

M E M O

TO: Board of Directors
FROM: District Manager
PREPARED BY: Environmental Programs Manager
SUBJECT: Environmental Department Status Report
DATE: May 19, 2022

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Board of Directors review and file the Environmental Department status report for April 2022.

GRANTS (ONGOING)

FIRE/FUEL REDUCTION GRANTS

Information on grants related to fire management and fuel reduction/hardening can be found in the "FIRE MANAGEMENT PLANNING" section of this report.

INFRASTRUCTURE GRANTS

Bureau of reclamation Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects – WaterSMART grant. Application submitted April 29th for \$100k toward AMI meter upgrades.

Coastal Conservancy Wildfire Resiliency Grant

- i. 2021 final progress & request for disbursement submitted
- ii. 2022 application drafted and will be submitted May 16, 2022

Upcoming grants:

- iii. WaterSMART Water and Energy Efficiency Grant
- iv. CAL FIRE – California Forest Improvement Program

SEE GRANT TRACKING TABLE AT END OF REPORT FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON DISTRICT GRANTS APPLICATIONS AND AWARDS

WATER RIGHTS (On-going)

CONJUNCTIVE USE WATER RIGHT PETITIONS – FELTON

Staff working on operational plan to guide permitting for regulatory agencies and developing a water right change for place of use.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE - CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (ONGOING)

CONJUNCTIVE USE

Draft updated project description reviewed by staff and return to Rincon for finalization of draft on 3/14/22. Once draft project description is finalized it will be brought to the Engineering/Environmental Committee in April.

CDFW & NMFS permitting for all surface water diversions (Fall Creek, Peavine, Clear Creek, Sweetwater, and Foreman) in initial stages

SANDHILLS HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN (HCP) FOR THE SAN LORENZO VALLEY WATER DISTRICT CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN (DECEMBER 2021)

Consultant confirmed draft sandhills HCP will be ready for BoD review by October 2022. Detailed schedule below.

Deliverable	Anticipated Timeline	Assumptions
Administrative Draft Chapters		
Covered Activities (Ch. 2)	4/29/2022	District provides additional documents (fire management plan, etc.) by 3/25/22
Environmental Setting (Ch. 3)	5/31/2022	
Impacts and Take Assessment (Ch. 4)	6/30/2022	
Conservation Program (Ch. 5)	7/31/2022	District agrees upon avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures by 5/31/22
Implementation (Ch. 6)	8/31/2022	
Funding (Ch. 7)	8/31/2022	
Alternatives	8/31/2022	
Agency Draft	10/15/2022	District provides final feedback by 9/23/22

CIP PROJECT PERMITTING

Staff is working to secure permits for the following Projects:

- b. Lyon Treatment Plant Access Road Slide (FEMA funded - 2023)
 - i. Engineering staff in final stages of alternative route plans
 - ii. Permitting process to kick-off once alternative route approved
- c. 5-mile and Peavine pipeline
 - i. Tree surveys with Registered Professional Forester (RPF) moving forward

- ii. Environmental peer review of construction feasibility study request for quotes sent out
 - iii. Development of Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for environmental permitting
- d. Quail Hollow Pipeline
 - i. Kick-off in March 2022.
 - ii. Biological surveys started & biological resource training to be completed prior to construction
- e. Blue Ridge Tank
 - i. Environmental permitting contract executed
- f. Bracken Brae & Forest Springs Consolidation
 - i. Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for environmental permitting to be released in early May
- g. Felton Heights Tank
 - i. Upcoming development of Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for environmental permitting
- h. Fall Creek Fish Ladder (further detail in memo in agenda packet)
 - i. Biological surveys prior to construction being scheduled
 - ii. Revegetation plan post-construction
 - 1. Plants purchased
 - 2. Contract with vegetation consultant needed
 - iii. Verifying all permitting for construction

WATERSHED MANAGEMENT/ STEWARDSHIP

FIRE MANAGEMENT PLANNING (ONGOING)

Kick-off tour & meeting with RCD for the ~\$480,000 grant funding through CALFIRE's Forest Health Grant completed by staff in October. Projects being discussed by CALFIRE, SLVWD staff and RCD to find the most beneficial options for District lands. Project planning in the Olympia watershed for fuel reduction/invasive removal in process.

An application was submitted to the Coastal Conservancy for the 2022 Wildfire Resilience Grant program for ~300K.

The District submitted an application to CAL FIRE's Fire Prevention Grant program to continue fuel reduction at infrastructure sites and harden pump house structures. Award to be announced by August 2022.

OLYMPIA PATROL (ONGOING)

Annual contract with the Land Trust contract was renewed and no trespassing was reported in April.

