



SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

NON-AGENDA

October 10, 2025

Board Policy EL-7 Communication and Support to the Board
The BAOs shall inform and support the Board in its work.

Page	<u>CEO BULLETIN & NEWSLETTERS</u>
3	CEO Bulletin: 10/09/25
10	Water Tracker- October
	<u>BOARD MEMBER REQUESTS & INFORMATIONAL ITEMS</u>
	BMR/IBMR Weekly Reports: None
13	Memo from Lisa Bankosh, Assistant Officer, to Melanie Richardson, CEO. Dated 07/01/25, providing a report of properties acquired under Executive Limitation 6.7.1
	<u>INCOMING BOARD CORRESPONDENCE</u>
17	Board Correspondence Weekly Report: 10/08/25
20	Email from Andrew Martin Wagner to the board, dated 09/30/25, inquiring about Camden ponds. C-25-0132
24	Email from Mayor Greg Bozzo, City of Gilroy, to Director Varela dated 10/01/25 requesting a follow-up meeting to discuss Valley Water's 30-day notice for the unhoused encampments in the Gilroy area. C-25-0133
26	Email from Bill Weller to Director Varela dated 10/01/25 requesting an update on the Little Llagas Creek Project. C-25-0134
28	Email from Sudhanshu Jain to Director Ballard, dated 10/06/25, expressing concern about the spraying of glyphosate into the San Tomas Aquino Creek. C-25-0135
30	Email from John Kenevey to Director Eisenberg (copied to the board), dated 10/06/25, demanding accountability for the systemic failures surrounding the Rinconada Water Treatment Plant. 25-0136
32	Email from Swanee Edwards to Director Varela and Candice Kwok-Smith, dated 10/07/25, thanking them for the information they shared regarding trees and other debris currently in our section of Llagas Creek behind Woodland Estates. 25-0137
35	Email from John Kenevey to Valley Water staff (copied to the board) dated 10/08/25, submitting operational inquiries about the Rinconada Water Treatment Plant. 25-0138
37	Email from John Kenevey to the CEO (Copied to the board), dated 10/8/25, forwarding an operational complaint sent to the project management team for the Rinconada Water Treatment Plant.
	<u>OUTGOING BOARD CORRESPONDENCE</u>
42	Email from Director Varela to Mayor Bozzo, dated 10/03/25, responding to their email regarding unhoused encampments in Gilroy.
46	Email from Director Varela to Swanee Edwards dated 10/07/25, responding to their concerns regarding woody debris in Llagas Creek adjacent to Woodland Estates.

CEO BULLETIN

CEO BULLETIN



To: Board of Directors
From: Melanie Richardson, Interim CEO

Weeks of September 19, 2025 – October 9, 2025

Board Executive Limitation Policy EL-7:

The Board Appointed Officers shall inform and support the Board in its work. Further, a BAO shall 1) inform the Board of relevant trends, anticipated adverse media coverage, or material external and internal changes, particularly changes in the assumptions upon which any Board policy has previously been established and 2) report in a timely manner an actual or anticipated noncompliance with any policy of the Board.

Item	IN THIS ISSUE
<u>1</u>	41st Annual California Coastal Cleanup Day
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<u>11</u>	Valley Water's public workshop on the West Valley and Lower Peninsula Watershed Master Plans

1. 41st Annual California Coastal Cleanup Day

The 41st annual California Coastal Cleanup Day was held on September 20, 2025. Valley Water, in partnership with the Creek Connections Action Group (CCAG) and the California Coastal Commission, coordinated 56 cleanup sites throughout Santa Clara County where 1,911 volunteers removed 30,885 pounds of litter from waterways, parks, and natural spaces in all seven Valley Water Board Districts.

The local Santa Clara County effort was part of a statewide day of action with a total of 36,129 volunteers removing roughly 300,000 pounds of litter from coastal beaches and inland waterways throughout California. Valley Water Youth Commissioners and staff hosted a cleanup site along the Alviso Slough in North San José. Twenty-six volunteers, including six Youth Commissioners, attended the site. Vice Chair Richard Santos attended the Youth Commission-hosted site and another cleanup along Penitencia Creek in San José.

In addition to general trash and debris, volunteers removed some interesting items, including a boom box, bikes, a wheelchair, a mini-fridge, a high chair, a message in a bottle, a bird cage, a stroller, a 3D-printed lizard, lottery tickets, a car seat, license plates, and a letter opener. Staff will leverage the momentum from the event to encourage volunteers to sign up for the year-round Adopt-A-Creek Program and other Valley Water volunteer efforts, including National River Cleanup Day, which will take place on May 16, 2026.

The CCAG is a consortium of public agencies that share the goal of protecting Santa Clara County's waterways. These agencies include Valley Water (Chair), Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department, West Valley Storm Water Program Authority (Campbell, Monte Sereno, Saratoga, and the Town of Los Gatos), and the cities of Santa Clara, Milpitas, Mountain View, Sunnyvale, Cupertino, Palo Alto, Morgan Hill, Gilroy, and San José.

California Coastal Cleanup Day activities in Santa Clara County are partially funded by the Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program's Project B4, which supports Volunteer Cleanup Activities, approved by voters in November 2020.

For further information, please contact Rachael Gibson at (408) 630-2884.

2. ASCE San Francisco Section 2025 Outstanding Flood Management Project Award for the Coyote Creek Flood Management Measures Project

The Coyote Creek Flood Management Measures Project has been awarded the 2025 Outstanding Flood Management Project Award from the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) San Francisco Section. ASCE is a national professional engineering organization dedicated to the advancement of the science and profession of civil engineering and the enhancement of human welfare through the activities of society members.

The ASCE San Francisco Section recognized the Coyote Creek Flood Management Measures Project as a public works flood management project that demonstrated excellence in its design and construction. It was noted for its use of the hydraulic press-in method for the installation of sheet piles to minimize construction noise and vibration to minimize impacts to local residents and businesses as well as staying on a tight schedule despite several setbacks through collaborative efforts of the contractor, engineer of record, construction management consultant, and project team. The ASCE San Francisco Section Awards Ceremony was held on October 3, 2025.

For further information, please contact Bhavani Yerrapotu at (408) 630-2375.

3. Fourth Quarter Fiscal Year 2024-25 Financial Status Update

Valley Water's fourth quarter of Fiscal Year 2024-25 closed on June 30, 2025. The fourth quarter financial status update presentation summarizes cash and investment balances, the debt portfolio and includes a comparison, and analysis, of the budget to actual status of revenues and expenditures for all funds as of June 30, 2025.

The presentation was provided to the Board Audit Committee on September 17, 2025, and has been submitted to the Clerk of the Board as a Non-Agenda item for your reference.

For further information, please contact Darin Taylor at (408) 630-3068.

4. Recurring Report on Personnel Vacancies

Valley Water strives to attract, develop, and retain a talented and diverse workforce. Our employees come from diverse cultural and professional backgrounds. Valley Water promotes high performance and equal employment opportunities.

Human Resources provides a monthly report on staffing levels and vacancies per the Board's request. The following information is effective as of September 30, 2025.

Valley Water Staffing Levels:

876 - Total Positions
837 - Number of positions filled
39 - Total Vacant Unpaused Position Codes
4% - Vacancy Factor
5 - Separations and/or Retirements

Note - The agency had 921 positions and 45 are paused. This report will be provided before the second Board meeting to ensure we include complete monthly data.

For further information, please contact Patrice McElroy at (408) 630-3159.

5. Safe, Clean Water Grant Closeout: Industry Initiatives for Science and Math Education, DBA Ignited's Santa Clara Water Weeks Project

In Fiscal Year (FY) 2021, Valley Water awarded Industry Initiatives for Science and Math Education, DBA Ignited (Ignited), a \$47,593.23 Safe, Clean Water Program B7 Grant for their Santa Clara Water Weeks (Project). Ignited completed the Project in May 2023, and submitted the final invoice items in April 2024, allowing for grant closeout.

Ignited connects educators with Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) professionals to bring real-world relevance to classroom learning in underrepresented communities in Santa Clara County. Through the Project, Ignited successfully implemented the Santa Clara Water Weeks teacher externship program over two summers. The 2021 program was conducted virtually in collaboration with Valley Water and engaged 28 teachers in Santa Clara County. A second Water Week program was held in collaboration with the Jewish Vocational Service and BayWork in 2022, engaging 10 more teachers. During these one-week programs, teachers met with water industry professionals and toured key infrastructure sites, including wastewater treatment plants, reservoirs, and dams. Each of the 38 total participants also worked with curriculum coaches to develop and share engaging, standards-aligned lesson plans that connected classroom learning to real-world water issues and careers. After the implementation of the lesson plans, teachers completed reports to assess how the lesson plan impacted their students.

Key Outcomes:

- 38 Santa Clara County teachers engaged in two Water Week Programs in 2021 and 2022, reaching 5,700 students from kindergarten through twelfth grade.
- Post-program surveys show strong knowledge gains and impacts:
 - Teacher Outcomes:
 - 84% agree they learned ways to reduce pollutants in groundwater.
 - 100% agree they learned about interesting careers to share with their students.
 - Student Outcomes (as reported by teachers):
 - 91% agree that students learned ways to reduce waste in riparian areas and have had a positive impact on student learning.
 - 86% agree that students learned ways to reduce pollutants in groundwater

For further information, please contact Rachael Gibson at (408) 630-2884.

