

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

## Chief Executive Officer Bulletin Week of August 30 – September 5, 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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### **1. Annual Combined Monitoring Report Submitted to State Water Resources Control Board Division of Drinking Water**

In 1988, per Water Supply Permit No. 02-88-005, the State Water Resources Control Board Division of Drinking Water (DDW), formerly known as the State Department of Health Services (Drinking Water Program), permitted Valley Water to use Anderson, Calero, Coyote, and Almaden reservoirs for domestic water supply.

To maintain compliance with respect to the permit's provisions and to ensure the safety of these important water supply resources, Valley Water has been performing comprehensive water quality monitoring of Anderson, Coyote, Calero, and Almaden reservoirs and their tributaries. The water quality information obtained along with a status report of the watershed management activities are provided to DDW annually in August.

This year's annual water quality monitoring report was successfully submitted to DDW on August 29, 2019.

For further information, please contact Bhavani Yerrapotu at (408) 630-2735.

## **2. Safe, Clean Water Grants Application Period Open From August 30-November 1**

Valley Water is now accepting applications for the 2020 grants from August 30 through November 1, 2019. This grant funding is part of the Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program, which was approved by voters in 2012 to allow Valley Water to reinvest into the community for meaningful projects.

This year, Valley Water has up to \$2.1 million available in voter-approved Safe, Clean Water grant funding for projects and activities that meet the minimum qualifications and eligibility criteria for:

- Water Conservation Research Grants – up to \$100,000 total available
- Pollution Prevention Partnerships and Grants – up to \$500,000 total available
- Wildlife Restoration Grants – up to \$1.3 million total available
- Mini-Grants – up to \$200,000 total available (up to \$5,000 per project)

New this year, Valley Water is launching an online grants management system, [valleywater.fluxx.io](http://valleywater.fluxx.io). This online system will allow prospective grantees to track the progress of each application and streamline the grant invoicing, reporting, and other administration functions. Additionally, Valley Water will offer bonus points to organizations that demonstrate financial stability, projects that serve underrepresented communities, and organizations that are first-time applicants.

For more information about the grant award process, eligibility criteria, minimum qualifications, and how to apply, visit [valleywater.org/grants](http://valleywater.org/grants), contact [grants@valleywater.org](mailto:grants@valleywater.org), or attend an informational grants workshop:

- Tuesday, September 10, 2019, 10:30–11:30 a.m.  
Valley Water Headquarters Building, Room A-143  
5700 Almaden Expressway, San Jose, CA 95118
- Wednesday, September 18, 2019, 6:00–7:00 p.m.  
Valley Water Administration Building, Room B-108  
5750 Almaden Expressway, San Jose, CA 95118

Valley Water is promoting the FY20 grants cycle opportunity through a press release, blog post, social media posts, Nextdoor posts, brochures, stakeholder e-mails, and more. The grant applications will be evaluated by a review committee and staff will make recommendations to the Board for final determination on projects awarded funding.

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

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## **3. Valley Water Hosts an Algal Identification Workshop**

Valley Water is one of the Bay Area's leading agencies, not only in monitoring and identification of Cyanobacteria, but also in early detection and response preparedness, in the event that algal toxins find their way into our source supply.

On August 29-30, 2019, Valley Water's laboratory, in partnership with the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), sponsored a two-day cyanobacteria identification and taxonomy workshop at CDPH's Microbial Disease Laboratory in Richmond. The workshop was tailored to provide hands-

on experience in proper identification of algae in environmental samples, especially distinguishing harmful algae blooms (HABs).

The workshop, presented by Phycologist Andrew Chapman of Greenwater Laboratories of Florida, benefited representatives from Valley Water, California Department of Public Health, East Bay Regional Park District, Zone 7 Water Agency, San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, East Bay Municipal Utility District, Alameda County Water District, California Department of Water Resources, Contra Costa Water District, City of Santa Cruz, South San Joaquin Irrigation District, Solano County, and Kern County Public Health Department.

This workshop is expected to enhance sister agencies' algal identification expertise and serve as technical resource for each other, sharing the common goals of keeping the public safe from HABs. Valley Water is diligently working with local agencies, regulators, and treated water retailers to educate them about HAB issues, Valley Water's cyanotoxin monitoring and response plan, and communication strategies in the event of potential detection of cyanotoxin in the treated water.

For further information, please contact Bhavani Yerrapotu at (408) 630-2735.

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#### **4. Water Conservation Program Receives High Marks in Recent Customer Satisfaction Survey**

Each year the water conservation program at Valley Water conducts annual customer surveys to better understand the public's level of satisfaction and to identify areas of improvement. The FY 18/19 survey results demonstrate that the programs continue to meet and exceed the public's expectations, similar to surveys in previous years. Approximately 2,257 surveys were sent to FY 18/19 program participants and the response rate was 23 percent (525). The majority of respondents were satisfied or found excellent value in the programs, as demonstrated by the combined approval rating of 91 percent. Most respondents also found the quality of service, clarity of the application process, timeliness of rebates, and quality of online materials either satisfactory or excellent. Programs also received several positive testimonials including:

*"Really appreciate Santa Clara Valley Water District offering this program. It absolutely made me switch over to a smart irrigation system. The water savings have been HUGE! There was a period of about 2.5 months where I believe the sprinkler system did not turn on at all! I'm now addicted to water savings."*

Feedback that was received varied by program, and changes were made to programs to address customer concerns. These customer satisfaction surveys show that water conservation programs continue to be favorable to the public, while also helping meet Valley Water's long-term conservation goal of saving 110,000 acre-feet per year by 2040.

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

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#### **5. Winfield Warehouse Roof Fall Protection Update**

There are more than a dozen trades in which workers are permitted regular access to flat or low-sloped roofs, including but not limited to roofing, building maintenance, HVAC, electrical, plumbing and telecommunications personnel. Nearly all commercial unit skylights installed on roofs accessed regularly by workers are aluminum framed and most use some form of plastic glazing (acrylic is most common).

Periodically, fatalities attributed to falls through skylights are highlighted in industry publications. The actual number of fatalities associated with skylights and skylight openings is very small when compared to other workplace injuries and fatalities; however, it is important for all workers that access roofs to be aware of all potential hazards, including the potential to fall through a skylight, and how to prevent such incidents.

During a roof fall hazards assessment performed at the Almaden Campus and Winfield Complex, 81 unprotected fiberglass skylights were discovered on the Winfield Warehouse. Fiberglass skylights can degrade over time and pose increased fall hazards for staff performing maintenance activities on the roof. Recommendations were made to guard these skylights and on August 13th Valley Water installed guards on 33 skylights located on the Winfield Warehouse roof. Currently, skylight guards are being fabricated for the remaining 48 unguarded skylights. In the interim, staff that are required to access roofs with unguarded skylights are fully trained in the potential skylight fall risk and roof access is either delayed, or substitute fall protection methods are being deployed, until the remaining skylights can be guarded.

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

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