



Safe, Clean Water

and Natural Flood Protection

SANTA CLARA VALLEY
WATER DISTRICT



Valley Water

Clean Water • Healthy Environment • Flood Protection

Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program

This brochure outlines Valley Water's potential priorities and projects that could be included in a renewed Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program. It is based on community needs, stakeholder feedback received to date and Valley Water priorities. As a participant in the Blue Ribbon Forum, we are seeking your feedback and input on these potential program elements, as well as any others of importance to you, that would help shape a draft Community-Preferred Plan for any potential future program.

At Valley Water, we know the future of our families, neighborhoods and businesses depends on the reliability of vital infrastructure to deliver safe, clean water and provide critical flood protection to nearly 2 million people in Santa Clara County.

Valley Water is exploring a proposal to renew public funding to help support the Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program. Any funding proposal would require two-thirds voter approval to be successful. This potential renewal would allow us to continue leveraging state and federal funds and keep costs down.



To continue and enhance the current Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program into the future, we have presented the program and potential elements to community groups, and invited residents to take on-line surveys to gather community input into the development of a potential renewed program. Initial feedback gathered so far has helped yield the following draft priorities as part of this exploratory process:



Ensure a safe, reliable drinking water supply for the future.



Reduce toxins, hazards and contaminants, such as mercury and pharmaceuticals, in waterways.



Protect water supply and local dams from the impacts of earthquakes and natural disasters.



Restore fish, bird and wildlife habitat and provide open space access.



Provide flood protection to homes, businesses, schools, streets and highways.



Support public health and public safety for our community.

Transparency and Accountability

A potential voter-approved local funding renewal would include independent oversight and accountability, just as the current program does. For example, it could:

- Require all expenditures to be annually published in a report available to county residents.
- Require an external independent citizen oversight committee to review spending and progress of the program.
- Include exemptions for low-income senior citizens.

Priority A



Ensure a safe, reliable drinking water supply for the future

At Valley Water, providing safe, clean water is vital. By working around the clock and behind the scenes, we work to ensure a reliable drinking water supply for the future, by improving and maintaining our dams, pipelines, water storage, treatment systems, and aging infrastructure to avoid disruptions in service.

This potential renewed priority could help fund projects and programs to upgrade aging water pipelines and storage facilities to ensure reliable drinking water and future water resources.





Examples of specific potential projects include: a Pipeline Reliability Project, and the Pacheco Reservoir Expansion Project. These projects would:

- Improve the reliability of the water supply.
- Build sustainable, locally controlled water supply projects that are drought resilient.

In addition, Priority A could potentially award funding focused on providing rebates and grants to preserve future water resources to:

- Help ensure schools and community organizations can provide safe, clean drinking water to students by providing hydration stations.
- Expand water conservation rebates.

Priority B



Reduce toxins, hazards and contaminants, such as mercury and pharmaceuticals, in waterways

Another major priority of the program is to reduce toxins like mercury and pharmaceuticals in local creeks, streams and the bay.



Guadalupe River U.S. Blossom Hill Riparian Planting



Another potential renewed priority of the program could help reduce toxins like mercury and pharmaceuticals in local creeks, streams and the bay.

Specifically, Priority B projects could potentially aim to:

- Monitor and reduce mercury in reservoirs and streams.
- Respond and remove hazardous materials to protect to protect streams, reservoirs, and underground water supplies by:
 - 💧 Maintaining a local number to report spills.
 - 💧 Responding to hazardous materials incidents within two hours of a report.
 - 💧 Coordinating and communicating with agencies to ensure rapid and thorough clean-up.
- Provide grants and maintain local partnerships to help reduce toxins and contaminants in the local water system.
- Improve stormwater pollution prevention through public outreach and partnerships.
- Support volunteer efforts through clean-up activities, education and watershed stewardship.

Priority C



Protect local water supply and dams from the impacts of earthquakes and disasters

This potential renewed priority could focus on protecting critical water supply infrastructure from the impacts of natural disasters, like earthquakes.



Pacheco Reservoir Expansion Project



Side view of Anderson Dam

An example of a potential project is the Anderson Dam Seismic Retrofit Project. This project would:

- Increase seismic safety and reliability of our area's largest reservoir in case of earthquakes by bringing the dam and spillway up to current requirements.
- Restore Anderson Reservoir to its full capacity, which would add 32% or 9.3 billion gallons of water storage capacity for future supply.



