



SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

NON-AGENDA

July 8, 2022

Board Policy EL-7 Communication and Support to the Board
The BAOs shall inform and support the Board in its work.

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		<u>INCOMING BOARD CORRESPONDENCE</u>
15		Board Correspondence Weekly Report: 07/07/22
16		Email from Bill Cowden, to the Board of Directors, dated 07/05/22, regarding Homeless Activity along Los Gatos Creek (C-22-0108).
20		Email from Kathe Bassi, to the Board of Directors, dated 07/05/22, regarding Homeless Activity along Los Gatos Creek (C-22-0109).
22		Email from Kathy Strickland, to the Board of Directors, dated 07/05/22, regarding Homeless Activity along Los Gatos Creek (C-22-0110).
		<u>OUTGOING BOARD CORRESPONDENCE</u>
25		Email from Director Hsueh, to Jim Foley, dated 07/05/22, regarding Video-Article "Why are ponds empty?" (C-22-0103).

Board correspondence has been removed from the online posting of the Non-Agenda to protect personal contact information. Lengthy reports/attachments may also be removed due to file size limitations. Copies of board correspondence and/or reports/attachments are available by submitting a public records request to publicrecords@valleywater.org.

CEO BULLETIN

CEO BULLETIN



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

Weeks of June 10 – July 7, 2022

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. 2021 Multi-Jurisdictional Program for Public Information (PPI) Annual Evaluation Report for FY22 (Year 1)

Valley Water continues to participate in the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA's) National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Community Rating System (CRS) Program.

The Program for Public Information (PPI) was introduced into the CRS Program in 2013. Valley Water was the lead agency in the development of the 2015 and 2021 Santa Clara County Multi-Jurisdictional PPI, which is a collaborative county-wide outreach program to increase flood awareness. FEMA requires that an Annual Evaluation Report on the Multi-Jurisdictional PPI be shared with the same governing body that approved the PPI. Valley Water's Board of Directors approved the 2021 Multi-Jurisdictional PPI on April 27, 2021.

This is the first Annual Evaluation Report of the 2021 PPI being presented to the Valley Water Board. The Annual Evaluation Report for Fiscal Year 22 (Year 1) will be submitted to the Board on July 12, 2022, as a non-agenda item.

For further information, please contact Donald Rocha at (408) 630-2338.

2. 30th National Cleanup Day – Saturday May 21, 2022

In support of the 30th National River Cleanup Day (NRCD), Valley Water, in conjunction with the Creek Connections Action Group (CCAG), coordinated another successful cleanup event in Santa Clara County.

From Los Altos to Gilroy, 28 sites participated in this year's National River Cleanup Day. A total of 596 volunteers cleaned 36 miles of creek and shoreline, removing approximately 25,265 pounds of trash.

This year marked an exciting return to hosting more significant in-person cleanup sites. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, these larger, more coordinated efforts have not been possible for the previous two years. In addition to more extensive group cleanups, Valley Water also supported self-guided cleanup options. This new hybrid approach increases the accessibility of the program to a broader audience and expands the reach of cleanup efforts to include public areas adjacent to waterways.

One of this year's 28 sites was located behind Valley Water Headquarters and hosted by Valley Water Youth Commissioners, with Water Ambassadors in attendance. Director Nai Hsueh also participated in this cleanup. NRCD also included an Environmental Cleanup Site (ECS) at the Sanchez Ponds to engage the unhoused community in that area. Valley Water partnered with Opening Doors 2020 and provided hot meals and hygiene kits to the unhoused community. Saved by Nature was also at the ECS, where they led a group of volunteers through the Sanchez Ponds site and conducted litter cleanup. Director Santos attended the ECS and four other NRCD cleanups in his district.

Some of the most interesting items that volunteers picked up include the following: A belt buckle commemorating the 1979 Coors Water Ski Jump event, a forty-gallon aquarium, a barbecue, a Swiffer mop, wooden doors, a single roller skate, a commercial coffee pot, a laptop docking station, a bag full of stuffed animals, and five vehicle tires. As always, we will be leveraging the volunteers' momentum to further encourage them to sign up for the upcoming Coastal Cleanup Day in September, Adopt-A-Creek Program, and support other district volunteer efforts.

