

DATE: November 16, 2023
TO: Board of Directors, San Lorenzo Valley Water District
FROM: Environmental Programs Manager
SUBJECT: October 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 October 2023.

GRANTS (ONGOING)

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. Grant agreement draft in final draft.

INFRASTRUCTURE GRANTS

Bureau of Reclamation WaterSMART Small-scale Efficiency Grant Program

- First invoice submitted.

Congressional Community Project Funding

- Staff spoke with Panetta staff and should hear by end of November if awarded.

USDA Community Wildfire Defense Grant Program

- Fuel reduction around critical infrastructure application submitted. \$445,000 funding request made.
- Olympia land fuel reduction. \$500,000 funding request made in partnership with the Resource Conservation District of Santa Cruz County.

Upcoming grants:

State Revolving Funding (SRF) - Forest Springs

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

SEE GRANT TRACKING TABLE [HERE](#) FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON DISTRICT GRANTS APPLICATIONS AND AWARDS

WATER RIGHTS (On-going)

CBEC (hydrology consultant) is in process of completing supporting data for diversion permitting with CDFW/NMFS.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE - CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (ONGOING)

CONJUNCTIVE USE

- Regulatory agency permitting (including diversion permitting) in progress.
- Staff working on operational planning.
- Loch Lomond Feasibility Request for Proposals (RFP) released. Closed October 31st, 2023. No bids received.

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

Staff working with consultant 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:

Current Projects

1. CIP Project Permitting

- a) Redwood Park Tank
 - Awaiting project start
- b) Alta Via
 - Training & surveys being prepared
- c) Lyon Treatment Plant Access Road Slide (FEMA funded - 2023)
 - Awaiting FEMA
- d) 5-mile and Peavine pipeline
 - Tree work RFP in draft
 - CCC crews to provide tree removal cost estimates
- e) Huckleberry Island pipeline replacement
 - CEQA NOE to be refiled with updated easement information. Awaiting legal direction.
- f) Fuel Reduction Annual Maintenance Contract
 - Fuel reduction contract awarded
 - Site selection in process
- g) Felton Heights Tank
 - Environmental consultant kick-off meeting scheduled after site surveys complete
- h) Bear Creek Estates
 - Staff seeking alternate funding sources.
- i) Zayante drive pipeline
 - Awaiting start date
- j) Fall Creek Fish Ladder
 - In-stream work complete
- k) Valley Gardens will serve letter
 - Package submitted to SANDIS Engineering for review

- Staff planning to bring the recommendation to the ENV/ENG Committee

2. FEMA

- a) Staff working with Panorama Environmental to complete all FEMA project Environmental and Historic Preservation (EHP) reviews.
- b) APTIM consulting working to move FEMA projects ahead with staff

WATERSHED MANAGEMENT/ STEWARDSHIP

SOLAR PANELS

Staff working to complete contract with Good Clean Sun.

OLYMPIA PATROL (ONGOING)

Report received for September 2023, no trespassing reported.

WATERSHED TRESPASS (ONGOING)

None reported in October.

WATER CONSERVATION (ONGOING)

EXECUTIVE ORDER N-7-22

District in Water Shortage Stage 1

RAIN UPDATE

Water year 23/24 (October 1, 2023 - September 30, 2024) totals in downtown Boulder Creek thus far are approximately 0.81 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 Spring 2024