6. Safe, Clean Water Mini-Grant Closeout: Bay Area Older Adults' Watershed Appreciation Program Project

In FY 2024, Valley Water awarded Bay Area Older Adults (Grantee) a \$5,000 Safe, Clean Water Program F9 Mini-Grant for their Watershed Appreciation Program (Project). Bay Area Older Adults completed the Project on April 17, 2024, and submitted the final invoice items in July 2025, allowing for grant closeout.

Bay Area Older Adults is a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting the health and well-being of older adults through access to arts, culture, and community. Grant funds were used to implement the Grantee's Watershed Appreciation Program, a series of multisensory, educational field experiences tailored for older adults aged 50+ who are visually impaired. The Project included four in-person outdoor educational programs held at Almaden Lake Regional Park, Vasona Lake County Park, McClellan Ranch Preserve, and Shoreline Park.

Each experience incorporated sensory activities using sounds of wildlife, smells of native plants, and provided guided instruction about local watersheds and restoration efforts. The Grantee promoted the programs through Vista Center for the Blind and created educational materials and photo albums for each event.

Key Outcomes:

- Delivered four in-person watershed education programs to 59 participants.
- Provided transportation and healthy lunches to all 59 participants across four program dates to increase accessibility and engagement.
- Achieved 85% correct response rate on post-program surveys, demonstrating participant learning about watersheds and wildlife.

For further information, please contact Rachael Gibson at (408) 630-2884.

7. Safe, Clean Water Refill Station Closeout: Luther Burbank School District's Valley Water Refill Station Project

In FY 2024, Valley Water awarded Luther Burbank School District a \$5,000 Safe, Clean Water Program F9 Refill Station Grant for their Valley Water Refill Station – Luther Burbank School District (Project). Luther Burbank School District completed the Project and submitted the final invoice items on June 17, 2025, allowing for grant closeout.

Luther Burbank School District is located in San José and serves over 400 students from

kindergarten to eighth grade. The grant supported the installation of a water bottle refill station near the cafeteria and gym area at Luther Burbank Elementary School. This location provides easy access to clean drinking water for the student population who pass through the area for meals, physical education, and school events. The station is accessible during school and community events for students, families, and visitors. The Project aligns with the commitment to student health and wellness by encouraging hydration and reducing reliance on single-use bottles.

Key Outcomes:

- Installed one new water bottle refill station in a high-traffic area near the cafeteria.
- Improved access to clean drinking water for all kindergarten to eighth-grade students, staff, and families during school and community events.
- Encourages the use of reusable bottles and reduces the need for single-use water bottles.

For further information, please contact Rachael Gibson at (408) 630-2884.

8. Safe, Clean Water Standard Grant Closeout: Grassroots Ecology’s Community-Based Stewardship of Green Stormwater Infrastructure Project

In FY 2020, Valley Water awarded Grassroots Ecology a \$89,331.60 Safe, Clean Water Program B3 Standard Grant for their Community-Based Stewardship of Green Stormwater Infrastructure Project (Project). Grassroots Ecology completed the Project on February 28, 2025, and submitted the final invoice items in May 2025, allowing for grant closeout.

Grassroots Ecology partnered with Valley Water and the City of Palo Alto to “adopt” 16 bioretention areas in the city’s Southgate neighborhood and refurbish them with locally native plants. The Project also provided hands-on training internships to San Jose Conservation Corps members to learn about a potential future workforce to the field of green stormwater infrastructure care and maintenance.

Key Outcomes:

- In total, 84 members participated, 16 bioretention areas were refurbished, 1,043 native plants were installed, 30 pollinator species were observed, and 682 volunteer hours were completed.
 - Held 12 workdays with San Jose Conservation Corps, where corps members participated in all phases of the bioretention area refurbishment, including rock removal, installation of new soil, mulch, plants and irrigation.
 - Held 30 volunteer events to install plants and conduct maintenance on the refurbished bioretention areas.
 - Engaged eight neighborhood residents as “Green Street Stewards” to conduct light maintenance activities on their own and observe and report issues.
- Annual pollinator monitoring conducted with the help of Grassroots Ecology summer interns to document biodiversity supported by the new native plants.
- Worked with City of Palo Alto staff to ensure continued proper maintenance of installations.

For further information, please contact Rachael Gibson at (408) 630-2884.

9. Safe, Clean Water Standard Closeout: Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority Keep Santa Clara Valley Beautiful Project

In FY 2018, Valley Water awarded Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) a \$84,500 Safe, Clean Water Program B3 Standard Grant for their Keep Santa Clara Valley Beautiful Project (Project). VTA completed the Project on June 30, 2024, and submitted the final invoice items in May 2025, allowing for grant closeout.

The Project was a countywide collaboration initiative in partnership with Caltrans, California

Highway Patrol, the Zero Litter Initiative, and local agencies. The Project aimed to reduce litter on Santa Clara County highways and prevent pollutants from entering nearby waterways through volunteer cleanup events and installation of illegal dumping enforcement signs with guidance from national and local litter abatement.

The COVID-19 pandemic, along with unforeseen conditions delayed Project implementation. The Valley Water Board approved Amendment No. 1 on August 9, 2022, authorizing scope adjustments and a no-cost time extension to June 30, 2024. VTA later requested a time extension; however, after discussion with staff, VTA decided to complete the deliverables they could within the existing agreement. Despite early delays, VTA successfully completed most deliverables by raising public awareness of litter hazards, setting up “No Dumping” enforcement signs at multiple locations, and organizing cleanup activities and events that improved highways and protected waterways.

Key Outcomes:

- Removed 5.1 tons of trash (750 bags, ~11,250 pounds).
- Cleaned 4.2 miles of freeway on/off-ramps.
- Installed 61 “No Dumping” enforcement signs at 33 locations.
- Conducted 21 cleanup events and engaged 361 volunteers, including 20 high school students who earned Certificates of Participation for community service.

For further information, please contact Rachael Gibson at (408) 630-2884.

10. Valley Water's public meeting on the Anderson Dam Seismic Retrofit Project

On September 18, 2025, Valley Water held a public meeting to provide an update on the Anderson Dam Seismic Retrofit Project. The hybrid event was held at the Morgan Hill Community & Cultural Center and attracted a total of 55 participants. Valley Water Director John Varela provided opening comments to a group of about 25 people, with Vice Chair Richard Santos joining remotely via Zoom, along with 30 other people. Morgan Hill Mayor Mark Turner, Morgan Hill City councilmembers Marilyn Librers and Miriam Vega were among the in-person attendees.

The presentation covered an update on the Anderson Dam Tunnel Project, an overview on the Anderson Dam Seismic Retrofit Project, and concluded with a Question-and-Answer session, where staff engaged with community members. A link to the meeting's recording is available on the [project website](#) and Valley Water's [YouTube](#) channel.

For further information, please contact Rachael Gibson at (408) 630-2884.

11. Valley Water's public workshop on the West Valley and Lower Peninsula Watershed Master Plans

On September 9, 2025, Valley Water held a public workshop to present and gather feedback on the West Valley and Lower Peninsula Watershed Master Plans. The hybrid event was held at the Los Altos Community Center and attracted 40 participants, including Valley Water Director Nai Hsueh, who provided opening comments. Vice Chair Richard Santos joined via Zoom, along with 21 people. Eighteen people attended in person, including Director Rebecca Eisenberg.

The presentation covered a master plan overview, question-and-answer session and was followed by a workshop, where staff engaged with community members. A link to the meeting's recording is available on the [project website](#) and Valley Water's [YouTube](#) channel.

For further information, please contact Rachael Gibson at (408) 630-2884.

A monthly assessment of trends in water supply and use for Santa Clara County, California

Outlook as of October 1, 2025

For 2025, the State Water Project (SWP) allocation is 50% of contract amount, the Central Valley Project (CVP) Municipal and Industrial (M&I) allocation is 80%, and the south-of-delta CVP agricultural allocation is 55%. There was some rain in the month of September, and temperatures were lower than average. Total storage in local reservoirs, with the exception of Anderson Reservoir, is at about average levels for this time of year. Treated water deliveries were below average in September, and groundwater conditions remain healthy.

