

Office of Civic Engagement

October 2019 Activities Update



Valley Water

YOUTH COMMISSION

- Staff has been preparing to work with the Working Groups to plan for Job Shadow Day and the Adopt-A-Bench Project.

CREEK STEWARDSHIP

- Staff wrapped up **Coastal Cleanup Day** data collection and met with partner agencies to discuss successes and challenges to better plan and execute for future cleanups.
- Staff continued to outreach for and administer the year-round **Adopt-A-Creek Program**, including recruiting new partners, renewing permits and coordinating cleanup supplies and trash pickups for all Adopt-A-Creek cleanup events
- Staff has been planning and preparing for the environmental cleanup event on Dec. 7 and the Volunteer Recognition Event on Dec. 11.



Infographics were created to show volunteer efforts for the 2019 Coastal Cleanup Day.

ADOPT-A-CREEK ACTIVITIES

DATE	PARTNER	# OF VOLUNTEERS	LBS. OF TRASH COLLECTED	MILES CLEANED	CREEK
10/20/19	Thompson Creek Neighborhood Association - Elaine Talerico	14	V	1	Thompson Creek
10/21/19	Scout Troop 286 - Jerry Lane	15	750	25	Guadalupe River

PUBLIC ARTS AND SIGNAGE

- Staff worked with local artist Paul J. Gonzalez to develop the pilot **Adopt-A-Bench** public arts project with the Youth Commission to design seven benches throughout the county, one in each district. The project will be kicked-off at the Youth Commission meeting on Nov. 20.
- Staff partnered with the Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition to develop a **signage inventory** scavenger hunt campaign. A two-week pilot run was implemented in October and the full campaign is expected to run in Spring 2020.

SAFE, CLEAN WATER GRANTS AND PARTNERSHIPS

- Staff continued to outreach for and administer the FY20 Grants cycle. Applications are being accepted through Nov. 1 for up to \$1.9 million in funding for Water Conservation grants (up to \$100,000), Pollution Prevention grants (up to \$500,000), and Wildlife Habitat Restoration grants (up to \$1.3 million). There is also \$200,000 available for mini-grants, which are awarded year-round on a rolling basis until funds are expended.

EDUCATION OUTREACH

- Education Outreach Sets New Record for Most Student's Visited in One Day.** On Oct. 18, Education Outreach staff engaged 415 students as they supported CommUniverCity's College Day at Grant Elementary School. They shared their educational journey with K- 5th grade students and resources from BAYWORK. They also explained volunteer and internship opportunities at Valley Water. Staff conducted first school visit of 2019-2020 school year with Noble Elementary School in San José. Staff engaged 3rd grade students in two activities highlighting the importance of conservation and maintaining healthy ecosystems for wildlife.
- Imagine a Day Without Water.** Education Outreach engaged 6th grade students at George Shirakawa Middle School in Imagine a Day Without Water activities. Students learned the impacts of a day without water, while they considered what their day would be like if they couldn't turn on the tap and get clean drinking water.
- Safe & Green Halloween Fair.** Education Outreach staff supported this community fair organized by CommUniversity to promote sustainability and flood preparedness. Staff promoted the importance of having an emergency preparedness back-pack and handed out flood awareness coloring books in English and Spanish.
- Zoom webinar for 5th graders with Santee Elementary School.** Education Outreach engaged students in the Watershed Maps activity, a hands-on Next Generation Science Standard lesson creating 3D topographical maps that explore the effects of precipitation and run-off pollution on watersheds.

EDUCATION OUTREACH ATTENDANCE SUMMARY	COUNT
Student and Teacher Engagement	1985
Public Events and Library Programs	1,338
TOTAL	3,323



Students engage in the Watershed In a Box Flood Preparedness activity.

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RECYCLED AND PURIFIED WATER OUTREACH



Photo of VIP group listening to staff provide an analogy about RO membrane size.

DATE	PURIFICATION CENTER TOURS	ATTENDEES	BOTTLE TASTE TESTS	FY 20 CUMULATIVE (321 ATTENDEES JULY - OCTOBER)
10/4/2019	VIP elected tour	46	39	367
10/11/2019	Association of Women In Water, Energy and Environment	22	24	389
10/12/2019	SNL Methodist Church	11	0	400
10/12/2019	Public Tour	31	22	431
10/15/2019	SJSU Ecology Lab (1/3)	17	0	448
10/16/2019	SJSU Ecology Lab (2/3)	17	0	465
10/17/2019	Basis Independent of Silicon Valley	18	0	483
10/17/2019	San Jose Tainan Sister Association	17	0	500
10/21/2019	SJSU Ecology Lab (3/3)	16	0	516
10/24/2019	Public Tour	16	16	532
TOTALS		211	101	532 Attendees FY 19/20

- Staff hosted a total of 10 tours in October, including a VIP Water Walk tour with state and local elected officials on Oct. 4. Three video testimonials were collected from a Palo Alto City Councilmember and the mayors of Los Altos and Morgan Hill.
- Two videos commemorating Imagine a Day Without Water (Oct. 23) were published to social media and a tour was hosted on Oct. 24 emphasizing the importance of a diversified water supply.
- Directors LeZotte, Estremera and Santos were filmed on the 5-year anniversary of the SVAWPC and benefits of advanced purified water for a blog post and social media highlight.
- To support outreach and increase awareness of a potential water reuse partnership with Palo Alto and Mountain View, staff continued a social media campaign on importance of purified water and distributed a nextdoor message in District 7 and email blast to key stakeholders.
- Outreach staff served 20 purified water bottle samples to attendees at the Oct. 23 community meeting in Palo Alto hosted by Palo Alto, Mountain View and Valley Water.
- Two tour promotion videos and one video testimonial from a Palo Alto educator were published on social media.

YEAR-ROUND VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

- Staff continued to outreach for the second annual Water 101 Academy. Applications were originally due Oct. 21, however, staff decided to extend application deadline to Nov. 8 to allow for wider outreach efforts.
- Two puppet library shows, and one public purified water tour were made available as volunteer opportunities, with participation from one year-round volunteer.
- Three community members registered as new year-round volunteers.

COMMUNITY RATING SYSTEM

- California Flood Preparedness Week.** Oct. 19- 26 was California Flood Preparedness Week (CFPW). Valley Water's theme for this year's CFPW was "Get Flood Ready." Staff set-up a "get flood ready" display in the HQ lobby that included a PowerPoint presentation to convey messaging on things to do "Before, During and After a flood in order to be Flood Ready." The display also includes a table providing flood preparedness collateral, samples of items of what an emergency kit should contain, and emergency preparedness kits that were available for both members of the public visiting our facility and Valley Water employees. The display will stay in HQ lobby throughout the flood season until April. The Department of Water Resources plans to feature Valley Water's "Get Flood Ready" during the CFPW Statewide Coordination call.



LOOKING AHEAD

Nov. 1

Watershed in a Box with CommUniverCity

Nov. 1

FY20 Grant Cycle Applications Due

Nov. 4

Living Classroom Docent Enrichment Training

Nov. 6

CA Water Action Collaborative Tour

Nov. 7

Calaveras Hills High School Tour

Nov. 8

US Water Alliance Tour

Nov. 8

Second Annual Water 101 Academy Applications Due

Nov. 9

Model A Club Tour

Nov. 9

USF Environmental Science and Engineering Club Tour

Nov. 13

Celebrating Partnerships: A Quinceañera celebration for CommUniverCity

Nov. 13

Menlo School Tour

Nov. 16

Veterans Day theme public purified water tours

Nov. 18

STEM Pathways Steering Committee

Nov. 20

Youth Commission Regular Meeting