

2020-2021 Accomplishments Report (Santa Clara Valley Water District Youth Commission)

Update: June 2021

ITEM	WORK PLAN ITEM BOARD POLICY	ACCOMPLISHMENT DATE AND OUTCOME
Quarterly Meeting Accomplishments for 2020-2021		
1	Election of Chair and Vice Chair	<u>Accomplished August 26, 2020:</u> The Youth Commission elected Michael Zhao by roll call and majority vote as Youth Commission Chair and Ishita Verma was elected by roll call majority vote as Youth Commission Vice Chair.
2	Oath of Office - Youth Commission Members	<u>Accomplished August 26, 2020:</u> The Oath of Office was administered to the following Youth Commissioners: Paula Escobar, Colin Lim, Soren Ryan-Jensen, Mathew Walsh, Aroshi Ghosh, Vedant Janapaty, Hillary Chang, Nilansh Dey Ghosh <u>Accomplished October 10, 2020:</u> The Oath of Office was administered to the following Youth Commissioners: Anousha Athreya, Anika Kulkarni, Vaibhavi Kulkarni <u>Accomplished February 24, 2021:</u> The Oath of Office was administered to the following Youth Commissioner: Yehchan Martin Kim. <u>Accomplished May 19, 2021</u> The Oath of Office was administered to the following Youth Commissioner: Ana Torrico.

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3	Youth Commission Annual Retreat	<p><u>Accomplished October 10, 2020:</u> Due to the global COVID-19 pandemic, the annual retreat was held via Zoom. 17 of the 20 youth commissioners were in attendance. Staff planned several team building activities to allow the commissioners to get to know each other better. The youth commissioners convened in their working groups and drafted their 2021 workplan for the year. Three new commissioners were also sworn in during the retreat. Valley Water Board Chair Nai Hsueh provided opening remarks and CEO Rick Callender helped to close out the retreat with hopes for the upcoming year.</p>
4	<p>Working Groups Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adopt-A-Bench • Creek Stewardship • Job Shadowing & Mentorship • Youth Citizen Science Network • Communications/Public Outreach 	<p><u>Accomplished August 26, 2020:</u> The Youth Commission reported on the following activities: Chair Michael Zhao reported on behalf of the Career Shadowing and Mentorship Working Group stating that the February 2020 Job Shadow Day was a great success.</p> <p>Ricardo Barajas reporting for the Creek Stewardship Working Group, that every Saturday in September, Californians will take to their streets, sidewalks, and parks for this year's socially-distanced coastal cleanup.</p> <p>Janet Hedley reported on behalf of the Youth Citizen Science Network Working Group needing to get input for upcoming activities and projects.</p> <p>Peggy Lam gave an update on the Adopt-A-Bench project of the 7 benches in each District and showed approved artwork designed by guest artist Mr. Paul J. Gonzalez.</p>

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		<p>The Youth Commission took no action.</p> <p><u>Accomplished November 18, 2020:</u> The Youth Commission reported on the following activities: Mr. Alden Hughes reported on behalf of the Adopt-A-Bench Project, designs are approved, casts are being worked on, the project is being advertised with videos, social media and maps of the district benches and the ribbon cutting ceremony is to be scheduled.</p> <p>Ms. Vaibhavi Kulkarni reported on behalf of the Creek Stewardship Working Group, the cleanup in September, having a user-friendly app and working on an adopt-a-creek program.</p> <p>Ms. Elise Mullen reported on behalf of the Job Shadowing and Mentorship Working Group they are working on virtual February 2021 Job Shadow Day.</p> <p>Ms. Aroshi Ghosh reported on behalf of the Youth Citizen Science Network Working Group will be meeting more frequently and assigned roles to Aroshi (Collaboration Coordinator), Jonathan (Social Media), Vaibhavi (Secretary), and Anika (Outreaching).</p> <p>Chair Michael Zhao reiterated the importance of attending regular and working groups meetings, responding to staff emails and staying engaged. The Communications/Public Outreach Working Group will be able to have information on what the Youth Commission is doing, having flyers,</p>

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		<p>accessing public media. Valley Water Staff will assist with the content of the website and have control on the updates.</p> <p>The Youth Commission took the following action: The Commission by roll call voted unanimously to add a new Communications/Public Outreach Working Group.</p> <p><u>Accomplished February 24, 2021:</u> The Youth Commission reported on the following Working Groups' activities: Mr. Alden Hughes reported on behalf of the Adopt-A-Bench Project; the benches are completed and installed, working on completing the advertising with videos, social media and maps of the district benches. The ribbon cutting ceremony is scheduled for 5:00 p.m. on March 18, 2021.</p> <p>Ms. Ye'ela Bronicki reported on behalf of the Creek Stewardship; looked at making the adopt-a-creek maps easier to read to identify locations of the creeks and recruiting more members.</p> <p>Mr. Nilansh Dey Ghosh reported on behalf of the Youth Citizen Science Network; contacting different organizations for outreach, the Synopsys Fair for Junior (Middle) and High School students is occurring March 10-11, 2021. Expressed having the Youth Commission recommend that the Valley Water Board consider approving being an annual sponsor for the Synopsys Championship Science Fair's Special Awards, depending on the budget, to start in 2022, for those students that place emphasis on water related projects.</p>

