

CEO BULLETIN



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

Weeks of September 10 – September 23, 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. Anderson Dam FERC Functional Exercise 2021

On September 16, 2021, Valley Water's Office of Emergency Services (OES) conducted the Anderson Dam Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Functional Exercise. FERC requires all agencies with power-producing dams, such as Anderson Dam, to conduct a functional exercise every five years to test and validate the dam's Emergency Action Plan (EAP). For the exercise, Valley Water activated an Emergency Operations Center (EOC) team to manage and support Valley Water's response to a large earthquake scenario where damage impacted Anderson Dam. Per the Anderson Dam EAP, notifications were made to downstream agencies of the escalating dam emergency. Within the scenario, EOC Action Planning processes were implemented, Public Information coordination and Policy Group updates were provided, and command and control structures were tested, all of which were synchronized to establish situational awareness during the early part of the large earthquake scenario.

Valley Water's Anderson Dam FERC Functional Exercise for 2021 was supported by the following agencies in exercise planning and Simulation Cell operations on exercise day: City of Morgan Hill, City of Gilroy, City of San José, County of Santa Clara, and National Weather Service. Within Valley Water, participants included: Dam Safety, Communications Unit, Hydraulics, Hydrology and Geomorphology, Security Office, Human Resources, Office of Emergency Services, Deputy Operating Officer for Dam Safety and Capital Delivery, Deputy Operating Officer for Watersheds Operations and Maintenance, and Assistant Officer for Emergency, Safety and Security.

The Valley Water EOC activated operations in a hybrid model, with OES and Security Office staff working on-site in the primary EOC facility while remaining EOC staff connected virtually through Zoom. This was the first time a hybrid model was used for the EOC, and multiple lessons learned were identified regarding managing situation status and information sharing. The exercise validated that upgrades to EOC facility audio/video systems successfully support a hybrid model, which OES will build into its standard operating procedures. Opportunities for improvement were also identified in the method of notification to the downstream agencies when a dam emergency occurs.

The Anderson Dam FERC Functional Exercise concludes a series of three exercises for Fiscal Year 2022. On August 5, 2021, Valley Water conducted its Damage Assessment Reporting Drill which focused on reporting earthquake damage via the California Common Operating Picture application. On August 19, 2021, Valley Water conducted the Anderson Dam FERC Tabletop exercise with its external agency partners. These exercises are valuable tools that support building capabilities in emergency preparedness and response.

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

2. Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Staffing Service Agreement

On September 20th, 2021, Valley Water entered into a 5-year Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for qualified staffing resources. The agreement provides for the equivalent of 2.0 full time persons to expedite permit application evaluation for Valley Water projects requiring Corps approval pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act. As with other staffing agreements that Valley Water has entered into for state and federal agency staffing, this agreement will provide dedicated staff person(s) that will work exclusively on Valley Water permit applications and other projects as requested and prioritized by Valley Water.

This MOA takes effect October 1, 2021 and replaces the previous 5-year MOA that provided similar services. Valley Water has identified several projects that will benefit from renewal of this MOA including Anderson Dam Seismic Retrofit, Stream Maintenance Program, and various capital flood protection projects.

Funding for the first year of this agreement was included in project budgets reviewed and adopted by the Board for Fiscal Year 2022. The agreement allows Valley Water to terminate at any time during the 5-year term.

For further information, please contact Jennifer Codianne (408) 630-3876.

3. New Hires required to be fully vaccinated

To protect Valley Water's most valuable assets, our employees and the community we serve, we are now requiring all new employees be fully vaccinated upon hire unless subject to approved reasonable accommodations for limited, legally allowable reasons. This new requirement is communicated on all job postings so that prospective candidates are aware of the requirement up front, and their start date is contingent upon providing proof of vaccination.

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

4. Room Integrity Test at Pacheco Pumping Plant and Motherboard Replacement on Two Line Valves

The Pacheco Pumping Plant (PPP) was shut down for five (5) hours on September 16, 2021, to test the adjustable speed drive gallery for any air leaks. This planned shutdown was necessary to perform a room integrity test required by code for the Clean Agent Suppression system. New fire smoke dampers had been installed by the contractor as part of the PPP Priority 1 Fire Alarm and Suppression System Improvements Project. The room integrity sealant test passed successfully, and Valley Water can now proceed with the remaining system tests and project close out phase.

While PPP was down, Valley Water took advantage of the shutdown window and replaced faulty motherboards at Bailey Line Valve and San Bruno Line Valve. For this work to be done, Valley Water had to isolate the Cross Valley Pipeline for half a day, which resulted in switching the raw water sources to Santa Teresa Water Treatment Plant (STWTP). With San Luis Reservoir water inaccessible, STWTP was fed by Calero Reservoir water.

With various specialties and across divisions, Valley Water collaborated on these two tasks that were accomplished during the shutdown window. The flawless operation of the pumps at PPP is essential to lift water from San Luis Reservoir and keep it flowing through the San Felipe Division system to Valley Water and San Benito County Water District. Regulating the line valves remotely is important for proper and safe operation of the raw water distribution system.

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

5. Safe, Clean Water Grant Closeout: Bay Area Older Adults' Watershed and Wildlife Education Project

In Fiscal Year 2020, Valley Water awarded Bay Area Older Adults (Grantee) a \$5,000 Safe, Clean Water Program D3 Mini-Grant for their Watershed and Wildlife Education Program (Project). The Grantee completed the Project on July 15, 2021, and staff submitted the final invoice items on August 31, 2021, allowing for grant closeout.

Bay Area Older Adults is a non-profit organization that aims to create communities of adults aged 50 and older to participate in healthy activities together. The grant funded in-person and virtual educational programs that engaged 316 adults, ages 50 and older, using first-hand experience in Valley Water watersheds to teach them about watershed stewardship. The Project consisted of a total of six programs that were held at Anderson Lake County Park in Morgan Hill, Almaden Quicksilver County Park in San Jose, Don Edwards Wildlife Refuge in San Jose, Stevens Creek County Park in Cupertino and Joseph D. Grant County Park in San Jose. The Grantee developed educational materials and videos related to each program that would serve as a lasting educational resource. The videos included an interactive component and a virtual tour of the parks and are available to view on the Grantee's website.

Key Outcomes:

- Conducted three in-person programs that engaged a total of 34 attendees.
- Conducted three virtual programs that engaged a total of 282 attendees.
- Engaged a total of 501 people virtually based on post-program views on YouTube.
- Surveyed 87 participants from the programs who indicated an average satisfaction rating of 1.2 (1 being very satisfied) and scored 78-100% on the post-knowledge surveys.

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

6. Valley Water's Sustainable Landscape Guidelines Now Available Online

With the support of Valley Water's Landscape Committee, Valley Water recently completed the Sustainable Landscape Guidelines handbook, available as a flipbook and downloadable PDF on our Landscape Guides & Resources web page. Valley Water worked with a contractor, G3 Green Garden Group, and a Technical Advisory Committee comprised of local landscape professionals to customize the publication to fit Santa Clara County's local landscaping needs.

The handbook provides in-depth tips on improving soil health, capturing rainwater, selecting climate-appropriate plants, and designing gardens in Santa Clara County. In addition, the guide highlights the importance of managing each property as if it were a mini-watershed, creating landscapes that are truly resilient to the effects of a changing climate. The publication is also being translated into Spanish and Chinese. Valley Water will announce the publication on various platforms such as social media and it will also be featured on the SouthBayGreenGardens.org website.

Find the guide at: <https://www.valleywater.org/saving-water/outdoor-conservation/landscape-guides-resources>

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