

To: Board of Directors
From: Norma J. Camacho, CEO

Chief Executive Officer Bulletin Week of May 17 – 23, 2019

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.

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Update to the Pajaro River Watershed and Bay Area Integrated Regional Water Management Plans

The Pajaro River Watershed Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) and the Bay Area IRWM are collaborative efforts among a diversity of regional stakeholders to identify and implement water management solutions that increase regional self-reliance, reduce conflict, and achieve social, environmental, and economic objectives of the region. Each IRWM region develops a plan that defines regional interests, issues, and water management objectives and strategies. Per California Department of Water Resources (DWR) guidelines, the Regional Water Management Group (RWMG) oversees the development and maintenance of the IRWM plan (Plan).

RWMGs are currently updating their Plans to meet the 2016 IRWM Grant Guidelines for Proposition 1. The changes to the Plan, per the 2016 Guidelines, are primarily in reference to improving the description of how water management strategies will be applied to mitigate and adapt to risks of climate change. Throughout the Plan update process, the RWMGs will engage with internal and external stakeholders to solicit feedback on plan changes and project scores. A DWR-approved plan is required for the IRWM regions to receive Proposition 1 grant funding.

Pajaro Watershed IRWM

The Pajaro River Watershed RWMG is comprised of Valley Water, San Benito County Water District, and Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency. As part of the Pajaro River Watershed Plan update, the RWMG completed a project solicitation for inclusion in the Plan from March 13, 2019, through April 19, 2019. Next steps for the RWMG and approximate completion dates include:

1. Reviewing and scoring projects (May 2019)

2. Updating plan chapters to meet the 2016 guidelines (July 2019)
3. Presenting Plan changes at a public meeting for comments (August 2019)
4. Presenting the draft Plan to each RWMG member's Board of Directors for adoption (September 2019)
5. Submitting the Board-adopted Plan to DWR for acceptance (September 2019)

Bay Area IRWM

The Bay Area RWMG (called the Coordinating Committee) is comprised of representatives from the four (4) subregions of the Bay Area (north, east, south, west) as well as four (4) functional areas (water supply and water quality, wastewater and recycled water, flood protection and stormwater, and watershed management and habitat protection). Next steps for the Bay Area Plan update include:

1. Bay Area Coordinating Committee approval of plan updates (June 2019)
2. Solicit projects to include in a grant proposal for DWR Proposition 1 IRWM Grant funding
3. Presenting the draft Plan to each RWMG member's Board of Directors for adoption (June-October 2019)
4. Submitting the Board-adopted Plan to DWR for acceptance (October 2019)

For further information, please contact Jerry De La Piedra at (408) 630-2257.

Continuous Improvement: Reduction of Respirable Crystalline Silica Dust Exposure

The California Occupational Safety and Health Administration (Cal/OSHA) implemented a standard to further control worker exposures to crystalline silica dust, that became effective and enforceable on October 23, 2017. Valley Water instituted work practices, engineering, and personal protective equipment controls to meet the compliance standard. The standard reduced allowable occupational exposures to crystalline silica dust from a permissible exposure limit (PEL) of 250 ug/m³ (micrograms per cubic meter) to the new PEL of 50 ug/m³. Crystalline silica is present in a variety of construction materials such as concrete, cement, sand, soil, brick, masonry block, stone, mortar, paints, and drywall. During maintenance or construction activities, these materials can be disturbed through abrading, drilling, cutting, or chipping which can result in the release of airborne crystalline silica particulates.

To comply with these requirements, Valley Water created a Respirable Crystalline Silica Exposure Control Program. Additionally, common Valley Water tools used for working with crystalline silica have been reviewed for HEPA/dust capturing vacuum systems, or water spray systems for keeping dust levels down. On-going retrofitting efforts for tools found without these features continues to assist in further reductions of potential silica dust exposure. Furthermore, air monitoring and job safety analyses (JSAs) have been performed, and are on-going, for tasks with the potential for silica exposure. Training on JSAs has been provided to ensure Valley Water staff are either working below the 50 ug/m³ level or are otherwise protected with appropriate respiratory protection.

