

CEO BULLETIN



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

Weeks of May 22 – June 4, 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. Anderson Dam Seismic Retrofit Project Virtual Public Meeting

On May 28, 2020, more than 100 community members joined Valley Water virtually via Zoom to receive the latest information on the progress of the Anderson Dam Seismic Retrofit Project. Participants also had an opportunity to comment and ask questions of Valley Water project staff.

Valley Water Director Varela opened the virtual meeting with brief remarks and introduced other Valley Water Board Members present including Chair Hsueh, Vice Chair Estremera, Director LeZotte and Director Keegan. The meeting was emceed by Chief Operating Officer Melanie Richardson and included an update and request for support of Assembly Bill 3005 by Spencer Jones, Chief of Staff for CA State Assembly member Robert Rivas. The bill was introduced by Assembly member Rivas to help expedite the Anderson Dam project.

Deputy Operating Officer for the Capital Delivery Division Chris Hakes provided an overview of the project elements, which included the seismic retrofit of the dam embankment, construction of a new higher capacity outlet tunnel system, the replacement of a major section of the concrete spillway. He also presented information about the complex permitting process and Valley Water's response to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) directive. Following his presentation, Mr. Hakes and other Valley Water staff answered questions from meeting participants.

The Anderson Dam Seismic Retrofit Project virtual public meeting was streamed concurrently on Facebook live and a recording of it is available on Valley Water's YouTube channel. The video link

and meeting materials are also on the project webpage. As of June 1, 2020, the recorded meeting has received more than 3,000 impressions and 325 full video views.

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

2. Central Valley Project Improvement Act Annual Best Management Practices Update

The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) requires all Central Valley Water (CVP) contractors to adopt a water conservation plan based on a specific set of reporting criteria developed by Reclamation per the Reclamation Reform Act of 1982 (RRA) and the Central Valley Project Improvement Act of 1992 (CVPIA). Failure to adopt a water conservation plan that meets Reclamation's criteria could jeopardize continued delivery of CVP water. A CVPIA Water Management Plan (Management Plan) must be submitted to Reclamation every five years and updates on implementation of Municipal and Industrial (M&I) and Agricultural Best Management Practices (BMPs) submitted annually.

The most recent Management Plan was submitted in 2017 and the next one will be due in 2022.

Valley Water's 2019 annual update on M&I and Agricultural BMP implementation was recently provided to Reclamation. The update shows that Valley Water continues to implement applicable BMPs to promote water conservation with a strong public outreach program, school education programs, tracking and managing water loss, metering all turnouts, and encouraging the use of recycled water.

For further information, please contact Jerry De La Piedra at (408) 630-2257.

3. Monterey Mushrooms Inc. in Morgan Hill Fined for Unauthorized Discharges of Polluted Stormwater

In recent years, Valley Water's Pollution Prevention Hotline received reports of potential discharges into Fisher Creek, thought to have originated from the Monterey Mushroom facility in Morgan Hill. Valley Water was involved in the initial site investigation and assessment of the impacts to Fisher Creek and reported the alleged violations.

On March 7, 2016, and February 17 – 19, 2017, Monterey Mushroom allegedly violated Water Code section 13376 and Clean Water Act section 301 when polluted stormwater from the Facility discharged into Fisher Creek. The facility released polluted stormwater from one of its compost storage areas into a ditch that flowed into Fisher Creek which flows northwesterly through the Facility's western half and through the Laguna Seca and a series of channels to Coyote Creek.

Recently, the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board has ordered Monterey Mushrooms, Inc. to pay \$911,800 for discharging the polluted stormwater into Fisher Creek, and harming water quality and threatening aquatic life. The company, which is the largest grower of fresh mushrooms in North America, discharged more than 650,000 gallons of polluted water from its Morgan Hill facility into Fisher Creek. Nearly half of the penalty (\$440,364) will fund a Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority project to restore 3.5 acres of habitat along the creek, downstream of the Morgan Hill facility.

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

4. Palo Alto City Council Unanimously Approves Newell Road Bridge Replacement Project

As part of the San Francisquito Creek Upstream project, the City of Palo Alto (CPA), in partnership with the City of East Palo Alto, Valley Water, and the San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority (SFCJPA), evaluated options for the replacement of the Newell Road Bridge over San Francisquito Creek. Constructed in 1911, Newell Road Bridge is a 76-foot long, reinforced concrete girder structure spanning 22 feet in width and measuring 18 feet curb to curb. The California Department of Transportation has inspected the bridge on multiple occasions and determined that it does not comply with their geometric design standards therefore deemed it functionally obsolete and added the bridge to the Federal Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP) in 2011

A draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) was released in late Spring 2019 followed by several public meetings. On May 7, 2020, the Palo Alto Architectural Review Board reviewed CPA's preferred alternative for the replacement of the bridge and recommended it for approval.

