

CEO BULLETIN



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

Weeks of December 23 – January 5, 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.

Item	IN THIS ISSUE
<u>1</u>	Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Grant Award for Calabazas/San Tomas Aquino Creek-Marsh Connection Project
<u>2</u>	Planned 1-Week Rinconada Water Treatment Plant Shutdown from January 19 to January 25, 2023
<u>3</u>	Safe, Clean Water Mini-Grant Closeout: Green Foothills Foundation, DBA Green Foothills' Community Advocates Leadership Academy Project
<u>4</u>	Safe, Clean Water Mini-Grant Closeout: Keep Coyote Creek Beautiful's Russo/McEntee Academy Mural Project
<u>5</u>	<u>Beall</u> For the 1/10/23 CIP Work study session, identify projects that can be completed faster to save constructions funds. R-22-0009
<u>6</u>	<u>Beall</u> Investigate state fund matching opportunities for CIP projects. R-22-0010

1. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Grant Award for Calabazas/San Tomas Aquino Creek-Marsh Connection Project

On December 12, 2022, Valley Water was notified that the Calabazas/San Tomas Aquino Creek-Marsh Connection Project has been selected for funding under the San Francisco Bay Water Quality Improvement Fund (SFBWQIF) program, administered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The Project, a partnership between Valley Water, the South Bay Salt Ponds Restoration Project, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, will reconnect San Thomas Aquino and Calabazas Creeks with the salt ponds complex while restoring tidal action to the ponds.

Project objectives include:

- Restoration and enhancement of tidal marsh, brackish/freshwater marsh, and riverine habitat;
- Resilient flood protection provided by creating a tidal marsh that can accrete sediment in response to sea-level rise;
- Reduced maintenance needs for Calabazas and San Tomas Creeks; and
- Improved and socially equitable public access to the shoreline of South San Francisco Bay.

A Feasibility Study for the Project was completed in May 2021. In 2022, the Project's geographic scope was expanded to include 320-acre Pond A4, owned, operated, and maintained by Valley Water. The addition of Pond A4 provides increased opportunity for tidal marsh restoration and nature-based treatment of reverse osmosis concentrate produced during water recycling and purification. To offset the cost of adding Pond A4 to the Project, Valley Water prepared and submitted a grant application in the amount of \$3.8 million to the SFBWQIF program on September 19, 2022.

The intended purpose of the grant funds is to support the preparation of California Environmental Quality Act/National Environmental Policy Act documents and design plans for the Project, including Pond A4. The precise amount of grant funding is expected to be close to the \$3.8 million requested and will be specified in the grant agreement, which will be presented to the Valley Water Board of Directors for approval at a future date.

For further information, please contact Lisa Bankosh at (408) 630-2618 or John Bourgeois at (408) 630-2990.

2. Planned 1-Week Rinconada Water Treatment Plant Shutdown from January 19 to January 25, 2023

On January 19, 2023, the Rinconada Water Treatment Plant (RWTP) will be shut down for one (1) week to conduct the first phase of biennial electrical testing. Valley Water will also take this opportunity to perform Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) software updates and other essential maintenance activities. Performing maintenance and testing activities on a regular basis is essential to ensure the drinking water treatment plant's critical systems are safe, reliable and remain in good working order.

During this shutdown, all West Pipeline (WPL) turnouts normally fed by RWTP, except for the City of Mountain View, are expected to be impacted. Barring any unforeseen circumstances, the RWTP is scheduled to return to service on the morning of January 25, 2023.

The above stated shutdown schedule has also been communicated and coordinated with all WPL retailers. The retailers impacted by this shutdown will use their groundwater and/or alternate supplies to meet demand. During this period customers may notice a change in water characteristics and pressure.

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

3. Safe, Clean Water Mini-Grant Closeout: Green Foothills Foundation, DBA Green Foothills' Community Advocates Leadership Academy Project

In Fiscal Year 2021, Valley Water awarded Green Foothills Foundation, DBA Green Foothills (Grantee) a \$5,000 Safe, Clean Water Program D3 Mini-Grant for their Community Advocates Leadership Academy Project (Project). The Grantee completed the Project on November 30, 2021 and submitted the final invoice items on August 10, 2022, allowing for grant closeout.

Green Foothills Foundation, DBA Green Foothills is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit whose mission is to protect open space and natural resources in San Mateo County and Santa Clara County for the benefit of advocacy, education, and grassroots action. The Grantee achieves this mission through engaging in local land use issues, educating decision makers and community leaders, and partnering with and mobilizing community members.

