

CEO BULLETIN



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

Weeks of May 21 – June 3, 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. 2021 Valley Water Summer Internship Program

After a competitive process garnering nearly 1,800 applicants, this summer, forty (40) interns will be joining Valley Water. Valley Water's Summer Internship program provides hands-on, real-life exposure to careers in water and at a public agency. Over the course of Valley Water's Summer Internship Program, student interns will partner with an employee mentor, receive training, gain valuable experience, and be given opportunities to meet and learn from our leadership team.

The majority of the internships will be virtual, and span across all areas of the organization including Environmental Planning, Design and Construction, Government Relations, Engineering, Pipeline Projects, Communications, Information Technology, Human Resources, and Lab Services.

For further information, please contact Ingrid Bella at (408) 630-3171.

2. Reclamation Updates Central Valley Project 2021 Water Supply

On May 26, 2021, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) issued a news release announcing that the 2021 Central Valley Project (CVP) allocation for Municipal and Industrial (M&I) water service contractors north-of-Delta and south-of-Delta, including Valley Water, was reduced from 55 percent to 25 percent. This allocation may be subject to an adjustment to meet public health and safety needs in accordance with the CVP M&I Shortage Policy. Valley Water is pursuing such an adjustment.

The news release also stated that the existing 5 percent CVP allocation for agricultural water service contractors both north-of-Delta and south-of-Delta, which was previously suspended until further notice, is now officially reduced to zero percent.

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

3. Steelhead Temperature Study

On October 20, 2020, the State Water Resources Control Board adopted the 2018 proposed 303(d) list of impaired waters, which listed the cold freshwater habitat and migration beneficial uses of lower Los Gatos Creek as impaired by elevated water temperature. The listing was based on guidelines for temperature tolerance of Central California Coast (CCC) steelhead that were derived for waters of the Pacific Northwest and may be inappropriate for the San Francisco Bay region. To address the lack of regionally-appropriate temperature thresholds for CCC steelhead, Valley Water is leading a steelhead temperature study, in coordination with the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) and other water agencies in the San Francisco Bay area. The San Francisco Estuary Institute is currently convening an expert panel to guide the study on behalf of Valley Water and the RWQCB. Other regulatory agencies including the National Marine Fisheries Service, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the Environmental Protection Agency will also provide input.

Valley Water's consultant, Stillwater Sciences, will compile and analyze existing data to determine steelhead probability of occurrence based on stream temperature. This analysis is anticipated to define temperature ranges under which steelhead occur in our region and infer an upper temperature limit. This study phase is currently underway, and findings are anticipated next year. If necessary, additional data collection or experimental studies may be conducted to ensure that the new temperature evaluation guidelines meet regulatory requirements, to potentially support a reassessment of the 303(d) listing of Los Gatos Creek. By leading this study effort, Valley Water is helping to ensure the continued protection of all beneficial uses of our region's water resources.

For further information, please contact Lisa Bankosh at (408) 630-2618.

4. Vaccination Ascertainment Survey Tool Helps Valley Water Comply with County Health Order

The Order of the Health Officer of the County of Santa Clara, issued on May 18, 2021, requires that businesses and governmental entities ascertain the vaccination status of all personnel. Valley Water created a secure database, similar to the tool that was used to report daily status and location of employees during the pandemic, specifically for this vaccination data collection. All Valley Water employees, interns, and temporary staff were required to complete a short survey to verify their vaccination status, upload a copy of their vaccination card if applicable, or decline to state their status.

Due to the potentially sensitive nature of evidence of vaccine being provided, these documents are being stored in a separate, highly secure system designed and certified for the handling and storage of medical records. Only certain individuals within Human Resources have been granted access. Valley Water must maintain appropriate records to demonstrate compliance with this provision.

Valley Water must complete our initial ascertainment of vaccination status for all personnel within 14 days of the effective date of the Order, which is June 1, 2021. Thereafter, we must obtain updated vaccination status for all personnel who have not been fully vaccinated every 14 days.

Until a person's vaccination status is ascertained, they must be treated as not fully vaccinated. Personnel who decline to provide vaccination status must also be treated as unvaccinated.

It is anticipated that safety protocols, such as wearing of face coverings and social distancing, will be different for vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals and the vaccination status will be required for enforcement. Valley Water will provide notice when there has been such a change in protocols. Once there has been a formal change in safety protocols, a report of who is in the non-vaccinated group will be sent to each manager so that they can enforce the mandated safety protocols.

For further information, please contact Ingrid Bella at (408) 663-7078.

5. Valley Water Hosts Virtual Meeting on the Start of Construction of the Anderson Dam Tunnel Project.

On May 19, 2021, Valley Water hosted a virtual public meeting to provide an update on the upcoming construction of the Anderson Dam Tunnel Project, which is slated to begin in June 2021.

There were 75 participants who attended virtually via Zoom and 13 participants who joined on Facebook Live. Following the presentation, Valley Water responded to questions on topics about the project's geology, potential financial assistance from the state and federal levels, the project timeline, and the work's impact on the environment. Attendees were encouraged to contact the project's neighborhood liaison with additional questions or concerns.

A recording of the May 19, 2021 virtual meeting and presentation is now available on the project's webpage: <https://www.valleywater.org/anderson-dam-project>.

For further information, please contact Rachael Gibson at (408) 781-4739.

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