

Office of Civic Engagement Activities

Summary of December 2020



Youth Commission

All four Youth Commission working groups continue to meet regularly and are preparing for upcoming activities:

- The Job Shadowing & Mentorship group is busy planning for the first-ever virtual Job Shadow Day in February 2021.
- The Creek Stewardship group is working on outreach efforts to get more partners for the Adopt-A-Creek program.
- The Youth Citizens Science Network is coming up with a list of resources to get more students connected to environmental stewardship opportunities.
- The Adopt-A-Bench group is gearing up to document the art installation and unveiling of the program's first seven pilot benches.

The Youth Commission also formed an Outreach subgroup consisting of representatives from all the four working groups. The Outreach subgroup will be responsible for coming up with content to promote upcoming Youth Commission events and programs.

The group met for the first time on December 29. This month, the Youth Commissioners attended the virtual tour of the Silicon Valley Advanced Water Purification Center. Directors Santos and Varela were also in attendance at the tour on December 9.



First Youth Commission Outreach Subgroup Meeting

Creek Stewardship

In December, the Adopt-A-Creek partners engaged 16 volunteers collecting 91 pounds of trash along four miles of creeks.

DATE	PARTNER	CREEK	# VOLUNTEERS	# MILES	LBS TRASH
DEC 5	David Lane	Los Gatos Creek	1	1	1
DEC 5	Martin Kim	Barron Creek	10	1	10
DEC 10	David Lane	Los Gatos Creek	1	1	10
DEC 29	Greg Koopman	Canoas Creek	4	1	70
TOTAL			16	4	91

Public Arts and Signage

Adopt-A-Bench Project with Youth Commission: In December, Facilities staff completed the power washing, repairs and painting of the seven benches selected for the Adopt-A-Bench pilot project. Depending on weather conditions, the seven approved artwork designs are slated to be installed on these revitalized benches in early January. The Youth Commission has also begun working with staff on the outreach materials to promote the bench project upon its completion, including short videos, social media and blog posts, a website with interactive map, and the initial planning of a virtual ribbon cutting event.



Before and after: Facilities repaired the bench leg, power washed and re-painted this interpretive bench located in Gilroy's Christmas Hill Park (District 1).

Safe, Clean Water Grants and Partnerships



Save the Bay volunteers helped plant over 8,000 native plants as part of Valley Water grant.

2021 Grant Cycle Closed December 1: In December, the Safe, Clean Water Grants and Partnership Program received six grant applications for B7: Volunteer Cleanup Efforts & Education and D3: Access to Trails & Open Space. Staff coordinated grant evaluation panels made up of subject matter experts across Valley Water business areas to review and score the proposals. Staff look forward to bringing the grant funding recommendations to the Board in February 2021.

Pilot A2 Water Conservation Mini-Grant Application Period Closed December 31: The pilot A2 Water Conservation Mini-Grant launched on July 29 with \$100,000 available in grant funding. The A2 mini-grants provide funds of up to \$5,000 per project for initiatives that help save water in Santa Clara County. At the closing of the application period on December 31, the Grants program received 12 applications. Staff will continue reviewing and awarding applications in the following weeks.

Safe, Clean Water Grant Closeout in December 2020: Save the Bay's Palo Alto Baylands Tidal Lagoon Transition Zone Habitat Restoration Project. In 2016, Valley Water awarded Save the Bay a D3 Habitat Restoration Grant in the amount of \$95,868 for their Baylands Tidal Lagoon Transition Zone Habitat Restoration Project. Closed out in December, the project helped restore and enhance 1.25 acres of tidal marsh transition zone habitat adjacent to the Palo Alto Baylands Nature Preserve. Grant funding improved crucial habitat that provides connectivity and refugia for waterfowl, shorebirds, and other species such as the federally endangered

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Ridgway's Rail and salt marsh harvest mouse. The project engaged approximately 1,000 volunteers to plant over 8,000 native wetland plants and provided community education on the importance of wetland habitat for fish and birds.