The CCAG is a consortium of public agencies and non-profit organizations that share a goal of protecting Santa Clara County's waterways. These agencies include the Santa Clara Valley Water District (Chair), Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation, the City of San José (Parks Recreation and Neighborhood Services, Environmental Services Department), City of Santa Clara, City of Palo Alto, City of Sunnyvale, City of Milpitas, City of Cupertino, and West Valley Clean Water Program (Campbell, Monte Sereno, Saratoga, and the Town of Los Gatos).

For further information, please contact Donald Rocha at (408) 630-2338.

3. EPA Announces New Drinking Water Health Advisories and Funding for PFAS

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has announced drinking water health advisories for four per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). PFAS are a large group of chemicals used for industry and firefighting and to make consumer products waterproof, non-stick, or stain resistant. PFAS are called "forever chemicals" as they break down slowly and can accumulate in humans, animals, and the environment.

The four health advisories are not enforceable but provide information on contaminants that can impact human health. The health advisories are conservative, based on lifetime exposure in drinking water, and accounting for sensitive populations and other sources like food, air, and consumer products for additional margin of safety. Several health advisories are near zero and there are no EPA-approved laboratory methods that can detect PFAS at these very low levels.

Voluntarily testing at Valley Water's three drinking water treatment plants found no detections of the PFAS with EPA health advisories. PFAS have been detected above the health advisories in some water supply wells at levels that do not require treatment, removal from service, or customer notification under current state requirements. Currently, there are no drinking water standards for PFAS. However, both California and the EPA are expected to propose PFAS limits in drinking water by the end of 2022.

The EPA also announced \$1 billion in funding to address PFAS and other emerging contaminants in drinking water. However, funding eligibility focuses on small or disadvantaged communities, so Valley Water and local water retailers are not likely strong candidates. Valley Water will continue to track the rapidly evolving PFAS science and regulations, work with regulatory agencies and water retailers to evaluate potential sources and treatment technologies, and provide timely, transparent communication to our customers and the public.

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

4. Reorienting to Salmon Recovery Project Featured in San Francisco Estuary Magazine

The Reorienting to Salmon Recovery Project (Project) was recently featured in a San Francisco Estuary Magazine article (<https://archive.estuarynews.org/reorienting-to-salmon-recovery>). The Project, initiated in 2020, aims to develop a strategy for recovering Central Valley salmonids by engaging all interested parties in an inclusive and structured process. While Valley Water is not mentioned in the article, this effort is co-led by Valley Water alongside Metropolitan Water District, The Bay Institute, and Trout Unlimited.

The Project is currently in phase two of a three-phased effort. Phase one was completed in March 2022 and focused on defining recovery from a biological perspective, with a goal of identifying metrics for recovery beyond just de-listing the species.

Phase two involves engaging all interested parties in cataloging the salmon restoration projects that are currently planned and identifying what matters to participants related to salmon recovery, such as their social, economic, and cultural values. The Project team just completed a three-day workshop series with about 100 attendees talking about their values and how to measure them. Phase three will model various scenarios of actions using existing salmon life cycle models and other decision support tools, using all the currently planned projects as a baseline. This phase will evaluate the results against both the biological metrics identified in phase one and the socio-economic values identified in phase two. Using a structured decision-making process, the ultimate goal is to arrive at a strategy to recover Central Valley salmonids that has broad support and thus has greater potential for being funded and implemented.

The Project has received \$425,000 from the State Water Contractors for phase one and for Tribal engagement in phase two, and \$1.5 million through a competitive grant from the Delta Stewardship Council and U.S. Bureau of Reclamation for phases two and three.

More information about the Project and the Phase 1 Report can be found here: <https://csamp.baydeltalive.com/wiki/25728>.

For further information, please contact Vincent Gin at (408) 630-2633.

5. Safe, Clean Water Mini-Grant Closeout: Friends of Masters of Santa Clara County's Drink What You Grow! Teaching and Demonstration Garden Foundation Project

In Fiscal Year 2022, Valley Water awarded Friends of Master Gardeners of Santa Clara County a \$5,000 Safe, Clean Water Program A2 Mini-Grant for their Drink What You Grow! Teaching and Demonstration Garden Foundation Project (Project). The Project was completed on April 7, 2022, and the final invoice items were submitted on April 7, 2022, allowing for grant closeout.

