

FY2025-2026 BOARD WORK PLAN – STANDING ITEMS REPORT

July-December 2025

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.
Updates:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On August 29, 2025, Valley Water’s Board of Directors held a Special Workshop focused on its Capital Improvement Program. The goal of the workshop was to engage in constructive dialogue on the current challenges in executing Valley Water’s Capital Improvement Program, identify these challenges, their impacts, any financial gaps, and possible strategies related to each of Valley Water’s three primary revenue funding sources. • In October 2025 Valley Water started work on a project to inspect and repair the West Pipeline, one of the key parts of our water delivery network. Built in 1966, the West Pipeline carries treated drinking water from the Rinconada Water Treatment Plant in Los Gatos to local water retailers serving communities in Campbell, Cupertino, Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, Los Gatos, Mountain View, Santa Clara, Saratoga, Sunnyvale, and West San Jose. Crews will repair 25 sections along 2.8 miles of the West Pipeline, from More Avenue in Los Gatos to Cox Avenue in Saratoga. The work began in late October 2025 and will continue through April 2026. • On November 12, 2025, staff presented to the Board updates to the process for prioritizing Capital Improvement Program projects to better align project prioritization with risk to public health and safety, strategic goals, and financial feasibility, ensuring that limited funding is directed toward the most critical and impactful projects. • On December 9, 2025 the Board accepted the work as complete for the Santa Clara Conduit Inspection and Rehabilitation Project - Phase 2, as part of the 10-Year Pipeline Inspection and Rehabilitation Project. The Santa Clara Conduit (SCC) consists of approximately 22 linear miles of primarily 96-inch prestressed concrete cylinder pipe (PCCP). It conveys raw water from the Bifurcation structure near Casa De Fruta Parkway and Pacheco Pass Highway to the Coyote Pumping Plant in Morgan Hill. • In the summer of 2025, Valley Water completed a major upgrade to the Coyote Percolation Dam located in San Jose on Coyote Creek. Valley Water replaced the old flashboard dam with a state-of-the-art inflatable bladder dam. This modern system provides greater control, allowing us to raise or lower the dam to adapt to changing creek conditions. This enables us to maintain recharge operations during low flows and safely pass higher volumes of water during storms. This project also included a revamped fish passage and construction of a new operations control building.
Objective 2:	Improve internal capacity to negotiate and acquire regulatory permits.
Updates:	

Objective 3:	Educate and engage the community, elected officials and interested parties on our management of water resources in Santa Clara County.
Updates:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On August 19, 2025, Valley Water held a joint meeting with the City of San Jose Mayor and Councilmembers. The meeting included updates and discussion on the Ourified Water Project, the Anderson Dam Seismic Retrofit Project and Coyote Creek Flood Protection Project and the Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program. In August 2025 Valley Water was recognized by the National Association of Flood & Stormwater Management Agencies (NAFSMA) for its efforts in promoting public awareness about flooding and emergency preparedness during the past winter season. Winning NAFSMA's second-place award for Excellence in Communications underscores Valley Water's commitment to ensuring that residents in high-risk flood areas know the potential dangers, have signed up for alerts, and can find locations to obtain free sandbags in emergencies. On September 23, 2025 the Board directed staff to send a letter to cities in Santa Clara County encouraging participation in water conservation programs and promoting water use efficiency, and specifically encouraging participation in the Model Water Efficient New Development Ordinance (MWENDO). On November 25, 2025, the Board adopted a Resolution recognizing the City of Santa Clara for being the first City to adopt Model Water Efficient New Development Ordinance (MWENDO) Measures. By adopting MWENDO measures through the City's Rules and Regulations, the City demonstrates a proactive approach to maximizing water efficiency, water conservation, and enhancing resilience to local challenges such as climate variability, drought, and potential growth in water demand.

