

## Office of Civic Engagement update Summary of May 2018 Office of Civic Engagement activities



*Youth Commission meeting group picture on May 10, 2018.*

### Youth Commission

First Youth Commission meeting held on May 10 and 18 commissioners took the oath of office. The second meeting is on June 13.

### Creek Stewardship

On May 19, the District hosted the annual National River Cleanup Day. This year the Directors sponsored several sites, a fact we believe, that led to more volunteers signing up and being very enthusiastic about the cleanup. Over 1,300 volunteers cleaned 44 sites throughout the county. The number of volunteers, pounds of trash picked up and miles of creek cleaned all broke last year's records.



*Volunteers at site 11, Peter D Gill Memorial Park in Milpitas. Tularcitos Creek.*

### Safe Clean Water Grants and Partnerships

On May 8, the Board of Directors approved funding for 6 new Pollution Prevention grant projects under Safe, Clean Water Program Priority B3. The total funding awarded was \$501,000. The new grant funded projects are:

- Loma Prieta Resource Conservation District for Reducing Pollutant Source Loads;

- Downtown Streets Team for El Camino Clean Up;
- Downtown Streets Team for Penitencia Creeks Team;
- Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority for Keep Santa Clara Valley Beautiful;
- Grassroots Ecology for Westwind Barn Stormwater Infiltration Project; and
- City of Milpitas for Contaminant Overflow and Backflow Prevention Project.

Staff is working with the Office of District Counsel to execute these agreements as well as for the 12 grant projects that were previously approved by the Board on March 13.

The staff is also working on developing a new partnership agreement with the City of San Jose to support creek

	NRCD 2017	NRCD 2018
Number of Volunteers	1,251	1,354
Pounds of Trash	36,494	47,353
Number of Creek Miles	64.8	65
Number of sites	48	44

cleanups around homeless encampments.

### Education Outreach

In May, Education Outreach (EO) presented to nearly 2,400 students from 17 schools in Santa Clara County. By the end of FY18 the Education Outreach team will have involved over 13,200 students in our hands-on education program, exceeding our goal of reaching 12,000 students this year. During May, in addition to classroom presentations and field trips, EO also supported a science fair, a middle school career day, a boy scout tour of the purification center, a girl scout tour of the Alamos Recharge Pond and Martial Cottle Park's Spring Celebration. Following the success of our engagement

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I even told my dad to  
make holes and he did he  
and plant the seeds and my  
family is saving water to  
and I learned to never  
ever waste water.  
I love you so much

A thank you letter from Angela,  
a student from Eliot Elementary  
School in District 1

with 127 local FIRST Lego League teams, the District was invited to be on the judging panel of the 8th annual FIRST Lego League Global Innovation Award to be held in San Jose on June 19-21.

A Flood Coloring Contest was implemented district-wide. Participation was sought from 46 schools, 16 schools participated with each district having at least one school engaged. A total of 350 entries were received. First Prize awards were given to the top students in each district. Emergency Starter kits were awarded to all the students in the winner's class as well as a copy of "Chicken Little's Flood Advice" a story about a character that is always prepared for any emergency. The teacher in the class received a back-pack full of emergency supplies.



"Flood Coloring Contest Winners: Shriyaan Chatterjee (District 7)  
and Izabela Huerta (District 6)".

## District's Volunteer Program

Staff held their second in-person Quarterly Volunteer Staff Advisory meeting on May 17. Staff also launched a new volunteer online management system, VolunteerHub, as a registration and volunteer management portal. In addition, a new webpage is now up on [valleywater.org/volunteer](http://valleywater.org/volunteer) with approved information such as Program Information, FAQs, Program Application, and Event Registration link to VolunteerHub.

## Recycled Water Outreach

In May, 11 tours of the Purification Center tours were held with a total of 317 attendees. Tours included groups such as the Silicon Valley Organization Leadership Class, the Boy Scouts, Aim Higher Adult Development Agency, De Anza College, the District's Newly Hired Employee, KIPP San Jose (a school), Sustainable Silicon Valley, US Water Partnership and three public tours.



Newly-hired District Employees at the Purification Center on May 23.

### Looking Ahead

- Staff is still reviewing 9 applications for D3 Wildlife Restoration projects and will be bringing forth the recommendations to the Board later this summer.
- Staff has begun work on the Coastal Clean-Up Day in September 2018 and will continue to seek director-site sponsorships.
- Staff has enlisted the help of interns and other units to work on inventorying all district signage throughout the County. Staff hopes to have an extensive catalogue by the end of the summer to begin prioritizing the replacement and maintenance of damaged signs.
- The next Youth Commission meeting is scheduled for June 13.
- Staff is working with Workforce Development to coordinate a July 18th combined tour of District facilities by the Youth Commission and the District's summer interns.
- The Recycled Water Outreach team is finalizing a summer social media campaign that includes messaging designed to inform, educate, and gain public support for potable reuse of recycled purified water. The campaign is a targeted outreach to multi-ethnic audiences. The campaign will be enhanced by video footage of purified water taste tests testimonials at community events. The core messaging promotes advanced purified water as a local and reliable water source that is sustainable and locally controlled.
- All programs under Civic Engagement will participate in the upcoming June 16 Rinconada Open House by having an Education Outreach table with kid activities, a Recycled Water Outreach Table, an Adopt-A-Creek table and a volunteer recruitment table.