

# Community & Employee Engagement

Monday, November 4th

# Strategic Plan Alignment

**Community Engagement Goal:** Engage with the community to build understanding, trust, and support for projects and programs.

**Strategy:** Focus outreach and engagement to increase community understanding of the need for and challenges of infrastructure investments.

**Strategy:** Build collaborative partnerships, trust and long term relationships with the community through service excellence, proactive communication and education.

# Community Engagement

- Latino Service Providers Tour on Oct. 7th
- YES Regional Parks Tour on Nov 2<sup>nd</sup>
- Water Supply Public Tour scheduled for Nov. 16<sup>th</sup>



18 Students from Sonoma  
Valley High Toured the SVCSD  
treatment plant on Oct. 16th

# Water and Energy Education Program

- In the 2023/2024 school year 16,457 students participated in classroom lessons or field trip programs.
- The Water and Energy Education Program received a Pathways Program grant again in 2024 for \$28,800 from the Community Foundation. This funding allows us to provide our existing education programs in “Pathways” schools, many of which are in the Partnership.
- The city of Santa Rosa has graciously offered us their fish tank which resides at the Laguna Treatment Plant. This beautiful tank will house steelhead trout at the Water Education Center.

# Lake Sonoma Visitor Center

- In Sept. 1,072 folks visited the Lake Sonoma Visitor Center.
- Mussel inspections are currently taking place at both reservoirs but we are officially in the off-season.
- Sonoma Water was awarded a \$400,000 grant from the CA Division of Boating and Waterways for canine and visual inspections at Lake Mendocino. To date we have stopped two boats from entering our watershed with mussels attached.

# Employee Engagement

- New Employee Tour took place on Oct. 22<sup>nd</sup> (Water Supply) and another is scheduled for Nov. 7<sup>th</sup> at RRCSD. We may have space in our vans if WAC/TAC colleagues want to join!

## Additional Employee Engagement Goals:

- Assess existing workforce development and internship programs in the community and identify what may be beneficial for Sonoma Water.
- Support the roll out of the countywide Employee Opinion Survey.
- Implement relevant Racial Equity Action Plan strategies at Sonoma Water.