WATER SUPPLY GOAL: Provide a reliable, safe, and affordable water supply for current and future generations in all communities served.	
Objective 1:	Explore and pursue diversified, sustainable and cost-effective water storage opportunities.
Updates:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On August 26, 2025, the Board of Directors voted to suspend development of the Pacheco Reservoir Expansion Project. The decision followed a staff update that identified several challenges, including rising costs, longer timelines for environmental reviews, uncertainty in regulations, and complex permitting processes.
Objective 2:	Secure existing water supplies and water supply infrastructure
Updates:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the summer of 2025, Valley Water completed a major upgrade to the Coyote Percolation Dam located in San Jose on Coyote Creek. Valley Water replaced the old flashboard dam with a state-of-the-art inflatable bladder dam. This modern system provides greater control, allowing us to raise or lower the dam to adapt to changing creek conditions. This enables us to maintain recharge operations during low flows and safely pass higher volumes of water during storms. This project also included a revamped fish passage and construction of a new operations control building. On November 12, 2025 the Board adopted the Water Supply Master Plan 2050 (WSMP). The WSMP is Valley Water's guiding document for long-term water supply investments to ensure water supply reliability for Santa Clara County. Updated approximately every five years, this long-range plan assesses projected future county-wide demands and evaluates and recommends water supply and infrastructure projects to meet those demands to achieve Valley Water's level of service goal through the planning horizon. The plan has been updated to address existing and emerging challenges, like climate change and changes in water demand and supply.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On December 9, 2025 the Board accepted the work as complete for the Santa Clara Conduit Inspection and Rehabilitation Project - Phase 2, as part of the 10-Year Pipeline Inspection and Rehabilitation Project. The Santa Clara Conduit (SCC) consists of approximately 22 linear miles of primarily 96-inch prestressed concrete cylinder pipe (PCCP). It conveys raw water from the Bifurcation structure near Casa De Fruta Parkway and Pacheco Pass Highway to the Coyote Pumping Plant in Morgan Hill. In October 2025 Valley Water started work on a project to inspect and repair the West Pipeline, one of the key parts of our water delivery network. Built in 1966, the West Pipeline carries treated drinking water from the Rinconada Water Treatment Plant in Los Gatos to local water retailers serving communities in Campbell, Cupertino, Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, Los Gatos, Mountain View, Santa Clara, Saratoga, Sunnyvale, and West San Jose. Crews will repair 25 sections along 2.8 miles of the West Pipeline, from More Avenue in Los Gatos to Cox Avenue in Saratoga. The work began in late October 2025 and will continue through April 2026.
Objective 3:	Lead purified water efforts with committed partners.
Updates:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On September 12, 2025, Valley Water hosted the National Water Research Institute (NWRI) Independent Advisory Panel for a workshop focused on the Pure Water Silicon Valley Project. Staff presented on purified water public outreach efforts and the plans and considerations for the future. In 2025, staff hosted 1,591 members of the public through 86 in-person tours of the Silicon Valley Advanced Water Purification Center. Since the Purification Center opened in 2014, staff have hosted 21,451 members of the public through 988 tours, including recurring in-person public and private group tours, VIP tours, special events, and virtual tours. Valley Water is the first agency to bottle purified water for outreach purposes under new regulations established in 2017, the second agency in California, and third in the nation to bottle purified water for outreach and demonstration purposes as part of its comprehensive education program. In 2025, staff distributed 11,064 bottles at Purification Center tours, Valley Water events, community events, and through industry partners. All the purified water bottles were distributed before they expired in October 2025, and staff distributed a total of nearly 16,000 bottles between 2024 and 2025 which has been a great success. Staff are in the process of producing additional purified water bottles for distribution in 2026.
Objective 4:	Complete the Anderson Dam Seismic Retrofit Project.
Updates:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On July 8, 2025, the Board Accept the Work as Complete for the Coyote Percolation Dam Replacement Project. The Coyote Percolation Dam Replacement Project (Project) is one of several Anderson Dam Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Order Compliance Projects (FOCP), which are a set of interim risk reduction measures required prior to the construction and operation of the Anderson Dam Seismic Retrofit Project. The objective of this Project is to minimize the adverse impacts of groundwater recharge and increased creek flow velocity on aquatic resources by replacing the existing steel flashboard dam with a rubber bladder dam. The Project entailed the construction of a new dam foundation and rubber dam, a new control building to house the rubber dam air blowers, constructed erosion protection, and fish passage improvements to the existing fish ladder and downstream dam section.

