

OCTOBER 2022

## Office of Civic Engagement Monthly Update

**RIDE OUT THE DROUGHT**

On Saturday, Oct. 15, Valley Water and the Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition hosted an event to kick off the Ride Out the Drought effort. Directors Varela and Santos attended, along with more than 100 participants. Attendees took a self-guided walking tour of the Silicon Valley Advanced Water Purification Center, followed by a 5-mile or 11-mile bike ride to visit nearby water infrastructure landmarks. The month-long campaign is underway through Nov. 30. More than 100 participants have registered and can access 13 self-guided routes featuring more than 60 water-related landmarks throughout the county using the Ride with GPS mobile app.



Bike riders gather at the Silicon Valley Advanced Water Purification Center before heading out on a guided bike ride during the Ride Out the Drought kickoff event.

**YOUTH COMMISSION**

On Saturday, Oct. 22, Valley Water staff hosted an in-person retreat for the Youth Commission. There were 15 youth commissioners in attendance. The retreat started with a tour of the Silicon Valley Advanced Water Purification Center. From there, the group traveled to The Plex sports center, where the commissioners engaged in a collaborative discussion about the expectations for the year and the Youth Commission work plan. Staff from the four Youth Commission working groups led interactive games and activities to highlight and promote each group's goal. The retreat finished with more team-building activities, including an exciting game of bubble soccer.

**CREEK STEWARDSHIP**

ADOPT-A-CREEK CLEANUP NUMBERS					
DATE	PARTNER	CREEK	# of VOLUNTEERS	# of MILES CLEANED	LBS of TRASH & RECYCLABLES
Oct 08	Beautiful Day	Guadalupe River	11	0.5	400
Oct 13	Marion Farber	Guadalupe Creek	1	0.25	30
Oct 14	Flatiron Construction	Coyote Creek	12	0.5	200
Oct 16	Trash Panda Cleanup Crew	Guadalupe Reservoir	3	0.25	20
Oct 19	Sister Cities and Planet Protectors	Lions Creek	30	0.5	50
Oct 22	BSA Troop 457	Sunnyvale East Channel	25	0.5	50
Oct 22	Healing Grove Health Center	Guadalupe River	60	0.5	2400
Oct 23	Hella Bluhm-Steiber	Calabazas Creek	14	0.5	132.6
Oct 29	BSA Troop 442	Calabazas Creek	11	0.5	70
TOTALS			167	4	3313.6



Adopt-A-Creek partner Flatiron Construction shows off some of the trash they collected along Coyote Creek below the Anderson Reservoir Dam.

**PUBLIC ART**

**Public Art Strategic Plan:** With the public art consultant, staff hosted two internal stakeholder meetings to assess Valley Water's public art opportunities and collect information and ideas to help inform the Public Art Strategic Plan. Additional internal stakeholder meetings are scheduled throughout November as part of the initial phase of the strategic plan process.

**SAFE, CLEAN WATER GRANTS AND PARTNERSHIPS**

**Protecting Animals Worldwide F9 Mini-Grant Award:** In October, Valley Water awarded Protecting Animals Worldwide a \$5,000 mini-grant for their Nest Box and Insect Box Installation in Redwood Nature Preserve Project. The Grantee, composed of students from Harker School in San José, will partner with the City of Los Altos to assemble and install nest boxes and insect boxes at the Redwood Nature Preserve in Los Altos. The Grantee will host workshops to educate their student body and park visitors about the benefits of the boxes for the surrounding habitat. They will also conduct bi-weekly maintenance of the boxes.

**Living Classroom D3 Mini-Grant Closeout:** In FY 2020, Valley Water awarded Living Classroom a \$5,000 Safe, Clean Water Program D3 Mini-Grant for their Campbell Union School District Native Ecology Lessons Project. The mini-grant funds assisted with developing and implementing ecology lessons, outdoor instruction, and experiential learning for more than 700 transitional kindergarten to first-grade students at six elementary schools within the Campbell Union School District. The lessons on ecosystem exploration and native habitat gardens introduced students to environmental concepts in an approachable way and enhanced their ability to translate findings into writing.

