



Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program

Review Proposed Revisions to Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) – Projects E5, D1, F3, and F6

Presented by: Luz Penilla, Assistant Officer – Office of Integrated Water Management
Board Policy and Monitoring Committee Meeting | April 21, 2026

Background

Safe, Clean Water (SCW) Program

- Measure S approved by voters in November 2020
- Effective July 1, 2021
- Replaced 2012 SCW Program
- Funded through special parcel tax
- Includes capital and operational projects
- Six Community Priorities (A-F)
- Each project includes Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) to ensure accountability and transparency

PRIORITIES

- A. Safe water supply
- B. Reduce toxins in waterways
- C. Dam safety
- D. Habitat restoration and open space
- E. Flood protection
- F. Public health and safety

Background

SCW Program Independent Performance Audit

- Independent performance audit required at least once every 5 years
- Independent Monitoring Committee (IMC) requested early review
- Audit completed (covering period from July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2024)
- Board received audit report November 12, 2025
- Total 9 audit findings; 2 findings recommended evaluation of certain KPIs for possible revisions
- Board Policy and Monitoring Committee (BPMC) assigned to review proposed KPI revisions in response to the Audit Report before presentation to full Board

Background

SCW Program Change Control Process

- Measure S requires a formal, publicly noticed hearing before Valley Water decides to modify or not implement a project
- This requirement is implemented through Valley Water's Change Control Process
- Board approved update to Change Control Process on February 24, 2026
 - Refined definition of “adjustment” and “modification”

Audit Report Finding #7

Project E5: San Francisquito Creek Flood Protection (Palo Alto)

Auditor Finding and Proposed KPI Revisions

Current KPI #1 and KPI #2:

- “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.”

Auditor Finding (Finding 7):

- KPI holds Valley Water accountable for flood protection outcome, while Valley Water has no direct control or authority to ensure this outcome is achieved
- KPI does not accurately reflect Valley Water’s current role as a funding partner

Audit Report Finding #7

Project E5: San Francisquito Creek Flood Protection (Palo Alto)

Finding and Proposed KPI Revisions

Proposed KPI #1 and KPI #2 Revisions:

- ~~“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. Provide the San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority a portion of funds commensurate with the project’s benefits to Santa Clara County, to provide flood protection along San Francisquito Creek.~~

Revision considered a “modification” and public hearing is required.

Audit Report Finding #9

Project D1: Riparian Planting and Invasive Plant Removal

Finding and Proposed KPI Revisions

Current KPI #3:

- “Remove 25 acres of *Arundo donax* throughout the county over a 15-year period.”

Auditor Finding (Finding 9):

- KPI #3 references *Arundo donax* exclusively when project activities include removal of other high-priority invasive species

Proposed KPI #3:

- “**Targeted control of** ~~Remove~~ 25 acres of **damaging non-native, invasive plant species such as** *Arundo donax* throughout the county over a 15-year period.”

Revision considered an “adjustment” and no public Hearing is required

Audit Report Finding #9

Project F3: Flood Risk Assessment Studies

Finding and Proposed KPI Revisions

Current KPI #2:

- “Annually, update floodplain maps on a minimum of three (3) creek reaches in accordance with new FEMA standards.”

Auditor Finding (Finding 9):

- KPI #2 appears to require that Valley Water produce official FEMA regulatory maps when the maps are intended only for internal use

Proposed KPI #2:

- “Annually, update **Valley Water’s** floodplain maps on a minimum of three (3) creek reaches in accordance with new FEMA standards.”

Revision considered an “adjustment” and no public hearing is required

Audit Report Finding #9

Project F1: Vegetation Control and Sediment Removal

Finding and Staff Recommendation

Current KPI:

- “Maintain completed flood protection projects for flow conveyance.”

Auditor Finding (Finding 9):

- KPI suggests perpetual financial commitment which could pose financial risk to the program

Staff Recommendation:

- No KPI revision is necessary
- Clarification in audit response
 - Valley water has a legal obligation to maintain projects
 - KPI intended to reflect maintenance during 15-year Program term
 - Not a perpetual SCW funding commitment

Staff Proposed Modification

Project F6: Good Neighbor Program: Graffiti | Litter Removal | Public Art

Staff-Recommended KPI Revisions

Current KPI #3:

- “Provide up to \$1.5 million over 15 years to implement public art projects on Valley Water property and infrastructure.”

Purpose of Revision:

- Allow funding of public art projects beyond Valley Water property and infrastructure to educate the public about water and environmental stewardship

Proposed KPI #3:

- “Provide up to \$1.5 million over 15 years to implement **or fund** public art projects ~~on Valley Water property and infrastructure.~~”

Revision considered a “modification” and public Hearing is required

Safe, Clean Water Program Proposed KPI Revisions

Summary of Proposed Actions

SCW Audit Finding	Project	Revise KPI?	Type of KPI Change	Public Hearing Required?
#7	E5: San Francisquito Creek Flood Protection (Palo Alto)	Yes	Modification	Yes
#9	D1: Riparian Planting and Invasive Plant Removal	Yes	Adjustment*	No
	F3: Flood Risk Assessment Studies	Yes	Adjustment*	No
	F1: Vegetation Control and Sediment Removal	No	N/A	N/A
	F6: Good Neighbor Program: Graffiti and Litter Removal and Public Art	Yes	Modification	Yes

* Adjustments will be brought to the Board for approval as part of the Safe, Clean Water Program FY 27-31 Five-Year Implementation Plan in June 2026.

QUESTIONS

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