

# Valley Water Land Acknowledgment Statement

## Tribal land acknowledgment statement

*Valley Water's jurisdiction in Santa Clara County extends over unceded ancestral lands of Bay Area Indigenous Peoples. As the original and current inhabitants of these lands, and in accordance with their traditions, Indigenous peoples continue to fulfill their responsibility to care for their ancestral lands.*

*As uninvited settlers, we recognize that we benefit from living on, working on, and consuming the resources provided by their homelands. In fact, the foundation of the state and nation was built at too high a cost, extracted through violence and exploitation from the hundreds of indigenous nations who continue to resist, persist, live and uphold their sacred relationship to land despite their ongoing exclusion and marginalization.*

*This acknowledgment demonstrates our commitment to engage in the process of purposeful collaboration with tribal communities to redress the legacy of colonialism by ensuring meaningful engagement and early consultation with tribal nations in the decision-making process of projects, practices, and programs impacting their ancestral lands.*

*We pay our respect by acknowledging ancestors, elders, and citizens Indigenous to Santa Clara County, the Tamien, Mutsun, Raymatush and Awaswas-speaking Peoples, who are inextricably tied to their homeland of Santa Clara County. Today, Tribal communities continue to have a vibrant language, culture, and relationship with the land; one of deep respect, agreement, and reciprocity. We honor these ancestral grounds we occupy and respect the efforts of Bay Area Indigenous Peoples to have recognized their sovereign rights as First Peoples.*