**Compasspoint Mentorship-Alviso Marina County Park**

**Restroom Mural Site Visit:** On Oct. 8, staff accompanied Director Santos to the Day on the Bay event at Alviso Marina County Park for Compasspoint Mentorship's mural project

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ribbon-cutting ceremony. The project, funded by a \$5,000 mini-grant, engaged the community in the design and painting of the mural. The completed mural displays imagery of local wildlife and habitat of the nearby Alviso Slough. Supervisor Otto Lee welcomed the attendees of the ribbon-cutting event, and Director Santos provided short remarks about the project. Attendees included friends and families of the volunteers as well as Day on the Bay attendees.

#### Refill Station Grant Program Virtual Workshop #1:

In October, Valley Water Grants staff hosted the first virtual workshop for the Refill Station Grant Program. Staff provided information about the program's criteria, applicant eligibility, application, and award process. The first workshop engaged attendees from different organizations, including local public agencies, nonprofit organizations, and a local school.

### EDUCATION OUTREACH

In October, the Education Outreach Program (EO) supported 51 educators and 1,633 students through 17 school presentations



Campbell Homeschool students enjoy a tour at Edith Morley Park Outdoor Classroom.

and one tour at Edith Morley Outdoor Classroom. EO staff also engaged with 35 members of the public through a library program at Evergreen Branch Library. In a continued

collaboration with the City of San José's Walk n' Roll program, EO raised drought awareness during one school assembly, one after-school Bike Rodeo, and two Viva EscuelaSJ events. EO also supported Girl Scouts of Santa Clara County at their Climate Change Summit by providing training and materials on water conservation programs. Flood preparedness messaging was incorporated into all EO presentations to align with Flood Preparedness Week and the start of the flood season.

EDUCATION OUTREACH PRESENTATION NUMBERS			
MONTH	STUDENTS & EDUCATORS	PUBLIC ATTENDEES	YEAR TO DATE
July-September	2,609	244	2,853
October	1,684	185	1,869
TOTAL	4,293	429	4,722

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

WATER SUPPLY OUTREACH TOUR NUMBERS		
DATE	WATER INFRASTRUCTURE AND PURIFICATION CENTER TOURS	FY 23 TOTAL ATTENDEES
July-August		234
October 7	First Friday In-Public Tour	21
October 14	VIP Water Walk Tour	24
October 15	Ride Out the Drought	78
October 22	Youth Commission Retreat	13
October 26	Garden Club of Los Altos	14
October Total		150
TOTAL (Current for FY 2023)		384

**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.

### COMMUNITY RATING SYSTEM

**October officially kicks off the flood season:** This year, Valley Water's flood awareness campaign highlights extreme weather due to climate change. Our county may be in a drought emergency, but it's important to remember that floods can happen anytime it rains.

**California Flood Preparedness Week:** In October, the Board passed a resolution declaring Oct. 22-29 as California Flood Preparedness Week in Santa Clara County. This resolution encourages residents and businesses to prepare for the flood season. To commemorate this state-wide initiative, staff created "Get Flood Ready" banners urging people to "Be Aware. Be Prepared. Take Action."



Staff and residents can visit the HQ lobby to see examples of a flood emergency kit and the tablecloths and banners included in the pilot Flood Event Kits.

because floods can follow drought. The "Get Flood Ready" booth in the Headquarters lobby showcases items that residents may want to include in a three-day emergency kit. In addition, staff hosted three "Get Flood Ready" booths at local events and provided information and emergency starter kits.

**Other Flood Outreach Initiatives in October:** As part of the 2021 Santa Clara County's Multi-Jurisdictional Program for Public Information (2021 PPI), Community Rating System (CRS) staff began distributing the pilot Flood Event Kits to all Santa Clara County communities. The kits include customized banners, tablecloths, emergency starter kits, and giveaway items. This pilot standardizes local flood-preparedness messaging throughout the county.

Also identified in the 2021 PPI, Valley Water staff designed utility bill inserts available to all partner cities by request. The inserts incorporate the partner cities' logos, the Valley Water flood campaign theme, and the 2021 PPI key topics.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

- DEC 01 **Education Outreach** "Water Cycle Boogie" at Amy Imai Elementary
- DEC 06 **Education Outreach** Alamos Outdoor Classroom Tour with Discovery Charter School
- Education Outreach** Girl Scout Troop tour at Alamos Outdoor Classroom
- DEC 08 **Education Outreach** "Watershed Maps" at Sherman Oaks Elementary
- DEC 12 **Education Outreach** "Mapping Landforms" at Booksin Elementary
- DEC 13 **Education Outreach** "Plastic Voyages" at Booksin Elementary
- DEC 14 **Education Outreach** "Watershed Maps" at Stonegate Elementary