

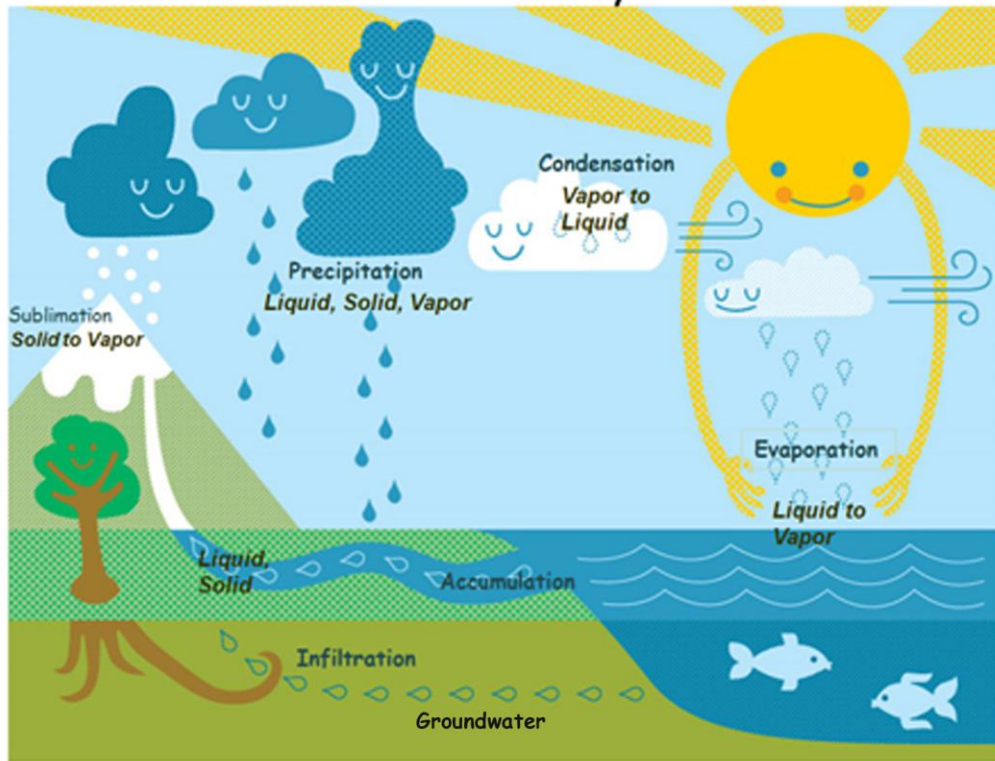
SAWS Water Education Program

ANNUAL REPORT

2023/2024 School Year



How does the water cycle work...?



It's all about water CHANGING FORMS



Stockton East Water District
California Water Service Co.
San Joaquin County
City Of Stockton

WATER EDUCATION PROGRAM

Report Summary



WATER EDUCATION PROGRAM

SAWS Water Education Program Annual Report

School Year: 2023/2024 ♠ August 1, 2023 through July 31, 2024

Report Summary

This report presents an overview of the implementation of the Stockton Area Water Suppliers Water Education Program (SAWS WEP) in the 2023/2024 school year. The report includes a summary of the year's outreach effort, a full report, the data and statistics resulting from that outreach effort, a description of the programs and presentations offered to Stockton area educators by the SAWS WEP, participant feedback, and a plan for the 2024/2025 school year.

The SAWS WEP calendar for the 2023/2024 school year was fully booked by the end of May 2022. Students returned to school after summer break in the four school districts served by SAWS between August 3 and August 9, 2023. SAWS presentations begin in the first week of September every year. This allows teachers to become familiar with their students and get them settled into a routine before introducing a visitor.

In the 2023/2024 school year, the four school districts served by SAWS operated normally. The virtual program offered by SAWS during COVID was no longer necessary. The assembly program offered by SAWS before COVID has been discontinued, as the performing troupe is no longer available. In its place, the coordinator and staff produced a short video entitled "Where Does My Water Come From?", tracing the journey of Stockton's water from source to tap. The video has been well received; we show the four-minute film upon arrival for in-class presentations in grades 2-6, allowing time for the presenter to set up. When the presentation commences, the message in the video is reinforced with grade-appropriate curriculum and hands-on activities that are a part of each presentation. The video is also offered on the SAWS Padlet website for teachers to use as a resource at any time.

The SAWS WEP "Where Does My Water Come From?" video may be viewed here:

<https://padlet.com/kcoon5/saws-water-education-presentations-64nizgsjkekvwjzp/wish/0BA3ZpxRA7AeZnPb>

Resources for teachers on the SAWS WEP "Water Supply in Stockton" Padlet can be found here:

<https://padlet.com/kcoon5/water-supply-in-stockton-california-7ioru6kn9bnoalaz>

In the 2023/2024 school year, the SAWS WEP offered six grade-level specific in-class presentations and participated in a variety of Stockton area youth-oriented events. The virtual program on Padlet continued to be offered to teachers to use as pre-teaching, supplemental and follow-up resources.

In the 2023/2024 school year, the SAWS WEP reached 10,117 students in 355 classrooms through the in-class program, 10,110 students at eight youth-oriented events, and 70 students and chaperons during a water treatment plant tour at SEWD, for a total of 20,527 students in 57 Stockton area schools and venues. A breakdown into specific categories (presentation type, grade level, school district and water provider) is presented in the “Stats” section of this report.

2023/2024 Program Highlights:

In the 2023/2024 school year, the SAWS WEP offered in-class presentations, virtual/resource learning through Padlet and participation in local, youth-oriented events.

