



SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

# NON-AGENDA

## January 17, 2025

**Board Policy EL-7 Communication and Support to the Board**  
*The BAOs shall inform and support the Board in its work.*

<b>Page</b>	<b><u>CEO BULLETIN &amp; NEWSLETTERS</u></b>
	CEO Bulletin: None.
	<b><u>BOARD MEMBER REQUESTS &amp; INFORMATIONAL ITEMS</u></b>
	<b>BMR/IBMR Weekly Reports: None</b>
	<b><u>INCOMING BOARD CORRESPONDENCE</u></b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Board Correspondence Weekly Report: 01/15/25</b>
<b>5</b>	Email from Jessica Ruppert to the Board, dated 01/09/25, providing Coyote Creek and Trail Cleanup Flyers. C-25-0007
<b>9</b>	Email from Rita Norton to the Board, dated 01/10/25, thanking Chair Estremera for the response to their email. C-25-0008
<b>12</b>	Email from Dorota Niewczas to Director Hsueh, dated 01/12/25, asking what the action plan is regarding Fluoride Ruling. C-25-0009
<b>16</b>	Email from Meg Giberson to the Board, dated 01/13/25, requesting Board consider resilience through groundwater storage, reuse instead of DCP. C-25-0010
<b>26</b>	Email from Will Turner to the board, dated 01/13/25, asking about the status of plans to supply treated sewage water to golf courses and highly treated water to specialized industries. C-25-0011
<b>27</b>	Email from Judy Gallager to Director Varela, dated 01/13/25, reporting that a section of a fence on Valley Water's property has sustained damage. C-25-0012
<b>29</b>	Email from Gita Dev and other constituents to the board, received after 9am on 01/14/25, urging Valley Water not to allocate any additional funds to the proposed Delta Conveyance Project and vote no on Agenda Item 3.5. C-25-0013
<b>33</b>	Email from Dorsey Moore to the board, dated 01/14/25, urging the board to vote no on approving any Valley Water funding for the Delta Conveyance Project (DCP). C-25-0014
<b>35</b>	Email from Pierce Whalen to the board, dated 01/14/25, inquiring about a collaboration to support sustainable access to clean water and eco-friendly solutions. C-25-0015
	<b><u>OUTGOING BOARD CORRESPONDENCE</u></b>
<b>37</b>	Email from Director Ballard to Wendy li, dated 01/09/25, responding to an inquiry regarding Los Gatos Creek Re-encampment discussion.
<b>44</b>	Email from Director Estremera to Libby Lucas, dated 01/09/25, responding to an inquiry regarding desalination in South Bay proposed pilot projects.
<b>47</b>	Email from Director Estremera to Rita Norton, dated 01/09/25, responding to comments regarding Valley Water's Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan.

# **INCOMING BOARD CORRESPONDENCE**

Board Correspondence (open)

Correspond No	Rec'd By District	Rec'd By COB	Letter To	Letter From	Description	Disposition	BAO/ Chief	Staff	Draft Response Due Date	Draft Response Submitted	Writer Ack. Sent	Final Response Due Date
C-25-0001	12/31/24	01/01/25	All	JEAN-MARIE WHITE	Email from Jean-Marie White to Director Ballard, dated 12/31/24 (received by COB on 1/1/25), inquiring about the delay for Anderson costing taxpayers \$100M	Refer to Staff	Chan	Mccarter	01/09/25	01/10/25	n/a	01/15/25
C-25-0009	01/12/25	01/13/25	All	DOROTA NIEWCZAS	Email from Dorota Niewczas to Director Hsueh, dated 01/12/25, asking what the action plan is regarding Fluoride Ruling.	Refer to Staff	Hakes	Bogale	01/21/25	-	n/a	01/27/25
C-25-0010	01/13/25	01/13/25	All	ALAN & MEG GIBERSON	Email from Meg Giberson to the Board, dated 01/13/25, requesting Board consider resilience through groundwater	Refer to Staff	Baker	Williams	01/21/25	-	n/a	01/27/25

Correspond No	Rec'd By District	Rec'd By COB	Letter To	Letter From	Description	Disposition	BAO/ Chief	Staff	Draft Response Due Date	Draft Response Submitted	Writer Ack. Sent	Final Response Due Date
					storage, reuse instead of DCP.							
C-25-0011	01/13/25	01/14/25	All	WILL TURNER	Email from Will Turner to the board, dated 01/13/25, asking about the status of plans to supply treated sewage water to golf courses and highly treated water to specialized industries.	Refer to Staff	Baker	Bogale	01/22/25	-	n/a	01/28/25
C-25-0012	01/13/25	01/14/25	All	JUDY GALLAGHER	Email from Judy Gallagher to Director Varela, dated 01/13/25, reporting that a section of a fence on Valley Water's property has sustained damage.	Refer to Staff	Hakes	Infante	01/22/25	-	n/a	01/28/25

## Max Overland

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**From:** Jessica Ruppert <jessica@keepcoyotecreekbeautiful.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 9, 2025 3:25 PM  
**To:** Board of Directors; Linh Hoang; Meghan Azralon  
**Subject:** Re: January 26th Coyote Creek and Trail Cleanup  
**Attachments:** 250126-Cleanup-Flyer.jpg

\*\*\* This email originated from outside of Valley Water. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. \*\*\*

Attached is the flyer for this event in case you would like to post it.

Thank you

On Thu, Jan 9, 2025 at 3:21 PM Jessica Ruppert <[jessica@keepcoyotecreekbeautiful.org](mailto:jessica@keepcoyotecreekbeautiful.org)> wrote:  
Hello,

Keep Coyote Creek Beautiful has scheduled a Cleanup on Sunday, January 26.

Thank you

\*\*\*\*\*

### Let's Cleanup Our Planet - Creek and Trail Cleanup

**Location: TBD**

**Sun Jan 26th**

**9AM to 12PM**

Join Keep Coyote Creek Beautiful for a community cleanup event. Meet new people; improve a neighborhood park; build community around a shared sense of service.

Free litter kits!

Groups Welcome

Community service hours available.

RSVP: <https://250126-cleanup.eventbrite.com/?aff=vw>

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**Jessica Ruppert**

Event Coordinator

Keep Coyote Creek Beautiful

408-755-6159

[KeepCoyoteCreekBeautiful.org](http://KeepCoyoteCreekBeautiful.org)

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Jessica Ruppert

Event Coordinator  
Keep Coyote Creek Beautiful  
408-755-6159  
[KeepCoyoteCreekBeautiful.org](http://KeepCoyoteCreekBeautiful.org)

# LET'S CLEANUP OUR PLANET

CELEBRATE INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION DAY AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE

JANUARY 26

9AM-12PM

RSVP

AT

KEEP COYOTE CREEK BEAUTIFUL

SAN JOSE  
PARKS, RECREATION &  
NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES  
Building Community Through Fun



WWW.KEEPCOYOTECREEKBEAUTIFUL.ORG

COYOTE CREEK CLEANUP LOCATION PROVIDED AT REGISTRATION

# TRASHPOCALYPSE NOW

Coyote Creek  
& Trail Cleanup

Feb. 22nd  
9am-12pm

RSVP  
AT

 KEEP COYOTE CREEK BEAUTIFUL



[WWW.KEEPCOYOTECREEKBEAUTIFUL.ORG](http://WWW.KEEPCOYOTECREEKBEAUTIFUL.ORG)

## Max Overland

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**From:** Rita Norton [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, January 10, 2025 12:03 PM  
**To:** Board of Directors  
**Cc:** Nick Mascarello  
**Subject:** Re: Comments on draft VW's Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan

**\*\*\* This email originated from outside of Valley Water. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. \*\*\***

Good day-

Thank you for this response.

I look forward to when these emissions from the production and use of concrete are accounted for at some point in the future.

It is good to see that our California agencies are taking leadership on this aspect of greenhouse gas accounting.

Best regards,  
Rita Norton

On Thu, Jan 9, 2025 at 11:59 AM Board of Directors <[board@valleywater.org](mailto:board@valleywater.org)> wrote:

**Sent on Behalf of Chair Estremera:**

Dear Rita Norton,

Thank you for the comments provided on Valley Water's Draft Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan (GHGRP). Valley Water appreciates your interest in the role of concrete in its emissions inventory and the information included in your comments.

In general, greenhouse gas (GHG) inventories prepared by public agencies in California do not include emissions associated with the manufacturing and use of concrete because there are no Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) or California Air Resources Board (CARB) requirements to include concrete emissions in local GHG inventories and forecasts. However, CARB is currently developing a [strategy](#)<sup>1</sup> to reduce emissions for the cement sector to 40% below baseline levels by 2035 and to net-zero by 2045 per the requirements of Senate Bill 596.

Valley Water will track CARB's cement emission reduction strategy and will evaluate the inclusion of concrete emissions in future inventories and forecasts, along with potential measures to reduce them that could be added to the GHGRP during future updates.

Sincerely,



Tony Estremera

Chair, District 6

C-25-0005

<sup>1</sup> <https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/our-work/programs/net-zero-emissions-strategy-cement-sector>

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**From:** Rita Norton [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, January 3, 2025 12:39 PM  
**To:** Nick Mascarello <[NMascarello@valleywater.org](mailto:NMascarello@valleywater.org)>  
**Cc:** Board of Directors <[board@valleywater.org](mailto:board@valleywater.org)>  
**Subject:** Comments on draft VW's Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan

\*\*\* This email originated from outside of Valley Water. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. \*\*\*

Dear Board and staff-

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input into the draft Plan. While the draft Plan is quite comprehensive and detailed for what it covers, it neglects a major contributor of greenhouse gas emission that the Valley Water is responsible for emitting now and even more so, possibly in the future.

