



## 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 special meeting of the Environmental Committee to be held on **Wednesday, September 1, 2021, 10:00 am** via video/teleconference.

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### 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. 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. VACANCY ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE  
Discussion and possible action by the Committee regarding the vacancy on the Committee.
- B. FALL CREEK FISH LADDER UPDATE & HABITAT MONITORING  
Presentation by Mike Podlech, Fisheries Ecologist, followed by Q & A.
- C. PACIFIC GAS & ELECTRIC MITIGATION PROJECT  
Discussion and possible action by the Committee regarding the PG&E Mitigation Project.

4. 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 agenda items.*

- A. 2020 TEMPERATURE & FLOW GAUGING DATA  
Presentation by Chelsea Neill, Hydrologist, followed by Q & A.

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](http://www.slvwd.com) subject to staff's ability to post the documents before the meeting.*

**Certification of Posting**

I hereby certify that on August 27, 2021 I posted a copy of the foregoing agenda in the outside display case at the District Office, 13060 Highway 9, Boulder Creek, California, said time being at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting of the Environmental Committee of the San Lorenzo Valley Water District in compliance with California Government Code Section 54956.

Executed at Boulder Creek, California, on August 27, 2021.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Holly B. Hossack, District Secretary

## MEMO

To: Environmental Committee  
From: District Manager  
Prepared by: Environmental Planner  
Subject: September 2021 Meeting Overview  
Date: September 1, 2021

### Recommendation

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

### Background

#### PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY (PG&E) RIPARIAN MITIGATION PROJECT

In 2020 the District was approached by PG&E to inquire about available riparian habitat to complete a mitigation project through planting of native riparian trees. PG&E contracted with Ecologist; Jodi McGraw to create a conceptual restoration plan for the approval by the State Water Resource Control Board. A 1.15-acre area of riparian and oak woodland habitat located along an ephemeral tributary to Zayante Creek was identified on the District's Olympia Watershed property. The restoration will entail removing invasive plants throughout the 1.15-acre area, and then planting riparian trees and understory plants within the 0.29-acre area and coast live oak within an estimated 0.22-acre area. Installing plants within these 0.51-acre areas that lack established tree canopy will accelerate establishment of native plant community structure and species composition and suppress re-establishment of invasive plants. The remaining 0.64 acres, which feature an existing native plant canopy, will be passively revegetated following removal of the invasive plants (McGraw 2021).

Not only will the District's riparian habitat be improved but as compensation the District is working towards an agreement for invasive removal in other parts of the property, specifically French Broom (*Genista monspessulana*) which is prolific throughout. Estimations on costs are being determined through Jodi McGraw Consulting. Final costs of each project will be brought to the Board of Directors once an agreement is reached. This is an excellent opportunity for restoration at no cost to the District and developing a relationship with PG&E.

#### FALL CREEK FISH LADDER UPDATE & HABITAT MONITORING

The construction bidding window closed on June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021 (after an extension of the original bid close date) with no bids. Interested construction contractors stated there was not sufficient time to put together a thorough bid package and not enough time for in-stream construction before the September end date. The proposed path forward is as

follows:

- Complete vegetation work on site prior to February 2021.
- Put the project out for bid in late January, with a bid due date of mid-April
- Specify that the construction window is from May 15, 2022 through September 30, 2022
- Incorporate any changes to the specs or plans that may be needed based on RFIs received during bidding prior to publishing new RFPs in January
- Continue to search for additional firms that may want to bid on the project

The District began working with Mike Podlech fisheries ecologist to conduct habitat monitoring on Fall Creek in June 2021 to support the District's fulfillment of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and California Department of Fish & Wildlife (CDFW) permit requirements related to the Fall Creek Fish Ladder Improvement Project. The full scope is attached as exhibit A.

Further details are included in the brief presentation prepared by the Mike Podlech.

