

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS
SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT**

RESOLUTION NO. 24-

APPROVING THE MODIFICATION OF PROJECT F9: GRANTS AND PARTNERSHIPS FOR SAFE, CLEAN WATER, FLOOD PROTECTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP OF THE SAFE, CLEAN WATER AND NATURAL FLOOD PROTECTION PROGRAM

WHEREAS, on July 21, 2020, the Board of Directors of the Santa Clara Valley Water District (Valley Water) adopted Resolution No. 20-64 Providing for the Continuation and Levy of a Special Tax to Pay the Cost of the Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program in the Combined Flood Control Zone of the Santa Clara Valley Water District Subject, Nevertheless, to Specified Limits and Conditions (Resolution No. 20-64); and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the special tax is to supplement other available but limited revenues to keep Valley Water's flood protection system of levees, channels, drains, debris basins, and other improvements in a safe and effective condition; to enable Valley Water to respond to emergencies; to perform maintenance and repair; to acquire, restore, and preserve habitat; to provide recreation; to conduct environmental education; to protect and improve water quality; and, to construct and operate flood protection storm drainage facilities; including in each case the cost of financing such activities; support public health and public safety as it relates to Valley Water's mission; and

WHEREAS, in November 2020, Valley Water's Measure S was overwhelmingly approved by more than a two-thirds majority vote of the electorate of Valley Water, renewing a special tax, the proceeds of which are used solely to support the six funding priorities of the Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program (Safe, Clean Water Program), which are as follows: Priority A: Ensure a Safe, Reliable Water Supply; Priority B: Reduce Toxins, Hazards, and Contaminants in Our Waterways; Priority C: Protect Our Water Supply and Dams from Earthquakes and Other Natural Disasters; Priority D: Restore Wildlife Habitat and Provide Open Space; Priority E: Provide Flood Protection to Homes, Businesses, Schools, Streets, and Highways; and Priority F: Support Public Health and Public Safety for Our Community; and

WHEREAS, Project F9: Grants and Partnerships for Safe, Clean Water, Flood Protection and Environmental Stewardship (Project F9) is included under Priority F of the Safe, Clean Water Program; and

WHEREAS, the objective of Project F9 is to provide grants and partnerships for agencies, organizations, and individuals for water conservation, pollution prevention, creek cleanups and education, wildlife habitat restoration and wildlife corridors and crossings, and access to trails and open space. Eligible projects include water conservation; recycled water programs and infrastructure; pollution prevention programs; watershed stewardship; creek cleanups; education; and developing plans and/or implementing projects that create or enhance wetland, riparian and tidal marsh habitat; protect special status species; improve fish passage and habitat; remove non-native, invasive plant species; plant native species; partnerships to remove flood-inducing blockages, and provide access to creekside trails or trails that provide a significant link to the creekside trail network; and

WHEREAS, the Safe, Clean Water Program identifies the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for Project F9 as follows:

- “1. Provide a grant and partnership cycle each year for projects related to safe, clean drinking water, flood protection and environmental stewardship.
2. Provide annual funding for bottle filling stations to increase drinking water accessibility, with priority for installations in economically disadvantaged communities and locations that serve school-age children and students.
3. Provide annual mini-grant funding opportunity for projects related to safe, clean drinking water, flood protection and environmental stewardship.
4. Provide up to \$3 million per 15-year period for partnerships with small municipalities (defined as under 50,000 people in the most recent census available), or special districts with boundaries substantially within the footprint of small cities, for projects aligned with the District Act and related to safe, clean drinking water, flood protection and environmental stewardship.”; and

WHEREAS, while Valley Water has successfully awarded grants and partnerships under KPIs #1, 2, and 3, it has not had any success in delivering KPI #4, which is restricted to partnerships with “small municipalities (defined as under 50,000 people in the most recent census available), or special districts with boundaries substantially within the footprint of small cities,”; and

WHEREAS, community members have expressed interest in receiving Valley Water assistance to implement watershed activities, such as bank repair, sediment removal, and downed tree management, with community benefits; and

WHEREAS, broadening access beyond small municipalities and special districts to include individuals by offering a rebate program covering watershed stewardship activities, such as bank repair, sediment removal, and downed tree management, will help deliver the project objectives and be responsive to the community’s needs; and