The GHG EMISSIONS INVENTORY does not acknowledge the use of concrete in Valley Water's proposed major projects.

Among these projects is Pacheco Dam for which the District should include in this draft Plan.

The draft Plan should indicate the amount of concrete to be hauled in and the concomitant amount of concrete's emissions. This calculation should be included for all construction projects. Some projects are maintenance of existing facilities. Others, such as Pacheco are still on the drawing board, and its future contributions to greenhouse gases in terms of new concrete should be added to the potential inventory.

According to research, in total, one ton of cement typically produces about 0.8 to 0.9 tons of CO2 emissions, resulting in approximately 8% of the world's anthropogenic CO2 emissions, and about 25% of all industry carbon emissions.

Used to build much of the infrastructure that enables today's modern society—dams, roads, bridges and buildings—concrete is the second-most widely used substance on Earth, behind only water. And according to the IEA, the cement sector is the third-largest consumer of energy and the second-largest emitter of carbon dioxide when looking at industrial players alone.

Making cement is by its nature a highly energy-intensive process. Raw materials like clay and limestone are heated to more than 2,500 degrees Fahrenheit to turn them into a binding agent for sand, gravel or other coarse materials. But unlike other major construction commodities, concrete produces carbon emissions in two ways, not just one.

I recommend the correlated indices for emissions from projected concrete use by Valley Water is the responsible action to provide in this draft Plan at this time and be provided in this Plan and as well in the upcoming review of Pacheco environmental impacts.

How many tons of concrete would be used in the construction of Pacheco? Multiply this by the factor shown above to make this calculation- ---and next see what offsets would be needed.

As alternatives to Pacheco are considered, these emissions make a strong case for projects that are much less dependent on concrete.

I look forward to your discussions going forward. Many thanks.

Sincerely,

Rita Norton

## Max Overland

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**From:** Dorota Niewczas [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 12, 2025 7:27 PM  
**To:** Board of Directors  
**Subject:** Re: Fluoride Ruling- What is your action plan?

\*\*\* This email originated from outside of Valley Water. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. \*\*\*

Hi Nai,

The EPA had silenced its own scientists in the case of the fluoride. Make sure to do your due diligence and look through the details of the court case and have the rest of the board do so as well. That is why the lawsuit took place. The top toxicologists in the EPA concluded that fluoride lowers the IQ levels of children at the levels currently being added to the water. There is no need to add fluoride to the water. This practice is mass medication without informed consent. It is a doctor's role to provide medication, not a water public service.

As a public servant you swore to uphold the California State Constitution which states:

"All people are by nature free and independent and have inalienable rights."

Mass medication in the water supply violates the right of the men and women in San Jose to make independent medical decisions.

How are you planning on honoring your oath to the California Constitution in light of this?

Best,

Dorota

On Mon, Jan 6, 2025 at 10:19 AM Board of Directors <[board@valleywater.org](mailto:board@valleywater.org)> wrote:

**Sent on Behalf of Chair Hsueh:**

Dear Dorota Niewczas,

Thank you for your email dated December 25, 2024, inquiring about Valley Water's plans regarding drinking water fluoridation following the recent ruling by a federal district court in California ordering the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to take regulatory action to address concerns related to drinking water fluoridation. Although the ruling does not conclude that fluoridated water is injurious to public health, the court determined that there is

sufficient scientific research to merit the EPA evaluating whether regulatory action is needed to address any potential risks.

As a public water agency, Valley Water's core mission is to provide Silicon Valley safe, clean water for a healthy life, environment, and economy. To this end, Valley Water ensures that the drinking water delivered to the community meets or exceeds all current federal and state drinking water standards and is safe for human consumption. Since 2016, Valley Water supplements the naturally occurring level of fluoride to the optimal fluoride level of up to 0.7 parts per million in the drinking water supplied to the eastern part of Santa Clara County. The addition of fluoride to prevent tooth decay is in accordance with recommendations by the California State Water Resources Control Board's Division of Drinking Water (DDW) and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

While Valley Water is aware of the recent court decision related to drinking water fluoridation, Valley Water relies on the expertise and recommendations of state and federal regulatory agencies and public health professionals to inform water treatment practices. To that effect, Valley Water is actively collaborating with industry associations and other water utilities to get further clarification from our regulatory agencies regarding potential changes to fluoridation practices. Valley Water remains committed to continuing to abide by the most current regulatory requirements and to adjust its practices based on guidance provided by relevant regulatory agencies.

For additional information, we invite you to visit our Fluoridation webpage (<https://www.valleywater.org/your-water/water-quality/how-we-clean-your-water/fluoridation>).

Again, thank you for reaching out to us. If you have any other concerns, please feel free to contact Sam Bogale, Treated Water Division Deputy Operating Officer, at 408-630-3505 or [sbogale@valleywater.org](mailto:sbogale@valleywater.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Nai Hsueh". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned to the left of a vertical line.

Nai Hsueh

Chair, District 5

C-24-0291

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**From:** Dorota Niewczas [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 25, 2024 9:23 PM  
**To:** Board of Directors <[board@valleywater.org](mailto:board@valleywater.org)>  
**Subject:** Fluoride Ruling- What is your action plan?

**\*\*\* This email originated from outside of Valley Water. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. \*\*\***

Hello,

I am writing to inform you that a federal judge in California has ruled that the addition of fluoride to the drinking water is unsafe.

Here is some information:

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/epa-fluoride-drinking-water-federal-court-ruling/>

Many counties are moving to remove fluoride from the water supply following this ruling. What is your action plan to remove fluoride from the drinking water to uphold public safety?

Best,

Dorota Niewczas

Safety Research Associate who lives in San Jose

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Dorota Niewczas

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." -Margaret Mead

## Max Overland

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**From:** AgMg Giberson [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 13, 2025 3:06 PM  
**To:** John Varela; Tony Estremera; Nai Hsueh; Richard Santos; Shiloh Ballard; Rebecca Eisenberg; Jim Beall  
**Subject:** Instead of DCP, resilience through groundwater storage, reuse  
**Attachments:** groundwater storage vs. reservoirs.pdf

\*\*\* This email originated from outside of Valley Water. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. \*\*\*

Dear Directors:

Finding a viable solution to our water dilemmas is of great concern for our county and state. Regarding **storage**, Stanford's Water in the West program has researched the issue with the conclusion that groundwater storage is superior to surface storage.

Results of Stanford's --and others'--research show that:

- groundwater recharge is a cheaper alternative to surface storage;
- groundwater basins (at 850 million to 1.3 billion acre-feet) can store more than can California's major reservoirs (less than 50 million acre-feet);
  - evaporation causes major water loss from reservoirs and canals--about 2 million acre-feet/year, which is almost one-third of California's 6.6 maf/year (2017-2019) urban water use;
  - siltation causes surface storage capacity losses;
  - harmful algal blooms (HABs) are toxic (much of county's water comes from HAB-affected San Luis Reservoir);
  - reservoirs produce greenhouse gases (as significant producers of methane);
  - hydropower production from dams is declining with climate change;
  - dams age and require expensive repairs or replacement; and
  - dams block important access to fish spawning grounds, etc.

Please see the attached summary of information ("groundwater storage vs. reservoirs") regarding the research by Stanford and others that illustrates the superiority of groundwater storage over dams and reservoirs.

### **Sourcing: resilience from cleaner water and less imported water**

Reducing water use is a great goal. However, while conservation is important, and is the cheapest source of water, it does not solve the problem of partially-cleaned water from municipal POTWs, particularly in view of the recognition that PFAS remains in most of those discharges.

PFAS removal via any of the methods mentioned below not only provides great reuse potential—**limiting the need for imported water and increasing local resilience**—but solves the PFAS contamination problem that is not addressed by normal wastewater discharge cleaning methods. Please see the following excerpts from articles on the subject.

### **PFAS cleanup**

<https://thepublicsradio.org/npr/how-a-california-county-got-pfas-out-of-its-drinking-water/> [Sep. 12, 2024] **Cleaning drinking water of PFAS:** Under an EPA rule [finalized in April](#), affected water districts

will have to take action to clean their water supplies. In Orange County, Calif., the Yorba Linda treatment plant and others around it provide examples of how it can be done. ... Each tank looms about 10 feet tall and can hold around 4,500 gallons. There are 22 of them, arranged in a double row, painted pristine ivory white. The tanks are packed half-full with a kind of **resin – special polymer beads** – that pull PFAS out of the water. Every gallon of water pumped from the district's wells now passes through a few of these tanks for treatment, before going to the homes and businesses of 80,000 people. .... **Filtration plants** are expensive but **cost less than imported water**. [Emphasis added]

<https://mavensnotebook.com/2024/05/10/uc-riverside-new-forever-chemical-cleanup-strategy-discovered/> Fortunately, a collaborative discovery by scientists at UC Riverside and Clarkson University in Potsdam, N.Y., provides a new strategy to clean up these [PFAS] pollutants. [reported by Maven's Notebook, May 10, 2024]

[May 31, 2024] : A UCR team led by [Haizhou Liu](#), a professor of chemical and environmental engineering, discovered a **chemical process** that allows **high levels of salt** normally found in wastewater from water treatment plants to act as a **catalyst** that **facilitates the breakup of PFAS compounds** by cleaving the stubbornly strong fluorine-to-carbon bonds. Normally, salt in wastewater impedes the cleanup of chemical pollutants. This solution to PFAS pollution is detailed in the journal [Environmental Science & Technology](#). The work builds on [Liu's discovery in 2022](#) that PFAS compounds can be destroyed in a **one-step treatment** by **irradiating water with short-wavelength ultraviolet** light via tuning a process that does **not require additional chemicals or leave behind toxic residuals**. Both works are protected by patents. ... The salinity in wastewater acts as a catalyst when receiving the UV light to make this process even more effective and much faster." ... Liu said the process extremely efficient at PFAS destruction because the short-wavelength ultraviolet light (which is distinct from traditional UV light used for water disinfection) is not quenched by undesirable chemicals in the wastewater.