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		<p>The Youth Commission took the following action: The Commission by roll call voted unanimously to approve the Youth Commission's recommendation that the Valley Water Board consider approving being an annual sponsor for the Synopsys Championship Science Fair's Special Awards (depending on the budget) to begin in 2022, for those students that place emphasis on water related projects. <i>The Board approved the Youth Commission's recommendation at its April 27, 2021, meeting.</i></p> <p>Mr. Colin Lim reported on behalf of the Job Shadow and Mentorship; the virtual February 18, 2021, Job Shadow Day, record number of 128 students signed up but 64 in attendance, 56 Valley Water Staff Mentors, Staff Panelists, the breakout sessions, it was a great turnout and engaging. Thanked everyone that worked on the Job Shadow Day.</p> <p>Ms. Aroshi Ghosh reported on behalf of the new group Outreach-Media, the new website is live and shows Commissioners' head shots, the working groups, the Job Shadow Day information and posting of events.</p> <p><u>Accomplished May 19, 2021:</u> The Youth Commission reported on the following Working Groups' activities: Mr. Alden Hughes gave a presentation on behalf of the Adopt-A-Bench Project: update on the pilot mural project, design criteria, the artist, and location.</p> <p>The Santa Clara Valley Water District Youth Commission took the following action:</p>

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		<p>The Commission by roll call voted unanimously, approving the Youth Commission's recommendation to change the Adopt-A-Bench Working Group's name to Public Art Working Group.</p> <p>The Santa Clara Valley Water District Youth Commission took the following action: The Commission by roll call voted unanimously, approving the Youth Commission's recommendation for the Board to consider approving the pilot mural design criteria.</p> <p>Ms. Anika Kulkarni reported on behalf of the Creek Stewardship; noted that cleans up in May are every Saturday, wrote a blog with pictures from past years and publicizing adopt-a-creek.</p> <p>Ms. Vaibhavi Kulkarni reported on behalf of the Youth Citizen Science Network; contacting different organizations for outreach with new email template.</p> <p>Ms. Vaibhavi Kulkarni reported on behalf of Communications/Public Outreach having the Youth Commissioners connecting with other high school youth via different platforms (Nextdoor and posting flyers).</p> <p>Mr. Colin Lim reported on behalf of the Job Shadow and Mentorship; noted the virtual February 18, 2021, Job Shadow Day, and introduced special guest speaker Mr. Albert Le.</p>

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		Mr. Albert Le shared his professional and educational background, how he changed careers, hobbies, and interests. How to apply for jobs (traditional vs. non-traditional), mentorship, networking, resumes and cover letters. He also shared how one should be flexible, adaptive, having a plan (unplan it) and having a champion to advocate for them. He concluded with LinkedIn information where the Youth Commissioners can contact him, suggested they sign up in order to find mentors and networking.
5	Review Work Plan, the Outcomes of Board Action of Committee Requests, and the Committee's Next Meeting Agenda	<p><u>Accomplished August 26, 2020:</u> Ms. Glenna Brambill reviewed the work plan, introduced the new District Counsel Representative, Mr. Andrew Gschwind, who will be going over the District Act. Additional agenda items will be; orientation, meeting conduct, and other meeting processes.</p> <p>The Youth Commission took no action. The next meeting is scheduled for November 18, 2020. {date is subject to change}.</p> <p><u>Accomplished November 18, 2020:</u> Ms. Sherilyn Tran reviewed the work plan and took the following action. The Commission unanimously approved the new work plan with the correction of item #6 (two #6's, change to #7), and adding of the Communications/Public Outreach Working Group.</p> <p>The next meeting is scheduled for February 24, 2021. {date is subject to change}.</p>

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		<p><u>Accomplished February 24, 2021:</u> The Youth Commission reviewed the materials as outlined in the agenda item. The next meeting is scheduled for May 26, 2021 (subject to change). The Youth Commission took no action.</p> <p><u>Accomplished May 19, 2021:</u> The Youth Commission reviewed the materials as outlined in the agenda item. The next meeting is scheduled for August 25, 2021 (subject to change). The Youth Commission took no action.</p>
6	<p>Communications/Public Outreach</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Network with other Youth Commissions, student clubs (science clubs), youth organizations • Youth Commission Video/Website 	<p><u>Accomplished November 18, 2020:</u> The Commission discussed the Communications/Public Outreach as a new working group and took the following action: The Youth Commission took action as noted in the Working Groups update.</p>
7	Review Brown Act	<p><u>Accomplished November 18, 2020:</u> The Youth Commission received a presentation on the review of the Brown Act and took no action.</p>

