

M E M O

TO: Board of Directors
FROM: District Manager
PREPARED BY: Environmental Programs Manager
SUBJECT: Environmental Department Status Report
DATE: July 21, 2022

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Board of Directors review and file the Environmental Department status report for May/June 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

- i. Application submitted April 29th for \$100k toward AMI meter upgrades

Coastal Conservancy Wildfire Resiliency Grant

- ii. 2021 final progress & request for disbursement submitted
- iii. 2022 application not awarded

Cal OES Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)

- iv. Subapplications submitted April 8th, 2022
- v. Awaiting approval of County MOU
- vi. Request for information being completed by staff

California's Department of Fish & Wildlife's Proposition 1 Restoration Grant Programs

- vii. Application submitted in March 2022
- viii. ~1.1 million for the Fall Creek Fish Ladder construction project awarded

CAL FIRE's Fire Prevention Grant

- ix. Pump house hardening not awarded
- x. ~\$350,000 awarded for fuel reduction around infrastructure

Upcoming grants:

- xi. Santa Cruz Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM)
- xii. CAL FIRE – California Forest Improvement Program
- xiii. DWR Sustainable Groundwater Management Grant 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 preparing to submit water right petitions. Legal Counsel currently reviewing.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE - CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (ONGOING)

CONJUNCTIVE USE

Draft updated project description reviewed by Engineering and Environmental Committee on 6/21/22. Next steps and recommendation to BoD agenzized for BoD meeting July 21,2022

CDFW & NMFS permitting for all surface water diversions (Fall Creek, Peavine, Clear Creek, Sweetwater, and Foreman) in progress. Site walks scheduled for end of July 2022.

Meeting with City of Santa Cruz scheduled for July 2022.

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:

- a. Lyon Treatment Plant Access Road Slide (FEMA funded - 2023)
 - i. Waiting FEMA approval for alternate access route
 - ii. Permitting process to kick-off once alternative route approved
- b. 5-mile and Peavine pipeline
 - i. Development of Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for environmental permitting pending geotechnical peer-review
- c. Quail Hollow Pipeline
 - i. Biological training complete and on-going monitoring occurring
- d. HUD pipeline replacement
 - i. CEQA NOE submitted to County Clerk in February
 - ii. Staff working to secure easements
- e. Blue Ridge Tank
 - i. Contract executed. Kick-off meeting scheduled in July.
- f. Bracken Brae & Forest Springs Consolidation
 - i. Development of Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for environmental permitting. Awaiting DM approval.
- g. Big Basin Water Consolidation
 - i. Meetings with state, county, and federal agencies to determine potential funding sources
- h. Fuel Reduction Annual Maintenance Contract
 - i. Staff preparing a RFP for on-going maintenance of fuel reduction around critical infrastructure
- i. Felton Heights Tank
 - i. Upcoming development of Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for environmental permitting
- j. Fall Creek Fish Ladder
 - i. Biological surveys prior to construction completed
 - ii. Revegetation plan post-construction prepared and plants salvaged
 - iii. All permitting for construction on site

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.

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. Awarded June 2022.

SANITARY SURVEY

Staff working with the City of Santa Cruz to complete an updated Sanitary Survey

OLYMPIA PATROL (ONGOING)

Annual contract with the Land Trust contract was renewed and no trespassing was reported in May or June.

WATER CONSERVATION (ONGOING)

EXECUTIVE ORDER N-7-22

District in Water Shortage Stage 2

Consultant secured to prepare the District's Annual Water Supply and Demand Assessment (AWSDA) as required by the California Water Code and summarized in the District's Water Shortage Contingency Plan (WSCP), report submitted July 1, 2022.