The method was detailed this month in the journal [Nature Water](#). It involves **treating heavily contaminated water with ultra-violet (UV) light, sulfite, and a process called electrochemical oxidation**, explained UCR associate professor [Jinyong Liu](#). ... Liu and Yang, however, found that electrochemical oxidation also breaks up these organics. Their process also allows these reactions to occur at room temperature without a need for additional heat or high pressure to stimulate the reaction. ...

Their method can also help water utilities deal with groundwater pollution. Contaminated groundwater is often treated through ion exchange technologies in which the PFAS molecules glob onto resin beads in large treatment tanks. The UV light and electrochemical oxidation method developed by Liu and Yang also can assist the regeneration of beads so they can be recycled, Liu said. ... The study's title is "Near-complete destruction of PFAS in aqueous film-forming foam by integrated photo-electrochemical processes."

<https://otc.duke.edu/news/oc-san-a-major-california-utility-purchases-a-374water-airscwotm-system/> ... [Feb. 21, 2022] Orange County Sanitation District ("OC San"), of Fountain Valley, California, has purchased an **AirSCWO™** system as part of an agreement to demonstrate a commercial-scale system to treat raw primary and secondary sludge, biosolids, and food waste. 374Water's AirSCWO™ technology is based on a physical-thermal process called supercritical water oxidation. It is an advanced technology that is geared to help OC San overcome several challenges it's facing, namely, solids processing and disposal costs, air emission requirements for methane and power generation, and emerging contaminants such as PFAS compounds and microplastics as well as food waste utilization, and efficient use of OC San's treatment plant properties. ....

**High temp /hi-pressure OCD project -- removal of bacteria and PFAS** <https://www.latimes.com/socal/daily-pilot/news/story/2023-02-04/o-c-sanitation-demo-that-will-kill-forever-chemicals-turn-waste-into-water-electricity> [Feb. 4, 2023] ... [A]110-acre plant in Fountain Valley operated by **the Orange County Sanitation District**... along with a similar setup in Huntington Beach,

is where approximately 185 million gallons of sewage is treated in a complex process that essentially digests biologic material into its basic components. ... **Orange County Sanitation District** is partnering with 374Water on a **supercritical water oxidation project** that subjects wastewater to **high pressure** and **temperature**, ... that allows for the **removal of bacteria and PFAS**. Byproducts of that process include drinking water — about 130 million gallons per day, thanks to a groundwater replenishment system — methane gas and carbon dioxide, salt, nutrient-rich fertilizer that's trucked off to commercial farms and a small amount of plastic, debris and grit that winds up in a landfill.

As Stanford has opined, "we need technologies that will allow us to transform a linear water economy into a circular one in which we minimize freshwater withdrawals by reusing wastewater. <https://news.stanford.edu/stories/2019/10/qa-new-sources-water-desalination-research>

I hope to see SCVWD/VW implement the kinds of good science illustrated by the examples above regarding storage and wastewater reuse for enhanced resilience. Thank you for your interest in pursuing excellent results for our county.

Best regards,

Meg Giberson

**Groundwater storage vs. dams/ reservoirs — groundwater storage features more capacity, less cost, less evaporation, no HABs, etc., vs. surface storage that features all those**

*Aridification highlights the shortcomings of dams and reservoirs—cost, capacity, etc.—in the face of climate change in California and the West.*

**1. Costs: surface water/reservoir storage costs more than groundwater storage according to Stanford Water in the West research.**

<https://news.stanford.edu/2016/07/21/cost-effective-path-drought-resiliency/>  
[http://waterinthewest.stanford.edu/sites/default/files/Storing\\_Water\\_in\\_CA.pdf](http://waterinthewest.stanford.edu/sites/default/files/Storing_Water_in_CA.pdf)  
<http://waterinthewest.stanford.edu/groundwater/charts/cost-comparison/index.html>

<https://waterinthewest.stanford.edu/groundwater/charts/cost-comparison/index.html>

**Cost Comparison of Water Projects**

New research by Water in the West shows that groundwater recharge is a cheaper alternative to surface storage. In fact, researchers found that the cost of recharge is cheaper than many other water supply options at \$90 to 1,100 per acre-foot, or at a median cost of \$390 per acre-foot, which broadly agrees with published values.

**Groundwater Recharge**



Replenishing groundwater by putting water back into the ground (Cost based on 25th to 75th percentiles of studied projects, 2014 USD)



Source: *Water in the West*

**Reservoir Expansion**



Raising dams to expand reservoirs, increasing their capacity to store water



Source: *U.S. Bureau of Reclamation*

**Seawater Desalination**



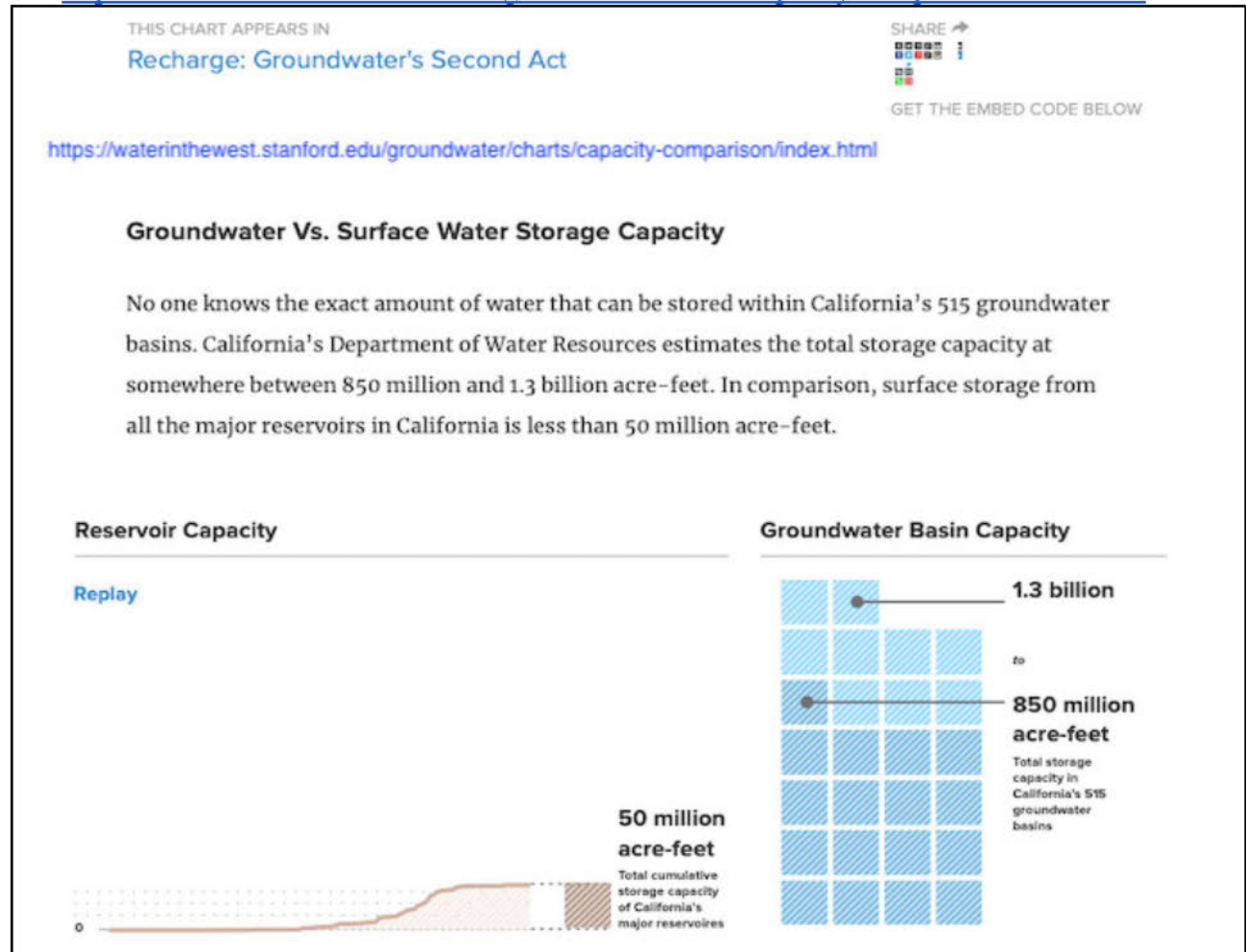
Removing salt from sea — or brackish — water to create a new supply



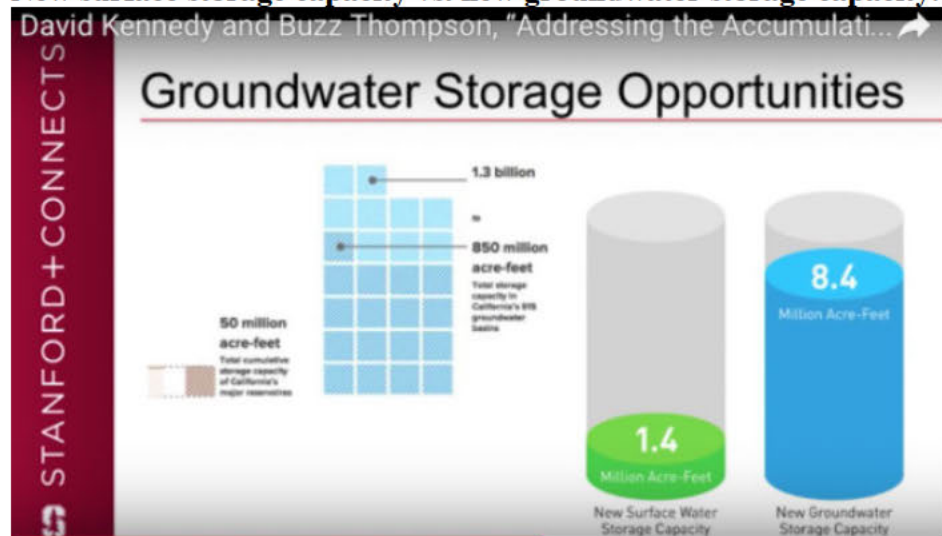
Source: *Pacific Institute*

## 2. Groundwater basins can store more than reservoirs (Stanford)

See <https://waterinthewest.stanford.edu/groundwater/charts/capacity-comparison/index.html>