- The program served 57 schools and venues, supplying supplies and materials for 364 classrooms. The SAWS WEP Team participated in eight youth and environmental education-oriented events and conducted one tour of the Joe Waidhofer Drinking Water Treatment Plant, reaching a total of 20,527 students and citizens.
- The coordinator attended a variety of on-line meetings and seminars, including DWR’s Water Education Committee meetings, SAWS meetings and Drought/Flood Committee meetings via Zoom/Teams. The coordinator is also a member of the San Joaquin County Office of Education’s Community Partners for Environmental Literacy (CPEL), a collaboration of local educators working toward effective environmental outreach, both physical and virtual.
- The coordinator continues to attend DWR Water Education Committee Meetings, which are held both in-person and virtually throughout the year. This group usually meets in person bi-annually to share outreach methods and strategies intended to promote collaborative and coordinated water education outreach throughout the State of California.

For a complete breakdown of the 2023/2024 SAWS WEP outreach statistics, please turn to the “Program Stats” tab in this report.

Looking Ahead: The 2024/2025 School Year

Most Stockton area campuses will begin the school year at the end of July 2024. The SAWS WEP staff has been background checked and approved for presentations by the four school districts served by the S. The SAWS WEP will implement our regular schedule in the coming school year on September 1, 2024.

In May 2024, the coordinator sent broadcast invitations to hundreds of teachers and administrators in schools served by the SAWS WEP. The response was enthusiastic, and at this writing our calendar is nearly full for in-class presentations and youth-oriented events for the coming school year (September 1, 2024 through early June 2025).

At this writing, the SAWS WEP staff is working on presentation revisions for our grade 4 and 6 “California Water” presentation. Recently, our presentations have been updated to include an emphasis on groundwater awareness.

Embarking on her third year with the SAWS WEP, Miss Sue has signed on for another year of SAWS WEP classroom presentations. Miss Blair finished the school year in May and left for a full-time position with AVID Water – we will miss her, as she was very popular with both the students and teachers. Miss Blair was replaced by Mrs. Van Ha To-Cowell, who recently retired from the Lodi Unified School District after teaching primary grades at Wagner-Holt Elementary School for over 30 years. Mrs. To-Cowell trained with the SAWS WEP presenters at the end of the 23/24 school year and will begin presenting on her own in September 2024. Mrs. Coon will continue to provide backup for classroom presentations while managing the SAWS WEP, including further program development and implementation as well as supplemental outreach, scheduling presentations and working with SEWD, the Urban Contractors, schools and other water agencies to disseminate effective water education to Stockton area schools and communities.

Despite abundant rainfall in recent years, California continues to contend with serious water issues. Water shortages in our state are due to many factors. SAWS WEP presentations will continue to stress conservation along with raising awareness of water issues in Stockton, San Joaquin County and California. We have found that elementary school age children are very effective messengers, as they are likely to discuss what they learn in school with parents and family.

The SAWS WEP is entering its 20th year serving Stockton area schools. The program has developed a devoted following among teachers in the four school districts we serve. Educators often design lesson plans that coordinate with our presentations, which focus on water science, water awareness and conservation. In pursuit of these goals, the coordinator will continue to work with staff, the Department of Water Resources, SJCOE/CPEL and other outreach organizations to integrate Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) and content standards relating to water into our presentations. Resources and materials will continue to be available to teachers; the SAWS WEP uses both physical and virtual educational tools to reinforce our message through pre and post teaching, classroom programs, and outreach at events. This includes videos, digital links and narrated water education vignettes and clips that can be inserted into or used in conjunction with teachers' lesson plans.

The SAWS WEP also supplies valuable classroom materials for teachers who utilize the program. Each child receives a grade appropriate, lesson-related workbook and coloring/work sheet, a sharpened pencil and/or a box of crayons, and each teacher receives a package containing white board markers, magnet clips, rain gauges, hand sanitizers, and other items they can use in the classroom.

Full Report



WATER EDUCATION PROGRAM

THE SAWS WATER EDUCATION PROGRAM

What We Do and How We Do It

Effectively Promoting Water Awareness and Conservation

It is well known that measuring the success of water conservation/education outreach is difficult. How much did the target audience learn? How many will actually embrace the message and act on it? Who will share the information with family and friends? Will those who participate make water conservation a life-long habit? Quantifying the results of these queries is nearly impossible, and under normal circumstances, water providers can only hope these efforts are making a difference. But in recent years California's response to prolonged drought produced evidence that water conservation education raises awareness and promotes wise water use, resulting in substantial, quantifiable water savings throughout the state. Water conservation education in the primary grades certainly plays a major role in these results, as it teaches conservation concepts as students are forming lifelong habits.

The SAWS Water Education Program (SAWS WEP) strives to make students aware that wise water use must be practiced daily, helping them understand that a banner rainfall year, or even two, will not remedy California's water dilemma. Through our outreach, we hope to make our future citizens and leaders understand that, due to our dry climate, storage issues and population growth, water will continue to be a very important issue in California, and we must all be prepared to make water conservation a way of life.

During earlier extreme drought years, state outreach and media messaging put an emphasis on water conservation in California, and that emphasis provided rare, tangible evidence of the effectiveness of outreach programs like ours. Stockton was one of the most successful cities in the state when it came to implementing conservation measures during the last drought, reducing water use by nearly 30 percent. Since its inception, the Stockton Area Water Suppliers (SAWS) alliance has funded multi-faceted outreach in our communities, reaching thousands of students and citizens every year; the program has reached over 400,000 people through classroom presentations and public, youth-oriented events since 2005. Many of the students we have worked with over the years are now adult citizens of Stockton with a heightened awareness of the importance of our water resources because they participated in our programs when they were forming life-long habits in their youth. These are the people who have and will continue to practice conservation measures to aid in dealing with California's water issues.

