has been impactful in its first phase. During the three-month long campaign, there were over 300 engagements and over 70 comments from members of the public on the seven social media posts on Instagram. Staff is working with the Youth Citizen Science Network working group to launch a second phase of the social media campaign that will promote ways to reuse water.

The May Youth Commission meeting was canceled due to the students' busy graduation and finals schedule. The meeting will be scheduled for a date in June to include an acknowledgement of the graduating seniors.

CREEK STEWARDSHIP

On May 21, staff hosted National River Cleanup Day which included an Environmental Cleanup Site (ECS) at the Sanchez Ponds to engage the unhoused community in the area. Valley Water partnered with Opening Doors 2020 to provide meals and hygiene kits. Saved by Nature was also at the ECS where they recruited and led a group of volunteers through the Sanchez Ponds for litter cleanup. Director Richard Santos was in attendance at that site and provided brief welcome remarks to the volunteers. There were 28 cleanup sites countywide, including a site behind Valley Water's Headquarters building hosted by the Youth Commission and Water Ambassadors. Director Nai Hsueh was in attendance at that site and joined the Youth Commissioners and Water Ambassadors in the cleanup at that site. A total of 596 volunteers participated in the event and collected 25,265 pounds of trash and cleaned 36 miles of creek.

ADOPT-A-CREEK CLEANUP NUMBERS					
DATE	PARTNER	CREEK	# of VOLUNTEERS	# of MILES CLEANED	LBS of TRASH & RECYCLABLES
May 1	Hella Bluhm-Stieber	Calabazas Creek	15	0.3 mi	166 lbs
May 22	Scout Troops 400/2400	Regnart Creek	12	0.5 mi	140 lbs

NATIONAL RIVER CLEANUP DAY 2022 RESULTS				
EVENT	# of VOLUNTEERS	# of MILES CLEANED	LBS of TRASH	LBS of RECYCLABLES
26 NRCD Cleanup Sites	533	34.82 mi	21,412.9 lbs	2,337.22 lbs
Youth Commission Cleanup Site	23	0.5 mi	82.14 lbs	32.35 lbs
Sanchez Ponds ECS	20	0.75 mi	1200 lbs	200 lbs
TOTAL	596	36.07 mi	22,695.04 lbs	2,569.57 lbs



Youth Commissioners give safety instructions to National River Cleanup Day volunteers at the Valley Water Headquarters cleanup site.



Volunteers from Saved by Nature begin their cleanup at the Sanchez Ponds Environmental Cleanup Site.

PUBLIC ART

On May 10, the Board of Directors approved the Blossom Hill Annex pilot mural art design. The design integrates different aspects of Valley Water's mission, technology, and professions. The mural will include native plants and species and will highlight the diversity of local residents. The installation of the mural will begin in July 2022.

SAFE, CLEAN WATER GRANTS AND PARTNERSHIPS

FY22 Standard Grants Cycle: On May 24, the Board approved a total of \$1,549,322 in Safe, Clean Water grant funding to 15 projects. The following grantees were approved for funding:

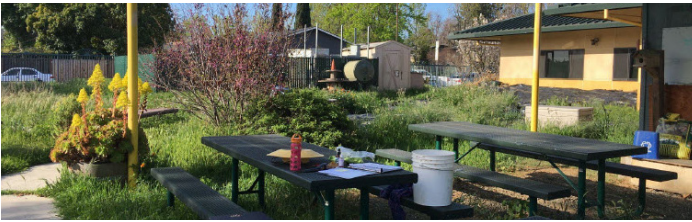
- **Pollution Prevention:** County of Santa Clara, Grassroots Ecology, Guadalupe River Park Conservancy, and ReScape California.
- **Volunteer Cleanups and Education:** Downtown Streets Team, Grassroots Ecology, Guadalupe River Park Conservancy, IISME (dba Ignited), Marshmallow Minds, Rural California Broadcasting Corp Krcb-TV Channel 22, South County Compassion Center, and Saved By Nature
- **Wildlife Habitat Restoration:** Grassroots Ecology (2) and Talon Ecological Research Group.

Mini-Grant Awards: In the month of May, Valley Water awarded four mini-grants to the following projects:

- **Midpeninsula Community Media Center - Public Service Announcement (PSA) Day:** This Project will provide a free "Public Service Announcement" media service to environmentally focused nonprofits that serve Santa Clara County. The service includes producing, filming, and broadcasting short videos to help amplify the participating nonprofits' mission and initiatives.
- **Town of Los Gatos - Outside the Box:** This Project will collaborate with local artists to create and install unique artwork on six utility boxes in Los Gatos. The artwork will feature designs that promote environmental and/or creek stewardship.
- **Compasspoint Mentorship - Alviso Marina Park Restroom Mural:** This Project will install a wall mural at Alviso Marina Park. Artist Xiaofeng (Simon) Bai will design the mural with feedback from the community. The completed mural will beautify the park and display elements of local flora and fauna, and the nearby Alviso Slough and Guadalupe River.

