



Stream Maintenance Program (SMP)

Environmental and Water Resources Committee
July 20, 2026



What is the Stream Maintenance Program (SMP)?

The regulatory mechanism by which Valley Water is authorized to conduct routine flood protection maintenance work

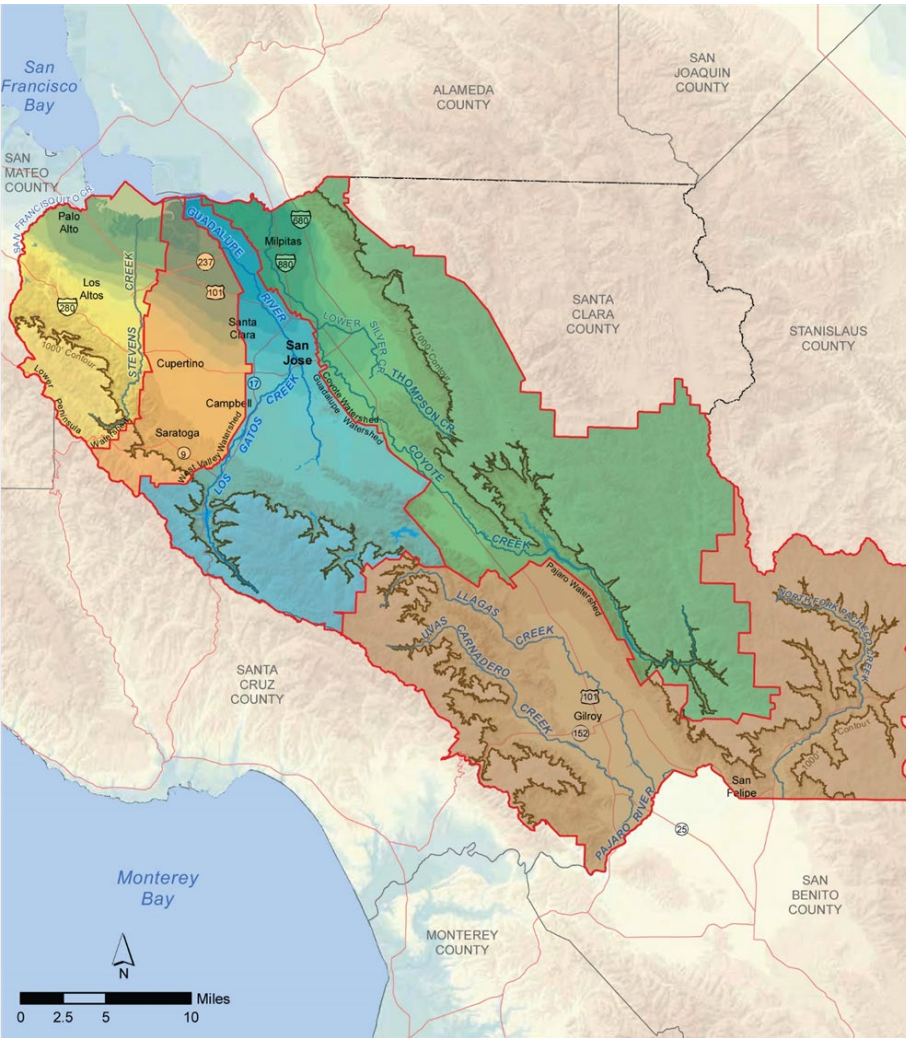
Stream Maintenance Program Goals

1. Maintain flow conveyance capacity of Valley Water channels and flood risk reduction facilities.
2. Maintain the structural and functional integrity of VW flood risk reduction facilities and lands.



Crews work on a bank stabilization project along Guadalupe River north of Willow Street in San José.

