

Coyote Creek Flood Protection Project and Coyote Creek Flood Management Measures Project

The **Coyote Creek Flood Protection Project** is constructing improvements along approximately nine miles of Coyote Creek, between Montague Expressway and Tully Road in San José. The project's primary goal is to reduce the risk of a flood event equivalent to the one experienced in February of 2017.

The Coyote Creek Flood Protection Project is comprised of two projects, the **Coyote Creek Flood Management Measures Project** (CCFMMP) and the **Coyote Creek Flood Protection Project** (CCFPP). Both projects are needed to provide flood protection to the 2017 level of flooding.

Other project objectives include:

- Enhancements to Coyote Creek's habitat and health
- Improvements to water quality and bay ecosystems
- Maintain a self-sufficient natural creek system to reduce the need for maintenance
- Collaboration with City of San José to align public recreation and access

YOUR TAX DOLLARS AT WORK



Valley Water

**Safe,
Clean
Water**

and Natural Flood Protection



Safe, Clean Water
and Natural Flood Protection

PRIORITY E

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



Safe, Clean Water
and Natural Flood Protection

PRIORITY E

Coyote Creek Flood Protection Project

PRIORITY E Provide flood protection to homes, businesses, schools, streets and highways
PROJECT E1

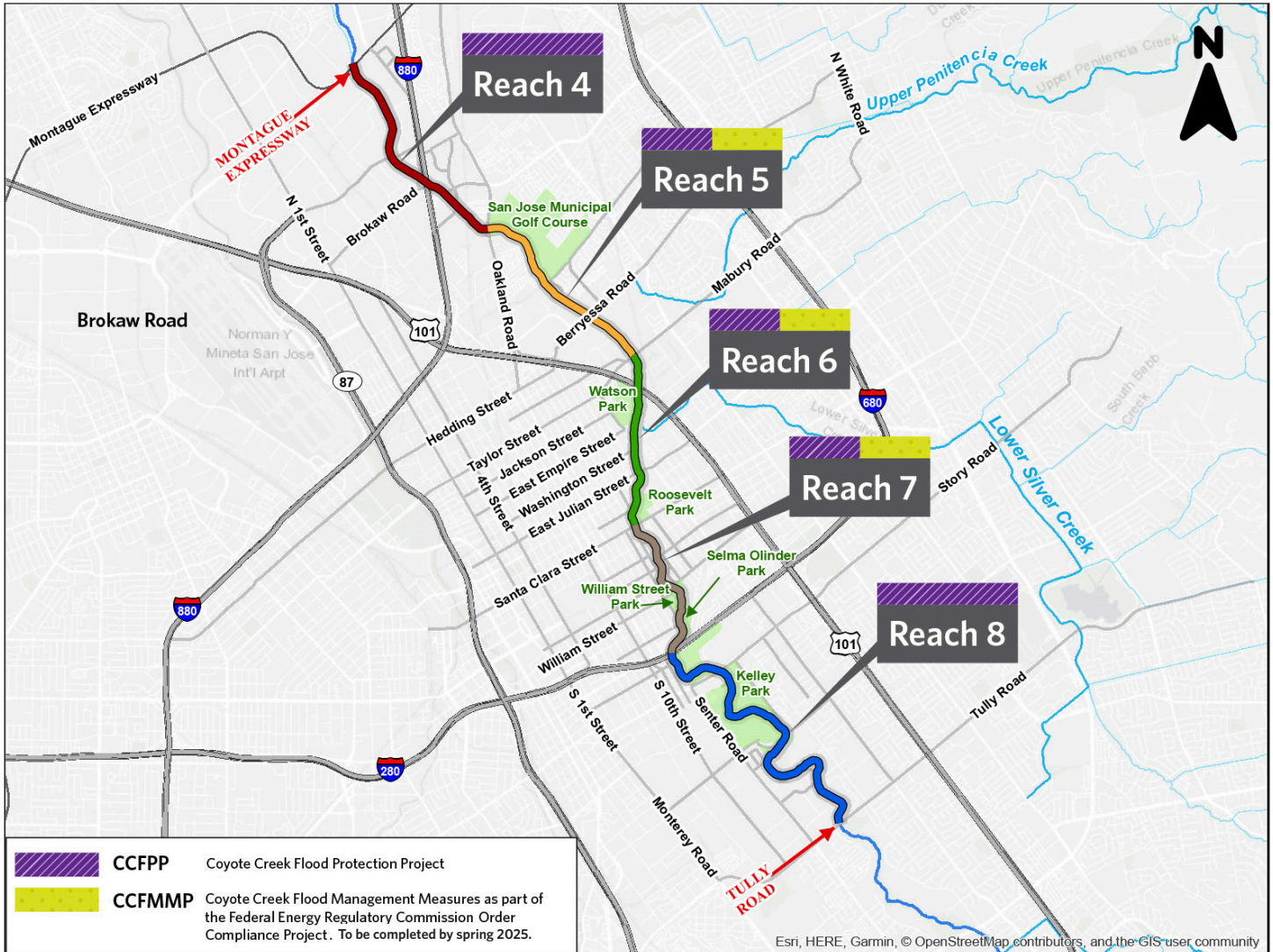
YOUR TAX DOLLARS AT WORK



Valley Water

Safe,
Clean
Water

and Natural Flood Protection



Public Updates, Environmental and Regulatory Agency Review

Both the CCFPP and the CCFMMP have various flood risk reduction elements in different reaches along the nine miles of Coyote Creek. Reaches are sections of the creek used to identify where the work will occur. The CCFPP is in the design and environmental review phase, with staff and consultants gathering and evaluating critical data from various sections of Coyote Creek. The CCFPP Final Environmental Impact Report was certified by the Board on March 11, 2025. State and federal regulatory agency permitting efforts are also in progress and are required for construction to begin. Public meetings will continue to be held to update the community on key project milestones through the start of construction.

