

FY 2024-25

Board Work Plan

Board's Work Plan 2024-2025





Chair's Message

At the Santa Clara Valley Water District, we manage a complex water resource system that provides clean, safe water, flood protection and stewardship of streams and creeks to 2 million residents and businesses here in Santa Clara County.

As elected officials, we are tasked with balancing the needs of our constituents and the county-wide challenges we face including our aging infrastructure, the need for storage capacity and federal funding for both our water supply and flood protection projects. While the goals identified in our Board Governance Policies provide guidance to achieve Valley Water's mission, the Board's work plan is a roadmap for the year ahead. It also helps us provide appropriate financial resources and staff through our budget process.

Part of our annual strategic planning process, my fellow board members and I have reviewed and identified specific areas that we will be monitoring closely and engaging as necessary. We believe diversifying our water supply portfolio through recycled and purified water efforts and partnerships and pursuing storage opportunities will ensure water supply during a future drought. At the same time, reducing flood risks and preparing our county for emergencies will remain top of mind. Additionally, we continue to actively work in collaboration with our agency partners and the community to find solutions to address unsheltered homelessness.

While our role is as policy makers, we will continue to engage in discussions through board committees, provide direction, and monitor progress in the focus areas. We also remain committed to supporting diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives to attract and maintain our valued workforce.

I am honored to lead my fellow board members during these challenging times and together, we'll continue to focus on providing safe, secure and equitable water for everyone in Santa Clara County.



Man Dawing Asnels

Nai Hsueh

Board Chair

Santa Clara Valley Water District



Valley Water

Founded in 1929, the Santa Clara Valley Water District (Valley Water) is the primary water resources agency for Santa Clara County, with key water supply, water quality, flood protection, and environmental stewardship responsibilities.

Valley Water Mission

Provide Silicon Valley safe, clean water for a healthy life, environment, and economy.

Values

- 1. Valley Water is entrusted to serve the public by carrying out its mission for the benefit of the community.
- 2. Valley Water is committed to providing excellent service to all customers.
- 3. All individuals are unique and important, and will be treated with fairness, dignity, and respect.
- 4. Valley Water takes pride in its work and is accountable to carry out its responsibilities safely with honesty and integrity.
- 5. Initiative, leadership, personal development, and training are vital for continuous improvement.
- 6. Open communication, cooperation, and teamwork are shared responsibilities and essential to the successful performance of Valley Water's work.
- 7. Valley Water is committed to creating an inclusive work environment, which reflects and supports the diversity of the community and enriches our perspectives.
- 8. Valley Water strives to support a work culture and workplace environment that attracts and retains superior employees empowered to make decisions about, and take responsibility for, how they do their jobs.
- 9. Valley Water is committed to its employees and supports market-based competitive compensation that is equitable and rewards accomplishment and encourages high performance.
- 10. Valley Water is committed to sustaining a healthy work-life balance for its employees and places a high value on all the things that provide enrichment and fulfillment, including work and career, health and fitness, family and relationships, spirituality, community service, hobbies and passions, intellectual stimulation, rest and recreation.

Board of Directors

The Santa Clara Valley Water District Board of Directors (Board) is comprised of seven members, each elected from equally-divided districts. Specific job outputs of the Board include connecting with the community in Santa Clara County, developing policies to further Valley Water's mission, and monitoring the performance of the organization.

The Board governs with an emphasis on outward vision, encouragement of diversity in viewpoints, strategic leadership more than administrative detail, and proactivity rather than reactivity.

The Board meets twice a month on the second and fourth Tuesday. All meetings are conducted in accordance with the Brown Act.



Left to right: Tony Estremera, District 6; Nai Hsueh, District 5; Richard P. Santos, District 3; John L. Varela, District 1; Barbara Keegan, District 2; Jim Beall, District 4; Rebecca Eisenberg, District 7

Board Committees

The Board of Directors has established Board Committees and Board Advisory Committees to assist in performing its job. Committees meet regularly and are conducted in accordance with the Brown Act.

- Agricultural Water Advisory Committee
- Board Audit Committee
- Board Ethics and Conduct Ad Hoc Committee
- Board Policy and Monitoring Committee
- Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Committee
- Environmental and Water Resources Committee
- Environmental Creek Cleanup Committee
- Joint Recycled Water Advisory Committee with the City of Sunnyvale
- Joint Recycled Water Policy Advisory Committee with the Cities of San Jose and Santa Clara (TPAC)

- Joint Recycled Water Policy Committee with the Cities of Palo Alto, East Palo Alto, and Mountain View
- Joint Water Resources Committee with the Cities of Morgan Hill and Gilroy
- Recycled Water Committee
- San Felipe Division Reach One Committee
- Santa Clara Valley Water Commission
- Santa Clara Valley Water District Youth Commission
- Stream Planning and Operations Committee (SPOC)
- Water Supply and Demand Management Committee



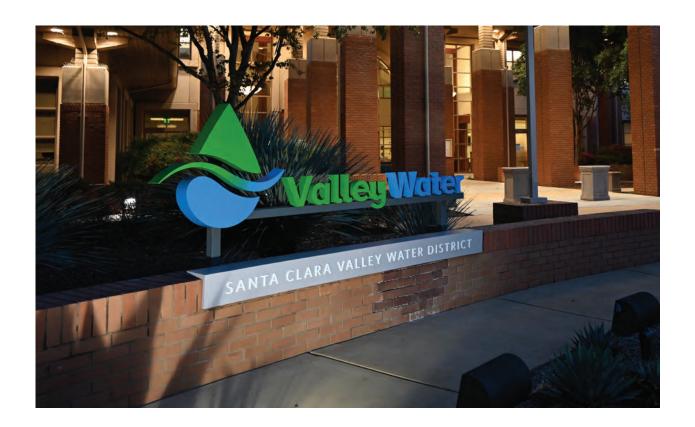
Purpose of the Board Work Plan

The purpose of the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Board Work Plan is to inform the public, community and stakeholders about the Board's strategic focus and how it supports Valley Water's mission and long-term goals and objectives.

To perform its job, the Board adheres to established Board Governance Policies. Included in the Board Governance Policies are Ends Policies, which are long-term goals and objectives for each of Valley Water's core business areas (Water Supply, Natural Flood Protection, Water Resources Stewardship, and Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation).

