



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION IX

75 Hawthorne Street

San Francisco, CA 94105-3901

November 4, 2019

Members of the City Council  
City of Palo Alto  
250 Hamilton Avenue  
Palo Alto, CA 94301

Dear Councilmembers,

In September 2019, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) released for public comment a draft National Water Reuse Action Plan (<https://www.epa.gov/waterreuse/water-reuse-action-plan#draft>). The Plan identifies priority actions and the leadership needed at all levels of government and with all sectors to advance water recycling and make wiser use of scarce water resources. Water reuse is one of the nation's most promising opportunities to support communities and the economy by bolstering safe and reliable water supplies.

For several years, USEPA Region 9 has participated in discussions among Bay Area water managers about the need for improved regional integration of wastewater, stormwater, and drinking water management. USEPA Region 9 is pleased to support the proposed water reuse agreement between Palo Alto, Mountain View, and the Santa Clara Valley Water District to advance water reuse programs within Santa Clara County. We are aware that the negotiations to draft this agreement have taken years and recognize your efforts to meaningfully advance water reuse in the county. We appreciate your leadership and believe the agreement represents an important step towards expanding water reuse and moving towards a widespread regional water reuse system.

Expanded water reuse in the county via the proposed partnership agreement could yield environmental benefits by keeping a significant amount of treated wastewater from being discharged to San Francisco Bay. The Lower South San Francisco Bay is relatively shallow and historically saline with limited freshwater inputs. With increased urbanization, freshwater inputs to Lower South San Francisco Bay have created freshwater marsh conditions at the backs of marshes and reduced habitat for endangered species such as the Ridgway's Rail and Salt Marsh Harvest Mouse. Projects that come out of the proposed partnership are expected to decrease these freshwater inputs and restore the more historical salinity regime while providing a more sustainable and reliable water supply for Santa Clara County. We fully support this partnership and urge the Council to approve the agreement. Please contact me if I can be of further assistance at [smith.davidw@epa.gov](mailto:smith.davidw@epa.gov) or (415) 972-3464.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "David Smith", is placed below the word "Sincerely".

David Smith  
Assistant Director  
Water Division (WTR-3)

Cc: Karin North, Palo Alto Regional Water Quality Control Plant

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## San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board

November 5, 2019

City Council  
City of Palo Alto  
250 Hamilton Avenue  
Palo Alto, CA 94301

**Subject: Partnership to Advance Water Reuse in Santa Clara County**

Dear Councilmembers:

The San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board (Water Board) is pleased to support the proposed Partnership between Palo Alto, Mountain View, and the Santa Clara Valley Water District to advance water reuse programs within Santa Clara County. The Water Board strives to preserve, enhance, and restore the quality of the Region's water resources for the protection of the environment, public health, and all beneficial uses as well as to ensure proper water resource allocation and efficient use, for the benefit of present and future generations. Consequently, the Water Board strongly supports projects that increase the beneficial reuse of highly treated wastewater. The use of recycled water is an important component of a secure and reliable and resilient water supply. This project is an important step towards expanding water reuse and moving towards a regional water reuse system.

Expanded water reuse in the county via the proposed Partnership should yield multiple water quality and other environmental benefits. These include smart beneficial reuse of highly treated wastewater rather than discharging it to Lower South San Francisco Bay. This may help avoid further loss of surrounding salt marsh habitat, which supports endangered species such as the Ridgeway Rail and Salt Marsh Harvest Mouse. It would also help reduce further loading of nutrients and other pollutants to the Bay, while reducing reliance on external sources of drinking water. These are obvious win-wins in your and our interests in sustainable and reliable water supply and protection of San Francisco Bay.

In closing, the Water Board appreciates the opportunity to support water reuse opportunities, and we will work collaboratively with your and other Partnership staff on the development and permitting of Partnership projects.

