

# CEO BULLETIN



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

**Week of November 1 – November 7, 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. 2019 Top 10 Finalist in Partnership in Industry and Education Contest**

California Forward (CA Fwd) is a non-profit organization founded in 2008 that advocates for shared prosperity across all the state's regions and for improved government performance and accountability. The organization hosts the California Economic Summit, a year-round bipartisan effort fueled by business, equity, environmental, and civic leaders from across the state's diverse regions. This robust network concentrates on ensuring that all Californians have access to the building blocks of the California dream, including economic opportunity, stable housing, quality jobs and a healthy environment.

The California Economic Summit created the Partnerships for Industry and Education Contest (PIE) to identify and honor innovative partnerships achieving success for students and communities. This year Valley Water was recognized and awarded as a top 10 finalist in the 2019 PIE Contest for its partnership with Gavilan College's Water Resource Management internship program. Valley Water will be profiled in the 2019 PIE publication that will be distributed at the CA Economic Summit.

For further information, please contact Anna Noriega at (408) 630-3089.

## **2. Correction to Remark at Board Meeting on October 22, 2019**

At the conclusion of the Valley Water Board meeting on October 22, 2019, Tina Yoke, Chief Operating Officer, Information Technology & Administrative Services, provided a response to Director Kremen about the Santa Teresa Water Treatment Plant (WTP) and generator use related to ozone treatment. Ms. Yoke stated that information on how generator usage disrupts standard ozone treatment was provided to the Board as part of a recent security and operational presentation. In fact, the information had been provided to one Director of the Board via email as part of a discussion thread resulting from the first PG&E Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) on October 9, 2019.

On October 9, 2019, the Santa Teresa WTP transitioned to generator power in advance of the power shut off. All plant treatment processes remained the same. The ozone treatment system used at the Santa Teresa WTP is not used when generators are in use. Alternatively, there is an upfront chlorination used as a primary disinfectant when generators are in operation. There were no issues during generator usage regarding water quality in terms of safety, taste, or odor.

Director Kremen received the Emergency Operations activation notice and subsequent communications related to the Santa Teresa WTP. He asked why the ozone treatment system can't be used when generators are operating. Valley Water responded that the generators are not sized to accommodate the higher electrical demand from ozone generation. There is a Capital Improvement Program (CIP) project funded in the current fiscal year to look at electrical upgrades at the Santa Teresa WTP, including the upsizing of the generators. Director Kremen had a follow-up inquiry on what is meant in the CIP to "upsize the generators" and to investigate the cost. Valley Water indicated the funded CIP project is \$12.2 million. As with any other CIP project, it will go through the planning study process where the exact scope of the electrical reliability upgrades will be determined. The current scoping assumption is that the generators will be upgraded and upsized.

Please contact Nina Hawk, Chief Operating Officer, Water Utility, for questions related to the CIP project and the oxidation process.

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

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## **3. Coyote Creek Flood Protection Project Public Meetings**

Valley Water hosted the first of three public meetings for the Coyote Creek Flood Protection Project. The three communities are represented by directors Estremera, Keegan, and Santos.

The first meeting was held on Wednesday, November 6, 2019 at the Golden Wheel Mobile Home Park with Director Santos providing welcoming remarks. Valley Water provided an update on the project and shared details on the proposed alternatives for the Montague Expressway to Mabury Road section of Coyote Creek. Attendees were provided the opportunity to ask questions and give feedback on the alternatives. Valley Water also provided an update on the Anderson Dam Seismic Retrofit Project.

Following a project presentation, attendees were organized into groups with guided discussions to solicit and record input on the project alternatives. Spanish and Vietnamese interpreters were at the meeting. All three public meetings are scheduled to be available via Facebook Live.

The next two meetings are scheduled for:

- November 7, 2019: Franklin McKinley School District, 645 Wool Creek Drive  
Focus area: Highway 280 to Tully Road.
- November 13, 2019: Roosevelt Community Center, 901 E Santa Clara Street  
Focus area: Mabury Road to Highway 280.

