

CEO BULLETIN



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

Week of March 6 – March 12, 2020

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. Valley Water Actions on COVID-19

On March 12, 2020 Valley Water hosted a Virtual Town Hall for all employees using video conferencing technology to discuss the current situation regarding COVID-19 (also known as Coronavirus). In collaboration with Valley Water's executive management, emergency operations, environmental health and safety, facilities, information technology and external affairs staff, the meeting included updates on the current risk to employees, facility cleaning protocols, inventory of emergency supplies as well as guidance from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Santa Clara County (SCC) Public Health Department. Questions and comments were collected in advance as well as live during the Virtual Town Hall and Valley Water spent a portion of the meeting answering some of the most common employee questions and concerns.

Additionally, the Valley Water Chief Executive Officer (CEO) had direct contact with an individual who tested positive for COVID-19. Upon learning of the possible exposure, the CEO received guidance from a medical provider and was determined after testing to be negative for COVID-19.

On March 13, 2020 the SCC Public Health Department issued a new mandatory directive banning public or private gatherings of more than 100 people to prevent further spread of COVID-19. The order also bans gathering of 35-100 people unless specific conditions are met. Also, all SCC schools will be closed effective Monday, March 16, 2020 until April 3, 2020 which will impact many Valley Water employees. As a result of these actions, all Valley Water employees who are able to do so, have been directed to telework as of March 13, 2020 until further guidance is received from

the SCC Public Health Department.

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

2. Almaden Valley Pipeline Emergency Work Complete

The emergency work to repair Valley Water's Almaden Valley Pipeline is complete. The pipeline was returned to service on February 28, 2020, meeting the deadline and preventing significant additional impacts to Valley Water's system. The emergency action that was declared by the Acting CEO on December 23, 2019, was terminated by the CEO on March 3, 2020. The emergency repair generally consisted of placing an internal carbon fiber lining in the 120-foot long failing section of pipe. Multiple divisions in Valley Water worked together on this effort to make it a success. Valley Water will continue to monitor the Almaden Valley Pipeline to ensure safe and reliable operation.

For further information, please contact Aaron Baker at (408) 630-2135.

3. Valley Water Migrates Email & Calendar To the Cloud

Valley Water's Information Technology (IT) Division has completed its migration of all employees and shared email accounts to Microsoft's latest cloud-based platform, Exchange Online.

As the number of Valley Water employees continues to grow and as the need for electronic communications increases, our IT Division must find smart ways keep up with demand while ensuring more continuous service.

Through this project, staff now take advantage of:

1. Email, calendar, and contacts are now available at any time, from anywhere, on any device
2. Downtime due to maintenance is now eliminated
3. Larger mailboxes and support for larger email size
4. Decreased costs to the District as IT will need to buy and maintain less equipment, software, and other email-associated services; and
5. Increased flexibility and scalability

Due to Exchange Online being accessible from any Internet connection, Valley Water is now even more prepared to maintain communications during emergency operations.

For further information, please contact Mike Cook at (408) 630-2347.

4. Update on Valley Water-Sponsored Bill, AB 3005 (R. Rivas) Expedited Dam Safety for Silicon Valley Act

On February 21, 2020, California State Assembly Member Robert Rivas (D-Hollister) introduced AB 3005 Expedited Dam Safety for Silicon Valley Act, the Valley Water-sponsored bill to expedite the Anderson Dam Seismic Retrofit Project. The bill would facilitate the speedy and expert construction of the Anderson Project in three ways:

1. Authorizes "best value" selection of the construction contractor and requires a skilled and trained workforce for the project.
2. Provides expedited judicial review of challenges to environmental documents issued in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).
3. Requires expedited processing of state permits by the Department of Fish and Wildlife and the State Water Resources Control Board, with costs covered by Valley Water, not the state.

In advance of the bill's first committee hearing expected in the coming weeks, Valley Water's Office of Government Relations (OGR) is securing local, regional, and statewide support. Those efforts have generated support for the bill from the following groups and organizations to date:

- Campbell Chamber of Commerce
- City of Morgan Hill
- City of Sunnyvale
- Engineers Society Chapter, International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers, Local 21, AFL-CIO
- Gilroy Chamber of Commerce
- Professional Managers Association Chapter, International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers, Local 21, AFL-CIO
- San Jose/Silicon Valley Chapter of the NAACP
- Silicon Valley Central Chamber of Commerce
- Silicon Valley MEPS (Mechanical, Electrical, Plumbing and Sprinkler Fitters)
- Sunnyvale Silicon Valley Chamber of Commerce

Additionally, last week Valley Water provided a briefing on Anderson Dam and the bill to Santa Clara County Supervisor Mike Wasserman and a tour of Anderson Dam to staff from the office of U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein.

Valley Water will continue to advocate for AB 3005 and generate support for the bill from a broad cross-section of decision makers and advocacy stakeholders, and will keep the Board apprised as the bill makes its way through the legislative process.

For further information, please contact Rachael Gibson at (408) 630-2884.

5. San Jose Water Company Treated Water Release into Regnart Creek

On Tuesday, March 3, 2020, Valley Water Pollution Prevention staff responded to a report of a large discharge of water into Regnart Creek in Cupertino. Upon arrival, Valley Water observed a large amount of silt deposited into the creek channel and determined that it was caused by a release of treated water from a water main break on Pacifica Drive in Cupertino. The water main was verified as being owned by San Jose Water Company. Valley Water worked with the City of Cupertino, California Fish and Wildlife, and San Jose Water Company to ensure the proper cleanup of the area. Cleanup included hydro jetting the storm drain lines and outfalls and vacuuming out the deposited silt in the creek channel.

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

6. Santos & Varela

Schedule Board Discussion of South County Recycled Water Governance R-20-0003

The Valley Water Clerk of the Board has scheduled a board meeting on April 21, 2020, to hold a discussion on the topic of South County Recycled Water Governance.

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

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