Weather

- Rainfall in San José:
 - » Month of September, City of San José = 0.28 inches
 - » Rainfall year total = 0.28 inches (rainfall year is July 1 to June 30)
- San José average daily high temperature was 81.3 degrees Fahrenheit in September, which is lower than the five-year average for September (82.8 degrees Fahrenheit)

Local Reservoirs

- Total October 1 storage = 37,858 acre-feet

Reservoir Storage	All Ten Valley Water Reservoirs	All Reservoirs Except Anderson
Storage as % of unrestricted capacity	23%	45%
Storage as % of restricted capacity (1)	60%	58%
Storage as % of the 20-year average for October 1	55%	108%

(1) Per the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission’s order, the capacity of Anderson Reservoir was restricted to the deadpool storage as of October 1, 2020

- No imported water was delivered into Calero Reservoir during September 2025
- Total estimated releases to streams (local and imported water) during September were 6,490 acre-feet (based on preliminary hydrologic data)

Treated Water

- Below average demands of 9,332 acre-feet were delivered in September
- This total is 96% of the five-year average for the month of September
- Year-to-date deliveries are 64,473 acre-feet or 90% of the five-year average

Groundwater

- Groundwater conditions remain healthy throughout the county. Groundwater levels in most of the regional monitoring wells are the same as, or lower than, last month due to normal, seasonal declines. While most of the water levels are lower relative to September 2024, all except two are higher than the prior five-year average for September. The end of 2025 groundwater storage is projected to be in Stage 1 (Normal) of the Water Shortage Contingency Plan

	Santa Clara Subbasin		Llagas Subbasin
	Santa Clara Plain	Coyote Valley	
September 2025 managed recharge estimate	6,800	1,700	2,700
YTD managed recharge estimate	49,500	14,200	17,200
YTD managed recharge as % of five-year average	117%	137%	113%
July 2025 pumping estimate	7,200	1,500	5,500
YTD pumping estimate	47,400	9,000	25,000
YTD pumping as % of five-year average	102%	108%	98%
Current index well groundwater levels compared to September 2024	14 Feet Lower	1 Foot Lower	16 Feet Lower

All volumes are in acre-feet. All data is for 2025 except where noted. YTD = Year-to-date.

Imported Water

- In September (through September 30th), the SWP operated Banks pumping plant with an average daily export of 14,091 acre-feet, resulting in a total export of 422,717 acre-feet from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta for the month. This is the total amount pumped in August for the entire SWP to support the SWP allocation. Valley Water’s SWP contract provides Santa Clara County with about 2.5% of the total SWP contract quantity available each year
- In September (through September 30th), the CVP operated Jones pumping plant with an average daily export of 8,387 acre-feet, resulting in a total export of 251,615 acre-feet from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta for the month. This is the total amount pumped in August for the entire CVP to support the south-of-delta CVP allocation. Valley Water’s CVP contract provides Santa Clara County with about 4.7% of the total CVP contract quantity available each year
- Delta flow and water quality requirements were controlling the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta export facilities this past month. Project facilities, including delta exports, were operated to maintain the Projects’ respective flow requirements and water quality standards in the delta for the month of September

WY 2025 Imported Water Allocations	Allocation	Allocation (acre-feet)	Details
SWP	50%	50,000	Allocation Increased on 4/29/25
CVP	55% Ag 80% M&I	Approximately 116,000	Allocation Increased on 5/27/25
State-wide Reservoir Storage	Capacity	Current Storage (acre-feet)	Percent of Average for Date (as of 9/30/25)
Shasta Reservoir	59%	2,534,405	106%
Oroville Reservoir	60%	2,060,586	108%
San Luis Reservoir	53%	1,076,669	124%
Semitropic Groundwater Bank	Capacity	Current Storage (acre-feet)	Date of Data
	87%	304,084	9/30/25
Estimated SFPUC Deliveries	August 2025 (acre-feet)	2025 Total to Date (acre-feet)	Five-Year Annual Average (acre-feet)
	5,009	31,545	46,000

Conserved Water

- Saved 85,204 acre-feet in FY24 through Valley Water’s long-term conservation program (baseline year is 1992)
- Long-term program goal is to save nearly 100,000 acre-feet by 2030, 110,000 acre-feet by 2040, and 126,000 acre-feet by 2050
- On June 13, 2023, the Board of Directors adopted a resolution to support water conservation as a way of life in Santa Clara County and an ordinance with a set of permanent water waste prohibitions

Recycled Water

- Estimated September 2025 production = 1,783 acre-feet
- Estimated year-to-date through September = 12,611 acre-feet or 94% of the five-year average
- Silicon Valley Advanced Water Purification Center produced an estimated 1.6 billion gallons (4,950 acre-feet) of purified water in 2024. Since the beginning of 2025, about 3,580 acre-feet of purified water has been produced. The purified water is blended with existing tertiary recycled water for South Bay Water Recycling Program customers

CONTACT US

To find out the latest information on Valley Water projects or to submit questions or comments, email info@valleywater.org or use our **Access Valley Water** customer request system at <https://deliver.com/2yukx>.



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BOARD MEMBER REQUESTS and Informational Items



MEMORANDUM

FC 14 (03-11-25)
Page 1 of 2

TO: Melanie Richardson, P.E.

FROM: Lisa Bankosh

SUBJECT: Report of Properties Acquired Under
Executive Limitation 6.7.1

DATE: July 1, 2025



BACKGROUND

Executive Limitation (EL) 6.7 and 6.7.1 allows the CEO to acquire, encumber or dispose real property interest, only when authorized by the Board, or is part of a Board approved project and does not exceed \$500,000. EL 6.7.1.3 requires that the CEO provide a quarterly summary report of the properties acquired under EL 6.7.1, including the respective statutory offer of just compensation and final negotiated price.

PURPOSE

This memo complies with the provisions of EL 6.7.1.3 by providing the following:

1. A report of the properties that have been acquired under EL 6.7.1 in the last quarter, July 1, 2025, through September 30, 2025. (Attachment 1)

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Carlo Achdjian at (408) 630- 4352.

DocuSigned by:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lisa Bankosh".

7428672C9563400

Lisa Bankosh
Assistant Officer
Watersheds Stewardship & Planning Division

APPROVALS

DocuSigned by:

 3EF30CE587984BD...
 Carlo Achdjian
 Unit Manager
 Real Estate Services Unit

10/2/2025

 Date

DocuSigned by:

 C48ACDFFEDDE450
 John Bourgeois
 Deputy Operating Officer
 Watershed Stewardship and Planning
 Division

10/2/2025

 Date

DocuSigned by:

 8942104CC65E441...
 Christopher Hakes, P.E.
 Chief Operating Officer
 Watersheds

10/2/2025

 Date

DocuSigned by:

 19ED38D6D7964BD...
 Rita Chan, P.E.
 Assistant Chief Executive Officer

10/2/2025

 Date

Signed by:

 F08E305217A24A4...
 Melanie Richardson, P.E.
 Interim Chief Executive Officer

10/5/2025

 Date

cc: J. Bourgeois, C. Hakes, R. Chan, C. Achdjian, K. Anderssohn, C. Herrera

Attachment 1: (Properties acquired)

**REPORT OF PROPERTIES ACQUIRED UNDER EL 6.7.1
JULY 1, 2025 - SEPTEMBER 30, 2025**

DISTRICT FILE	PROJECT NAME	AGENT	GRANTOR	INTEREST	REC DATE	DOC#	INITIAL OFFER	FINAL SETTLEMENT
4021-349	Coyote Creek Flood Management Measures Project (CCFMMP)	E. Campero	Berkowitz	Permanent Easement	7/1/2025	25829129	\$78,406.00	\$78,406.00
4021-455		J. Carrasco		Temporary Construction Easement	7/1/2025	25829130	\$52,340.00	\$52,340.00
4021-480				Permanent Easement	7/1/2025	25829084	\$47,099.00	\$47,099.00
4021-483		Temporary Construction Easement		7/1/2025	25829085	\$18,004.00	\$18,004.00	
4021-429		J. Carrasco	Balogi	Permanent Easement	7/1/2025	25829177	\$19,274.00	\$19,274.00
4021-454				Temporary Construction Easement	7/1/2025	25829178	\$17,402.00	\$17,402.00
4021-430	Coyote Creek Flood Management Measures Project (CCFMMP)	J. Carrasco	Berkmoyer	Permanent Easement	7/1/2025	25829108	\$88,564.00	\$88,564.00
4021-456				Temporary Construction Easement	7/1/2025	25829109	\$44,036.00	\$44,036.00
9230-73	Almaden Valley Pipeline	K. Richardson	Hamilton	Temporary Construction Easement	8/20/2025	25857992	\$40,000.00	\$40,000.00
9436-63	West Pipeline	N. Dominguez	Gong/Kao	Temporary Construction Easement	8/18/2025	25856911	\$18,000.00	\$18,000.00

INCOMING BOARD CORRESPONDENCE

Board Correspondence (open)

Correspond No	Rec'd By District	Rec'd By COB	Letter To	Letter From	Description	Disposition	BAO/ Chief	Staff	Draft Response Due Date	Draft Response Submitted	Writer Ack. Sent	Final Response Due Date
C-25-0132	09/30/25	09/30/25	All	ANDREW MARTIN WAGNER	Email to the board, dated 9/30/25, from Andrew Martin Wagner, asking about fishing locations and Valley Water signage.	Refer to Staff	Baker	Williams	10/08/25	-	n/a	10/14/25
C-25-0134	10/01/25	10/01/25	Varela	BILL WELLER	Emailed dated 10/01/25, to Director Varela requesting an update on the Little Llagas Creek Project.	Refer to Staff	Hakes	Yerrapotu	10/09/25	-	n/a	10/15/25
C-25-0135	10/06/25	10/06/25	Ballard	SUDHANSHU JAIN	Email from Sudhanshu Jain to Director Ballard, dated 10/06/25, expressing concern about the spraying of glyphosate into the San Tomas Aquino Creek.	Refer to Staff	Hakes	-	10/14/25	10/06/25	n/a	10/20/25
C-25-0136	10/06/25	10/06/25	All	JOHN KENEVEY	Email from John Kenevey to Director	Refer to Staff	Baker	Aryee	10/14/25	-	n/a	10/20/25

Correspond No	Rec'd By District	Rec'd By COB	Letter To	Letter From	Description	Disposition	BAO/ Chief	Staff	Draft Response Due Date	Draft Response Submitted	Writer Ack. Sent	Final Response Due Date
					Eisenberg and the board, dated 10/06/25, demanding accountability for the systemic failures surrounding the Rinconada Water Treatment Plant.							
C-25-0138	10/08/25	10/08/25	All	JOHN KENEVEY	Email from John Kenevey to Valley Water staff (copied to the board) dated 10/08/25, submitting operational inquiries about the Rinconada Water Treatment Plant.	Refer to Staff	Baker	Aryee	10/16/25	-	n/a	10/22/25
C-25-0139	10/08/25	10/08/25	All	JOHN KENEVEY	Email from John Kenevey to the CEO (Copied to the board), dated 10/8/25, forwarding an operational complaint sent to the	Refer to Staff	Baker	Aryee	10/16/25	-	n/a	10/22/25

Correspond No	Rec'd By District	Rec'd By COB	Letter To	Letter From	Description	Disposition	BAO/ Chief	Staff	Draft Response Due Date	Draft Response Submitted	Writer Ack. Sent	Final Response Due Date
					project management team for the Rinconada Water Treatment Plant.							