WHEREAS, Valley Water’s Resolution No. 20-64 authorizes modifications to proposed projects. Paragraph N. reads as follows: “The Board of Directors may direct that proposed projects in the Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program be modified or not implemented depending upon a number of factors, including federal and state funding limitations and the analysis and results of CEQA environmental review and permitting by state and federal regulatory agencies. The Board of Directors must hold a formal, public hearing on the matter, which will be noticed by publication and notification to interested parties, before adoption of any such decision to modify or not implement a project”; and

WHEREAS, at its regular Board meeting on March 26, 2024, Valley Water’s Board of Directors set a time and place for a formal public hearing on April 9, 2023. At that time, the Board will consider the Proposed Modification to Project F9: Grants and Partnerships for Safe, Clean Water, Flood Protection and Environmental Stewards of the Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Directors of the Santa Clara Valley Water District as follows:

1. Pursuant to the requirements stated in California Government Code § 6066, staff prepared and published advertisements in Santa Clara County newspapers of general circulation.
2. Pursuant to the requirements stated in Valley Water’s Resolution No. 20-64, Paragraph N., a noticed public hearing was held.
3. Modify KPI #4 for Project F9: Grants and Partnerships for Safe, Clean Water, Flood Protection and Environmental Stewardship as set forth in the Safe, Clean Water Program, as follows:

“Provide up to \$3 million per 15-year period for a Creekside Neighbor Rebate Program for watershed activities, including bank repair, sediment removal, and downed tree management.”
4. Valley Water’s Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program’s Project F9: Grants and Partnerships for Safe, Clean Water, Flood Protection and Environmental Stewardship KPI #4 is hereby modified as stated in Exhibit A: Modified Key Performance Indicator.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Directors of the Santa Clara Valley Water District by the following vote on April 9, 2024:

AYES: Directors

NOES: Directors

ABSENT: Directors

ABSTAIN: Directors

SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

NAI HSUEH
Chair, Board of Directors

ATTEST: MICHELE L. KING, CMC

Clerk, Board of Directors

EXHIBIT A COVERSHEET

MODIFIED KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATOR

No. of Pages: 1

Exhibit Attachments: None

EXHIBIT A

PROJECT F9 GRANTS AND PARTNERSHIPS FOR SAFE, CLEAN WATER, FLOOD PROTECTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

This project provides grants, ~~and~~ partnerships, **and rebates** for agencies, organizations, and individuals for water conservation, pollution prevention, creek cleanups and education, wildlife habitat restoration and wildlife corridors and crossings, and access to trails and open space. Eligible projects include water conservation; recycled water programs and infrastructure; pollution prevention programs; watershed stewardship; creek cleanups; education; and developing plans and/or implementing projects that create or enhance wetland, riparian and tidal marsh habitat; protect special status species; improve fish passage and habitat; remove non-native, invasive plant species; plant native species; partnerships to remove flood-inducing blockages, and provide access to creekside trails or trails that provide a significant link to the creekside trail network.

Benefits

- Leverages community resources for efficient use of funds to implement projects that conserve water, prevent trash and contaminants from entering our waterways and groundwater, enhance creek and bay ecosystems, and expand trail and open space access
- Increases collaborations and partnerships with cities, the County, nonprofit organizations, schools and other stakeholders
- Promotes public involvement, awareness and education of safe, clean drinking water, flood protection and environmental stewardship through community-led projects
- Broadens opportunities for smaller jurisdictions

Key Performance Indicators (FY22–36)

1. Provide a grant and partnership cycle each year for projects related to safe, clean drinking water, flood protection and environmental stewardship.
2. Provide annual funding for bottle filling stations to increase drinking water accessibility, with priority for installations in economically disadvantaged communities and locations that serve school-age children and students.
3. Provide annual mini-grant funding opportunity for projects related to safe, clean drinking water, flood protection and environmental stewardship.
4. Provide up to \$3 million per 15-year period **for a Creekside Neighbor Rebate Program for watershed activities, including bank repair, sediment removal, and downed tree management.** ~~partnerships with small municipalities (defined as under 50,000 people in the most recent census available), or special districts with boundaries substantially within the footprint of small cities, for projects aligned with the District Act and related to safe, clean drinking water, flood protection and environmental stewardship.~~

Geographic Area of Benefit: Countywide

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