



OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

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June 5, 2025

Subject: File #25-0424, Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program Proposed Process Improvements, Board of Directors June 10, 2025 Agenda

Dear Chair Estremera and Directors,

The City of Palo Alto appreciates the Santa Clara Valley Water District Board of Directors and staff for your efforts to address the City of Palo Alto's February 2025 feedback regarding the Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program. We commend and appreciate the proposed public engagement improvements which would extend public notice periods and offer a more structured and extended public hearing process. If adopted, these combined process improvements would enhance transparency and communication regarding future potential funding reallocations.

In addition to Valley Water's proposed public engagement process improvements, the City of Palo Alto respectfully requests that Valley Water consider including in the improved process two additional provisions:

1. That all affected agencies will be formally notified when funds affecting the agency or allocated for use within its boundaries are proposed for reallocation.
2. That notifications and the Board's deliberations on the reallocation will include a staff analysis of:
 - a. How original program commitments and anticipated community benefits will be affected by the reallocation, and
 - b. Mitigation strategies developed to address identified impacts.

We believe these additions to the process improvements will enable stakeholders to provide informed input to the Board's decisions, and further enhance Valley Water's commitment to transparency, equity, and responsible stewardship of public resources.





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Thank you for your consideration of this recommendation.

Respectfully submitted,

Ed Shikada, City Manager
City of Palo Alto

Cc:

Melanie Richardson, Interim CEO, Valley Water
Palo Alto City Council
Kimbra McCarthy, City Manager, City of Mountain View
Tony Tavares, Director, CalTrans Erik Alm, District Office Chief, Caltrans District 4
Lisa Au, Assistant Public Works Director, City of Mountain View
Raymond Wong, Project Manager, City of Mountain View
Margaret Bruce, Executive Director, San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority



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