

CEO BULLETIN



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

Week of October 18 – October 24, 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. California Flood Preparedness Week | October 19-26, 2019

The California Department of Water Resources is commemorating the 8th Annual California Flood Preparedness Week (CFPW), which runs from October 19-26, 2019. What started as a single event in Sacramento County in 2012 is now being recognized statewide. The purpose of CFPW is to empower local agencies and entities to inform residents about flood risk and flood preparedness using best practices for flood risk communication. CFPW also coordinates federal and state agencies to support local communities' efforts. The goals of this statewide effort are to increase public awareness of flooding and to improve public safety for all Californians.

This year's CFPW theme "The Many Faces of Flooding" highlights how flooding is a statewide problem. California experiences many types of floods, such as alluvial fan, debris flow, coastal, and flash floods. Not every part of California experiences every type of flooding, but the results are the same: without proper preparedness, lives, homes, infrastructure and agriculture are lost, and damage to the environment and economy is likely. Thus, preparing for devastating floods is critical.

A resolution declaring the week of October 19-26, 2019 as Flood Awareness Week in Santa Clara County is being presented to the Valley Water's Board of Directors on October 22, 2019. This

resolution is in alignment with the Department of Water Resources' CFPW and expresses support for increased public awareness of flood threats and encourages all Santa Clara County residents and businesses to take action to know their flood threat and prepare appropriately for the flood season.

Please come view the CFPW display in the HQ lobby! The display includes an overarching "Get Flood Ready" theme, complete with banners and a PowerPoint presentation with messaging on what to do "Before, During, and After" a flood to be flood ready. There is also a table displaying flood related collateral and samples of items included in an emergency kit. Employees and members of the public visiting our lobby can download one or both emergency apps (ReadySCC and American Red Cross Flood app) to receive a free emergency preparedness starter kit.

Please come by our display and learn about how to keep you and your families safe and prepared during the flood season!

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

2. Governor Newsom's Actions on Legislation

October 13, 2019 marked the final day for Governor Gavin Newsom to sign or veto legislation passed by the Legislature in 2019. For the year, there were 3,033 bills introduced with 1,042 bills making it to the Governor's desk. Ultimately, he signed 870 bills and vetoed 172. That's a veto rate of 16.5 percent, matching Governor Brown's highest veto rate which occurred in his final year in office.

Most notable for Valley Water are the following legislative actions by Governor Newsom:

- * **SIGNED** - AB 707 (Kalra) Valley Water Minor Public Works Contracting - Sponsored by Valley Water, and effective January 1, 2020, raises our agency's competitive bid threshold from \$25,000 to \$50,000.
- * **VETOED** - SB 1 (Atkins) The California Environmental, Public Health, and Workers Defense Act - Valley Water had taken a position of "oppose unless amended" due to the negative impacts on the Voluntary Agreements and endangered species in the Delta.
- * **VETOED** - SB 268 (Wiener) Enhanced Transparency for Local Tax Measures - Due to challenges in existing law for tiered-rate, progressive taxes, such as Valley Water's Safe, Clean Water parcel tax, the Board had taken a position of "support" and staff had played a leading role in the coalition advocating for the bill. Staff is developing a strategy for how Safe, Clean Water may be renewed under the current law.

In 2019, staff reviewed all 3,033 state bills introduced, tracked 604 with potential impacts to Valley Water, and the Board took positions on 25 bills, supporting 20 and opposing 5. The Office of Government Relations will inform Valley Water staff of new laws taking effect in 2020 and will assist with any implementation as appropriate. You can see the Governor's recent actions on bills with Valley Water positions in the table found in the Monthly Legislative Update provided in the October 22, 2019 Board meeting.

For further information, please contact Bart Broome at (408) 630-4508.

3. Public Auction Status of Surplus Property Located at 110 South Sunset Avenue, San Jose, CA 95116

On October 15, 2019 the Real Estate Unit successfully held the public sale of a surplus property located at 110 South Sunset Avenue, San Jose. There were seven (7) registered bidders. The highest bid was \$573,000, \$108,000 more than the initial asking price of \$465,000. Valley Water is holding a non-refundable deposit of \$46,000 from the successful bidder. The next steps are to go to the Board for approval in November and then close escrow in January 2020.

