



## Santa Clara Valley Water District Youth Commission Meeting

HQ. Bldg. Boardroom, 5700 Almaden Expressway, San Jose, California  
Join Zoom Meeting: <https://valleywater.zoom.us/j/87431067568>

### SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA

**Tuesday, September 30, 2025  
6:00 PM**

**District Mission: Provide Silicon Valley safe, clean water for a healthy life, environment and economy.**

SCVWD Youth Commission  
Aditya Shivakumar - Commission  
Chairperson  
Ellie Zhou - Commission Vice  
Chairperson

BOARD REPRESENTATIVES  
Director John Varela - District 1  
Director Shiloh Ballard - District 2  
Director Nai Hsueh - District 5

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Kristen Yasukawa (Staff  
Liaison)

Dave Leon (COB Liaison)  
Assistant Deputy Clerk II  
[daveleon@valleywater.org](mailto:daveleon@valleywater.org)

**Note: The finalized Board Agenda, exception items and supplemental items will be posted prior to the meeting in accordance with the Brown Act.**

**Santa Clara Valley Water District**  
**Santa Clara Valley Water District Youth Commission**  
**SPECIAL MEETING**  
**AGENDA**

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Tuesday, September 30, 2025

6:00 PM

HQ. Bldg. Boardroom, 5700 Almaden  
Expressway, San Jose, California

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<https://valleywater.zoom.us/j/87431067568>

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To maximize public safety while still maintaining transparency and public access, members of the public have an option to participate by teleconference/video conference or attend in-person. To observe and participate in the meeting by teleconference/video conference, please see the meeting link located at the top of the agenda. If attending in-person, you are required to comply with Ordinance 22-03 - AN ORDINANCE OF THE SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT SPECIFYING RULES OF DECORUM FOR PARTICIPATION IN BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS located at <https://s3.us-west-2.amazonaws.com/valleywater.org.if-us-west-2/f2-live/s3fs-public/Ord.pdf>

In accordance with the requirements of Gov. Code Section 54954.3(a), members of the public wishing to address the Board/Committee during public comment or on any item listed on the agenda, may do so by filling out a Speaker Card and submitting it to the Clerk or using the “Raise Hand” tool located in the Zoom meeting application to identify yourself in order to speak, at the time the item is called. Speakers will be acknowledged by the Board/Committee Chair in the order requests are received and granted speaking access to address the Board.

- Members of the Public may test their connection to Zoom Meetings at: <https://zoom.us/test>
- Members of the Public are encouraged to review our overview on joining Valley Water Board Meetings at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TojJpYCxXm0>

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**Join Zoom Meeting:**

**<https://valleywater.zoom.us/j/87431067568>**

**Meeting ID: 874 3106 7568**

**Join by Phone:**

**1 (669) 900-9128, 87431067568#**

**1. CALL TO ORDER:**

1.1. Roll Call.

**2. TIME OPEN FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON ANY ITEM NOT ON THE AGENDA.**

*Notice to the public: Members of the public who wish to address the Board/Committee on any item not listed on the agenda may do so by filling out a Speaker Card and submitting it to the Clerk or using the "Raise Hand" tool located in the Zoom meeting application to identify yourself to speak. Speakers will be acknowledged by the Board/Committee Chair in the order requests are received and granted speaking access to address the Board/Committee. Speakers' comments should be limited to three minutes or as set by the Chair. The law does not permit Board/Committee action on, or extended discussion of, any item not on the agenda except under special circumstances. If Board/Committee action is requested, the matter may be placed on a future agenda. All comments that require a response will be referred to staff for a reply in writing. The Board/Committee may take action on any item of business appearing on the posted agenda.*

### 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- 3.1. Approval of August 20, 2025 Commission Meeting Minutes.

[25-0850](#)

Recommendation: Approve the minutes.

Manager: Candice Kwok-Smith, 408-630-3193

Attachments: [Attachment 1: 08202025 Youth Commission Minutes](#)

Est. Staff Time: 5 Minutes

### 4. REGULAR AGENDA:

- 4.1. Discuss, Determine and Approve Santa Clara Valley Water District Youth Commission Project(s) for Fiscal Year 2025-2026; and Assign Youth Commissioners to Work on Approved Projects.

[25-0790](#)

Recommendation:

- A. Review and discuss proposed Youth Commission Fiscal Year 2025-2026 (FY 26) projects;
- B. Select and approve up to three projects to recommend to the Santa Clara Valley Water District Board of Directors to place on the Youth Commission's FY 26 work plan for implementation; and
- C. The Chair, in consultation with Youth Commissioners and staff, will assign each Youth Commissioner to work on at least one approved project, upon the Board of Directors approval of the FY 26 work plan.

Manager: Rachael Gibson, 408-630-2884

Attachments: [Attachment 1: Project Proposals](#)

Est. Staff Time: 20 Minutes

- 4.2. Receive the Santa Clara Valley Water District Youth Commission's Accomplishments Report, Recognition of the 2025 Outgoing Santa Clara Valley Water District Youth Commission Members and Forward the Accomplishments Report to the Board for Consideration.

[25-0851](#)

Recommendation:

- A. Receive and accept the Santa Clara Valley Water District Youth Commission's Accomplishments Report; and
- B. Acknowledge and recognize the 2025 outgoing Santa Clara Valley Water District Youth Commission Members; and
- C. Forward the Accomplishments Report to the Board for consideration.

Manager: Candice Kwok-Smith, 408-630-3193

Attachments: [Attachment 1: Accomplishments Report 2025](#)

Est. Staff Time: 5 Minutes

### 5. MANAGER'S REPORT

### 6. CLERK REVIEW AND CLARIFICATION OF COMMITTEE REQUESTS.

*This is an opportunity for the Clerk to review and obtain clarification on any formally moved, seconded, and approved requests and recommendations made by the Committee during the meeting.*

**7. ADJOURN:**

- 7.1. Adjourn. The Next Regular Meeting is Scheduled at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 19, 2025.

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# Santa Clara Valley Water District

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**File No.:** 25-0850

**Agenda Date:** 9/30/2025  
**Item No.:** 3.1.

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## **COMMITTEE AGENDA MEMORANDUM** **Santa Clara Valley Water District Youth Commission**

Government Code § 84308 Applies: Yes ☐ No ☒  
(If "YES" Complete Attachment A - Gov. Code § 84308)

### **SUBJECT:**

Approval of August 20, 2025 Commission Meeting Minutes.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Approve the minutes.

### **SUMMARY:**

A summary of Committee discussions, and details of all actions taken by the Committee, during all open and public Committee meetings, is transcribed and submitted for review and approval.

Upon Committee approval, minutes transcripts are finalized and entered into the District's historical records archives and serve as historical records of the Committee's meetings.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE IMPACT:**

There are no Environmental Justice impacts associated with this item.

### **ATTACHMENTS:**

Attachment 1: 08202025 Youth Commission Minutes

### **UNCLASSIFIED MANAGER:**

Candice Kwok-Smith, 408-630-3193

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SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT YOUTH COMMISSION MEETING

# DRAFT MINUTES

**WEDNESDAY, August 20, 2025**

(Paragraph numbers coincide with agenda item numbers)

A special meeting of the Santa Clara Valley Water District Youth Commission (Youth Commission) was held on August 20, 2025, at Santa Clara Valley Water District, Headquarters Building Boardroom, 5700 Almaden Expressway, San Jose, CA 95118.

## **1. CALL TO ORDER**

Youth Commission Clerk Dave Leon called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

### **1.1 ROLL CALL**

A quorum was established with 15 members present.

#### **Members in attendance were:**

District 1: Aadrit Talukdar and Abigail Ha-Neul Kim

District 2: Alonso Jose

District 3: Nina Yuan

District 4: Agata Bak, Ellie Zhou, and Bryce Chen

District 5: Aditya Shivakumar, Simran Soni, and Ethan Cheung

District 6: Sinit Hadgu, David Nguyen Huynh, and Ruhan Upreti

District 7: Doyoon Kim and Mina Van Roy

#### **Members not in attendance were:**

District 1: Ishaan Mandala

District 2: Betalem Berhanu

District 3: Prathik Janakiram and Parnika Sadhu

Members Andrew Lomio and Ishika Anand arrived at 6:12 p.m.

Directors in attendance were: Director Shiloh Ballard, District 2 and Director Nai Hsueh, District 5. Director John Varela, District 1, attended the meeting virtually.

Valley Water Staff in attendance were: Ricardo Barajas, Layla Forooghi, Andy Gschwind, Dave Leon, and Kristen Yasukawa.

