

Office of Civic Engagement Activities

Summary of January 2021



Youth Commission

The Youth Commissioners have been busy planning for the upcoming virtual Job Shadow Day on February 18. The Job Shadowing and Mentorship working group has been meeting every other week to formulate ideas for the agenda and content for the event. Some of the commissioners also join staff for weekly internal planning meetings to provide the youth perspective on the logistics and other details to ensure the virtual event is engaging for high school students. The Outreach and Communications working group has also been meeting every other week to work on outreach efforts to recruit as many high school students as possible to Job Shadow Day. Although previous Youth Commissions in years past have sponsored the event, this is the first year that the Youth Commissioners have actively played an integral role in the event's planning and logistics.

Creek Stewardship

Adopt-A-Creek Cleanup

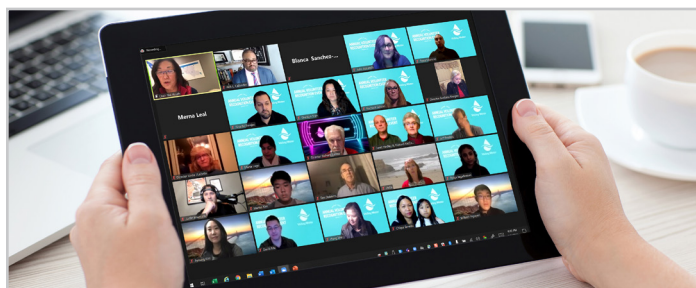
DATE	PARTNER	CREEK	# VOLUNTEERS	# MILES	LBS TRASH
1/10	Pekon Gupta	Guadalupe River	1	0.5	100
1/22	Martin Kim	Barron Creek	5	0.5	10
1/23	Pekon Gupta	Guadalupe River	2	0.5	225
1/24	Pekon Gupta	Guadalupe River	2	0.5	90
TOTAL			10	2	425

Volunteer Program

On Wednesday, January 6, Valley Water held its annual volunteer recognition event. Seven volunteers, one from each board district, were recognized for their outstanding commitment to creek cleanups through the Creek Stewardship Program or their passion and leadership for stewardship and community engagement through their role as a water ambassador. This year, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the event took place via Zoom. Over 60 volunteers attended the event. Former Board Chair Hsueh provided welcoming remarks, and Directors Kremen, Keegan, Santos, LeZotte, and Varela all presented an award to their respective recipients.

Recipients for this year's Volunteer Recognition Event included:

- Jeffrey Prickett from Stay Golden California - District 1
- Justin Imamura from Trash Punx - District 2
- Shari Carlet - District 3
- Roy Hays - District 4
- David Ma and Boy Scout Troop 400/2400 - District 5
- Rebecca Gallardo - District 6
- Martin Kim and BAF/131111 from Gunn High School - District 7



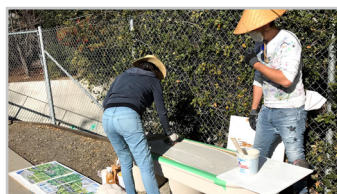
70 volunteers registered for the Virtual Volunteer Recognition Event.

Water 101 Academy

Staff has been busy planning the upcoming 3rd cohort of the Water 101 Academy, which is set to launch in March 2021. Staff has been working with the Board to finalize each board member's three selections to the Water 101 Academy. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the 2021 Water 101 Academy will be held virtually on Zoom.

Public Arts & Signage

Adopt-A-Bench Project with Youth Commission: In January, Paul J. Gonzalez, art advisor of the bench project, and his installer completed the installation of the artwork of all seven pilot benches. The Adopt-A-Bench public art project sought to revitalize seven existing interpretive benches located around Santa Clara County (one in each Board District) with updated artwork. The benches now feature unique artwork that includes a creek and plant and animal species native to that area. The Youth Commission and staff continue to develop outreach materials to promote the completion of the bench project, including a promo video, social media and blog posts, a website with an interactive map, and a virtual ribbon-cutting event this spring.



Paul J. Gonzalez and his installer prep the bench before installing the artwork tiles.



"Wet Paint" caution tape protects the newly installed artwork of the District 4 Alamos Creek bench.

Safe, Clean Water Grants and Partnerships

In January, Valley Water awarded two A2 Water Conservation & two D3 Restore Wildlife Habitat mini-grants:

- Bay Area Older Adults, Water Conservation Workshop Series for the Older Adult Community (A2)
- Bay Area Older Adults, Watershed Appreciation Program (D3)
- Bay Area Older Adults, Watershed Walk & Talk Program (D3)
- Evergreen Islamic Center, Drinking Water Stations (A2)



Safe, Clean Water FY16 D3 Grant Closeout: Children's Discovery Museum's Bill's Backyard: Bridge to Nature

Safe, Clean Water FY16 D3 Grant Closeout: Children's Discovery Museum's Bill's Backyard: Bridge to Nature: Valley Water awarded the San Jose Children's Discovery Museum a \$142,771 D3 grant award for their Bill's Backyard: Bridge to Nature Project. This outdoor learning environment for children contains drought-tolerant

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native plants, trees, shrubs, and grasses. Its design reduces runoff through bioswales, permeable hardscape, and drainage strategies. Bill's Backyard helps visitors learn about the importance of the natural world, water conservation, and the Guadalupe River ecosystem. Key outcomes include: half-acre of museum land enhanced and restored; half acres of grass converted to drought-tolerant plants; and more than 100 native plants, trees, shrubs, grasses and groundcovers planted.

