

Office of Civic Engagement February 2019 Activities Update



Youth Commission at the February 27 meeting.

YOUTH COMMISSION

- **Adopt-A-Bench Art Project.** The commissioners were presented with several options on how they could do artwork on the benches. The options included painting directly on the bench, assembling tiles, and epoxy resin, which is a method of coating a protective layer over artwork that can be done on canvas and installed on the bench. The commissioners will decide via rank choice voting on the best method that would work for them.
- **Synopsys Science Fair.** Valley Water will participate in the March 14 fair by providing staff judges for the special award categories and a sponsorship of \$1,100. Valley Water will also acknowledge the winner(s) of the fair by providing a tour of Valley Water's facilities and recognition at a Board meeting.
- **Youth Citizen Science Network.** The vice chair of the Youth Commission introduced the idea of getting more students involved in measuring Total Dissolved Solids in their school infrastructures. The idea was discussed and will be followed up at the next meeting.
- **Working Group Reports.** Creek Stewardship: the group will be adopting a local creek and helping to encourage more schools to become Adopt-A-Creek Partners. Mentorship/Career Shadowing: the group has been helping to plan Valley Water's upcoming Job Shadow Day on March 19. Job Fair: the group is planning to host a job fair for the Youth Commission.
- **Outreach for Upcoming Vacancies.** With five (5) upcoming vacant positions (districts 1, 2, 3, 6, and 7), staff will be conducting outreach to fill those positions. Outreach will be targeted in those specific districts. Staff will utilize social media platforms (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Nextdoor), as well as direct outreach in the schools and community organizations in those districts.

ADOPT-A-CREEK



Students from Del Mar High School cleaning Los Gatos Creek

DATE	PARTNER	# OF VOLUNTEERS	LBS OF TRASH COLLECTED	MILES CLEANED	CREEK
2/02/19	Del Mar High School	13	300	1	Los Gatos

SIGNAGE

Staff formed a committee of subject matter experts to move forward with the replacement of damaged signs as well as public health & safety related signs. Staff has also been working on developing guidelines and standards for the new signage. The guidelines will define not only the look and feel of the new signage, but also set standards for the materials, code enforcements, placement, and other details for each specific type of sign (informational, directional, facility, creek marker, etc.). Staff will continue to inventory the existing signage in order to have a complete portfolio of Valley Water signs.

SAFE, CLEAN WATER GRANTS PROGRAM

New Mini-Grant Award

- Bay Area Older Adults (BAO) received a second Mini-Grant award to support their Watershed Appreciation Program. The program will bring blind older adults to four waterways in four different watersheds - Los Alamitos Creek and Guadalupe Slough (Guadalupe Watershed), Stevens Creek (Lower Peninsula Watershed) and Penitencia Creek (Upper Penitencia Creek Watershed). The project will educate and enhance the older adults knowledge and understanding of the importance of healthy watersheds.

EDUCATION OUTREACH

- Engaged 979 students, 41 teachers and 200 members of the public for 1,220 total participants in February through 7 school visits, two Alamitos Outdoor Classroom presentations, and three outreach events.
- Continued collaboration efforts with Mid-Peninsula Environmental Education Alliance and Santa Clara County Office of Education to develop environmental education resources for Santa Clara County educators.
- Provided interactive engagement activities for the Youth Commission meeting held February 27.



Education Outreach presents a flood season story where students learn how and where to build homes to make them flood-safe.

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EDUCATION OUTREACH PROGRAM ATTENDANCE SUMMARY	COUNTS
Schools - students & teachers	1,020
Public Events	200
February Total	1,220

RECYCLED AND PURIFIED WATER OUTREACH

- Hosted 147 people at seven tours of the Purification Center. Distributed 53 bottles of Orange County Water District advanced purified water and 100 emergency starter kits for the Community Rating System program.
- Taped Chair LeZotte for the tour welcome video.
- Prepared the influencer video testimonials and ads for the next campaign, which is set to launch early March.