Every year, the Board conducts planning sessions to evaluate their goals, objectives, challenges, and opportunities, and identifies the specific areas requiring tactical engagement for the upcoming fiscal year. The Board outlines their focus areas and process for monitoring progress in the Board Work Plan.

Throughout the year, the Board provides input, direction, and oversight on Valley Water's budget, Capital Improvement Program, and other program plans and master plans to ensure there is funding and support to accomplish Valley Water's mission. Strategy implementation is monitored by the Board through Executive Limitation requirements, staff-developed programs and plans, assigned Board Committee work, and Board Appointed Officer performance evaluations.



FY 2024-25 Board Work Plan Goals



Integrated Water
Resources Management

GOAL:

Efficiently manage water resources across business areas.



Water Supply

GOAL:

Provide a reliable, safe, and affordable water supply for current and future generations in all communities served.



Natural Flood Protection

GOAL:

Provide natural flood protection to reduce risk and improve health and safety.



Environmental Stewardship

GOAL:

Sustain ecosystem health while managing local water resources for flood protection and water supply.



Addressing Encampments of Unshelterd People

GOAL:

Humanely assist in the permanent relocation of unsheltered people on Valley Water lands along waterways and at water supply and flood risk reduction facilities in order to address the human health, public safety, operational, and environmental challenges posed by encampments.



Climate Change

GOAL:

Mitigate carbon emissions and adapt Valley Water operations to climate change Impacts.



Business Management

GOAL:

Promote effective management of water supply, flood protection, and environmental stewardship through responsive and socially responsible business services.



INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

GOAL: Efficiently manage water resources across business areas.

Objective 1	Protect and maintain existing assets and infrastructure and advance new projects.
Challenge/ Opportunity	The maintenance of Valley Water's infrastructure is crucial to ensuring we continue to provide safe, clean water and critical flood protection for our communities. Timely maintenance is the most cost-effective investment, whereas deferred maintenance disproportionately increases costs and may result in unplanned outages and failures. In addition, there is a list of assets that are reaching the end of their design life and will require significant recapitalization.
FY25 Tactics	 Complete Wildfire Resiliency Plan and develop a Fuel Management Policy to guide the incorporation of wildfire planning efforts in an integrated and programmatic way. Advance infrastructure renewal projects identified in strategic planning efforts by initiating new Capital or Small Capital Projects, or by conducting work as part of ongoing operations projects. Expediently execute adopted Capital program and projects.
Monitoring	Board Policy and Monitoring Committee Capital Improvement Program Committee
Related Staff Plans	 Watershed Management Plans (One Water) Water Supply Master Plan Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program Water Treatment Plant Master Plan Implementation Project Distribution System Master Plan Implementation Project SCADA Master Plan Implementation Project Watersheds and Water Utility Five-Year Operations and Maintenance and Asset Renewal Plans District-wide Asset Management Plan Watershed Asset Management Plan San Felipe Division Reach 1 FY24 Asset Condition Report Capital Improvement Program FY 2024-28 Five-Year Plan





INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

Objective 2	Improve internal capability to negotiate and acquire regulatory permits.
Challenge/ Opportunity	Valley Water continues to face increased project costs and extended timelines due to sometimes conflicting regulatory mandates from external agencies. Valley Water continues to pursue legislative and administrative solutions to resolve regulatory and permitting issues at the federal and state levels. Efforts should focus on staff capability and expertise, and the ability to negotiate effectively and build positive relationships with key regulatory agencies.
FY25 Tactics	 Continue to pursue efforts at the state and federal level to expedite permit review. Keep local, state, and federal legislators up to date on critical projects in case escalation is necessary. Continue to foster relationships at all levels within regulatory agencies and maintain an open dialogue with environmental and other stakeholders. Seek regulatory and environmental stakeholder support during the planning phase of CIP projects and during watershed management planning process (One Water). Continue to work with the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) under the terms of our Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), as well as the State Water Resources Control Board as applicable, to ensure that they protect water supply and water quality interests consistent with their authority.
Monitoring	 Board Policy and Monitoring Committee Capital Improvement Program Committee Stream Planning and Operations Committee Water Supply and Demand Management Committee
Related Staff Plans	 Watershed Management Plans (One Water) Capital Project Planning Studies (e.g. Ogier Ponds, San Tomas Calabazas Creek-Marsh Reconnection, Guadalupe Tasman – I-880, Shoreline Planning Studies)





INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

Objective 3	Educate the community, elected officials and external stakeholders on our management of water resources in Santa Clara County.
Challenge/ Opportunity	A reliable supply of clean water is necessary for the social, economic, and environmental wellbeing o Santa Clara County. Valley Water must effectively communicate with the public on our management of water resources around several key issues including: the cost of water, the public perception of costs of different types of water, how to effectively implement our water supply strategies into the future, as well as our flood protection and environmental stewardship efforts.
FY25 Tactics	Continue to apply strategies for effective community/stakeholder engagement and education.
	• Continue to develop and refine metrics to understand and improve the return on investment (ROI) of outreach strategies.
	• Continue increasing efforts to educate the public about the mix of different types of water in Valley Water's portfolio, as well as our flood protection and environmental stewardship efforts.
	Engage directly with local government jurisdictions through strategic meetings.
	 Continue engagement with cities on flood plain management, Community Rating System (CRS) program, and emergency action plans.
	• Directly involve the Valley Water Board of Directors, local area partners, retailers, and the public with the development of the Water Supply Master Plan 2050 and Watershed Management Plans (One Water). Share the plans widely at the phase of a project where project alternatives are considered, key issues such as the cost of water, reliability of our infrastructure, and strategies for implementing different improvement projects with varying levels of service will be explained through public meetings.
	Ensure robust outreach and stakeholder engagement on the CIP.
Monitoring	Board of Directors
_	Capital Improvement Program Committee
	Recycled Water Committee
Related Staff	Water Supply Master Plan
Plans	Watershed Management Plans (One Water)
	Countywide Water Reuse Master Plan
	Water Treatment Plant Master Plan
	Distribution System Master Plan





WATER SUPPLY

GOAL: Provide a reliable, safe, and affordable water supply for current and future generations in all communities served.

