

SUMMARY FOR MAY 2021

Office of Civic Engagement Activities



Youth Commission

On May 19, the Youth Commission held its last meeting for the school year. Nineteen youth commissioners were in attendance, including one new commissioner who was sworn in at the beginning of the meeting. Directors Hsueh and Keegan were in attendance and shared words of appreciation and well wishes to the eight graduating commissioners. A small ceremony was held to honor the graduates - they all shared their plans for the future and spoke of their experiences during the Youth Commission. Staff is currently recruiting to fill the vacant seats. Applications have been sent out to various networks and will be posted on multiple social media platforms. Applications are due on June 18 at 5 p.m.

Creek Stewardship

On May 1, Valley Water, along with multiple partners including the City of San José, County of Santa Clara, Opening Doors, South Bay Clean Creeks Coalition, The Trash Punx, Saved by Nature, Zanker Recycling and Republic Services, hosted the Coyote Creek Cleanup to kick off National River Cleanup month. The cleanup efforts took place at two locations along Coyote Creek: 1) Coyote Creek at the Tully Ballfields and 2) Coyote Creek from Montague Expressway to E. Brokaw Road. The cleanup efforts continued throughout the month in neighborhoods and local natural areas every Saturday in May from 9 a.m. to noon. Here is the feedback staff received from volunteers:

- "It was very fun to do it with friends, and we constantly got waves and thanks of appreciation from others."
 - "We had a great time, lots of trash out there. We'll do this again soon."
 - "It was a nice experience."
 - "Our streets are now cleaner than usual, except for cigarette butts."
- Staff is still collecting cleanup numbers from volunteers. Here are the preliminary numbers for each Saturday in May.

DATE	PARTNER	CREEK	# VOLUNTEERS	# MILES CLEANED	LBS TRASH
MAY 1	Valley Water and partners	Coyote	98	N/A	54,500
MAY 1	Valley Water and partners	Various	122	26	657
MAY 8	Valley Water and partners	Various	93	20	379
MAY 15	Valley Water and partners	Various	64	24	423
MAY 22	Valley Water and partners	Various	203	22	3,109
TOTAL			580	92	59,068



Volunteers cleaned up their local neighborhood to support National River Cleanup month and the Coyote Creek Cleanup.

Safe, Clean Water Grants and Partnerships

Safe, Clean Water Mini-Grant Closeout: Living Classroom's Capri School Native Habitat Garden Project. In FY2018, Valley Water awarded Living Classroom a D3 Mini-Grant for their Native Habitat Garden Project at Capri Elementary School in Campbell. The mini-grant funding provided materials to build a new school garden, including soil, plants, signs, mulch and irrigation. The native garden now provides the setting for native ecology lessons where the school's 700 students can study native plants, ecology, habitats, biodiversity, adaptations, ethnobotany, plant communities, sustainable garden practices, water conservation, sensory observations, and pollination.

Safe, Clean Water Grant Closeout: Girl Scouts of Northern California's Green by Nature Project. In FY2018, Valley Water awarded Girl Scouts of Northern California a \$16,951 B7 Grant to implement a 12-week environmental outreach and education program called "Don't Waste That Watershed," which served 267 girls at seven different school sites in Santa Clara County. The project included eight 90-minute learning sessions, nature-based field trips, a local community service project, leadership-building activities, and a family engagement event. As a result, 80% of participants plan to protect the environment and encourage others to do the same, demonstrating environmental stewardship.



LEFT: The Capri School Native Habitat Garden provides wildlife habitat and an outdoor learning laboratory for young students. **RIGHT:** Girl Scouts Green by Nature Project - scouts learning leadership skills through environmental stewardship projects

Public Arts

Pilot Mural Art Project with the Youth Commission: During May, the Youth Commission's public art working group developed the pilot mural's design criteria, which are the required elements that artist Paul J. Gonzalez will include in the mural artwork design. The working group developed the requirements based on a consultation with the muralist, Paul J. Gonzalez and staff, which included Valley Water Chiefs. The design criteria will require that the artwork must include:

1. Valley Water's logo;
2. A life expectancy and relevancy of 15-25 years; and
3. Style, theme, and imagery in accordance with Board Governance Policy E-1 are related to Valley Water's mission and include an interactive element.

The criteria were approved by the entire Youth Commission on May 19 and will go to the Board for approval on June 22.

