

Recommended Adjustments

Project D1: Management of Riparian Planting and Invasive Plant Removal Section: KPI

Justification: The project has three KPIs, including KPI #3 to “Targeted control of 25 acres of damaging non-native, invasive plant species, such as *Arundo donax*, throughout the county over a 15-year period.”

The current language of the KPI is too narrowly focused on a single plant species (*Arundo donax*) and does not reflect the broader project description, which states that the project “includes targeted control of especially damaging non-native, invasive plant species, such as *Arundo donax*, throughout the county.”

While the project description cites *Arundo donax* as a primary example, it was never intended to be the sole metric for success. Restricting the KPI to a single species overlooks the essential work performed to control other high-priority invasive plants.

To better reflect the project’s objective of comprehensive invasive species management, staff has proposed the following KPI adjustment:

KPI #3: “~~Remove~~ Targeted control of 25 acres of damaging non-native, invasive plant species, such as *Arundo donax*, throughout the county over a 15-year period.”

Project F3: Flood Risk Assessment Studies Section: KPI

Justification: The project has two KPI’s, including KPI#2 to “Annually, update floodplain maps on a minimum of three (3) creek reaches in accordance with new FEMA standards.”

The Auditor expressed concern that the current phrasing could be misinterpreted as requiring Valley Water to produce official FEMA regulatory maps, which is a task outside of Valley Water’s jurisdiction. The intent of this KPI is to ensure that Valley Water’s internal floodplain maps are updated to remain consistent with FEMA standards.

To eliminate any ambiguity, staff has proposed the following KPI adjustment:

KPI #2: “Annually, update Valley Water’s floodplain maps on a minimum of three (3) creek reaches in accordance with new FEMA standards.”

Project D5: Ecological Data Collection and Analysis

Section: Description

Justification: The text adjustment to the project description removes two outdated parenthetical examples, namely One Water Plan and Stream Corridor Priority Plans, that Valley Water no longer uses.

The One Water initiative has been transitioning over the past several years to a Watershed Master Planning framework to better clarify the purpose and scope of the planning effort. Also, the term “Stream Corridor Priority Plans” is no longer used, and its intended functions are now addressed through Watershed Master Plans and, where applicable, more detailed Native Ecosystem Enhancement Tools. Examples of this transition are available on the Watershed Master Plan webpage <https://www.valleywater.org/project-updates/watershed-master-plan>.

Below is the proposed text adjustment to the description:

“The new and updated information will be used to develop or modernize integrated watershed plans (~~such as watershed profiles, One Water Plan and Stream Corridor Priority Plans~~) that identify potential projects, support grant applications, environmental analyses and permits, and are shared with land use agencies, environmental groups, and the public to make efficient and coordinated environmental decisions throughout the county.”

Project E8: Upper Guadalupe River Flood Protection

Section: Description

Justification: FY26, USACE informed Valley Water that additional federal funding will not be available to complete the General Reevaluation Report (GRR) due to broader national funding constraints and evolving federal planning requirements. The GRR study, initiated in January 2021 following an extended period without federal funding, was intended to reassess the project’s scope, benefits, and construction costs to improve its competitiveness for future federal funding.

This decision is not unique to Valley Water and reflects broader national funding constraints and evolving federal planning requirements. Valley Water will explore local-funding-only options while continuing its partnership with USACE on the project.

The project description is updated to remove outdated information on the GRR progress and schedule, as these have changed over the years. Moving forward, current status updates will be provided annually through the Program’s Annual Report.

Below is the proposed text adjustment to the description:

~~“In January 2021, USACE initiated a General Reevaluation Study of the preferred project. The General Reevaluation Report (GRR) is expected to be completed by June 2025. The scope of the project may change as a result of the GRR findings.”~~

Furthermore, the Draft 5-Year Plan reflects the funding and schedule adjustments that take effect with the Board’s approval of the Capital Improvement Program’s (CIP’s) Five-Year Plan for Fiscal Year 2027-31 (CIP FY27-31). These include:

1. **Project D4: Fish Habitat and Passage Improvement.** The schedule for Project D4.2, Ogier Ponds Separation from Coyote Creek, has been accelerated by nearly two years. This schedule remains tied to the Anderson Dam Seismic Retrofit Project (ADSRP) and is dependent on ADSRP’s completion timeline. The design phase has been advanced from FY31 to FY29, enabling a potential construction start in FY29 and completion in FY32, rather than FY34.
2. **Project E4: Upper Penitencia Creek Flood Protection.** The project schedule has been updated to allow for planning targeted risk-reduction measures for flooding hotspots, accelerating design activities, and reviewing phased implementation. The Planning Phase is now scheduled for completion in FY27 rather than FY30. The Design Phase is currently scheduled for completion in FY30; however, the timeline may change based on the recommendations from the Planning Phase.
3. **Project E8: Upper Guadalupe River Flood Protection.** In FY26, following USACE’s communication that no further federal funding is available to complete the General Reevaluation Report (GRR), Valley Water began evaluating options to complete the project. These may include pursuing planning, design, and construction of Reaches 7 and 8 with local funding. The two reaches, stretching from the South Pacific Railroad (SPRR) crossing downstream of Willow Street to Willow Glen Way, have the highest flood risks.

These and other options, such as a smaller scope project to reduce risk until the 100-year project can be implemented, will be evaluated over the next several months (FY27). As a result, the overall project schedule has been extended, with construction now anticipated to be completed in FY36. Meanwhile, Valley Water will also continue to work with USACE to advance the remainder of the project by completing the General Reevaluation Study under Section 203 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2000, which allows a Non-Federal Sponsor to complete a feasibility study using local resources.

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