From: [AndrewMartin.Wagner](mailto:AndrewMartin.Wagner@valleywater.ca.gov)
To: segnalazionianomalie@urq.va; parkinfo@prk.sccgov.org; Board of Directors; ledwardenhirinqunit@wildlife.ca.gov
Subject: I have a question about Camden ponds.
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2025 9:57:52 AM

***** This email originated from outside of Valley Water. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. *****

As sturgeon season opens October 1st 2025, while I'm down there looking for bait to see where I'm allowed to catch it at either in Los Gatos Creek or Guadalupe River. There's interesting signage and it's been there for a while. Who knows how to count the ponds? Valley water says they have three large one and two small ones parks department says they have six ponds. Out of which of those in my allowed to use bait for sturgeon and striper in alviso close to the notch which is on valley water and Parks department's property I know I'm allowed to stand by the yacht club and fish there. Is someone allowed to fish the notch, if so what are the exact coordinates along Guadalupe slough.

I've emailed fish and wildlife district 3 before it I know I'm allowed to use a red crawdads that are non-indigenous to those ponds but transported from the ponds to the creek that is a question I needed to ask. So I might as well ask a couple questions who can count? It valley water can't count their own ponds how much money have they been taking and they ever been audited by the IRS just for not being able to count their own physical bodies of water as parks department says there are six. Valley water signage says there's three large and two small that does not equal out to six, which department is correct in their math. Out of a triangulation of you I chose to do parts department of Santa Clara county valley water which is located in Santa Clara county and also region 3 fish and wildlife which oversees Santa Clara county one of them being a federal entity fish and wildlife for a non-biased view.

If anybody would else like to know I am ordained minister the reason I put on that anomaly address I get responses from that from the Vatican on the independent contractor I'm here for legal matters with the district attorney's office as a victim for the last 3 years. I would like to go fishing I would like to know where I can go fishing at since I purchased both the fishing license and the sturgeon license.

I don't trust valley water too much because I know the EPA down there on the burnell site also known as the Santa Teresa super fund toxic waste not when they had gray water 2 years ago and they're reported on the news was reported on the news and one actually happens with two different things I don't trust them. I can see that they can't even count their own ponds, with that being said who is correct in their amount of ponds they have that have been there since what 1935? I emailed the City of Campbell within a half hour of the city called me back and if I had any concerns with that and my concerns were answered by them to their ability but they do not have the ability to answer for valley water parks department or federal wildlife. If anybody wants one of my credentials out of the Vatican Prot/2024/1111/B895 is one of my many credentials where they call me Reverend. Those are legal credentials not just in this country but those are on an international credential list. Me being humble I'm asking where am I allowed to fish by the notch in alviso CA. I would like to know and I'm not just going to ask valley water because it seems apparently they can't count too well so I would like to know other things like where the parks department would allow me to stand out there in alviso and would district three fish and wildlife as well tell me the location since it's been since 2023 the last time they told me where I was allowed to be out there I've had a couple medical issues where I had a couple strokes I would like to go fishing. I still know how to do that with no problem.

Reverend Andrew Martin Wagner

Lott Lake Lane

LOS GATOS CREEK

White Oaks Rd

LOS GATOS CREEK TRAIL

E Hacienda Ave

Dell Ave

47

Pond 1

Pond 2

Pond 3

Pond 5

Pond 4

Pond 6

Remote Control Boating
(Registration required)

To Vasquez
County Park
(1.5 miles)
To Lexington
Dam
(8.6 miles)



E Mozart Ave

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- Hiking/Equipment/Bicycling
- Wild Hiking/Equipment/Bicycling
- Park Service Road
- Two-Lane Park Road
- Road
- Footway
- Traverse Route
- Trail (Single or Double Track)
- Gate
- Water Feature
- Playground

Ponds

Source of Water: Los Gatos Creek and Central Pipeline via Page Ditch

Surface Acres: 62

Storage Depth: 17 feet in the three large ponds and 6 feet in the two smaller ponds

Groundwater Recharge Ponds, are a part of the countywide recharge system run by the Santa Clara Valley Water District. Others in the area are part of an elaborate system of ponds, started by the local farmers during the 1930's

ponds (or percolation ponds) are used by the water district to recharge the valley's deep underground aquifers. The water seeps or percolates through the recharge ponds into the aquifers.

Source of Water: Los Gatos Creek and Central Pipeline via Page Ditch
Surface Acres: 62
Average Depth: 17 feet in the three large ponds and 6 feet in the two smaller ponds

The Camden Groundwater Recharge Ponds, are a part of the countywide groundwater recharge system run by the Santa Clara Valley Water District. This pond and others in the area are part of an elaborate system of ponds, dams and canals started by the local farmers during the 1930's

These recharge ponds (or percolation ponds) are used by the water district to replace water into the valley's deep underground aquifers. The water seeps or "percolates" from the recharge ponds and through the earth's layers until it reaches underground aquifers. This percolation process helps clean the water before it reaches the underground storage basin.

The source of the water used to fill these ponds varies depending upon the time of year. Generally, water is diverted from Los Gatos Creek through water district releases from Lexington Reservoir. These ponds can also be filled from water diverted through the Almaden Valley Pipeline that delivers water from either Anderson Reservoir (above Morgan Hill) or San Luis Reservoir (on the East side of Pacheco Pass). Much of the water used by the homes in this area is pumped from the underground aquifers replenished by this pond.

**For public safety,
no swimming is allowed.**



Santa Clara Valley
Water District

From: [Candice Kwok-Smith](#)
To: [Board of Directors](#)
Subject: FW: 30 day notice Unhoused camps
Date: Thursday, October 2, 2025 12:38:13 PM
Attachments: [Outlook-wamcz5d2.png](#)

From: Mayor Greg Bozzo
Sent: Wednesday, October 1, 2025 3:17 PM
To: jverela@valleywater.org <jverela@valleywater.org>
Subject: 30 day notice Unhoused camps

Director Verela,

Great meeting with you this morning. I am glad that you and I are able to have these conversations regarding the unhoused. I am aware that they were not so easily had in the past, in Gilroy. As Mayor, I am always ready, willing and able to speak with you about any topic.

I am writing to request a follow-up meeting with you as soon as possible to discuss Valley Water's 30-day notice for the unhoused encampments in the Gilroy area. I am open to any conversation regarding this overall complex problem, although I am particularly interested in a couple of items from our next meeting.

1. I believe in the past, there was a conversation at a forum about another parcel of property, away from the waterways, that Valley Water has offered as a potential space to use. If that is so, I would like to talk about the potential use of that property.
2. To discuss VW's communication and phasing-out strategy of these encampments so that our city staff and local service providers are aware.
3. In the event that privately-held, county land could be leased, to be used as camps, would there be any funds available, from VW, to assist local service providers to ensure the smoothest transition possible for these folks?

I will share this conversation and information with our Interim City Administrator, Brad Kilger, as well as our Director of Community Development, Sharon Goei.

Looking forward to hearing back from you soon.

Greg

Mayor Greg Bozzo

City of Gilroy

7351 Rosanna Street, Gilroy, CA 95020

☎ 408.846.0227 | Direct 669-766-5771

🌐 <http://www.cityofgilroy.org>



Adelina Del Real

From: Candice Kwok-Smith on behalf of Board of Directors
Sent: Friday, October 3, 2025 11:09 AM
To: Board of Directors
Subject: RE: Little Llagas Creek project

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Begin forwarded message:

From: Bill Weller [REDACTED]
Date: October 1, 2025 at 9:11:12 AM PDT
To: John Varela <jvarela@valleywater.org>
Subject: Little Llagas Creek project

*** This email originated from outside of Valley Water. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. ***

Hi John,

I have met you a few times and have enjoyed our conversations at a few community events as well as SCC Farm Bureau Meetings years ago.

The project seems to be going a lot slower than expected and the recent rain has flooded the area under Eades St (maintenance yard and School Bus depot.)

It looks like work has stopped with no intent to pump out the water.