Public in attendance were: Anon and Kris.

**2. WELCOME**

Directors Varela, Ballard, and Hsueh provided opening remarks to the Commission.

**3. OATH OF OFFICE**

Oaths of office were administered to new members in attendance.

**4. INTRODUCTIONS**

**A. VALLEY WATER STAFF**

Kristen Yasukawa, Ricardo Barajas, Layla Forooghi, Dave Leon, and Andy Gschwind introduced themselves to the Commission.

**5. INTERACTIVE ACTIVITY**

The members participated in a "Four Corners" activity where four related options were introduced to the group and the members chose a corner that represented their opinion or preference. Once in their chosen corner, participants introduced themselves and explained their choice.

**6. ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON AND VICE CHAIRPERSON.**

The Commission elected Aditya Shivakumar as Chairperson and Ellie Zhou as Vice Chairperson. Chairperson Shivakumar assumed the Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

**7. TIME OPEN FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON ANY ITEM NOT ON THE AGENDA.**

There was no one who wished to speak.

**8. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**8.1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES.**

Recommendation: Approve the May 29, 2025 meeting minutes

It was moved by Vice Chairperson Zhou, seconded by Member Doyoon Kim, and unanimously carried, to approve the May 29, 2025 Commission meeting minutes as submitted.

**9. REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS**

**9.1. RECEIVE PRESENTATION RELATING TO VALLEY WATER BOARD RESOLUTION NO. 17-75.**

Recommendation: Receive Presentation Relating to Board Resolution No. 17-75, which defines the structure and purpose of the Valley Water Youth Commission.

Ricardo Barajas and Dave Leon reviewed the information on this item, per the attached Committee Agenda Memo, and the corresponding presentation materials contained in Attachment 1 and were available to answer questions.

Without discussion, the Commission received the information and took no formal action.

### **9.2. RECEIVE BROWN ACT OVERVIEW AND TRAINING.**

Recommendation: Receive training regarding Brown Act requirements governing public meetings.

Andy Gschwind reviewed the information on this item, per the attached Committee Agenda Memo, and the corresponding presentation materials contained in Attachment 1 and was available to answer questions.

Without discussion, the Commission received the information and took no formal action.

### **9.3. UPDATE FROM SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT YOUTH COMMISSION'S WORKING GROUPS AND AD HOC COMMITTEES.**

Recommendation: Receive updates from working groups and ad hoc committees and make recommendations to the Board, as necessary.

Chairperson Shivakumar reported that the Creek Stewardship and Water Quality Outreach Project Group created a series of videos which began with a visit to the water quality lab, including a chain of custody simulation. A video of the lab day was screened for the Commission. He further noted that the project group hosted a National River Cleanup Day site where 32 bags of trash were collected from the waterways.

Member Huynh reported that the Education Outreach Program Project Group hosted a live informational outreach webinar to provide information relating to grant opportunities to school personnel and students.

Member Lomio reported that the Creekside Community Care Initiative Project Group is finalizing a blog that will highlight the projects completed by the Commission during the year.

The Commission received the information and took no formal action

### **9.4. REVIEW SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT YOUTH COMMISSION WORK PLAN, THE OUTCOMES OF BOARD ACTION OF COMMISSION REQUESTS; AND DISCUSS POSSIBLE ITEMS FOR THE COMMISSION'S NEXT MEETING AGENDA**

Recommendation: Review the Commission work plan to guide the Commission's discussions regarding policy alternatives and implications for Board deliberation and make recommendations as necessary.

Kristen Yasukawa reviewed the information on this item, per the attached Committee Agenda Memo, and the corresponding presentation materials contained in Attachment 1 and was available to answer questions.

Without discussion, the Commission received the information and took no formal action.

## **10. MANAGER'S REPORT**

Kristen Yasukawa reminded the members about the Commission retreat scheduled for Saturday, August 23, 2025, and provided information relating to the Commission's involvement in Coastal Cleanup Day.

Director Hsueh congratulated the newly elected officers and offered remarks to those who were nominated but not elected.

**11. CLERK REVIEW AND CLARIFICATION OF COMMISSION REQUESTS TO THE BOARD**

Without discussion, the Commission took no formal action.

**12. ADJOURN**

Chairperson Shivakumar adjourned the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

Dave Leon  
Assistant Deputy Clerk II  
Office of the Clerk of the Board

Approved:



# Santa Clara Valley Water District

File No.: 25-0790

Agenda Date: 9/30/2025

Item No.: 4.1.

## COMMITTEE AGENDA MEMORANDUM Santa Clara Valley Water District Youth Commission

Government Code § 84308 Applies: Yes ☐ No ☒  
(If "YES" Complete Attachment A - Gov. Code § 84308)

### SUBJECT:

Discuss, Determine and Approve Santa Clara Valley Water District Youth Commission Project(s) for Fiscal Year 2025-2026; and Assign Youth Commissioners to Work on Approved Projects.

### RECOMMENDATION:

- A. Review and discuss proposed Youth Commission Fiscal Year 2025-2026 (FY 26) projects;
- B. Select and approve up to three projects to recommend to the Santa Clara Valley Water District Board of Directors to place on the Youth Commission's FY 26 work plan for implementation; and
- C. The Chair, in consultation with Youth Commissioners and staff, will assign each Youth Commissioner to work on at least one approved project, upon the Board of Directors approval of the FY 26 work plan.

### SUMMARY:

On August 21, 2024, the Santa Clara Valley Water District Youth Commission (Commission) decided to sunset their working groups and ad hoc committees, opting instead to adopt a project-based model. Using the project-based approach, the Commissioners now identify specific Santa Clara Valley Water District (Valley Water) topics of interest to them and submit proposed projects for consideration that will, hopefully, be achievable given available time and resources. The Youth Commission approves the projects they want to recommend to the Board of Directors to add to the work plan, and, upon the Board's approval, implements them accordingly.

Staff developed a project proposal template, which includes project details such as learning goals, final product, and audience, required resources, and timeline. The Youth Commissioners used the project proposal template to develop potential FY 26 project proposals.

The following are summaries of the project proposals that were submitted for consideration:

#### A. Creekside Community Care Project:

This project aims to be an improved continuation of the FY25 project, with the goal of increasing flood safety awareness and support by promoting Valley Water programs,

offering emergency preparedness resources, and partnering with community organizations to protect unhoused youth in Santa Clara County during flood season.

**B. International Blue Waters:**

This project aims to provide Santa Clara County high school students with hands-on environmental experience, increase their awareness of water accessibility, and foster collaboration through local and international community service opportunities.

**C. Water Watch: Free Community Water Testing and Mapping Project**

This project aims to engage community members in collecting and testing water samples to create a publicly accessible Water Quality Map of Santa Clara Valley, highlighting environmental justice issues and empowering Youth Commissioners with hands-on experience in scientific analysis, community outreach, and advocacy.

**D. Microplastic Interception Program:**

This project aims to reduce microplastic pollution in local waterways by distributing interception kits to households, educating the community, and providing Youth Commissioners with hands-on experience in environmental solutions, public engagement, and data analysis.

**E. Providing Safe Drinking Water:**

This project aims to provide safe drinking water to rural and low-income communities affected by contamination while raising awareness and equipping Youth Commissioners with real-world experience in addressing water insecurity and developing fundraising campaigns.

**F. Trash Pollution Heatmap:**

This project aims to use drone technology to map trash density in rivers, raise community awareness, and provide data-driven insights to guide cleanup efforts and protect local waterways.

**G. One Water Pitch: A Youth Video Competition on Water Sustainability**

This project aims to engage Santa Clara County high school students in water conservation, flood preparedness, and creek protection through a creative countywide video pitch competition, while empowering Youth Commissioners to lead outreach, promotion, and judging, fostering environmental leadership and community engagement.

The Commission will discuss, review, and vote on these project proposals and select up to three (3) projects to recommend to the Valley Water Board of Directors to add to the FY 26 work plan. The Youth Commission's FY 26 work plan will be reviewed by the Valley Water Board of Directors for

approval to implement.

After the Valley Water Board of Directors approve of the Youth Commission's proposed FY 26 work plan, the Chair of the Youth Commission, taking into account feedback and/or expressions of interest from individual Youth Commissioners and staff, will assign each Commissioner to work on at least one project during FY 26.