Objective 1	Pursue new, diversified and cost-effective water supply and storage opportunities.
Challenge/ Opportunity	Half of Santa Clara County's water supply is imported from outside the county. During years when water is plentiful, Valley Water may not be able to take advantage of these supplies due to limitations in existing storage and transmission infrastructure as well as regulatory constraints. Having a diverse portfolio of storage options helps Valley Water be resilient. Therefore, Valley Water is evaluating whether diversifying its storage portfolio could help maximize our use of storage and stored water recovery under future conditions. Water storage in reservoirs also provides environmental, recreational, and incidental flood risk reduction benefits. Challenges include influencing project development to ensure important benefits are realized, determining the appropriate level of participation for Valley Water in collaborative water storage projects and prioritizing projects within funding constraints. In addition, Valley Water is evaluating water supply projects, such as direct potable reuse, regional/state projects, and water conservation.
FY25 Tactics	 Explore opportunities to develop new surface and groundwater storage projects that help Valley Water meet future water supply needs and provide resiliency to climate change. Continue with the Water Supply Master Plan 2050 development to provide information on participation levels, water supply benefits and costs of various portfolios to support water supply project and partnership decisions, as well as cost of water shortage. Identify and secure appropriate participation levels for projects and make decisions about partnerships informed by the Water Supply Master Plan and water affordability analyses. Pursue additional funding and partnership opportunities for the Pacheco Reservoir Expansion Project. Evaluate feasibility of Pacheco at 60% design and in the 2050 Water Supply Master Plan. Evaluate Valley Water's continued participation in water storage projects at project-specific milestones and during the Water Supply Master Plan process, and bi-annual budget development.
Monitoring	Water Supply and Demand Management Committee Recycled Water Committee
Related Staff Plans	 Water Supply Master Plan Annual Monitoring and Assessment Program (MAP) Updates





Objective 2	Secure existing water supplies and water supply infrastructure
Challenge/ Opportunity	The Water Supply Master Plan's "Ensure Sustainability" strategy includes securing existing water supplies and infrastructure. Valley Water's local and imported water supplies are vulnerable to climate change impacts, droughts, earthquakes, and regulatory requirements that may restrict the amount of available water.
FY25 Tactics	 Participate in and influence decisions regarding the Delta Conveyance Project. Participate in regional water supply resilience efforts. Build and maintain effective partnerships to increase resiliency. Complete and implement infrastructure master plans and asset management plans. Partner with the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) to ensure reliability of the South Bay Aqueduct.
Monitoring	 Water Supply and Demand Management Committee CIP Committee (infrastructure projects)
Related Staff Plans	 Water Supply Master Plan Groundwater Management Plan Infrastructure and Asset Management Plans





Objective 3	Lead purified water efforts with committed partners.
Challenge/ Opportunity	Recycled and purified water is a drought resilient, locally controlled water supply important to long-term sustainability. Purified water is recycled water that has been treated further using reverse osmosis and other advanced treatment to make it fit for drinking. Valley Water is pursuing indirect potable reuse which would use this purified water to replenish our groundwater. Implementation challenges include securing wastewater supply contractual agreements with wastewater agencies, available land, stringent regulatory requirements, and implementation costs.
FY25 Tactics	 Develop a Direct Potable Reuse Project in San José, including development of needed agreements, with a lease agreement and RFP issued for demonstration facility design services by end of FY25. Implement the Countywide Water Reuse Master Plan. Develop a Comprehensive Water Reuse Agreement for South County to advance water reuse and its production, distribution, and wholesaling in South County. Continue to pursue recycled water grant funding. Continue to expand communications strategies to increase public awareness and acceptance of the Purified Water Program. Increase outreach to key stakeholders such as elected officials, chambers of commerce, environmental groups, and community organizations to increase support for the expansion of purified water for potable reuse.
Monitoring	Recycled Water Committee
Related Staff Plans	 Water Supply Master Plan Countywide Water Reuse Master Plan





Objective 4	Complete the Anderson Dam Seismic Retrofit Project.
Challenge/ Opportunity	As our largest reservoir, Anderson serves not only as a critical water supply facility, but also supports Valley Water's mission of flood protection and environmental stewardship. Given the reservoir's critical importance to ensuring safe, clean water for our communities and to protect public safety, it is imperative that the Anderson Dam Seismic Retrofit Project (ADSRP) move forward expeditiously. This includes the reconstruction of the Dam and completion of the interim risk reduction measures resulting from the February 20, 2020 directive from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC).
FY25 Tactics	 Maintain the Anderson Reservoir level in compliance with the FERC mandate. Continue the construction on the Anderson Dam Tunnel Project (ADTP). Complete the 90% design documents of the ADSRP and explore ways to expedite the ADSRP. Continue to work with appropriate regulatory agencies to advance the ADSRP. Pursue necessary permits for ADSRP construction. Continue to educate and engage the public, key stakeholders, decision makers, and elected officials of the project progress and construction timeline. Coordinate ADSRP operations with the Fisheries and Aquatic Habitat Collaborative Effort (FAHCE). Compile lessons learned during the design, permitting and construction of the ADSRP to inform future capital project delivery.
Monitoring	 Capital Improvement Program Committee Stream Planning and Operations Committee
Related Staff Plans	 Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program Fish Habitat Restoration Plan Coyote Feasibility Study Water Supply Master Plan Capital Improvement Program Ogier Ponds Feasibility Study





