

CEO BULLETIN



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

Week of December 20, 2019 – December 26, 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. Almaden Lake Improvement Project - Release of Draft Environmental Impact Report

Valley Water has released a draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) on the Almaden Lake Improvement Project for a 45-day public review from December 13, 2019 through January 27, 2020. The draft EIR can be viewed using this link to Valley Water's web page:

<https://www.valleywater.org/project-updates/almaden-lake-improvement-project>

A public meeting will be held on January 8, 2020 in the Valley Water Headquarters Board Room to discuss the draft EIR and solicit public comments. A final EIR is planned to go to the Valley Water Board to adopt a resolution certifying the final EIR by summer 2020.

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

2. Bureau of Reclamation Releases Final Environmental Impact Statement for Long-Term Operations of the Central Valley Project and State Water Project

On December 19, 2019, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation released their final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for long-term operations of the Central Valley Project and State Water Project under the new biological opinions that were issued by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service in October of 2019.

The final EIS is posted at the following website:

https://www.usbr.gov/mp/nepa/nepa_project_details.php?Project_ID=39181

Under the National Environmental Policy Act, Reclamation cannot issue a Record of Decision and begin operating to the new biological opinions for at least 30-days from release of the final EIS, or no earlier than January 21, 2020. As a Cooperating Agency, Valley Water reviewed and provided comments jointly with the State Water Contractors on the draft EIS that was released for a 45-day public review period in July 2019. The State Water Contractors comments were aimed at improving the technical analysis presented in the draft EIS and clarifying the description of alternatives. Valley Water will work with the State Water Contractors to assess whether the comments were addressed sufficiently.

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

3. Valley Water to Explore Battery Storage Systems to Increase Resiliency

In response to the recent Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) Power Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) events, Valley Water is evaluating a recent California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) decision to expand an existing Self-Generation Incentive Program (SGIP) by establishing an Equity Resiliency Budget designed to provide rebates for battery storage systems installed for critical customers located in high fire-threat districts.

Valley Water estimates that 10-20 remote sites, including critical reservoir sites, could qualify for the SGIP Equity Resiliency Budget to fully, or nearly fully subsidize the installation of a battery storage system and help the sites stay operational during a PSPS event. Valley Water is working with Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) to confirm site eligibility, system requirements, and the anticipated development schedule for the application process.

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

4. Hsueh

**Response to Director Hsueh question regarding expanding the Water 101 Ambassador Program to increase from three to five ambassadors per District.
I-19-0023**

In response to Director Hsueh's question, Valley Water staff did consider possibly expanding the program to include four ambassadors per district, however, during the recruitment process, there were challenges in soliciting an adequate number of applicants for some districts. With three ambassadors per district, we can ensure that each district is represented equally by highly qualified ambassadors. Having a smaller cohort ensures that sessions remain engaging, informative and "close-knit", creating a holistic and inclusive learning environment. Valley Water recommends maintaining the level of three candidates for this year.

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