**Background:**

The Valley Water Board of Directors adopted Resolution 17-75 providing for and defining the structure and function of advisory committees to the Santa Clara Valley Water District Board of Directors and Repealing Resolution 15-28. Resolution 17-75, Section 4.4 states:

"The Board approves and sets all Committee annual work plans and meeting agendas. Committee meeting agendas will be considered pre-approved by the Board once it has approved each of the annual Advisory Committee work plans. Modifications to meeting agendas will be considered by the Board, or Board Chair, as needed, through a review of the pre-approved work plans when it receives and considers Committee policy recommendations, comments, and requests, staff recommended modifications, and requests by members of the public. The Board may also initiate modifications to pre-approved work plans at any time."

**ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE IMPACT:**

There are no environmental justice impacts associated with this item.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Attachment 1: Project Proposals

**UNCLASSIFIED MANAGER:**

Rachael Gibson, 408-630-2884

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<b>Name of Project: A) Creekside Community Care Project</b>	<b>Proposed Duration:</b> (8-10 weeks total, must overlap with a general YC meeting: Nov. 19, Jan. 28, Apr. 30)
<b>Planning Team Members: Doyoon, Agata, Parnika, Sinit</b>	

### Driving Question:

*Create an open-ended question using words such as: How, should, what, could...*

*Ex: How can we, as community members, inspire the public in Santa Clara County to participate in environmental stewardship?*

How can we make flood protection more accessible to the unhoused youth and the general public?

### Project Summary:

As a general summary, this project is an improved continuation of last year's Creekside Community Care Project. We aim to promote Valley Water support programs and Flood safety for those who may be in the most danger in the case of floods during flood season during early winters to late spring.

- Advocating programs of Valley Water
  - [Online shopping cart](#)
  - [Flood Plans](#)
    - 3 Sandbag locations
    - Emergency checklist
    - Safe locations for evacuation
- Emergency/School Kits
  - Booklet
    - About water conservation and emergency to do list
    - First-aid/medical information, how to keep yourself and others safe
      - Can reference existing materials
  - First-aid kit
  - Whistles
  - School Supplies
  - Flashlight
  - [Drawstring bag](#) (We can always look for better options, just one option we found)
- Collaboration with external organizations
  - Using external organizations as a platform to do outreach
  - [CRC](#)
- Improvement from last year: Improving evaluations and incorporating feedback. Will we be actually making an impact?
  - Connect with Bill Wilson Center Staff, measuring impact thru their forms
  - Pre-existing data sets we could look at?

### Learning Goals:

*What will Youth Commissioners gain from this project?*

- Youth Commissioners will gain an understanding of how serious the unhoused youth issue is some of the complexities behind why youth end up unhoused

### Final Product and Audience:

- 100 Emergency/Supplies Kits
- Brochures or Handouts summarizing programs
- Audience: Unhoused Youth

### Human Resources:

*What Valley Water staff support will be needed?*

- Valley Water Staff: 5-10 hours total

### Other Resources:

*What facilities, technology, equipment, materials, etc. will your group need?*

- Youth Commissioners: 10-12 hours

- Facilities to put together the kits
- Possibly printing booklets made by commissioners
- Need publicity help to send out donation links

### Timeline

#### Considerations:

- Which Youth Commission quarterly meeting will fall during your project? (Nov. 19, Jan. 28, Apr. 30)
- Does your project need to align with any specific dates (such as Day Without Water, National River Cleanup Day, Earth Day, Science Extravaganza, etc.)
- What seasonal restraints are there (for your school schedule, or other extra-curricular activities)?
- What are the steps needed to complete your project?
- What milestones need to be reviewed by Valley Water staff?

Date	Milestone/ Event	Notes
mid-September	Have a drafted list of items we can use in the kits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Start a wishlist for the emergency times</li> <li>- Meet with Bill Wilson Center to discuss what times or items will actually be useful</li> </ul>
September End/October beginning	Advertise the kit drive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Start a drive</li> <li>- Make fliers to promote it</li> </ul>
End October	Put the kits together	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Start assembling the kits and preparing them</li> </ul>
Nov 19	Make final report to Youth Commission quarterly meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Report may be final or before distribution depending on timing</li> </ul>
November-December	Distribute Kits to unhoused youth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Distribute the kits</li> </ul>
January - February		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Discuss possible results and evaluate ways to make it better for next year</li> </ul>

**Project Implementation Team Members:**

**Staff Mentor:**

#### Reflection

- How will each project team member stay accountable for their tasks and deadlines?
- What will the team do if not all members engage in or are available once the project has started?
- How often will the project team check in with the Valley Water staff mentor?

**Resources:**

-

<b>Name of Project: B) International Blue Waters</b>	<b>Proposed Duration:</b> (8-10 weeks total, must overlap with a general YC meeting: Nov. 19, Jan. 28, Apr. 30)
<b>Project Proposal Team Members: Abigail Kim</b>	

### Driving Question:

How can we engage the Santa Clara County youth community in actively promoting awareness and expanding accessibility to clean water beyond local outreach.

### Project Summary:

Blue Waters aims to engage Santa Clara County high schoolers with first-hand experience, combining: environmental action, education, and community service. High schoolers can work locally with distributing hygiene kits and Valley Water campaigning materials, as well as branching out to international organizations like Project Abroad US to provide this experience on an international scale. The aim of this project is to educate Santa Clara County students on water accessibility and provide them with hands-on experience internationally.

### Learning Goals:

*What will Youth Commissioners gain from this project?*

- First-hand experience with environmental action
- Awareness and education on clean water
- Collaborating and connecting with outside sources

### Final Product and Audience:

- Partnering with high-school student led volunteer programs: SVYCA, Interact, etc.
- Branch out to high schoolers in Santa Clara County Community
- Hygiene kits and campaign materials for Valley Water

### Human Resources:

*What Valley Water staff support will be needed?*

- Valley Water Staff: 5-10 hours total
- Youth Commissioners: 30 hours

### Other Resources:

*What facilities, technology, equipment, materials, etc. will your group need?*

- Materials for hygiene kits
- Digital marketing materials
- Partnerships with outside programs
- Water filters

## Timeline

### Considerations:

- Which Youth Commission quarterly meeting will fall during your project? (Nov. 19, Jan. 28, Apr. 30)
- Does your project need to align with any specific dates (such as Day Without Water, National River Cleanup Day, Earth Day, Science Extravaganza, etc.)
- What seasonal restraints are there (for your school schedule, or other extra-curricular activities)?
- What are the steps needed to complete your project?
- What milestones need to be reviewed by Valley Water staff?

Date	Milestone/ Event	Notes
Late September	Kickoff meeting and researching locations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Locate which areas are our target for project (locally and internationally)</li> <li>- Assign tasks and roles</li> <li>- Find certain events, schools, and possible schools to partner with</li> </ul>

Early October	Connect with local outreaches and outside programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Research which programs we want to partner up with and meets the aim of our goal</li> <li>- Contact local and international programs</li> </ul>
Late October	Educational Flyers and Media Campaign	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Host training on water conservation</li> <li>- Detail project goals and direction aimed at</li> <li>- Post on media and contact other programs/high schoolers to promote</li> <li>- Participate in local events to spread awareness (passive)</li> </ul>
Early-Late November	Fundraising/Collecting supplies and designing kit/assemble kit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Passive fundraisers to secure travel funds, shipments, and funds for materials</li> <li>- Drafting kits</li> </ul>
December	Finalize Participants for Trip	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Secure finalizes funds for international trip</li> <li>- Tally participants who are partaking in the event</li> <li>- Undergo interview for application</li> </ul>
January-February	Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Training for trip and distribution of hygiene kits (passive)</li> <li>- Detail safety concerns, necessities, essentials, location, tasks, etc.</li> </ul>
March	International Service Trip	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Commissioners will deliver and distribute hygiene kits</li> <li>- Lead school and community workshops</li> <li>- Participate in community service (cleaning waters, rain barrel demo, etc.)</li> </ul>
Mid-April	Reflection Workshop	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Commissioners will reflect on outcomes of project and start media editing</li> <li>- Everyone sends in their reflections and photos</li> <li>- Those in charge of media will edit video</li> </ul>
Late April	Reflection and presentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Present outcomes, documents, photos, and reflections</li> <li>- Use this info and posts on media to promote purpose of Valley Water</li> </ul>

**Project Implementation Team Members:**

**Staff Mentor:**

**Reflection**

- How will each project team member stay accountable for their tasks and deadlines?
- What will the team do if not all members engage in or are available once the project has started?
- How often will the project team check in with the Valley Water staff mentor?