Anderson Reservoir

Priority D



***Restore fish, bird and wildlife habitat
and provide open space access***

Potential projects under a renewed Priority D could restore and protect vital wildlife habitat while providing open space access.



Stevens Creek Restoration Project



Stevens Creek-Evelyn Bridge Fish Passage Project creates better passage conditions for migration of fish.

Specifically, Priority D projects could:

- Revitalize creek banks, upland and wetland habitats by maintaining plants where needed and removing invasive species.
- Create or enhance wetland and creek habitats and provide access to open space through partnerships and grants.
- Improve fish passage and habitat.
- Restore and improve creeks and bank; and improve long term creek sustainability.
- Monitor and assess wetlands and other important habitat.
- Work with partners to identify and acquire important habitat land to preserve local ecosystems.

Priority E



Provide flood protection to homes, businesses, schools, streets and highways

Flood protection capital projects are prioritized to protect homes, and businesses, as well as safeguard the highways, streets, public transportation and business centers that people depend on for their livelihoods. Flooding history, damage estimates, and economic impacts are all taken into consideration. All of the construction projects under a potentially renewed Priority E require local funding, and several also require additional federal or state funding. Whenever possible, Valley Water also leverages funds from federal and state sources, as well as regional and local partners, if feasible.



Friendship Bridge at San Francisquito Creek



Upper Guadalupe River — Highway 280 to Blossom Hill Road in San Jose, California.

Additionally, the potential projects listed below are multi-benefit projects that would also help enhance wildlife habitat and provide open space access.

Potential Priority E flood protection capital projects could include:

- Upper Penitencia Creek — Coyote Creek to Dorel Drive, San Jose
- San Francisquito Creek — Upstream of Highway 101, Palo Alto
- Upper Llagas Creek — Buena Vista Avenue to Wright Avenue, Morgan Hill, San Martin and Gilroy
- San Francisco Bay Shoreline — Mountain View, Palo Alto, San Jose, Santa Clara and Sunnyvale
- Upper Guadalupe River — Highway 280 to Blossom Hill Road - San Jose
- Coyote Creek — Montague Expressway to Tully Road — San Jose
- Sunnyvale East and West Channels — San Francisco Bay to Inverness Way and Almanor Avenue — Sunnyvale

New Potential Priority F



Support public health and public safety for our community

To address the need for enhanced public health and public safety for the community, a new potential Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program priority is being proposed. This new priority could potentially pull together multi-benefit projects that were previously placed under other Safe, Clean Water Program priorities and group them based on their common benefit of supporting public health and public safety along our waterways and infrastructure.

Potential projects under Priority F could:

- Support public health and public safety by removing trash, debris and graffiti from our creeks, and by repairing and installing fencing to prevent illegal dumping of waste in the waterways.
- Support public health by coordinating with cities to reduce trash and other pollutants from entering waterways from encampments.
- Support public safety along our waterways through partnerships with local police and park rangers.



Crew at work during flood season.



An example of a fence installation to prevent illegal dumping of waste in the waterways.

- Support public safety by providing grants and or partnerships towards clearing potential flood-inducing blockages along waterways throughout Santa Clara County.
- Remove sediment, manage vegetation and maintain completed flood protection projects.
- Increase or maintain capacity of vital creeks and waterways.
- Carry out flood risk reduction and develop engineering studies including updated mapping of flood-prone areas.
- Create site-specific Emergency Action Plans for creeks, where flood risks are greatest.
- Improve emergency response coordination and communication between first-responders, local agencies, residents and businesses and use web, texting and other technology to keep residents updated.
- Implement automated flood warning system employing real-time data to predict potential flood risk and promote community awareness.

Safe, Clean Water

and Natural Flood Protection

To learn more about Valley Water's efforts to ensure Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection for our future, please call:

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or visit safecleanwater.org

Valley Water manages an integrated water system to supply safe, clean water, provide flood protection and stewardship of streams on behalf of Santa Clara County's nearly 2 million residents.

Valley Water provides water to homes and businesses in the county's 15 cities and unincorporated areas. We do this by effectively managing waterways and infrastructure including 10 dams and reservoirs, three water treatment plants, 140 miles of pipelines and more than 275 miles of streams.



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