On June 1, 2020, the Palo Alto City Council heard CPA's recommendations to certify the project EIR and approve the recommended project alternative. During the public comment portion, numerous residents in the neighborhoods adjacent to the creek voiced their concerns about a higher volume of traffic and speeding cars that would result from the recommended alternative being constructed; additionally, a common concern was for the safety of children walking or biking to and from local schools utilizing Newell Road. Other nearby residents expressed the urgency of constructing this project and not delaying it any further, to avoid flooding like the flood of record which occurred in 1998.

CPA clarified that the construction of the Newell Road bridge is estimated to be completed in December 2022, with the in-channel portion of the work completed in October 2022. As part of the San Francisquito Creek Flood Protection Project upstream of Highway 101, the Pope-Chaucer bridge will also need to be replaced. Since both bridges cannot be replaced in the same construction season to avoid negative traffic impacts to the local community, construction of the Pope-Chaucer bridge is expected to begin in Summer 2023.

After several hours of deliberation and public comment, Palo Alto City Council unanimously approved the EIR and the CPA's recommended project alternative for the Newell Road bridge.

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

5. Update on the B.F. Sisk Dam Raise Project

This is an update regarding recent efforts to study a possible raise of B.F. Sisk Dam to enlarge San Luis Reservoir beyond its existing water storage capacity. An option of raising B.F. Sisk Dam by an additional 10 feet above that required for existing water storage would result in an increased storage volume of 130 thousand acre-feet.

On August 31, 2018, the San Luis and Delta-Mendota Water Authority (SLDMWA) sent a letter to the United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation's (Reclamation) Mid-Pacific Regional Director requesting that Reclamation investigate the feasibility of raising Sisk Dam as part its B.F. Sisk Safety of Dams Modification Project, which is meant to address seismic concerns of the existing dam. Subsequently, at its February 7, 2019, Board meeting, the SLDMWA approved execution of a contributed funds agreement with Reclamation in the amount of \$25,000 to fund additional studies that will produce a revised cost estimate, project schedule, and description of how these projects might be integrated.

SLDMWA and Reclamation are developing a B.F. Sisk Dam Raise and Reservoir Expansion Project (Project) Feasibility Study to evaluate alternatives to improve water supply reliability for the Central Valley Project and State Water Project, and a joint Environmental Impact Report/Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/Supplemental EIS) to provide California Environmental Quality Act and National Environmental Policy Act compliance for these alternatives.

Anticipated Project milestones are completion of the EIR/Supplemental EIS and submittal of a Feasibility Report to Congress by December 31, 2020. A Notice of Preparation for the EIR/Supplemental EIS was published May 14, 2020. Public comments are due June 14, 2020.

Valley Water is actively evaluating and coordinating with SLDMWA on this Project and potential benefits for Valley Water such as additional water supply and reliability. Valley Water will be evaluating and commenting on the Project documents as they are released.

For further information, please contact Jerry De La Piedra at (408) 630-2257.

6. Youth Commission Quarterly Meeting & Virtual Graduation

On May 27, 2020, the Valley Water Youth Commission hosted their Spring quarterly meeting. This was the first Youth Commission meeting since the shelter in place order. The meeting allowed the commissioners to share how they have been coping with the changes and challenges in the past few months. The commissioners also provided updates from the various working groups: Career Shadowing/Mentoring, Creek Stewardship, Youth Citizens Science Network and Adopt-A-Bench. For the Adopt-A-Bench program, the commissioners approved to add the following phrase "Thank you to the 2020 Youth Commissioners" on all seven pilot bench projects.

The quarterly meeting also served as a virtual graduation for the outgoing seniors on the commission. Valley Water developed a program that included speeches from Valley Water Board Chair Hsueh and Director Varela, who both shared words of encouragement and appreciation for the commitment Youth Commission members illustrated and the impact they had on their communities. Youth Commission Chair Shloka Janapaty and Vice Chair Navya Paritalso shared some words as the outgoing chair and vice chair. Valley Water also virtually presented each of the eight graduating seniors with certificates (which will be mailed to them) and each of them also expressed their gratitude for serving on the Youth Commission and emphasized the impact their service had on their leadership development. The Youth Commissioners were treated to a photo slide show capturing all their activities from 2019 to 2020.

Fourteen members of the Youth Commission were in attendance at the meeting.

The application deadline for the vacant seats on the Youth Commission closed on May 31, a total of twelve applications were received. Valley Water is reviewing the applications and will submit to the Valley Water Board members to make appointments in their respective districts in the coming weeks.

For further information, please contact Marta Lugo at (408) 646-7441.