Objective 5	Make water conservation a California way of life in Santa Clara County.
Challenge/ Opportunity	Droughts are a recurring feature of California's climate and may intensify with climate change. Water conservation is an essential component in providing a reliable water supply and Valley Water has set an aggressive water conservation goal for annual water savings of 99,000 acre-feet (AF) by 2030 and 109,000 AF by 2040. As Valley Water faces challenges from climate change and drought, water conservation will continue to be amongst the most cost-effective tools for efficiently meeting current and future demands while mitigating droughts. By implementing the guiding principles in the Board's resolution calling for conservation as a way of life on June 13, 2023, Valley Water will continue encouraging water conservation as a life-long habit and seek to keep drought-level participation and engagement in conservation programs.
FY25 Tactics	 Continue achieving water savings from the public and minimize water use increasing to pre- drought levels through continued water waste restriction enforcement, year-round educational outreach, media campaigns and effective water conservation campaigns to encourage conservation as a way of life.
	 Increase collaboration with our retailer partners to promote Valley Water's water conservation programs.
	 Engage and support private-sector stakeholders, local, state, and federal agencies that promote water conservation.
	 Increase participation of local businesses and corporations so they may partake in conservation efforts and programs.
	 Ensure water conservation programs are available to all sectors of the community and support disadvantaged community members as well as renters, seniors, and U.S. veterans.
	 Adopt new water conservation goals for inclusion in the Water Supply Master Plan 2050.
	 Develop and implement a Drought Response Plan with support and input from our retailer partners and the broader community.
	 Continue to pursue the "no regrets" package as part of the Water Supply Master Plan, which addresses advanced metering infrastructure, Graywater Rebate Program expansion, leak repair incentives, Model Water Efficient New Development Ordinance, and stormwater capture (agricultural land recharge, stormwater recharge, rain barrel rebates, and rain garden rebates).
	 Continue advocacy with cities with a target for FY25 that three of the cities or 20% of jurisdictions in Santa Clara County adopt a Model Water Efficient New Development Ordinance (MWENDO), either in whole or in part, to support cities' interests in expanding water efficiency measures for new developments.
Monitoring	Water Supply and Demand Management Committee
Related Staff	Water Conservation Strategic Plan
Plans	Stormwater Resource Plans
	Water Supply Master Plan
	Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program



NATURAL FLOOD PROTECTION

GOAL: Provide natural flood protection to reduce risk and improve health and safety.

Objective 1	Protect people and property from flooding equitably in all regions of the County, prioritizing disadvantaged communities, by applying a comprehensive, integrated watershed management approach that balances environmental quality, environmental justice impacts, sustainability, and cost.
Challenge/ Opportunity	Valley Water is challenged to sustain ecosystem health while managing local water resources for flood protection and water supply. By using an integrated approach to planning and design, there is an opportunity to create flood protection projects with multiple benefits, while ensuring disadvantaged communities, as well as schools, senior centers, and group homes for youth and individuals with disabilities, etc., are equitably represented.
FY25 Tactics	Strengthen partnerships with the county and local municipalities to improve collaboration and coordination on flood protection projects and areas that are subject to flooding.
	 Complete Flood Vulnerability Assessments for the Lower Peninsula and West Valley Watersheds to identify areas that flood on a regular basis (One Water).
	• Ensure active participation by county and local municipal governments in the watershed planning process.
	 Continue construction of Reaches 1-3 of the Shoreline Phase I Project and pursue funding alternatives for Reaches 4-5 to provide 100-year coastal flood risk management, ecosystem restoration, recreational opportunities, and resiliency for sea level rise.
	 Finalize Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) funding agreement and begin construction for Phase 2B.
	• Explore federal funding and grant opportunities to advance the Palo Alto Flood Basin Project into construction, a repair project to ensure a functional flood basin with wetland habitat.
	 Advance the Sunnyvale East/West Channels Project into construction to provide 100-year storm water flood protection.
	Work with USACE to design Upper Guadalupe River Project to provide 100-year flood protection.
	 Continue to partner with the San Francisquito Joint Powers Authority (JPA) on the San Francisquito Creek upstream 101 Project.
	• Determine what policy role Valley Water should play with the San Francisquito Creek JPA, including determining what entity should be responsible for ongoing operations and maintenance.
	Continue design and construction of the Coyote Creek Flood Mitigation and Flood Protection Projects
Monitoring	Capital Improvement Program Committee
	Board Policy and Monitoring Committee
	Safe Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program Independent Monitoring Committee
Related Staff	Watersheds Management Plans (One Water)
Plans	Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program

15



ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

GOAL: Sustain ecosystem health while managing local water resources for flood protection and water supply.

Objective 1	Plan and design projects with multiple benefits, including protecting ecosystem functions, enhancing habitat, and improving connectivity, equitably in all regions of the County.
Challenge/ Opportunity	Valley Water's projects and programs require integrated planning to ensure capital improvements, operations, and maintenance activities are balanced with environmental stewardship goals. Valley Water strives to protect and restore habitats to support native species throughout Santa Clara County.
FY25 Tactics	Continue to develop watershed management plans, including appropriate metrics to monitor Valley Water's impacts on and benefit to the environment.
	 Complete Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan as part of the Climate Change Action Plan implementation.
	 Complete planning phase for the San Tomas Calabazas Creek Marsh Reconnection Project, and 30% Design for the Ogier Ponds Separation from Coyote Creek and Moffett Fish Ladder projects.
	 Make significant progress on the grant-funded planning study for the San Tomas Aquino Calabazas Creek Realignment Project (which includes Pond A4).
	 Initiate access improvements and beneficial reuse of sediment at Pond A4.
	 Continue to develop and build on partnerships with environmental organizations and tribal communities when developing projects.
Monitoring	Board Policy and Monitoring Committee
	Capital Improvement Committee
	Stream Planning and Operations Committee
Related Staff	Watershed Management Plans (One Water)
Plans	Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plans
	Climate Change Action Plan



Objective 2	Protect creeks, bay, and other aquatic ecosystems from threats of pollution and degradation.
Challenge/ Opportunity	Valley Water continues to coordinate with local cities and agencies to improve the health of our local waterways, including pollution prevention and addressing threats to water quality. Opportunities exist to further collaborate with the County, cities, and social services agencies on encampment management efforts and to develop long-term solutions for unhoused individuals to keep our creeks clean.
FY25 Tactics	 Continue efforts to protect the ecosystem and water quality of our water bodies and the integrity of our infrastructure. Such efforts include preventing stormwater pollution, increased implementation of green stormwater infrastructure, addressing mercury pollution, encampment clean ups, and other efforts under Safe Clean Water B and F priorities.
	 Continue partnership with City of San José to continue trash rafts removals.
	 Continue partnerships and investments on a regional scale such as the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration and Santa Clara Valley Urban Runoff Pollution Prevention Program (SCVURPPP).
	 Initiate Clean Camps Clean Creeks and portable toilet facility programs.
	 Finalize Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with City of San José to holistically manage encampments on waterways throughout the City, including within the City's stormwater Municipal Regional Permit (MRP) discharge sites.
	Continue opportunities for volunteers to support cleanup efforts and events.
	Support legislative efforts to eliminate or reduce waste entering waterways.
	 Pursue MOAs with local municipalities and the County to holistically manage encampments on waterways.
Monitoring	Environmental Creek Cleanup Committee
Related Staff	One Water Plan
Plans	Santa Clara Valley Urban Runoff Pollution Prevention Program
	Stormwater Resource Plan
	Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program