Safe, Clean Water FY18 D3 Mini-Grant Closeout: Veggielution's Eastside Explorers Watershed Curriculum Project: Valley Water awarded a \$5,000 D3 mini-grant to Veggielution for the Eastside Explorers Watershed Curriculum Project. The project implemented a watershed-specific curriculum as part of the field trip program for 380 local middle school students, 282 from East San Jose. The Eastside Explorers Watershed Curriculum encouraged students to consider the importance of a healthy and biologically diverse watershed to its natural environment. The curriculum incorporated the interconnection between urban and natural landscapes and the challenges of sustaining watershed viability. Activities were centered around collaborative group tasks focused on urban agriculture, nutrition, human impacts, environmental justice, food justice, and ecological interconnections.



Middle school students participated in the Eastside Explorers Watershed Curriculum and learned about the importance of a healthy and biologically diverse watershed

Education Outreach

In January, the Education Outreach team reached 1,006 students from 31 virtual classrooms and supported 34 educators through distance learning presentations. The team engaged 67 members of the public through two Wonders of Water Wednesdays after-school enrichment programs.

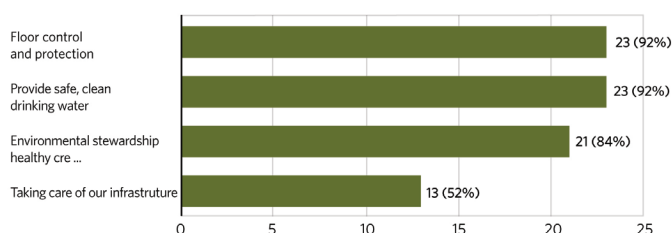
On January 19, staff presented to the Santa Clara County Office of Education (SCCOE) Teachers on Special Assignment (TOSA)/Instructional Coaches meeting about Valley Water programs and Distance Learning opportunities. The participants were interested in hearing about resources they could share with the teachers that they support and programs that can be brought into the classrooms.

MONTH	STUDENTS AND EDUCATORS	PUBLIC ATTENDEES	YEAR TO DATE
JUL - DEC	2,629	464	3,093
JAN	1,040	67	1107
TOTAL	3,669	531	4,200

FY21 Goal: Reach at least 10,000 students and 1,500 members of the public

What do you think we do at Valley Water? (check all that apply)

25 responses



Before the Watershed Maps presentation, survey data showed only 56% of students knew that Valley Water provides flood protection. After the presentation, this increased to 92% of students knowing that Valley Water is also a flood protection agency.

Water Supply Outreach

The Water Supply Outreach team hosted a four-stop Water Infrastructure Virtual Tour in the evening during January. In addition, the team hosted two private tours of stop #2 -- Water Treatment & Water Quality for high school students at Gunderson High School. Gunderson students also received Valley Water career information, as they collectively expressed interest in the future of water and jobs related to helping improve the environment.

The team hosted several private Silicon Valley Advanced Water Purification Center (SVAWPC) tour groups including: Contra Costa Water District, Homestead High School Environmental Studies, Calaveras Hills High School (Nextflex Learning Program), and the Girl Scouts of Saratoga

DATE	WATER INFRASTRUCTURE AND PURIFICATION CENTER TOURS	FY 21 TOTAL ATTENDEES
JUL - DEC		1,807
JAN 5	Water Infrastructure Tour Stop #1 - Water Supply	24
JAN 7	Water Infrastructure Tour Stop #2 - Water Treatment Quality	13
JAN 12	Water Infrastructure Tour Stop #3 - Flood Protection and Healthy Environments	17
JAN 14	Water Infrastructure Tour Stop #4 - Purified Water and Water Reuse	21
JAN 20	Private SVAWPC Tour - Contra Costa Water District	6
JAN 21	Private SVAWPC Tour - Homestead High School Environmental Studies	33
JAN 26	Private SVAWPC Tour - Calaveras Hills High School (Nextflex Learning)	12
JAN 28	Water Treatment, Quality & Career - Gunderson High School (AM Class)	32
JAN 28	Water Treatment, Quality & Career - Gunderson High School (PM Class)	21
JAN 29	Private SVAWPC Tour - Girl Scouts of Saratoga	22
TOTAL		2,008

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

Community Rating System

Staff have submitted a draft version 2021 Multi-Jurisdictional Program for Public Information (PPI) (5-Year Plan) for a courtesy review with our Insurance Services Office (ISO) Technical Reviewer and are currently updating the document with the feedback provided. Staff will be sharing the document for a final review with the PPI Committee and our internal Valley Water staff in early February. Staff anticipates bringing the 5-Year Plan to the Board for adoption in March/April 2021.

Looking Ahead

Virtual Job Shadow Day - February 18

Youth Commission Quarter 3 Meeting - February 24

Wonders of Water Wednesday Afterschool Science Enrichment Series

- February 3 - Plastic Voyages
- February 10 - H2O on the Go!
- February 17 - The Little Blue Hen: A Conservation Story
- February 24 - The Three Little Pigs and the Bad Weather **Wolf!**
- February 22 - Robert Sanders Elementary School STEAM Night

New Water Infrastructure Virtual Bus Tour series:

(All tours from 11:30 - 12:30 a.m.)

- February 16, Stop #1 - Water Supply
- February 18, Stop #2 - Water Treatment & Water Quality
- February 23, Stop #3 - Flood Protection & Healthy Environment
- February 25, Stop #4 - Purified Water & Water Reuse

Private tours of the SVAWPC:

- Tours will be conducted for: Mission College, Cub Scouts, American Society of Chemical Engineers, Metropolitan Education District