

## SUMMARY FOR AUGUST 2021

## Office of Civic Engagement Monthly Update



## Youth Commission

On August 25, the Youth Commission held its first meeting of the new school year. Nine new commissioners were sworn in: Ranveer Saini (D1), Kate Hanson (D2), Niharika Koduru (D2), Lucia Parakh (D4), Pramath Doddaballapur (D5), Daniel Shih (D5), Luis Hernandez (D6), David Khoury (D6), and Oded Bronicki (D7). The Commission elected Anika Kulkarni (D3) as the Chair and Ye'ela Bronicki (D7) as the Vice-Chair for the new school year. All the new and returning commissioners were given the opportunity to introduce themselves. There were 19 youth commissioners in attendance, along with Directors Hsueh, Varela and Keegan.



Youth Commission Meeting on August 25, 2021.

## Creek Stewardship

In August, staff wrapped up our revamp of the Adopt-A-Creek signs. In the fall, Valley Water staff will remove 26 outdated signs and place 55 new signs with the new Safe, Clean Water logo for all current Adopt-A-Creek partners.



Example of the new Adopt-a-Creek Signs

## Safe, Clean Water Grants and Partnerships

**Grants on the radio:** On August 26, staff were invited to the Old Time Farm and Garden Show on KKUP radio to showcase Valley Water's Safe, Clean Water Grants & Partnerships Program, current grant funding opportunities, and grant projects that support community water conservation efforts.

**Grant Closeout: Grassroots Ecology's Westwind Barn Stormwater Infiltration Project.** In FY 2018, Valley Water awarded Grassroots Ecology a \$70,605.60 B3 grant for their Westwind Barn Stormwater Infiltration Project. The grant funded environmental stewardship activities to increase stormwater infiltration at the Westwind Community Barn in the upper Adobe Creek Watershed in Los Altos Hills. The project engaged 628 volunteers to install a series of berms and contour plantings to slow and treat surface runoff to safeguard Moody Creek from polluted runoff. Activities included native plant installation and maintenance, invasive plant removal, regenerating riparian habitats, and taught volunteers how to grow, plant, and care for native plants.



Grassroots Ecology's Westwind Barn Stormwater Infiltration Project: Volunteers played an instrumental role in clearing invasive plants and growing, planting and caring for native plants.

**Grant Closeout: Living Classroom's Crittenden Middle School Native Plant Garden Project.** In FY 2017, Valley Water awarded Living Classroom a \$5,000 D3 Mini-Grant for their Crittenden Middle School Native Plant Garden Project. The grant funded the installation of a 2,300 sq. ft. native plant garden with 75 native plants and serves as an outdoor classroom to provide environmentally focused lessons to students.



Living Classroom's Crittenden Middle School Native Plant Garden Project: Volunteers help install a 2,300 sqft native plant garden for students.

### ADOPT-A-CREEK CLEANUP NUMBERS

DATE	PARTNER	CREEK	# VOLUNTEERS	# MILES CLEANED	LBS TRASH
August 7	De Anza Optimist Club - Steig Klein	McClellan Road Percolation System	6	.5	40
August 14	Saved by Nature	Guadalupe Creek	10	.5	15
August 14	Miller Neighborhood Association Hella (Bluhm-Stieber)	Calabazas Creek	2	.5	30
August 14	BAF13111	Barron Creek	2	.5	23
August 15	Henry & Delfina Shoane	Penitencia Creek	2	.5	150
August 18	Pit Stop Outreach	West Branch Llagas Creek	5	.5	1500
August 21	DIY Neighbors	Guadalupe Creek	2	.5	75
August 21	BAF1311	Barron Creek	4	.5	17
August 28	Jeff Prickett	West Little Llagas Creek	10	.5	1000
August 29	Boy Scout Troop 286	Guadalupe Creek	12	0.5	500

## Education Outreach

In August, the Education Outreach team reached 99 students through eight virtual summer camp presentations and one Wonders of Water Wednesday presentation. The team also supported eight educators through virtual engagements.

