

DATE: May 11, 2023
TO: Board of Directors, San Lorenzo Valley Water District
FROM: Environmental Programs Manager
SUBJECT: April 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 April 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

- 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.
- 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). 13 responses of the 56 homes received.
- 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
Awaiting legal Counsel review 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.

Awaiting legal response to request for information (RFI).

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 (OCTOBER 2023)

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 & Big Steel Pipeline
 - Biological surveys beginning in May 2023
 - B. Redwood Park Pipeline
 - Biological surveys completed
 - C. Blue Ridge Tank Replacement
 - Request for quotes for biological surveys released in April 2023
 - D. Lyon Treatment Plant Access Road Slide (FEMA funded - 2023)
 - Staff walked the reactivated slide in March 2023
 - E. 5-mile and Peavine pipeline
 - Tree surveys began in April 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 released for public review on April 28th, 2023
 - 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) in process
 - County of Santa Cruz submitted SRF application for CSA-7
- K. Alta Via
 - Notice of Exemption (NOE) filed
 - Need to complete cultural resources review 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 meeting scheduled in May 2023
 - Staff preparing for biological surveys prior to start of construction.
- N. 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. Contract awarded and awaiting signature from selected contractor.

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)

No report received for April as of 5/11/23.

WATERSHED TRESPASS (ONGOING)

None reported in April.

WATER CONSERVATION (ONGOING)

EXECUTIVE ORDER N-7-22

District in Water Shortage Stage 2.

RAIN UPDATE

Water year 22/23 (October 1, 2022 - September 30, 2023) totals in downtown Boulder Creek thus far are approximately 70.85 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

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 hosted a tour focused on adult education through the Friend's of the Felton Library.