### New surface storage capacity vs. new groundwater storage capacity:



**3. Evaporation causes surface storage loss of about 2 maf/year** (2 million acre-feet/year): "In California "evapotranspiration is roughly ... 2 maf/year from reservoirs and canals". [Jay Lund, May 12, 2019]

<https://californiawaterblog.com/2019/05/12/some-innocent-questions-on-california-water-part-i/>

- That 2 maf/year evaporation loss equals almost one-third of the 6.6 maf/year California urban water used 2017-2019 (6.6 maf/y cited in ASCE publication): <https://www.asce.org/publications-and-news/civil-engineering-source/civil-engineering-magazine/article/2022/07/report-cites-ways-to-extend-californias-urban-water-supplies>)

- "We need innovation. The conveyance canals from the Colorado River or from the State Water Project show that we are losing 30 to 35 percent of our water to evaporation." (Adel Hagekhalil) <https://www.planningreport.com/2021/06/14/new-mwd-gm-adel-hagekhalil-s-committed-one-water-agenda>

**4. Siltation also causes surface storage capacity losses**

<https://www.latimes.com/politics/la-pol-sac-skelton-water-storage-california-20190304-story.html> "A 2009 UC Berkeley report estimated that about 1.8 million acre-feet of storage space had been lost to silt. It found that nearly 190 reservoirs had lost more than 50% of their original capacity." *Capitol Journal: California Should Stop Thinking about More Dams. The State Is Brimming with Them.* Los Angeles Times, 4 Mar. 2019

**5. Harmful algal blooms (HABs) are toxic**, and affect reservoirs, rivers, and lakes (and even SF Bay)—more common with climate change. Santa Clara County draws much of its imported water from San Luis Reservoir, which has been affected by HABs.

HABs can pose a health risk to people and animals, harm aquatic ecosystems, and limit the use of drinking and recreational waterbodies due to the toxins, odors, and scums or mats they can produce. <https://mywaterquality.ca.gov/habs/>

A July 2022, Calif. Dept. of Water Resources (DWR) warning "urg[ed] the public to avoid contact with water at San Luis Reservoir ... until further notice due to blue-green algae (cyanobacteria)." Part of that advisory warned: "Do not drink, cook, or wash dishes with untreated surface water from these areas under any circumstances. Common water purification techniques such as camping filters, tablets, and boiling do not remove toxins." The advisory further noted: "Exposure to toxic blue-green algae, also known as cyanobacteria, can cause eye irritation, allergic skin rash, mouth ulcers, vomiting, diarrhea, and cold- and flu-like symptoms. Pets can be especially susceptible...." <https://water.ca.gov/News/News-Releases/2022/July-22/San-Luis-Reservoir-Algal-Bloom-Warning-7-25-22>

**6. GHG (greenhouse gases):** Dams/reservoirs produce greenhouse gases — contrary to "clean energy" claims by some: Reservoirs are apparently a "significant" contributor to climate change because of the methane they emit (which is many times more potent as a GHG than carbon dioxide).

The EPA published an inventory of US GHG in 2022: <https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2022-04/us-ghg-inventory-2022-main->

[text.pdf](#) In it, Tables 6-73 and 6-74 detailed considerable GHG (CH<sub>4</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions from flooded land—reservoirs:

Table 6-73 and Table 6-74 below summarize nationally aggregated CH<sub>4</sub> emissions from reservoirs. The increase in CH<sub>4</sub> emissions through the time series is attributable to reservoirs matriculating from the Land Converted to Flooded Land category into the Flooded Land Remaining Flooded Land category.

**Table 6-73: CH<sub>4</sub> Emissions from Flooded Land Remaining Flooded Land—Reservoirs (MMT CO<sub>2</sub> Eq.)**

Source	1990	2005	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
<b>Reservoirs</b>							
Surface Emission	25.9	26.4	26.5	26.5	26.5	26.5	26.5
Downstream Emission	2.3	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>28.2</b>	<b>28.8</b>	<b>28.9</b>	<b>28.9</b>	<b>28.9</b>	<b>28.9</b>	<b>28.9</b>

Note: Totals may not sum to due independent rounding.

**Table 6-74: CH<sub>4</sub> Emissions from Flooded Land Remaining Flooded Land—Reservoirs (kt CH<sub>4</sub>)**

Source	1990	2005	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
<b>Reservoirs</b>							
Surface Emission	924	943	946	946	946	948	948
Downstream Emission	83	85	85	85	85	85	85
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,007</b>	<b>1,028</b>	<b>1,032</b>	<b>1,032</b>	<b>1,032</b>	<b>1,033</b>	<b>1,033</b>

Note: Totals may not sum to due independent rounding.

Methane emissions from reservoirs in Texas, Florida, and Louisiana (Figure 6-11, Table 6-75) compose 33 percent of national CH<sub>4</sub> emissions from reservoirs in 2021. Emissions from these states are particularly high due to 1) the large expanse of reservoirs in these states (Table 6-78) and 2) the high CH<sub>4</sub> emission factor for the tropical dry/montane and topical moist climate zones which encompass a majority of the flooded land area in these states (Figure 6-11, Table 6-76).

Methane emissions from reservoirs in Flooded Land Remaining Flooded Land increased 2.5 percent from 1990 to 2021 due to the matriculation of reservoirs in Land Converted to Flooded Land to Flooded Land Remaining Flooded Land.

• <https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0161947#:~:text=Hydroelectric%20reservoirs%20are%20a%20source,emissions%20at%20the%20global%20scale>  
 Abstract. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0161947> Published: September 14, 2016. Global warming is accelerating and the world urgently needs a shift to clean and renewable energy. Hydropower is currently the largest renewable source of electricity, but its contribution to climate change mitigation is not yet fully understood. Hydroelectric reservoirs are a source of biogenic greenhouse gases and in individual cases can reach the same emission rates as thermal power plants.

• <https://www.newsdeeply.com/communit/2016/10/25/study-reservoirs-a-significant-contributor-to-climate-change>; <https://academic.oup.com/bioscience/article/66/11/949/2754271>.

See also <https://www.wired.com/story/new-water-reservoirs/>: "Methane ...[is] 25 times more effective than CO<sub>2</sub> at trapping heat in the atmosphere, and is produced in sediments and waters without oxygen, which occurs on the bottom of reservoirs, especially in warm seasons. "These are ideal conditions for forming methane, and hence reservoirs are often methane hotspots...."

New dams also contribute to GHG because the manufacture, transportation of materials and construction of massive cement dams create millions of pounds of carbon dioxide. "Cement production is currently the largest single industrial emitter of CO<sub>2</sub>...."

<https://calmatters.org/environment/climate-change/2024/03/california-climate-change-mandate-analysis/>

The report also highlighted cement facilities, saying California has some of the planet's most polluting cement plants. As more housing is built and more cement is produced, the authors recommended "urgent action" to cut those emissions.

California's seven cement plants emit about 7.5 million metric tons of greenhouse gases per year, according to the air board, which has a working group aimed at decarbonizing the industry. Some factories are turning to low-carbon fuels, including the burning of tires.

Carbon capture and storage technology also may be used at cement plants because they are so difficult to decarbonize. These facilities capture emissions from industrial plants, then inject them underground.

"California's cement plants are an example of the challenge. Our cement is more carbon-intensive because we have older plants," said Clegern of the air board.

<https://www.pnas.org/doi/10.1073/pnas.1821673116> (A process has been proposed to capture the CO<sub>2</sub> from cement production, but currently it is theoretical.)

- Patagonia/FOR study uses a new modeling tool to investigate the proposed Sites Reservoir's emissions; study at: <https://telltthedamtruth.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/Sites-Reservoir-Project-Emissions-V4.pdf>. The study estimates the Sites Project would emit about 362,000 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>/year.

- Ian James (LA Times) wrote about the reservoir GHG problem, mentioning the Patagonia/FOR study at:

<https://www.latimes.com/environment/newsletter/2023-08-24/boiling-point-would-filling-a-new-reservoir-give-off-lots-of-greenhouse-gases-boiling-point#:~:text=When%20you%20think%20about%20sources,methane%2C%20a%20potent%20greenhouse%20gas.>

**7. Declining electricity from hydro:** Some generating units may no longer pencil out economically. <https://www.newsdeeply.com/water/articles/2017/11/06/why-hydroelectric-utilities-are-endangered-by-soaring-solar-and-wind%20%20%205>

**8. Aging dams = hazard: ASCE report card** for America's Infrastructure notes the average age of the 84,000 dams in the country is 52 years old. The nation's dams are aging and the number of high-hazard dams is on the rise.

<http://www.infrastructurereportcard.org/a/documents/Dams.pdf>

Dams' flood failure probability is likely to increase for most dams in California by 2100. Notably, the New Don Pedro, Shasta, Lewiston, and Trinity Dams are associated with highest potential changes in flood hazard. Numbers of dams need expensive infrastructure repairs; their risks exceed their benefits and about \$23 billion will be needed to upgrade Army Corps 300 "actionable" dams in the country." *Climate-Induced Changes in the Risk of Hydrological Failure of Major Dams in California* (Geophysical Research Letters),

<https://agupubs.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/pdf/10.1029/2018GL081888>.

