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December 16, 2019

Valley Water
Board of Directors
5750 Almaden Expressway
San Jose, CA 95188

Dear Board of Directors,

As you are aware, the City of Morgan Hill has partnered with Valley Water for decades on the Upper Llagas Creek Flood Protection Project. The City has appreciated the commitment of Valley Water to this project, and the commencement of the Phase 1 work south of the City is a huge achievement. However, while Phase 1 is necessary to move to the next phase, it provides only limited impact to the flooding in Morgan Hill. The completion of Phase 2 of the project will provide the desperately needed protection for our community.

The City has been encouraged by the progress on Phase 2 with the designs now almost complete. City representatives were recently informed of the shortfall in funding for Phase 2 of the project. While this is discouraging, the Morgan Hill City Council and staff is committed to supporting Valley Water in advocating for the future funding needed for the project.

Valley Water staff has recommended a funding scenario which would allow construction of the Upper Llagas Creek Project to move forward with the existing funding to construct a portion of Phase 2. This portion will include the construction of a tunnel in Downtown Morgan Hill. The City supports this approach for multiple reasons. It demonstrates the commitment to utilize the secured local funding for a project that has been committed, while continuing to keep the project moving forward. For the City of Morgan Hill, completing the tunnel work sooner is highly important as this work will require staging on a section of the future Hale Avenue roadway in Morgan Hill. The City is on a tight timetable to complete this roadway improvement and once completed, the tunnel work will become much more complicated and expensive.

The City of Morgan Hill urges the Board of Directors to approve the staff recommendation to fund this project and begin construction on Phase 2 as quickly as possible. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Rich Constantine, Mayor

CC: Morgan Hill City Council
Christina Turner, City Manager
Chris Ghione, Public Services Director

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