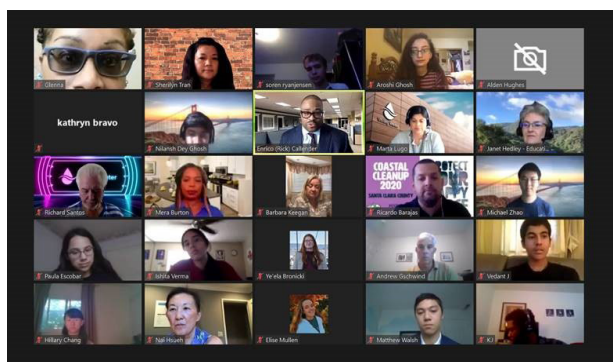


Office of Civic Engagement August 2020 Activities Update



YOUTH COMMISSION

At the August 25 Board Meeting, the Board recognized the nine youth commissioners who graduated and acknowledged their commitment and service on the Youth Commission. The Board also appointed nine new youth to the vacant seats. On August 26, the new youth commissioners were sworn in at the first meeting of the school year. Chair Hsueh, Director Santos and Director Keegan were in attendance and provided welcoming remarks to kick off the new year. CEO Callender and Assistant Officer Marta Lugo, who is the new executive sponsor for the Youth Commission were also present to welcome the new and returning commissioners. The Youth Commissioners elected the new Chair, Michael Zhao and Vice Chair, Ishita Verma for the year and received updates from each working group. Staff is planning the annual retreat for the Youth Commission. Due to the ongoing pandemic, the retreat will be held virtually. The date is still being determined based on the youth's schedules.



Youth Commission Meeting on August 26.

CREEK STEWARDSHIP

Given the recent changes in public health restrictions, staff reopened the Adopt-A-Creek program with additional social distancing safety guidelines for partners and other creek cleanup volunteers. Many were excited to get back out into the creeks and help clean up. In addition, during the period that the program was on hold, staff recruited new partners who were able to acquire their permits and are now ready to join Adopt-A-Creek and help with Coastal Cleanup in September.

Staff has also been preparing to launch the modified Coastal Cleanup event this year. Coastal Cleanup will take place every Saturday in September (5th, 12th, 19th, and 26th) as opposed to in the past years when it was designated on the third Saturday in September. This will allow for volunteers to be spread out throughout the month. Additionally, instead of designated creek sites, volunteers are encouraged to stay in their neighborhoods and participate in cleanups within their own families and social bubbles.

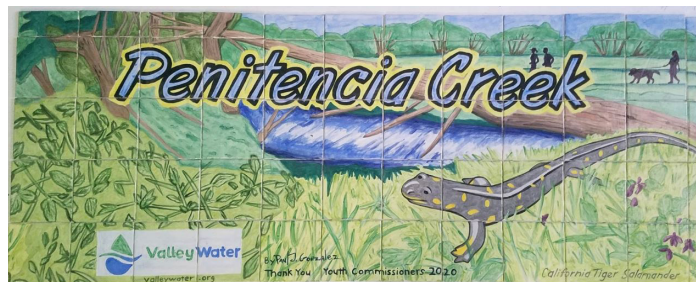
Trash in the streets will eventually become creek and ocean pollution. Cleaning neighborhoods and local natural areas provides a valuable service to the creeks. Pollutants in the creeks and waterways continue to be a significant impact to stream water quality and flooding risks in Santa Clara County, and this year's expanded Coastal Cleanup is an



Coastal Cleanup Day Pickup

opportunity to partner with cities, non-profit groups, and community groups to raise awareness of the problem.

PUBLIC ARTS & SIGNAGE



The finished look of the District 6 Adopt-A-Bench artwork with the Youth Commission's tagline.

Adopt-A-Bench Project with Youth Commission: This month, Paul J. Gonzalez, art advisor for the Adopt-A-Bench project, has been finishing painting the tiles for benches in Districts 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7, which the Youth Commissioners also helped paint last month. He has also started firing the tiles for the artwork. Staff continues to work with the cities of Gilroy (District 1) and Santa Clara (District 2) on their respective review processes to get the artwork for those benches approved to move forward. Next, staff will work with a vendor to begin installation of the bench artwork, which may be dependent on weather conditions going into the fall season.



These Valley Water signs, submitted by participants of the Great Sign Hunt, are in "bad" condition and in need of replacement.

Signage Inventory with Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition (SVBC):

The Great Sign Hunt 2020 launched July 16 and continues into August with over 300 registrants and over 5,000 signs submitted. As of August 19, approximately, 3,100 are unique signs (not duplicated). SVBC and Valley Water staff continue to promote the scavenger hunt by highlighting different watershed areas through blog posts and the event website, announcing monthly prize winners and boosting social media posts. SVBC reports that sign submissions were low the last week of August due to the bad air quality from the Bay Area wildfires. The scavenger hunt runs through October 15.

SAFE, CLEAN WATER GRANTS AND PARTNERSHIPS

Staff continues to administer the Safe, Clean Water Grants and Partnerships program, including providing support for approximately 50 grants and partnerships. In August, staff processed approximately \$477,747 in grant invoices. Staff is planning for the release of the new grant cycle this fall for two program areas: 1) Support Volunteer



Forster's terns on recently constructed island.

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and Cleanup Efforts; 2) Access to Trails and Open Space.

Grant Helps Restore Wildlife Habitat:

In FY19, Valley Water awarded the San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory (SFBBO) \$164,000 to help establish nesting sites for Forster's terns, at-risk seabirds that were once abundant in Alviso Pond A16. The project re-established nesting colonies on recently constructed islands using innovative technologies, such as bird decoys and electronic call systems to attract Forster's terns. The project was completed on April 30, 2020.