**9. Dams have blocked salmon's access to their spawning grounds** causing collapse of salmon runs. In the San Joaquin River, the Friant Dam, built during WW II, eliminated the Chinook salmon entirely by the late 1940s. In the Sacramento watershed, Folsom, Oroville and Shasta dams had similar effects. Six dams were built on the Klamath River, rendering more than 300 miles of former salmon habitat inaccessible because of them (removal of four dams is pending).  
<https://www.kcet.org/shows/tending-the-wild/to-protect-native-culture-bring-back-the-salmon>

**10. 21<sup>st</sup> century approach:** A 2014 survey by Theodore Grantham of UC Davis and Joshua Viers of UC Merced suggested ways of dealing with California's over-allocation of water. The solution, they wrote, is to "bring California's water allocation system into the 21st century. That means innovations in water use, new recycling and storage technology, and a modernization of the legal landscape. It doesn't mean building multibillion-dollar dams that yield relative droplets of water by taking them away from some users and giving them to others. That's 100-year-old thinking, and we need to move past it." Grantham & Viers' study "100 years of California's water rights system: patterns, trends and uncertainty" is available at [https://watershed.ucdavis.edu/files/content/news/WaterRights\\_UCDavis\\_study.pdf](https://watershed.ucdavis.edu/files/content/news/WaterRights_UCDavis_study.pdf)

**11. Large reservoirs mean less water per unit of storage expansion:**  
Large reservoirs "increasingly...become more expensive and refill less frequently, providing less water per unit of storage expansion and cost. The additional water supplied from larger reservoirs can become very expensive."  
"Larger reservoirs become less efficient for storing water from wetter years for dry years, when a reservoir might need several years (or longer) to refill. Large reservoirs for over-year drought storage often refill infrequently, but re-paying for their construction occurs every year."  
<https://californiawaterblog.com/2019/05/12/some-innocent-questions-on-california-water-part-i/>

**12. Colorado River**—drought problems, worsened by aridification, face California and the rest of the West.

"Colorado River Water Conservation District General Manager Andy Mueller painted a bleak future for the basin's seven states — Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming — on Friday, during his organization's annual conference in Grand Junction, Colo., on the river's future."

"A top ... official warned Colorado River Basin states that the system's federal reservoirs could effectively empty in a few short years barring aggressive reductions to water demands."

<https://www.eenews.net/articles/western-reservoirs-could-run-dry-in-3-years-top-official-warns/> [September 2022]

**13. Wildfire risk to surface water, contamination:** “Around 60 to 65 percent of the United States’ drinking water comes from forested areas. As fires burn in these areas, they increase the risk of cancer-causing and toxic substances entering water supplies. An estimated 53.3 million U.S. residents who live in areas with significant wildfire risk may face damaged drinking water infrastructure from those flames. ... When watersheds burn, the threat starts in the forests, continues to water treatment plants, and can expand to communities and households. To meet these risks, it will take a coalition of informed community members, scientists and city officials to work toward solutions to protect clean water supplies.” <https://www.washingtonpost.com/climate-environment/interactive/2024/wildfire-drinking-water-supply-danger/#>

**From:** [Will Turner](#)  
**To:** [Board of Directors](#)  
**Subject:** secondary water line  
**Date:** Monday, January 13, 2025 5:29:34 PM

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\*\*\* This email originated from outside of Valley Water. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. \*\*\*

When I toured San Jose's sewage treatment plant a decade ago, I heard about plans to supply treated sewage water to golf courses, and highly treated water to specialized industries, such as IC fabs. What is the status of those plans?

—Will Turner  
[REDACTED] (voice only)

**From:** [Adelina Del Real](#)  
**To:** [Board of Directors](#)  
**Subject:** FW: attached email  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 14, 2025 8:42:10 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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**From:** Candice Kwok-Smith <[ckwok-smith@valleywater.org](mailto:ckwok-smith@valleywater.org)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 14, 2025 8:41 AM  
**To:** Adelina Del Real <[ADelReal@valleywater.org](mailto:ADelReal@valleywater.org)>  
**Subject:** FW: attached email

Hi Adelina,

Please log and assign this Board Correspondence for Director Varela.

Thanks,  
Candice

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Judy Gallagher [REDACTED]  
**Date:** January 13, 2025 at 4:50:24 PM PST  
**To:** John Varela <[jvarela@valleywater.org](mailto:jvarela@valleywater.org)>  
**Cc:** [mark.turner@morganhill.ca.org](mailto:mark.turner@morganhill.ca.org)

\*\*\* This email originated from outside of Valley Water. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. \*\*\*

Dear Supervisor Varela:

A dangerous situation has occurred as a result of the recent rain and wind storms in Morgan Hill. A portion of fence on the Santa Clara Valley Water Right-of-Way that separates the back of my property to a flood control ditch has blown down. Not only is this dangerous for me but to my visiting grandchildren.

I request that this problem be quickly addressed before the next set of storms begins.

Sincerely,

Judy Gallagher

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [G Dev \(gd@devarchitects.com\) Sent You a Personal Message](mailto:G.Dev@gd@devarchitects.com)  
**To:** [Board of Directors](#)  
**Subject:** Please Vote NO on Delta Tunnel Funding  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 14, 2025 12:06:06 PM

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\*\*\* This email originated from outside of Valley Water. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. \*\*\*

Dear Valley Water Board of Directors,

It's important that we really can reduce water usage much more than we are doing. I personally found I can easily use so much less water.

Dear Chair Estremera and the Board of Directors,

I am writing to urge Valley Water not to allocate any additional funds to the proposed Delta Conveyance Project and vote no on Agenda Item 3.5.

The Delta tunnel project is a proposal to construct a single underground tunnel to divert millions of acre-feet of freshwater that would otherwise flow naturally through the Bay-Delta, diverting up to 6,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) from the Sacramento River without preserving sufficient flows for salmon species and Delta smelt.

For years, the Bay-Delta ecosystem has been severely depleted of its essential freshwater flows, causing the destruction of natural habitat for endemic species and worsening the livelihood of residents in Delta communities. This project will absolutely hasten the decline of the Delta.

Ratepayers will face increased water bills and property taxes, with no assurance of a sustainable water supply if Valley Water continues to spend millions of dollars - nearly \$650 million by the final construction vote - on this project! Remember that the board is ultimately accountable to their ratepayers who do not want their bills to rise amid an era of constant inflation and an affordability crisis.

The Delta tunnel project is an expensive and environmentally harmful project - failing to ensure new water resources in a time of climate change. Valley Water must prioritize limited public funds for projects that will deliver tangible improvements in water security and the overall health of the Delta.

I urge you to make a responsible and informed decision by rejecting this funding, and voting NO on Agenda Item 3.5.

Sincerely,

Sincerely,

G Dev



This message was sent by KnowWho, as a service provider, on behalf of an individual associated with Sierra Club. If you need more information, please contact Member Care at Sierra Club at [member.care@sierraclub.org](mailto:member.care@sierraclub.org) or (415) 977-5673.

**From:** [Kathleen Rhodes](#) [REDACTED] [Sent You a Personal Message](#)  
**To:** [Board of Directors](#)  
**Subject:** Please Vote NO on Delta Tunnel Funding  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 14, 2025 1:43:07 PM

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\*\*\* This email originated from outside of Valley Water. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. \*\*\*

Dear Valley Water Board of Directors,

Dear Chair Estremera and the Board of Directors,

I am writing to urge Valley Water not to allocate any additional funds to the proposed Delta Conveyance Project and vote no on Agenda Item 3.5.

The Delta tunnel project is a proposal to construct a single underground tunnel to divert millions of acre-feet of freshwater that would otherwise flow naturally through the Bay-Delta, diverting up to 6,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) from the Sacramento River without preserving sufficient flows for salmon species and Delta smelt.

For years, the Bay-Delta ecosystem has been severely depleted of its essential freshwater flows, causing the destruction of natural habitat for endemic species and worsening the livelihood of residents in Delta communities. This project will absolutely hasten the decline of the Delta.

Ratepayers will face increased water bills and property taxes, with no assurance of a sustainable water supply if Valley Water continues to spend millions of dollars - nearly \$650 million by the final construction vote - on this project! Remember that the board is ultimately accountable to their ratepayers who do not want their bills to rise amid an era of constant inflation and an affordability crisis.

The Delta tunnel project is an expensive and environmentally harmful project - failing to ensure new water resources in a time of climate change. Valley Water must prioritize limited public funds for projects that will deliver tangible improvements in water security and the overall health of the Delta.

I urge you to make a responsible and informed decision by rejecting this funding, and voting NO on Agenda Item 3.5.

Sincerely,

Sincerely,

Kathleen Rhodes  
[REDACTED]

This message was sent by KnowWho, as a service provider, on behalf of an individual associated with Sierra Club. If you need more information, please contact Member Care at Sierra Club at [member.care@sierraclub.org](mailto:member.care@sierraclub.org) or (415) 977-5673.

**From:** [Theresa Potente](#) [REDACTED] [Sent You a Personal Message](#)  
**To:** [Board of Directors](#)  
**Subject:** Please Vote NO on Delta Tunnel Funding  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 15, 2025 11:46:07 AM

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\*\*\* This email originated from outside of Valley Water. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. \*\*\*

Dear Valley Water Board of Directors,

This is a Vanity Project California can no longer afford to even consider.

Dear Chair Estremera and the Board of Directors,

I am writing to urge Valley Water not to allocate any additional funds to the proposed Delta Conveyance Project and vote no on Agenda Item 3.5.