The project elements include flap gates, berms, floodwalls, acquiring necessary land rights and passive barriers. The project is being designed to require little to no stream-channel changes, leaving the stream habitat undisturbed. The design simplifies the regulatory compliance requirements for this project as the alternatives being considered are mostly outside the creek channel, which also aids in expediting the project schedule.

Activities to prepare the sites for the flood risk reduction measures include tree and vegetation removal, and collaboration with social service providers to assist unhoused individuals prior to the start of construction.

Project Connection to the Anderson Dam Tunnel Project

Coyote Creek starts upstream of Anderson Reservoir and continues at the base of Anderson Dam. Currently, to reduce the dam's seismic risk and comply with today's seismic standards and regulations, the dam is being retrofitted under the Anderson Dam Seismic Retrofit Project. The seismic retrofit of Anderson Dam will help protect our regional water supply, ensure public safety, and provide environmental benefits. Before the retrofit of Anderson Dam can begin, the Anderson Dam Tunnel Project needs to be completed—crews have finished excavation of the low level outlet tunnel and concluded tunneling operations. The tunnel project will build a new 24-foot-diameter tunnel that allows Valley Water to maintain water levels in Santa Clara County's largest reservoir.

To reduce the risk of flooding downstream of Anderson Dam from the water flows generated in Coyote Creek by the tunnel project, approximately 40% of the flood risk mitigation measures from the Coyote Creek Flood Protection Project (CCFPP) were expedited. Reaches 5 and sections of 6 and 7 are part of the Coyote Creek Flood Management Measures Project (CCFMMP) and construction in those areas began in the summer of 2023 with completion anticipated by spring 2025.

The remaining 60% of the original Coyote Creek project will be completed as the second phase of the project and coincide with the completion of the Anderson Dam Seismic Retrofit Project's diversion tunnel. Reaches 4, 8, and parts of 5, 6 and 7 are in the CCFPP, with construction anticipated to start by summer 2026 and conclude at the end of 2028.