Objective 3	Complete and implement the Fisheries and Aquatic Habitat Collaborative Effort (FAHCE) agreement.
Challenge/ Opportunity	For over 25 years, Valley Water has been working to resolve compliance challenges and disagreements surrounding fish, wildlife, water quality, and other beneficial uses in Coyote Creek, Guadalupe River, and Stevens Creek watershed areas. Challenges to fully implementing the FAHCE agreement include obtaining federal and state permits from multiple regulatory agencies, refining and processing water rights change petitions, the technical complexity of the fisheries impacts analysis, coordination with other ongoing related projects, and managing stakeholder expectations.
FY25 Tactics	 Finalize 10 water right change petitions for securing water right orders. Continue to implement the FAHCE Plus pilot flow program in Guadalupe and Stevens Creek. Continue to implement feasibility studies, monitoring activities, and planning for various fish passage and habitat improvements as identified in existing stakeholder agreement. Continue fisheries monitoring program. Continue to support an adaptive management program that encompasses all three creeks. Continue coordination with the ADSRP project. Complete 30% Design of the Moffett Fish Ladder Improvement Project, a Phase 1 measure. Initiate planning for Fremont Fish Ladder or one additional fish passage barrier project.
Monitoring	Stream Planning and Operations Committee
Related Staff Plans	 Fish Habitat Restoration Plan for Coyote Creek, Guadalupe River, and Stevens Creek Watersheds Seismic Retrofit Programs for Dam Safety Aquatic habitat restoration plans/feasibility studies/site-specific improvements affecting all three watersheds (e.g., Countywide Large Woody Debris Program) Collaborative agreements for in-stream habitat improvements (e.g., Singleton Fish Barrier Removal with City of San José, Ogier Pond Feasibility Study in collaboration with the County) Watershed Management Plans (One Water) Ogier Ponds Planning Study Report





ADDRESSING ENCAMPMENTS OF UNSHELTERED PEOPLE

GOAL: Humanely assist in the permanent relocation of unsheltered people on Valley Water lands along waterways and at water supply and flood risk reduction facilities in order to address the human health, public safety, operational, and environmental challenges posed by encampments.

Objective 1

Collaborate with agencies and other service providers to address the challenges posed by encampments and their impacts to waterways, water supply and flood risk reduction facilities, including supporting the provision of outreach, counseling, transitional or affordable housing, or other services by these agencies and service providers.

Challenge/ Opportunity

The number of unsheltered individuals living in Santa Clara County has increased by 34 percent in the last six years, rising from 7,394 in 2017 to 9,903 in 2023, according to the Homeless Point-in-Time Count and Survey. In 2023, 75% of the unhoused population in the county were unsheltered, and Valley Water estimates that over 911 have taken refuge on Valley Water's property or land easements. The waterways in Santa Clara County are flashy, meaning seemingly small creeks quickly can turn into raging torrents, surprising unsheltered people often hidden in riparian vegetation and potentially resulting in drownings or serious injury. These riparian areas include threatened and endangered species, sensitive constructed and natural habitats, and public infrastructure that is critical to water supply, groundwater recharge, and flood risk reduction activities.

FY25 Tactics

- Play a leadership role in coordinating with the County, cities, and other service providers in a regional approach to safely relocate unsheltered individuals living along waterways and at water supply and flood risk reduction facilities, including but not limited to:
 - Pursuing facilitation of a countywide summit to improve coordination among public agencies;
 - Exploring the creation of a joint committee with members of our Board and City of San Jose Councilmembers to address unhoused issues;
 - Discussing potential MOAs with other agencies to holistically address encampments of unsheltered individuals on waterways; and
 - Supporting development of housing alternatives, such as emergency or transitional housing, as well as the feasibility of exchanging Valley Water properties for potential development.
- Implement the Clean Camps Clean Creeks Program.
- Continue to manage the Portable Toilet Facility Program.
- Continue to provide outreach services to unsheltered individuals living within waterways and at water supply and flood risk reduction facilities countywide through Valley Water's agreement with Santa Clara County.
- Extend the agreement with City of San José to provide comprehensive services to unsheltered individuals living within the high-risk flood zones of the Coyote Creek project footprint.
- Collaborate with City of San José on its Storm Water permit requirements and Coyote Creek Flood Protection Project encampment relocation.



ADDRESSING ENCAMPMENTS OF UNSHELTERED PEOPLE

FY25 Tactics	 Continue to geospatially locate encampments located on Valley Water lands along waterways and at water supply and flood risk reduction facilities to measure effectiveness of collaborative efforts. Continue to seek state and federal grants and other support with the intent to work with local cities or the County to construct low-barrier navigation centers, supportive housing, transitional housing, affordable housing, or other facilities to assist unsheltered people.
Monitoring	Environmental Creek Cleanup Committee
Related Staff Plans	





