



**To: Board of Directors**  
**From: Rick L. Callender, CEO**

## Weeks of November 08, 2024 – November 21, 2024

**Board Executive Limitation Policy EL-7:**

*The Board Appointed Officers shall inform and support the Board in its work. Further, a BAO shall 1) inform the Board of relevant trends, anticipated adverse media coverage, or material external and internal changes, particularly changes in the assumptions upon which any Board policy has previously been established and 2) report in a timely manner an actual or anticipated noncompliance with any policy of the Board.*

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<u>3</u>	<u>Santos</u> <b>Why is Alviso in the FEMA's mandatory flood-insurance purchase zone, also known as the FEMA-designated Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA), when other nearby communities are not? What can Valley Water do to remove Alviso from the FEMA SFHA designation?</b> <b>IBMR-24-0017</b>

### 1. Little Arthur Creek Dam Removal Project (SMP Mitigation)

A small defunct dam and steep pass fish ladder on Little Arthur Creek (known as Pickell's Dam) was removed for mitigation credit for the Stream Maintenance Program (SMP). The project was implemented in late September through early October 2024. Mitigation credit will be applied to SMP Renewal (SMP-3) for impacts to Pajaro Basin for 2027-2036. Credits include 1) fisheries habitat credits [Large Woody Debris, Coarse Gravel, and Instream Complexity]; 2) hardscape; and 3) riverine credits [bank repair] for enhancement of system processes. The removal of the dam, that is over 100 years old, provides access to ~3.5 miles of high-quality spawning and rearing habitat for South Central California Coast Steelhead. The removal also allows for a more natural state of stream processes by allowing habitat feature formation that was previously impacted by the full spanning concrete structure.

The project construction was completed on private property under a non-consultant agreement with Trout Unlimited; where Valley Water provided training, funding, permitting, and oversight for project implementation. Trout Unlimited completed the designs through a California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) grant at no cost to Valley Water, gained landowner access, and managed subcontractors. Project partners and supporters included: Amah Mutsun Tribe, National Marine Fisheries Service, CDFW, and various fisheries stakeholder groups.

The project's success will be monitored by Valley Water's SMP Team over the next five years following construction as part of mitigation monitoring for the SMP. Valley Water's environmental staff believe this is a good model to follow for future projects, identifying strategies to implement mitigation/restoration projects that are cost effective, beneficial to the ecosystem, and meaningful to the community/stakeholders.

For further information, please contact Jennifer Codianne at (408) 630-3876.

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2. **Keegan**

**Who cleans up the McKelvey baseball field if it is used as a flood detention basin?  
R-24-0012**

Valley Water is responsible for the cleanup of McKelvey Park (baseball field) detention basin following a flood event which flood waters from Permanente Creek are routed into said basin. This responsibility is in Section 4.2 (Duties of the District) of the "Amended and Restated Agreement Between Santa Clara Valley Water District and the City of Mountain View for the Operation and Maintenance of a Detention Basin and Related Improvements at McKelvey Park."

Section 4.2 is as follows:

4.2 Duties of the DISTRICT

4.2.1 DISTRICT shall maintain the FLOOD DETENTION FACILITIES described herein in good operating condition at its own expense.

4.2.2 DISTRICT shall expeditiously and without any unnecessary delay repair any damaged FLOOD DETENTION FACILITIES and clean the SITE of any sediment, silt, trash, water damage, flood debris, and hazardous material, any of which occur as a result of a FLOOD EVENT, at DISTRICT's expense.

For further information, please contact Alexander Gordon at (408) 630-2637.

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3. **Santos**

**Why is Alviso in the FEMA's mandatory flood-insurance purchase zone, also known as the FEMA-designated Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA), when other nearby communities are not? What can Valley Water do to remove Alviso from the FEMA SFHA designation?  
I-24-0017**

The riverine flooding risk in the community of Alviso has significantly decreased since Valley Water constructed levees along Guadalupe and Coyote Creek, which provide 100-year riverine flood protection to FEMA standards. However, Alviso still has some risk of coastal flooding from San Francisco Bay. The main risk of flooding comes from the risk of failure of the former salt pond berms. Because the pond berms weren't built to meet FEMA's standards for engineered coastal levees, FEMA does not recognize them as flood barriers, and they are not considered when mapping out areas with coastal flooding risk. Since Alviso is situated below sea level from historic local subsidence, Alviso would be inundated during 100-year coastal flooding events if those former salt pond berms were to fail. Therefore, Alviso is currently shown on FEMA's maps as being within the 100-year coastal flooding risk area. This means that homeowners in Alviso with federally backed loans must hold flood insurance policies.

Communities nearby Alviso which are not mapped in FEMA SFHA zone are situated on higher ground and would not be inundated by 100-year coastal floodwaters. Their ground elevation is higher than the estimated 100-year coastal flood elevation (i.e., the peak elevation that the bay would reach during a 100-year coastal flooding event), which is estimated to be about 11-12 feet NAVD88 per current FEMA mapping. In addition, areas mapped outside of the FEMA 100-year risk zones are also within the 100-year floodplains of any creeks.

Valley Water is currently involved with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to address the outstanding coastal flood risk. The Shoreline Study Phase I levee is currently under construction and will provide a robust levee for Alviso that ties into the existing river levees. When complete, this FEMA-certified levee will protect Alviso against the 100-year coastal flooding event with up to 2.59 ft of sea level rise. Once all reaches of the levee are constructed, Valley Water will file a Letter of Map Revision (LOMR) with FEMA to change the flooding risk maps and remove Alviso from the 100-year coastal flooding risk area.

For further information, please contact John Bourgeois at (408) 630-2990.

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