The Grantee's Community Advocates Leadership Academy is an eight-month civic training program for local community leaders to advance initiatives for inclusive environmental conservation and justice campaigns. The Grantee developed strategies to recruit a diverse group of 22 participants from San Mateo County and Santa Clara County. Grant funding went towards the project cost of the activities specifically for the 16 participants who reside in Santa Clara County or work for an organization that serves Santa Clara County. The academy included a virtual orientation, and six virtual classes with guest speakers covering the following topics: Preparing for a Campaign, Goal-Setting and Community Expertise, Power Mapping and Coalition Building, Grassroots and Grassroots Engagement, Theory of Change and Messaging, and Finalizing Campaign Plan & Looking Back on Leadership Journey. The academy concluded with a collaborative capstone presentation and an in-person graduation. Participant experience was assessed through in-session surveys to adjust the curriculum for the next cohort academy and to ensure the Project fulfills the Grantee's mission.

Key Outcomes:

- Achieved diversity goal among the 22 participants of the 2021 cohort:
 - More than 50% of participants identified as Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC)
 - More than 70% of participants identified as women, transgender, nonbinary, or gender nonconforming
 - Even distribution across all adult age ranges and all household income levels of less than \$25,000 to more than \$150,000
- Engaged 22 participants, of which 19 graduated, and 16 were from Santa Clara County.
- Hosted six virtual classes to provide valuable perspectives on equitable, inclusive environmental activism.
- Conducted survey of the 19 graduates, which found that more than 50% of participants prioritized advocacy for (1) protecting vulnerable communities from pollution and (2) water resource protection and stewardship.
- Conducted a post-academy evaluation which found on average that 84% of graduates were satisfied with the structure of the workshops and reported acquiring new skills and knowledge for future campaigns and leadership work, increase in peer learning, and an overall sense of belonging, confidence and excitement fostered during the academy.

For further information, please contact Donald Rocha at (408) 630-2338.

4. Safe, Clean Water Mini-Grant Closeout: Keep Coyote Creek Beautiful's Russo/McEntee Academy Mural Project

In Fiscal Year 2022, Valley Water awarded Keep Coyote Creek Beautiful (Grantee) a \$5,000 Safe, Clean Water Program F9 Mini-Grant for their Russo/McEntee Academy Mural Project (Project). Grantee completed the Project on August 12, 2022, and submitted the final invoice items on September 23, 2022, allowing for grant closeout.

The Grantee is a non-profit organization that works with community groups, public agencies, and students to reclaim, restore, and beautify the 64-miles along Coyote Creek that runs through Santa Clara County. The mini-grant provided funding for a collaborative mural designed by local artist/muralist Paul J. Gonzalez and installation at Russo/McEntee Academy, a Transitional Kindergarten to 5th grade elementary school in San Jose, CA. The mural artwork, developed from community input, captures the abundant and diverse wildlife of nearby Coyote Creek to educate students, teachers, and visitors about the natural wonders of their local creek. The Grantee held a paint day and litter cleanup event in which the school community painted the mural and removed litter from the school grounds. The completed mural scene deters graffiti and fits naturally with the school's vision: "to provide a rigorous and innovative learning climate that promotes the growth of environmentally literate students capable of stewarding our planet."

Key Outcomes:

- Installed a mural spanning 80 feet wide and 8 to 20 feet high along the various five walls of the entry-facing buildings at the elementary school.
- Had eight participants and removed ten pounds of trash during the paint and cleanup event.
- Received 334 interactions with social media users via (8) Facebook posts, (7) Instagram posts, (2) LinkedIn posts and (1) Twitter post.
- Received 53 survey responses from the students, in which 50% of respondents reported that they could identify more than one neighboring creek, and 25% of respondents said that they appreciated the school's features incorporated in the mural, like the garden and recycling bins.
- Published a blog with photos to share the successful completion of the project: <https://www.keepcoyotecreekbeautiful.org/post/rm-mural>.

For further information, please contact Donald Rocha at (408) 630-2338.

5. **Beall**

For the 1/10/23 CIP Work study session, identify projects that can be completed faster to save constructions funds.

R-22-0009

Valley Water's Water Supply Division is working with the Pacheco Project Delivery Unit to provide a Pacheco Reservoir Expansion Project Status Update at the January 10, 2022 Board Work Study session that will outline the expanded Pacheco Reservoir's potential role in Valley Water's Water Supply Master Plan and water supply distribution system. An updated PowerPoint presentation will be posted via supplemental Board Agenda Memorandum on January 6, 2023.

For further information, please contact Christopher Hakes at (408) 630-3796.

6. **Beall**

Investigate state fund matching opportunities for CIP projects.

R-22-0010

In the Board meeting on December 13, 2022, during the discussion of the agenda item regarding the authorization to pursue federal Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) loans, Director Beall requested a list of state matching funds that could be available for capital projects. The item was assigned to the Office of Government Relations and expanded to include federal and regional funds to comprehensively respond to questions regarding possible grants to support capital projects. The response is published in the Non-Agenda dated January 6, 2023.

For further information, please contact Rachael Gibson at (408) 630-2884.