ADDRESSING ENCAMPMENTS OF UNSHELTERED PEOPLE

Objective 2	Collaborate with the County and municipal partners to secure the safety of unsheltered people living on Valley Water lands along waterways and at water supply and flood risk reduction facilities, as well as secure the safety of residential neighbors and Valley Water staff.
Challenge/ Opportunity	There are a number of growing safety concerns and challenges for the large number of unsheltered individuals and families living in encampments along waterways and water resource facilities with many of these located in high-risk flood areas and vulnerable to the perils of rushing stormwaters in creeks, which can result in serious injury or fatalities. There are additional challenges, concerns and risks for Valley Water staff who work to manage encampment generated trash and debris as well as community members who reside in the proximity of existing encampments. Valley Water staff managing cleanup operations and maintenance of and around encampments are frequently exposed to weapons, biowaste, and dangerous animals (oftentimes off-leash dogs), and at times aggressive and intimidating behavior from unhoused individuals. Staff require support from jurisdictional police departments (PD) to provide a safe environment when carrying out cleanup and maintenance operations, which increases operational costs for added security and places limitations on the operation schedule contingent on PD availability, potentially causing delays in important services (such as facility inspections, vegetation management, flood protection, and biological surveys). Lastly, residential neighbors have a similar level of exposure to some of these dangers, including wildfire hazards that can occur from campfires, solar panels and use of propane tanks in vegetated areas.
FY25 Tactics	 Coordinate with the County and municipal partners, in a regional approach to identify lands to provide transitional or affordable housing or other services, allowing for unsheltered individuals and families to be safely relocated from flood risk areas, and reducing challenges for Valley Water staff performing operations and maintenance along waterways and at water supply and flood risk reduction facilities.
	 Continue working with the County, municipal partners and police departments to support Valley Water staff safety, as well as the public safety of unsheltered individuals and residential neighbors, when conducting encampment cleanup operations and maintenance activities.
	Continue to perform weed abatement and fuel reduction work around encampments to reduce wildfire risks.
	 Continue to provide outreach services to unsheltered individuals living within waterways and at water supply and flood risk reduction facilities countywide through the agreement with Santa Clara County.
	 Extend the agreement with City of San José to provide comprehensive services to unsheltered individuals living within the high-risk flood zones of the Coyote Creek project footprint.
	• Pursue MOAs with local municipalities and the County to holistically manage encampments on waterways.
	 Pursue the creation of a joint committee with members of our Board and City of San Jose Councilmembers to address unhoused issues.
	• Pursue facilitating a countywide summit to address encampments of unhoused individuals this fiscal year.
Monitoring	Environmental Creek Cleanup Committee
Related Staff Plans	



CLIMATE CHANGE

GOAL: Mitigate carbon emissions and adapt Valley Water operations to climate change impacts.

Objective 1	Address future impacts of climate change to Valley Water's mission and operations.
Challenge/ Opportunity	Valley Water's ability to fulfill its mission will be challenged in the future by warmer temperatures, changing precipitation patterns, reduced snowpack, and rising sea levels. Valley Water has been working on greenhouse reduction efforts since 2008 and many adaptation actions over the past decade; however, with adoption of the Climate Change Action Plan there is an opportunity for greater impact.
FY25 Tactics	 Finalize Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Reduction Plan and CEQA checklist to update GHG inventory methodology to include all Valley Water activities and identify specific and measurable actions to reduce emissions and streamline CEQA for future capital projects. Continue to monitor progress on adaptation actions as identified in the Climate Change Action Plan and support high priority projects such as the South San Francisco Bay Shoreline. Ensure incorporation of environmental justice (EJ) considerations into planning and processes to support mitigation of carbon emissions and climate change impacts. Explore opportunities for carbon sequestration in all our programs and projects.
Monitoring	Board Policy and Monitoring Committee
Related Staff Plans	Climate Change Action PlanGreenhouse Gas Reduction Plan





BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

GOAL: Promote effective management of water supply, flood protection, and environmental stewardship through responsive and socially responsible business services.

Objective 1	Incorporate racial equity, diversity and inclusion throughout Valley Water as a core value.
Challenge/ Opportunity	Valley Water is committed to creating and maintaining a diverse, inclusive, and equitable work environment that is devoid of discrimination and harassment and provides equal opportunity employment and advancement. Valley Water aims to implement the same values in the community through its water supply, flood protection, and environmental stewardship projects and has an opportunity to serve as a leader for racial equity, diversity, and inclusion throughout the state.
FY25 Tactics	 Continue to monitor implementation of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion strategic initiatives that institute best practices to address internal and external disparities and builds an organizational culture that is consistent with the Board's Resolution addressing racial equity, diversity, and inclusion.
	 Remain committed to environmental justice and the fair treatment and meaningful engagement of all people regardless of race, color, sex, gender, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, disability status (mental and physical), medical condition, genetic information, ancestry, national origin, immigration status, age, marital status, tribe, culture, income, religion, military status, or English language proficiency, with respect to the planning, projects, policies, services, and operations of Valley Water.
	 Continue to collaborate with external stakeholders that are engaged in developing diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives and actively participate in and provide leadership for diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts throughout the state.
	Continue to advance and foster mutually beneficial partnerships with regional tribal communities.
Monitoring	Board Policy and Monitoring Committee
Related Staff Plans	



Objective 2	Maintain budgeted staffing levels and expertise, prioritize the safety of our staff, and build and sustain an inclusive and equitable working environment for all staff and partners while ensuring fair employment.
Challenge/ Opportunity	The Board recognizes that Valley Water's workforce is the critical component to providing clean, safe drinking water, effective flood protection, and environmental stewardship. The Board therefore remains committed to supporting the recruitment of capable employees with knowledge and subject matter expertise, investing in staff training to meet changing skills and capacity needs, developing the necessary policies and guidance that strengthen employee safety, and establishing Valley Water as an employer of choice.
FY25 Tactics	 Implement an automated forecasting tool to develop and finalize a long-term staffing strategy that aligns with future capital and operational needs.
	 Continue to implement initiatives that will expand hiring outreach to individuals that are disabled or have health conditions/impairments, military veterans, and formerly incarcerated individuals, with an emphasis on hiring from the local region.
	 Continue to implement next generation and career pathways program to provide internal and external development for professional growth.
	Advance the development of a skilled trades apprenticeship program.
	 Maximize the safety of staff working in creeks, encampments, and Valley Water facilities, and continue to promote health & safety guidance to protect staff from public health emergencies and environmental impacts.
Monitoring	Board Policy and Monitoring Committee
Related Staff Plans	





Objective 3	Provide affordable and cost-effective level of services.
Challenge/ Opportunity	The Board understands its responsibility to regularly evaluate and monitor Valley Water's financial status to ensure the level of services provided are reasonable and cost effective. As such, driving continual improvement efforts are key to delivering affordable and effective services while controlling expectations regarding what Valley Water can achieve and what it can afford to do. In addition, the affordability of water continues to be a major issue faced by communities across the nation, particularly disadvantaged communities. The Board has an opportunity to raise issues around water affordability at local and statewide levels and advocate for changes that benefit disadvantaged communities.
FY25 Tactics	 Complete 3-4 Board-initiated or management-initiated performance audits, or other performance improvement efforts, benchmarking studies, or best practice implementations. Establish Valley Water as a statewide leader in conversations around water affordability. Continue to seek and obtain grants and funding from federal, state and other sources.
Monitoring	Board Audit Committee
Related Staff Plans	 Operating and Capital Budget Board and Management Audit Reports



Appendix A

Board Governance Policies/Ends Policies

The Board has adopted **Board Governance Policies** which describe how the board conducts its business, what they have directed the Board Appointed Officers (BAO) to accomplish, and constraints on the BAOs that establish prudent and ethical boundaries within which all activity and decisions must take place.