- **Keep Coyote Creek Beautiful - Russo/McEntee School Mural:** This Project will install a wall mural at Russo/McEntee Academy in San Jose. It includes lessons with the elementary students to gather input for the design. There will be a litter cleanup event with the school community and a painting event with muralist Paul J. Gonzalez. The completed mural will feature nature scenes reflecting a healthy creek environment to highlight the valuable natural resources of their local creek.

Mini-Grant Closeout: In FY18, Valley Water awarded Living Classroom a \$5,000 Safe, Clean Water Program D3 Mini-Grant for their Castlemont School Native Habitat Garden (Project). As the largest garden space for the Campbell Union School District, the Project created a unique space dedicated to bringing ecological awareness to kindergarten through third grade students. The project was delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but once in-person classes resumed, Living Classroom continued its lessons, encouraging students to interact with nature and learn more about native plants and wildlife.



This outdoor area at Castlemont Elementary School was overgrown and heavily weeded.



The space is now a native habitat and edible garden for the elementary school students.

EDUCATION OUTREACH

In May, the Education Outreach team (EO) supported 78 educators and reached 1,788 students through 61 virtual presentations. EO supported a tour of the Alamos outdoor classroom with Santa Clara University Water Resources students who learned about water supply challenges from Water Supply Operations Manager Bassam Kassab. At Escuela Popular Middle School, the team presented to camp counselors who will be supporting Education Outreach drought-awareness activities at a summer camp for 4-H students. EO staff joined the last session of the Santa Clara County Office of Education "Environmental Literacy Cohort" educator training where teachers presented on how they integrated water education into their curriculum.

EDUCATION OUTREACH PRESENTATION NUMBERS			
MONTH	STUDENTS & EDUCATORS	PUBLIC ATTENDEES	YEAR TO DATE
July - April	6,611	975	7,586
May	1,866	19	1,885
TOTAL	8,477	994	9,741

FY22 Goal: Reach at least 10,000 students and 1,000 members of the public.

WATER SUPPLY OUTREACH

The Water Supply Outreach team hosted 10 public and private virtual tours of the Silicon Valley Advanced Water Purification Center (SVAWPC) in May, including an in-person presentation of the SVAWPC virtual tour at Campbell Library. Staff worked with the Santa Clara County Medical

Association (SCCMA) on a series of co-authored articles on Santa Clara County's water supply, conditions, and challenges in addition to Valley Water's water reuse efforts and the Purified Water Project. This was part of a continued effort to partner with SCCMA to raise awareness and support of water reuse among the medical community. The articles will be published in the SCCMA quarterly magazine, The Bulletin, in June.

WATER SUPPLY OUTREACH TOUR NUMBERS		
DATE	WATER INFRASTRUCTURE AND PURIFICATION CENTER TOURS	FY 22 TOTAL ATTENDEES
Jul to Apr		1,799
Jul 3	PEN1 Ace Mentor Program (High School)	31
Jul 9	Pegasus High School	14
Jul 11	Miramonte Christian School	13
Jul 13	Campbell Public Library	4
Jul 18	Wilcox High School	28
Jul 19	Wilcox High School	30
Jul 19	Wilcox High School	29
Jul 19	Wilcox High School	18
Jul 19	Los Altos Recreation Department	5
Jul 26	San Jose Public Library	5
May TOTAL:		177
TOTAL (Current for FY 2022)		1,976

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.

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

The fifth Water 101 Academy session took place on May 11. The session was titled "Let's get WET - Water Education Tour." Subject matter experts from the Imported Water Unit, Dam Safety and Capital Delivery Division, and the Design and Construction Unit gave updates on water supply as it relates to San Luis, Pacheco, and Anderson Reservoirs. The cohort also learned about the Permanente Creek and Upper Llagas Creek Flood Protection Projects and how it all relates to flood protection and environmental stewardship.

COMMUNITY RATING SYSTEM

On May 19, the Community Rating System (CRS) program staff hosted the final FY22 meeting for CRS Users Group and Program for Public Information Committee. Approximately 20 staff from local agencies and one external stakeholder attended, representing 14 local communities. Participants discussed the FY22 Flood Awareness Campaign, outreach to residents in the Special Flood Hazard Area, and updates for the Multi-Jurisdictional Program for Public Information Annual Report.

UPCOMING EVENTS

SVAWPC tours

- July 21 - City of Los Altos Recreation & Community Services
- July 26 - San Jose Public Library
- July 27 - Ignited Education
- July 27 - Mountain View Public Library

Education Outreach supports Summer Camps and Educator Workshops

- July 7, 14, 21, 28 - Boys and Girls Club Silicon Valley
- July 12 - City of San Jose Almaden Lake
- July 25 to 29 - South Bay Water Week High School Teacher Externship