

DATE: August 17, 2023
TO: Board of Directors, San Lorenzo Valley Water District
FROM: Environmental Programs Manager
SUBJECT: July 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 July 2023.

GRANTS (ONGOING)

FIRE/FUEL REDUCTION GRANTS

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 (Fire Safe Council). SLVWD staff working with CalFire to see if work can proceed without Fire Safe Council.

PROPOSITION 1 IRWM IMPLEMENTATION GRANT

The District was awarded grant funding for fire hardening critical pumphouse structures (\$305,000) in conjunction with the Regional Water Management Foundation.

DWR URBAN COMMUNITY DROUGHT RELIEF GRANT PROGRAM

The District was awarded grant funding for fire hardening and drought relief of water tanks (\$4,500,000) by the Department of Water Resources.

INFRASTRUCTURE GRANTS

State Revolving Fund for Consolidations

- Bureau of Reclamation WaterSMART Small-scale Efficiency Grant Program
 - a. Staff working with USBR to sign grant agreement.
 - b. District allowed to begin purchasing meter infrastructure for project.
 - c. NEPA review in process
- Staff working on applications for Bear Creek Estates Waste Water system consolidation into County.
 - a. Median Household Income survey in process for Bear Creek Wastewater to determine Disadvantaged Community (DAC) status (100% grant funded if DAC). 15 responses of the 56 homes received.
 - b. Results received and community MHI was estimated at 180K, disqualifying the community from DAC grant funding.
- 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

State Revolving Funding (SRF) - Forest Springs

- Application in process for funding assistance for tank & lateral replacements

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

Awaiting legal Counsel review draft petition. New legal counsel is reviewing.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE - CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (ONGOING)

CONJUNCTIVE USE

Regulatory agency permitting (including diversion permitting) in progress.

Staff working to develop operational plan.

Awaiting legal response to request for information (RFI).

Loch Lomond Feasibility request for qualifications in draft stage. Staff planning to release in August 2023.

Staff meeting with California Department of Fish & Wildlife in August to give update on Environmental Impact Report (EIR)

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

Staff working with consultant (meeting July 31) to move document forward based on future maintenance and projects occurring in sandhills

CIP PROJECT PERMITTING

Staff is working to secure permits for the following Projects:

1. CIP Project Permitting
 - A. Lyon & Big Steel Pipeline
 - Biological surveys completed in June 2023
 - NOE filed for Irwin & East Lomond
 - B. Redwood Park Pipeline
 - Biological surveys completed
 - C. Blue Ridge Tank Replacement
 - Biological surveys completed
 - D. Lyon Treatment Plant Access Road Slide (FEMA funded - 2023)
 - Awaiting FEMA
 - E. 5-mile and Peavine pipeline
 - Tree surveys complete in May 2023
 - F. Huckleberry Island pipeline replacement
 - CEQA NOE to be refiled with updated easement information. Awaiting legal.
 - Staff working to secure easements
 - G. Bracken Brae & Forest Springs Consolidation
 - IS-MND adopted by BoDs
 - Initial biological surveys completed
 - H. Fuel Reduction Annual Maintenance Contract
 - Fuel reduction contract awarded, contract in review.
 - I. Felton Heights Tank
 - Awaiting site selection
 - J. Bear Creek Estates
 - Median Household Income (MHI) completed and non DAC designated
 - Staff looking for other sources of funding
 - County of Santa Cruz submitted SRF application for CSA-7
 - K. Alta Via
 - Notice of Exemption (NOE) filed
 - Need to complete cultural resources survey for cross-country portion of work

- L. Zayante drive pipeline
 - NOE filed
 - M. Fall Creek Fish Ladder
 - California Department of Fish & Wildlife (CDFW) grant manager mid-construction meeting scheduled for August 2023
 - Biological surveys and training complete.
 - Fish relocation completed
 - N. Valley Gardens will serve letter
 - Package submitted to SANDIS Engineering for review
 - Staff planning to bring the recommendation to the ENV/ENG Committee in September
 - O. Orman, Hermosa, and Juanita Pipelines
 - NOEs filed in March
2. FEMA
- A. Staff working on appeal with FEMA on denial of hazard tree removal obligation (~\$200,000 denied)
 - B. Staff working with Panorama Environmental to complete all FEMA project Environmental and Historic Preservation (EHP) reviews.

WATERSHED MANAGEMENT/ STEWARDSHIP

SOLAR PANELS

Three quotes received for solar panel cleaning. Staff working to complete contract with Good Clean Sun.

OLYMPIA PATROL (ONGOING)

Report received for July 2023, no trespassing reported however trash can overfilled and needs to be emptied.

WATERSHED TRESPASS (ONGOING)

None reported in July.

WATER CONSERVATION (ONGOING)

EXECUTIVE ORDER N-7-22

District in Water Shortage Stage 2 and planning to move to Stage 1 at August 17, 2023 BoD meeting

RAIN UPDATE

Water year 22/23 (October 1, 2022 - September 30, 2023) totals in downtown Boulder Creek thus far are approximately 70.94 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

Restarting in August

EDUCATION

None in July