

San Francisquito Creek Project Timeline



1998

During the February 1998 El Nino event a flood of record on San Francisquito Creek caused an estimated \$28 million in damages in Palo Alto, East Palo Alto, and Menlo Park. The impact of this flood event was widespread because San Francisquito Creek runs along the border of San Mateo and Santa Clara counties.

1999

The cities of East Palo Alto, Palo Alto, Menlo Park, the San Mateo County Flooding and Sea Level Resiliency District, and Valley Water formed the San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority (SFCJPA) to lead projects that mitigate the risk of flooding along San Francisquito Creek and the Bay.

2000

The Clean, Safe Creeks and Natural Flood Protection Plan (Clean, Safe Creeks Plan) was approved by voters, providing funding for the San Francisquito Creek Flood Protection Project.

2009

The Project was separated into two reaches: Reach 1 was the San Francisco Bay to Highway 101; and Reach 2 was focused on Upstream of Highway 101.

2012

The Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program was approved by voters and replaced the Clean, Safe Creeks Plan in entirety. Work continued with planning and design, with Valley Water providing technical expertise and support in the management of the design consultant.

2014

SFCJPA member agencies entered into a construction funding agreement for the SF Bay to Highway 101 project (Reach 1) with Valley Water providing the bulk of the construction funding, which required shifting funds originally planned for use on the Upstream of Highway 101 project (Reach 2)

2015

Valley Water's role as the lead for construction of Reach 1 was established in a Construction Management agreement between the SFCJPA and Valley Water.

2016

Based on an agreement with the SFCJPA, Valley Water bid and awarded a construction contract for the Reach 1 Project and served as the construction lead.

2019

Construction of Reach 1 was completed, providing 100-year (1%) flood protection downstream of Highway 101.

2019

An Environmental Impact Report (EIR) was adopted by the SFCJPA Board. Valley Water utilized existing on-call consultant agreements to issue task orders for design and the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) CAP 205 study for channel widening began for the Upstream of Highway 101 reach (Reach 2).

2020

In November the renewed Safe, Clean Water Program was approved by voters.

2021

The Safe, Clean Water Program's Independent Monitoring Committee recommended that the Board initiate the first of the Program's required independent professional audits earlier than the planned initiation for the 5th year of the Program. The Board directed staff to first initiate a closeout audit of the 2012 Safe, Clean Water Program. After its completion, staff initiated the audit for the renewed Safe, Clean Water Program.

2022

Valley Water issued task order for channel widening design.

2022

The December 31, 2022 flood event produced the second-highest of recorded flows.

2023

In May 2023, Valley Water sent a letter to request guidance from the SFCJPA on the desired design flow, which also confirmed Valley Water is leading the design of several project elements.

2023

In June 2023, Valley Water submitted a technical memoranda on updated stream hydrology and capacity based on findings from the December 31, 2022 flood event to the SFCJPA.

2023

In September of 2023 the SFCJPA response letter stated that the SFCJPA would conduct an independent analysis of hydraulics and updated capacity, and will confirm the design with its members and would provide its findings to Valley Water.

2024

In February 2024, an independent review led by the SFCJPA was completed and confirmed Valley Water's hydrology and updated capacity findings. **The results required a reevaluation and redesign of the Reach 2 Project.***

2025

In the fall of 2025, the renewed Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program audit was completed. The audit was conducted by PMA Consultants and evaluated the Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program's implementation from July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2024. The audit identified nine findings and included recommendations to review and update certain project KPIs to ensure they remain financially sustainable, aligned with current project activities, and clearly reflect project scope and intended deliverables. The audit report can be found at tinyurl.com/SCWauditFY22-24.

2025

The Board received the Audit Report on November 12, 2025, and directed that the appropriate Board committee evaluate the Auditor's recommendations and determine whether KPI revisions were warranted. The Board Policy and Monitoring Committee (BPMC) was assigned.

2026

On April 21, 2026, the BPMC reviewed proposed revisions to the KPIs of the renewed Safe, Clean Water Program, which included a review of the proposed modified KPI language for the San Francisquito Creek Flood Protection Project (Project E5) and a staff recommended modification to Project F6, the Good Neighbor Program: Graffiti and Litter Removal and Public Art. **Following staff's presentation, the SFCJPA Executive Director made a public comment in support of the proposed revisions to Project E5, the San Francisquito Creek Flood Protection Project.** To view the April 21, 2026, BMPC meeting, visit: <https://fta.valleywater.org/dl/JqPTJw6xykH6>

2026

On June 23, 2026, the Valley Water Board of Directors reviewed proposed modifications to Projects E5 and F6 and set the time and place for a public hearing on the proposed modifications to Projects E5 and F6 of the Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program for 1:00 PM on July 14, 2026, at the Santa Clara Valley Water District Boardroom, 5700 Almaden Expressway, San Jose, California, and via Teleconference Zoom Board Meeting

***As of June 2026, the SFCJPA is continuing to re-evaluate and re-design the Reach 2 Project.**

The proposed modification to the KPI does not reduce the project's funding under the Safe, Clean Water Program. Because the project has not yet been fully defined or designed by the SFCJPA, and the benefit to Santa Clara County remains undefined, an accurate and reliable cost estimate is not currently available. Consequently, it is not possible at this time to determine the portion of funding that is commensurate with the project's benefits to Santa Clara County.

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