SMP Objectives



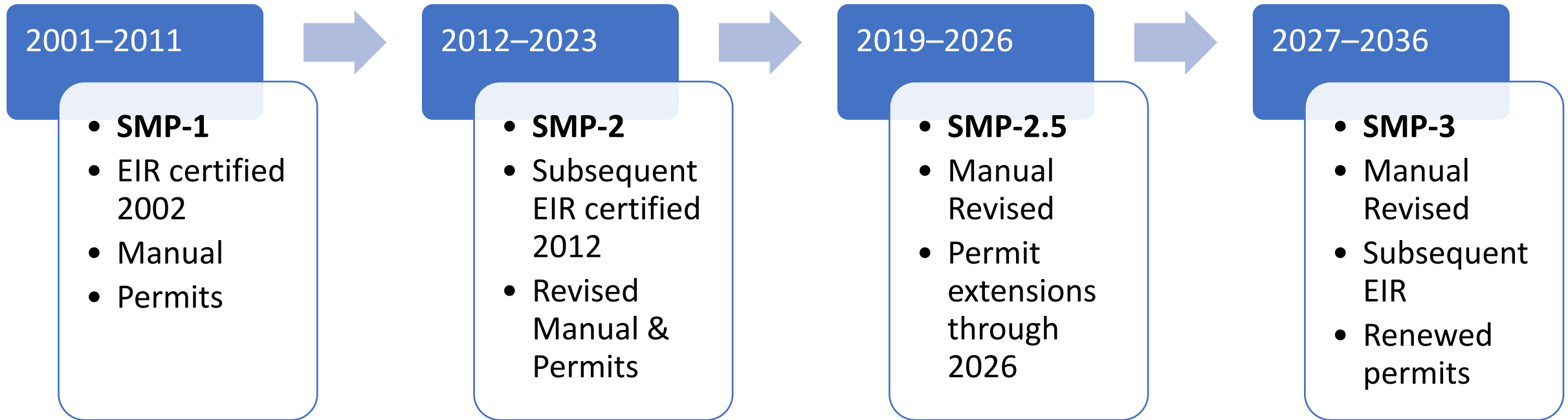
- **Maintain flood capacity and safety** while preserving habitat through targeted sediment removal
- **Manage vegetation strategically** to support access, flood protection, fire risk reduction, and ecosystem health
- **Ensure levee integrity** by maintaining vegetation for inspection and maintenance access
- **Stabilize channels** to protect infrastructure, public safety, water quality, and habitat
- **Prioritize environmental stewardship** by avoiding, minimizing, and mitigating impacts during maintenance