Can you give me an update on this project?
Attached photo was taken Sept 28, 2025

Regards,

Bill Weller



From: [Candice Kwok-Smith](#)
To: [Board of Directors](#)
Subject: FW: They are spraying glyphosate right now into the San Tomas Aquino creek
Date: Monday, October 6, 2025 10:19:46 AM

From: Sudhanshu Jain <suds@sudsjain.com>
Sent: Monday, October 6, 2025 5:37 PM
To: Shiloh Ballard <SBallard@valleywater.org>
Cc: Geordie Zapalac <Geordie.Zapalac@gmx.com>
Subject: Fwd: They are spraying glyphosate right now into the San Tomas Aquino creek

***** This email originated from outside of Valley Water. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. *****

Hi Shiloh,

I know herbicides are easy to use and require less human labor but this doesn't seem right.

-- Suds

----- Forwarded Message -----

Subject: They are spraying glyphosate right now into the San Tomas Aquino creek
Date: Mon, 6 Oct 2025 08:15:43 -0700
From: Geordie Zapalac <Geordie.Zapalac@gmx.com>
To: Sudhanshu Jain <suds@sudsjain.com>

Hi Suds,

I was jogging on the San Tomas Aquino trail a few minutes ago and they are spraying Rodeo onto the plants growing in the water on the edge of the creek, between 7:15 am and 7:45 am today just upstream of the Central Expressway crossing.

I know it's Rodeo because when I was jogging back I called out to the worker spraying and asked "What are you spraying?" and he answered "The plants in the water." Then I asked "What are you spraying with?" and he answered "Rodeo".

Rodeo is the glyphosate herbicide, well-known to be a carcinogen. The creek is a spawning ground for steelhead trout and I see people fishing there all the time when the trout are spawning. There is a lot of wildlife in the creek that I see all the time when jogging, including many species of shore birds.

This is not ok. Glyphosate should never be used in any riparian habitat. I don't think it's appropriate for agriculture either but the EPA refuses to ban it.

Thanks,
Geordie

From: [John Kenevey](#)
To: [Rebecca Eisenberg](#)
Cc: [Board of Directors](#); [Candice Kwok-Smith](#)
Subject: URGENT: Systemic Operational Failures, Unaccountable Compensation, and Imminent Public Safety Liability at RWTP Site (District 7)
Date: Monday, October 6, 2025 4:37:48 PM

*** This email originated from outside of Valley Water. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. ***

URGENT: Systemic Operational Failures, Unaccountable Compensation, and Imminent Public Safety Liability at RWTP Site (District 7)

Dear Director Eisenberg and Members of the Board,

I am writing as a long-suffering resident near the Rinconada Water Treatment Plant (RWTP) to demand accountability for the systemic failures surrounding the RWTP Reliability Improvement Project (Project No. 93294057). This project's unacceptable 14-year duration (2015 to late 2029) has subjected our community to extreme noise and dust pollution and reveals a deeply troubling pattern of operational negligence.

Pattern of Institutional Risk and Cover-Up

The extended timeline and project instability, exacerbated by staff turnover and past incompetence, have resulted in high-risk incidents that the District attempted to conceal. Several years ago, I returned home to find a Valley Water cleanup crew operating outside my property in **full Hazmat suits**, yet the neighborhood received absolutely **zero notification** of this activity. When I inquired, District staff attempted to bury the incident.

This failure of transparency and environmental safety demonstrates that the problems at the RWTP site extend far beyond construction noise; they represent a fundamental failure in public duty and risk management. This pattern is particularly indefensible when examined against the District's internal financial decisions and the fact that the project has tripled from the original timeline presented to the public.

The Paradox of Cost and Accountability

Ratepayers are being forced to absorb a massive **9.9% wholesale water rate increase** to fund necessary infrastructure, yet this cost is undermined by systemic financial mismanagement at the governance level:

- **Compensation Amidst Crisis:** The Board unanimously approved a **5% raise for itself** (to \$384.16 per meeting) shortly after the District instituted a hiring freeze due to a reported **\$222 million budget deficit** in the previous fiscal year.
- **Executive Inflation Policy:** The CEO's total compensation, exceeding \$577,000, is artificially inflated by an internal policy mandating a **20% premium** over the next highest-paid executive. This policy ensures executive pay rises regardless of operational efficiency or deficit size.

Demand for Liability and Governance Reform

These facts prove that the District is financially vulnerable due to unaccountable compensation practices while failing to control critical project risks, including those related to environmental safety and extreme residential disruption.

We formally place Valley Water on notice that it is **liable** for the demonstrable damage (noise, dust, and sustained disruption) caused to residential properties by the extended 14-year project timeline and demand that a clear process for **assessment and full remuneration** be initiated immediately.

I formally request that the Board place these critical issues—the Hazmat incident, the paradox of increasing executive compensation amidst budget deficits, and the failure to control liability from the extended RWTP timeline—**on the agenda for the upcoming public meeting**.

To demonstrate a serious commitment to fiscal prudence and restoring public trust, I urge the Board to adopt the following four measures immediately:

1. **Immediate Revision of Executive Compensation Policy:** Valley Water must eliminate the internal policy requiring the CEO's salary to maintain a fixed percentage premium (the 20% rule) over subordinate executives. Future compensation must be determined solely through independent benchmarking against the market median of comparable public water agencies.
2. **Imposition of Governance Cost Restraint:** The Board of Directors should immediately rescind or freeze any recent compensation increases until the District's documented budget deficits are structurally eliminated and fiscal reserves are stabilized. Director compensation must be aligned with the same level of austerity imposed on District staff during cost-control periods.
3. **Mandatory Capital Project Budgetary Oversight:** Given the scale and complexity of the CIP, the District should mandate quarterly, public-facing reports on all capital projects exceeding a \$100 million threshold, detailing budget variance, schedule deviations, and providing comprehensive justification for all major inter-fiscal year fund reallocations.
4. **Enhanced Transparency in Rate Justification:** To improve public acceptance of necessary rate hikes, the District must explicitly detail the exact percentage of the rate increase dedicated to essential capital investment versus the portion allocated to operational overhead and administrative functions.

We anticipate confirmation that these governance and liability issues will be prioritized and that the remediation process will commence without delay.

Sincerely,

John Kenevey

From: [Swanee Edwards](#)
To: [Board of Directors](#); [Candice Kwok-Smith](#)
Cc: "[Gary Jensen](#)"
Subject: RE: Llagas Creek
Date: Tuesday, October 7, 2025 5:37:44 PM

***** This email originated from outside of Valley Water. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. *****

Candice and John,

Thank you so much for the information that you shared with us regarding trees and other debris currently in our section of Llagas Creek behind Woodland Estates. We appreciate any and all information about creek maintenance, as we go through the seasons. I just want to clarify that fire protection is a landowner responsibility, and you state below that the creek is owned by the City of Morgan Hill. The City has claimed that the creek to the top of the bank is owned by Valley Water, hence the confusion. We will reach out to the City once again at the link you have given us below.

There is also a reference to a map of work areas in the creek where larger debris will be cut up in order for that debris to flow easier downstream during this winter's high water and flooding episodes. While we did receive the fact sheet, we did not receive the map of work areas. Please forward at your convenience.

Thank you again for the information you have forwarded. It is always a pleasure reaching out to Valley Water with concerns and or questions, and receiving relevant answers to yhose concerns!

Ever Onward,

Swanee Edwards
District 1 Water Ambassador

From: Candice Kwok-Smith [mailto:ckwok-smith@valleywater.org] **On Behalf Of** Board of Directors
Sent: Tuesday, October 7, 2025 2:04 PM
To: swanee@garlic.com
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Llagas Creek

-
Sent on Behalf of Director Varela:

Dear Swanee,

Thank you for your concerns regarding woody debris in Llagas Creek adjacent to Woodland Estates. Valley Water staff investigated this reach of Llagas Creek, staff noted new woody debris in some sections. Two of the locations of debris build ups within the channel bed were deemed a flow conveyance concern. Attached is a map of the locations, staff will

create a work order to cut the longer logs and dense branches into 3-foot sections, so they can be flushed out during higher flows, we will also thin out the low laying branches to make bigger windows for the debris to travel through the system. We expect work to be completed by the end of October.

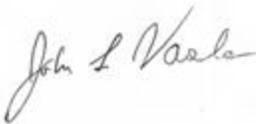
Llagas Creek downstream of Santa Teresa is a natural, high-quality habitat, reach where Santa Clara Valley Water District has a flood control easement, but the creek is owned by the City of Morgan Hill. The reach was not engineered to convey a specific flow, during storm events the water level in the creek will rise and based on historical information the areas adjacent to the creek do tend to naturally flood. Debris build-up in the creek is a natural process and tends to mobilize further downstream during large flows. Valley Water does not manage the creek for fire concerns as that is a landowner responsibility, please relay your concern regarding fire to the City of Morgan Hill @ <https://www.morganhill.ca.gov/509/Maintenance>.

I've attached a fact sheet that identifies Valley Water's role in stream maintenance and you may review Valley Water ownership on our website by using the following link: <https://gis.valleywater.org/FeeEasement/>. The green areas show lands owned in fee title the yellow areas show land held in easement. Activities in the creek regardless of ownership are further regulated by state and federal regulatory agencies. I've also attached a fact sheet explaining the many benefits of large woody debris in our streams.

I hope this helps to explain more about the management of this reach of Llagas Creek, let me know if you have further questions.

