

AUGUST 2022

Office of Civic Engagement Monthly Update



YOUTH COMMISSION

The Youth Commission held its first meeting of the school year on August 24. This meeting was also the first official in-person meeting since February 2020. All 12 new commissioners took the Oath of Office and were sworn in that evening. The commissioners also re-elected Anika Kulkarni as the Chair of the commission and elected Vaibhavi Kulkarni as the Vice Chair. The new and returning commissioners met the Valley Water staff who support the commission and received brief introductions to the various working groups.



The Youth Commission meets in person for the first time in over two years.

CREEK STEWARDSHIP

ADOPT-A-CREEK CLEANUP NUMBERS					
DATE	PARTNER	CREEK	# of VOLUNTEERS	# of MILES CLEANED	LBS of TRASH & RECYCLABLES
8/6	Marion Farber	Guadalupe Creek	9	0.25	610
8/7	BSA Troop 408	Calabazas Creek	8	0.5	30
8/21	Marion Farber	Guadalupe Creek	4	0.25	200
8/23	Marion Farber	Guadalupe Creek	2	0.25	100
8/26	Valley Water Interns	Valley Water HQ	17	0.25	30
TOTALS			40	1.50	970

Summer Intern Friday Learning Cleanup: In August, the Creek Stewardship Program hosted a Friday Learning Event for Valley Water Interns. A total of 16 interns attended the event. Staff led a presentation that covered the Adopt-A-Creek Program, National River Cleanup Day, and Coastal Cleanup Day. After the presentation, staff and interns collected 30 pounds of trash during a short 30-minute campus cleanup focused on the Headquarters and Administration parking lots.



Valley Water interns enjoy their ice cream bars and popsicles after completing a campus cleanup at Valley Water Headquarters.

SAFE, CLEAN WATER GRANTS AND PARTNERSHIPS

Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition (SVBC)-Ride Out the Drought Project: Valley Water awarded SVBC a partnership grant to engage the community through riding their bikes during a month-long campaign to show the impacts of the drought throughout Santa Clara County. The bike routes will go past different Valley Water project sites, facilities, and infrastructure to educate and engage riders on the severity of the drought conditions, Valley Water's efforts to address it, and actions that individuals can take to curb their water use. The project will kick off with an in-person event on Saturday, October 15 at the Silicon Valley Advanced Water Purification Center, and will include participation prizes and a bike giveaway component administered by a local cycling non-profit.



EDUCATION OUTREACH

In August, the Education Outreach team (EO) supported four educators and reached 140 students through four in-person presentations. EO presented water conservation and drought awareness messaging to students at three preschools and one library story time program. The EO team also conducted a virtual presentation to the Valley Water Landscape Committee, which included an overview of the Education Outreach Program and explained how it incorporates water conservation and drought awareness messaging into all its presentations.

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EDUCATION OUTREACH PRESENTATION NUMBERS			
MONTH	STUDENTS & EDUCATORS	PUBLIC ATTENDEES	YEAR TO DATE
July	540	47	587
August	144	26	170
TOTAL	684	73	757

FY23 Goal: Reach at least 10,000 students and 500 members of the public.

WATER SUPPLY OUTREACH

In August, the Water Supply Outreach team hosted three tours of the Silicon Valley Advanced Water Purification (SVAWPC), one of which was an in-person tour with former California State Senator Jim Beall. The team also reinstated a former library partnership with the City of Mountain View to host a virtual tour of the SVAWPC.

WATER SUPPLY OUTREACH TOUR NUMBERS		
DATE	WATER INFRASTRUCTURE AND PURIFICATION CENTER TOURS	FY 23 TOTAL ATTENDEES
July		79
August 18	San Jose Public Library	8
August 24	Mountain View Public Library	14
August 25	Private on-site tour State Senator Jim Beall	1
August Total		23
TOTAL (Current for FY 2023)		102

FY23 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.



Former State Senator Jim Beall gets an up-close look at a reverse osmosis membrane filter during a tour of the Silicon Valley Advanced Water Purification Center.

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

In August, Water Ambassador Swanee Edwards authored an article published in "The Breeze", a magazine distributed by the Woodland Estates, a mobile home park in Morgan Hill composed of over 250 homes. In the article, Edwards addressed the effects of the deepening drought and reported on the progress of water-saving projects at Woodland Estates. Edwards has been leading the effort to install water submeters at Woodland Estates. She is excited that this project will allow neighbors to pay for their water usage individually and will instantly alert residents of any potential water leaks.

COMMUNITY RATING SYSTEM

As Santa Clara County's lead flood protection agency, Valley Water helps educate the community about their flood risk and how to prepare for potential flooding. In August, Valley Water met with the Department of Water Resources to discuss the upcoming flood season. The theme for this year's California Flood Preparedness Week on October 22-29 encompasses climate extremes and general preparedness with the tagline "Be Aware. Be Prepared. Take Action."

The Community Rating System staff continued collaborating with other units to launch Valley Water's flood-preparedness outreach campaign, mailers, collateral, webpage, and booth giveaways. Residents can contact CRS@valleywater.org for a free emergency starter kit (while supplies last).



Be Aware. Be Prepared. Take Action. Put your 3-day emergency kit together—contact CRS@valleywater.org for a free starter kit.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- OCT 05** **Education Outreach** Drought Awareness at Viva Escuela event at Cherrywood Elementary
- OCT 06** **Education Outreach** "Mapping Landforms" presentation at Garden Gate Elementary
- OCT 07** **SVAWPC Tours** Public In-Person Tour
- OCT 11** **Education Outreach** "H2O On The Go" presentation at Live Oak High School
- OCT 15** **Education Outreach** "Watershed Maps" virtual presentation for Alum Rock Park 150th Anniversary Celebrations
- SVAWPC Tours** Ride Out the Drought participants
- Ride Out the Drought** Kickoff event
- Ride Out the Drought** Month-long campaign, OCT 15–NOV 15
- OCT 17** **Education Outreach** Campbell Homeschool tour at Edith Morley Park Outdoor Classroom
- OCT 19** **Education Outreach** Drought Awareness at Bike Rodeo at Fammatre Elementary
- OCT 20** **Education Outreach** "Three Little Pigs" storytime at Evergreen Branch Library
- SVAWPC Tours** San Jose Public Library
- OCT 22** **SVAWPC Tours** Youth Commission Tour (on-site)
- Youth Commission Retreat**
- California Flood Preparedness Week** OCT 22–29