

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

## **Weeks of September 9 – September 22, 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. Third Cohort of Valley Water Emerging Leaders Graduate**

Valley Water's third cohort of 21 Emerging Leaders graduated from the certificate program on September 8, 2022. The Emerging Leaders Certificate Program (ELCP) is a rigorous, year-long program that takes at least 200 hours to complete. The curriculum includes classroom training, outside project work, mentoring and/or supervision, panel presentations, and e-learning, and is designed for employees striving to be Supervisors or Unit Managers but with fewer than two (2) years of supervisory experience.

The graduation ceremony was held Thursday, September 8, 2022. CEO Rick Callender opened the ceremony with a warm welcome and opening remarks. Five teams of emerging leader participants then presented their capstone projects to a mock "Board of Directors" which was comprised of our executive management team. The capstone projects allow the teams to work on real issues or problems and come up with recommendations and solutions. The five capstone projects were 1) Benefits Service Support 2) Pipeline Emergency Action Plan 3) Right of Way Use Policy 4) Standardized Infrastructure Data, and 5) Outgoing/Incoming Communication Channel Alignment.

Since 2017, including the 2022 class, 68 participants have graduated from this program. To date, almost two-thirds of graduates have been promoted and are supervisors; six are Unit Managers.

For further information, please contact Ingrid Bella at (408) 630-3171.

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### **2. Valley Water hosts regulatory agency site visits of environmental restoration projects**

On September 14, 2022, Valley Water hosted several regulatory agencies on a site tour of three watershed project sites. Staff from National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), and San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board (SFWQB) visited these sites along with Valley Water operations and maintenance staff, engineers, environmental planners and biologists.

Sites visited include a fish ladder project at Evelyn Avenue on Stevens Creek, which is currently under design, Upper Guadalupe gravel augmentation site, which completed construction in 2021, and Coyote Percolation Ponds flashboard dam replacement, which is currently under design. All three sites have fish ladder/habitat improvement elements that the resource agencies were interested in understanding site conditions, assess effectiveness as well as give feedback on design features being considered.

Valley Water presented the design elements and current status of each project and resource agencies were well engaged in understanding the design features and gave initial feedback. Evelyn fish ladder is at 30% design completion and Valley Water will continue working with the resource agencies in refining the design with the understanding that the project will be constructed under the current Stream Maintenance Permit (SMP). Coyote Percolation Ponds Dam replacement is at 90% design completion with pre-purchase of the bladder dam completed, and construction of the civil work anticipated to start in January 2023. NMFS is currently reviewing the 90% design drawings for the Coyote Percolation Ponds Dam and Valley Water anticipates receiving comments in the coming weeks.

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

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### **3. Valley Water to Participate in Phase 1 Microplastics Monitoring**

On September 28, 2018, Senate Bill No. 1422 was signed into law requiring the California State Water Resources Control Board (State Board) to define microplastics in drinking water and adopt a standard methodology for microplastics testing and reporting, including public disclosure of those results. Currently, the toxicity and health effects to humans from microplastics exposure in drinking water are inconclusive.

On September 7, 2022, the State Board's Division of Drinking Water (DDW) adopted the "Policy Handbook Establishing a Standard Method of Testing and Reporting of Microplastics in Drinking Water." Per the definition adopted by the State Board on June 16, 2020, microplastics in drinking water are unregulated emerging contaminants defined as solid polymeric particles, ranging from one nanometer to five millimeters in size.

A total of thirty California public water systems of various types and sizes were selected by DDW to participate in Phase 1 monitoring. Valley Water has been listed as one of the public water systems subject to the Phase 1 requirement of monitoring and testing for microplastics in a source water. The goal of Phase 1 is to determine the relative contribution of rain, stormwater, and atmospheric deposition to the presence of microplastics in source waters. Phase 2, which is anticipated to occur in about 3 years, will expand the monitoring and testing requirement to treated water. Prior to issuing monitoring orders, DDW will hold a public workshop to address any concerns and determine the appropriate sampling locations.

Valley Water will continue to proactively track the rapidly evolving scientific developments around microplastics, and work with regulatory bodies and partner agencies (such as American Water Works Association, Association of California Water Agencies, Zone 7 Water Agency, and the Alameda County Water District) to provide input for regulatory developments, to develop monitoring and testing plans, and to better understand the presence and potential sources of microplastics in our source water supplies.

For any questions, please contact Sam Bogale at (408) 630-3505.

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