In the future if you need to report other concerns to Valley Water, you may also use our online system at <https://access.valleywater.org/customer/s/> or contact me directly. Please let me know if you have further questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



John Varela
Director, District 1

C-25-0127

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: Swanee Edwards <swanee@garlic.com>
To: 'John Varela' <jvarela@valleywater.org>; 'JOHN L. VARELA' <jlvarela@aol.com>
Cc: 'Gary Jensen' [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, September 24, 2025 at 02:11:15 PM PDT
Subject: Llagas Creek

Hi John,

As you know, Llagas Creek runs behind the Woodland Estates Clubhouse. I have been told that the City owns the strip of land from the top of the creek bank, to Woodlands property line. Last year's storms left a lot of debris in the creek bed that is a very real fire concern for our board and management. Since we are aware that we need habitat for wildlife, and other concerns, we need help!

Who would I contact at Valley Water about our concerns? Does Valley Water offer clean up services for the Creeks you own? There is enough debris in the creek that it also increases flooding in the winter time, although it has improved since the flood control project was completed. So if you can direct us to the proper person or department at Valley Water that could come out, meet with our board member Gary Jensen, take a look at our concerns in the creek, we would be very grateful!

Gary is copied on this e-mail. He is our point person for this issue.

My best to you!

Swanee

From: [John Kenevey](#)
To: [Emmanuel Aryee](#); [Brandon Ponce](#); [Monica Mendez](#)
Cc: [CEO](#); [Rebecca Eisenberg](#); [Board of Directors](#); [Candice Kwok-Smith](#); [Aimee Green](#)
Subject: DEMAND FOR IMMEDIATE EXPLANATION: Flagrant Policy Violations, Residential Intrusion, and Gross Inefficiency at Rinconada WTP Site (Project No. 93294057)
Date: Wednesday, October 8, 2025 6:42:55 AM

*** This email originated from outside of Valley Water. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. ***

SUBJECT: DEMAND FOR IMMEDIATE EXPLANATION: Flagrant Policy Violations, Residential Intrusion, and Gross Inefficiency at Rinconada WTP Site (Project No. 93294057)

Dear Mr. Aryee, Mr. Ponce, and Ms. Mendez,

As the technical leadership responsible for the Rinconada Water Treatment Plant (RWTP) Reliability Improvement Project—an endeavor that has catastrophically ballooned into a projected 14-year construction timeline your team’s recent operational decisions demonstrate a continued failure to adhere to stated policy and respect basic residential habitability.

Please consider this communication a formal demand for immediate answers and documentation regarding three distinct, highly disruptive, project activities that directly contravene expected professional standards.

1. Flagrant Violation of Weekend Work Policy

This past weekend, your project team conducted heavy **excavation** work directly outside my property, starting at 7:00 AM and concluding at 4:00 PM. This activity produced noise pollution that can only be accurately described as being at a **nightclub level**.

Inquiry:

- Please immediately provide the specific policy language authorizing external, heavy excavation work on a weekend. The published community policy explicitly states that only indoor work is authorized during weekends.
- Provide all records indicating that the neighboring community was formally notified of this flagrant policy violation and the severity of the associated noise intrusion. If no such notice exists, explain who authorized the deviation and why the surrounding residents were excluded from the decision-making process.
- Provide the community impact report for this project.

2. Unauthorized and Unmitigated Light Pollution

For over a year, a high-intensity security light, presumably installed by the project, has been shining directly onto my property after dark and remains on all night. This light intrusion renders our front bedroom utterly **unusable** due to the sleep

disturbance it causes. Furthermore, standard window blinds are useless given the unique shape of the upper window architecture.

Inquiry:

- Provide the Community Impact Report or lighting plan that justified the installation of this specific light fixture, including documentation of the light pollution study conducted to ensure compliance with local ordinances regarding residential illumination.
- Explain why zero mitigation efforts have been undertaken over the past year to redirect, shield, or time-limit this security lighting, despite the obvious and immediate impact on my home.
- Provide the community impact report for this installation.

3. Gross Inefficiency and War Zone Noise (Pipe Installation)

Over the course of the recent summer months, the installation of a pipe feeding into a drain took an excessively long and indefensible period to complete. The noise generated by this process; best described as **war zone-like steel on steel grinding**, was relentless.

Inquiry:

- For this specific implementation (a seemingly basic engineering task), provide a detailed breakdown of the internal **engineering schedule** and the actual person-hours expended. Justify why this task required such an exorbitant duration, leading to continuous, extreme noise pollution for neighboring residents.
- Provide the Community Impact Report and notification records regarding this specific installation, including the noise impact, dust pollution impact and timeline. Explain why the community was never warned of the severity or length of this acoustical intrusion.

The Direct Link to Systemic Accountability and Liability

These repeated failures in basic policy adherence, communication, and project efficiency are the direct consequences of the systemic operational and governance issues that have plagued the RWTP project for over a decade, resulting in its protracted 14-year schedule.

Your technical failures directly support the claim that the District is liable for the resulting property damage, safety risks (e.g., the previous Hazmat incident), and loss of residential habitability. We formally demand that these issues be immediately addressed, resolved, and documented.

We expect a complete, detailed response to these three operational inquiries, including all requested documentation, within five (5) business days. Your prompt action is necessary to minimize the financial and political exposure that these ongoing failures are creating for Valley Water's leadership.

Sincerely,

John Kenevey

From: [John Kenevey](#)
To: [CEO](#)
Cc: [Rebecca Eisenberg](#); [Board of Directors](#); [Candice Kwok-Smith](#); [Valley Water Risk Manager](#); [Aimee Green](#)
Subject: Fwd: DEMAND FOR IMMEDIATE EXPLANATION: Flagrant Policy Violations, Residential Intrusion, and Gross Inefficiency at Rinconada WTP Site (Project No. 93294057)
Date: Wednesday, October 8, 2025 8:49:23 AM

*** This email originated from outside of Valley Water. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. ***

SUBJECT: FORMAL ESCALATION & EXPANDED LIABILITY CLAIM: Unacceptable Decennial Pattern of Operational Failures, Privacy Violation, and Executive Compensation Disparity at RWTP

Dear Mr. Callender,

I am forwarding the recent operational complaint sent to your project management team, which details gross policy breaches—including unauthorized weekend excavation and chronic, unmitigated light pollution.

This escalation is a demand for direct executive intervention. The failures documented below are not merely technical oversights; they are evidence of a systemic breakdown in institutional responsibility and a profound inability to engage with or protect the community throughout the entire **10-year duration** of the Rinconada Water Treatment Plant (RWTP) project. I express immense fatigue and anger at the sustained negligence.

A Decade of Institutional Negligence and Intimate Intrusion

The current project team failures are tragically consistent with a pattern of operational negligence that began when this project first mobilized:

- **Intrusion and Privacy Violation (18 Months):** At the project's start, the construction team first placed the portable toilets, and subsequently the permanent security hut, on the hill directly in front of my primary front bedroom window. A security guard routinely stood on the deck, looking directly into my private home and bedrooms, this was very unnerving to my wife and family. This egregious and unnerving invasion of privacy required approximately **18 months of constant complaint** to various staff members before the position was finally relocated.
- **Safety Risk and Security Failures:** The original entry gate was inappropriately sized, resulting in heavy trucks routinely driving off the access road, over my front bushes, and breaking the concrete path to gain entry. The gate as it stands today is due to my petitioning RWTP to 'fix' the issue, this took ~3 years to remedy. Furthermore, for nearly a year, a security car was permitted to sit parked in front of the gate, looking directly into my home, a situation I was eventually informed was due to **disgruntled employee threats** against the facility. This is a critical failure of site security that turned the residential neighborhood into a security outpost without community warning.

- **Unmitigated Pollution:** Throughout this entire decade-long period—from 2015 to the present day—the residential structural damage, extreme noise pollution and pervasive dust contamination were never properly assessed, accounted for, or mitigated, demonstrating a complete lack of regard for the health and welfare of those living immediately adjacent to the construction zone.

The Expectation of Empathy and Compensation

These failures, compounded by the previous **Hazmat incident** and the current violations, justify the financial demands being made. It is impossible to reconcile this pattern of institutional incompetence with the fiscal realities of Valley Water's leadership:

- You, Mr. Callender, are the CEO, and your reported **Total Wages exceed \$577,000**, underpinned by an internal policy that dictates your pay be **20% higher** than your next subordinate.
- The Board members who oversee this compensation recently voted themselves a **5% raise** while the District faced a substantial **\$222 million budget deficit** and instituted a hiring freeze.

The compensation received by the executive and governance staff imposes a moral and legal obligation to act decisively and ethically. We require the Board and executive leadership to show immediate empathy and accept full responsibility for the immense, decade-long disruption and property liability.

Expanded Compensation Demand (Garage Conversion)

Due to the cumulative, sustained effects of the structural, noise, light, and privacy intrusions, the front bedroom has been functionally unusable for a majority of the last ten years.

Therefore, upon further counsel, the property remediation claim currently under review by Risk Management is now **expanded** to include the necessary cost of converting the garage space into a habitable bedroom. This action is the absolute minimum requirement to restore the original level of residential function and privacy that Valley Water's project has systematically destroyed.