Objective 5:	Make water conservation a California way of life in Santa Clara County.
Updates:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On September 23, 2025 the Board directed staff to send a letter to cities in Santa Clara County encouraging participation in water conservation programs and promoting water use efficiency, and specifically encouraging participation in the Model Water Efficient New Development Ordinance (MWENDO). • On November 25, 2025, the Board adopted a Resolution recognizing the City of Santa Clara for being the first City to adopt Model Water Efficient New Development Ordinance (MWENDO) Measures. By adopting MWENDO measures through the City's Rules and Regulations, the City demonstrates a proactive approach to maximizing water efficiency, water conservation, and enhancing resilience to local challenges such as climate variability, drought, and potential growth in water demand.

NATURAL FLOOD PROTECTION	
GOAL: Provide Natural Flood Protection to reduce risk and improve health and safety.	
Objective 1:	Protect people and property from flooding in all regions of the County by applying a comprehensive, integrated watershed management approach that balances environmental quality, environmental justice, sustainability, and cost.
Updates:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On September 18, 2025, Valley Water carefully relocated an 18,000-pound pedestrian bridge in Morgan Hill to make room for major flood protection improvements along West Little Llagas Creek, ensuring both safety and continued trail access for the community. • On September 25, 2025 Valley Water in collaboration with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the California State Coastal Conservancy, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, marked the completion of Reaches 1 through 3 levees of the South San Francisco Bay Shoreline Phase I Project—a major milestone in the region's effort to protect vulnerable communities and critical infrastructure from coastal flooding and sea-level rise. The milestone marks the construction of two miles of engineered coastal flood protection levee north of State Route 237, between Alviso Marina County Park and Don Edwards Wildlife Refuge. Additionally, this initial phase lays the groundwork for restoring 3,000 acres of tidal wetlands, a vital ecological buffer and habitat for endangered species. • On October 3, 2025 the Coyote Creek Flood Management Measures Project (CCFMMP) was awarded the 2025 Outstanding Flood Management Project Award from the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) San Francisco Section. The award recognized the CCFMMP for demonstrating excellence in its design and construction, specifically for its use of the hydraulic press-in method for the installation of sheet piles to lower construction noise and vibration to minimize impacts to local residents and businesses as well as staying on a tight schedule despite several setbacks. • In October 2025, Valley Water completed its annual Stream Maintenance Program (SMP) work for 2025 throughout Santa Clara County. Under the SMP, work occurs annually to reduce the risk of flooding and fire, keep our creeks healthy, and improve the environment. As part of Valley Water's SMP work, crews have been trekking into streams to remove sediment build-up, manage vegetation, clear trash and debris, and stabilize banks eroded during high water flows. The SMP ensures streams with completed flood protection projects continue functioning and protecting homes, businesses, schools, and highways. • On October 28, 2025, the Board received an update on the San Francisquito Creek Flood Protection Project from the San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority *(SFCJPA) and approved of a portion of Valley Water's Fiscal Year 2025-2026 annual member contribution to the SFCJPA operating budget for "Capital Expenditures".