Ends Policies, also referred to as **Long Term Goals and Objectives**, provide direction to the BAOs to accomplish Valley Water's mission.

A full list of the Board Governance Policies can be found here: https://www.valleywater.org/how-we-operate/board-governance-policies

Ends Policy E-1: Mission and General Principles

In implementing Board directions, staff will be guided by the following general principles:

- 1.1. An integrated, socially equitable, and balanced approach in managing a sustainable water supply, effective natural flood protection, and healthy watersheds is essential to the future of all communities served.
- 1.2. Effective public engagement by Valley Water is achieved through transparent, open communication that informs and generates participation among all communities, including disadvantaged communities, communities of color, and communities with limited English proficiency, as well as other key stakeholders.
- 1.3. Collaboration with government, academic, private, non-governmental, and non-profit organizations, as well as diverse and disadvantaged communities is integral to accomplishing the Valley Water mission.
- 1.4. A net positive impact on the environment and providing benefits equitably across all communities is required in order to accomplish the Valley Water mission.
- 1.5. Recognize that Valley Water operations and services are critical to the economic vitality of Silicon Valley, ensuring that economic benefits are equitable for all communities that we serve.
- 1.6. As standard practice, all work products shall be visually pleasing, sustainable, cost-effective, culturally appropriate, equitable across all communities, and reflect the characteristics of the surrounding urban setting and natural habitat using appropriate materials, colors, shapes, art works, vegetation, and surface treatments. This includes the naming of facilities in a manner that is respectful of all diverse communities.
- 1.7. Valley Water is committed to environmental justice and shall provide for the fair treatment and meaningful engagement of all people regardless of race, color, gender identity, disability status, national origin, tribe, culture, income, immigration status, or English language proficiency, with respect to the planning, projects, policies, services, and operations of Valley Water. Environmental Justice is achieved when all people receive:
 - equitable consideration in the planning and execution of flood protection, water supply, safe drinking water, water resources stewardship projects, and protection from environmental and health hazards, and
 - equal access to Valley Water's decision-making process.

Ends Policy E-2: Water Supply Services

Valley Water provides a reliable, safe, and affordable water supply for current and future generations in all communities served.

GOAL

2.1. Meet 100 percent of annual water demand during non-drought years and at least 80 percent of demand in drought years.

GOAL

2.2. Protect and sustain the county's existing, diverse water supplies.

Objectives

- 2.2.1. Manage groundwater to ensure sustainable supplies and avoid land subsidence.
- 2.2.2. Aggressively protect groundwater from the threat of contamination.
- 2.2.3. Protect imported water supplies and associated contracts and partnerships.
- 2.2.4. Protect and manage local surface water supplies and associated water rights.
- 2.2.5. Deliver reliable, high quality drinking water from water treatment plants.

GOAL

2.3. Protect and maintain existing water infrastructure.

Objectives

- 2.3.1. Plan for infrastructure maintenance and replacement to reduce risk of failure.
- 2.3.2. Prioritize funding for maintenance and replacement of existing water infrastruture over investments in new infrastructure.
- 2.3.3. Prepare for and respond effectively to water utility emergencies.

GOAL

2.4. Increase regional self-reliance through water conservation and reuse.

Objectives

- 2.4.1. Maximize utilization of all demand management tools.
- 2.4.2. Incentivize water use efficiency and water conservation.
- 2.4.3. Promote, protect and expand potable and non-potable water reuse.
- 2.4.4. Promote stormwater capture and reuse.

GOAL

2.5. Manage water resources using an integrated, science-based approach.

Objectives

- 2.5.1. Plan for future water supply needs.
- 2.5.2. Promote efficient and reliable operation of water supply systems.
- 2.5.3. Promote water supply projects with multiple benefits, including environmental stewardship and flood protection.
- 2.5.4. Invest in and rely on science to support planning and decision-making.
- 2.5.5. Build and maintain effective partnerships to achieve water supply goals.

GOAL

2.6. Promote access to equitable and affordable water supplies.

Objectives

- 2.6.1. Promote equal access to clean, safe, and affordable water supply across all communities served.
- 2.6.2. Maintain affordable water rates through cost-effective water supply investments and management.
- 2.6.3. Continue customer assistance and incentive programs.

Ends Policy E-3: Natural Flood Protection

Natural flood protection is provided to reduce risk and improve health and safety for residents, businesses, and visitors, now and into the future.

GOAL

3.1. Maintain flood protection facilities to design levels of protection.

Objectives

- 3.1.1. Prioritize maintenance of existing facilities over construction of new capital projects.
- 3.1.2. Inspect and maintain facilities on a regular basis.
- 3.1.3. Perform maintenance using maintenance guidelines updated on a regular basis.

GOAL

3.2. Assist people, businesses, schools, and communities to prepare for, respond to, and recover from flooding through equitable and effective engagement.

Objectives

- 3.2.1. Develop, maintain, and communicate emergency action plans.
- 3.2.2. Develop, maintain, and communicate flood information to the community.

- 3.2.3. Provide expertise in flood forecasting and flood warning systems to municipalities.
- 3.2.4. Provide expertise to encourage public agencies to reduce flood risk and protect floodplain benefits.

GOAL

3.3. Increase the health and safety of residents countywide by reducing community flood risk.

Objectives

- 3.3.1. Provide equitable, timely, and achievable flood protection for health and safety.
- 3.3.2. Protect people and property from flooding by applying a comprehensive, integrated watershed management approach that balances environmental quality, sustainability, and cost.