RAIN UPDATE

Water year 21/22 (October 1, 2021 – September 30, 2022) totals in downtown Boulder Creek thus far are approximately 35.28 inches. For current rain fall totals visit <https://www.slvwd.com/about-us/pages/local-weather-rainfall>

PUBLIC OUTREACH

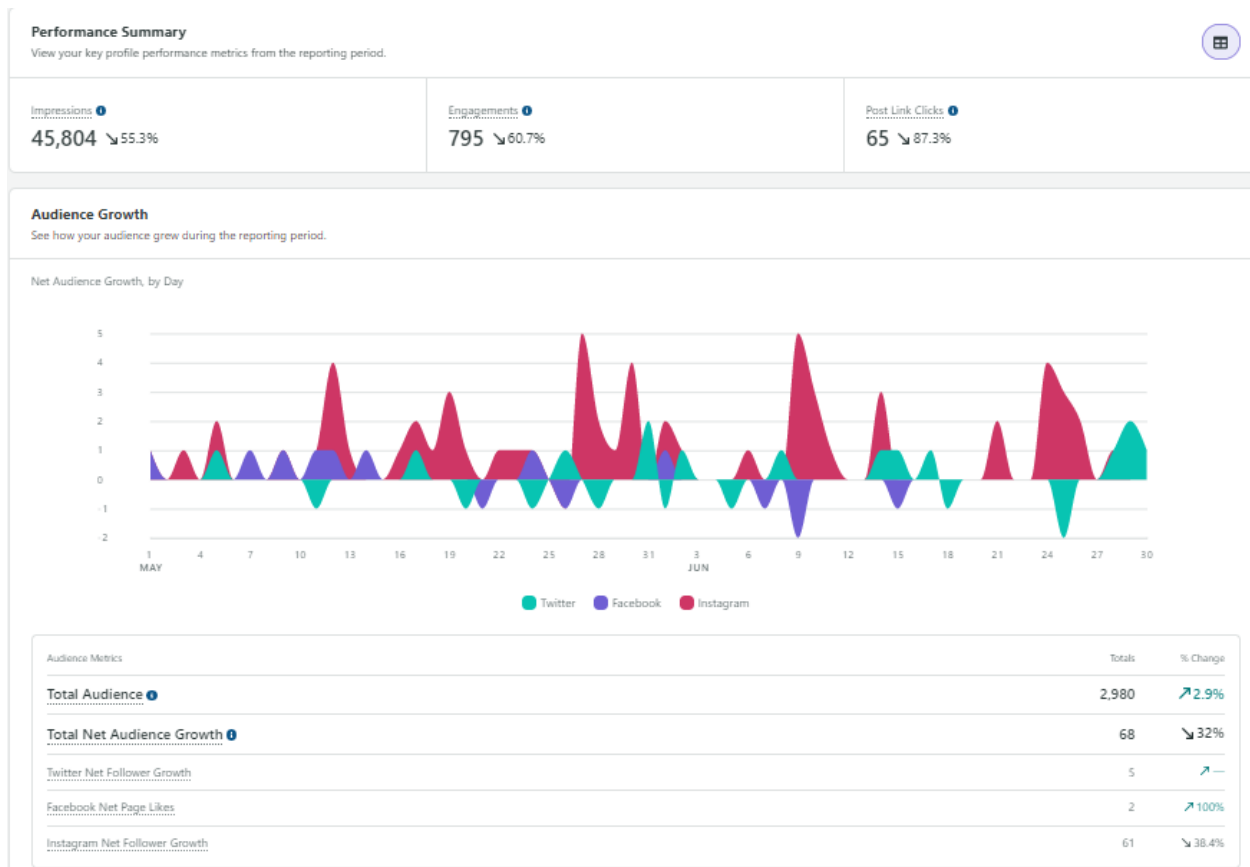
OUTREACH REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

RFP for District outreach consultant released and closes July 28th, 2022.

BUZZ PR

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

MAY & JUNE PERFORMANCE SUMMARY (BELOW)



JUNE OUTREACH

CIP

WaterSmart gardening

Water conservation

Emergency preparedness

BoD meetings

Committee Meetings

Water Master Plan

Quail Hollow Pipeline

FAQ

Online bill pay

Customer Service

Leaks

Rate assistance program

Subscribe to newsletter

Start/stop service

Hydration day

CZU fire information

MAY OUTREACH

May newsletter

BoD & Committee meetings

CZU Fire update

Committee opening

FAQ

Subscribe newsletter r& updates
Gardening tips
Autopay
Rate assistance program
State of the District report
811
System flushing
Drought info.
Staff spotlight
System leak detection
Emergency preparedness

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

NETWORKING & COLLABORATIONS

FRIENDS OF THE FELTON LIBRARY

Three volunteers assisted with tarping and weed pulling at the District's 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)

Program to restart in August 2022.