We have found that the students and teachers we visit are drought aware. Even primary grade students can define the meaning of the word “drought” and the source of the problem. While media messaging may be responsible for heightened water awareness in our communities, our presentations take students to the next level, reinforcing the conservation message and providing insight into the reasons behind it. Our programs address the learning standards that relate to water for every grade level: the water cycle, weather, ecosystems, water’s three states of matter, the scientific properties of water, current and historic water use in California, farming issues and ag water, groundwater, water conveyance and distribution systems and the conservation concepts that relate to all these topics. We enhance learning with a variety of hands-on activities that make the lessons fun and memorable.

The SAWS In-Class Presentation Program is in High Demand

The SAWS in-class presentations continue to be in high demand in Stockton area schools. Invitations to book presentations for the 2023/2024 school year were sent to teachers and administrators via email in early May 2023. The presentation calendar was full by mid-June. The final headcount for the 2023/2024 school year of 20,527 students/citizens reached through our in-class and event program indicates that our outreach numbers have returned to pre-pandemic levels.

The SAWS WEP has developed a devoted following among Stockton teachers. Those familiar with the program often design their lesson plans with the SAWS WEP in mind; the colorful visuals and hands-on activities featured in our presentations can bring these lessons to life for students. Often, one teacher takes the lead to schedule multiple presentations for the entire grade level. Many teachers coordinate our grade-specific presentations with established curriculum and Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), inviting the program to their classrooms in conjunction with units specifically related to water. Some schools even plan field trips that coordinate with our programs; St. Luke, Tully Knoles Elementary, John McCandless STEM, and several other schools often coordinate our “California Water” presentation with field trips to Columbia State Park. Fifth grade teachers are encouraged to book a water treatment plant tour/field trip in conjunction with our Grade 5 “Water Cycle: The Incredible Journey” presentation.

In-Class Presentations Meet Grade-Specific Standards

Every presentation offered by the SAWS WEP is designed to meet standards specific to certain grade levels. Teachers know that our presentations can address multiple content /NGSS standards in 60-90 minutes with little or no teacher prep; we provide an excellent introduction or follow up to standard curriculum involving water for every elementary and middle school grade level.

Kindergarten and Grade 1 teachers can use our popular “Water Cycle Story” presentation to reinforce lessons and meet standards involving weather, states of matter, and forming and testing a hypothesis.

Grade 2 teachers often coordinate their lesson plans with our “H2O to Go!” presentation to reinforce standards related to gravity, motion and machines as students track water’s journey from source to tap using a variety of fun and exciting hands-on pumping activities.



The “H2O to Go!” presentation reinforces second grade standards related to gravity, motion and machines through fun, hands-on activities



SAWS presenter explains how water is conveyed from the water treatment plant to water storage tanks and finally to our homes

Teachers of Grades 3, 4, 5 and 6 can use the “Water Matters” and “Water Cycle: The Incredible Journey” programs to target physical and life science content standards. The two presentations are

similar but have been adapted for content/NGSS standards

specific to each grade level. Both programs focus on the water cycle and water treatment and distribution, addressing a variety of science standards through fascinating facts and figures and a demonstration of the ratio of fresh to salt water on earth. During the “Water Matters” program, students perform a hands-on “scientific experiment” that demonstrates the properties of surface tension and cohesion, as well as concepts related to food chains and webs, agriculture, and environmental issues in our communities, standards specific to Grades 3 and 4. The “Incredible Journey” program addresses similar science standards for grades 5 and 6; after a refresher on the water cycle, students participate in an active, social game from Project WET, embarking on the “Incredible Journey” of a water molecule in the water cycle, evaporating, condensing and precipitating around the room as they



Students become water molecules moving through the water cycle in the “Incredible Journey” hands-on activity

make a beaded bracelet, with each bead representing a component and process of the water cycle. Both “Water Matters” and “Incredible Journey” also include a comprehensive “Source to Tap” diagram depicting how water travels from the water cycle to their faucets at home. A scale model sand and gravel water filter demonstration gives students a glimpse of the processes involved in water treatment and distribution and provides information about local water sources and the agencies that sponsor the SAWS WEP. Drought, conservation, agricultural and state water issues are also discussed throughout the program. At the beginning of each presentation, students in Grades 1-6 are shown the SAWS WEP video, “Where Does My Water Come From?” Curriculum and hands-on activities in each presentation reinforce the video’s message and provide an in-depth look at the processes therein.

The “California Water” presentation, which covers the history, use and distribution of water in the State of California, is responsive to both fourth and sixth grade content standards and features a variety of hands-on activities, including map interpretation and a role-playing game designed to introduce students to the concepts of water rights and legislation relating to agriculture and allocation of our natural resources. Students learn how water is distributed throughout the state via the State Water Project and work collaboratively to find water bodies, cities, and landmarks on topographical maps. This program is offered to Grades 4 and 6, adjusted for grade level.



The SAWS WEP only distributes promotional items that are practical and useful in the classroom.

Every student in every classroom we visit receives a pre-sharpened water-saver pencil and an age-appropriate workbook with information and activities pertaining to water conservation and awareness. As a thank you for inviting us to present, participating teachers receive a variety of gifts, that may include tote bags, magnetic clips, seed packets, water activity guides, sponges, pocket hand sanitizers, white board markers, rain gauges, crayon packs and other items.

