

Independent Monitoring Committee Report Fiscal Year 2023-2024 General and Financial Recommendations

Topic:	Recommendation:	Management Response:
IMC Membership	Recommendation: 1. Directors take steps to make sure that each District has two representatives appointed and actively participating on the Committee.	1. Management agrees with the recommendation. Vacant positions are scheduled to be filled before the start of the FY2025-26 IMC review cycle in December 2025. Staff is working with the Directors to fill any vacant positions via appointment or reappointment. Currently, there are positions open in Districts 1, 4, and 7. There were three appointments to the Committee in 2024: Bill Chuan (District 3) appointed on April 23, 2024; Susan M. Landry (District 4), appointed on August 13, 2024; and Rebecca Gallardo (District 6), appointed on May 14, 2024. Additionally, eight IMC members were reappointed on August 13, 2024.
Climate Change	Recommendation: 1. Continue to provide more specific details on how some of these projects are actually beneficial in this (climate change) context.	1. Management agrees with the recommendation and will provide more details where applicable.
Maps and Graphs	 Recommendations: In maps, graphs, and presentations, use more differentiated colors, lines, symbols, etc., to improve accessibility. Explain the differences between the different funding sources. 	 Management agrees with the recommendation and will continue to work to improve maps, graphs, and charts to improve document accessibility. Management agrees with the recommendation and will explain the differences between different funding sources in future reports.
Capital Projects	Recommendation: 1. In Appendix C and individual project reports, include and highlight any change in confidence levels from the previous year; Provide an explanation regarding the change in the project text.	1. Management agrees with the recommendation, and in future annual reports, Appendix C and individual project reports will include and highlight any change in confidence levels from the previous year; and project reports will include an explanation regarding the change.
Financial Appendices	Recommendation: 1. Include information in the summary chapter explaining the purpose and importance of long-term debts, repayment timeline, debt costs, the different financing options available, and how they support the program goals.	 Management agrees with the recommendation and future annual reports will include information explaining the purpose and importance of long-term debts, repayment timeline, debt costs, the different financing options available, and how they support the program goals.
Annual Report Paper	Recommendation: 1. Explore the use of recycled paper for reports.	 Management acknowledges the recommendation and remains committed to sustainable practices, including minimizing environmental impact through responsible paper usage. Currently, the vast majority of our printed materials are produced on 30% recycled paper. Staff is in the process of exploring alternatives to potentially transition the remaining reports and other printed materials to recycled paper as part of our ongoing efforts to enhance sustainability across all operations.



Independent Monitoring Committee Report Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Project Recommendations Priority A - Ensure a Safe, Reliable Water Supply

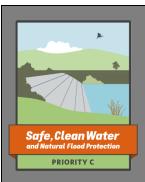
			St	atus:			
Proje	ect:	KPI:	Annual	Adjustment/ Modification	Recommendation:	Management Response:	
A1	Pacheco Reservoir Expansion	Provide a portion of funds, up to \$10 million, to help construct the Pacheco Reservoir Expansion Project.	Scheduled to Start	Not Implement & Adjusted (text)	IMC agrees with the project status. No recommendations.	No response is required.	
A2	Water Conservation Rebates and Programs	Award up to \$1 million per year toward specified water conservation program activities, including rebates, technical assistance, and public education, within the first seven (7) years of the Program.	Active	Adjusted (text)	IMC agrees with the project status. No recommendations.	No response is required.	
A3	Pipeline Reliability	Install four (4) new line valves on treated water distribution pipelines.	Active	Adjusted (text)	IMC agrees with the project status. No recommendations.	No response is required.	



Independent Monitoring Committee Report Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Project Recommendations Priority B – Reduce Toxins, Hazards, and Contaminants in Our Waterways