SFBBO's Establishing Forster's Tern Nesting Sites Project established bird decoys and call systems to attract nesting seabirds.

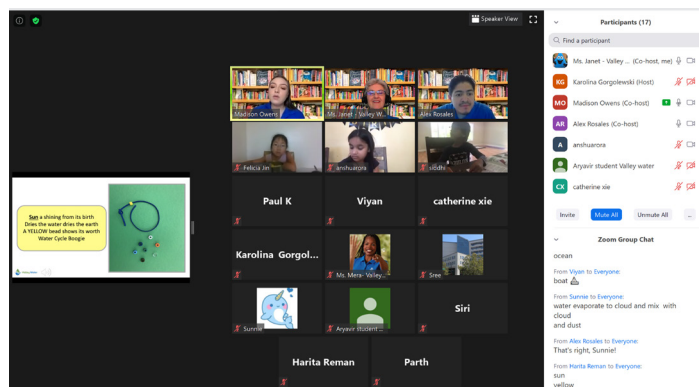
EDUCATION OUTREACH

In the month of August, Education Outreach (EO) virtually reached 101 students and teachers from seven classrooms and summer camps throughout Santa Clara County. EO also presented to 22 members of the public through four Wonders of Water Wednesdays engagements, and two City of San Jose Public Library presentations.

- Hosted an Educator Training for 12 staff and docents from Los Altos-based, environmental education non-profit, Living Classroom. Staff presented "Watershed Maps" and "Hidden Water" and discussed the process of transitioning from face-to-face presenting in the classroom to creating and leading interactive virtual presentations.
- Presented Water Cycle Boogie (WCB) to the San Jose Public Library Science Camp. The WCB presentation is part of an ongoing series and partnership with the San Jose Public Library. A total of 17 engaged students attended, ranging in age from preschool to 2nd grade. The participants were given a chance to learn about the water cycle and participate in a virtual interactive way.
- Presented "Diseñando Cuencas", the Spanish version of our Watershed Maps activity, to members of the public during an ongoing series and partnership with the San Jose Public Library. Staff will continue to enhance and translate programs, such as "Diseñando Cuencas," in order to provide our community members with diverse, enriching, and equitable learning experiences.

MONTH	STUDENTS AND EDUCATORS	PUBLIC ATTENDEES	YEAR TO DATE
JULY	454	47	501
AUGUST	101	22	123
TOTAL	555	69	624

FY21 Goal: Reach at least 13,000 students and 2,000 members of the public

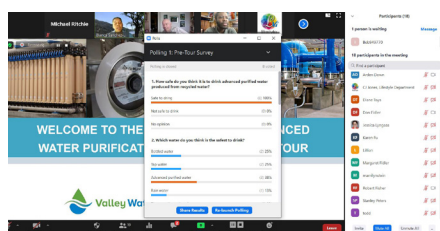


Students at the City of San Jose Public Library Science Camp participating in the Water Cycle Boogie activity.

WATER SUPPLY OUTREACH

In August, the Water Supply Outreach team hosted one Water Infrastructure Virtual Tour and two virtual tours of the Silicon Valley

Advanced Water Purification Center (SVAWPC). Staff is working to launch a revamped Water Infrastructure Virtual Tour series starting September that includes four one-hour segments. The new series will allow for more important capital project highlights, and include an overview of the Safe Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program.



Private SVAWPC group tour for members of the Vi Living Retirement Community.

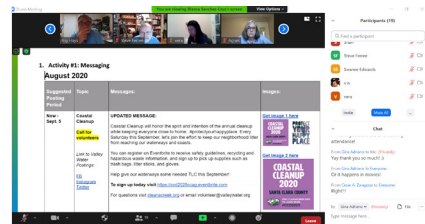
The team is also conducting additional outreach to faith-based groups, community organizations, educators and student groups to promote private SVAWPC virtual tours.

DATE	PURIFICATION CENTER TOURS	COUNTS	FY 21 TOTAL ATTENDEES
August 13	Water Infrastructure Virtual Bus Tour (Public)	8	194
August 18	SVAWPC Public Tour	6	200
August 25	SVAWPC Private Tour — Vi Living Retirement Community	15	215
TOTALS		29	609

FY 21 Goal: Conduct public/private tours of the SVAWPC for at least 750 attendees

YEAR-ROUND VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

On Monday, Aug. 31, staff hosted a Water Ambassadors working group meeting via Zoom to bring together cohort 1 and 2 water ambassadors. A total of 15 Water ambassadors were in attendance. Ambassadors discussed potential volunteer projects and received an informational presentation on the Safe, Clean Water Program renewal effort. Staff is preparing materials to launch the third cohort Water 101 Academy application period this fall.



Water Ambassadors from cohort 1 and 2 meet for the first working group meeting via Zoom.

COMMUNITY RATING SYSTEM

Staff continue to work on the 2020 Santa Clara County Multi-Jurisdictional Program for Public Information (PPI). Staff requested that all Community Rating System communities (cities) complete the required self-assessment using the Self-Assessment Tool by the end of August. Final assessments will be incorporated into the PPI. Staff continue to plan for California Flood Preparedness Week in October. This year's Flood Preparedness Week theme is "Federal, State, and Local Community Partnership in Flood Risk Reduction" and includes the slogan, "Be Aware, Be Prepared, Take Action".

LOOKING AHEAD

- New Water Infrastructure Virtual Bus Tour series launch on **September 15**
- Coastal Cleanup Days **September 5, 12, 19, 26**
- Wonders of Water Wednesday
 - Watershed Maps **September 9**
 - Hidden Water **September 16**
 - Plastic Voyage **September 23**
 - The Little Blue Hen- **September 30**
- San Jose Public Library Virtual Science For Kids **September 24**