



OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

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June 6, 2025

Board of Directors
Santa Clara Valley Water District
5750 Almaden Expressway
San Jose, CA 95118

Re: Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program Proposed Process Improvements,
June 10, 2025 - Valley Water Agenda

Dear Chair Tony Estremera and Directors:

The City of Mountain View (City) appreciates all the efforts of Valley Water's Board of Directors and staff in response to the City's comments on Valley Water's Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program funding plan. We concur with the proposed extended public engagement process including outreach to the impacted agencies in advance of the Board's public hearings.

In addition to Valley Water's proposed public engagement process improvements, the City concurs with the City of Palo Alto and respectfully requests that Valley Water consider including in the improved process two additional provisions:

1. That all affected agencies will be formally notified when funds affecting the agency or allocated for use within its boundaries are proposed for reallocation.
2. That notifications and the Board's deliberations on the reallocation will include a staff analysis of:
 - a) How original program commitments and anticipated community benefits will be affected by the reallocation, and
 - b) Mitigation strategies developed to address identified impacts.

The City has a long history and is an active partner with Valley Water on regional watershed stewardship efforts such as the recently completed stormwater retention basin project within the City's McKelvey Park.

We understand that the federal government has closed the South San Francisco Bay Shoreline Phase II Study (Phase II Project), and Valley Water is considering reallocating its own funding of \$23 million from the Phase II Project to other Valley Water projects within the Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program. However, the area covered in the Phase II Project includes the western portion of the City's shoreline, which remains vulnerable to coastal flooding.

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The City has dedicated significant resources to developing and implementing a Sea Level Rise Capital Improvement Program which when completed will provide substantial benefits in habitat enhancement, flood risk management, and sea level rise adaptation along the City's shoreline and throughout the region, including a part of the City of Palo Alto.

The City's Sea Level Rise Program requires substantial resources and strong regional partnerships. The City has several near-term projects; some of these projects could be "shovel-ready" and begin construction within two to three years. Many of these projects overlap with Valley Water's interests, land rights, and watershed stewardship responsibilities in the area. **The City of Mountain View would like to explore potential collaboration and funding opportunities stemming from Valley Water's Phase II Project or other funding sources. We look forward to meeting and having a discussion in this regard.**

The City has a strong ongoing partnership with Valley Water, and we look forward to continuing our collaborative efforts to implement successful projects for the City and the shoreline region.

Sincerely,



Kimbra McCarthy
City Manager

cc: Melanie Richardson, Interim CEO
City of Mountain View City Council
Ed Shikada, City Manager, City of Palo Alto
Brad Eggleston, Public Works Director, City of Palo Alto
Karin North, Assistant Public Works Director, City of Palo Alto