

DECEMBER 2022

Office of Civic Engagement Monthly Update



CREEK STEWARDSHIP

This month, the Adopt-A-Creek program welcomed four new partners: Palo Alto Foundation Medical Group, Stephen Cassidy, Unitarian Universalist Church of Palo Alto, and Amazon.com Services LLC.

ADOPT-A-CREEK CLEANUP NUMBERS					
DATE	PARTNER	CREEK	# OF VOLUNTEERS	# OF MILES CLEANED	LBS OF TRASH & RECYCLABLES
12/2	Marion Farber	Guadalupe Creek	5	0.75	1,150
12/15	Steve Cassidy	Canoas Creek	1	0.5	190
12/24	June Ni	Regnart Creek	5	0.25	20
TOTALS			11	1.5	1,360



Adopt-A-Creek partner Marion Farber shows off an impressive amount of litter and debris she collected along the banks of Guadalupe River. These items were picked up and disposed of by Valley Water Operations and Maintenance staff.

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

The Water Ambassadors answered the call for assistance in assembling Water Wise Home Survey Do-It-Yourself kits. Staff provided the kit materials to the ambassadors to assemble at home. The materials included a booklet guide in four languages, a plumbing guide, a list of Valley Water's conservation programs, two toilet leak detection tablets, and a flow measurement bag. The ambassadors completed 500 kits which are now ready for distribution via Water Conservation's online shopping cart.



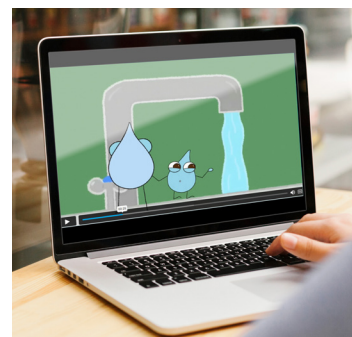
Water Ambassador Jerre Bowen assembles a batch of Water Wise Home Survey DIY kits in his living room.

SAFE, CLEAN WATER GRANTS AND PARTNERSHIPS

Resource Area for Teachers (RAFT) F9 Mini-Grant Award:

In December, Valley Water awarded a \$5,000 Mini-Grant to Resource Area for Teachers (RAFT, Grantee) for the Develop "Water on the Move" RAFT Design Challenge and Unit Project. The Grantee will develop Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics (STEAM) project kits and a curriculum for a design challenge made from recycled material for students in Santa Clara County. Students will learn about flood protection and environmental stewardship through this design challenge while engaging in hands-on learning and environmental literacy.

Ani & Cat, LLC A2 Mini-Grant Closeout: In FY 2021, Valley Water awarded Ani & Cat, LLC (Grantee) a \$5,000 Safe, Clean Water Program A2 Mini-Grant for the Water Conservation in Our Neighborhoods Project. The Grantee developed and distributed a digital water conservation toolkit for elementary through high school students within Santa Clara County. The toolkit includes two 2-4 minute educational videos: "Drip and Drop Save Water" and "Water Conservation in our Neighborhoods," providing tips to educators, parents, and students on reducing water waste. In addition, the digital toolkit includes water conservation trivia, educational worksheets, and digital stickers for social media. The Grantee distributed the toolkits through multiple channels, including schools, social media, and local government agencies. The toolkit can be downloaded for free at the following link: tinyurl.com/DripAndDropSaveDownload.



In Ani & Cat's video, Drip and Drop discuss how they can save water (left); Sample water conservation trivia post for use on social media (right).

Valley Water Refill Station Grant Program: Valley Water awarded two refill stations for a total of \$10,000 to:

- Morgan Hill Unified School District - Los Paseos Elementary School (San José, CA)
- Morgan Hill Unified School District - PA Walsh Elementary School (Morgan Hill, CA)

Each \$5,000 water bottle refill station grant will fund the purchase and installation of a refill station to increase drinking water access and help promote reusable water bottles for more than 800 school-age students.

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WATER SUPPLY OUTREACH

In-person and virtual tours continued at the Silicon Valley Advanced Water Purification Center throughout December. Staff hosted tours with the San José Public Library, the City of Saratoga's Administrative Services Department, the Cross Connections Water Reuse Class, and a private group tour with a local family.

WATER SUPPLY OUTREACH TOUR NUMBERS		
DATE	WATER INFRASTRUCTURE AND PURIFICATION CENTER TOURS	FY 23 TOTAL ATTENDEES
July-Nov		532
Dec 8	Cross Connections Water Reuse class	11
Dec 15	Virtual Tour In Collaboration with San José Public Library	5
Dec 16	City of Saratoga Administrative Services Department	10
Dec 16	Private Tour Group (De Waal Family)	5
December Total		31
TOTAL (Current for FY 2023)		563

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

In December, the Office of Communications sent Valley Water's annual floodplain mailer to residents and businesses in the FEMA-designated Special Flood Hazard Areas in Santa Clara County. This mailer informs thousands of residents and property owners near creeks and rivers that they may be at risk of flooding and explains how Valley Water works with communities to reduce flood risks.

The mailer is a crucial outreach project identified in the 2021 Santa Clara County Multi-Jurisdictional Program for Public Information (PPI). The PPI can earn each community participating in the Community Rating System (CRS) additional points that can translate into potential premium discounts for flood insurance policyholders.

CRS staff provided copies of the mailer to all local communities. Mailers will be available in the lobby of public buildings and other locations throughout the community, such as libraries, senior centers, and recreational centers.

CRS staff partnered with the Office of Government Relations and the Organizational for Latino Affairs (OLA) to provide emergency starter kits, English and Spanish flood preparedness information, and giveaways at the Santa Visits Alviso event held on December 10.



Valley Water OLA members share flood preparedness resources at the Santa Visits Alviso event to help attendees "Get Flood Ready".

EDUCATION OUTREACH

In December, the Education Outreach Program (EO) supported 27 educators and 696 students through one tour of the Alamos Outdoor Classroom, one virtual school presentation, and nine in-person school presentations. EO staff also engaged with 15 members of the public during a virtual San José Public Library after-school "Kids In Science" program at Empire Branch Library. EO staff also supported the Valley Water Youth Commission during their monthly Youth Citizen Science Network Working Group and Job Shadow Day Working Group meetings.

EDUCATION OUTREACH PRESENTATION NUMBERS			
MONTH	STUDENTS & EDUCATORS	PUBLIC ATTENDEES	YEAR TO DATE
Jul-Nov	5,563	508	6,071
Dec	723	21	744
TOTAL	6,286	529	6,815

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



Discovery Charter School students learn about the water cycle at the Alamos outdoor classroom.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- FEB 01** Education Outreach "Three Little Pigs" at Easterbrook Discovery Elementary
- FEB 02** Education Outreach "Plastic Voyages" at Easterbrook Discovery Elementary
FY23 Standard Grant Cycle Informational Workshop #2
- FEB 03** SVAWPC Tour Public Tour
- FEB 08** Education Outreach Presentation at Noble Elementary
- FEB 11** SVAWPC Tour Public Tour
- FEB 13** Education Outreach "Water Cycle Boogie" at Sutter Elementary
- FEB 14** Education Outreach Puppet Show at Joyce Ellington Branch Library
- FEB 15** Education Outreach "Mapping Landforms" at Sedwick Elementary
- FEB 16** Education Outreach "Watershed Maps" at El Roble Elementary
- FEB 23** Job Shadow Day
- FEB 27** Education Outreach "Hidden Water" at Garden Gate School
- FEB 28** Education Outreach Monicello Academy Tour at Alamos Outdoor Classroom