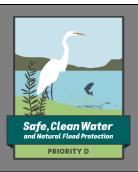
			Status:			
Proje	ct:	KPI:	Annual	Adjustment/ Modification	Recommendation:	Management Response:
B1	Impaired Water Bodies Improvement	 Investigate, develop, and implement actions to reduce methylmercury in fish and other organisms in the Guadalupe River Watershed. Prepare and update a plan for the prioritization of surface water quality improvement activities, such as addressing trash and other pollutants. Implement at least two (2) priority surface water quality improvement activities identified in the plan per 5-year implementation period. 	Active	Adjusted (text)	IMC agrees with the project status. No recommendations.	No response is required.
B2	Inter-Agency Urban Runoff Program	 Address trash in creeks by maintaining trash capture devices or other litter control programs. Maintain Valley Water's municipal stormwater compliance program and partner with cities to address surface water quality improvements, including participation in at least three (3) countywide, regional, or statewide stormwater program committees to help guide regulatory development, compliance, and monitoring. Support at least one (1) stormwater quality improvement activity per 5-year implementation period in Santa Clara County, including providing up to \$1.5 million over 15 years to support implementation of green stormwater infrastructure consistent with Santa Clara Basin and South County Stormwater Resource Plans. 	Active	Adjusted (text)	IMC agrees with the project status. No recommendations.	No response is required.
В3	Hazardous Materials Management and Response	Respond to 100% of hazardous materials reports requiring urgent on-site inspection in two (2) hours or less.	Active	None	IMC agrees with the project status. No recommendations.	No response is required.
B4	Support Volunteer Cleanup Efforts	Fund Valley Water's creek stewardship program to support volunteer cleanup activities, such as annual National River Cleanup Day, California Coastal Cleanup Day, the Great American Litter Pick Up, and the Adopt-A-Creek Program.	Active	None	IMC agrees with the project status. No recommendations.	No response is required.

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Independent Monitoring Committee Report Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Project Recommendations Priority C - Protect Our Water Supply and Dams from Earthquakes and Other Natural Disasters

			Status:			
Р	roject:	KPI:	Annual	Adjustment/ Modification	Recommendation:	Management Response:
С	Anderson Dam Seismic Retrofit	Provide portion of funds, up to \$54.1 million, to help restore full operating reservoir capacity of 90,373 acre-feet.	Scheduled to Start	Adjusted (text)	IMC agrees with the project status. No recommendations.	No response is required.



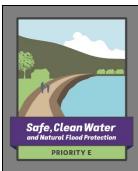
Independent Monitoring Committee Report Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Project Recommendations Priority D - Restore Wildlife Habitat and Provide Open Space

	KPI: Status: Annual Annual Modification				
Project:				Recommendation:	Management Response:
Management of Riparian Planting and Invasive Plant Removal	 Maintain a minimum of 300 acres of riparian planting projects annually to meet regulatory requirements and conditions. Maintain a minimum of 200 acres of invasive plant management projects annually to meet regulatory requirements and conditions. Remove 25 acres of Arundo donax throughout the county over a 15-year period. 	Active	Adjusted (text)	IMC agrees with the project status. No recommendations.	No response is required.
D2 Revitalize Riparian, Upland and Wetland Habitat	 Revitalize at least 21 acres over a 15-year period through native plant revegetation and/or removal of invasive exotic species. Develop an Early Detection and Rapid Response Program Manual. Identify and treat at least 100 occurrences of emergent invasive species over a 15-year period, as identified through the Early Detection and Rapid Response Program. Develop at least eight (8) information sheets for Early Detection of Invasive Plant Species. 	Active	None	IMC agrees with the project status. No recommendations.	No response is required.
D3 Sediment Reuse to Support Restoration Projects	 Reuse sediment meeting applicable screening criteria at available Valley Water or partnership project sites to support restoration. Provide up to \$4 million per 15-year period to support activities necessary for sediment reuse. 	Active	Adjusted (text)	IMC agrees with the project status. No recommendations.	No response is required.
D4 Fish Habitat and Passage Improvement	 Complete planning and design for one (1) creek/lake separation. Partially fund the construction of one (1) creek/lake separation project in partnership with local agencies. Use \$8 million for fish passage improvements by June 30, 2028. Update study of all major steelhead streams in the county to identify priority locations for fish migration barrier removal and installation of large woody debris and gravel as appropriate. Complete five (5) habitat enhancement projects based on studies that identify high priority locations for large wood, boulders, gravel, and/or other habitat enhancement features. 	Active	Adjusted (text & schedule)	IMC agrees with the project status. No recommendations.	No response is required.



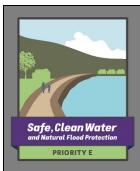
Independent Monitoring Committee Report Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Project Recommendations Priority D - Restore Wildlife Habitat and Provide Open Space

