

**DATE:** October 19, 2023  
**TO:** Board of Directors, San Lorenzo Valley Water District  
**FROM:** Environmental Programs Manager  
**SUBJECT:** September 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 September 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.

Upcoming grants:

#### USDA Community Wildfire Defense Grant Program

- Fuel reduction around critical infrastructure. Funding request to be determined.

#### 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. Closes October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023.

#### 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) Lyon & Big Steel Pipeline
  - Biologists on-call
- b) Redwood Park Tank
  - Awaiting project start
- c) Blue Ridge Tank Replacement
  - Biologists on-call
- d) Lyon Treatment Plant Access Road Slide (FEMA funded - 2023)
  - Awaiting FEMA
- e) 5-mile and Peavine pipeline
  - Tree surveys complete in May 2023
  - Recommendation discussed with Committee 9/14/23
- f) Huckleberry Island pipeline replacement
  - CEQA NOE to be refiled with updated easement information. Awaiting legal direction.
- g) Bracken Brae & Forest Springs Consolidation
  - Initial biological surveys completed
    - a. No special status species found
- h) Fuel Reduction Annual Maintenance Contract
  - Fuel reduction contract awarded, contract in review.
- i) Felton Heights Tank
  - Environmental consultant kick-off meeting scheduled for September 2023
- j) Bear Creek Estates
  - Staff seeking alternate funding sources.
- k) Alta Via
  - Notice of Exemption (NOE) filed
  - FEMA meeting scheduled in September to move ahead Environmental Historic Preservation (EHP) process for cross-country section
- l) Zayante drive pipeline

- Awaiting start date
- m) Fall Creek Fish Ladder
  - Permit extension may be needed
- n) Valley Gardens will serve letter
  - Package submitted to SANDIS Engineering for review
  - Staff planning to bring the recommendation to the ENV/ENG Committee
- o) Orman, Hermosa, and Juanita Pipelines
  - NOEs filed in March 2023

## 2. FEMA

- a) Staff working with Panorama Environmental to complete all FEMA project Environmental and Historic Preservation (EHP) reviews.
- b) Staff reviewing proposals for Public Assistance Management Services for all District FEMA projects

## **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 September.

## **WATER CONSERVATION (ONGOING)**

### EXECUTIVE ORDER N-7-22

District in Water Shortage Stage 1

### 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 Spring 2024