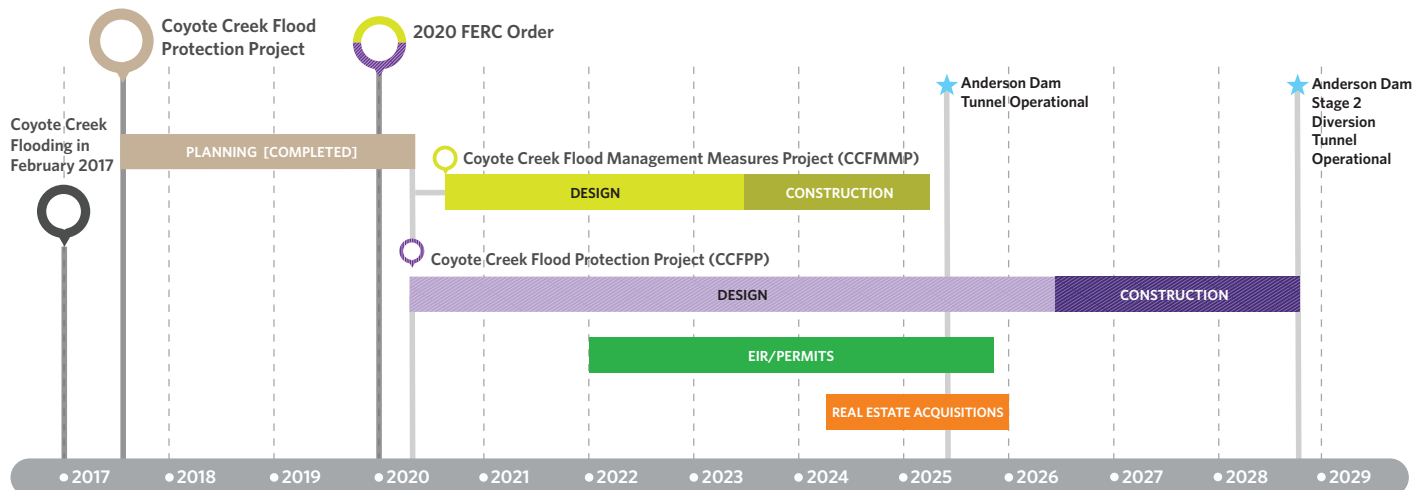


Vinyl sheet pile wall installed next to Rocksprings Park. The sheet pile will be replaced with longer and taller sheet pile wall.



A floodwall was installed to protect homes along S. 17th Street and Coyote Creek.

Coyote Creek Flood Protection Project and Coyote Creek Flood Management Measures Project Schedule



Flood Risk Reduction

Since 2017, Valley Water has implemented several short-term interim projects to help reduce the risk of flooding along Coyote Creek. These include the installation of an interim floodwall and embankment along the creek in the Rocksprings community. Other interim projects include repairing a 150-foot levee adjacent to the South Bay Mobile Home Park, installing flood gauges on bridges that provide real-time visual information on water levels, and removing invasive vegetation from Valley Water and City of San José properties in parts of the creek that experienced the most flooding. The completed Coyote Creek Flood Protection Project will further enhance these existing improvements.



(top) A passive barrier installed in the closed position and embedded in the ground. (bottom) A passive barrier in the process of opening.

Funding

The Coyote Creek Flood Protection Project was originally funded by the countywide Clean, Safe Creeks and Natural Flood Protection Plan (Safe, Clean Water Program) parcel tax passed by voters in November 2000. Then, in November of 2012 and 2020, voters reaffirmed their commitment to providing flood protection to homes, schools, businesses and highways by renewing the Safe, Clean Water Program. In December 2019, the Valley Water Board of Directors voted to allocate local funding to construct the CCFMMP. The Anderson Dam Tunnel Project funded the CCFMMP, which will help reduce the risk of flooding once the tunnel project is operational.

Coyote Creek Watershed and Ownership

The Coyote Creek Watershed consists of a 322 square mile area with six major tributary creeks and is the largest watershed in the County of Santa Clara. It extends from the urbanized valley floor upward to the vast natural areas of the Diablo Mountain Range. Coyote Creek, its main waterway, is the longest creek in the county. The project is located in the central section of the Coyote Watershed in the mid-section of Coyote Creek.

The mid-reach is owned by the City of San José and private landowners, with only a fraction owned by Valley Water. While the City also owns the upper reach between Tully Road and Anderson Dam, the county and some private landowners have property rights as well. Property owners whose land extends into the creek are responsible for maintaining the creek sections on their property. Valley Water owns a small section of Coyote Creek, most of which is north of Interstate 880. Valley Water is coordinating with property owners to acquire necessary land rights and construct the Coyote Creek Flood Protection Project. An ownership map for the project reaches is available on the project's webpage.

A full list of projects in the **Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program** can be found at valleywater.org/safecleanwater.

Learn more

For information and updates on Project E1: Coyote Creek Flood Protection Project and Coyote Creek Flood Management Measures Project, email Jose Villarreal at JVillarreal@valleywater.org or visit valleywater.org/coyote-creek.

CONTACT US

To find out the latest information on Valley Water projects or to submit questions or comments, use our **Access Valley Water** customer request system at access.valleywater.org.



FOLLOW US



scvwd



valleywater



valleywater



Join our mailing list:

<https://delivr.com/2uz9z>