		St	tatus:		
Project:	KPI:	Annual	Adjustment/ Modification	Recommendation:	Management Response:
D5 Ecological Data Collection and Analysis	 Reassess and track stream ecological conditions and habitats in each of the county's five (5) watersheds every 15 years. Provide up to \$500,000 per 15-year period toward the development and updates of five (5) watershed plans that include identifying priority habitat enhancement opportunities in Santa Clara County. 	Active	Adjusted (text)	IMC agrees with the project status. No recommendations.	No response is required.
D6 Restoration of Natural Creek Functions	 Construct the Hale Creek Enhancement Pilot Project, which includes restoration and stabilization of a 650-foot section of concrete-lined channel on Hale Creek, between Marilyn Drive and North Sunshine Drive on the border of Mountain View and Los Altos. Construct the Bolsa Road Fish Passage Project along 1,700 linear feet of Uvas-Carnadero Creek in unincorporated Santa Clara County, which includes geomorphic design features that will restore stability and stream function. 	Completed	Adjusted (text)	IMC agrees with the project status. No recommendations.	No response is required.
Partnerships for the D7 Conservation of Habitat Lands	Provide up to \$8 million per 15-year period for the acquisition or enhancement of property for the conservation of habitat lands.	Active	Adjusted (text)	IMC agrees with the project status. No recommendations.	No response is required.



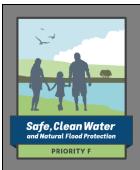
Independent Monitoring Committee Report Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Project Recommendations Priority E - Provide Flood Protection to Homes, Businesses, Schools, Streets, and Highways

Project:	KPI:	S Annual	tatus: Adjustment/ Modification	Recommendation:	Management Response:
E1 Coyote Creek Flood Protection	Construct flood protection improvements along Coyote Creek between Montague Expressway and Tully Road to provide protection from floods up to the level that occurred on February 21, 2017, approximately a 5% (20- year) flood event.	Active	Adjusted (text)	IMC agrees with the project status. No recommendations.	No response is required.
Sunnyvale East and Sunnyvale E2 West Channels Flood Protection	Provide 1% (100-year) flood protection for 1,618 properties and 47 acres (11 parcels) of industrial land, while improving stream water quality and working with other agencies to incorporate recreational opportunities.	Active	Adjusted (text & schedule)	IMC agrees with the project status. No recommendations.	No response is required.
E3 Lower Berryessa Flood Protection, including Tularcitos and Upper Calera Creeks (Phase 3)	With local funding only: Complete the design phase of the 1% (100-year) flood protection project to protect an estimated 1,420 parcels.	Scheduled to Start	Adjusted (text)	IMC agrees with the project status. No recommendations.	No response is required.
E4 Upper Penitencia Creek Flood Protection	 Preferred project with federal and local funding: Construct a flood protection project to provide 1% (100-year) flood protection to 8,000 parcels. With local funding only: Construct a 1% (100-year) flood protection project from Coyote Creek confluence to Capital Avenue to provide 1% (100-year) flood protection to 1,250 parcels, including the new Berryessa BART station. 	Active	Adjusted (text & schedule)	IMC agrees with the project status. No recommendations.	No response is required.
E5 San Francisquito Creek Flood Protection	 Preferred project with federal, state and local funding: Protect more than 3,000 parcels by providing 1% (100-year) flood protection. With state and local funding only: Protect approximately 3,000 parcels by providing 1% (100-year) flood protection downstream of Highway 101, and approximately 1.4% (70-year) protection upstream of Highway 101. 	Active	Adjusted (text & schedule)	IMC agrees with the project status. No recommendations.	No response is required.



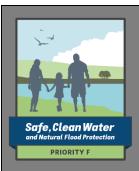
Independent Monitoring Committee Report Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Project Recommendations Priority E - Provide Flood Protection to Homes, Businesses, Schools, Streets, and Highways

				Status:		
Pr	oject:	KPI:	Annual	Adjustment/ Modification	Recommendation:	Management Response:
E6	Upper Llagas Creek Flood Protection	 Preferred project with federal and local funding: Plan, design and construct flood protection improvements along 13.9 miles of Upper Llagas Creek from Buena Vista Avenue to Llagas Road to provide flood protection to 1,100 homes, 500 businesses, and 1,300 agricultural acres, while improving stream habitat. With local funding only: Construct flood protection improvements along Llagas Creek from Buena Vista Avenue to Highway 101 in San Martin (Reaches 4 and 5 (portion)), Monterey Road to Watsonville Road in Morgan Hill (Reach 7a), approximately W. Dunne Avenue to W. Main Avenue (portion of Reach 8), and onsite compensatory mitigation at Lake Silveira. 	Active	Adjusted (text & schedule)	IMC agrees with the project status. No recommendations.	No response is required.
E7	, San Francisco Bay Shoreline Protection	 Provide a portion of the local share of funding for planning, design and construction phases for the Santa Clara County shoreline area, EIAs 1-4. Provide a portion of the local share of funding for planning and design phases for the Santa Clara County shoreline area, EIAs 5-9. 	Active	Adjusted (text)	IMC agrees with the project status. No recommendations.	No response is required.
E8	Upper Guadalupe River Flood Protection	 Preferred project with federal and local funding: Construct a flood protection project to provide 1% (100-year) flood protection to 6,280 homes, 320 businesses and 10 schools and institutions. With local funding only: Construct flood protection improvements along 4,100 feet of Guadalupe River between the Southern Pacific Railroad (SPRR) crossing, downstream of Willow Street, to the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) crossing, downstream of Padres Drive, and provide gravel augmentation along approximately 800 linear feet of the Upper Guadalupe River in San José, from approximately the Union Pacific Railroad Bridge to West Virginia Street Bridge to improve aquatic habitat for migrating steelhead and all native fish species and channel stability. 	Active	Modified & Adjusted (text)	IMC agrees with the project status. No recommendations.	No response is required.