#### BALANCE HYDROLOGICS 2020 STREAM FLOW & TEMPERATURE DATA

SLVWD has been monitoring stream & temperature with Balance Hydrologics since 2014. During the first five years of monitoring, Balance operated gages along 9 different creeks and conducted several additional studies to gain a better understanding of the various watershed systems.

As is typical, after five years of monitoring a more refined monitoring and diversion-management program was developed. Beginning in water year 2019, the number of 'ecological' gages were reduced to four creeks: Peavine Creek, Foreman Creek, Boulder Creek, and Lompico Creek. Balance also monitors the District two 'operational' stream flow gauges. The operational gauges are two real-time gages on Clear Creek and Fall Creek, which have become integral to the operations and management. In 2021 the District reduced its gauging further due to the loss of infrastructure in its north system after the 2020 August CZU Complex fires.

Further details are included in the brief presentation prepared by the Chelsea Neill from Balance Hydrologics.

Mike Podlech  
*Aquatic Ecologist*  
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mpodlech@sbcglobal.net

June 8, 2021

San Lorenzo Valley Water District  
c/o Carly Blanchard  
13060 Highway 9  
Boulder Creek, CA 95069

Subject: *Proposal – Fall Creek Habitat Monitoring 2021*

Carly,

I am pleased to submit the attached scope of work and cost estimate for conducting habitat monitoring on Fall Creek in 2021 to support the District's fulfillment of NMFS and CDFW requirements related to the Fall Creek Fish Ladder Improvement Project.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have.

Yours truly,



Mike Podlech,  
Aquatic Ecologist

**FALL CREEK HABITAT MONITORING 2021**  
**SCOPE OF WORK AND COST ESTIMATE**

Task 1: Habitat Measurements

Habitat availability in Fall Creek will be measured weekly and monthly for a total of 20 weeks between mid-June 2021 through the end of October 2021. The weekly surveys will consist of walking Fall Creek in an upstream direction from the confluence with the San Lorenzo River to the Fall Creek fish ladder and measuring water depths across the shallowest cross-sectional transects of select riffles to determine availability of juvenile salmonid movement paths under variable streamflow rates and to monitor for potential hydrologic disconnects during the summer and early fall of a severe drought year. During the monthly surveys, water depths and widths at 2-4 cross-sectional transects of pool habitats will be measured in addition to the weekly riffle depth measurements to estimate pool habitat availability (i.e., cross-sectional area) under variable streamflow rates. Streamflow within the assessment reach at the time of the surveys will be determined from the District’s gage located at the fish ladder.

The cost estimate for this task assumes (1) a total of 15 weekly “riffle only” surveys that will take approximately 3 hours each for a total of 45 hours, and (2) a total of 5 monthly “riffle and pool surveys” that will take approximately 6 hours each for a total of 30 hours. The cost estimate also assumes the District will provide staff to assist with the monthly “riffle and pool surveys”. Assistance during the weekly “riffle only” surveys is helpful but not critical.

Task 2: Summary Report

Subsequent to the completion of Task 1, a draft and final technical memorandum summarizing the monitoring results will be completed. The memorandum will describe the regulatory background and purpose of the study, outline the sampling methodologies used, synthesize the results of the monitoring study, and provide conclusions regarding observed streamflow-habitat relationships.

Task 3: Project Management

General contract management tasks will be completed under this task.

<b>Task</b>	<b>Task Description</b>	<b>Hours</b>	<b>Rate</b>	<b>Cost</b>
1	Habitat measurements	75	\$135.00	\$10,125.00
2	Summary report	24	\$135.00	\$3,240.00
3	Project management	4	\$135.00	\$540.00
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>Labor</b>	<b>103</b>		<b>\$13,905.00</b>
	Equipment			\$0.00
	Mileage			\$0.00
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>Direct Costs</b>			<b>\$0.00</b>
	<b>TOTAL NOT-TO-EXCEED</b>			<b>\$13,905.00</b>