



STAFF REPORT

Meeting Type: Board of Directors
Title: 2025-26 School Education Program – High School Video Contest Winner Awards
From: Paul Sellier, Director of Water Resources
Through: Ben Horenstein, General Manager
Meeting Date: May 12, 2026

PS
BH

TYPE OF ITEM: Approve X Information

RECOMMENDATION: Recognize and award the winning student creators in Marin Water’s 2025-26 High School Video Contest

SUMMARY: The District’s inaugural High School Video Contest received 13 submissions from four local high schools in Marin Water’s service area. An eight-person panel reviewed and judged the submissions, selecting three winning videos that supported the theme “Your Water’s Journey!” The winning videos will be viewed, and the student creators of the winning submissions shall be recognized and presented with their winning award certificates.

DISCUSSION: In 2025, the School Education Program was reviewed and updated to ensure that its content and messaging is effective to expand educational offerings and to keep pace with new teaching and educational trends and standards. Part of this refresh included the addition of an annual Video Contest for high school students.

Modeled after other Bay Area water utilities, the contest is designed to encourage local high school students to create awareness around relevant issues related to our local watershed, water supply, and water conservation in a new, unique way. This year’s theme: “Your Water’s Journey!” invited students to share the path our water takes from the Mt. Tamalpais Watershed to our community, resulting in a reliable clean supply for people, while supporting important local habitats and ecosystems along the way.

The submission window was open from November 26, 2025 through March 26, 2026, and 13 submissions were received in total. The videos were judged on Tuesday, April 28, 2026, by District staff across multiple departments, a professional educator, and a videographer/technical expert.

Videos were judged on connection to the theme, creativity, originality, entertainment value, accuracy of information, and composition. Student creators of the winning submissions will receive a cash award; the amount will be split, with 50% of the prize money going to the individual(s) who submitted the video and 50% to the high school they attend. The first-place winner will receive \$1,500, the second-place winner will receive \$1,000, and the third-place winner will receive \$500. Final videos can be used by Marin Water for educational outreach – on our website, social media, mentioned in e-news, etc.

The first-place video is “Our Water’s Journey” created by Jack Buchanan. The second-place video is “Your Water’s Journey, From Sky to Tap” created by Grayson Rothbart. The third-place video is “Your Water’s Journey” created by Micheal Maguire. All three winning videos will be presented to the Board, and award certificates signed by Board President Jed Smith shall be presented to each winning student creator during this Board of Directors meeting.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW: Not Applicable.

FISCAL IMPACT: None.

ATTACHMENT(S): None.