These items are of great value in the classroom, as teachers often supply these items at their own expense. There is evidence that as Stockton’s educational resources have diminished, our water education presentations have steadily gained favor. Teachers find value in our ability to connect content/NGSS standards to water resources, the environment, conservation, drought and water legislation in California. The combination of education



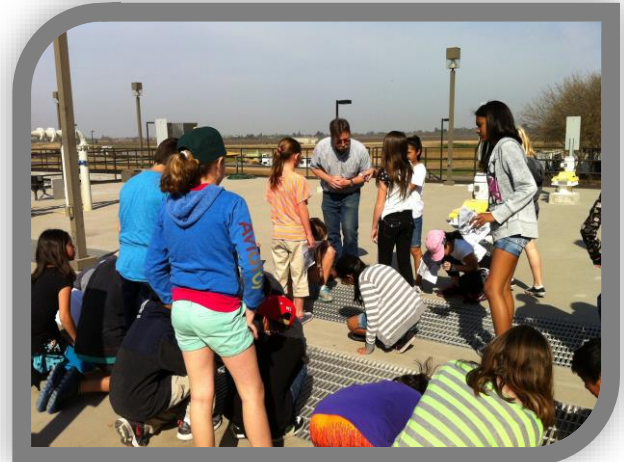
Our message is reinforced through the use of colorful visuals, songs, physical activity and audience participation

and entertainment we provide makes learning exciting and fun for students. We like to remind teachers that, despite budget cuts, students can still experience the benefit of community learning because SAWS sponsors in-class programs that “bring the field trip to the classroom.”

Water Treatment Plant Tours

When the SAWS WEP visits middle/ high school and college classrooms (Grade 5 and up), we encourage teachers to schedule a visit to the Dr. Joe Waidhofer Drinking Water Treatment Plant for a facility tour. When elementary and middle-school classes visit, we ask that the groups include at least one parent/adult chaperon for every five students. While the main purpose for this request is crowd control, we have found that parents touring the plant often learn more than their children do, and invariably leave with a greater appreciation for their community’s water resources. College classes and community groups are fascinated by and impressed

with our facilities and the treatment process; most citizens never take the time to consider the source and systems that provide them with drinking water. While school districts often lack funding for field trip transportation, some public and private schools are able to visit by using adult/parent chauffeurs and chaperons. Facility tours are valuable in raising public awareness and can provide an enlightening experience for students and community members, as well as those looking for career path opportunities.



Plant Supervisor Jim Wunderlich explains the water treatment process to fifth grade students during a tour of the Dr. Joe Waidhofer Drinking Water Treatment Plant

Event/After School Program

The “H2Olympics” program is offered to any school with a Stockton address and can serve as an after-school program, a booth at school festivals and events, or as a hands-on activity presentation to serve an entire grade level. The program features a series of fun, hands-on water activities or “experiments” that demonstrate scientific properties of water, including cohesion, adhesion and surface tension. This encourages contemplation of the scientific principles behind the activities: *How many water drops can I fit on the head of a penny? Why does the paperclip float? Can I keep my water drop intact while guiding it through a laminated maze?*

The format of the H2Olympics program allows students to have fun while learning in a relaxed, non-classroom atmosphere. As with other SAWS WEP programs, we have incorporated a drought/conservation/groundwater discussion into the “H2Olympics” program format, and, depending on the venue, sometimes include a prize wheel or “water saver” button-making activity.

Benefits of the SAWS H2Olympics Programs include:

- ◆ Hands-on activities educate and entertain
- ◆ Format holds students’ attention because it provides an alternative to classroom learning structure
- ◆ Students are likely to take message home
- ◆ Parents often show up at after school programs and may even participate
- ◆ Broad outreach to multiple grade levels (K-8): maximum contacts in minimum amount of time
- ◆ Use of upper elementary and middle school helpers allows older students to work with/teach younger students: excellent learning environment for all
- ◆ Provides teachers, facilitators and activities coordinators with free, appropriate educational activities



SAWS presenter explains surface tension to fourth-grade students at Tully Knoles Elementary during a hands-on activity included in the “SAWS H2Olympics” after school presentation.



Third grade students and their teacher learn about the cohesive properties of water during an “H2Olympics” presentation at the Great Valley Elementary School Farm Day Event

AgVenture

Every third grader in San Joaquin County is eligible to participate in this innovative program sponsored by San Joaquin Farm Bureau and Select San Joaquin Foundation. AgVenture participants enjoy a day of fun while learning about the vast diversity of agriculture in San Joaquin County. This event exposes students to important concepts during their “day on the farm,” including nutritional values, agronomics, marketing, farm and crop production, the value of locally grown products and the role that producers, vendors and the purveyors of our natural resources play in bringing these commodities to the community.

AgVenture’s unique format offers a meaningful and memorable experience for students and a special opportunity for the agricultural community to reach out to some of our most impressionable citizens. SAWS participation in these events allows us to promote SAWS WEP programs while sharing our message of water awareness and conservation with thousands of third graders and their teachers. Each of the three San Joaquin County AgVenture events hosts approximately 3,500 third graders.

Since 2010, the Stockton Area Water Suppliers alliance, through SEWD, has donated \$1,000 annually to AgVenture to help sustain this valuable program.



As part of the SAWS WEP activities at AgVenture, students make personalized “I’m a Water Saver!” buttons



The SAWS “Conservation Cottage” Exhibit at the Children’s Museum of Stockton

The Children’s Museum of Stockton is currently operating under the management of its Board of Directors. The SAWS exhibit was funded by a grant from the State of California in 2005.

SAWS Water Education Program and the Community

The SAWS WEP participates in and supplies hand-outs and materials for numerous community gatherings and other special activities and events in Stockton. The following is a list of some of the community events the SAWS WEP participates in regularly:



The “Waterburger” at the Children’s Museum

- ◆ **San Joaquin County AgVentures (South County, Stockton & Lodi)**

The SAWS WEP has participated in AgVenture since 2005. SAWS staffs a booth featuring a hands-on activity and prize wheel. Our participation in AgVenture allows us to promote SAWS sponsored programs while sharing our message of water/drought awareness and conservation with thousands of third grade students and their teachers. Each AgVenture event hosts approximately 3,500 third graders. Besides staffing a booth at each event, SAWS/SEWD supports AgVenture with a \$1,000 annual donation. The SAWS WEP participated in all three AgVenture events in the 2023/2024 school year. In previous years, the coordinator submitted a water science/conservation video that was used during virtual AgVenture and posted on-line for future viewing.

