

# CEO BULLETIN



**To: Board of Directors**  
**From: Rick L. Callender, CEO**

## Weeks of April 9 – April 22, 2021

Board Executive Limitation Policy EL-7:

*The Board Appointed Officers shall inform and support the Board in its work. Further, a BAO shall 1) inform the Board of relevant trends, anticipated adverse media coverage, or material external and internal changes, particularly changes in the assumptions upon which any Board policy has previously been established and 2) report in a timely manner an actual or anticipated noncompliance with any policy of the Board.*

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### **1. Bay Conservation and Development Commission New Permit Issued for the Stream Maintenance Program**

On April 16, 2021, the Bay Conservation and Development Commission issued a new permit for the Stream Maintenance Program. The initial application for the Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC) Permit for Santa Clara Valley Water District Stream Maintenance Program was submitted May 1, 2020. On June 4, 2020, Valley Water was notified by BCDC that the permit application was considered incomplete due to additional information needs. Valley Water worked with BCDC and conducted site visits in August 2020 to update jurisdictional determinations. The jurisdictional areas were reduced on many of the creeks managed by Valley Water. Valley Water provided additional documentation to BCDC on August 20, 2020. Due to the duration of the permitting process and to prevent impacts to stream maintenance Valley Water requested a permit extension on September 15, 2020. BCDC issued a permit extension on October 2, 2020 to cover the rest of 2020 work season. The new BCDC permit for the Stream Maintenance Program shall remain in effect until April 30, 2026.

For further information, please contact Sue Tippetts at (408) 630-2253.

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### **2. Central Pipeline Inspection and Rehabilitation Project Update**

As part of the 10-Year Pipeline Rehabilitation Program, the Central Pipeline, which conveys raw water from the South Bay Aqueduct to the Vasona Pumping Plant, completed all inspections and rehabilitation work.

The Central Pipeline, which was originally constructed in the 1960s and is composed of approximately 13 miles of 66 inch pipe, was shutdown down on January 4, 2021, for 12 weeks for pipeline and appurtenance inspection, repair, maintenance, and replacement work. Valley Water, with the assistance of contractors and consultants, internally inspected the entire pipeline using visual, sounding, and advanced technological methods; removed over 30 cubic yards of debris; repaired approximately 500 deteriorated pipe joints; installed a real-time Acoustic Fiber Optic condition monitoring system; and replaced nearly 100 deteriorated line valves, air release valves, and blowoff and turnout assemblies. The shutdown required work was successfully completed and the pipeline was returned to service as scheduled on April 2, 2021. The non-shutdown required site restoration work, which is currently on-going, is scheduled to be completed in September 2021.

For further information, please contact Greg Williams at (408) 630-2867.

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### **3. Delta Conveyance Design and Construction Authority Executive Director Transition**

On March 18, 2021, the Delta Conveyance Design and Construction Authority (DCA) announced that the Executive Director, Kathryn Mallon, would be transitioning to the role of Senior Advisor, and Graham Bradner would serve as the new Executive Director on an initial interim basis. Ms. Mallon recommended the change, stating that she wants to get back to design and construction of major infrastructure projects while the proposed Project undergoes environmental analysis.

The DCA has completed its initial engineering and design work and will be transitioning to providing planning-level design and other support for the Department of Water Resources as it completes its environmental review.

Mr. Bradner is a licensed California geologist and received his bachelor's and master's degrees from Clemson University. He has been engaged with the DCA in several other capacities which should make for a seamless transition.

For further information, please contact Vincent Gin at (408) 630-2633.

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#### **4. Public Hearing Notice for 2020 Urban Water Management Plan**

Every five years, urban water suppliers in California are required by State law to prepare an Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP). Valley Water meets the definition of an urban water wholesaler and is currently preparing its 2020 UWMP. Valley Water's 2020 UWMP documents current and projected water supplies and demands over the next 25 years during normal and drought years, as well as water shortage contingency planning and conservation efforts. The plan provides an overall picture of past, current, and future water conditions and management in Santa Clara County.

As part of the UWMP adoption process, Valley Water is required to hold a public hearing to provide an opportunity for the public to review and provide input to the plan before it is adopted. Valley Water staff is targeting the June 8, 2021 Board meeting for the public hearing and plans to publish a public notice in a local newspaper in the last two weeks of May 2021, once for each week. This notice will include the time and place of hearing, as well as the location where the plan is available for public inspection. Providing the requisite advance notice of the public hearing will enable formal participation by the community, retailers, and the cities and County of Santa Clara.

The public comment period commences with the publication of the notice and will last until the day of the public hearing. The plan adoption is scheduled for the same day, June 8, 2021, after the close of the public hearing. The draft UWMP will be presented to the Water Conservation and Demand Management Committee in May 2021.

After the public hearing and plan adoption, Valley Water's 2020 UWMP must be submitted to the Department of Water Resources by July 1, 2021.

For more information, please contact Kirsten Struve at (408) 630-3138.