For further information, please contact Ngoc Nguyen at (408) 630-2632.

4. Thomson Creek Outfall Repair Safety Protocols

In partnership with the City of San Jose, Valley Water performed outfall and soil erosion repairs along Thompson Creek near Yerba Buena Drive in San Jose. Due to aging infrastructure, the existing outfall pipe corroded in various locations resulting in water leaks that led to soil erosion around the pipe. The leaks created a large void/cavern underneath the pipe, sacrificing the integrity of the outfall and causing the creek bank to shift closer to residential properties.

Since the outfall is under the City of San Jose's jurisdiction, Valley Water partnered with the City of San Jose under a Stream Maintenance Program agreement to perform the necessary repairs. Under the agreement, the City of San Jose funded the repairs and Valley Water performed the repairs. In summary, the corroded outfall pipe was removed and replaced with a new 36"x60' pipe. The large void was filled using engineered-fill material and the outfall was reinforced using boulders.

In order to perform this work safely, Valley Water provided contacts for confined space rescue, provided guidance on what forms/permits were needed to be completed, updated staff safety training on the use of personal protective equipment, confined space entry, and control of hazardous energy procedures to prevent accidental water engulfment during repair operations. Additionally, due to jack hammering and chipping the concrete outfall, Valley Water staff were outfitted with the appropriate personal protective equipment, including respiratory protection, and air monitoring for airborne respirable crystalline silica was also conducted.

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

5. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers: Downtown Guadalupe River Public Law 84-99 Bank Repairs

Following the winter storms of 2017, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) contacted Valley Water to determine if Valley Water would be seeking rehabilitation assistance for damages to flood control projects within the Public Law 84-99 Rehabilitation Program (PL 84-99). The Downtown Guadalupe River, Lower Coyote Creek, and Uvas Creek Flood Protection Projects, constructed by USACE and maintained by Valley Water, are all eligible for PL 84-99 assistance.

Valley Water requested rehabilitation assistance for several sites on Downtown Guadalupe River and Lower Coyote Creek. After site visits and evaluations, USACE confirmed that two of the sites on Downtown Guadalupe River would be addressed. Both sites, one along the secondary channel downstream of Hedding Street and the other between the Union Pacific Railroad bridge and Julian Street, experienced significant erosion during the storm events.

Due to delays in regulatory permitting, obtaining temporary access, and construction contracting, USACE was unable to conduct the work in 2017 or 2018. During this period, Valley Water provided review and feedback on USACE's design, and participated in discussions with USACE and regulatory agencies regarding permitting.

USACE awarded a \$600,000 construction contract in summer 2019, and the contractor conducted repair work between September and October 2019. Valley Water attended construction meetings and site visits, provided recommendations to USACE during construction, and accompanied USACE on final walk-through inspections.

For further information, please contact Sue Tippetts at (408) 630-2253.

6. Valley Water Recognized as a Healthiest Employer

On Wednesday, September 25, 2019, Valley Water was recognized as the “Healthiest Employer in the San Francisco Bay Area” by Healthiest Employers, LLC and Sequoia Consulting Group for Valley Water’s commitment to employee health and wellbeing. The competitive award placed Valley Water first among companies with 500 to 1,999 employees for the second year in a row. Selection and placement were based on a variety of criteria, including culture and leadership commitment, foundational components, strategic planning, communication and marketing, programming and interventions, and reporting and analysis.

This award is in recognition of all the tremendous work done by Valley Water employees to improve their health through exercise, nutrition, meditation and all-around healthy living. The June 2019 ValleyWaterWELL(ness) Fair saw an increase in employee participation and the Valley Water sponsored wellness portal Virgin Pulse is widely used. All this healthy living has led to an actual reduction of over \$600,000 (4%) in our annual health insurance premiums in 2019.

For further information, please contact Norma Camacho at (408) 630-2084.