- ◆ **Rotary Read-In:** The SAWS WEP participates in this annual event.
- ◆ **Lincoln USD “Window on Your Future”:** The coordinator participates in this event annually, wherein mock job interviews designed to prepare Lincoln High School students for entry into the job market are conducted by members of the business community. This event presents an opportunity for staff to share career path outreach with potential job seekers.
- ◆ **Manteca Unified School District’s Farm Days:** SAWS sponsors H2Olympics booths at these MUSD Farm Day events.
- ◆ **Stockton’s Earth Day Festival:** SAWS is a principle sponsor of this popular annual festival at Victory Park in Stockton. The Coordinator staffed a booth at the event on April 21, 2024.
- ◆ **Water Treatment Plant Tours:** The SAWS WEP and SEWD staff offer tours of the Dr. Joe Waidhofer Drinking Water Treatment Plant for Grade 5 and above.
- ◆ **Community Based Programs:** Upon request, SAWS supplies water conservation materials for Special Day and science classrooms at local middle and high schools as well as for programs for developmentally disabled adults, regional pre-school programs, and other community programs requesting materials and resources. This year, the SAWS WEP

presented our “H2Olympics” program for the San Joaquin Historical Museum Passport Program (summer camp) on June 27, 2024.

- ◆ **DWR Water Education Committee:** The coordinator attends both virtual and in-person DWR Water Education Committee meetings, joining water educators from all over California to share resources and ideas for water conservation education and outreach.
- ◆ **CPEL:** The Coordinator participates in the San Joaquin County Office of Education’s (SJCOE) formation of the Community Partners for Environmental Literacy (CPEL), a collaboration of local educators working toward effective environmental outreach. CPEL/SJCOE often sponsors virtual seminars to share learning tools and methods with environmental educators and promote networking among environmental educators in San Joaquin County.



Kristin Coon and Van Ha To-Cowell hosted the SAWS Booth at the 2024 Stockton Earth Day Festival

Program Administration

Kristin Coon (Kristin Coon Consulting) is responsible for administration of the SAWS WEP. This includes hiring and supervision of employees, payroll, payroll taxes, worker’s compensation and liability insurance, subcontractor negotiations/compensation, scheduling and all other aspects of program operations, including implementation of in-class and virtual learning programs. The approved program budget for 2024/2025 went into effect on April 1, 2024, and the contract between SEWD and Kristin Coon Consulting is currently in effect from August 1, 2024 through July 31, 2026.

Staffing

In the 2023/2024 school year, under the supervision of Kristin Coon Consulting, the SAWS WEP continued to serve the SAWS alliance, providing in-class water education presentations in Stockton area schools and outreach at various youth-oriented events.

When the statewide shutdown of schools occurred in March 2020 and all scheduled presentations were cancelled, Kristin Coon Consulting continued to pay classroom instructors based on an average of the previous year's compensation. This was necessary to retain instructors and prepare for resumption of the in-class program. In 2021, coordinator Kristin Coon developed a virtual outreach program, offered the program to teachers and administrators, organized, prepared, scheduled and delivered related supplies and supporting materials to Stockton area schools, and managed the day-to-day business of the SAWS WEP.

In the 2022/2023 school year, after the COVID pandemic, most Stockton area schools returned to normal operations and the SAWS WEP educators resumed a regular presentation schedule. This continued into the 2023/2024 school year. Sue Daugherty ("Miss Sue") and Blair Baker ("Miss Blair") shared instructor duties for the entire school year, backed by Mrs. Coon, who also tended to administrative tasks and prepared and hosted events. Our team received rave reviews from teachers and administrators (see "Feedback" section). At the end of the school year, Miss Sue signed on for another year, but Miss Blair gave notice after accepting a full-time position with AVID Water. In April 2024, Mrs. Van Ha To-Cowell, recently retired from Lodi USD after 30 years teaching primary grades at Wagner-Holt Elementary School, joined the SAWS WEP staff to replace Miss Blair. As of this writing, the SAWS WEP is fully staffed, and Miss Sue and Mrs. To-Cowell have committed to the SAWS WEP through June 2025.

Looking Ahead: The Coming School Year

At this writing, the SAWS WEP 2024/2025 calendar is fully booked through the end of May 2025 for classroom presentations and youth-oriented events. Any open spots will fill in quickly before the SAWS WEP presentations begin on September 2, 2024.

At this writing, Mrs. Coon and staff are working to implement revisions for the Grade 4/6 "California Water" presentation and add new groundwater education curriculum to upper grade presentations. Miss

Sue and Mrs. To-Cowell are preparing to resume in-class presentations starting September 2, 2024, and Mrs. Coon will continue to provide backup for classroom presentations while managing the SAWS WEP, including further program development as well supplemental outreach, scheduling and working with SEWD, the Urban Contractors, schools and other water agencies to disseminate effective water education to Stockton area schools and communities.