Sincerely,

Thomas Mumley  
Assistant Executive Officer

cc: Karin North, Watershed Protection Manager, Environmental Services, City of Palo



The City Council of Mountain View  
500 Castro St.  
Mountain View, CA 94041

November 8, 2019

**Subject: Recycled Water Expansion in Palo Alto and Mountain View**

Dear Mayor Matichak, Vice Mayor Abe-Koga &  
Councilmembers Clark, Hicks, Kamei, McAlister & Ramirez,

On behalf of Sustainable Silicon Valley, I would like to express our strong support for the proposed agreement between Valley Water, the City of Mountain View, the City of Palo Alto, the Palo Alto Regional Water Quality Control Plant and other local partners. SSV has long championed innovative approaches to water use and reuse, regional cooperation and smart efforts to ensure adequate water supply.

We urge approval of the agreement pending before the Council.

Now is the time for sensible investment in a reliable, localized recycled water infrastructure. This partnership takes advantage of scale economies, stable technologies and strong domain experience delivering "purified" water. In addition to strengthening regional supply capacity, increasing water reuse will reduce treated wastewater discharge to our Bay and will benefit the Tuolumne River and the San Joaquin-Sacramento Bay Delta.

Across the Bay Area, we share the sense of living in increasingly interesting times. We breathe the smoke from an ever-lengthening fire season, we see the flood effects of rising Bay tides and we experience increasingly shorter, more intense and disruptive rainy seasons. The test before us is how well we adapt, as a civil society, to the challenges of our changing world. Among other impacts, a warming climate places greater stress upon our water resources as demand grows and traditional sources of supply become less reliable. When dependability of the mountain snowpack yields to the prospect of snow droughts, a resilient, forward-thinking city needs a sustainable plan like the one before you.

As an organization focused on monitoring, measuring and improving Bay Area air and water quality, Sustainable Silicon Valley supports the Council moving forward with this novel arrangement. Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D Murphy".

Dennis Murphy  
Water Director

Sustainable Silicon Valley  
dmurphy@@sustainablestv.org



The City Council of Palo Alto  
250 Hamilton Avenue  
Palo Alto, CA 94301

November 8, 2019

Subject: **Recycled Water Expansion in Palo Alto and Mountain View**

Dear Mayor Filseth, Vice Mayor Fine & Council Members Cormack, DuBois, Kniss, Kou & Tanaka,

On behalf of Sustainable Silicon Valley, I would like to express our strong support for the proposed agreement between Valley Water, the City of Mountain View, the City of Palo Alto, the Palo Alto Regional Water Quality Control Plant and other local partners. SSV has long championed innovative approaches to water use and reuse, regional cooperation and smart efforts to ensure adequate water supply.

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Sincerely,

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Dennis Murphy  
Water Director  
Sustainable Silicon Valley  
dmurphy@sustainablestv.org





2001 Gateway Place, Suite 101E  
San Jose, California 95110  
(408)501-7864 svlg.org

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Mayor and City Council  
City of Mountain View  
500 Castro St.  
Mountain View, CA 94041

November 12, 2019

**Re: Recycled Water Expansion in Palo Alto and Mountain View**

Dear Mayor Matichak, Vice Mayor Abe-Koga, and Councilmembers:

I write to you on behalf of the Silicon Valley Leadership Group's over 340 member companies, who collectively provide nearly one of every three private sector jobs in Silicon Valley and contribute more than \$3 trillion to the global economy. The Leadership Group supports the water reuse expansion opportunity currently pending before the Mountain View City Council, and respectfully requests that you consider approving the agreement with Valley Water and Palo Alto, as well.

Silicon Valley is a primary driver of job creation and growth in California—the sixth-largest economy in the world. However, our success—the envy of much of the world—is at risk unless we move to secure our water supply. In order to protect our economy and way of life, California needs to invest in new water sources, including reuse.

It is now more critical than ever to find solutions for a sustainable and resilient water supply, as demand for our water resources continues to grow and water supplies become less reliable. Tonight, you have the opportunity to boost our water supply with a drought-resilient, locally-controlled source by investing in recycled and purified water.

This unique partnership between Valley Water, Palo Alto, and Mountain View paves the way to secure safe and reliable drinking water supplies in addition to improving traditional recycled water projects that collectively ensure our communities have a safe, clean and reliable supply of water to go with a 21<sup>st</sup>-century economy. The Silicon Valley Leadership Group understands the need to take action to combat climate change and its negative impacts on our economic vitality. We support investing in local water supply projects as one climate resilience measure.