As part of the Standard, Cal/OSHA has put together a table of specified exposure control methods to be followed when working with materials containing crystalline silica. Valley Water staff follow the applicable methods and guidelines in this table to help ensure silica dust exposures are below acceptable exposure levels while performing these tasks. Moreover, two (2) Valley Water staff have been trained to be Crystalline Silica Competent Persons to oversee the program, conduct safety assessments, provide training to Valley Water staff, and to ensure overall compliance with the standard.

For further information, please contact Tina Yoke at (408) 630-2385.

28th Annual National River Cleanup Day - Saturday, May 18, 2019

In support of the 28th National River Cleanup Day (NRCD), Valley Water, in partnership with the Creek Connections Action Group (CCAG), coordinated another successful cleanup event in Santa Clara County on May 18, 2019.

The Creek Connections Action Group is a consortium of public agencies and non-profit organizations that share a goal of protecting Santa Clara County's waterways. These agencies include Valley Water (Chair), Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation, and the City of San José (Parks Recreation and Neighborhood Services, Environmental Services Department), City of Santa Clara, City of Palo Alto, City of Sunnyvale, City of Milpitas, City of Cupertino, and West Valley Clean Water Program (Campbell, Monte Sereno, Saratoga and the Town of Los Gatos).

From Palo Alto to Gilroy, 50 sites participated in this year's National River Cleanup Day. A total of 1,039 volunteers cleaned 61 miles of creek and shoreline, removing approximately 46,110 pounds of trash, which included 2,536 pounds of recyclables. This year, NRCD broke last year's record of sites cleaned (44 cleanup sites last year).

This year there was a good turnout, despite the rainy weather. Chair LeZotte, Director Santos and Director Keegan participated in cleanup sites in their respective districts. The Valley Water Youth Commission and employees hosted a cleanup site at the Coyote Creek Outdoor Classroom.

Other organizations that participated included Google, PricewaterhouseCoopers, Thompson Creek Neighborhood Association, The Rotary Club of San Jose, Salas O'Brien, Comerica Bank, Guadalupe River Park Conservancy, San José Fairmont, Girl Scout troops, Keep Coyote Creek Beautiful, South Bay Clean Creeks Coalition, Blackford Elementary School, Sunrise Middle School, Star Fellowship, Don Edwards Wildlife Refuge, Silicon Valley FACES, San Jose State University, IBEW Local 332, Saved by Nature, Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation, City of Cupertino, City of Milpitas, City of Morgan Hill, City of Mountain View, City of Palo Alto, West Valley Clean Water Program Authority, City of Santa Clara, City of San Jose, City of San Jose Councilmember Maya Esparza, and the City of Sunnyvale.

Some of the most interesting items that were picked up by volunteers, include the following: 221 cigarette butts, Paw Patrol toys, 50+ shopping carts, toilets, baby bib, stroller, tires, construction debris, 8-pound bowling ball, electronics, testing equipment, amplifier, toy octopus, unopened meat tray with steak, Uber window decal, fish net, mud filled plastic containers, Christmas tree, butler statue, chest, Batman kids bike, driver's license, vacuum cleaner, wire fence, microwave, car bumpers, Armani perfume bottle, umbrella, Byrd/Lime scooters, Black Bear Diner welcome sign, arm chairs, mattresses, car battery, couches, television, sleeping bags, large stuffed giraffe animal, lawn chair, suitcase, Christmas lights, construction cones, and three (3) ATM machines.

As always, we will be leveraging the momentum from the volunteers to further encourage them to sign up for the upcoming Coastal Cleanup Day on September 20, 2019, Adopt-A-Creek Program, and to support other Valley Water volunteer efforts.

For further information, please contact Rick Callender at (408) 630-2017.

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