Conclusion

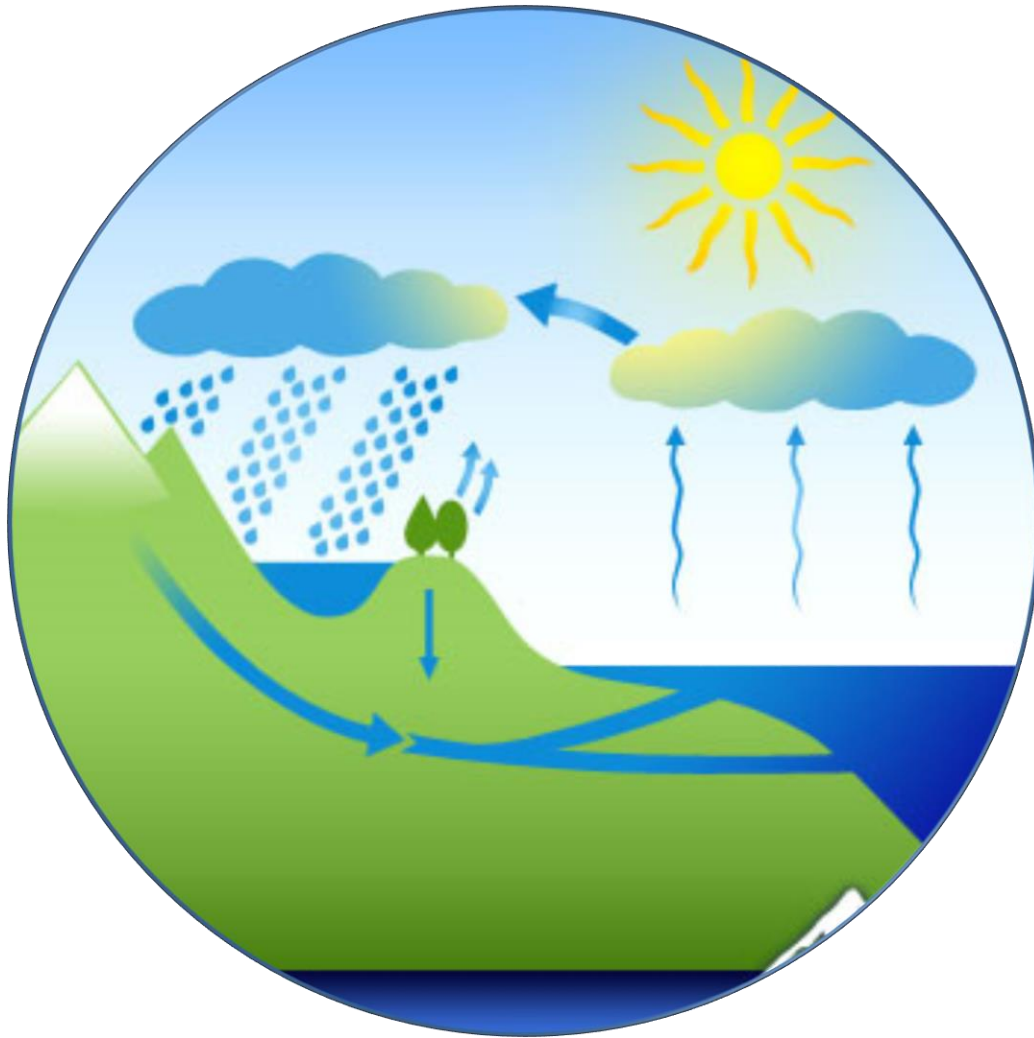
As we embark upon our 20th year serving SAWS and Stockton area schools, the SAWS WEP staff is proud to say that our outreach programs are well-known and respected in the community. Our presentations reach significant numbers of students and community members with a variety of programs, and we participate in many high-profile youth oriented local events.

In the 2023/2024 school year, the SAWS WEP reached 20,527 students through in-class and special event programs. The feedback from teachers and administrators is testament to the fact that we have excellent presenters who are adept at sharing knowledge of and enthusiasm for our water resources; we are invited back to schools and events year after year because the programs we offer are a valuable resource for Stockton area schools and the community.

The SAWS WEP is endorsed and approved by the Stockton, Lincoln, Lodi and Manteca school districts as well as a variety of charter and private schools in the Stockton metropolitan area. The program is also sanctioned by the San Joaquin County Office of Education. Our success is evidenced by the numbers: teachers participate enthusiastically year after year and demand for presentations exceeds availability. The most effective tool for program sustainability remains teacher-to-teacher recommendations; we continue to visit new teachers and schools each year, and our loyal followers recommend us to their colleagues and take us along when they move to new schools. Teachers often coordinate our presentations with their lesson plans and many use our outreach programs to enhance field trip experiences. This promotes a comprehensive learning approach, which is a major component of the overall plan: when we make multiple contacts, seeing students year after year, we are building a broad knowledge base that will make water conservation and awareness second nature for those residing in our communities, ultimately helping us achieve our goal of promoting effective, community-wide water awareness and conservation practices. Evaluations from both teachers and students are always enthusiastic and positive (see Feedback section), and support for the program remains strong because it

reinforces grade specific content/NGSS standards, coordinates seamlessly with curriculum, and provides a hands-on, memorable learning experience for students.

Teacher feedback and student comments and illustrations are provided in the Feedback section of this report.



Feedback



WATER EDUCATION PROGRAM

Teacher and Student Feedback on the SAWS Water Education Program

Teacher Feedback is key to enhancing and improving our programs

The hands-on activities (ice, water) made the concepts more concrete. The visual aids and “Where Does My Water Come From?” intro video helped the students make connections.

Ms. Meyers, Grade I, Oakwood Elementary

The program is interactive, useful, aligned to standards and fun! The pre-work was relevant and made the presentation very smooth.

Mr. Richards, Grade 6, Rio Calaveras Elementary

This interactive program with hands-on activities hits the standards and is well paced for second graders. We love the program and all the classroom “swag.”

Ms. Maldonado-Meek, Grade 2, Tully C. Knoles School

My students studied “The Water Planet” at the beginning of the year. This presentation was a great refresher, plus it added to that knowledge with information on Stockton’s water supply and treatment processes.

