

Board Governance Ends Policy E.4. Water Resources Stewardship

Water resources stewardship protects and enhances ecosystem health.

Goal 4.1 Use a science-based, inclusive approach to protect Santa Clara County's watersheds and aquatic ecosystems for current and future generations.

1. Develop and share data to support resilient ecosystems and healthy populations of native species.
2. Monitor stream, reservoir, and Bay ecosystem health.
3. Use data to prioritize and equitably implement actions to reduce pollution, restore endangered species habitat, and enhance ecosystem function.

Goal 4.2 Sustain ecosystem health while managing local water resources for flood protection and water supply.

1. Plan and design projects with multiple benefits, including protecting ecosystem functions, enhancing habitat, and improving connectivity, equitably in all regions of the county.
2. Operate Valley Water facilities to balance water supply, flood protection, and ecosystem sustainability.

Goal 4.3 Encourage inclusive, sustainable management of water resources in the Bay-Delta and its watersheds to protect imported water supply.

1. Meet future water supply demand through diverse and coordinated water supply planning.
2. Promote holistic ecosystem management through science-based decision-making.
3. Actively engage in the protection of source water quality through collaboration and funding.

Goal 4.4 Prevent and address pollution of local streams, reservoirs, and the Bay, equitably across all communities. Protect waterbodies from pollution and degradation.

1. Encourage stormwater capture, treatment, and reuse.
2. Prepare and respond to spills and dumping that threaten local waterways.
3. Collaborate with agencies and nonprofits to address homelessness and its impacts to Santa Clara County Waterways.

Goal 4.5 Engage the community to promote watershed stewardship by providing meaningful engagement in Valley Water programs for all people regardless of race,

color, gender identity, disability status, national origin, tribe, culture, income, immigration status, or English language proficiency.

1. Provide appropriate and equal public access to Valley Water's streamside and watershed lands.
2. Engage and educate the community in stream and watershed protection,
3. Build partnerships to protect and enhance watersheds and aquatic ecosystems.