Friends of Master Gardeners of Santa Clara County is a non-profit organization that provides educational presentations and demonstrations to promote home horticulture, pest management and sustainable landscape practices. The Project allowed the installation of planters, raised beds, hydrazone irrigation, and waterwise plants for the Drink What You Grow! Teaching and Demonstration Garden (DWYG Garden) at Martial Cottle Park in San Jose, CA. The DWYG Garden provides a unique space for the community to learn about sustainable gardening through virtual and onsite educational activities. The Project helped establish the integrated and crosscutting thematic garden space that includes waterwise plants, which focuses on how home gardeners can reduce both waste and water. The Project also provided presentations on how to plant with water conversation in mind and learn to take advantage of small spaces using containers when growing plants.

Key Outcomes:

- Established a meeting and teaching space at Martial Cottle Park in San Jose that includes approximately 90 sq. ft of growing grounds exhibiting efficient use of small garden space.
- Hosted 12 open house walk-through events with a total of 120-150 visitors.
- Held weekly Master Gardener work shifts including eight taste tests of drink recipes utilizing ingredients grown in the garden.
- Held six outreach and education events for the public and Master Gardener communities with 73 attendees participating in presentations.
- Utilized social media to engage the community, including six Facebook posts, six Instagram posts and three YouTube videos.

For further information, please contact Donald Rocha at (408) 630-2338.

6. Update Regarding Increased Taste and Odor Compounds in Water Sources and Valley Water's Response

As we move further into summer, and given the significant drought conditions, Valley Water is beginning to see increased levels of the taste and odor (T&O) compounds Methylisoborneol (MIB) and Geosmin in its water sources. These algae-related compounds are difficult to remove when present at high levels. T&O compounds are harmless to health and do not impact the safety of drinking water; however, they can cause unpleasant tastes and odors at very low levels.

Valley Water is closely monitoring its source water quality and proactively implementing strategies – a combination of treatment optimization and source blending to the extent possible to minimize impacts to treated water. So far, Valley Water's treatment plants have been successful at reducing the T&O compounds to below internal trigger levels.

Source water quality may likely continue to degrade until temperatures cool down in late-Fall. Valley Water will keep the Board and its retailers apprised of any significant changes in source water and any actions taken to ensure the quality of our drinking water in accordance with Valley Water's Taste and Odor Action Plan.

For further information, please contact John Brosnan at (408) 630-2849.

7. Valley Water Co-Authored Articles Published in Santa Clara County Medical Association Quarterly Magazine

Valley Water's Water Supply Outreach team has been working with physicians from the Santa Clara County Medical Association (SCCMA) for the past nine months as part of a concerted effort to raise awareness and support for Valley Water's water reuse and purified water expansion goals among the medical and public health community.

As part of this targeted outreach, Valley Water partnered with the SCCMA Environmental Health Committee to develop a series of co-authored articles on local water supplies and their conditions, treatment processes, and challenges and solutions for ensuring a reliable and continuous supply of safe clean water, including water reuse and the Purified Water Project. The articles were published in a special issue of the SCCMA Quarterly Magazine, The Bulletin. The magazine reaches more than 4,500 physicians of diverse practices in Santa Clara County. Contributing to the article development included Valley Water staff from Water Supply Planning and Conservation, Raw Water Operations, Recycled and Purified Water, Water Quality and the Office of Civic Engagement.

The Bulletin magazine can be viewed online at: <https://www.sccma.org/news-events/bulletin-magazine.aspx>

For further information, please contact Donald Rocha at (408) 630-2338

8. Valley Water Holds Public Meeting for the Anderson Dam Seismic Improvement Project

On June 22, 2022, Valley Water held a public meeting to update the Morgan Hill community about the Anderson Dam Seismic Retrofit Project, which is currently in construction. The current work is focused on building an outlet tunnel next to the dam that will allow the release of more water during a storm or other emergency. The overall project will improve dam reliability and safety.

Valley Water utilized a hybrid model, holding the meeting in-person at the Morgan Hill Community Center and through two virtual platforms - Zoom and Facebook. There were 38 members of the public at the in-person meeting, 35 Zoom participants and 18 viewers on Facebook Live.