**Resources:**

-

<b>Name of Project: C) Water Watch: Free Community Water Testing &amp; Mapping Project</b>	<b>Proposed Duration:</b> (8-10 weeks total, must overlap with a general YC meeting: Nov. 19, Jan. 28, Apr. 30)
<b>Project Proposal Team Members: Ruhan Upreti</b>	

### **Driving Question:**

How can we empower residents of Santa Clara County to better understand their water quality and use that knowledge to advocate for a cleaner, healthier water system?

### **Project Summary:**

This project will invite community members to submit water samples from their homes, schools, and neighborhoods to Youth Commissioners for free testing and analysis. Using simple, affordable, and reliable water quality testing kits, we will measure factors such as pH, hardness, chlorine, heavy metals, and other contaminants. All results will be logged and anonymized into a publicly viewable “Water Quality Map of Santa Clara Valley”, which will visually show areas with the cleanest and most contaminated water. This tool will highlight possible environmental justice issues, particularly in communities near industrial sites (e.g., near Reid-Hillview Airport or new factory developments like Tesla’s site). The data will then be shared with Valley Water staff and local policymakers, giving the community an evidence-based way to advocate for improved water quality and equitable access to safe water. This project will make Valley Water more transparent, empower residents, and provide Youth Commissioners with firsthand experience in environmental data collection, scientific analysis, and advocacy.

<p><b>Learning Goals:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Learn how to conduct basic water testing and interpret results.</li> <li>• Practice data collection, analysis, and visualization by building a community-wide water quality map.</li> <li>• Gain experience in community outreach by promoting the free testing opportunity to residents.</li> <li>• Understand the connection between local industries, environmental factors, and water contamination.</li> <li>• Build advocacy skills by preparing a data-based presentation to Valley Water staff and local councils.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Final Product and Audience:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Final Products / Deliverables: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ A fully developed “Santa Clara Valley Water Quality Map” highlighting clean vs. contaminated water areas.</li> <li>○ A public summary report of findings shared with Valley Water and local council members.</li> <li>○ Flyers/social media campaigns educating residents on their water quality and Valley Water’s resources.</li> <li>○ A community presentation at a Youth Commission meeting showcasing key findings.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Audience: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Primary: Santa Clara County residents who submit water samples.</li> <li>○ Secondary: Valley Water staff, city councils, environmental justice groups, and community advocates.</li> <li>○ Public Audience: Community members engaged via Valley Water’s website, newsletters, and social media.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Human Resources:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Valley Water Staff: 5-10 hours total <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Guidance on testing protocols and data handling.</li> <li>○ Support with final map hosting on Valley Water’s platform.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Youth Commissioners: 30-40 hours <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Sample collection coordination, testing, logging results, creating outreach materials, data analysis, and presentation.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>Other Resources:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community water testing kits (pH, hardness, chlorine, metals, etc.)</li> <li>• Data visualization software (Google Maps, ArcGIS, or similar)</li> <li>• Flyers, posters, and social media posts for outreach</li> <li>• Spreadsheet/database for results entry</li> <li>• Possibly a small mailing budget for sample collection kits</li> </ul>

Timeline		
<p>Considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Which Youth Commission quarterly meeting will fall during your project? (Nov. 19, Jan. 28, Apr. 30)</li> <li>• Does your project need to align with any specific dates (such as Day Without Water, National River Cleanup Day, Earth Day, Science Extravaganza, etc.)</li> <li>• What seasonal restraints are there (for your school schedule, or other extra-curricular activities)?</li> <li>• What are the steps needed to complete your project?</li> <li>• What milestones need to be reviewed by Valley Water staff?</li> </ul>		
Date	Milestone/ Event	Notes



11/1 – 11/15	Finalize Testing Protocols	Commissioners decide on testing methods, design sample submission forms (or even how to submit samples), and set clear testing parameters.
11/19	YC Quarterly Meeting Check-in	Present project framework to Commission; request Valley Water support for sample submission logistics and hosting of the public map.
11/20 – 12/10	Outreach & Recruitment	Flyers, emails, and social media posts encouraging residents to submit water samples. Connect with schools, community groups, and neighborhoods.
12/11 – 1/10	Sample Collection & Testing	Commissioners collect, test, and log samples. Maintain standardized records.
1/11 – 1/20	Data Analysis & Map Building	Results compiled into a shared database and mapped into visual format (Google Maps or ArcGIS).
1/28	YC Quarterly Meeting Progress Review	Showcase early map draft and initial findings. Get Valley Water staff feedback on accuracy and framing.
1/29 – 2/20	Finalize Map & Policy Report	Commissioners prepare a final water map, create a summary report, and draft key advocacy points for Valley Water and councils.
2/21 – 3/1	Public Presentation & Advocacy	Results presented at Commission meeting; map shared with Valley Water, local city councils, and the public.

<b>Project Implementation Team Members:</b>	<b>Staff Mentor:</b>
<b>Reflection</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How will each project team member stay accountable for their tasks and deadlines?</li> <li>• What will the team do if not all members engage in or are available once the project has started?</li> <li>• How often will the project team check in with the Valley Water staff mentor?</li> </ul>	
<b>Resources:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>	

<b>Name of Project: D) Microplastic Interception Program</b>	<b>Proposed Duration:</b> (8-10 weeks total, must overlap with a general YC meeting: Nov. 19, Jan. 28, Apr. 30)
<b>Project Proposal Team Members: Simran Soni</b>	

### Driving Question:

*Create an open-ended question using words such as: How, should, what, could...*

*Ex: How can we, as community members, inspire the public in Santa Clara County to participate in environmental stewardship?*

How can we empower Santa Clara County communities to actively reduce microplastic pollution at its source through accessible, neighborhood intervention strategies?

**Project Summary:** The microplastic interception program aims to distribute 150 kits to Santa Clara County households, targeting microplastic pollution at its source through washing machine filters, storm drain inserts, and community education workshops. The goal is to reduce microplastic contamination in local water streams to provide cleaner drinking water for the community.

### Learning Goals:

*What will Youth Commissioners gain from this project?*

- Hands-on experience with environmental solutions
- Community organizing and public engagement skills
- Understanding of water pollution sources and treatment
- Partnerships with government agencies and businesses
- Data collection and analysis for environmental impact

### Final Product and Audience:

- Digital resource guide accessible to all Santa Clara County residents
- Data report on microplastic reduction effectiveness
- 150 Community Microplastic Interception Kits distributed to households
- Members of Santa Clara County

### Human Resources:

*What Valley Water staff support will be needed?*

- Valley Water Staff: 5-10 hours total
- Youth Commissioners: XX hours (10-15)

### Other Resources:

*What facilities, technology, equipment, materials, etc., will your group need?*

- Materials for kits. Microfiber filters, mesh bags, educational booklets, and storage containers
- Water sampling equipment for testing
- Printing costs for educational materials and surveys
- Digital platform for resource data collection

## Timeline

### Considerations:

- Which Youth Commission quarterly meeting will fall during your project? (Nov. 19, Jan. 28, Apr. 30)
- Does your project need to align with any specific dates (such as Day Without Water, National River Cleanup Day, Earth Day, Science Extravaganza, etc)
- What seasonal restraints are there (for your school schedule, or other extracurricular activities)?
- What are the steps needed to complete your project?
- What milestones need to be reviewed by Valley Water staff?

Date	Milestone/ Event	Notes
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Early September	Project kickoff and regulatory research Test water samples in different locations for microplastics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Test water samples in the valley water lab</li> <li>- Record data</li> <li>- Start the logistics of the project</li> <li>- Start workshop content</li> </ul>
Late September	Community partner outreach and planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Start reaching out to companies that would like to be donors and engage in this initiative</li> <li>- Get in touch with libraries to partner with</li> </ul>
Early October	Kit design and material sourcing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Reaching out to manufacturers or going to retail stores to get materials</li> <li>- Finding the best deals so that we can minimize cost</li> </ul>
Late October	Pilot testing and kit refinement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Send out kits to some households to see if they work</li> <li>- Make adjustments as necessary</li> </ul>
Early November	Volunteer recruitment and training, or distribution training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Start finding volunteers to help put together kits</li> <li>- Can have an event for this</li> </ul>
November 19	Mid-project presentation to Youth Commission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Project status</li> <li>- Goals</li> <li>- Next steps</li> </ul>
December	Kit assembly and preparation + Community workshops begin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Have a volunteer event to put together kits</li> <li>- Start putting together workshops</li> </ul>
January 28	Progress update to Youth Commission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Project status</li> <li>- Goals</li> <li>- Next steps</li> </ul>
February	Continue workshops and kit distribution Follow-up sampling and data collection Test water samples in different locations for microplastics, calculate the net change from September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Collect data from local streams, the same as the initial data, to measure change</li> <li>- Record data</li> </ul>
March	Final analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- What is the change in microplastics levels</li> <li>- How many households were reached?</li> </ul>
April 30	Present complete project results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Target reached?</li> <li>- Next steps</li> <li>- Kits donated</li> </ul>

