

## Office of Civic Engagement August 2019 Activities Update



### YOUTH COMMISSION

- On August 9, staff held a fun-filled Youth Commission retreat that included a boat tour out on the Alviso Marina Slough, followed by hands-on educational activities at the Alviso Outdoor Classroom and a workplan development session for FY20. Commissioners worked on various proposals to assist the board with public policy, developing plans to raise awareness of water issues among youth in the county.
- On August 28, five new youth commissioners were sworn in during their first FY20 Youth Commission meeting.



Water Explorers: Youth Commissioners tour the Alviso Marina Slough.

### ADOPT-A-CREEK ACTIVITIES

DATE	PARTNER	# OF VOLUNTEERS	LBS. OF TRASH COLLECTED	MILES CLEANED	CREEK
AUG. 12	Jack Baker	8	500	0.5	Thompson Creek
AUG. 17	Franco-Clausen and IBEW Local 332	27	2,000	1	Guadalupe Creek



Volunteers remove 2,000 lbs of trash from Guadalupe River.

### COASTAL CLEANUP DAY

- Coastal Cleanup Day is scheduled for Saturday, September 21 from 9 a.m. – Noon. There are 45 registered cleanup sites throughout the county. Volunteer registration is now open and can be accessed by visiting [www.cleanacreek.org](http://www.cleanacreek.org). The Board has been informed of all cleanup sites and will sponsor cleanup sites in their respective districts. Staff is working with the Board Support Officer to confirm which sites the directors would like to attend.

### PUBLIC ARTS AND SIGNAGE

- Staff has identified a local artist to work with the Youth Commission on designs for seven benches that have been selected throughout the county, one in each district. The designs will include the name of the nearest creek or river.

### SAFE, CLEAN WATER GRANTS AND PARTNERSHIPS

- The FY20 grant cycle for applications opened on August 30 to receive applications through November 1, 2019. Up to \$1.9 million in funding for A2: Water Conservation grants (up to \$100,000), B3: Pollution Prevention grants (up to \$500,000), and D3: Wildlife Habitat Restoration grants (up to \$1.3 million). There is also \$200,000 available for mini-grants, which are awarded year-round on a rolling basis.
- Launched the new online grants management system, Fluxx, to streamline the grant application, review and administration processes for more efficient customer service and grants management.

### EDUCATION OUTREACH

- Staff engaged with 96 campers at City of San José "Camp San José" at Roosevelt Community Center and Almaden Lake Park on August 5 and 6.
- Presented "Elmo & Grover In the Park" puppet shows at Central Park Library and Campbell Library to over 220 attendees.
- Education Outreach led an educator training on August 22 for 20 instructors at Walden West Outdoor School, focusing on watershed stewardship curriculum that will be incorporated into Walden West's year-round science school program.
- Attended Leigh High School's "Opportunity Fair" on August 27 to showcase volunteer and stewardship opportunities with Valley Water.
- Education Outreach received a 100 percent rating of "highly effective" on all surveys measuring the team's educational activities for the month August.

EDUCATION OUTREACH PROGRAM ATTENDANCE SUMMARY	COUNT
Student Engagement - Summer Camps, High School Volunteer Fair, Youth Commission	382
Public Events and Library Programs	420
TOTAL	802



## RECYCLED AND PURIFIED WATER OUTREACH

- Hosted approximately 137 people during tours of the Silicon Valley Advanced Water Purification Center. Distributed 75 bottles of Orange County Water District advanced purified water.
- Staff is finalizing the creative concept for the upcoming social media marketing campaign to further build public support among mothers with young children. The campaign is expected to launch this fall in social media and online channels.
- Launched and completed the Purple Pipe "selfie" contest on social to promote awareness of recycled water and its infrastructure. The contest was accompanied with a blog post and promoted in the monthly newsletter.
- Hosted special Pride-themed public tours on August 31 to align with Silicon Valley Pride and outreach to leaders and members of the LGBTQ community.
- Completed the annual water reuse public opinion tracking poll and will schedule presentations to review the results this fall.
- Tour attendees were quite impressed with the tour and staff's performance, with some expressing they "very impressed with the level of preparation prior to tour" and "glad [I] came on this tour to learn about local impact of purified water."



Purified water tour participants during the Saturday, August 17 tour.

DATE	PURIFICATION CENTER TOURS	COUNTS	BOTTLE TASTE TESTS
AUG. 15	Mid-Peninsula Widows and Widowers Association	13	2
AUG. 15	Public Tour	30	28
AUG. 17	Public Tour	34	24
AUG. 17	Public Tour	32	24
AUG. 31	Pride-themed Public Tour	19	19
TOTALS		128	97

## YEAR-ROUND VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

- Valley Water Night at the San Jose Giants was held on August 16 in appreciation of our 3,000 plus volunteers including Creek Stewardship volunteers, Water Ambassadors, year-round volunteers and our committee and advisory committee members. Board Chair LeZotte threw the game's first pitch after a brief video from Valley Water CEO Norma Camacho and Chair LeZotte played, and Valley Water employees participated in a mid-inning game of "musical chairs." Staff distributed a total of 681 game night tickets and 478 baseball cap claim check tickets. At least 500 volunteers and employees attended based on number of tickets collected.
- Staff hosted a booth at the Silicon Valley Volunteer Fair in Palo Alto. Approximately 200 people visited the Valley Water booth which

promoted purified water tours, Coastal Cleanup Day, and volunteer and education programs. Water Ambassador Susan Kazemi helped staff the booth as a volunteer.

- Two volunteers, including a water ambassador, served as volunteer tour docent assistants during two public tours at the Silicon Valley Advanced Water Purification Center.



Volunteers show up in force at the SJ Giants Game for Valley Water Night Aug. 16 Board Chair Linda LeZotte winds up for the first pitch.

## COMMUNITY RATING SYSTEM (CRS)

- **5-year Verification Visit (Audit):** The onsite 5-year verification visit/audit was conducted on August 6. As a result of the audit, additional information has been requested for four activities; CRS Program staff will submit the necessary documentation by the due date of September 10, 2019.
- **Program Implementation:** 112 emergency preparedness starter kits were handed out at the Purification Center public tours and at various community booth events coordinated by the Office of Government Relations and by Santa Clara County cities.

## LOOKING AHEAD

- FY20 Grants Workshops for Prospective Grantees – September 10 & 18
- Coastal Cleanup Day Site-Coordinator Meeting – September 12
- Guadalupe River Park Conservancy "Water Festival" – September 17
- Public tours of the Silicon Valley Advanced Water Purification Center, including a volunteer orientation session – September 21 & 26
- Coastal Cleanup Day – September 21
- Education Outreach puppet shows at Saratoga Library (September 19) and Mission Branch Public Library (September 24).
- The Water 101 Academy application period for the program's second year cohort will open at the end of September.
- CRS Program coordinating with Graphics Unit to develop HQ lobby artwork display promoting California Department Water Resources' eighth annual California Flood Preparedness Week (CFPW) which will be held from October 19-26, 2019. The artwork will be displayed at the beginning of the flood season, starting in September/October and ending in March/April.