The Delta tunnel project is a proposal to construct a single underground tunnel to divert millions of acre-feet of freshwater that would otherwise flow naturally through the Bay-Delta, diverting up to 6,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) from the Sacramento River without preserving sufficient flows for salmon species and Delta smelt.

For years, the Bay-Delta ecosystem has been severely depleted of its essential freshwater flows, causing the destruction of natural habitat for endemic species and worsening the livelihood of residents in Delta communities. This project will absolutely hasten the decline of the Delta.

Ratepayers will face increased water bills and property taxes, with no assurance of a sustainable water supply if Valley Water continues to spend millions of dollars - nearly \$650 million by the final construction vote - on this project! Remember that the board is ultimately accountable to their ratepayers who do not want their bills to rise amid an era of constant inflation and an affordability crisis.

The Delta tunnel project is an expensive and environmentally harmful project - failing to ensure new water resources in a time of climate change. Valley Water must prioritize limited public funds for projects that will deliver tangible improvements in water security and the overall health of the Delta.

I urge you to make a responsible and informed decision by rejecting this funding, and voting NO on Agenda Item 3.5.

Sincerely,

Sincerely,

Theresa Potente  
[REDACTED]

This message was sent by KnowWho, as a service provider, on behalf of an individual associated with Sierra Club. If you need more information, please contact Member Care at Sierra Club at [member.care@sierraclub.org](mailto:member.care@sierraclub.org) or (415) 977-5673.

**From:** [Mary McGann](#) [REDACTED] [Sent You a Personal Message](#)  
**To:** [Board of Directors](#)  
**Subject:** Please Vote NO on Delta Tunnel Funding  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 15, 2025 12:36:19 PM

---

\*\*\* This email originated from outside of Valley Water. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. \*\*\*

Dear Valley Water Board of Directors,

Dear Chair Estremera and the Board of Directors,

I am writing to urge Valley Water not to allocate any additional funds to the proposed Delta Conveyance Project and vote no on Agenda Item 3.5.

The Delta tunnel project is a proposal to construct a single underground tunnel to divert millions of acre-feet of freshwater that would otherwise flow naturally through the Bay-Delta, diverting up to 6,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) from the Sacramento River without preserving sufficient flows for salmon species and Delta smelt.

For years, the Bay-Delta ecosystem has been severely depleted of its essential freshwater flows, causing the destruction of natural habitat for endemic species and worsening the livelihood of residents in Delta communities. This project will absolutely hasten the decline of the Delta.

Ratepayers will face increased water bills and property taxes, with no assurance of a sustainable water supply if Valley Water continues to spend millions of dollars - nearly \$650 million by the final construction vote - on this project! Remember that the board is ultimately accountable to their ratepayers who do not want their bills to rise amid an era of constant inflation and an affordability crisis.

The Delta tunnel project is an expensive and environmentally harmful project - failing to ensure new water resources in a time of climate change. Valley Water must prioritize limited public funds for projects that will deliver tangible improvements in water security and the overall health of the Delta.

I urge you to make a responsible and informed decision by rejecting this funding, and voting NO on Agenda Item 3.5.

Sincerely,

Sincerely,

Mary McGann  
[REDACTED]

This message was sent by KnowWho, as a service provider, on behalf of an individual associated with Sierra Club. If you need more information, please contact Member Care at Sierra Club at [member.care@sierraclub.org](mailto:member.care@sierraclub.org) or (415) 977-5673.

**From:** [Clerk of the Board](#)  
**To:** [Board of Directors](#)  
**Subject:** FW: No on Delta Conveyance Project  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 14, 2025 12:28:56 PM

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**From:** Dorsey Moore [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 14, 2025 11:16 AM  
**To:** Clerk of the Board <clerkoftheboard@valleywater.org>  
**Subject:** No on Delta Conveyance Project

**\*\*\* This email originated from outside of Valley Water. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. \*\*\***

Greetings Valley Water Board of Directors,

As a 35-year Santa Clara Valley resident and current District 2 resident, I urge you to vote **No on approving any Valley Water funding for the Delta Conveyance Project (DCP)**.

The **Delta Conveyance Project** is not a worthy investment for several reasons:

### 1. Cost

- **High Financial Burden:** The Delta Conveyance Project is expected to cost billions of dollars, with some estimates reaching up to \$16 billion or more. Given California's fiscal challenges, these funds could be better allocated toward more sustainable water management solutions, such as conservation efforts, improving existing infrastructure, or investing in water recycling and desalination technologies.
- **Cost to Ratepayers:** The \$650M financial burden of the project on Valley Water ratepayers, many of whom may not benefit directly from the project. This raises concerns about fairness, especially if the long-term benefits of the project are uncertain.

### 2. Water Security and Sustainable Alternatives

- **Focus on Water Efficiency and Conservation:** Valley Water (and California) should focus more on water efficiency, conservation, and reusing wastewater, rather than building large-scale infrastructure projects. Increased investments in local water recycling, stormwater capture, groundwater recharge, and conservation will provide more sustainable and environmentally friendly alternatives.
- **Alternatives and Technological Advancements:** Advances in water conservation, desalination, and recycling technologies could provide more sustainable and adaptable solutions to California's water challenges, without the significant environmental and financial costs of the Delta tunnels.

### 3. Risks of Long-Term Dependence on the Delta

- **Climate Change:** The Delta is already facing pressure from rising sea levels, droughts, and extreme weather events. Altering its water management system could make it more vulnerable to climate change impacts, potentially exacerbating water scarcity rather than solving it.
- **Overreliance on Imported Water:** California already faces challenges in balancing water demand and supply. The Delta Conveyance Project may further entrench an overreliance on the Delta as a water source, neglecting the need to diversify water supplies and reduce dependence on environmentally vulnerable regions.

#### **4. Economic Development**

- **Local Jobs:** By focusing on water recycling infrastructure in Santa Clara Valley, we will be creating family supporting jobs in our area, not in the delta. Exporting \$650M of local funding to the central valley is not a sound local investment. With \$650M we could go a long way to double plumbing our government, commercial and residential sectors to use reclaimed water for all uses.

#### **5. Southern California Sustainability**

- **Continuing Unsustainable Growth** - By contributing substantial amounts of funding to the DCP project, we are enabling Southern California to continue to develop in an unsustainable manner by moving water from north to south.

#### **Zero Net Imported Water – A Smart, Sustainable Water Vision**

As the elected leadership of our largest water agency, I would recommend that you create a big, bold vision that creates a community that thrives using only the water that we source locally. We have the technology and funding to do this now. We can control our own destiny to create water independence.

Thank you for your consideration of these ideas!

Dorsey Moore

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]



**From:** [Pierce Whalen](#)  
**To:** [Board of Directors](#)  
**Subject:** Collaboration Opportunity to Support Sustainable Access to Clean Water and Eco-Friendly Solutions  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 14, 2025 2:46:09 PM

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**\*\*\* This email originated from outside of Valley Water. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. \*\*\***

Dear Santa Clara Valley Water,

I hope this message finds you well. My name is Pierce Whalen, and I am starting up a business plan called ImpetusPath, a social enterprise committed to providing purified water and sustainable solutions to underserved communities, as well as environmentally conscious consumers. Purified water is just one idea to a well-rounded plan of eco and ethical friendly solutions to promote a healthier lifestyle.

Our mission is deeply aligned with values of sustainability, affordability, and accessibility. By leveraging innovative water purification technologies and eco-friendly packaging, we aim to bridge the gap in access to clean water while reducing environmental impact.

We admire the work your organization has done in proceeding with improving water purification, and we believe a partnership with your expertise could help us realize our vision faster and more effectively.

From Pierce Whalen

# **OUTGOING BOARD CORRESPONDENCE**

## Max Overland

---

**From:** Candice Kwok-Smith on behalf of Board Correspondence  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 9, 2025 11:13 AM  
**To:** Mark Bilski; Jennifer Codianne; Shanika Richards  
**Cc:** Max Overland; Board of Directors  
**Subject:** FW: Los Gatos Creek Rehabilitation/ prevent Reencampment discussion

Good morning everyone,

C-24-0293 has been sent and closed.

Thanks,  
Candice

---

**From:** Shiloh Ballard <SBallard@valleywater.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 9, 2025 10:53 AM  
**To:** Wendy [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Candice Kwok-Smith <ckwok-smith@valleywater.org>; Mark Bilski <MBilski@valleywater.org>  
**Subject:** Re: Los Gatos Creek Rehabilitation/ prevent Reencampment discussion

Hi Wendy,

I wanted to circle back on this and reiterate that I welcome you all keeping me apprised of how things are going. It also looks like Mark Bilski has been great at helping navigate the issues along the creeks. I would encourage you to continue to work through him.

Also, and I think you know all this all already, Valley Water's encampment cleanup crew will return on January 21 to continue these cleanup efforts and to remove additional high-risk encampments in the area. Going forward there will be regular visits to this reach of Los Gatos Creek for enhanced cleanups and to address any re-encampments. We also have new signage in production that will help deter encampment activity.

Take care and thanks for being so involved!

Shiloh Ballard

Director, District 2

---

**From:** Wendy [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, December 29, 2024 10:34 PM  
**To:** Shiloh Ballard <[SBallard@valleywater.org](mailto:SBallard@valleywater.org)>  
**Cc:** Hamilton Place Neighborhood Association <[membership.hpna@gmail.com](mailto:membership.hpna@gmail.com)>; Mark Bilski <[MBilski@valleywater.org](mailto:MBilski@valleywater.org)>  
**Subject:** Re: Los Gatos Creek Rehabilitation/ prevent Reencampment discussion

**\*\*\* This email originated from outside of Valley Water. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. \*\*\***

Hi Shiloh,

I really appreciate that you took time during the weekend to take a look and take note of the area. Do let us know if there's any info we can provide or help with in the future. I think the whole neighborhood would agree that we're really enjoying the reduction in crime and trash and looking forward to living by a clean and safe creek in the future.