<b>Project Implementation Team Members:</b>	<b>Staff Mentor:</b>
<b>Reflection</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• How will each project team member stay accountable for their tasks and deadlines?</li><li>• What will the team do if not all members engage in or are available once the project has started?</li><li>• How often will the project team check in with the Valley Water staff mentor?</li></ul>	
<b>Resources:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•</li></ul>	

<b>Name of Project: E) Providing Safe Drinking Water</b>	<b>Proposed Duration:</b> (8-10 weeks total, must overlap with a general YC meeting: Nov. 19, Jan. 28, Apr. 30)
<b>Project Proposal Team Members: Ethan Cheung, Ellie Zhou</b>	

### Driving Question:

*Create an open-ended question using words such as: How, should, what, could...*

*Ex: How can we, as community members, inspire the public in Santa Clara County to participate in environmental stewardship?*

How can we provide cleaner drinking water for rural residents of California to give them a healthier life and raise awareness about issues surrounding unsafe water?

### Project Summary:

Many rural and low-income communities in California, especially in Salinas and San Joaquin Valley, face unsafe drinking water due to contamination from nitrate, arsenic, and pesticides. Our projects aims to address this challenge by providing safe drinking water (e.g. through water filters and bottled water) to families and raise awareness for this issue.

### Learning Goals:

*What will Youth Commissioners gain from this project?*

- Real-world experience with helping solve pressing water issues
- Learn how to develop an engaging fundraising campaign
- Gain a deeper understanding of how water insecurity disproportionately affects certain communities

### Final Product and Audience:

- Delivery of clean water for people in a community
  - Could be bottled water delivered to them and/or water filters
  - Also, could filter dirty water into clean water
- Fundraising campaign and materials to spread awareness

#### Audience:

- General public - raise awareness for these issues
- Target community that is receiving assistance
- Lawmakers - Bring this issue to their awareness so they can create policies to help remedy it
- Donors who will help support our fundraising campaign

### Human Resources:

*What Valley Water staff support will be needed?*

- Valley Water Staff: 5-10 hours total
- Youth Commissioners: XX hours

### Other Resources:

*What facilities, technology, equipment, materials, etc. will your group need?*

- Filters
- Bottled water
- Transportation & Distribution
- Interviews with affected community

### Timeline

#### Considerations:

- Which Youth Commission quarterly meeting will fall during your project? (Nov. 19, Jan. 28, Apr. 30)

- Does your project need to align with any specific dates (such as Day Without Water, National River Cleanup Day, Earth Day, Science Extravaganza, etc.)
- What seasonal restraints are there (for your school schedule, or other extra-curricular activities)?
- What are the steps needed to complete your project?
- What milestones need to be reviewed by Valley Water staff?

Date	Milestone/ Event	Notes
September	Research, Partnerships, Budget	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Choose a target community, which is impacted by the water quality issue and has small enough population to make an impact</li> <li>• Reach out to nonprofits (Community Water Center, Safe Water Collaborative) to ask if: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ They can help us identify which families are most in need because they probably know better</li> <li>○ See if they could help us handle distribution</li> <li>○ Provide technical expertise - which filters? Is bottled water good solution?</li> <li>○ Help connect us with funding sources?</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Finalize assistance type (probably water filters + bottled water) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Do more research on the water filters and which would be most effective</li> <li>○ I heard Reverse Osmosis (RO) filters are pretty good? Remove arsenic, nitrates, chromium-6, bacteria, pesticides, etc. More costly though. Would be best if we could find one that doesn't need installation, but is still very effective.</li> <li>○ Also, one filter for each family is going to be really expensive. Maybe giving each "x" families, 1 filter? And it could be in a communal space?</li> <li>○ For bottled water, maybe we just give enough for a couple months?</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Calculate how much everything will cost - budget!!</li> </ul>
October/November/December (1-3 months)	Fundraising	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create a fundraising campaign <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Engaging, touching, clear impact, NUMBERS</li> <li>○ Share progress along the way, since that encourages people. Maybe sharing weekly updates?</li> <li>○ Maybe sharing touching stories of people?</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Launch our fundraising campaign in different channels: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ GoFundMe (online)</li> <li>○ Nextdoor (online)</li> <li>○ Facebook</li> <li>○ Establish school fundraisers, since we go to different schools? Maybe if school has Green Club or Environmental Club, it can be a part of that?</li> <li>○ Ask local businesses or companies which support water/environmental causes to help sponsor</li> <li>○ Share on Valley Water social media / newsletters/ website</li> <li>○ Ask nonprofits who also support water equity to promote</li> <li>○ Putting flyers up in our community</li> <li>○ Get connected with local elected officials?</li> <li>○ Go to the farmer's market? E.g., setting up a booth at Campbell Farmer's Market and help advocate.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Finding events we can speak at?</li> <li>● Deliverables: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ \$X raised</li> <li>○ “Y” awareness posts/flyers</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
February	Distribution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Order the water filters and bottled water</li> <li>● Either we partner with a nonprofit which can help to distribute them (if they already have relationship with that community)</li> <li>● OR it's led by us, and we organize one day, where we hand out the filters and bottled water</li> <li>● Gather testimonials/interview from the families</li> </ul>
March	Impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Publish our impact, send to our donors, valley water, nonprofit partners <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Funds raised</li> <li>○ Families helped</li> <li>○ Lessons learned</li> <li>○ Pictures!</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Send letters to Water Boards in California, telling them what our project helped with and encouraging them to fund safe water infrastructure in rural CA</li> <li>● Create petition to do ^^</li> </ul>

<b>Project Implementation Team Members:</b>	<b>Staff Mentor:</b>
<b>Reflection</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● How will each project team member stay accountable for their tasks and deadlines?</li> <li>● What will the team do if not all members engage in or are available once the project has started?</li> <li>● How often will the project team check in with the Valley Water staff mentor?</li> </ul>	
<b>Resources:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●</li> </ul>	

<b>Name of Project: F) Trash Pollution Heatmap</b>	<b>Proposed Duration:</b> (8-10 weeks total, must overlap with a general YC meeting: Nov. 19, Jan. 28, Apr. 30)
<b>Project Proposal Team Members: Ellie Zhou, Ethan Cheung</b>	

### Driving Question:

*Create an open-ended question using words such as: How, should, what, could...*

*Ex: How can we, as community members, inspire the public in Santa Clara County to participate in environmental stewardship?*

How can we, as youth leaders, use drones and AI to track waste in our environment and inspire action to keep our waterways and environment clean?

### Project Summary:

We fly a drone over rivers, take pictures of them, and create a heat map of trash density. The purpose is to identify pollution hotspots, raise community awareness, and provide data that can guide cleanup and long-term solutions to keep our waterways and environment healthy.

### Learning Goals:

*What will Youth Commissioners gain from this project?*

- Gain hands on experience with drones and AI technology
- Learn how to collect, analyze, and visualize data from drone imagery
- Gain insight into how human activities affect the health of our rivers and environment

### Final Product and Audience:

- A heatmap of plastic waste in rivers and other bodies of water
- A report to report our findings

### Audience:

- Community members and schools to inspire local action
- Valley Water - they could use the maps to plan cleanups
- River Cleanup teams - Use the maps to find plastic-dense areas to clean up
- Policymakers - could use map to enact better policies for managing waste

### Human Resources:

*What Valley Water staff support will be needed?*

- Valley Water Staff: 5-10 hours total
- Youth Commissioners: XX hours

### Other Resources:

*What facilities, technology, equipment, materials, etc. will your group need?*

- Drones with camera
- AI model
- Interactive map site (something to make heatmap)

## Timeline

### Considerations:

- Which Youth Commission quarterly meeting will fall during your project? (Nov. 19, Jan. 28, Apr. 30)
- Does your project need to align with any specific dates (such as Day Without Water, National River Cleanup Day, Earth Day, Science Extravaganza, etc.)
- What seasonal restraints are there (for your school schedule, or other extra-curricular activities)?
- What are the steps needed to complete your project?
- What milestones need to be reviewed by Valley Water staff?