Education Outreach

In the month of December, Education Outreach (EO) reached 451 students and 18 teachers and provided one presentation to the City of San Jose Public Library, all through virtual engagements. EO also presented to 76 members of the public during 3 Wonders of Water Wednesdays engagements.

- Staff piloted the latest virtual program, "Discover California Water". Students learned about the complexities of California's water system and then participated in a quiz to answer a series of "Yes/No" questions based on the information that was shared.
- Staff presented "Water Cycle Boogie" in collaboration with the San Jose Public Library. The participating students expressed an interest in upcoming programs and wanted to know when the next "class" would take place. The Education Outreach Program will continue collaborating with SJPL in the new year to provide students throughout Santa Clara County with fun and engaging learning experiences.
- Staff presented "H2O On The Go" to 4th and 5th-grade students from Ohlone Elementary. Through a fun and interactive game, students learned about the different ways that people direct water for human consumption and use. Students also discussed the importance of protecting water from pollution as it moves between the natural and human-influenced water cycle.



Students learn how water travels around the planet as they sing the Water Cycle Boogie and make their own water cycle artwork.



Youth Commissioners attend virtual tour of the Silicon Valley Advanced Water Purification Center.

Year-Round Volunteer Program

Applications for the Water 101 Academy Spring 2021 cohort closed on December 4. A total of 124 applications were received. Staff reviewed and evaluated all the applications and provided the scores and rankings to the Board. The Board is asked to select three participants from their respective districts to participate in the 2021 cohort, which will begin on March 3rd.

On December 16, staff hosted the quarterly Water Ambassador working group meeting. Nine ambassadors attended and received a presentation from the Water Conservation team on Valley Water conservation efforts and programs.



Nine Water Ambassadors attended the Dec. 16 quarterly working meeting.

MONTH	STUDENTS AND EDUCATORS	PUBLIC ATTENDEES	YEAR TO DATE
JUL to NOV	2,160	388	2,548
DEC	469	76	545
TOTAL	2,629	464	3,093

Water Supply Outreach

In December, the Water Supply Outreach team hosted one full series of the Water Infrastructure Virtual Tour with all four stops. The team also hosted a private group tour of the Silicon Valley Advanced Water Purification Center for the Youth Commission. Ten youth commissioners as well as Directors Varela and Santos were in attendance. Staff is working on partnering with youth commissioners to arrange for private group tours with their corresponding science classes and clubs.

DATE	WATER INFRASTRUCTURE AND PURIFICATION CENTER TOURS	FY 21 TOTAL ATTENDEES
JUL - NOV		1,679
DEC 8	Water Infrastructure Tour Stop #1 - Water Supply	39
DEC 9	Private SVAWPC Tour - Valley Water Youth Commission	10
DEC 10	Water Infrastructure Tour Stop #2 - Water Treatment Quality	35
DEC 12	Water Infrastructure Tour Stop #3 - Flood Protection and Healthy Environments	24
DEC 14	Water Infrastructure Tour Stop #4 - Purified Water and Water Reuse	20
TOTAL		1,807

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

Community Rating System

On December 11, staff hosted a meeting with the CRS Users Group (participating communities in Santa Clara County) and their stakeholders to discuss the 2021 5-Year Multi-Jurisdictional Program for Public Information (PPI). The draft 5-year PPI document is currently under review with the CRS Users Group, which is also considered as the PPI Committee. Once the PPI Committee has completed their review, the document goes through internal Valley Water staff review. Staff anticipates bringing the document to the Board for adoption in March 2021.

Looking Ahead

Safe, Clean Water Independent Monitoring Committee Subcommittee meetings - January 4 - 7

Virtual Volunteer Recognition Event January 6

Wonders of Water Wednesday Afterschool Science Enrichment Series

- January 20 - Watershed Maps
- January 27 - Hidden water

New Water Infrastructure Virtual Bus Tour series:

(All tours from 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.)

- January 5, Stop #1 - Water Supply
- January 7, Stop #2 - Water Treatment & Water Quality
- January 12, Stop #3 - Flood Protection & Healthy Environment
- January 14, Stop #4 - Purified Water & Water Reuse