DATE	PURIFICATION CENTER TOURS	COUNTS	BOTTLE TASTE TESTS
2/11/2019	Private tour for NextFlex/ Lincoln High School	36	0
2/14/2019	Public tour	10	10
2/14/2019	Private tour for Monterey One Water	13	1
2/16/2019	Public tour	29	27
2/16/2019	Private tour for Shin Shin Educational Foundation	34	0
2/22/2019	Private tour for St. John's Preparatory School	15	5
2/27/2019	Private tour for Santa Clara University engineering class	10	8
	Totals	147	51

YEAR-ROUND VOLUNTEER PROGRAM



Group photo of water ambassadors from the second session held on February 20, 2019.

- The board's inaugural Water 101 Academy program kicked off on February 6 with 21 new water ambassadors that were selected by the Board of Directors.
- The first Water 101 Academy session included welcome remarks by Chair Linda J. LeZotte and CEO Norma Camacho, with Director Estremera and Director Santos in attendance. The session provided participants an overview of both state and local water systems and infrastructure, along with an overview of Valley Water's history, mission, organizational functions, and key projects that benefit the community. CEA Rick Callender provided closing remarks.
- The second Water 101 Academy session was held on February 20, which included welcome remarks by Director Santos and featured a presentation by CFO Darin Taylor on the budget and rate setting process. The session also covered water utility topics on water supply planning, water conservation efforts, and water reuse.
- In addition, volunteers in the Year-Round Volunteer Program also attended Valley Water's booth duty training and volunteered as a tour docent assistant during our Saturday public tour of the Purification Center in February.

COMMUNITY RATING SYSTEM

In February, the Community Rating System (CRS) program transitioned from the Water Resources Planning & Policy Unit to Civic Engagement. CRS allows communities to earn flood insurance premium discounts for their residents and businesses. Valley Water's participation results in credit for specific flood risk-reduction activities we carry out as the lead agency providing flood protection to Santa Clara County. The credits are then transferred to participating communities in the county, which in turn, translates to discounts for flood insurance policyholders' premiums. The collaboration and outreach efforts in the CRS program aligns with the work currently undertaken in Civic Engagement, therefore, the transition will help to provided additional resources and support for the program.

On February 25, Valley Water hosted the Santa Clara County CRS Users Group meeting to discuss the required Annual Evaluation Report of the 2015 SC County Multi-Jurisdictional Program for Public Information (PPI). Nine out of ten of the participating communities attended. At the meeting, attendees received Emergency Preparedness Starter Kits. Valley Water assembles nearly 10,000 kits annually and distributes them to the participating communities as well as at community events, Purification Center Tours, Education Outreach presentations, etc. So far, this year, the following number of kits have been distributed:

ENTITY/EVENT	# OF KITS DISTRIBUTED
Cities/County in Valley Water's CRS Network	2,900
Community Booth Events	1,000
Purification Center Tours	99
Total	3,999

LOOKING AHEAD

- Education Outreach will attend the Ocala Middle School STEM Night **March 6**
- Education Outreach will provide a ground water display for the City of Morgan Hill Council Meeting **March 6**
- Launch the Community Leader's video testimonials and online digital ads as part of the next phase of the purified water social media campaign; and present to the Recycled Water Committee on **March 13**
- The Water 101 Academy ambassador program will host the third session on **March 13** and the field trip to tour various Valley Water facilities and key project sites on **March 23**
- Public tours of the Purification Center on **March 14 and 16**; plus several private group tours.
- Education Outreach will facilitate two break-out sessions during Youth Commission sponsored Job Shadow Day on **March 19**
- The first cohort of Water 101 Academy ambassadors will be recognized for their participation and completion of the program at the **March 26** Board of Directors Meeting
- Pre-Audit review teleconference with FEMA Auditor on **March 26** for CRS Program
- Education Outreach will support the SJSU Society of Women Engineers (SWE) workshops for High School Girls in STEM **March 30**