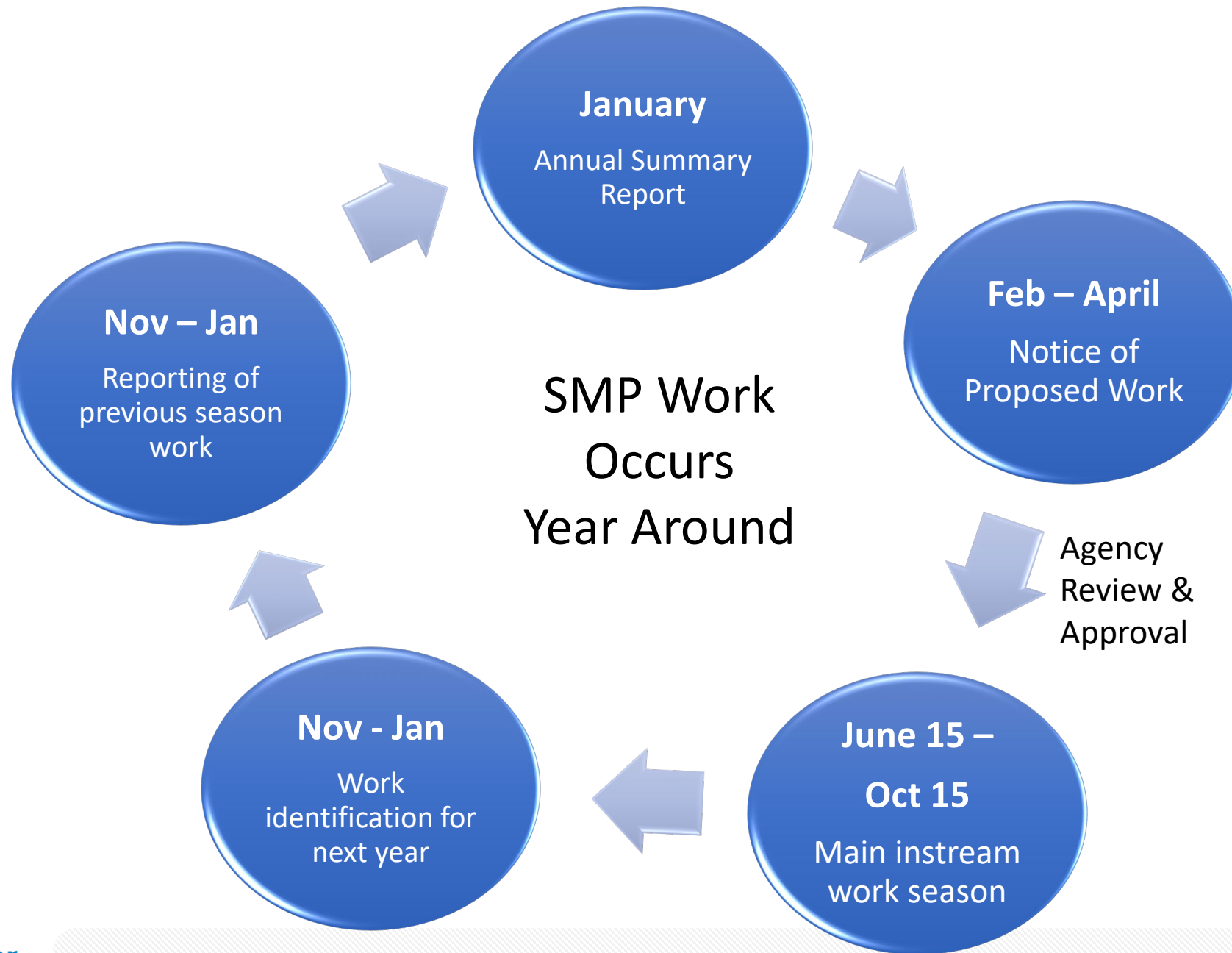
SMP Authorizations





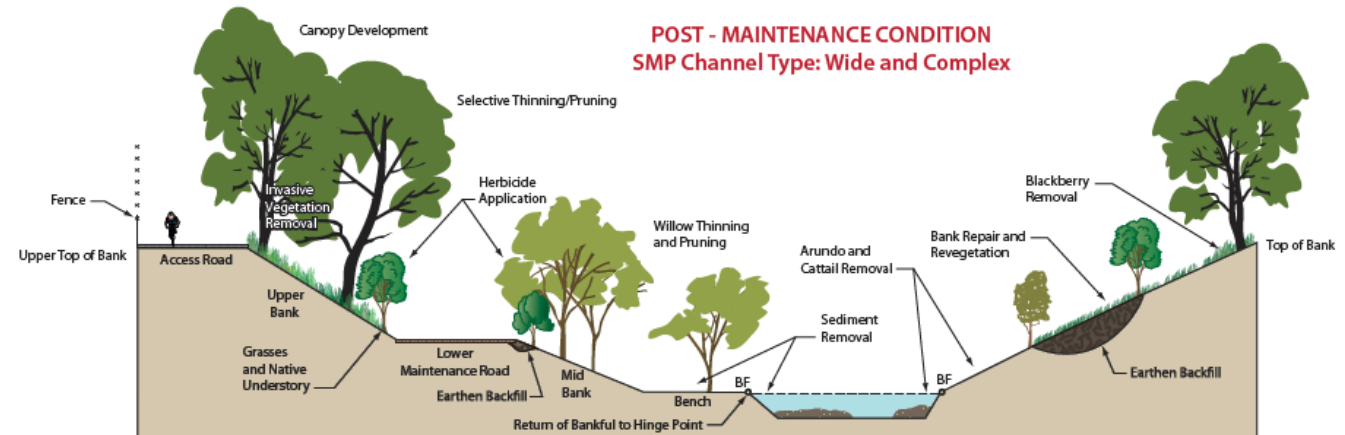
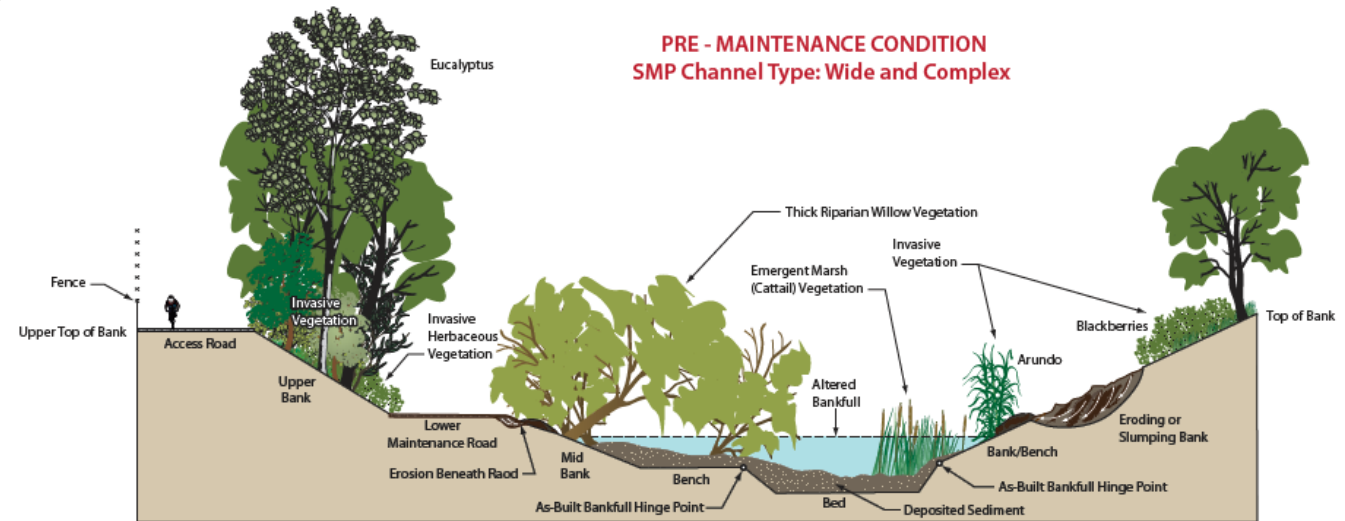
Stream Maintenance Program (SMP) Overview





