

M E M O

TO: Board of Directors
FROM: District Manager
PREPARED BY: Environmental Programs Manager
SUBJECT: Environmental Department Status Report
DATE: March 17, 2022

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Board of Directors review and file the Environmental Department status report for February 2021.

GRANTS (ONGOING)

CONJUNCTIVE USE GRANT

Contract amendment signed by Rincon Environmental to prepare items for the February Environmental Committee but delayed due to staff reviews. 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.

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

Staff submitted 6 notices of interest to CAL OES's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (~60 million requested) to retrofit redwood and poly tanks, harden supply lines, and update pump house structures to non-flammable materials.

Staff have been working on an application for California's Department of Fish & Wildlife's Proposition 1 Restoration Grant Programs for restoration of the Fall Creek Fish Ladder.

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

WATER RIGHTS (On-going)

CONJUNCTIVE USE WATER RIGHT PETITIONS – FELTON

Staff working on operational plan to guide permitting for regulatory agencies.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE - CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (ONGOING)

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

The PG&E's mitigation project to restore riparian habitat and remove invasive plant species in the Olympia watershed began on December 27, 2022 and was completed on January 21, 2022

CIP PROJECT PERMITTING

Staff is working to secure permits for the following Projects:

- Lyon Treatment Plant Access Road Slide (FEMA funded - 2023)
 - Engineering staff in final stages of alternative route plans
 - Permitting process to kick-off once alternative route approved
- 5-mile pipeline
 - Feasibility study in process
 - Tree surveys with RPF being discussed
- Quail Hollow Pipeline
 - Quail Hollow environmental monitoring contract awarded
 - Kick-off scheduled for March 2022.
- HUD pipeline replacement
 - Initial contact with permitting agencies made in October
 - Environmental report complete
 - CEQA NOE submitted to County Clerk
- Zayante cross country line hardening
 - Initial surveys by staff

WATERSHED MANAGEMENT/ STEWARDSHIP

FIRE MANAGEMENT PLANNING

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.

Fuel reduction work at 7 sites kicked-off November 8th for the \$200,000 grant through the Coast Conservancy's Wildfire Resilience Grant program. All work completed in January 2022 and final invoicing being completed by staff for reimbursement.

A pre-application was submitted to the Coastal Conservancy for the 2022 Wildfire Resilience Grant program.

The District is working with Panorama Environmental to completed a Forest Management Plan funded through CAL FIRE's California Forest Improvement Program (\$6,822.00). Plan completed and available for review on the District's website [here](#).

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.

OLYMPIA PATROL (ONGOING)

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

WATER CONSERVATION (ONGOING)

RAIN UPDATE

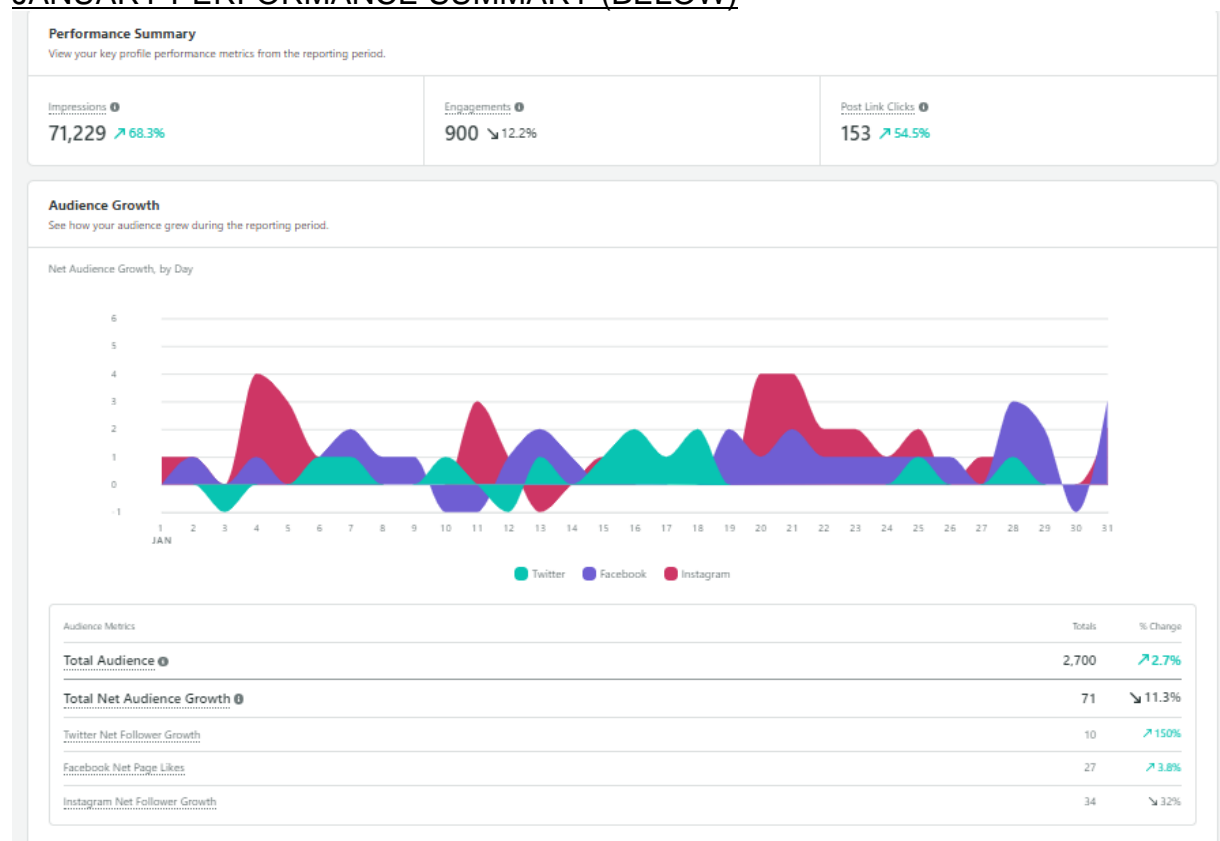
Water year 21/22 (October 1, 2021 – September 30, 2022) totals in downtown Boulder Creek thus far are approximately 29.87 inches. For current rain fall totals visit <https://www.slvwd.com/about-us/pages/local-weather-rainfall>

PUBLIC OUTREACH

BUZZ PR

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

JANUARY PERFORMANCE SUMMARY (BELOW)



JANUARY OUTREACH:

January newsletter
Fixing leaks information
FAQs
BOD & Committee meetings
Big Basin article
Online bill pay
Auto-pay
Water quality info.
Customer service
Start/stop service
Staff spotlight
Now hiring
CZU recovery
Operational department info.

DECEMBER OUTREACH:

District Manager holiday letter
December newsletter
BOD meetings
Mission statement
FAQs
Now hiring
Capital Improvement Information
Emergency water main repair
Emergency preparedness
Boil water information
District facts
Office closure information

NOVEMBER OUTREACH:

Master plan meeting
Committee openings and applications
BOD meeting
Rain update
Water conservation
Customer service info.
CIP info.
Ken Moore memorial video
Zayante woody debris project video
Master plan facts

OCTOBER OUTREACH:

HUD Line press release
Stop/Start Service

Water conservation
Drought updates
Hiring ads
PSPS
Zayante Woody Debris Project video
After hours' emergency contact info.
Fire preparedness
BOD meetings
FAQs
Auto-pay

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.

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)

Kick-off on November 4 & 5 with 15 Ben Lomond high school students at the Kirby water treatment plant. In February students assisted with invasive plant removal on the Olympia watershed (upper redwood loop and well #3).