We expect immediate, direct intervention from your office to finalize the comprehensive compensation package, including this expanded claim. Any further delay in resolving this historic negligence will be interpreted as a willful decision to expose the District to public scrutiny regarding its executive compensation and its profound failure to protect the community.

Sincerely,

John Kenevey

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **John Kenevey** [REDACTED]

Date: Wed, Oct 8, 2025 at 6:42 AM

Subject: DEMAND FOR IMMEDIATE EXPLANATION: Flagrant Policy Violations, Residential Intrusion, and Gross Inefficiency at Rinconada WTP Site (Project No. 93294057)
To: Emmanuel Aryee <earyee@valleywater.org>, <bponce@valleywater.org>, <mmendez@valleywater.org>
Cc: <CEO@valleywater.org>, <reisenberg@valleywater.org>, <Board@valleywater.org>, <ckwok-smith@valleywater.org>, Aimee Green <AGreen@valleywater.org>

SUBJECT: DEMAND FOR IMMEDIATE EXPLANATION: Flagrant Policy Violations, Residential Intrusion, and Gross Inefficiency at Rinconada WTP Site (Project No. 93294057)

Dear Mr. Aryee, Mr. Ponce, and Ms. Mendez,

As the technical leadership responsible for the Rinconada Water Treatment Plant (RWTP) Reliability Improvement Project—an endeavor that has catastrophically ballooned into a projected 14-year construction timeline your team’s recent operational decisions demonstrate a continued failure to adhere to stated policy and respect basic residential habitability.

Please consider this communication a formal demand for immediate answers and documentation regarding three distinct, highly disruptive, project activities that directly contravene expected professional standards.

1. Flagrant Violation of Weekend Work Policy

This past weekend, your project team conducted heavy **excavation** work directly outside my property, starting at 7:00 AM and concluding at 4:00 PM. This activity produced noise pollution that can only be accurately described as being at a **nightclub level**.

Inquiry:

- Please immediately provide the specific policy language authorizing external, heavy excavation work on a weekend. The published community policy explicitly states that only indoor work is authorized during weekends.
- Provide all records indicating that the neighboring community was formally notified of this flagrant policy violation and the severity of the associated noise intrusion. If no such notice exists, explain who authorized the deviation and why the surrounding residents were excluded from the decision-making process.
- Provide the community impact report for this project.

2. Unauthorized and Unmitigated Light Pollution

For over a year, a high-intensity security light, presumably installed by the project, has been shining directly onto my property after dark and remains on all night. This light intrusion renders our front bedroom utterly **unusable** due to the sleep disturbance it causes. Furthermore, standard window blinds are useless given the unique shape of the upper window architecture.

Inquiry:

- Provide the Community Impact Report or lighting plan that justified the installation of this specific light fixture, including documentation of the light pollution study conducted to ensure compliance with local ordinances regarding residential illumination.
- Explain why zero mitigation efforts have been undertaken over the past year to redirect, shield, or time-limit this security lighting, despite the obvious and immediate impact on my home.
- Provide the community impact report for this installation.

3. Gross Inefficiency and War Zone Noise (Pipe Installation)

Over the course of the recent summer months, the installation of a pipe feeding into a drain took an excessively long and indefensible period to complete. The noise generated by this process; best described as **war zone-like steel on steel grinding**, was relentless.

Inquiry:

- For this specific implementation (a seemingly basic engineering task), provide a detailed breakdown of the internal **engineering schedule** and the actual person-hours expended. Justify why this task required such an exorbitant duration, leading to continuous, extreme noise pollution for neighboring residents.
- Provide the Community Impact Report and notification records regarding this specific installation, including the noise impact, dust pollution impact and timeline. Explain why the community was never warned of the severity or length of this acoustical intrusion.

The Direct Link to Systemic Accountability and Liability

These repeated failures in basic policy adherence, communication, and project efficiency are the direct consequences of the systemic operational and governance issues that have plagued the RWTP project for over a decade, resulting in its protracted 14-year schedule.

Your technical failures directly support the claim that the District is liable for the resulting property damage, safety risks (e.g., the previous Hazmat incident), and loss of residential habitability. We formally demand that these issues be immediately addressed, resolved, and documented.

We expect a complete, detailed response to these three operational inquiries, including all requested documentation, within five (5) business days. Your prompt action is necessary to minimize the financial and political exposure that these ongoing failures are creating for Valley Water's leadership.

Sincerely,

John Kenevey

OUTGOING BOARD CORRESPONDENCE

From: [Candice Kwok-Smith](#) on behalf of [Board of Directors](#)
To: ["Greg.Bozzo@cityofgilroy.org"](mailto:Greg.Bozzo@cityofgilroy.org)
Subject: Re: 30 day notice Unhoused camps
Date: Friday, October 3, 2025 9:16:00 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)

Sent on Behalf of Director Varela:

Dear Mayor Bozzo,

Thank you for raising these important questions and for the City of Gilroy's continued partnership as we work together to balance the complex challenges of homelessness, public safety, and flood protection. I'd like to address the concerns you outlined and share how Valley Water is approaching these issues.

1. I believe in the past, there was a conversation at a forum about another parcel of property, away from the waterways, that Valley Water has offered as a potential space to use. If that is so, I would like to talk about the potential use of that property.

In the past, Valley Water has explored whether certain parcels might be suitable for safe-sleeping or interim housing sites. We are currently in active discussions regarding one large Valley Water-owned property in South County that shows the most promise. We are collaborating with South County Community Services to work through access and logistical challenges, and representatives from Gilroy's Housing Department have also been engaged. While we may have other properties that could eventually be evaluated, our current focus is to thoroughly assess and advance this site first, with the goal of building a multi-agency, nonprofit partnership that can support long-term success.

2. To discuss VW's communication and phasing-out strategy of these encampments so that our city staff and local service providers are aware.

We understand concerns about the 30-day abatement notice and want to clarify that Valley Water intentionally extended the notice period—well beyond the typical 72 hours required—to provide individuals with significantly more time to prepare, connect with service providers, and relocate before the rainy season complicates logistics. We also recognize that some individuals, such as those with ADA-related needs or pending shelter intakes, may require additional time. In those cases, we are prepared to grant reasonable extensions. To ensure coordination, we notified the City Administrator's office of the planned abatement work in advance of the posted notices, and also engaged local service providers, including South County Community Services and Pitstop. We are continuing to work with the County Office of Supportive Housing to identify available housing and shelter resources for those who will be affected. Our goal is to minimize disruption, protect waterways, and support a smooth transition in collaboration with City staff and service providers.

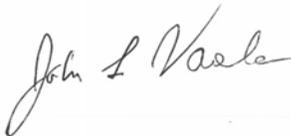
3. In the event that privately-held, county land could be leased, to be used as camps, would there be any funds available, from VW, to assist local service providers to ensure the smoothest transition possible for these folks?

Due to current budgetary constraints, Valley Water is unable to provide direct funding for the purchase, lease, or operation of interim housing sites. However, we remain committed to being a partner in solutions. This includes making our available properties accessible for consideration and potentially participating as a co-applicant for grant funding opportunities that our cities or partners might apply to. We are happy to lend our support to such efforts, as we recently achieved success with this approach in San José, where a collaborative effort enabled the City of San José to apply for funding and develop an interim housing site on Valley Water land. We would welcome exploring similar opportunities with Gilroy.

We deeply value our partnership with the City of Gilroy and are committed to working collaboratively to ensure that these efforts strike a balance between humanitarian needs and the critical responsibility of maintaining public safety and protecting our waterways.

Roseryn Bhudsabourg from our Office of Government Relations will be contacting you to set up a meeting to coordinate closely with your team and to advance these discussions. She can be reached at RBhudsabourg@valleywater.org.

Sincerely,



John Varela
Director, District 1

C-25-0133

From: Mayor Greg Bozzo <Greg.Bozzo@cityofgilroy.org>

Sent: Thursday, October 2, 2025 8:49 AM

To: John Varela <jvarela@valleywater.org>

Subject: Fw: 30 day notice Unhoused camps

***** This email originated from outside of Valley Water. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. *****

Sorry!

Mayor Greg Bozzo

City of Gilroy

7351 Rosanna Street, Gilroy, CA 95020

☎ 408.846.0227 | Direct 669-766-5771

🌐 <http://www.cityofgilroy.org>



From: Mayor Greg Bozzo
Sent: Wednesday, October 1, 2025 3:17 PM
To: jverela@valleywater.org <jverela@valleywater.org>
Subject: 30 day notice Unhoused camps

Director Verela,

Great meeting with you this morning. I am glad that you and I are able to have these conversations regarding the unhoused. I am aware that they were not so easily had in the past, in Gilroy. As Mayor, I am always ready, willing and able to speak with you about any topic.

I am writing to request a follow-up meeting with you as soon as possible to discuss Valley Water's 30-day notice for the unhoused encampments in the Gilroy area. I am open to any conversation regarding this overall complex problem, although I am particularly interested in a couple of items from our next meeting.

1. I believe in the past, there was a conversation at a forum about another parcel of property, away from the waterways, that Valley Water has offered as a potential space to use. If that is so, I would like to talk about the potential use of that property.
2. To discuss VW's communication and phasing-out strategy of these encampments so that our city staff and local service providers are aware.
3. In the event that privately-held, county land could be leased, to be used as camps, would there be any funds available, from VW, to assist local service providers to ensure the

smoothest transition possible for these folks?