Improving water reuse reduces our region's dependence on imported water supplies—both from the Tuolumne River system and the San Joaquin-Sacramento Bay Delta—and helps protect our environment. As business and civic leaders in the South Bay, we cannot stress enough the need to secure safe, clean and affordable drinking water for the health and economic well-being of our region.

Businesses have made Silicon Valley their home, bringing innovation and jobs, but the sustained growth and economic success of the region — the envy of the world — will be cut short without innovative investments in our water infrastructure. We believe that the recycled water partnership will help communities secure needed water supplies going forward.

The Silicon Valley Leadership Group's members respectfully request that you vote to direct city staff to move forward with participation in the water reuse partnership—in order to further secure the water our region needs to continue to thrive.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 408-501-7858 or [mmielke@svlg.org](mailto:mmielke@svlg.org). We deeply appreciate your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Mielke".

Mike Mielke  
SVP, Environment & Energy  
Silicon Valley Leadership Group



2001 Gateway Place, Suite 101E  
San Jose, California 95110  
(408)501-7864 svlg.org

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November 12, 2019

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If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 408-501-7858 or [mmielke@svlg.org](mailto:mmielke@svlg.org). We deeply appreciate your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

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Mike Mielke  
SVP, Environment & Energy  
Silicon Valley Leadership Group





# Santa Clara & San Benito Counties Building & Construction Trades Council

2102 Almaden Road Suite 101, San Jose, CA 95125-2190 • Phone 408.265.7643 • Fax 408.265.2080

David Bini  
Executive Director

Robert Baldini  
President

November 18, 2019

Boilermakers 549  
Brick & Tile 3  
Carpenters 2236  
Carpenters 405  
Carpet & Linoleum 12  
Cement Masons 400  
Drywall Lathers 9144  
Electricians 332  
Elevator Constructors 8  
Glaziers 1621  
Heat & Frost Insulators 16  
Iron Workers 377  
Laborers 270  
Laborers 67  
Millwrights 102  
Operating Engineers 3  
Painters District Council 16  
Painters 507  
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Teamsters 287  
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California Labor C.O.P.E.  
South Bay AFL-CIO  
Labor Council

The Honorable Eric Filseth, Mayor  
Palo Alto City Council Members  
City of Palo Alto  
250 Hamilton Ave  
Palo Alto, CA 94301

The Honorable Lisa Matichak, Mayor  
Mountain View City Council Members  
City of Mountain View  
500 Castro St.  
Mountain View, CA 94041

**Subject: Recycled Water Expansion in Palo Alto and Mountain View**

Dear Mayor Filseth, Mayor Matichak, and Council Members:

On behalf of the Santa Clara and San Benito Counties Building and Construction Trades Council, I would like to express my support for the water reuse expansion opportunity currently pending before the Palo Alto and Mountain View City Councils. I urge both City Councils to approve the agreement between Palo Alto, Mountain View, and the Santa Clara Valley Water District (Valley Water) to advance resilient water reuse programs in Santa Clara County.

Today, you have the opportunity to boost local water supply and provide additional local jobs by investing in drought resilient, locally controlled recycled and purified water. As demand for our water resources grows and our supply is threatened by a changing and more unpredictable climate, it is critical that we find ways to secure a resilient water supply for our future. This unique partnership between Palo Alto, Mountain View, and Valley Water will help secure a new sustainable water supply and improve traditional recycled water projects to ensure that our communities have access to safe, reliable water necessary to support our 21<sup>st</sup> century economy. This agreement would also be an important source of new construction jobs in Palo Alto and Mountain View, infusing economic vitality in the community.



November 18, 2019

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For these reasons, I urge both City Councils to move forward with this partnership to help secure the economic prosperity of our region. Thank you for your consideration. Should you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at (408) 265-7643 or [david@scbtc.org](mailto:david@scbtc.org).

Sincerely,



David Bini  
Executive Director