Date	Milestone/ Event	Notes
September 1-13	Nailing down the target site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify possible target sites (Coyote Creek, Los Gatos Creek, etc.)</li> <li>Research past river cleanup reports to see where trash accumulated most</li> <li>Visit the sites to see how much trash is there</li> </ul>
September 14th	Drone Test Run	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Get kiddie pool, fill with water, add plastics, do a test run of the drone and capture images</li> <li>Experiment with different heights (Too high → hard to detect plastic, too low → can't see anything)</li> <li>Review the image quality and see if trash can be identified</li> </ul>
September 1-13	Statistics + heatmap	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Find/Create model to find statistics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Trash amount</li> <li>Types of trash</li> <li>Trash density</li> </ul> </li> <li>Figure out how to create heatmap</li> </ul>
September 21	Data Collection #1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Go to creeks, take pictures from a set altitude <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Data to store: latitude, longitude, date and time captured</li> </ul> </li> <li>Try not to get drone stuck in trees</li> </ul>
September 23	Plan for Round 2 Collection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If it went well, add another site?</li> <li>If not, figure out what we need to adjust and do it again.</li> </ul>
October-March	Repeated Experiments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Repeat every 1 month for each site to monitor changes in trash levels</li> </ul>
After we finish data collection & AI model running - May	Publishing our Results & Raising Awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Make a website with our heat maps (hopefully with a timeline slider)</li> <li>Present at national river cleanup in May</li> <li>Write article for local newspapers maybe?</li> <li>Publish in the valley water blog</li> <li>Publish in science/environmental journals</li> </ul>

**Project Implementation Team Members:**

**Staff Mentor:**

**Reflection**

- How will each project team member stay accountable for their tasks and deadlines?
- What will the team do if not all members engage in or are available once the project has started?
- How often will the project team check in with the Valley Water staff mentor?

**Resources:**

-

**Name of Project: G) One Water Pitch: A Youth Video Competition on Water Sustainability**

**Proposed Duration:** (8-10 weeks total, must overlap with a general YC meeting: Nov. 19, Jan. 28, Apr. 30)

**Project Proposal Team Members:** Aditya Shivakumar

### **Driving Question:**

*Create an open-ended question using words such as: How, should, what, could...*

*Ex: How can we, as community members, inspire the public in Santa Clara County to participate in environmental stewardship?*

How can we engage high school students across Santa Clara County to creatively promote water conservation through a pitch competition?

### **Project Summary:**

We will launch a countywide competition called “One Water Pitch,” inviting high school students to create a 1-minute video pitch on how to conserve water, prepare for floods, or protect local waterways. The contest is inspired by successful national competitions like [Pitch for the Future](#) and [World of 8 Billion](#), but will be the first water-focused video pitch competition in California (maybe the US as well, need to confirm).

### **Why Valley Water should host this:**

It’s not always easy to get youth engaged with water issues. Valley Water already does a lot of outreach, but those activities can feel one-way, keeping students passive. *One Water Pitch* changes that by putting students in the driver’s seat. Now, instead of just listening, they get to pitch their own creative ideas. That shift makes them more invested, more curious about Valley Water’s mission, and more likely to take real action in conservation, flood safety, and protecting our creeks.

### **How it works:**

- Students submit a 1-minute pitch video aligned with one of three prompts (example prompts, can be tweaked later):
  1. *Every Drop is Power*: Show us a creative way your school or community could save water in daily life.
  2. *Stormproof Your City*: Imagine you’re helping your neighborhood get flood-ready. What’s your one-minute pitch to prepare people?
  3. *Creek Keepers*: Santa Clara’s creeks and reservoirs are home to wildlife and recreation. Pitch your best idea for how students can be water heroes, stopping pollution, cleaning creeks, or spreading awareness.
- Submissions are uploaded through a Valley Water-hosted portal or google form that we will link on the ValleyWater’s website
- Youth Commissioners serve as the judging panel, using a clear rubric posted online (e.g. creativity, clarity, alignment with mission, and impact)
- Finalists’ pitches will be featured on social media and will be presented with the “One Water Award”

### **Why Santa Clara County students will participate:**

- It’s quick and fun (just one minute)
- It gives them an award/recognition from Valley Water, a major county institution (every kid in Silicon Valley wants an award lol, adds value to their college apps/resumes as an environmental leadership

achievement)

- Winners receive official awards and recognition: videos highlighted on Valley Water’s website, social media, etc
- Students can showcase creativity

**Goals:**

- At least 100 student submissions countywide
- Engage 30+ schools (at least 1 school per ValleyWater District) through Green Teams, APES classes, and student councils

**Learning Goals:**

Youth Commissioners will:

- Learn how to design and run a countywide pitch competition from start to finish
- Practice promoting a project by creating flyers, social posts, and giving classroom presentations
- Improve their ability to explain Valley Water’s mission in ways that connect with peers
- Learn how to judge competitions, giving a new perspective for commissioners on the other side of designing a competition rather than competing in one
  - This will grant commissioners a new perspective on entering competitions moving forward

**Final Product and Audience:**

**Final Products / Deliverables:**

- A fully branded “One Water Pitch” competition launched and promoted countywide
- A dedicated competition webpage/portal on Valley Water’s website for submissions and guidelines
- A judging rubric published online to ensure transparency and fairness
- 100+ student pitch videos (1-minute each) showcasing creative solutions tied to Valley Water’s mission

**Audience:**

- **Primary:** Santa Clara County high school students (30+ schools, Green Teams, APES classes, student councils)
- **Secondary:** Teachers, principals, and families who see Valley Water actively engaging youth
- **Public Audience:** Valley Water board members, staff, and the wider community through social media, newsletters, and the Valley Water website

**Human Resources:**

*What Valley Water staff support will be needed?*

- Valley Water Staff: 5-10 hours total
- Youth Commissioners: 20 hours

**Other Resources:**

*What facilities, technology, equipment, materials, etc. will your group need?*

- Competition webpage/portal on Valley Water’s website (we only need permission to add a dedicated panel; Youth Commissioners can design and provide all content including submission form, rules, and rubric)
- Digital marketing materials (flyers, email templates, social media graphics) to promote the competition through schools and Valley Water’s channels

## Timeline

### Considerations:

- Which Youth Commission quarterly meeting will fall during your project? (Nov. 19, Jan. 28, Apr. 30)
- Does your project need to align with any specific dates (such as Day Without Water, National River Cleanup Day, Earth Day, Science Extravaganza, etc.)
- What seasonal restraints are there (for your school schedule, or other extra-curricular activities)?
- What are the steps needed to complete your project?
- What milestones need to be reviewed by Valley Water staff?

Date	Milestone/ Event	Notes
11/1-11/15	Finalize Competition Framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Youth Commissioners finalize three prompts and judging rubric.</li> <li>• Draft competition guidelines (submission rules, eligibility, deadlines).</li> </ul>
11/19	YC Quarterly Meeting Checkin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Present “One Water Pitch” to the full Commission</li> <li>• Request permission from Valley Water staff to add a dedicated google form link for submissions               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ consider creating an aesthetic website and linking the URL if time permits (Aditya can help create the frontend alongside other interested Commissioners)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
11/20-12/20	Build & Prep Phase	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commissioners draft content for webpage (submission form, rubric, FAQ, competition overview)</li> <li>• Flyers, email templates, and social media graphics for outreach designed by Commissioners</li> </ul>
1/1-1/15	Official Public Launch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Competition officially opens after winter break</li> <li>• Commissioners send launch emails to Green Teams, APES teachers, and student councils, etc.</li> <li>• Flyers distributed across schools</li> <li>• Continue outreach to the 30+ schools targeted via social media and in-school promotions</li> </ul>
1/15-3/20	Continue Promotion (lighter workload these 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue promoting via social</li> </ul>

	months)	media
3/20	Submission Deadline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Students submit final 1-minute pitches through Valley Water portal</li> </ul>
3/21-4/2	Judging Period	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Each Commissioner reviews a share of submissions using rubric</li> <li>Scores submitted through shared judging sheet</li> <li>Commissioners review finalists to select top 3 winners</li> <li>Only about 10 submissions per Commissioner = pretty light workload</li> </ul>
4/10	YC Meeting Showcase + Winners Announced	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Commissioners officially announce winners</li> <li>Finalist videos screened at April Commission meeting</li> <li>Valley Water publishes results on website, newsletter, and social media</li> <li>Highlight reel of winners created and shared publicly</li> </ul>

<b>Project Implementation Team Members:</b>	<b>Staff Mentor:</b>
<b>Reflection</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How will each project team member stay accountable for their tasks and deadlines?</li> <li>What will the team do if not all members engage in or are available once the project has started?</li> <li>How often will the project team check in with the Valley Water staff mentor?</li> </ul>	
<b>Resources:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul>	



# Santa Clara Valley Water District

File No.: 25-0851

Agenda Date: 9/30/2025

Item No.: 4.2.