Ms. Vega, Grade 5, George Mosher Elementary

The concepts of the water cycle and the three states of matter were introduced and reinforced through the hands-on game. I love all aspects of the presentation – a short video to introduce the subject, the colorful posters, the game and a recap to check for understanding. A GREAT program!

Ms. Ly, Grade I, Creekside Elementary

The program helps reinforce what I teach in science. Understanding/rationale of the water cycle and function is a key objective in fifth grade, and it is realized through this engaging and interactive presentation.

Mrs. Dutra, Grade 5, Davis Elementary

I really liked the hands-on activities. The program was presented in a way where students were able to understand and learn new information about water.

Reem Muharam, Kindergarten, Taylor Leadership Academy

The lesson was clear, thoughtful, and tied to our standards – Miss Sue scaffolded the lesson for my SDC students. All students loved the “Incredible Journey” game!

Ms. Payne, Grade 5/6, Lincoln Elementary

Miss Sue employed a variety of attention-getters, specific directions, and lightning-fast redirections to keep my scholars focused. The alignment with standards and grade level appropriate activities are awesome!

Ms. Anderson, Grade I, Aspire Vincent Shalvey Academy

I really liked how Miss Blair made the presentation relevant to students’ lives by talking specifically about Stockton. She kept the students’ attention and answered all their questions.

Mr. Simpson, Grade 4, George Mosher Elementary



Lincoln Unified School District

We'd like to thank the Stockton Area Water Suppliers (SAWS) for some very exciting demonstrations of the water cycle! This week at Lincoln Elementary and John R. Williams, a visitor from SAWS showed how H₂O can change its state of matter. Some students created bracelets with beads to indicate where water goes in an ecosystem, while others pumped water and used a pool noodle to create their own river.

[#WaterCycle](#) [#ScienceInSchools](#)



Thursday May 2, 2024

Dear Ms. Coon,

I wanted to express my heartfelt gratitude for the outstanding "Water Matters" presentation you delivered to my third grade students at St. Luke's Catholic School on Monday, April 29th. Your engaging and informative session resonated deeply with our young learners, and we've received wonderful feedback from both students and teachers alike.

The interactive elements and visual aids you incorporated made the presentation both enjoyable and memorable for our students. I would love to book another date for you to come back and speak to our students again. I believe your message is crucial for our students' understanding for environmental responsibility and sustainability.

Please let me know your availability, and we'll work together to schedule a suitable date for your next presentation. We are looking forward to having you back at our school soon.

Thank you again for your time, effort, and dedication to spreading awareness!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Nancy Sauseda
Third Grade Teacher
St. Luke's Catholic School
nsauseda@stlukestockton.com
(209) 464-0801
4005 N. Sutter St.
Stockton, Ca. 95204



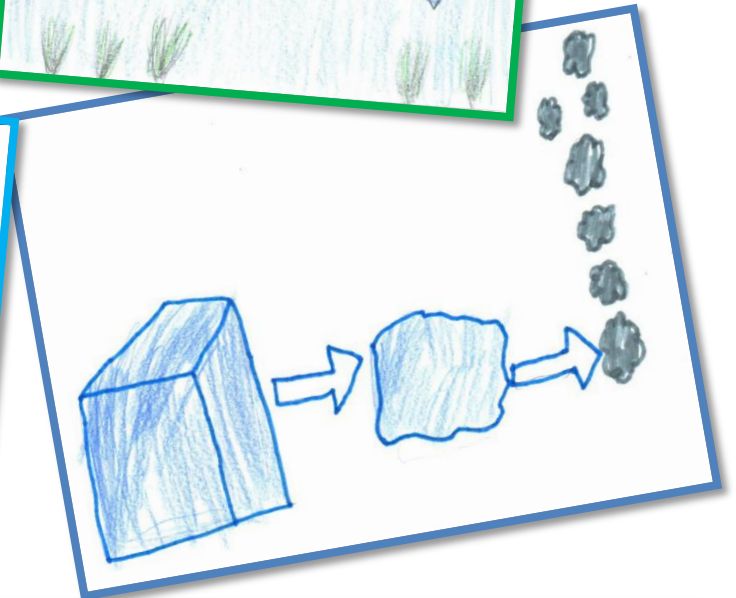
Dear Miss Blair,

I appreciate all the energy and enthusiasm you brought to your very clear presentation of the water cycle and the states of water. My students learned so much and didn't realize they were learning because they were so engaged with your games, songs, and overall guided instruction. Well done!

My students were thrilled to receive toothbrushes, coloring books, and crayons! They left for Fall Break with a smile on their faces!

I look forward to seeing you again next year. My future students will be so fortunate to learn such important concepts from you.

All the best,
Mrs. Borrego
August School
First Grade





Classroom Kits Supplied by SAWS

Teachers participating in the SAWS WEP receive a “bag of goodies” - supplies and materials to share with students that complement our presentations and the videos and activities on the SAWS Padlets. The SAWS WEP also supplies teachers with sharpened pencils, sponges, water gauges, hose nozzles, hand sanitizers, magnet clips, crayons and other useful items for their classrooms.



SAWS WEP Program Staff, 2023-2024

SAWS WEP staff for the 2023-2024 school year consisted of Sue Daugherty, Blair Baker and Kristin Coon. Miss Blair left the program at the end of May 2024 for a full-time position at AVID Water. Blair’s replacement, Mrs. Van Ha To-Cowell, retired from Lodi USD after over 30 years teaching primary grades at Wagner-Holt Elementary School. Van Ha joined the SAWS WEP staff in April 2024 and will begin her solo in-class presentation schedule in September 2024.

