

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

GRANTS (ONGOING)

FIRE/FUEL REDUCTION GRANTS

The District is planning to pursue USDA Community Wildfire Defense Grant Program for hardening of exposed mainlines and fuel reduction around critical infrastructure. Funding request to be determined.

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. Grant agreement is in process of being executed with DWR.

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 process.

INFRASTRUCTURE GRANTS

Bureau of Reclamation WaterSMART Small-scale Efficiency Grant Program

- Grant agreement signed.
- District allowed to begin purchasing meter infrastructure for project.
- NEPA review complete.

Congressional Community Project Funding

- Submitted March 2023 for tank replacement as part of Bracken Brae and Forest Springs Consolidation.
- Staff spoke with Panetta staff and should hear by end of November.

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

Legal counsel is reviewing.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE - CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (ONGOING)

CONJUNCTIVE USE

- Regulatory agency permitting (including diversion permitting) in progress.
- Hydrologist contract awarded in August 2023
- Staff working on operational planning.
- Loch Lomond Feasibility Request for Proposals (RFP) in draft stage. Staff planning to release in September 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. Update planned for Committee in October.

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 August 2023, no trespassing reported.

WATERSHED TRESPASS (ONGOING)

None reported in August.

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