The above meetings will follow a similar format to the November 6, 2019 public meeting.

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

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#### **4. Public Safety Power Shutoff Event**

PG&E notified Valley Water on October 24, 2019 of a Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) event scheduled for October 26, 2019, which included Santa Clara County and affected Valley Water facilities. Planning began for this event immediately, which also coincided with after-action meetings and implementation improvements from the previous PSPS on October 9, 2019. The Valley Water Emergency Operations Center (EOC) was activated at 6:00pm on Saturday, October 26, 2019 to support the power outage event. Numerous calls and coordination efforts between Valley Water, the Santa Clara County Operational Area, and PG&E took place prior to EOC activation and throughout EOC operations.

Santa Teresa Water Treatment Plant lost utility power during the event, along with the Almaden Valley Pipeline, Almaden Dam, Stevens Creek Dam, Stevens Creek Turnout, Lexington Reservoir, Chesbro Reservoir, Calero Pipeline, Cross Valley Pipeline and the pipelines around the Coyote Pump Plant. Water supply was not interrupted during this event. Security resources were deployed as appropriate to support the power outage event. The EOC was deactivated at 10:00pm on Monday, October 28, 2019. Valley Water EOC operations took place in the Alternate EOC due to upgrades/construction being performed in the Primary EOC. Many Valley Water personnel worked this event in the field as well as the EOC to support operations and maintain communications. This PSPS event also resulted in multiple jurisdictional EOCs (County and Cities) to be activated, as well as local and state emergency proclamations implemented.

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

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#### **5. Santa Clara City Place Development**

City Place is a planned multi-phased, mixed-use development of up to 9.16 million square feet of office buildings, retail and entertainment facilities, residential units, hotel rooms, surface and structured parking facilities, new open space and roads in the City of Santa Clara. Valley Water has been monitoring this project as the development overlies the All Purpose Landfill, the only landfill in the Bay Area with a known groundwater plume of volatile organic compounds. Since the development will require thousands of deep piles to be pushed through the waste materials, potential impacts on groundwater quality are a concern. To ensure the potential groundwater concerns are addressed, Valley Water has been invited to participate in various meetings with representatives of the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board, the Santa Clara County Department of Environmental Health, and Cal Recycle who are the regulatory agencies for the project. Valley Water will continue to engage in this project as it moves forward.

For further information, please contact Garth Hall at (408) 630-2750.

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**6. Valley Water Pairs with Joint Venture and Robert Half to Help Underserved Youth.**

Established in 1993, Joint Venture Silicon Valley provides analysis and action on issues affecting our region's economy and quality of life. The organization brings together established and emerging leaders—from business, government, academia, labor and the broader community—to spotlight issues and work toward innovative solutions. Valley Water has partnered with Joint Venture's Silicon Valley Talent Partnership (SVTP) to work on expanding the existing internship program.

SVTP matches highly skilled teams from Silicon Valley companies to high-impact, pro bono projects that tackle some of our most pressing community challenges. SVTP has secured a pro bono team of 2 – 4 individuals from Robert Half International who have experience in program development, analysis, strategic thinking, marketing, human resources, internship programs and/or working with young adults, to assist in this endeavor. Robert Half is a widely recognized agency that assists organizations with their temporary and regular staffing needs.

The corporate team will identify the successful elements in the existing internship program and explore what other public sector employers have done to run successful internship programs. They will also develop an expansion plan for Valley Water's internship program, specifically focused on attracting youth and young adults from underserved communities. A report summarizing the team's findings will be presented to Valley Water.

Valley Water interns will learn about the value of providing clean drinking water to the community, working for public service organizations, gain valuable professional work skills, while earning a salary. The project is expected to run approximately eight (8) weeks.

For further information, please contact Anna Noriega at (408) 630-3089.

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