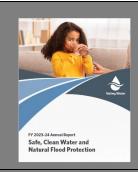
Independent Monitoring Committee Report Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Project Recommendations Priority F – Support Public Health and Public Safety for Our Community

Project:			Status:			
		KPI:	Annual	Adjustment/ Modification	Recommendation:	Management Response:
F1	Vegetation Control and Sediment Removal for Capacity	Maintain completed flood protection projects for flow conveyance.	Active	None	IMC agrees with the project status. No recommendations.	No response is required.
F2	Emergency Response Planning and Preparedness	 Coordinate with local municipalities to merge Valley Water-endorsed flood emergency processes with their own emergency response plans and processes. Complete five (5) flood management plans/procedures per 5-year period, selected by risk priorities. Train Valley Water staff and partner municipalities annually on disaster procedures via drills and exercises before testing the plans and procedures. Test flood management plans/procedures annually to ensure effectiveness. 	Active	None	IMC agrees with the project status. No recommendations.	No response is required.
F3	Flood Risk Assessment Studies	 Complete engineering studies on three (3) creek reaches to address 1% (100-year) flood risk. Annually, update floodplain maps on a minimum of three (3) creek reaches in accordance with new FEMA standards. 	Active	Adjusted (text)	IMC agrees with the project status. No recommendations.	No response is required.
F4	Vegetation Management for Access and Fire Safety	1. Provide vegetation management for access and fire risk reduction on an average of 495 acres per year, totaling 7,425 acres along levee, property lines and maintenance roads over a 15-year period.	Active	None	IMC agrees with the project status. No recommendations.	No response is required.
F5	Good Neighbor Program: Encampment Cleanup	 Manage 300 acres annually to clean up trash, debris, and hazardous pollutants generated from encampments and to reduce the amount of these pollutants entering streams. Provide up to \$500,000 per year in cost-share with local agencies for services related to encampment cleanups, including services supporting staff safety, discouraging re-encampments along waterways or addressing the socioenvironmental crisis with the goal of reducing the need for encampment cleanups. 	Active	None	IMC agrees with the project status. No recommendations.	No response is required.



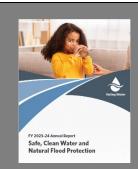
Independent Monitoring Committee Report Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Project Recommendations Priority F – Support Public Health and Public Safety for Our Community

Project:			Status:			
		KPI:	Annual	Adjustment/ Modification	Recommendation:	Management Response:
F6	Good Neighbor Program: Graffiti and Litter Removal and Public Art	 Cleanup identified trash and graffiti hotspots at approximately 80 sites four (4) times per year. Respond to requests on litter or graffiti cleanup within five (5) working days. Provide up to \$1.5 million over 15 years to implement public art projects on Valley Water property and infrastructure. 	Active	None	IMC agrees with the project status. No recommendations.	No response is required.
F7	Emergency Response Upgrades	 Maintain existing capabilities for flood forecasting and warning. Improve flood forecast accuracy and emergency response time working with the National Weather Service and through research and development. 	Active	None	IMC agrees with the project status. No recommendations.	No response is required.
F8	Sustainable Creek Infrastructure for Continued Public Safety	Provide up to \$7.5 million in the first 15-year period to plan, design and construct projects identified through Watersheds asset management plans.	Active	None	IMC agrees with the project status. No recommendations.	No response is required.
F9	Grants and Partnerships for Safe, Clean Water, Flood Protection and Environmental Stewardship	 Provide a grant and partnership cycle each year for projects related to safe, clean drinking water, flood protection and environmental stewardship. 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. Provide annual mini-grant funding opportunity for projects related to safe, clean drinking water, flood protection and environmental stewardship. 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. 	On Hold	Modified & Adjusted (text)	IMC agrees with the project status. No recommendations.	No response is required.