Valley Water Board Chair Pro Tem John Varela kicked off the meeting in person with opening remarks. Assistant CEO Melanie Richardson served as the emcee and Deputy Operating Officer Chris Hakes conducted the presentation and addressed numerous audience questions and comments. Director Richard Santos was also in attendance through Zoom. Kerry Duncan, assistant to Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren, attended via Zoom and offered her contact information to meeting attendees to express concerns.

A recording of the public meeting will be made available on the project website and Valley Water's YouTube channel. Questions asked during the meeting will be compiled into an updated FAQ that will be uploaded to the project web page.

For further information, please contact Rachael Gibson at (408) 781-4739.

9. Valley Water Holds Public Meeting for Stream Maintenance Program

On June 16, 2022, Valley Water held a public meeting to collect input on its Stream Maintenance Program. The meeting utilized a hybrid approach and was held in-person at the Valley Water headquarters boardroom and via Zoom and Facebook Live. Ten attendees tuned in on Zoom and four on Facebook to discuss potential program improvements that could be applied over the next 10 years. Valley Water Board Chair Pro Tem John Varela provided opening remarks via Zoom and was joined online by Directors Nai Hsueh and Richard Santos.

A recording of the public meeting will be made available on the project website, and Valley Water's YouTube channel.

For further information, please contact Rachael Gibson at (408) 781-4739.

10. Valley Water Partners with UC Merced to Research Mercury Mitigation in Reservoirs

Valley Water and the University of California at Merced will conduct a collaborative research study of mercury control methods in Guadalupe Reservoir that minimize mixing and unintended water quality impacts. Presently, Valley Water operates line diffuser hypolimnetic oxygenation systems in four reservoirs (Almaden, Calero, Guadalupe, and Stevens Creek) to maintain dissolved oxygen at the sediment-water interface, with the goal of decreasing the production and release of methylmercury. While methylmercury concentrations in fish are declining in Guadalupe and Stevens Creek reservoirs, oxygenation may be contributing to temperature and turbidity increases in water at the bottom of the reservoir, which could degrade the quality of reservoir outflow for downstream fish. This study seeks to identify alternative methods of mercury control that do not contribute to increases in temperature and turbidity. Specifically, the project will investigate sorbent (e.g., activated carbon, modified clays, surface-functionalized materials) treatment methods for their ability to decrease methylmercury concentrations in water while avoiding turbidity-causing mixing and temperature increases.

For further information, please contact Lisa Bankosh at (408) 630-2618.

11. Well Permitting Requirements Related to Executive Order N-7-22

In response to the statewide drought emergency, Governor Newsom adopted Executive Order N-7-22 (Order). Among other mandates, the Order contains several provisions related to well permitting that apply to Valley Water as the county's Groundwater Sustainability Agency and primary well permitting agency.

Public water supply wells and individual domestic wells that will pump less than two acre-feet per year are exempt from the requirements. For non-exempt wells, public agencies must find the proposed pumping is generally consistent with the local Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) plan and that it is not likely to interfere with nearby wells or cause subsidence. Permit applicants will be responsible for obtaining a report signed by a licensed professional demonstrating the well will not impact nearby wells or cause subsidence. This report will be reviewed by Valley Water, who will issue the well permit once all related requirements are met. For well permits subject to the Order, permit applicants should expect additional costs and time needed to secure a well permit.

Valley Water is closely tracking state legislation, AB 2201(Bennett), that would make similar well permitting requirements permanent. The bill is currently pending passage in the State Senate.

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

BOARD MEMBER REQUESTS and Informational Items

Report Name: Board Member Requests

Request	Request Date	Director	BAO/Chief	Staff	Description	20 Days Due Date	Expected Completion Date	Disposition
I-22-0004	06/14/22	Hsueh	Baker	Gin	Director Hsueh requests staff to prepare a follow up email to Mr. Burns (original Correspondence C-22-0081 in May) regarding AMI and smart metering, since SJ Water received approval to deploy AMI, one of Mr. Burns' concerns.	07/04/22	07/14/2022	
I-22-0005	06/27/22	Estremera	Orellana	Hopper	At the 06/08/22 DIAHC meeting, staff was requested to provide the committee a comprehensive list of VW active agreements that are contracted with tribal communities.	07/17/22		
R-22-0006	06/28/22	Varela	Blank	Yerrapotu	Staff to follow up with Mr. Dean Stanford on his public comment made at the 6/28/2022 board meeting regarding his South Bay Shoreline Project park proposal.	07/18/22		



