

Office of Civic Engagement Monthly Update

Summary of March 2021



Creek Stewardship

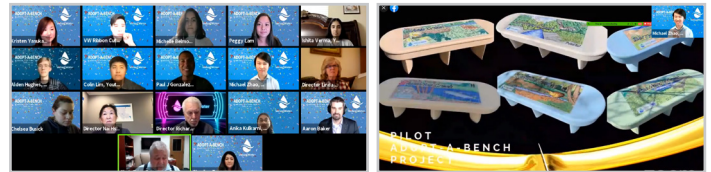
Staff is preparing for National River Cleanup. This year, cleaning our creeks for National River Cleanup will start at our front doors. The trash in the streets will eventually become creek and ocean pollution. Therefore, cleaning neighborhoods and local natural areas provide a valuable service to creeks and waterways. The cleanups will take place every Saturday in May (1, 8, 15, 22 and 29) from 9:00 a.m. to noon. Volunteers can register on Eventbrite to receive safety guidelines, recycling and hazardous waste information and sign up to pick up supplies such as trash bags, litter sticks and gloves at various locations throughout the county. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, volunteers are asked to engage in safe, socially-distanced cleanups and wear appropriate gear for the event.

DATE	PARTNER	CREEK	# VOLUNTEERS	# MILES	LBS TRASH
MAR 3	South Bay Clean Creeks Coalition, Steve Holmes	Los Gatos Creek	17	N/A	4800
MAR 21	Kristin Apple	Guadalupe	1	.5	60
MAR 27	Andrew Michael	Calabazas Creek	30	.5	300
MAR 27	DIY Neighbors, Pekon Gupta	Guadalupe	3	.5	500
MAR 29	Brett Bymaster	Guadalupe	80	1	1200
TOTAL			131	2.5	6,860

Public Arts and Signage

Adopt-A-Bench Project with Youth Commission: On March 18, the Youth Commission hosted a virtual ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate the culmination of their two-year long Pilot Adopt-A-Bench Art Project (Project). The virtual event was live-streamed on Facebook and reached more than 18,200 people and received over 7,500 views as of March 31, 2021. Event speakers included Valley Water Board Chair Estremera, artist Paul J. Gonzalez and the Youth Commission's Adopt A-Bench working group members. Directors Hsueh, Santos and LeZotte also attended the event. The event showcased the entire process of the Adopt-A-Bench Project and highlighted all seven benches, which now includes artwork that conveys Valley Water's stewardship messages and raises awareness of the nearby creeks.

Staff will continue outreach efforts to invite the community to visit the benches to learn more about our creeks and enjoy the visual artistry on the benches. Staff is also currently developing a program plan for the Adopt-A-Bench Program, which will be funded under the renewed Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program. To learn more about the Project and for a map of the benches, please visit www.valleywater.org/Adopt-A-Bench.



The Youth Commission unveil the pilot Adopt-A-Bench artwork project at their March 18 virtual ribbon-cutting live stream event.

Safe, Clean Water Grants and Partnerships

Mini-Grants: In February and March, Valley Water awarded one A2 Water Conservation mini-grant and seven D3 Restore Wildlife Habitat mini-grants:

- Bay Area Ridge Trail Council - Ridge Trail Berryessa BioBlitz (D3)
- City of Santa Clara - Adopt-a-Spot Tool Lending Program (D3)
- City of Santa Clara - Green Infrastructure and Water-wise Native Plant Demonstration Garden Design (D3)
- City of Santa Clara - San Tomas Aquino Creek Trail Pet Waste Station and Public Litter Container Expansion Project (D3)
- Friends of Master Gardener - Drink What You Grow! Teaching and Demonstration Garden Foundation Project (A2)
- Gilroy After Hours Rotary Club - Gilroy Watershed Clean Up (D3)
- San Jose State University Research Foundation - KCCB BioBlitz and Connection to Nature (D3) Station and Public Litter Container Expansion Project (D3)
- Science is Elementary - SiE Books Creek Cleanup (D3)

Education Outreach

In March, the Education Outreach team reached 1,692 students from 64 virtual classrooms and supported 67 educators through distance learning presentations. The team engaged 261 members of the public through four Wonders of Water Wednesdays after-school enrichment programs.

- Education Outreach supported staff from the Anderson Dam Retrofit Project (ADRP), on a presentation to 150 7th grade students from Buchser Middle School. The students are studying the ADRP for a project-based learning module and presentation, along with Education Outreach's Watershed Maps lesson, helps to support their research. The students asked in-depth questions about how dams are designed and the stages of the ADRP.

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Be the Solution to Water Pollution and consider volunteering.