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8	Review the Youth Commission's Roles, Responsibilities and Meeting Conduct	<u>Accomplished November 18, 2020:</u> The Youth Commission received a presentation on the review of the Youth Commission's Roles, Responsibilities and Meeting Conduct and took no action.
9	Pilot Mural Art Project	<u>Accomplished February 24, 2021:</u> The Youth Commission received a presentation on the Pilot Mural Art Project and took the following action: Unanimous vote carried, to approve the staff's recommendation that the Board of Directors consider approving the Youth Commission's participation in the pilot Mural Art Project; and approve the location for the pilot mural at the Blossom Hill Annex Building at 1020 Blossom Hill Road, San Jose, CA. <i>The Board approved the Youth Commission's recommendation at its April 27, 2021, meeting.</i>
10	Update on Valley Water's Creation of New Office of Racial Equity, Diversity & Inclusion and Board Adoption of a Resolution Addressing Systemic Racism and Promoting Equity	<u>Accomplished February 24, 2021:</u> The Youth Commission received an update on Valley Water's Creation of New Office of Racial Equity, Diversity & Inclusion and Board Adoption of a Resolution Addressing Systemic Racism and Promoting Equity and took no action.

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11	Recognition of Outgoing Youth Commission Members	<p><u>Accomplished May 19, 2021:</u></p> <p>The Board Representatives, Staff and Youth Commission Members recognized the following eight outgoing Youth Commissioners:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ishita Verma - representing District 1 (Director Varela), 2. Colin Lim - representing District 2 (Director Keegan), 3. Elise Mullen - representing District 2 (Director Keegan), 4. Alden Hughes - representing District 5 (Director Hsueh), 5. Michael Zhao - representing District 5 (Director Hsueh), 6. Kathryn Bravo - representing District 6 (Director Estremera), 7. Tammy Cao – representing District 6 (Director Estremera), and 8. Arushi Saxena – representing District 7 (Director Kremen) <p>There was a slide show presentation acknowledging each graduating Commissioner. The eight graduates shared their experiences serving on the Youth Commission, spoke about their quotes, future plans of college, majors, and other aspirations.</p> <p>The Directors Hsueh, Keegan, staff (Ms. Mera Burton, Mr. Andy Gschwind, Ms. Janet Hedley, Ms. Perla Montes de Oca, and Ms. Glenna Brambill), Youth Commissioner (Vaibhavi Kulkarni), and others in the chat, all gave congratulatory and encouraging remarks.</p> <p>The Santa Clara Valley Water District Youth Commission took no action.</p>

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<u>Working Groups Accomplishments for 2020-2021</u>		
	Adopt-A-Bench	<u>Accomplishments</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Painted the tiles of the seven pilot benches• Created, developed and starred in (2) Adopt-A-Bench Project Videos, which has 2,000 views on Facebook and YouTube combined• Created the Adopt-A-Bench interactive Google map, which displays all seven benches• Developed the Adopt-A-Bench webpage for the public to learn more about the project: www.valleywater.org/Adopt-A-Bench• Authored and published a Nextdoor post and a blog post about the Adopt-A-Bench project• Planned and hosted the Adopt-A-Bench Virtual Ribbon Cutting Ceremony, which was livestreamed on Facebook and has received nearly 8,000 views• Proposed the plan for the pilot mural project and mural location, which was approved by the Board• Developed the pilot mural artwork design criteria, which will be recommended to the Board for approval in June
	Communications/Public Outreach	<u>Accomplishments</u> <p>Was newly created to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Network with other Youth Commissions, student clubs (science clubs), youth organizations• Have a Youth Commission website and create videos (having the Youth

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		Commissioners connecting with other high school youth via different platforms (Nextdoor and posting flyers).
	Creek Stewardship	<p><u>Accomplishments</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developed a blog on National River Cleanup • Helped with the Adopt a Creek website and maps • Recruited new people and organizations for Adopt a Creek • Research on litter apps for National River Cleanup • Promoted National River Cleanup and helped with an advertising video
	Youth Citizen Science Network	<p><u>Accomplishments</u></p> <p>Recommending Valley Water annual sponsorship of the Synopsys Science Fair Special Awards, with a focus on water-related projects, this recommendation was approved by the Valley Water Board of Directors at the April 2021 board meeting and will start in 2022.</p> <p>Conducting direct outreach to local organizations that host and support citizen science projects to request their permission to include information and links to their organization on the Youth Commission website. The organizations include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth Science Institute • Santa Clara Audubon Society • CuriOdyssey • Environmental Volunteers • EarthEcho International

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		Creation of an Instagram story to promote citizen science to youth in Santa Clara County and direct them to the Youth Commission webpage. (This will be used when the citizen science information is linked on the webpage)
	Job Shadow Day & Mentorship	<p><u>Accomplishments</u></p> <p>Planned and organized Valley Water's, first-ever, virtual Job Shadow Day. In preparing for Job Shadow Day,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth Commissioners created blog posts for Valley Water's website, promoted Job Shadow Day to peers, and recruited participants through direct outreach to schools. • Designed a Kahoot activity for Job Shadow Day student participants and curated a panel of speakers for the event. • Youth Commissioner also created PowerPoint presentations to facilitate mentor training and helped design questions for the speaker panel. <p>The Job Shadow Day & Mentorship working groups' diligent outreach and planning efforts ensured that Valley Water's Virtual Job Shadow Day 2021 was a memorable and fun experience for high school students throughout Santa Clara County."</p>

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