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On October 30, 2025 Valley Water’s Office of Emergency Services (OES) hosted its annual Winter Preparedness Workshop for external agencies that included the County of Santa Clara, City of San Jose, City of Palo Alto, City of Milpitas, City of Morgan Hill and many others. The purpose of the workshop is to inform agency partners of Valley Water preparedness efforts for the Winter season. • On November 12, 2025, the Board received its annual Winter Preparedness Briefing which provides information regarding various measures Valley Water has taken to prepare for the Winter season including its flood awareness campaign and community outreach, emergency action planning and coordination with local agencies.
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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 in all regions of the County.
Updates:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the summer of 2025, Valley Water completed a major upgrade to the Coyote Percolation Dam located in San Jose on Coyote Creek. Valley Water replaced the old flashboard dam with a state-of-the-art inflatable bladder dam. This modern system provides greater control, allowing us to raise or lower the dam to adapt to changing creek conditions. This enables us to maintain recharge operations during low flows and safely pass higher volumes of water during storms. This project also included a revamped fish passage and construction of a new operations control building. • On September 18, 2025, Valley Water carefully relocated an 18,000-pound pedestrian bridge in Morgan Hill to make room for major flood protection improvements along West Little Llagas Creek, ensuring both safety and continued trail access for the community. • On September 25, 2025 Valley Water in collaboration with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the California State Coastal Conservancy, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, marked the completion of Reaches 1 through 3 levees of the South San Francisco Bay Shoreline Phase I Project—a major milestone in the region’s effort to protect vulnerable communities and critical infrastructure from coastal flooding and sea-level rise. The milestone marks the construction of two miles of engineered coastal flood protection levee north of State Route 237, between Alviso Marina County Park and Don Edwards Wildlife Refuge. Additionally, this initial phase lays the groundwork for restoring 3,000 acres of tidal wetlands, a vital ecological buffer and habitat for endangered species. • In November 2025, Valley Water partnered with Trout Unlimited to remove Pickell’s Dam, once a century-old barrier on Little Arthur Creek that no longer served a purpose but continued to block steelhead migration and disrupt the creek’s natural process. Located about a mile upstream from Uvas Creek, the barrier cut off more than three miles of spawning habitat for South-Central California Coast Steelhead, a species listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. Valley Water funded, permitted and provided biological support for the project, while Trout Unlimited, a national nonprofit with expertise in habitat restoration, managed design and implementation. The National Marine Fisheries Service, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band also played key roles in the effort.

Objective 2:	Protect creeks, bay, and other aquatic ecosystems from threats of pollution and degradation.
Updates:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On September 20, 2025 Valley Water joined forces with the Creek Connections Action Group to remove litter and debris from creeks across Santa Clara County. The effort reflects a shared commitment to protecting the environment, supporting healthy ecosystems and preventing trash from entering our waterways and ultimately, the San Francisco and Monterey bays. Local cleanups were part of the larger effort organized by the California Coastal Commission. This year's cleanups in Santa Clara County saw an incredible turnout: 1,911 volunteers, 56 cleanup sites, 76.15 miles of waterways cleaned, and approximately 30,885 pounds of trash and recyclables collected.
Objective 3:	Complete and implement the Fisheries and Aquatic Habitat Collaborative Effort (FAHCE) agreement.
Updates:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On November 18, 2025 Valley Water held a Stream Planning and Operations Committee (SPOC) Meeting and received an update from staff on FAHCE implementation activities that have occurred since the last regular SPOC meeting on August 20, 2024 including stakeholder and adaptive management meetings, the completion of the first Annual Monitoring Report, and the release of a public outreach video On September 11, 2025, Valley Water revised and redistributed to the Adaptive Management Team (AMT) a Draft Annual Report of the implementation of FAHCE-Plus flow measures at Lexington, Calero, Guadalupe, Almaden, and Stevens Creek reservoirs in accordance with the adaptive management framework outlined in the Fish Habitat Restoration Plan. On October 2, 2025, Valley Water received a first-place STAR Award from the California Association of Public Information Officials (CAPIO) for the video, "A Story of Resilience," showcasing the FAHCE program. The video highlights Valley Water's biologists as they monitor Central California Coast steelhead. The video shows the team collecting critical data on fish populations, using electrofishing and tagging to track juvenile steelhead as they migrate from local creeks through San Francisco Bay to the Pacific Ocean. The video has reached over 75,000 views on Valley Water's social media platforms.