MONTH	STUDENTS AND EDUCATORS	PUBLIC ATTENDEES	YEAR TO DATE
JUL to FEB	4,941	698	5,649
MARCH	1,759	257	2,016
TOTAL	6,710	955	7,665

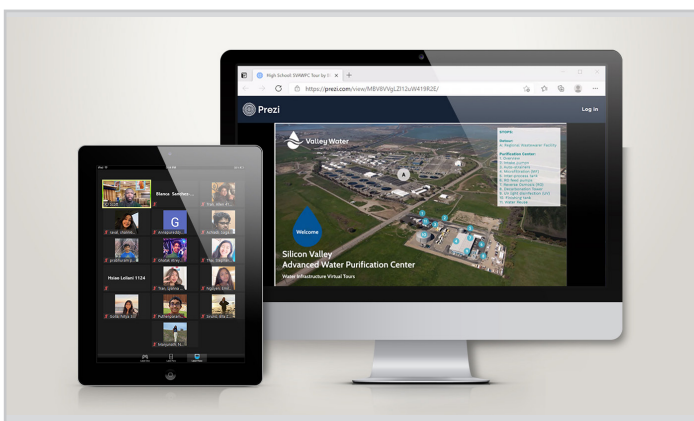
FY21 Goal: Reach at least 10,000 students and 1,500 members of the public

Water Supply Outreach

The Water Supply Outreach team hosted 18 tours (both public and private) of the purification center and various Valley Water facilities during the month of February. We had a total of 737 attendees.

DATE	WATER INFRASTRUCTURE AND PURIFICATION CENTER TOURS	FY 21 TOTAL ATTENDEES
JUL - FEB		2,594
MAR 3	SJSU Intro to Environmental Services classes	55
MAR 4	MAES SJSU Science Extravaganza	82
MAR 4	Water Infrastructure Tour Series Stop #1	80
MAR 9	Milpitas Golden Knights	14
MAR 10	Palo Alto Public Library	57
MAR 11	Water Infrastructure Tour Series Stop #2	59
MAR 16	San Jose City College Environmental Science class	13
MAR 17	San Jose Public Library	16
MAR 18	Bay Area Older Adults	15
MAR 18	Water Infrastructure Tour Series Stop #3	44
MAR 20	Women in Engineering Innovation Showcase	30
MAR 23	New Employee Virtual Fun Bus	47
MAR 23	Evergreen Valley High School Environmental Activism Club	20
MAR 24	Living Classroom Staff	13
MAR 25	Fremont High School AP Environmental Science class	92
MAR 25	New Employee Virtual Fun Bus	35
MAR 25	Water Infrastructure Tour Series Stop #4	36
MAR 30	New Employee Virtual Fun Bus	29
TOTAL		3,331

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



Twenty students from Evergreen Valley High School's Environmental Activism Club viewed the SVAWPC Tour on March 23.

Year-Round Volunteer Program



First day of the 2021 Water 101 Academy.

The 3rd annual Water 101 Academy launched in March, with sessions 1 and 2 taking place March 3 and March 24, respectively. All 21 cohort members were in attendance for the first session. CEO Callender, Valley Water Chair Estremera and Directors Varela, Keegan, Santos and Kremen were all in attendance to welcome the new cohort.

Water Ambassadors (Water 101 alums) held their work team meeting on March 15. Ambassadors received a presentations on the Balancing Act budget tool, an update on the Purified Water Project, an overview of the Public Arts Program and Adopt-A-Creek, as well as the upcoming National River Cleanup.

Community Rating System

A Request for Proposal (RFP) for a consultant to develop a feasibility study to regionalize the Community Rating System program in Santa Clara County has closed. The study will focus on providing a detailed account and strategic approach to regionalization. Staff has started reviewing and evaluating the submitted bids.

In March, staff distributed emergency giveaways to all the communities (cities & county) in Santa Clara County. The giveaways include red emergency totes, American Red Cross contact cards and download the ReadySCC app postcards. The giveaways are for the communities to distribute to the public to support flood-ready messaging.

Looking Ahead

Water 101 Academy

- April 14 - Session 3

Wonders of Water Wednesday Afterschool Science Enrichment Series

- April 7 - Discover California Water
- April 14 - Watershed Maps
- April 21 - Spanish Program La Gallina Azul
- April 28 - Spanish Program- El Ciclo de Agua pilot

STEM Engagement Presentations

- April 13 - NASA Destination Space
- April 14 - Latimer Elementary School STEAM Night
- April 22 - Los Arboles Elementary School Earth Day STEAM Night
- April 29 - Gavilan College Career Fair

New Water Infrastructure Virtual Bus Tour series:

- April 8 - Stop #1: Water Supply
- April 15 - Stop #2: Water Treatment & Water Quality
- April 22 - Stop #3: Flood Protection & SCW
- April 29 - Stop #4: Purified Water & Water Reuse

Private Purification Center Tours:

- April 6, Oshman Jewish Family Community Center
- April 7, Cupertino High School
- April 27, Palo Alto Fellowship Group

Youth Commission recommending the pilot mural project to the Board on April 27