WATER CONSERVATION (ONGOING)

RAIN UPDATE

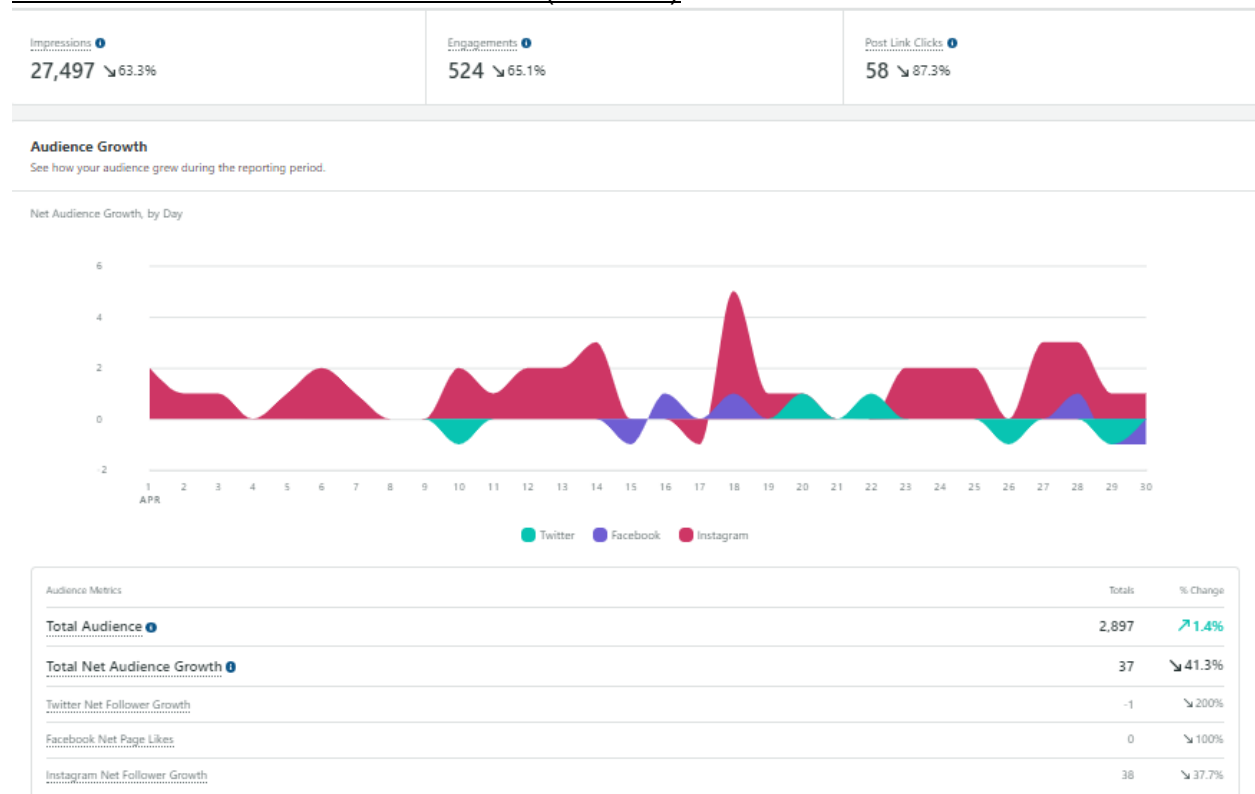
Water year 21/22 (October 1, 2021 – September 30, 2022) totals in downtown Boulder Creek thus far are approximately 35.25 inches. For current rain fall totals visit <https://www.slvwd.com/about-us/pages/local-weather-rainfall>

PUBLIC OUTREACH

BUZZ PR

Buzz is working with staff on outreach through daily updates, distributing information to press, social media sites, and print sources.

APRIL PERFORMANCE SUMMARY (BELOW)



APRIL OUTREACH

April newsletter
BoD meetings
District 5 Town Hall
CCR
Staff introduction
System flushing
Chipping program
BoD vacancy
Board appointment – Jeffrey Hill
Water quality
Bill pay

Budget & Finance Committee opening
Emergency preparedness
CZU update
Water wise garden tips
FAQ

MARCH OUTREACH

March newsletter
Water Efficiency Classes for Landscape Professionals
FAQ
Emergency preparedness
Bill pay
Fall Creek Fish Ladder
BoD Meetings
BoD Vacancy
Department overviews
Consolidation
811
CCR
Wildfire fuel reduction
System flushing
State of District
Water wise gardening

FEBUARY OUTREACH:

February newsletter
State of the District
Now hiring – administrative analyst
BOD meetings
Online bill pay
Fall Creek Fish Ladder
Subscribe to newsletter
FAQ
SMGWA
Rebates
Rate assistance program
Emergency preparedness
Autopay
Operations department Water quality
811 – call before you dig
Congressman Jimmy Panetta visit
Leak Adjustment policy

NETWORKING & COLLABORATIONS

AMERICORPS (JANUARY 2022)

District submitted AmeriCorps application with Camp Harmon as a co-sponsor for an AmeriCorps team in 2022. The team will assist the District with restoration projects such

as invasive removal, native planting, and community education. The team was awarded and will arrive in March for 5 weeks. Work completed at the Kirby Water Treatment Plant.

GREEN BUSSINESS PROGRAM

In 2017 the District was certified as a Santa Cruz County Green Business. Staff is working with Green Business certifiers to complete certification for 2021-2022.

SANTA CRUZ NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM EARTH STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM (NOVEMBER 2021)

School year complete