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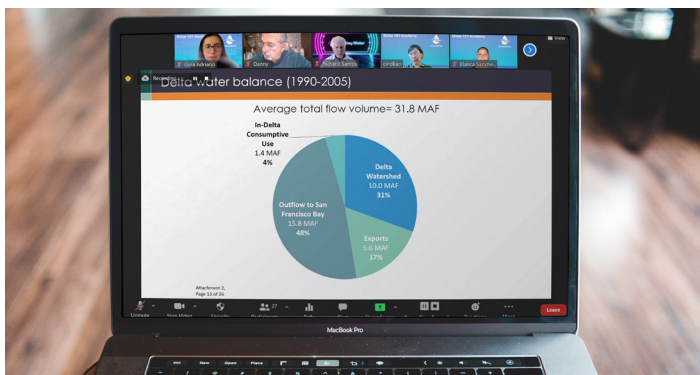
Water Supply Outreach

DATE	WATER INFRASTRUCTURE AND PURIFICATION CENTER TOURS	FY 21 TOTAL ATTENDEES
JUL - APR		3,711
MAY 6	WIT—Stop #1	7
MAY 7	SJSU Civil Engineering Class	19
MAY 11	Gate Program at Julia Baldwin Elementary	10
MAY 12	Los Gatos High School Science Enrichment	10
MAY 13	San Jose High School	15
MAY 13	WIT—Stop # 2	20
MAY 18	ERG 10 Class Mission College	21
MAY 19	SVAWPC Tour in collaboration with SJ Public Library	22
MAY 20	WIT—Stop # 3	14
MAY 27	WIT—Stop # 4	9
APRIL TOTAL		147
TOTAL		3,858

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

During May, the Water Supply Outreach team hosted ten virtual tours, including six private tours of the Silicon Valley Water Purification Center. The team is working on planning to resume in-person tours of the purification center in July 2021.

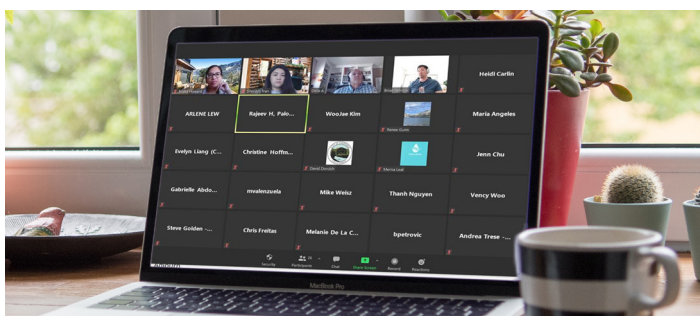
Year-Round Volunteer Program



Imported Water Unit Manager Cindy Kao presented during the Water 101 Academy virtual bus tour on 5/26

On May 26, the Water Supply Outreach and Volunteer Stewardship team hosted the last session of the 2021 Water 101 Academy. At this session, community members learned about our water supply, via the San Luis, Pacheco and Anderson Reservoirs and also learned about flood protection/environmental stewardship through the Permanente Creek and the Upper Llagas Creek Flood Protection Projects.

Community Rating System



Staff hosted the CRS Users Group Meeting on May 20. The meeting focused on a broader understanding of best practices for a community verification cycle visit and included an open discussion with two Insurance Service Office (ISO) Technical Advisors.

Education Outreach

In May, the Education Outreach team reached 1,483 students from 58 virtual classrooms and five virtual STEAM event presentations. The team also supported 52 educators through classroom programs and engaged 48 members of the public through four Wonders of Water Wednesdays after-school enrichment programs.

- “Get Flood Ready” Emergency Backpack Raffle – May 4, educators who participated in Valley Water Education Outreach’s Flood Awareness programming between November 1st, 2020 to March 31, 2021, were entered into our Emergency Backpack raffle in collaboration with the CRS program. On May 4, the seven educators were randomly selected to receive an Emergency Backpack for their participation in Education Outreach distance learning programs!
- El Ciclo de Agua – May 5, Wonders of Water Wednesday, staff showcased a new program in Spanish, El Ciclo de Agua, where students learned about the different phases of the water cycle and how they are all connected. This is the third Spanish presentation for the Wonders of Water Wednesday series.
- ActivityHero.com nominated Valley Water’s Education Outreach Program for a “Best of 2021 Award”. This annual award program is an opportunity to recognize activity providers who have educated and entertained students during this year. ActivityHero.com is a one-stop-shop for all types of kids camps and classes, used by over 4+million families! The contest closed on May 30 and the winners will be announced in June.

MONTH	STUDENTS AND EDUCATORS	PUBLIC ATTENDEES	YEAR TO DATE
JUL to APRIL	8,501	1,081	9,582
MAY	1,535	42	1,577
TOTAL	10,036	1,123	11,159

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



Backpack winner from Monta Loma Elementary School

Looking Ahead

Water 101 Academy

- June 9 - Water 101 Academy Graduation

Wonders of Water Wednesday Afterschool Science Enrichment Series

- June 2 - Discover California Water
- June 9 - Water Cycle Boogie
- June 16 - Landforms* (new content)

STEM Engagement Presentations

- June 2 - Easterbrook Discovery School
- June 3 - Northwood Creek Elementary School

Tours of the SVAWPC

- June 23 - SJ Public Library (virtual public tour)