Independent Monitoring Committee Notes Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Notes for future Annual Reports Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program

Subject:	Note:	Staff Response:
Financial Appendices A-B	 In Appendix A-3.1: Other Revenue, add a footnote to explain State Subventions. In the Glossary section, change "Subventions" to "State Subventions." Add "Step Increase" and "COLA" to the glossary. Make the footnote font larger. In Appendix B: Inflation Assumptions, find a better way to display the Benefits Rate. 	 Staff agrees and will add the footnote. Staff agrees and will change "Subventions" to "State Subventions." Staff agrees and will include the terms in the glossary. Staff agrees and will make the footnote font size larger, as space allows. Staff agrees and will find a better way to display the Benefits Rate.
Appendix I: Glossary	1. When using new technical terms, include the definition in the glossary. The content of th	Staff agrees and, where applicable, will include the definition of new technical terms in the glossary.
A1: Pacheco Reservoir Expansion	 State what portion of water from Pacheco comes to Santa Clara County. Fix the typos on page 11/12 regarding the Water Utility Enterprise Fund name. Add a link to the Project E2: Sunnyvale East and Sunnyvale West Channels Flood Protection page when mentioning the project. Remove Figure A1.5 pie chart as the project will not be funded by Fund 26. 	 Staff agrees to specify the share of water allocated to Santa Clara County. Staff agrees and will fix the typo. Staff agrees and will add the link. Staff agrees and will remove the figure.
A2: Water Conservation Rebates and Programs	Clarify how the project reduces pollution.	Staff agrees and will clarify how the project reduces pollution.
A3: Pipeline Reliability	1. In Figure A3.1, make the project locations bigger and colors and lines easier to distinguish.	Staff agrees and will make the figure easier to see.



Independent Monitoring Committee Notes Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Notes for future Annual Reports Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program

Subject:	Note:	Staff Response:
C1: Anderson Dam Seismic Retrofit	 Clarify the identified fish species, Rainbow Trout vs. Steelhead. Include information about how Anderson Reservoir is unique in that it can provide water directly to a treatment plant. Include information highlighting the importance of Anderson Reservoir in terms of water supply. 	 Staff agrees and will clarify the identified fish species. Staff agrees and will include the information. Staff agrees and will include information.
D1: Management of Revegetation Projects	 Include in the report that shade from mature trees helps moderate the water temperature of streams. Enlarge Figure D1.9, the Revegetation Maintenance map, to make it easier to read. 	 Staff agrees and will include the information. Staff agrees and will explore ways to make the information easier to read.
D2: Revitalize Riparian, Upland and Wetland Habitat	 Include pictures of sensitive species and targeted invasive species. The official name of the land is the Máyyan 'Ooyákma – Coyote Ridge Open Space Preserve. When referring to that preserve, use the full name. 	 Staff agrees and will include pictures as applicable. Staff agrees and will use the official name.
D4: Fish Habitat and Passage Improvement	 Figure D4.9 presents the financial summary of five projects displayed in five rows, each representing different KPIs. Add the corresponding KPI numbers. Add a photo in the white space next to each location map, to provide a little bit more information, especially the fish ladder. 	 Staff agrees and will add the KPIs to the figure. Staff agrees and will add photos as applicable.
D5: Ecological Data Collection and Analysis	 For KPI #2, include text stating how much of the 15-year allocation of \$500,000 has been expended. In Figure D5.2 pie chart, increase the font size of the fund names printed within the pie chart. In Figure D5.3 make it clear that the financial data is for the two KPIs combined. 	 Staff agrees and will include the information. Staff agrees and will increase the font size. Staff agrees and will include the clarifying information.
D7: Partnerships for the Conservation of Habitat Lands	1. Include a vicinity property location map, to provide context regarding other preserved land and acquisitions.	Staff agrees and will include the map.
E1: Coyote Creek Flood Protection	 In Figure E1.1, clarify the difference between Phase 1 and Phase 2. In Figures E1.2 and E1.3, include the project phases. In Figure E1.3 add a note similar to the one in Figure E1.2 	 Staff agrees and will add the clarification. Staff agrees and will add the phases. Staff agrees and will add a footnote.
F2: Emergency Response Planning and Preparedness	1. Add links to Projects F3: Flood Risk Assessment Studies and F7: Emergency Response Upgrades.	Staff agrees and will add the links.