## COMMITTEE AGENDA MEMORANDUM Santa Clara Valley Water District Youth Commission

Government Code § 84308 Applies: Yes ☐ No ☒  
(If "YES" Complete Attachment A - Gov. Code § 84308)

### SUBJECT:

Receive the Santa Clara Valley Water District Youth Commission's Accomplishments Report, Recognition of the 2025 Outgoing Santa Clara Valley Water District Youth Commission Members and Forward the Accomplishments Report to the Board for Consideration.

### RECOMMENDATION:

- A. Receive and accept the Santa Clara Valley Water District Youth Commission's Accomplishments Report; and
- B. Acknowledge and recognize the 2025 outgoing Santa Clara Valley Water District Youth Commission Members; and
- C. Forward the Accomplishments Report to the Board for consideration.

### SUMMARY:

The Santa Clara Valley Water District Youth Commission (Youth Commission) was established to assist the Santa Clara Valley Water Board of Directors with public policy, education, outreach, and all matters impacting the Santa Clara County youth and Valley Water. Participation on the commission also helps to foster greater involvement of youth in local government to inspire and develop future public policy leaders and professionals with an awareness of issues and activities relating to water supply, conservation, flood protection, and stream stewardship.

The Board's Advisory Committees report annually to the Board on their accomplishments of the preceding year. This item conveys the Youth Commission's accomplishments for the 2025 school year and provides the opportunity for the Board to acknowledge and recognize the outgoing nine (9) Youth Commission members who graduated as part of the Class of 2025 and will no longer be eligible to participate on the Commission after August 2025.

Highlights from the Youth Commission's Accomplishments this year include:

- The Policy Writing Ad Hoc Committee developed a plan to address environmental concerns related to the unhoused population, leading to the Creekside Community Care Initiative and hygiene kit distribution.

- The Creekside Community Care Initiative Project Group assembled and distributed hygiene kits, and developed a blog post for posting to the Valley Water website.
- The Education Outreach Program Project Group organized and hosted Zoom meetings for school groups about Valley Water's grant programs.
- The Creek Stewardship and Water Quality Outreach Project Group conducted a water quality lab tour and hands-on activity, created educational videos, and hosted a National River Cleanup Day site.

The following Youth Commissioners graduated this year and were recognized and presented with their Certificates of Recognition and Appreciation at the May 29, 2025, Youth Commission meeting by Board representatives, Valley Water staff, and fellow Youth Commissioners:

1. Lorelei Henry - representing District 1 (Director Varela)
2. Niharika Koduru - representing District 2 (Director Ballard)
3. Ca Nha Dang - representing District 2 (Director Ballard)
4. Christopher Barsoum - representing District 4 (Director Beall)
5. Daphne Zhu - representing District 5 (Director Hsueh)
6. Grace Liu - representing District 5 (Director Hsueh)
7. Jonathan Lopez - representing District 6 (Director Estremera)
8. Oded Bronicki - representing District 7 (Director Eisenberg)
9. Maitreya Banerjee - representing District 7 (Director Eisenberg)

**ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE IMPACT:**

There is no environmental justice impact associated with this action.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Attachment 1: Accomplishments Report, 2025



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**File No.:** 25-0851

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**UNCLASSIFIED MANAGER:**  
Candice Kwok-Smith, 408-630-3193

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## 2025 Youth Commission Accomplishments Report

The annual work plan establishes a framework for committee discussion and action during the annual meeting schedule. The committee work plan is a dynamic document, subject to change as external and internal issues impacting Valley Water occur and are recommended for committee discussion. Subsequently, an annual committee accomplishments report is developed based on the work plan and presented to the Valley Water Board of Directors.

ITEM	WORK PLAN ITEM BOARD POLICY	MEETING DATE	ACCOMPLISHMENT DATE AND OUTCOME
1	Election of Chair and Vice Chair	8-21-2024	<b><u>Accomplished August 21, 2024:</u></b> The Youth Commission elected Niharika Koduru as the 2024-2025 Chair and Maitreya Banerjee as the 2024-2025 Vice Chair.
2	Oath of Office - Youth Commission Members	8-21-2024	<b><u>Accomplished August 21, 2024:</u></b> Dave Leon administered the Oath of Office to 14 Youth Commissioners:  District 1: Lorelei Henry District 2: Ca Nha Dang, Andrew Lomio, and Niharika Koduru District 3: Prathik Janakiram and Nina Yuan District 4: Agata Bak, Ellie Zhou, and Christopher Barsoum District 5: Aditya Shivakumar and Vice Chairperson Daphne Zhu District 6: David Huynh District 7: Maitreya Banerjee and Oded Bronicki
3	Brown Act Review and Training	8-21-2024	<b><u>Accomplished August 21, 2024:</u></b> Andrew Gschwind gave a review and training on the Brown Act. The Youth Commission took no action.
4	Santa Clara Valley Water District Youth Commission Orientation	8-21-2024	<b><u>Accomplished August 21, 2024:</u></b> Ricardo Barajas gave an orientation presentation to the Youth Commission along with the expectations and regulations for the Commission to follow when attending and conducting meetings. The Youth Commission took no action.

ITEM	WORK PLAN ITEM BOARD POLICY	MEETING DATE	ACCOMPLISHMENT DATE AND OUTCOME
5	Review Work Plan, the Outcomes of Board Action of Committee Requests, and the Committee's Next Meeting Agenda	8-21-2024 10-16-2024 11-20-2024 1-22-2025 5-29-2025	<p><b><u>Accomplished August 21, 2024:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chairperson Niharika Koduru introduced: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The first video of the Youth Commission Career Day video project series.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Youth Commissioner Ca Nha Dang reported on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Purified Water Outreach Working Group plans a post on social media inviting school environmental clubs to visit the water purification center.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Nick Ingram reported on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information relating to the September 21, 2024, Coastal Cleanup Day and invited the Commissioners to contact him if there is interest in participating or hosting a cleanup site.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Daphne Zhu reported on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Youth Community Science Network Working Group blog posts relating to where water comes from, water pollutants, and water purification are in the final editing stages.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Kristen Yasukawa provided information: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Relating to the Commission moving from the previously established working groups to a project-based model for Commission work.</li> <li>It was moved by Youth Commission member Daphne Zhu, seconded by Chairperson Niharika Koduru, and unanimously carried to adopt a project-based approach in place of working groups.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Kristen Yasukawa reported on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kristen Yasukawa provided information relating to the Commission retreat and distributed a QR code that leads to a poll to gauge interest in the subject matter to be discussed at the retreat. She further reported that the Lexington Reservoir site will be the Youth Commission site for Coastal Cleanup Day.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

ITEM	WORK PLAN ITEM BOARD POLICY	MEETING DATE	ACCOMPLISHMENT DATE AND OUTCOME
			<p><b><u>Accomplished October 16, 2024:</u></b> A special meeting was held to discuss and vote on the project proposals that were submitted. After reviewing the proposals, a straw poll was conducted to help gauge general interest and narrow down options before taking a vote. Each commissioner showed their top three projects by placing up to three stickers on the board in the section with their preferred project title. An additional project was created, Water Quality Outreach Project, combining elements from two other project proposals. The Youth Commission voted and moved forward with the Creekside Community Care Initiative Project, the Youth Commission Education Outreach Program Project, and the Water Quality Outreach Project.</p> <p><b><u>Accomplished November 20, 2024:</u></b> Chair Koduru noted that the Board approved the revised Commission work plan. Director Hsueh noted that the Board is impressed by the Commission's initiative on the three projects. The Board approved the work plan on Tuesday, November 12.</p> <p><b><u>Accomplished January 22, 2025:</u></b> The Commission took no action.</p>
6	Youth Commission Annual Retreat	9-28-2024	<p><b><u>Accomplished September 28, 2024:</u></b> The Youth Commission attended the Annual Youth Commission Retreat via Zoom. The Youth Commission participated in an icebreaker activity to get them to learn more about each other. Staff gave an intro presentation about Valley Water. The activity "Hidden Water" was also presented, where it gave the Youth Commission an understanding of direct and indirect water use by mapping their water footprint. The Youth Commission also discussed ideas for potential project proposals. The retreat ended with a virtual scavenger hunt where they worked in individual teams to solve the riddles and puzzles.</p>

