

Office of Civic Engagement November 2019 Activities Update



YOUTH COMMISSION

The Youth Commission meeting was held on Nov. 20 and was focused on the activities of each working group:

- **Mentorship/Job Shadowing** is working on cohosting Job Shadow Day 2020 in February. The group also invited Lizzie Mercado, Associate Civil Engineer, to speak about her career journey at Valley Water.
- **Creek Stewardship** provided a report back on Coastal Cleanup Day and their efforts to get schools in their districts to participate in the Adopt-A-Creek program.
- **Youth Citizens Science Network** shared their continuous efforts to get more youth engaged in water quality testing and hope to collaborate with a local nonprofit to take students out to do testing.
- **Adopt-A-Bench** invited Paul J. Gonzalez to come speak about his art background and to share his vision for the collaboration with the Youth Commission on the art bench project.



Youth Commissioner participate in around the globe in 80 questions activity.

CREEK STEWARDSHIP

- **Cancelled:** Coyote Creek December Clean-up event on Dec. 7. Staff continued preparations, partner coordination and volunteer registration for the event, which was later cancelled due to weather conditions. The event will be rescheduled in Spring 2020.
- Staff is preparing for the 2019 Volunteer Recognition Event on Dec. 11. Staff is coordinating logistics and working with the Board to select this year's recipients. The event will be held in the HQ boardroom from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m., with heavy appetizers served at 5:30 p.m.

ADOPT-A-CREEK ACTIVITIES

DATE	PARTNER	# OF VOLUNTEERS	LBS. OF TRASH COLLECTED	MILES CLEANED	CREEK
Nov. 23	Shay Franco-Clausen	16	622	1.5	Guadalupe Creek
Nov. 24	Scout Troop 286 - Jerry Lane	8	500	0.5	Guadalupe Creek



Volunteers remove 622 lbs of trash from Guadalupe River.

PUBLIC ARTS AND SIGNAGE

- The pilot Adopt-A-Bench public arts project was kicked off at the Youth Commission meeting on Nov. 20. Local artist Paul J. Gonzalez will continue to work with the Youth Commission to design seven benches throughout the county, one in each district.
- Staff is working with the Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition to develop the full signage inventory scavenger hunt campaign for Spring 2020. The full campaign will be refined using the feedback from the participants from the pilot run in October.

SAFE, CLEAN WATER GRANTS AND PARTNERSHIPS

- The FY20 Safe, Clean Water grants cycle closed on Nov. 1. 12 applications were received for the available \$1.9 million in funding for Water Conservation grants (up to \$100,000), Pollution Prevention grants (up to \$500,000), and Wildlife Habitat Restoration grants (up to \$1.3 million). Staff has kicked off the application evaluation process which includes review and meetings with internal and external subject matter experts. Staff will bring the grant funding recommendations to the Board in early 2020 for approval.

EDUCATION OUTREACH

- During November Education Outreach visited 9 schools and presented to 965 students in 36 classes.
- Staff presented to Youth Commissioner, Arnav Gattani's, Valley Christian High School AP Environmental Science class on Nov. 1. The 64 students learned where Santa Clara County water comes from through the interactive lesson, "Discover California Water".
- CommUniverCity (CUC); Education Outreach staff attended the CommUniverCity Celebrating Partnerships event on Nov. 13. The "Watershed In a Box" community-engaged learning project was on display including activities that Education Outreach helped to create while working with San Jose State Students through the CUC program. These activities are being presented to elementary school students at schools close to Coyote Creek.
- On Nov. 14, Education Outreach staff engaged over 90 attendees with a puppet show at Gilroy Library. The audience learned about stewardship and conservation and how to be Flood Ready.
- Five middle school students from FIRST Lego League Team UFP presented their "trash collecting robot" concept to staff from Education Outreach, Creek Stewardship and Watershed Field Operations on Nov. 20. They plan to use staff feedback to improve their presentation in advance of their robotics competition.

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EDUCATION OUTREACH PROGRAM ATTENDANCE SUMMARY	COUNT
Student and Teacher Engagement	1000
Public Events and Library Programs	110
TOTAL	1110

FY 20 Goal: Reach at least 13,000 students and 2,000 members of the public.