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#### **5. Rinconada Water Treatment Plant - Revised Permit from Division of Drinking Water**

On April 2, 2021, the State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water (DDW) issued an amended domestic water supply permit to Valley Water for the Rinconada Water Treatment Plant (RWTP) related to Phase 2 of the RWTP Reliability Improvement Project.

This amendment is the culmination of over 20 years of collaboration with DDW which started with the evaluation of technology alternatives for the upgrade of the RWTP back in 2000. Valley Water worked with DDW to seek their input into the design as well as approval of variances for use of alternative materials, which involved demonstration of material quality. Valley Water also worked to seek DDW approval on the start-up and commissioning plan right as the COVID-19 pandemic forced a shelter-in-place order statewide in March 2020, with the start-up of the facilities and successful operations since June 2020. Those facilities include: raw water flow control and metering structure; ozone contactor structure; flash mix facility; flocculation/sedimentation basins; and washwater recovery facility.

Valley Water has been working closely with DDW over the past year to provide additional supporting information and documentation in developing the amended permit language and to ensure reporting requirements are consistent and are not unduly burdensome. With the collaboration involved with and the successful issuance of this permit amendment, Valley Water is confident of securing favorable future permit amendments as the next phases of the project are implemented for RWTP.

For further information, please contact Bhavani Yerrapotu at (408) 630-2735.

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#### **6. Safe, Clean Water Grant Closeout: City of Santa Clara's FY2016 D3 Ulistac Restoration Project**

In FY2016, Valley Water awarded the City of Santa Clara (City) a \$165,249 Safe, Clean Water Program D3 Grant for their Ulistac Restoration 2016 Project (Project). The City completed the Project in December 2019. The Project's objectives aimed to improve the Ulistac Natural Area by repairing levee access ramps, connecting trails, ecological restoration of 52,500 square feet of riparian habitat and habitat enhancement of 55,000 square feet at Oak Woodland. The Project also monitored, maintained and collected data on native tree survival rates and bird nests for five years in partnership with the community and educational organizations.

Ulistac Restoration 2016 Project Highlights:

- Access Improvement: Repaired 280 linear feet of pavement and concrete landings were installed at the base of two levee access ramps.
- Trail Connectivity: 370 linear feet of walking trails were connected and improved to prevent erosion.
- Interpretive sign panels were placed along the walking trails to enhance visitor education.
- Riparian Habitat Restoration: Planted 300 native riparian trees and 600 shrubs.
- Habitat Enhancement: 55,000 square feet of understory planting was enhanced, including removing exotic trees and non-native plants and planting 230 native plants.
- Monitoring and Maintenance: A plant database and GIS map were created for 623 of the new plants.
- Community Outreach and Education: Engaged in educational opportunities for San Jose State University, Santa Clara University, various day camps and elementary schools.
- Partnerships: Exceeded the matching grant requirement of 6,450 volunteer hours with 11,190 volunteer hours.

For further information, please contact Marta Lugo at (408) 630-2237.

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#### **7. Safe, Clean Water Mini-Grant Closeout: Guadalupe River Park Conservancy's FY2018 Next Generation Science Project**

In FY2018, Valley Water awarded Guadalupe River Park Conservancy (GRPC) a \$5,000 Safe, Clean Water Program D3 Mini-Grant for their Next Generation Science Standards Curriculum Development & Training Project (Project). GRPC completed the Project on April 2019 and submitted the final invoice items on January 2021 to close the grant project.

This Project supported GRPC education staff training as well as the development of river-based field trip programming to better support Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), which are K-12 science content standards. These science and environmental educators are devoted to improving the quality of outdoor science education.

The training permitted GRPC core education staff to facilitate BEETLES (Better Environmental Education, Teaching, Learning, and Expertise Sharing) professional learning sessions where field educators participated in hands-on activities that deepened their knowledge of pedagogical techniques for a more authentic, student-centered and engaging learning experiences (e.g. questioning strategies, discussion techniques, etc.). GRPC staff were also provided with binders containing field trip curricula and training materials.

**Key Outcomes:**

- GRPC staff prepared and delivered training for Guadalupe Guides (part-time field trip staff) to serve 1,928 students.
- 3,405 students participated in two field trip programs with BEETLES activities, which were supported through trained field staff.
- Aligned river field trip, homeschooling, Boys & Girls curricula and learning stations with NGSS standards that emphasize the importance of a healthy watershed.

For further information, please contact Marta Lugo at (408) 630-2237.

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## **8. Sanitary Sewer Self-Monitoring Report Annual Submittal**

Valley Water submitted a sanitary sewer Self-Monitoring Report to the City of San Jose's Environmental Services Division. The Self-Monitoring Report is an annual requirement associated with a discharge to the local sanitary sewer system originating at the Penitencia Water Treatment Plant. As part of construction activities, associated with the Treated Water Improvement Project, an under-drain system was installed at the base of the Ozone Generator Building. Given that the Ozone Generator Building was constructed by excavation into the hillside, this under-drain system passively prevents any groundwater from accumulating at the base of the building. The under-drain system discharges any captured groundwater to the City of San Jose sanitary sewer system and the permit to discharge the accumulated water has been in place since its construction in 2005, covering the period of April 1st through March 31st from year to year.