By the way Mark. There is a suitcase full of what I think is old urine in bottles at an encampment site that got abated last month. Does this need to be handled separately from typical cleanups as it's possible human waste or is it something you guys can take a note of and add to the next abatement/cleanup? It's right next to the part of the creek touching [REDACTED].



Wendy Li  
[REDACTED]

On Sun, Dec 29, 2024 at 3:01 PM Shiloh Ballard <[SBallard@valleywater.org](mailto:SBallard@valleywater.org)> wrote:

Thanks, Wendy. This is super helpful.

I rode my bike out there yesterday morning to check things out and yeah, it looks like there's only one encampment area left (the red line.) I also remember things looking very different when I was walking precincts in the area.

I'll circle back after I chat with Mark and/or other folks at VW to get the latest on ordinance implementation issues.

Feel free to ping me if you don't hear back in a couple weeks. And please call me Shiloh. : )

Shiloh

---

**From:** Wendy [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, December 28, 2024 2:29 PM  
**To:** Shiloh Ballard <[SBallard@valleywater.org](mailto:SBallard@valleywater.org)>  
**Cc:** Hamilton Place Neighborhood Association <[membership.hpna@gmail.com](mailto:membership.hpna@gmail.com)>; Mark Bilski <[MBilski@valleywater.org](mailto:MBilski@valleywater.org)>  
**Subject:** Re: Los Gatos Creek Rehabilitation/ prevent Reencampment discussion

**\*\*\* This email originated from outside of Valley Water. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. \*\*\***

Hi Ms.Ballard,

I've CCed Sam in the email below via the hamilton place neighborhood association. There's 3 main HOAs/ neighborhoods that have been impacted by the homeless encampments in the last few years. I've highlighted them in blue and labeled them below. Sam is part of the Hamilton Place HOA and I am part of the willow brook HOA. Arbor Glen is across the street from us and also heavily impacted. You can email Sam and I to start initial communications.

A majority of the creek has been abated. I've marked those areas in green. The remainder of the creek that has not been abated is marked in red, but I assume this will happen sometime in January.

I've also cced Mark Bilski who is the main Valley Water staff for communication and both of us are in contact with him and can catch you up on actions that Valley Water has taken and plan to take. We are aware of the ordinance that was voted through and relieved that there's now a method to allow for action to be taken.

There was a shooting at the entrance to the creek in November (I've starred it with a purple star). Since then, we've also been working with the San Jose police to help clear out RVs, and arrest criminals in our area (they've been contributing to general trash as well as drug dealing) and a weekly patrol to keep the neighborhood safer. St.Segura and St.Tran are our points of contact.

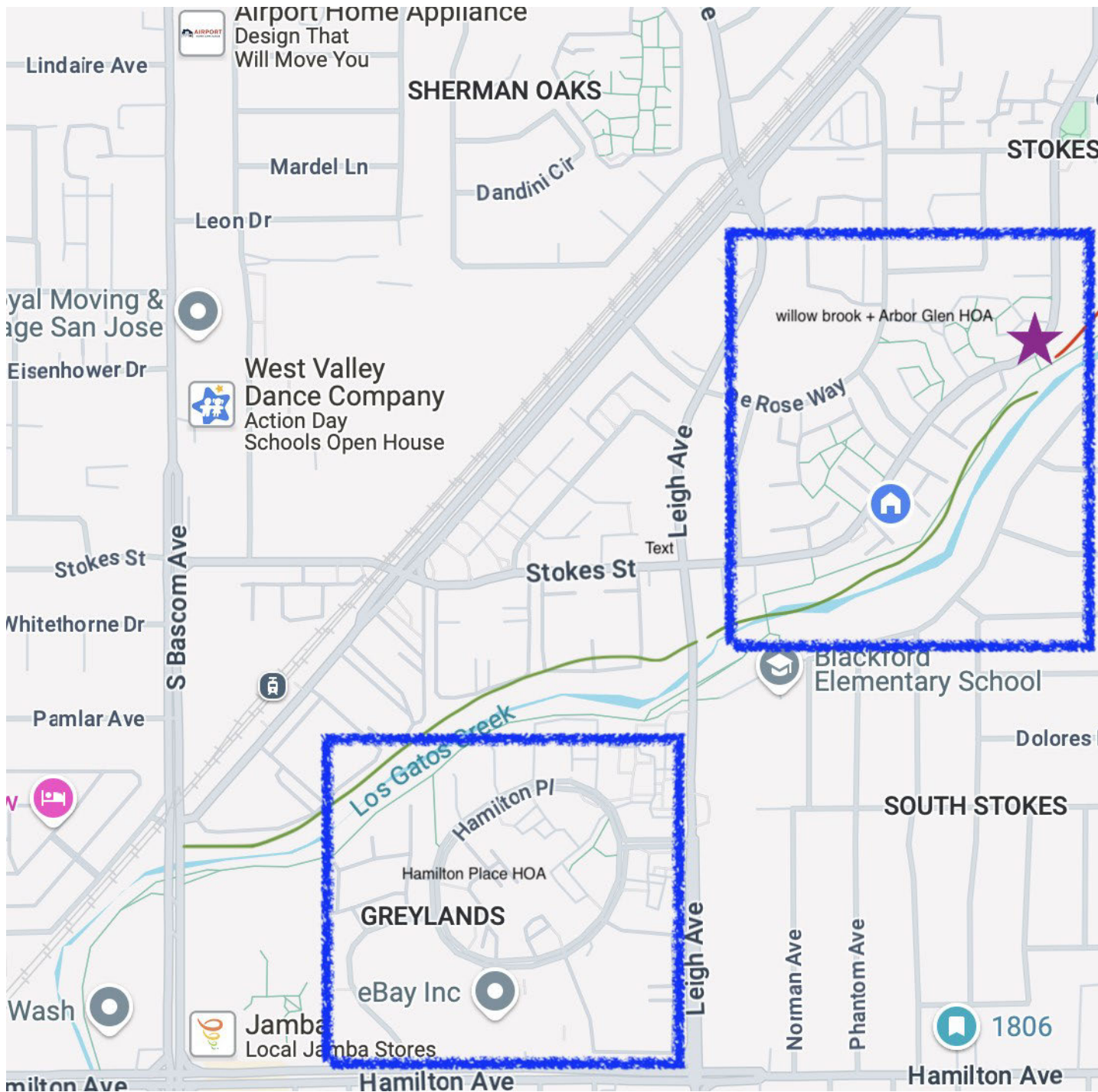
Contact info:

st [rolando.segura@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:rolando.segura@sanjoseca.gov)  
[kenh.tran@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:kenh.tran@sanjoseca.gov)

Is there any way we can work with you and Mark to finish the abatement, prevent re-encampment and rehabilitate the creek banks and fencing + signage that have been damaged in the past few years?

Let me know if you have any other questions.

Thanks,  
Wendy



On Fri, Dec 27, 2024 at 5:37 PM Shiloh Ballard <[SBallard@valleywater.org](mailto:SBallard@valleywater.org)> wrote:

Hi Wendy,

Apologies for the delay. I just started in this role and am a bit behind in keeping up with all the new information coming my way. Quick question: is there a neighborhood association or group that you are working through/with to address these issues? Beyond that, I'd like to talk with staff about this specific area. As you likely know, the District just passed an ordinance to try to address these issues and I'm catching up. I need to next understand how the ordinance will be implemented, especially the order of priority as well as jurisdictional issues.

Thanks for reaching out.

Shiloh

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**From:** Wendy [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, December 16, 2024 2:15 PM  
**To:** Shiloh Ballard <[SBallard@valleywater.org](mailto:SBallard@valleywater.org)>  
**Subject:** Los Gatos Creek Rehabilitation/ prevent Reencampment discussion

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Hi Ms. Ballard,

My name's Wendy Li and I live next to the Los Gatos Creek Trail, in San Jose between Leigh and Meridian. I'd previously reached out to Barbara Keegan about the issues along the creek and walked the creek with her so she could get a first hand view of what we were dealing with. She called me recently and suggested I reach out to you and continue the conversation when we were discussing next steps towards rehabilitating the creek and avoiding re-encampment . So I wanted to reach out and see if you'd be interested in walking along the creek where I live next to and discuss solutions for keeping the area clean and safe.

In the last few weeks Valley Water has started the abatement process for the inhabitants along the Los Gatos Creek Trail. While the process is still ongoing, I'm immensely relieved and grateful that it's begun. We've been dealing with significant issues since the beginning of covid which have grown exponentially over the last year (linked here is a video one of my neighbors made as we were trying to find methods for abatement: <https://youtu.be/nMlpysxe3Qw>). This is a nightmare we don't want to relive and Valley water shouldn't waste resources on addressing this once again in the future.

As our neighborhood's Valley Water board member, I hope we can brainstorm further and keep you informed about the state of the creek in our area. We are hoping to establish a curfew through reaching out to the parks and rec department to prevent people from using the creek a few hours after sunset and thus make it easier for officers to enforce no camping in the area. I was also wondering if you could offer advice on how to get resources towards cleaning up graffiti, fixing broken fences, fixing broken electrical panels, and replacing or restoring a heavily damaged trail sign as well as removing trash from the creek water. There's also been significant soil erosion along the banks as a result of the camping, but I'm unsure if that's something that's repairable.

Best,  
Wendy

--  
Wendy Li  
[REDACTED]

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Wendy Li



## Max Overland

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**From:** Candice Kwok-Smith on behalf of Board Correspondence  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 9, 2025 12:01 PM  
**To:** Emelia Lamas; Aaron Baker; Vincent Gin; Karen Adriano  
**Cc:** Board of Directors; Max Overland  
**Subject:** FW: desalination in South Bay proposed pilot projects

Good afternoon everyone,

C-25-0004 has been approved, sent and closed.