Sue Daugherty, Kristin Coon, Van Ha To-Cowell, Blair Baker

Stats



WATER EDUCATION PROGRAM

SAWS Water Education Program Presentation/Event Breakdown School Year 2023/2024

SAWS Water Education Program Presentation/Event Breakdown School Year: 2023/2024

By Presentation Type

Presentation Type	# of Presentations	# of Students or	%
Classroom Presentations	355	10117	49.29%
Events	8	10340	50.37%
Water Treatment Plant Tours	1	70	0.34%
After School Program			0%
Totals	364	20527	100%

By Grade

Grade	Clrms	Students	%
K	43	1135	6%
Gr 1	83	1980	10%
Gr 2	73	2042	10%
Gr 3	57	1605	8%
Gr 4	48	1620	8%
Gr 5	42	1425	7%
Middle School	11	380	2%
Event/Other**	<u>7</u>	<u>10340</u>	50%
	364	20527	100%

By Presenter

Presenter	Venues/ Classrooms	Students/ Citizens	%
Kristin Coon	15	10525	51%
Miss Blair	147	4240	21%
Miss Sue	176	4987	24%
Mrs. To-Cowell	26	775	4%
	364	20527	100%

By School District

District	Students	%
Stockton USD	3762	18%
Lodi USD	2835	14%
Lincoln USD	2240	11%
Manteca USD	1045	5%
Aspire/Charter/Private	575	3%
All/Other**	<u>10070</u>	49%
	20527	100%

By Water Provider

Provider	Students	%
Cal Water	4057	20%
City of Stockton	5490	27%
Unincorporated/SJ County	910	4%
All **	<u>10070</u>	49%
	20527	100%

Total Schools/Venues 20/21
57

** Students or children reached through city or county wide events: unable to determine district, provider, or grade

**SAWS Water Education Program
Students Participating: All Outreach Programs, All Providers
Comparison by School Year (SY)**

In-Class/Assembly	School Year / # of Students																		
	SY 05/06	SY 06/07	SY 07/08*	SY 08/09*	SY 09/10*	SY 10/11*	SY 11/12*	SY 12/13*	SY 13/14*	SY 14/15*	SY 15/16*	SY 16/17*	SY 17/18*	SY 18/19*	SY 19/20*	SY 20/21*	SY 21/22*	SY 22/23*	SY 23/24*
SAWS Water Ed Prog	8044	12357	15344	18293	18838	18915	21345	19748	26320	23538	24350	18670	22438	23980	16111	8373	18775	20604	20604
Assembly Program	3002	11452	9925	13989	4459	4660	6085	4731	5934	4730	5736	0	2725	2151	658	2383	0	0	0
Totals:	11046	23809	25269	32282	23297	23575	27430	24479	32254	28268	30086	18670	25163	26131	16769	10756	18775	20604	20527

*** See notes by SY below:**

SY 05/06: 14 GWM (SYRCL) assemblies performed in the 2005/2006 school year. One presenter (KC)
 SY 07/08: 53 GWM (SYRCL) assemblies performed in the 2006/2007 school year. One presenter (KC)
 SY 07/08: 46 GWM (SYRCL) assemblies performed in the 2007/2008 school year. One presenter (KC)
 SY 08/09: 54 GWM (SYRCL) assemblies performed in the 2008/2009 school year. Two Presenters (KC & SW)
 SY 09/10 & 10/11: 15 Zun Zun assemblies performed in 09/10 and 10/11 school years covered under agreement with Zun Zun. Three presenters (KC, SW & CT)
 SY 11/12: 18 Zun Zun assemblies performed in 11/12 covered under agreement with Zun Zun. Three presenters (KC, SW & MQ)
 SY 12/13: 14 Zun Zun assemblies performed in 12/13 covered under agreement with Zun Zun. Two presenters (KC & MQ)
 SY 13/14: 15 Zun Zun assemblies performed in 13/14 covered under agreement with Zun Zun. Three presenters (KC, MQ & SK)
 SY 14/15: 14 Zun Zun assemblies performed in 14/15 covered under agreement with Zun Zun. Three presenters (KC, MQ & SK)
 SY 15/16: 15 Zun Zun assemblies performed in 15/16 covered under agreement with Zun Zun. Three presenters (KC, MQ & SK)
 SY 16/17: Zun Zun assembly program was not funded by SAWS. Three presenters through 12/16 (KC, MQ, SK), two presenters Jan-July 2017 (KC, SK)
 SY 17/18: Zun Zun assembly program funding partially restored by SAWS; 9 Zun Zun assemblies performed in 17/18. Three presenters (KC, SK & KK)
 SY 18/19: 6 Zun Zun assemblies performed in 18/19. Three presenters (KC, SK, KK)
 SY 19/20: 1 Zun Zun assembly performed in 19/20. Three presenters (KC, SK, KK), schools closed mid-March 2020 due to COVID19
 SY 20/21: 4 Zun Zun assemblies performed in 20/21 (virtual only). Two presenters (KC, KK), one contractor (Zun Zun). Schools closed entire 20/21 school year due to COVID19; all outreach was virtual. In-class presentations for 2021 Summer School only.
 SY 21/22: 0 Zun Zun assemblies 21/22 due to COVID19. Three presenters (KC, KK, SD) thru Feb 22, two presenters (KC, SD) Mar-July. Many school campuses still closed first semester due to COVID19, most opened after Jan 1. Mix of virtual and in-class presentations.
 SY 22/23: Zun Zun assemblies discontinued. Staff working on video outreach. Three presenters (KC, SD, BB). All school districts resumed normal operations
 SY 23/24: Staff developed water conservation video. Four presenters (KC, SD, BB, VT). Miss Blair replaced by Mrs. To-Cowell May 2024.