In preparing the annual Self-Monitoring Report, Valley Water coordinated the collection and analysis of a discharge sample with a local laboratory, coordinated the calibration of the flow-meter by a certified technician, and obtained daily flow meter data from plant operations staff. For this latest annual report, 110,000 gallons of groundwater were discharged from the under-drain system and reported to the City of San Jose Environmental Services Division.

For further information, please contact Tina Yoke at (408) 630-2385.

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## **9. South County Emergency Action Plans Training and Tabletop Exercise 4/15/21**

On April 15, 2021, Valley Water conducted a virtual inter-agency training and tabletop exercise based on the Flood Emergency Actions Plans (EAPs) for West Little Llagas Creek and Uvas Creek. Participating agencies included multi-department staff from cities of Morgan Hill and Gilroy, County of Santa Clara and CALFIRE.

This South County training and exercise supports Valley Water's commitment to the public and the Safe, Clean Water program – Project E2. It is within this program that Emergency Response Planning is executed by working directly with local municipalities to exercise roles and responsibilities for flood emergency management. These procedures also include communication processes that are tested during these multi-agency engagement events (exercises).

Training on Emergency Action Plans was provided prior to the exercise and focused on key aspects including agency roles and responsibilities, monitoring and response, as well as communications. Valley Water also shared EAP Training Supplements, which are tools to become more familiar with the plans. External agencies were encouraged to share the Training Supplements with other agency staff to help in their preparedness efforts.

The Tabletop Exercise was a facilitated discussion where all agencies worked through a developing flood scenario. The focus revolved around operational coordination, operational communication, and resource management. The exercise was successful in bringing response partners together in a no-fault environment, which included law enforcement, fire department, public works and engineering subject-matter experts, emergency management, and executive leadership.

Valley Water will continue to develop, train and exercise Flood EAPs with our partner agencies. These efforts will continue to improve preparedness of our agencies and provide for a coordinated response to floods.

For further information, please contact Alexander Gordon at (408) 630-2637.

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### **10. Water Rights Reports Submitted in Compliance with State Water Resources Control Board Deadline**

As outlined in Title 23 of the California Code of Regulations, water rights reports for permits, licenses, registrations, and stockpond certificates are due to the State Water Resources Control Board on April 1 of each year. Valley Water complied with the deadline and submitted reports reflective of calendar year 2020, for 20 licenses, six certificates, and one permit.

Valley Water worked for months on collaborating and preparing the data to finalize the water rights reports for the 17 licenses and one permit at Valley Water's reservoirs and diversions, which allow for diverting up to 227,339 acre-feet of water yearly, if available. Valley Water submitted all 18 reports for reservoirs and diversions by March 31, 2021.

Valley Water acquired mitigation property at Upper Penitencia Creek and Rancho Cañada de Pala in December 2014 and December 2015, respectively. These properties collectively contain a total of 14 stockponds. Valley Water submitted water rights reports for the three licenses and six certificates that cover 10 stockponds before March 31, 2021. These stockponds had been allotted water rights totaling 54.5 acre-feet. Registration documentation was submitted in 2019 to the State Water Resources Control Board for four remaining stockponds. As of April 2021, the applications remain under review.

For further information, please contact Greg Williams at (408) 630-2867.

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### **11. Estremera**

**Staff to follow up with Trevi, the company hired by the Army Corp. to repair dams, as mentioned by Mr. Roland L during public comment on 4/14/21.  
R-21-0002**

Valley Water staff have tried to contact Trevi, the company referred by Mr. Roland during the April 14, 2021 Board Meeting public comment period, without any response. Valley Water staff therefore left a voice mail on the company's general number and have also sent an email and have not received any response to date.



On April 19, 2021, Valley Water staff gathered information on Trevi from the company's website. All the projects referred to by Mr. Roland in his comments, and the projects on the company website, are projects for existing dam structures experiencing stability issues due to water seepage. Their expertise seems to be in construction of cutoff walls (jet grouting, concrete barriers, and slurry wall) which are not the kind of experience, skills, or specialization required for addressing the issues (liquefiable materials in embankment and foundation, rupture of existing outlet due to active faults, inadequate spillway capacity to safely pass probable maximum flood, and limitations in being able to quickly drawdown the reservoir during emergency situations) with the Anderson Dam.

All proposed and completed designs for the Anderson Dam Seismic Retrofit Project, are thoroughly reviewed and approved by Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and their Independent Board of Consultants (dam professionals and experts), and the California Department of Water Resources - Division of Safety of Dams (DSOD). FERC and DSOD have jurisdiction over the Anderson Dam.

For further information, please contact Christopher Hakes at (408) 630-3796.

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