Thanks,  
Candice

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**From:** Candice Kwok-Smith **On Behalf Of** Board of Directors  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 9, 2025 11:57 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re: desalination in South Bay proposed pilot projects

### **Sent on Behalf of Chair Estremera:**

Dear Libby Lucas,

Thank you for your interest in the Desalination Engineering Feasibility Study. Valley Water has been researching desalination to help meet future water supply needs since 2015. Valley Water participated in the Bay Area Regional Desalination Project (BARDP), a collaboration among Bay Area water agencies. BARDP evaluated sites around San Francisco Bay for a desalination project, and ultimately Mallard Slough in eastern Contra Costa County was chosen as the most feasible site for a desalination project.

In October 2023, Valley Water completed a preliminary environmental feasibility study for the development of a desalination project in Santa Clara County. The completion of this preliminary study represents the first phase in evaluating a potential desalination project in the county. The study indicates that a desalination facility in the county may be feasible provided certain environmental issues are addressed. Specifically, critical issues regarding the protection of the sensitive South Bay ecosystem related to intake of water, brine management, and protection of habitats.

The purpose of the current Desalination Engineering Feasibility Study is to evaluate the technical feasibility, costs, and regulatory permitting requirements associated with a possible desalination project in the South Bay. Please note that this study is focused on evaluating feasibility and is not a pilot project. In July 2024, Valley Water hired a technical consultant to assist with this evaluation and we are currently proceeding with the first phases of this work which includes a fatal flaw analysis to screen alternatives initially identified in the 2023 preliminary feasibility study. As part of this analysis, Valley Water initiated meetings with California State Water Resources Control Board, San Francisco Regional Water Quality Control Board, and the San Francisco Bay Conservation & Development Commission. At these meetings, Valley Water presented the scope of work and will continue to meet with these agencies as the study progresses. In addition, Valley Water plans to reach out to environmental and community stakeholders to obtain their feedback.

Thank you once again for your input on this study, Valley Water staff will share these important points with our consultant. Staff also provides regular updates to the Recycled Water Committee (RWC) throughout the year

and is an additional way to get regular updates on the study. The agenda for that committee can be found here: <https://www.valleywater.org/how-we-operate/committees/board-committees>

Sincerely,



Tony Estremera  
Chair, District 6

C-25-0004

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**From:** Jack Lucas [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 2, 2025 3:10 PM  
**To:** Board of Directors <[board@valleywater.org](mailto:board@valleywater.org)>  
**Subject:** desalination in South Bay proposed pilot projects

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Tony Estremera, Chairman  
Valley Water Board of Directors  
Santa Clara County

January 2, 2025

Dear Chairman Estremera,

In regards South Bay desalination pilot projects that are being proposed by Valley Water I do urge the Board to conduct in depth documentation for the scoping report on this venture and circulate it publicly and to regulatory agencies. In particular please consult with San Francisco EPA on siting of desalination treatment facilities and subsurface intake conduits in proximity to Super Fund Toxic plumes in upper aquifers of Santa Clara Valley adjacent to Moffett Field and Coast Casey retention basin.

The Moffett Field Super Fund toxic plume has been joined by the Middlefield Ellis Whisman (MEW) plume and is in ongoing remediation as it slowly migrates north to the Bay. Siting a desalination facility here just across Stevens Creek channel would undoubtedly draw these plumes into the facility and needs evaluation by EPA as to whether the TCE, PCB and other persistent contaminants can be cleared up by desalination. Also diverting of this mega plume spreads vapor intrusion exposure under NASA and Google industrial park.

In regards the desalination facility sited at Coast Casey and Charleston Slough, subsurface contaminants there relate to a Perkin Elmer Warehouse super fund plume and a medical instruments mercury cleaning disposal business. This regulatory monitoring was conducted by SFRWQCB but perhaps needs updating to address contaminants more recently identified by EPA as hazardous to human health.

Subsurface intake operations for desalination plants are a serious concern in these two areas as inevitably they lead to upper aquifer subsidence which would affect Moffett Field's runway and the low lying Palo Alto residential area that extends from #101 to Middlefield Road, between San Francisquito

and Adobe Creeks. There is also likelihood of contaminants leaching from Shoreline Park's San Francisco refuse disposal dump.

As to the surface water intake conduits for these two desalination facilities which are presently proposed just beyond the salt pond levees, believe levee erosion is a serious concern, especially at low tide. If intakes were sited two miles further out in Coyote Estuary channel they could provide more consistent water supply.

In all three proposed desalination facility sites there is critical impact to marsh wetlands and loss of habitat for South Bay and Wildlife Refuge endangered species. San Francisco Bay Wildlife Refuge was established as an essential stopover element for the Pacific Flyway and is protected by the historic international migratory bird treaty. Intake conduits will disorient anadromous fish migration and Stevens Creek is supposed to be protected under FAHCE agreements. Recreation boating obstructions may be a problem.

Finally, do wonder if under a cost benefit analysis the drinking water supply realized by these desalination plants can produce an affordable supplement to the region's needs. Adjacent Moffett Field and the City of Palo Alto are supplied by SFPUC Hetch Hetchy water so are not likely applicants.

In accordance with CEQA mandated alternative analysis, do hope the District will consider connection to a coastal desalination site that might be coordinated with Santa Cruz County. A feasible connection to coast might follow old rail line that once passed through tunnel at Wrights Station above Lexington Reservoir. Such a delivery point would meld into Valley Water facilities infrastructure without any additional expense. The initial investment in a coastal desalination plant would be a major expense but its assured longevity of supply and caliber on uncontaminated sea water would more than compensate in drinking water quality to taxpayer.

Thank you for any guidance you can give to this process that will include consultation with EPA and NASA.

Libby Lucas  
Los Altos

## Max Overland

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**From:** Candice Kwok-Smith on behalf of Board Correspondence  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 9, 2025 12:02 PM  
**To:** Heather Hamp; Lisa Bankosh; John Bourgeois  
**Cc:** Board of Directors; Max Overland  
**Subject:** FW: Comments on draft VW's Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan

Good afternoon everyone,

C-25-0005 has been approved, sent and closed.

Thanks,  
Candice

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**From:** Candice Kwok-Smith **On Behalf Of** Board of Directors  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 9, 2025 12:00 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Nick Mascarello <NMascarello@valleywater.org>  
**Subject:** Re: Comments on draft VW's Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan

### **Sent on Behalf of Chair Estremera:**

Dear Rita Norton,

Thank you for the comments provided on Valley Water's Draft Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan (GHGRP). Valley Water appreciates your interest in the role of concrete in its emissions inventory and the information included in your comments.

In general, greenhouse gas (GHG) inventories prepared by public agencies in California do not include emissions associated with the manufacturing and use of concrete because there are no Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) or California Air Resources Board (CARB) requirements to include concrete emissions in local GHG inventories and forecasts. However, CARB is currently developing a [strategy](#)<sup>1</sup> to reduce emissions for the cement sector to 40% below baseline levels by 2035 and to net-zero by 2045 per the requirements of Senate Bill 596.

Valley Water will track CARB's cement emission reduction strategy and will evaluate the inclusion of concrete emissions in future inventories and forecasts, along with potential measures to reduce them that could be added to the GHGRP during future updates.

Sincerely,



Tony Estremera  
Chair, District 6

C-25-0005

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**From:** Rita Norton [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, January 3, 2025 12:39 PM  
**To:** Nick Mascarello <[NMascarello@valleywater.org](mailto:NMascarello@valleywater.org)>  
**Cc:** Board of Directors <[board@valleywater.org](mailto:board@valleywater.org)>  
**Subject:** Comments on draft VW's Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan

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Dear Board and staff-

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input into the draft Plan. While the draft Plan is quite comprehensive and detailed for what it covers, it neglects a major contributor of greenhouse gas emission that the Valley Water is responsible for emitting now and even more so, possibly in the future.

The GHG EMISSIONS INVENTORY does not acknowledge the use of concrete in Valley Water's proposed major projects.

Among these projects is Pacheco Dam for which the District should include in this draft Plan. The draft Plan should indicate the amount of concrete to be hauled in and the concomitant amount of concrete's emissions. This calculation should be included for all construction projects. Some projects are maintenance of existing facilities. Others, such as Paceheo are still on the drawing board, and its future contributions to greenhouse gases in terms of new concrete should be added to the potential inventory.

According to research, in total, one ton of cement typically produces about 0.8 to 0.9 tons of CO2 emissions, resulting in approximately 8% of the world's anthropogenic CO2 emissions, and about 25% of all industry carbon emissions.

Used to build much of the infrastructure that enables today's modern society—dams, roads, bridges and buildings—concrete is the second-most widely used substance on Earth, behind only water. And according to the IEA, the cement sector is the third-largest consumer of energy and the second-largest emitter of carbon dioxide when looking at industrial players alone.

Making cement is by its nature a highly energy-intensive process. Raw materials like clay and limestone are heated to more than 2,500 degrees Fahrenheit to turn them into a binding agent for sand, gravel or other coarse materials. But unlike other major construction commodities, concrete produces carbon emissions in two ways, not just one.

I recommend the correlated indices for emissions from projected concrete use by Valley Water is the responsible action to provide in this draft Plan at this time and be provided in this Plan and as well in the upcoming review of Pacheco environmental impacts.

How many tons of concrete would be used in the construction of Pacheco? Multiply this by the factor shown above to make this calculation- ---and next see what offsets would be needed.

As alternatives to Pacheco are considered, these emissions make a strong case for projects that are much less dependent on concrete.

I look forward to your discussions going forward. Many thanks.

Sincerely,

Rita Norton