



NOTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE MEETING

Responsible for matters of stewardship of the District's property including: Urban Water Management Plans; Water Conservation Programs; Classis Watershed Education Grants; Watershed Management; Resource Management and other environmental related matter.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the San Lorenzo Valley Water District has called a meeting of the Environmental Committee to be held on **Wednesday, October 6, 2021, 10:00 am** via video/teleconference.

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/345660261>

You can also dial in using your phone.
(For supported devices, tap a one-touch number below to join instantly.)

United States (Toll Free): 1 866 899 4679
- One-touch: <tel:+18668994679,,345660261#>

United States: +1 (571) 317-3116
- One-touch: <tel:+15713173116,,345660261#>

Access Code: 345-660-261

New to GoToMeeting? Get the app now and be ready when your first meeting starts:
<https://global.gotomeeting.com/install/669809437>

AGENDA

1. Convene Meeting/Roll Call

2. Oral Communications

This portion of the agenda is reserved for Oral Communications by the public for items which are not on the Agenda. Please understand that California law (The Brown Act) limits what the Board can do regarding issues raised during Oral Communication. No action or discussion may occur on issues outside of those already listed on today's agenda. Any person may address the Committee at this time, on any subject that lies within the jurisdiction of the District. Normally, presentations must not exceed three (3) minutes in length, and individuals may only speak once during Oral Communications. Any Director may request that the matter be placed on a future agenda or staff may be directed to provide a brief response.

3. Old Business:

Members of the public will be given the opportunity to address each scheduled item prior to Committee action. The Chairperson of the Committee may establish a time limit for members of the public to address the Committee on agendized items.

- A. GRANT UPDATES & TRACKING
Discussion and possible action by the Committee regarding grant updates.
 - B. FUEL REDUCTION UPDATE & BIDDING
Discussion and possible action by the Committee regarding fuel reduction update and bidding.
4. New Business:
- Members of the public will be given the opportunity to address each scheduled item prior to Committee action. The Chairperson of the Committee may establish a time limit for members of the public to address the Committee on agendized items.*
- A. EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES
Discussion and possible action by the Committee regarding opportunities for education.

5. Informational Material:
Here is a link <https://www.slvwd.com/node/289/minutes> to previous Environmental Committee meeting minutes.

6. Adjournment

Agenda documents, including materials related to an item on this agenda submitted to the Committee after distribution of the agenda packet, are available for public inspection and may be reviewed at the office of the District Secretary, 13060 Highway 9, Boulder Creek, CA 95006 during normal business hours. Such documents may also be available on the District website at www.slvwd.com subject to staff's ability to post the documents before the meeting.

MEMO

To: Environmental Committee
From: District Manager
Prepared by: Environmental Planner
Subject: October 2021 Meeting Overview
Date: October 6, 2021

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Environmental Committee review this summary memo on the four informational items for October 2021's meeting.

Background

GRANT UPDATES & TRACKING

In the past few years the District has secured grants for a variety of projects (both capital and operational). District staff have been internally tracking potential grant opportunities as well as grants secured. Susan Robinson the District's consulting grant writer has developed a comprehensive grant evaluation, applied for a Department of Water Resources 4.2 million grant, and is assisting staff with grant applications for other programs. To make these efforts more transparent for the Board and public, staff have summarized the grant evaluation and created a grant tracking sheet.

Attached is the District's tracking sheet that will be included in the Finance Status Report moving forward. The tracking sheet covers grants secured, grants pursued, and grants considered with an explanation of why the District did not submit an application.

FUEL REDUCTION UPDATE & BIDDING

The District has been awarded \$200,000 for fuel reduction around District infrastructure through the California State Coastal Conservancy's Wildfire Resilience Program. The Coastal Conservancy's Wildfire Resilience Program supports local partners to develop and implement projects that improve forest health and reduce the risk of catastrophic fire in areas where people are living near wildlands.

In June 2021 the District released two Requests for Qualifications for fuel reduction oversight and implementation. Both RFQs closed on June 30th and qualifications were received from one Registered Professional Forester (RPF) and 2 vegetation contractors. On July 21, 2021 the Board of Directors (BODs) approved Helix Environmental Planning (Helix) and Ecological Concerns Inc. as contractors for the fuel reduction implementation work. The BOD also approved Mike Powers, Registered Professional Forester for the oversight and management of the fuel reduction work.

Since approval staff and consultants have completed site prioritizations, site layouts, bid walks, CEQA filings, environmental monitoring training for all staff, sensitive species flagging, and a cultural record search (as part of CEQA compliance).

On Friday October 1, 2021 both consultants submitted bid packages for costs of completing fuel reduction work on 10 priority sites. Staff seeks review and direction from the committee on bids received for each site.

**bids needed to be added as backup*

EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

Due to the COVID19 pandemic many community education opportunities were put on hold. In 2021 the District worked with the AmeriCorps to complete a restoration project at the Kirby Water Treatment Plant and the Olympia Watershed. This type of opportunity not only offered youth (17-25 year olds) education about water treatment, stewardship, and sensitive habits but also benefited the water district. The District is working with Camp Harmon to secure another AmeriCorps team to continue work in the San Lorenzo Valley for 2022.