ADDRESSING ENCAMPMENTS OF UNSHELTERED PEOPLE GOAL: Safeguard water resources and facilities from encampment impacts.	
Objective 1:	Protect waterways and facilities from encampment impacts while collaborating with community partners and supporting regional efforts to reduce homelessness.
Updates:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In November 2025, Valley Water worked in collaboration with City of Gilroy officials and law enforcement as well as local unhoused advocates to clear two large encampments in Gilroy that were impacting critical access to nearby creeks. Having safe access to waterways is important as Valley Water prepares for the winter storm season. Additionally, the safety of Valley Water staff who regularly work along County waterways remains a top priority for the agency.
Objective 2:	Protect the safety of Valley Water staff, residential neighbors, and unhoused individuals by working independently and in partnership with law enforcement agencies.
Updates:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In November 2025, Valley Water worked in collaboration with City of Gilroy officials and law enforcement as well as local unhoused advocates to clear two large encampments in Gilroy that were impacting critical access to nearby creeks. Having safe access to waterways is important as Valley Water prepares for the winter storm season. Additionally, the safety of Valley Water staff who regularly work along County waterways remains a top priority for the agency.

EXTREME WEATHER EVENTS GOAL: Mitigate carbon emissions and adapt Valley Water operations to extreme weather events.	
Objective:	Address future impacts of extreme weather events to Valley Water’s mission and operations.
Updates:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On June 9, 2025, Valley Water’s Board Policy and Monitoring Committee received an update on Valley Water’s Draft Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan (GHGRP), including baseline emissions inventory, emissions forecast, emissions reduction measures for achieving carbon neutrality by 2045, and stakeholder input received on the Draft GHGRP.

BUSINESS MANAGEMENT GOAL: Promote effective management of water supply, flood protection, and environmental stewardship through responsive and socially responsible business services.	
Objective 1:	Maintain budgeted staffing levels and expertise, prioritize the safety of our staff, and build and sustain a collaborative working environment for all staff and partners while ensuring fair employment.
Updates:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On December 10, 2025 Valley Water Human Resources staff gave a presentation to the Board Policy and Monitoring Committee on the agency’s commitment and efforts to creating equitable hiring opportunities for U.S. military veterans, including implementing a Veteran Hiring Pledge, publishing a dedicated Valley Water Veteran career page, instituting a Veteran preference at the application stage, and targeted outreach to veterans groups.
Objective 2:	Provide affordable and cost-effective level of services.
Updates:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On October 30, 2025, Valley Water hosted its Procurement “Meet the Primes” event in the Water Quality Lab parking lot. The two-hour event brought together more than 100 businesses, including prime consultants and contractors, sub-consultants, sub-contractors, and suppliers. The purpose of the event was to create a direct connection between small and diverse businesses and Valley Water staff, while also promoting collaboration among vendors. This initiative supports Valley Water’s ongoing commitment to expanding access to contracting and to strengthening the vendor community that supports our projects and programs. On November 11, 2025 the Board received information from two consultants who together performed a study to validate or suggest refinements to Valley Water’s current water use projections for Valley Water-managed water use, analyze water demand elasticity, and determine or address the affordability of water to residents and businesses within Santa Clara County. The study showed Valley Water’s approach to projecting water use is consistent with peers and based on multiple affordability indicators, residential water bills are generally below threshold levels. On December 9, 2025 the Board approved the proposed audit topics and auditor assignments for the 2026 Annual Audit Plan, including the development of the 2026 Risk Assessment, evaluating Valley Water’s infrastructure maintenance programs, conducting a Pacheco Reservoir Expansion Project closeout audit, and evaluating the investigations process.

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