MEMORANDUM

FC 14 (08-21-19)

TO: Board of Directors**FROM:** Melanie Richardson**SUBJECT:** Watershed and Water Utility FY 23-27
Operations and Maintenance Plan**DATE:** June 30, 2022

Introduction

The Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 – 2027 Watersheds Operations and Maintenance Plan (WS Plan) was prepared to provide an overview of the maintenance work conducted to ensure flood protection projects and associated facilities continue to function as designed in support of Ends Policies E-3 and E-4. The FY 2023 - 2027 Water Utility Operations and Maintenance Plan (WU Plan) was prepared in parallel to provide an overview of the operations and maintenance activities conducted to provide a reliable clean water supply in support of Ends Policy E-2.

Both plans provide an overview of expected operations and maintenance activities and associated expenditures over the next five fiscal years. The plans are five-year rolling plans that will be updated annually and developed in alignment with the annual budget process. Each plan also discusses the unfunded operations activities that are expected to be needed in the next five fiscal years but are not currently budgeted.

Draft plans were presented to the Board on January 11, 2022 to receive comments and feedback. The Plans were finalized following Board adoption of Valley Water's FY 2023 and 2024 budget and are attached for the Board's information and reference.

Watersheds

In total, the Watersheds O&M Division has identified funded resource needs of approximately \$276.2 Million and an additional unfunded need of \$3.49 Million for the next five years. Of this amount, \$51.7 Million funded and \$0.4 Million unfunded was identified for FY 2023. The unfunded need would provide engineering support for the growing workload of vegetation field operations.

The plan also discusses additional unfunded asset renewal projects and deferred maintenance work that will be identified through Safe, Clean Water Project F8: Sustainable Creek Infrastructure for Continued Public Safety. This project will identify and prioritize infrastructure issues and develop asset management plans which will identify needed asset renewal projects. Currently this unfunded work is estimated at more than \$100 Million over the next ten years. Additional details are described in the attached WS Plan.

Water Utility

In total, the Raw and Treated Water Divisions have identified funded resource needs of approximately \$499.6 Million and an additional unfunded need of \$13.8 Million over the five years. Of this amount, \$95.7 Million funded and \$1.6 Million unfunded was identified for FY 2023. The unfunded need would provide for additional support for the corrosion control program, mechanical engineering, and laboratory and water quality operations.

In addition, the WU Plan incorporates a five-year projection of asset renewal projects that are identified through an annual maintenance work planning process. The WU Plan identifies \$40 Million of planned

asset renewal work to be completed over the next five FYs 2023-2027. \$3.2 Million of the planned asset renewal work is scheduled for the current FY 2023.

Next Steps

The next update of the plans will begin in Fall of 2022 for FYs 2024-2028. Draft plans are expected to be completed by December 2022 and will align with the FY24 budget process.

Hard copies of these documents are available at the Clerk of the Board office. Electronic copies of these documents can be found at the links below:

Watersheds:

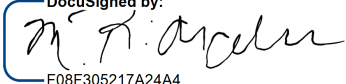
The electronic copy of this document can be found at:

[https://aqua.valleywater.org/sites/default/files/home/scvwd/main/water_utility/411/WS_Reports_Library/WS%20OM%20Work%20Plan%20\(FY23-27\)_FINAL_Signed.pdf](https://aqua.valleywater.org/sites/default/files/home/scvwd/main/water_utility/411/WS_Reports_Library/WS%20OM%20Work%20Plan%20(FY23-27)_FINAL_Signed.pdf)

Water Utility:

https://aqua.valleywater.org/sites/default/files/home/scvwd/main/water_utility/411/WU_Reports_Library/Signed_FY23_27_WUEOMP.pdf

For further information, please contact Business Support and Asset Management Unit Manager, Erin Baker, at (408) 630-2608 or ebaker@valleywater.org.

DocuSigned by:

F08E305217A24A4

Melanie Richardson
Assistant CEO
Office of Integrated Water Management

Attached:

FY 23-27 Watersheds Operations and Maintenance Plan
FY 23-27 Water Utility Operations and Maintenance Plan

cc: E.Baker, E.Mercado, L.Yiu, J.Cordero
EB