Program Activities

- Sediment Removal
- Bank Stabilization
- Vegetation Management
- Management of Animal Conflicts
- Minor Maintenance
- Down Tree Management



Note 1 - for flood control channels that include engineered levees, the upper bank portion of this typical cross section is analogous to the inboard levee. Many SCVWD levees also have a visible outboard slope that slopes outside and away from the channel to the adjacent land.

Note 2 - the areas in the typical cross-section identified as "bank" or "bench" are typically combined into a single geographic area type "bank/bench" for the purposes of SCVWD maintenance work projections.

Sediment Removal

- Maintains flow conveyance capacity at acceptable levels
- Allows facilities to function as intended
- Allows fish passage and access to fish ladders



2002-2025: >920,000 CY sediment removed



Bank Stabilization

- Repairs eroding channel banks, beds and levees
- Reduces risk of further erosion



2002-2025: >66,000 LF of eroded bank repaired



Vegetation Management

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2002-2025: ~12,500 acres vegetation treated and removed

- Restores flow conveyance
- Reduces public safety threats such as fire hazards
- Provides access to creek corridors for both Valley Water staff and the public
- Controls invasive plants



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Management of Animal Conflicts

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- Burrowing rodents into levees and banks threatens structural integrity
- Physical barrier installation
- Ground squirrel trapping
- Barn owl nest box



Minor Maintenance

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- Trash and debris removal
- Repair and installation of fences/gates
- Repairs to maintenance roads
- Repair of structures in-kind
- Removal of obstructions
- Stream gauge maintenance
- Minor erosion repair

Down Tree Management

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- Down trees may reduce flow conveyance capacity
- May also provide habitat for salmonids



Avoid or Minimize Impacts!

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- Water quality
- Wildlife habitat
- Riparian habitat
- Wetlands
- Species



If we can't avoid impacts: We mitigate

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- Native Plant Revegetation
- Invasive Plant Management
- Salmonid Habitat Improvements
- Land acquisition
- Encampment-related



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2002-2025: ~300 acres riparian and wetland vegetation planted, monitored, and maintained

Dam Removal: Little Arthur Creek

- Partners: Trout Unlimited, NMFS, CDFW, Amah Mutsun Tribe, Private Landowner
- Opened 3+ miles of high-quality steelhead habitat
- Allows for stream processes
- Win-win project

Youtube:
Dam Removal: California's Little Arthur Creek





Thank you!

For more information on SMP:

Website: www.valleywater.org/project-updates/stream-maintenance-program

Or Contact Jon Jankovitz, Environmental Services Manager JJankovitz@valleywater.org

QUESTIONS





Valley Water

Clean Water • Healthy Environment • Flood Protection