ITEM	WORK PLAN ITEM BOARD POLICY	MEETING DATE	ACCOMPLISHMENT DATE AND OUTCOME
7	Proposed Policy Writing Project	8-21-2024 8-27-2024 3-13-2025 5-29-2025	<p><b><u>Accomplished August 21, 2024:</u></b> Director Hsueh reported on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Informing the Commission that the Policy Writing Subcommittee item is scheduled to be heard by the Board of Directors on August 27, 2024.</li> <li>Youth Commissioner Daphne Zhu and Grace Liu presented the Youth Commission's Policy Writing Project to the Board. The Board proceeded to defer the project to the Environmental Creek Cleanup Committee for consideration.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Accomplished March 13, 2025:</u></b> Office of Civic Engagement Staff reported at the Environmental Creek Cleanup Committee on behalf of the Policy Writing Project Group:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Staff noted that the recommendations in the Proposed Plan have been evaluated and implemented, where applicable.</li> <li>The Youth Commission developed an implementation project based on the Proposed Plan, called the Creekside Community Care Initiative (CCCI) Project. The CCCI Project was approved by the Board on November 12, 2024 as part of the Youth Commission's fiscal year 25 (FY25) work plan.</li> <li>The CCCI Project implemented elements of recommendations in the Proposed Plan, including establishing community partnerships and providing resources to unhoused youth in Santa Clara County.</li> <li>As part of the CCCI Project, the Youth Commission partnered with the Bill Wilson Center, a non-profit organization that provides services and resources to runaway and unhoused youth and families in Santa Clara County. The Youth Commission established a collection of hygiene items and assembled them into 100 hygiene kits, including a brochure on pollution prevention education and resources.</li> <li>Recommendation 1.1 of the Proposed Plan focused on securing funding for safe sleeping sites on Valley Water land and supporting an established community land trust through financial</li> </ul>

ITEM	WORK PLAN ITEM BOARD POLICY	MEETING DATE	ACCOMPLISHMENT DATE AND OUTCOME
			<p>contributions or land donations to promote affordable housing. Staff reported that while Valley Water's budget does not allow for directly financing housing projects or establishing a land trust, the agency is collaborating with external partners to develop interim housing and shelter solutions. Through a collaborative use agreement, Valley Water has partnered with the City of San José to provide land at Cherry Avenue for Emergency Interim Housing. Additionally, the City has evaluated four other Valley Water properties as potential safe sleeping sites. Staff continues to explore other opportunities for interim and permanent housing on underutilized parcels.</p> <p><b><u>Accomplished May 29, 2025:</u></b> Ricardo Barajas reported that the Policy Writing Ad Hoc Committee's proposed plan to address environmental concerns relating to the unhoused population in Santa Clara County, stating that the Creekside Community Care Initiative, which included the hygiene kit distribution, was a result of those efforts.</p>
8	Creekside Community Care Initiative Project	10-16-2024 11-20-2024 1-22-2025 5-29-2025	<p><b><u>Accomplished October 16, 2024:</u></b> The Youth Commission voted and moved forward with the Creekside Community Care Initiative Project. This project aims to provide unhoused individuals with necessity kits containing trash bags, hygiene items, and a reference guide indicating the locations of designated trash cans to reduce littering.</p> <p><b><u>Accomplished November 20, 2024:</u></b> Member Kim reported that the Creekside Community Care Initiative Project Group met on November 19, 2024 and received a presentation from the Bill Wilson Center.</p>

ITEM	WORK PLAN ITEM BOARD POLICY	MEETING DATE	ACCOMPLISHMENT DATE AND OUTCOME
			<p><b><u>Accomplished January 22, 2025:</u></b> Members Koduru and Lomio provided two updates on the Creekside Community Care Project. First, they shared progress on the informational flyers created to solicit donations for hygiene kits. The project group has also been working on two blog posts: one has already been published (1/8), while the other is still in progress. Additionally, an email will be sent regarding the upcoming visit to the Bill Wilson Center. The goal is to assemble 100 hygiene kits with the help of donations, and promotional efforts are underway to gather all the necessary items.</p> <p><b><u>Accomplished May 29, 2025:</u></b> Member Lomio reported that on February 10, 2025, the Creekside Community Care Initiative Project Group assembled 100 hygiene kits, which were distributed on February 23 while taking a tour of the Bill Wilson Center. He also noted blog posts that were uploaded to the Valley Water website relating to various topics.</p>
9	Youth Commission Education Outreach Program	10-16-2024 11-20-2024 1-22-2025 5-29-2025	<p><b><u>Accomplished October 16, 2024:</u></b> The Youth Commission voted and moved forward with the Youth Commission Education Outreach Program. This project aims to establish a Youth Commission Education Program and work with local high schools and youth organizations to raise awareness about the environment and Valley Water opportunities.</p> <p><b><u>Accomplished November 20, 2024:</u></b> Member Shivakumar noted that the Education Outreach Program Project Group is focusing on creating presentations to area high schools relating to the mini-grant program, water refill stations, and field trips to water purification facilities. He further noted that the presentations are planned for February and March 2025, and stated that a survey has been sent to the members to collect information on water refilling stations at schools in the area.</p>



ITEM	WORK PLAN ITEM BOARD POLICY	MEETING DATE	ACCOMPLISHMENT DATE AND OUTCOME
			<p><b><u>Accomplished January 22, 2025:</u></b> Member Shivakumar provided two updates on the Education Outreach Project. First, a poll was created to identify schools with the greatest need for water refill stations and grants. A total of 14 active youth commissions were identified in the county and will be contacted to help spread the word about the survey. The project group is also scheduling two virtual presentations to share information about available grants, including the water refill station grants, mini-grant program, and field trip fund.</p> <p><b><u>Accomplished May 29, 2025:</u></b> Member Shivakumar reported that the Education Outreach Program Project Group organized webcasts for school groups interested in Valley Water's grant programs, and the webcasts aired April 2 and 12, 2025.</p>
10	Water Quality Outreach Project	10-16-2024 11-20-2024 1-22-2025 5-29-2025	<p><b><u>Accomplished October 16, 2024:</u></b> The Youth Commission voted and moved forward with the Water Quality Outreach project. This project aims to collect water quality data and promote the Access Valley Water app and cleanup events.</p> <p><b><u>Accomplished November 20, 2024:</u></b> Vice Chairperson Banerjee reported that the Creek Stewardship and Water Quality Outreach Project Group is considering a series of educational videos relating to water testing in people's homes. Member Shivakumar stated that the group is considering hosting a website for data availability.</p> <p><b><u>Accomplished January 22, 2025:</u></b> Member Zhou provided two updates on the Creek Stewardship and Water Quality Outreach Project. First, YC will participate in a lab tour where they will gain an understanding of the water testing processes, as well as learn how water is collected and analyzed. Second, the project group plans to create a guide or video to help people access water quality data and testing information. A poll with possible dates for the lab tour will be sent to YC for final selection.</p>

ITEM	WORK PLAN ITEM BOARD POLICY	MEETING DATE	ACCOMPLISHMENT DATE AND OUTCOME
			<p><b><u>Accomplished May 29, 2025:</u></b>  Member Zhou reported that the Creek Stewardship and Water Quality Outreach Project Group toured the water quality lab and participated in a hands-on chain of custody activity which shows how scientists track a sample of water from collection to lab testing. She further noted that the Working Group created several educational videos on various topics relating to water quality, and that the Project Group hosted a National River Cleanup Day site in Milpitas.</p>
11	Recognition of Outgoing Youth Commission Members	5-29-2025	<p><b><u>Accomplished May 29, 2025:</u></b>  Staff presented the following with a certificate of recognition and a gift bag:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Lorelei Henry - representing District 1 (Director Varela)</li> <li>2. Niharika Koduru - representing District 2 (Director Ballard)</li> <li>3. Ca Nha Dang - representing District 2 (Director Ballard)</li> <li>4. Christopher Barsoum - representing District 4 (Director Beall)</li> <li>5. Daphne Zhu - representing District 5 (Director Hsueh)</li> <li>6. Grace Liu - representing District 5 (Director Hsueh)</li> <li>7. Jonathan Lopez - representing District 6 (Director Estremera)</li> <li>8. Oded Bronicki - representing District 7 (Director Eisenberg)</li> <li>9. Maitreya Banerjee - representing District 7 (Director Eisenberg)</li> </ol> <p>The graduates spoke about their plans and appreciation for being able to participate in the Valley Water Youth Commission.</p>