

DATE: April 12, 2023
TO: Board of Directors, San Lorenzo Valley Water District
FROM: Environmental Programs Manager
SUBJECT: March 2023 Environmental status Report

WRITTEN BY: Carly Blanchard
PRESENTED BY: Carly Blanchard

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board of Directors review and file the Environmental Department status report for March 2023.

GRANTS (ONGOING)

FIRE/FUEL REDUCTION GRANTS

The District was awarded grant for CAL FIRE's Forest Protection Grant program (\$494,000) to continue invasive removal and habitat improvement in the Olympia Watershed, awaiting lead agency's completion of the CalVTP.

The District was awarded grant for CAL FIRE's Fire Prevention Grant program (\$360,000) to continue fuel reduction at infrastructure sites, awaiting lead agency's completion of the CalVTP.

INFRASTRUCTURE GRANTS

State Revolving Fund for Consolidations

- Staff working on applications for Bear Creek Estates Waste Water system consolidation into County.

- Median Household Income survey in process for Bear Creek Wastewater to determine Disadvantaged Community (DAC) status (100% grant funded if DAC).
- Congressional Community Project Funding
 - a. Pre-Disaster Mitigation focused funding opportunity with 20% match (past awards ranged from \$45,000-5,000,000).
 - b. Submitted March 2023 for tank replacement as part of Bracken Brae and Forest Springs Consolidation

Upcoming grants:

Bureau of Reclamation WaterSMART Efficiency Grant Program

- Pursue all remaining meter replacements
- Awaiting announcement of program for 2023

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

Legal Counsel currently reviewing draft petition.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE - CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (ONGOING)

CONJUNCTIVE USE

Regulatory agency permitting (including diversion permitting) in progress. Staff submitted technical modeling memo to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife for review.

Staff working to develop operational plan.

Notice of Preparation pushed for release (staff aiming for late Spring 2023).

SANDHILLS HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN (HCP) FOR THE SAN LORENZO VALLEY WATER DISTRICT CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN (DECEMBER 2022)

Draft chapters received and are in review by staff. Engineering & Environmental Committee to receive update and presentation once staff review is complete.

CIP PROJECT PERMITTING

Staff is working to secure permits for the following Projects:

1. CIP Project Permitting
 - A. Lyon Treatment Plant Access Road Slide (FEMA funded - 2023)
 - Staff walked the reactivated slide in March 2023
 - B. 5-mile and Peavine pipeline
 - Tree surveys awarded by Board of Directors in March 2023
 - C. Huckleberry Island pipeline replacement
 - CEQA NOE to be refiled with updated easement information.
 - Staff working to secure easements
 - D. Bracken Brae & Forest Springs Consolidation
 - Consultant developing IS-MND
 - Draft chapters in review
 - Biological surveys to begin Spring 2023
 - E. Fuel Reduction Annual Maintenance Contract
 - Staff prepared a Request for Proposals (RFP) for on-going maintenance of fuel reduction around critical infrastructure. Released and closed February 2023.
 - Seven Statements of Qualifications (SOQs) were received

F. Felton Heights Tank

- Awaiting site selection
- Staff met with neighbors in March 2023

G. Bear Creek Estates

- Median Household Income (MHI) in process
- County of Santa Cruz submitted SRF application for CSA-7

H. Alta Via

- Notice of Exemption (NOE) filed
- Need to complete cultural resources review

I. Zayante drive pipeline

- NOE filed

J. Fall Creek Fish Ladder

- Regulatory agencies alerted of planned 2023 construction
- Quarterly submitted to California Department of Fish & Wildlife (CDFW) grant manager
- Staff preparing for biological surveys prior to start of construction.

K. Orman, Hermosa, and Juanita Pipelines

- NOEs filed March 2023

WATERSHED MANAGEMENT/ STEWARDSHIP

FIRE MANAGEMENT PLANNING (ONGOING)

Staff prepared an RFQ for on-going maintenance of fuel reduction around critical infrastructure. The RFQ closed on February 17th, 2023. 8 statements of qualifications were received. Recommended contract award at BOD meeting on April 20, 2023.

SANITARY SURVEY

Sanitary Survey complete and submitted to the State Waterboard in March 2023 and approved by the BOD on 3/16/23.

OLYMPIA PATROL (ONGOING)

Graffiti reported in March 2023.

WATERSHED TRESPASS (ONGOING)

None reported in February. No trespassing signs ordered and planned for placement in common trespassing areas in April 2023.

WATER CONSERVATION (ONGOING)

EXECUTIVE ORDER N-7-22

District in Water Shortage Stage 2. Staff reviewing current conditions in preparation of potentially moving into a Stage 1.

RAIN UPDATE

Water year 22/23 (October 1, 2022 - September 30, 2023) totals in downtown Boulder Creek thus far are approximately 68.35 inches. For current rain fall totals visit <https://www.slvwd.com/about-us/pages/local-weather-rainfall>

PUBLIC OUTREACH

Miller Maxfield provides outreach summary on a quarterly basis. For latest outreach information see February 2023's status report.

NETWORKING & COLLABORATIONS

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 2021-2023.

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

Program to delayed due to storms.

EDUCATION

The District hosted 30 students for a tour of the Kirby Water Treatment Plant in March 2023.

On April 12, 2023 the District hosted a middle school group of 24 for a tour of its Kirby Water Treatment Plant

On April 26, 2023 the District will host a tour focused on adult education through the Friend's of the Felton Library. Further information is available here: <https://santacruzpl.libcal.com/event/10577562>