On Nov. 4, docents from local environmental non-profit, Living Classroom took a closer look at an autostrainer during a tour of the Silicon Valley Advanced Water Purification Center.

RECYCLED AND PURIFIED WATER OUTREACH

- During November Recycled and Purified Water Outreach hosted 12 public/private tours of the Silicon Valley Advanced Water Purification Center for 264 people and distributed 212 OCWD bottles.
- In a joint effort with Education Outreach, On Nov. 4, the purification center hosted a tour for 17 docents from local environmental non-profit, Living Classroom. After the tour, the EO Team engaged the attendees in education activities about groundwater and habitat protection.
- On Nov. 9, 62 members of the SVCV Model A Car Club visited the SVAWPC for a private tour. The club brought more than 20 Model A Ford cars of various types.
- On Nov. 16, staff hosted two Veterans Awareness-Silicon Valley Advanced Water Purification Center public tours to highlight veteran contributions to Valley Water and water reuse technology. Leading up to the tours, staff interviewed veterans who work at the purification center to speak about their role and contributions to Valley Water and created highlight videos to promote on social media.
- Staff interviewed the Mayor of Los Altos and posted the video testimony on social media on Nov. 6.
- Staff posted a video on social media promoting free tours of the purification center on Nov. 20.
- Staff wrote a blog about the Countywide Water Reuse Master Plan that posted to Valley Water News on Nov. 19 and was also picked up by Maven's Notebook and posted to their site.



Director Santos speaking to attendees at the Veterans Awareness Day Tour on Nov. 16.

DATE	PURIFICATION CENTER TOURS	ATTENDEES	BOTTLE TASTE TESTS	FY 20 CUMULATIVE (532 ATTENDEES JULY-NOVEMBER)
Nov. 4	Living Classroom Tour	17	14	549
Nov. 6	CA Water Action Collaborative	36	36	585
Nov. 7	US Bureau of Reclamation VIP Tour	3	6	588
Nov. 8	Hitachi Tour	10	10	598
Nov. 8	US Water Alliance	20	15	618
Nov. 9	SVCV Model A Club	62	61	680
Nov. 9	USF Environmental Science and Engineering Club	8	12	688
Nov. 13	Stratford Middle School Tour	18	3	706
Nov. 13	Menlo School Tour	15	1	721
Nov. 16	Public Veterans Awareness Tour 1	62	49	783
Nov. 16	Public Veterans Awareness Tour 2	8	0	791
Nov. 19	SJ Enviro Services South Bay Water Recycling	5	5	796
TOTALS		264	212	796 Attendees FY 19/20

FY 20 Goal: Conduct public/private tours of the SVAWPC for at least 1,000 attendees

YEAR-ROUND VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

- Water 101Academy: 66 applications for the second water academy were received. Staff completed the initial review of the applications and provided them for the Board's evaluation and selection. Selected water ambassadors will be notified in January. The first academy session will take place on February 26, 2020.
- One volunteer supported the Veterans Awareness-SVAWPC tours.

COMMUNITY RATING SYSTEM

- Staff is preparing for the CRS Users Group (Group) meetings for 2020. Meetings will be held during the months of February and May 2020 to coordinate ongoing activities to support the Group's efforts to maintain program compliance.
- Staff is working with the Education Outreach Program on an emergency backpack giveaway to teachers. All classrooms receiving flood preparedness messaging during the months of October through April will be entered into a drawing for a chance to win an emergency backpack. A total of 7 backpacks will be awarded; one teacher per Valley Water board member district. The emergency backpacks have been purchased and embroidered with Valley Water logo.

LOOKING AHEAD

- Videos featuring board members celebrating the 5-Year SVAWPC Anniversary will be promoted in December.
- FY20 Grant Applications to be reviewed in December.
- Coyote Creek December Clean-up Event **Dec. 7 - CANCELLED.**
- SVAWPC Tour Program Training **Dec. 9**
- Volunteer Recognition Event **Dec. 11.**
- Zoom meeting with students from Tru School in Palo Alto to interview Steve Twitchell about his job at Rinconada WTP as part of their ongoing career investigation project **Dec. 16.**
- Calaveras Hills High School Tour **Dec. 19.**
- Board selections for the second cohort of water ambassadors will be completed by **Dec. 16.**