I will share this conversation and information with our Interim City Administrator, Brad Kilger, as well as our Director of Community Development, Sharon Goei.

Looking forward to hearing back from you soon.

Greg

Mayor Greg Bozzo

City of Gilroy

7351 Rosanna Street, Gilroy, CA 95020

☎ 408.846.0227 | Direct 669-766-5771

🌐 <http://www.cityofgilroy.org>



From: [Candice Kwok-Smith](#) on behalf of [Board Correspondence](#)
To: [Jennifer Codianne](#); [Mark Biiski](#); [Shanika Richards](#); [Breanne Roderick](#); [Christopher Hakes](#)
Cc: [Board of Directors](#)
Subject: FW: Llagas Creek
Date: Tuesday, October 7, 2025 2:05:44 PM
Attachments: [Downed Tree Management Fact Sheet.pdf](#)
[image001.png](#)

From: Candice Kwok-Smith **On Behalf Of** Board of Directors
Sent: Tuesday, October 7, 2025 2:04 PM
To: 'swanee@garlic.com' <swanee@garlic.com>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Llagas Creek

-
Sent on Behalf of Director Varela:

Dear Swanee,

Thank you for your concerns regarding woody debris in Llagas Creek adjacent to Woodland Estates. Valley Water staff investigated this reach of Llagas Creek, staff noted new woody debris in some sections. Two of the locations of debris build ups within the channel bed were deemed a flow conveyance concern. Attached is a map of the locations, staff will create a work order to cut the longer logs and dense branches into 3-foot sections, so they can be flushed out during higher flows, we will also thin out the low laying branches to make bigger windows for the debris to travel through the system. We expect work to be completed by the end of October.

Llagas Creek downstream of Santa Teresa is a natural, high-quality habitat, reach where Santa Clara Valley Water District has a flood control easement, but the creek is owned by the City of Morgan Hill. The reach was not engineered to convey a specific flow, during storm events the water level in the creek will rise and based on historical information the areas adjacent to the creek do tend to naturally flood. Debris build-up in the creek is a natural process and tends to mobilize further downstream during large flows. Valley Water does not manage the creek for fire concerns as that is a landowner responsibility, please relay your concern regarding fire to the City of Morgan Hill @ <https://www.morganhill.ca.gov/509/Maintenance>.

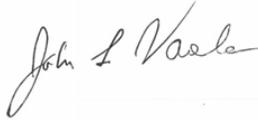
I've attached a fact sheet that identifies Valley Water's role in stream maintenance and you may review Valley Water ownership on our website by using the following link: <https://gis.valleywater.org/FeeEasement/>. The green areas show lands owned in fee title the yellow areas show land held in easement. Activities in the creek regardless of ownership are further regulated by state and federal regulatory agencies. I've also attached a fact sheet explaining the many benefits of large woody debris in our streams.

I hope this helps to explain more about the management of this reach of Llagas Creek, let me know if you have further questions.

In the future if you need to report other concerns to Valley Water, you may also use our online system at <https://access.valleywater.org/customer/s/> or contact me directly. Please

let me know if you have further questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



John Varela
Director, District 1

C-25-0127

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: Swanee Edwards <swanee@garlic.com>

To: 'John Varela' <jvarela@valleywater.org>; 'JOHN L. VARELA' <jlvarela@aol.com>

Cc: 'Gary Jensen' [REDACTED]

Sent: Wednesday, September 24, 2025 at 02:11:15 PM PDT

Subject: Llagas Creek

Hi John,

As you know, Llagas Creek runs behind the Woodland Estates Clubhouse. I have been told that the City owns the strip of land from the top of the creek bank, to Woodlands property line. Last year's storms left a lot of debris in the creek bed that is a very real fire concern for our board and management. Since we are aware that we need habitat for wildlife, and other concerns, we need help!

Who would I contact at Valley Water about our concerns? Does Valley Water offer clean up services for the Creeks you own? There is enough debris in the creek that it also increases flooding in the winter time, although it has improved since the flood control project was completed. So if you can direct us to the proper person or department at Valley Water that could come out, meet with our board member Gary Jensen, take a look at our concerns in the creek, we would be very grateful!

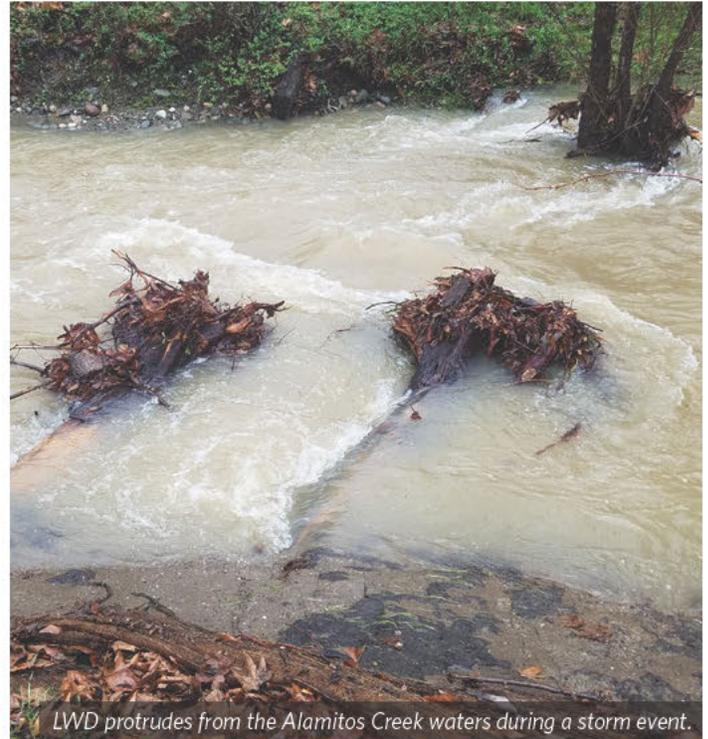
Gary is copied on this e-mail. He is our point person for this issue.

My best to you!

Swanee



Large woody debris (LWD) at Alamitos Creek.



LWD protrudes from the Alamitos Creek waters during a storm event.

Fallen tree or large woody debris?

Many creeks and rivers across Santa Clara County are bordered by large trees. Over time, these trees may die, break or fall into the stream channel due to natural causes such as erosion or storms. Some of these fallen trees are removed, while others remain in the waterway and become known as large woody debris (LWD).

LWD can include entire trees, stumps or sizable branches that have entered a creek. But what qualifies as large? At Valley Water, the Stream Maintenance Program (SMP) defines large woody debris as any piece of woody material that is at least 12 inches in diameter and a minimum of 6 feet in length.

This definition, adapted from the California Salmonid Stream Restoration Manual by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, is applied to fallen trees in streams that support sensitive fish species—many of which are found in Santa Clara County's major waterways and tributaries. Woody debris of this size typically has the greatest ecological and hydraulic impact on river and stream systems.

How is large woody debris beneficial?

LWD plays a vital role in creating and maintaining complex, diverse aquatic habitats within creeks. Its presence benefits the ecosystem in several important ways:

- **Provides shelter:** Offers refuge for juvenile and adult fish, protecting them from predators and high winter flows.
- **Captures organic material:** Creates feeding and breeding grounds for aquatic insects that serve as a food source for fish and other organisms.
- **Traps gravel:** Forms essential areas for spawning and feeding for both fish and aquatic invertebrates.
- **Shapes channel complexity:** Helps form pools, riffles and runs by dissipating energy and promoting scour.

These natural functions are critical for supporting sensitive species such as Steelhead trout, California red-legged frogs and Western pond turtles—all of which depend on the diverse habitats LWD helps to sustain.



Large woody debris and Valley Water

While the instinct may be to remove fallen trees from streams, Valley Water works to strike a careful balance between flood protection and environmental stewardship. Whenever feasible, LWD is left in place and maintained due to its ecological value.

However, in certain cases, LWD can pose risks—such as accelerating erosion near flood protection infrastructure or forming debris jams in sensitive areas. When LWD is encountered, a team of qualified professionals, including engineers and biologists, evaluates its habitat value and potential hazards.

If the wood is determined to present a threat, Valley Water first explores options to modify it—such as trimming branches or repositioning the material within the channel—to retain as much habitat function as possible. If these measures are insufficient to reduce the risk, full removal may be necessary.

Under the SMP, removal of LWD must be mitigated by replacing it in kind within the same watershed, to offset the loss of ecological benefits. Because of this, removal is considered a last resort, only pursued when no other alternatives are viable.

Valley Water’s right-of-way defined

Valley Water manages LWD on lands it owns or manages through easements. Valley Water’s right-of-way includes the following types of properties:

- **Fee title property:** Land owned outright by Valley Water, managed in accordance with available resources and in compliance with federal, state, and local laws and regulations.
- **Exclusionary easements:** Properties where Valley Water holds an easement that effectively excludes the underlying property owner from active use of the land.
- **Functional easements:** Areas where Valley Water has rights for specific purposes such as flood protection, stormwater drainage or water conservation.

Valley Water’s treatment of LWD on these properties is guided by both environmental and operational priorities, with an emphasis on balancing habitat preservation and infrastructure protection.



CONTACT US

To find out the latest information on Valley Water projects or to submit questions or comments, use our **Access Valley Water** customer request system at access.valleywater.org.



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