The District was recently approached by the Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History's Earth Steward Program (ESP) to begin a partnership. The ESP is a group of 7-15 Ben Lomond high school students who dedicate Fridays to community projects throughout the Santa Cruz County. There is special interest in working with the water district to help involve local students with projects in their own backyards. To kick off the partnership the District will have the group begin with work at the Kirby Water Treatment Plant removing invasive plant species followed by a tour. Future projects are being discussed and developed.

The District is very interested in education programs with local students and hopes to see more opportunities establish for all of its community members.

Potential Grant/Loan Program	Cost Share/Matching	Funding Cap.	Comments
Department of Water Resources – Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Implementation Grant Program	No Match	1.94 million	Program Manager for Santa Cruz's IRWM Program tcarson@cfsc.org contact for prioritization list for County.
California Department of Housing and Community Development: Community Development Block Grants (CDBG)	N/A	N/A	Not eligible. If DWR updates DAC for Santa Cruz County - could be an option in the future.
US Bureau of Reclamation – WaterSMART Drought Resiliency Grant	50%	\$500,000.00	Application window closes October 2021. Could not secure project or application package in time to apply. Target 2022.
California Department of Water Resources – Sustainable Groundwater Implementation Grant Program - Prop 68	N/A	75 million	SMGWA (?)
US Bureau of Reclamation – WaterSMART Water and Energy Efficiency Grant	50%	\$500,000.00	Next solicitation in August 2021. This grant program is very competitive. You would want to be able to show that a lot of water is being saved through the proposed action.
US Forest Service / Council of Western State Foresters – Western Wildland Urban Interface Grant Program	50%	\$300,000.00	Application window closes October 29, 2021. Possible infrastructure/fuel reduction
CAL FIRE – Fire Prevention Grant Program	No Match	Not specified	Program not funded for FY21/22. If changed District will pursue funding for Hazardous Fuels Reduction
CAL FIRE – Forestry Assistance Grant Program (Prop 68)	No Match	\$2,200,000.00	Closed April 2020. Not funded 21/22?
US Bureau of Land Management – Forests and Woodlands Land Management Program	No Match	\$300,000.00	Closed June 2021. Can pursue in future for forest management. Particularly removal of dead/dying trees.

California State Water Resources Control Board – Clean Water Act Section 319 Nonpoint Source Pollution Control and Timber Fund Grants	25%	\$200,000 for planning \$800,000 for implementation	Felton to Brookdale, and Lompico are in the NPS priority watersheds. Water Quality staff contacted for project ideas.
Wildlife Conservation Board – Riparian Habitat Conservation Program	N/A	None (?)	Rolling application basis. Project would need to be defined. Restoration of riparian vegetation or stream channel
US Bureau of Land Management – Wildlife Resource Management Program	No Match	\$100,000.00	Closed March 2021. Can pursue in 2022. Low program funding (400k) SLVWD would likely be non-competitive
California Department of Fish and Wildlife – Watershed Restoration Grant Program (Prop 1)	No Match	N/A	the current solicitation is for North Coast Coho Recovery – not applicable to SLVWD
Wildlife Conservation Board – Streamflow Enhancement Program	Match required by % not specified	None (?)	Forbearance agreements and conservation easements can be funded. Changing points of diversion projects that enhance streamflow. Streamflow gauging. Concept proposal due October 18, 2021
California Department of Fish and Wildlife – Environmental Enhancement Fund Grant Program	None	\$250,000.00	This could potentially fund riparian restoration, although SLVWD projects would probably not be very competitive, as these grants are intended for larger-scale restoration projects. Could partner with another agency.
US Fish and Wildlife Service – National Fish Passage Program	50%	\$70,000.00	Funds barrier removal; no project at this time.
California Department of Fish and Wildlife – Improve Conditions for Fish and Wildlife (Prop 68)	Depends on project type	\$25,000,000.00	Closed September 2021. Future project fisheries monitoring (pit tag readers and tagging)?

California Department of Fish and Wildlife (in partnership with NOAA) – Fisheries Habitat Restoration Grant Program	No Match	\$200,000.00	Closed April 2021
CA Department of Finance – Special Districts COVID-19 Funds	No Match	No Cap.	Not pursuing. District only only pursue one of the two arrearage programs and selected the State Water Resource Control Board CA Water/Wastewater Arrearage Program
Wildlife Conservation Board – Habitat Enhancement and Restoration	No Match	No Cap.	No closing date. Broad categories of HERP projects include, but are not limited to: Habitat restoration (e.g., coast, forest, desert, wetland, grassland), Wildlife corridors, Fisheries enhancements (e.g., fish ladders, barrier removal). Project must be recommended by CDFW.
AmeriCorps (?)	N/A	N/A	Working with Camp Harmon & Linda Skeff to secure team for 2022
UCSC Internships or Work-study	N/A	N/A	Contact UCSC