

FY21 Grant Application Summaries

Below please find additional information on the six grant applications received that are the subject of Item 2.9 on the February 23, 2021 Valley Water Board of Directors agenda. Note that the project summary is taken from the grant application.

B7: Support Volunteer Cleanup Efforts and Education

Applicant: Bay Area Older Adults
Project Name: Watershed Waste Reduction Program
Funding Request: \$40,985
Recommendation: 100% Funding (Average Score: 91.96)

Project Summary:

The Watershed Waste Reduction (WWR) Program aims to reduce pharmaceutical waste in Santa Clara County's waterways and groundwater. The applicant will educate and outreach to (1) a multi-cultural group of 6,600 low-income, homebound and disabled adults age 60+ and (2) tens of thousands of disadvantaged Santa Clara County residents of all ages. The applicant will teach them about proper medicine disposal, including mail-back collection services, and how this benefits their health by preventing medication errors that are among the leading causes of death, hospitalization and disability in older adults and improving the quality of water and aquatic and riparian ecosystems around them.

Applicant: IISME, dba Ignited
Project Name: Santa Clara Water Weeks
Funding Request: \$47,593.23
Recommendation: 100% Funding (Average Score: 93.26)

Project Summary:

The project will consist of two separate externship weeks occurring over consecutive summers. In the summer of 2021, the applicant will hold one virtual Water Week with Valley Water for 33 Santa Clara County teachers, expanding the number of teachers we successfully hosted at Valley Water virtually in 2020 and in person in 2018. The applicant will leverage matching funds from Jewish Vocational Service (JVS), which covers the second half of the project—a Water Week for 10 additional Santa Clara teachers with three other agencies in Santa Clara County: Gilroy Public Works, San José Environmental Services, and Sunnyvale Environmental Services. Both weeks will also include representatives from Gavilan Community College's Water Resources Management degree program, as an example of a potential next step for the teachers to promote to their high school students as a potential career pathway. In partnership with BAYWORK, a consortium of Bay Area water and wastewater utilities, the Water Weeks program helps bolster the workforce needed to serve customers and protect the environment.

Applicant: Grassroots Ecology
Project Name: Coyote/Stevens Creek Watershed Community Engagement Project
Funding Request: \$49,980
Recommendation: 100% Funding (Average Score: 85.38)

Project Summary:

The project will bring the applicant together with Keep Coyote Creek Beautiful to provide an array of opportunities for watershed education and stewardship along the Coyote Creek and Stevens Creek watersheds. The project will help an estimated 750-850 participants—including students, teachers, families, and community members—connect to their watershed, build their appreciation and understanding of creek ecosystems, and take action to reduce and prevent pollution. The project includes:

- 4 trash cleanup events (2 per creek) that engage volunteers to clean up their local creek.
- 4 Watershed Days (2 per creek) that teach the community about their watershed and how to keep it healthy through educational stations, interactive displays, and experiential activities.
- School outreach to share the applicant's Creek Scientists virtual lesson and lab investigation with high schools in the Coyote Creek watershed, and support teachers to implement the curriculum in their classrooms. This Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS)-aligned lesson is a virtual version of the applicant's acclaimed Creek Scientists program that has been adapted for distance learning.

Applicant: Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition
Project Name: Wheels and Waterways
Funding Request: \$50,000
Recommendation: 100% Funding (Average Score: 89.62)

Project Summary:

The project includes a community bike ride series titled, 'Wheels and Waterways' to educate and engage participants around their roles in maintaining a healthy environment, vibrant waterways, and strong communities while reducing waste. The applicant plans to build on the success of previous community bike rides with the 'Wheels and Waterways' series. 'Wheels and Waterways' will be a quarterly ride series that will include educational stops, clean ups, and expert speakers. Themes will include environmental justice, watershed stewardship, community gardens, water quality, and climate awareness. Riders of all abilities are welcome, and the applicant will strive to recruit new and beginner riders in an effort to build confidence and broaden commitment to using sustainable transportation. The goal of the ride series is to: bring more people to open space and trails through sustainable transportation, inspire more biking for everyday use, educate participants on the importance of conservation and habitat diversity, and to work collaboratively with local organizations to increase the reach of this project.

Applicant: Gilroy After Hours Rotary Club
Project Name: Gilroy Waterways Clean Up
Funding Request: \$18,750
Recommendation: Not Eligible Applicant Organization. Subsequently, the applicant applied for and was awarded a \$5,000 mini-grant for the Gilroy Watershed Clean Up project.

Project Summary:

The project is to provide quarterly creek and levee clean ups throughout the city. The applicant plans to target areas including the main levee that runs from Gilroy Gardens at the northwest to the Gilroy Sports Park at the southeast; alleys in the center portion of the city that drain directly into the storm sewers; and other waterways that are impacted by homeless encampments.

D3: Access to Trails & Open Space

Applicant: Community Express
Project Name: La Sendera Community Art Trail
Funding Request: \$37,000
Recommendation: 69% Funding (\$25,530) (Average Score: 71.4)

Project Summary:

The project proposes to connect a neglected and fragmented neighborhood trail using community reflected art. Murals and other art installations will be placed on community owned sound walls and private fences that line the trail. In partnership with the adjacent restaurant, school, and neighborhood, the applicant will host outdoor events that invite people to use the trail, and appreciate its open space and admire the art. These events will be opportunities for the applicant to engage the community and inform them of Valley Water's role. This two-mile stretch of trail leads from the Hillview-Reid Airport to the Lower Silver Creek pedestrian bridge and passes through neglected and underrepresented neighborhoods.