- Education Outreach staff presented Watershed Maps and Plastic Voyages to the 4-H Summer Science Camp. Students from throughout California shared stories and ideas about the drought, ways to protect our watersheds and save water every day.
- Education Outreach staff presented Water Cycle Boogie to the Palo Alto Library "Wacky Wednesdays" summer camp series. Attendees drew a water cycle diagram, sang a water cycle song and brainstormed ways to save water every day during the drought.
- Education Outreach launched the 2021-2022 Wonders of Water after-school enrichment series.

EDUCATION OUTREACH JULY PRESENTATION NUMBERS			
MONTH	STUDENTS AND EDUCATORS	PUBLIC ATTENDEES	YEAR TO DATE
JULY	592	0	592
AUGUST	107	23	130
TOTAL	699	23	722

**FY22 Goal:** Reach at least 10,000 students and 1,000 members of the public.



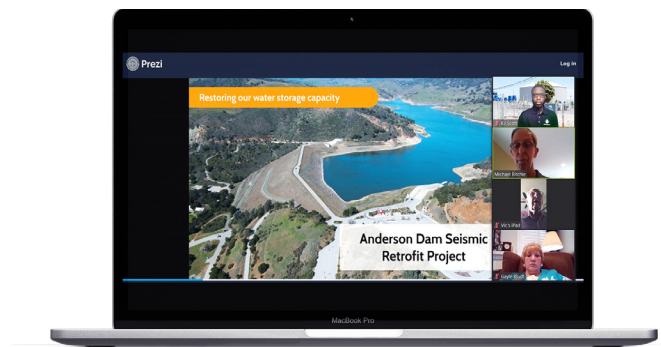
Wonders of Water Wednesday attendees learn about saving water.

## Water Supply Outreach

WATER SUPPLY OUTREACH NUMBERS		
DATE	WATER INFRASTRUCTURE AND PURIFICATION CENTER TOURS	FY 22 TOTAL ATTENDEES
July 2022		210
August 12	SVAWPC Private - Campbell Lions Club	15
August 18	SVAWPC Public tour with SJPL	3
AUGUST TOTAL		18
TOTAL		228

**FY 22 Goal:** Conduct public/private tours of the SVAWPC in any of our tour formats (live, virtual or self-guided) for at least 1,000 attendees.

The Water Supply Outreach team hosted two tours of the Silicon Valley Advanced Water Purification Center in August, reaching a total of 18 individuals. On August 5, the team coordinated with the Water Supply Division to present the Purified Water Project to various Palo Alto environmental groups at the Peninsula Conservation Center Council meeting.



Private SVAWPC tour to the Campbell Lions Club

## Volunteer Program



Water Ambassador's quarterly working meeting on August 18

On August 18, staff hosted the Water Ambassadors for their first quarterly meeting of fiscal year 2021. Attendees learned about the newly adopted Climate Change Action Plan and current drought emergency. After the presentation, they brainstormed ways to support water conservation and amplify drought messaging within their communities. In attendance were ambassadors from all three Water 101 cohorts (2019, 2020, and 2021). In addition, staff developed and implemented an annual Water Ambassadors survey to gather participant feedback to inform future program planning.

## Community Rating System

Staff hosted a joint meeting of the CRS Users Group and Program for Public Information (PPI) Meeting on August 18. The meeting focused on discussing the development of new outreach initiatives as indicated in the 2021 Multi-Jurisdictional PPI 5-Year Plan. The meeting also had two presentations - one on Valley Water's upcoming "Get Flood Ready" campaign and the second on a Valley Water initiative to study the communities most vulnerable to flooding in Santa Clara County.

## Looking Ahead

### Wonders of Water Wednesdays After-school Enrichment Series 4:00 p.m.

- September 1st - Watershed Maps
- September 8th - Discover California Water
- September 15th - Plastic Voyages
- September 22nd - H2O on the Go
- September 29th - How to be a Conscious Conservationist

### Water Supply Outreach tour program:

- September 1st - SVAWPC Private Tour for West Valley College
- September 9th - SVAWPC Public Tour
- September 15th - SVAWPC Public Tour in collaboration with the SJ Public Library
- September 18th - SVAWPC Private Tour for the Oakmont of SJ Retirement Community
- September 22nd - SVAWPC Public Tour in collaboration with the SC Public Library