Ends Policy E-4: Water Resources Stewardship

Water resources stewardship protects and enhances ecosystem health.

GOAL

4.1. Use a science-based, inclusive approach to protect Santa Clara County's watersheds and aquatic ecosystems for current and future generations.

Objectives

- 4.1.1. Develop and share data to support resilient ecosystems and healthy populations of native species.
- 4.1.2. Monitor stream, reservoir, and Bay ecosystem health.
- 4.1.3. Use data to prioritize and equitably implement actions to reduce pollution, restore endangered species habitat, and enhance ecosystem function.

GOAL

4.2. Sustain ecosystem health while managing local water resources for flood protection and water supply.

Objectives

- 4.2.1. Plan and design projects with multiple benefits, including protecting ecosystem functions, enhancing habitat, and improving connectivity, equitably in all regions of the county.
- 4.2.2. Operate Valley Water facilities to balance water supply, flood protection, and ecosystem sustainability.

GOAL

4.3. Encourage inclusive, sustainable management of water resources in the Bay-Delta and its watersheds to protect imported water supply.

Objectives

- 4.3.1. Meet future water supply demand through diverse and coordinated water supply planning.
- 4.3.2. Promote holistic ecosystem management through science-based decision-making.
- 4.3.3. Actively engage in the protection of source water quality through collaboration and funding.

GOAL

4.4. Prevent and address pollution of local streams, reservoirs, and the Bay, equitably across all communities. Protect waterbodies from pollution and degradation.

Objectives

- 4.4.1. Encourage stormwater capture, treatment, and reuse.
- 4.4.2. Prepare and respond to spills and dumping that threaten local waterways.
- 4.4.3. Collaborate with agencies and nonprofits to address homelessness and its impacts to Santa Clara County Waterways.

GOAL

4.5. Engage the community to promote watershed stewardship by providing meaningful engagement in Valley Water programs for all people regardless of race, color, gender identity, disability status, national origin, tribe, culture, income, immigration status, or English language proficiency.

Objectives

- 4.5.1. Provide appropriate and equal public access to Valley Water's streamside and watershed lands.
- 4.5.2. Engage and educate the community in stream and watershed protection.
- 4.5.3. Build partnerships to protect and enhance watersheds and aquatic ecosystems.

Ends Policy E-5: Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation

Valley Water is carbon neutral and provides equitable, climate-resilient water supply, flood protection, and water resource stewardship to all communities in Santa Clara County. This will be accomplished through the implementation of the Climate Change Action Plan.

GOAL

5.1. Minimize greenhouse gas emissions from Valley Water's operations.

Objectives

- 5.1.1. Expand the use of clean technology in vehicles, equipment, and buildings, and develop carbon-efficient construction and service delivery practices.
- 5.1.2. Optimize energy use and expand renewable energy portfolio.
- 5.1.3. Incentivize low carbon practices, projects, and efforts by employees, contractors, and partners.

GOAL

5.2. Adapt Valley Water's assets and operations to reduce climate change impacts.

Objectives

- 5.2.1. Improve the resiliency of Santa Clara County's water supply to drought and other climate change impacts.
- 5.2.2. Provide equitable protection from sea level rise and flooding, prioritizing disadvantaged communities.
- 5.2.3. Improve ecosystem resiliency through water resources stewardship.
- 5.2.4. Prepare for climate-related emergencies and provide equal access to information and services, particularly to disadvantaged communities.

Ends Policy E-6: Encampments of Unsheltered People

Valley Water is committed, through a regional approach, to address the human health, safety, operational and environmental challenges posed by encampments of unsheltered people on Valley Water lands along waterways and at water supply and flood risk reduction facilities.

GOAL

6.1. Achieve a functional zero level of unsheltered people on Valley Water lands along waterways and at water supply and flood risk reduction facilities.

Objectives

- 6.1.1. Actively participate in a collaborative regional approach with the County, cities, and other service providers to support their efforts in addressing the challenges posed by encampments of unsheltered people.
- 6.1.2. Increase the level of service for encampment cleanup efforts based on need and resource availability.
- 6.1.3. Identify Valley Water lands for regional partners to use for housing or other services for unsheltered people.

Appendix B

Staff Program Plans and Master Plans

Program plans and master plans are developed by staff to achieve the Board's long-term goals and objectives in relation to Valley Water's mission and overall business management.

Below is a list of program and master plans that have been referenced in the Board Work Plan. Other plans not listed below can be obtained by contacting the Office of the Clerk of the Board at **(408) 630-2277** or *clerkoftheboard@valleywater.org*.

- Board Audit Reports
 https://www.valleywater.org/board-audit-committee-audit-reports
- Capital Improvement Program
 https://www.valleywater.org/how-we-operate/five-year-capital-improvement-program
- Climate Change Action Plan
 https://www.valleywater.org/your-water/water-supply-planning/climate-change-action-plan
- Countywide Water Reuse Master Plan
 https://www.valleywater.org/your-water/recycled-and-purified-water
- Groundwater Management Plan
 https://www.valleywater.org/your-water/where-your-water-comes/groundwater/sustainable
- Ogier Ponds Feasibility Study
 https://www.valleywater.org/project-updates/ogier-ponds-coyote-creek-separation-project
- One Water Plan https://www.valleywater.org/project-updates/one-water-plan
- Operating and Capital Budget https://www.valleywater.org/how-we-operate/financebudget
- Racial Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Master Plan https://www.valleywater.org/how-we-operate/about-valley-water/office-racial-equity-diversity-inclusion
- Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program
 https://www.valleywater.org/safe-clean-water-and-natural-flood-protection-program
- Santa Clara Valley Urban Runoff Pollution Prevention Program https://scvurppp.org/
- Stormwater Resource Plan https://scvurppp.org/swrp/
- Water Conservation Strategic Plan https://www.valleywater.org/droughtsaving-water/studies-and-reports
- Water Supply Master Plan
 https://www.valleywater.org/your-water/water-supply-planning/water-supply-master-plan
- Water Utility Infrastructure Master Plan
 https://www.valleywater.org/project-updates/water-utility-infrastructure-master-plan-implementation-projects



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