



Santa Clara Valley Water District Environmental and Water Resources Committee Meeting

HQ. Bldg. Boardroom, 5700 Almaden Expressway, San Jose, California

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://valleywater.zoom.us/j/94403145442>

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

Monday, October 20, 2025

6:00 PM

District Mission: Provide Silicon Valley safe, clean water for a healthy life, environment and economy.

Charles Ice, Committee Chair
Arthur M. Keller, Committee Vice Chair

Director Shiloh Ballard, District 2
Director Nai Hsueh, District 5
Director Tony Estremera, District 6

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John Bourgeois
Kirsten Struve
(Staff Liaisons)

Dave Leon, (COB Liaison)
Assistant Deputy Clerk II
daveleon@valleywater.org
408-630-2006

Note: The finalized Board Agenda, exception items and supplemental items will be posted prior to the meeting in accordance with the Brown Act.

Santa Clara Valley Water District
Environmental and Water Resources Committee
REGULAR MEETING
AGENDA

Monday, October 20, 2025	6:00 PM	HQ. Bldg. Boardroom, 5700 Almaden Expressway, San Jose, California
		Join Zoom Meeting: https://valleywater.zoom.us/j/94403145442

*****IMPORTANT NOTICES AND PARTICIPATION INSTRUCTIONS*****

Santa Clara Valley Water District (Valley Water) Board of Directors/Board Committee meetings are held as a “hybrid” meetings, conducted in-person as well as by telecommunication, and is compliant with the provisions of the Ralph M. Brown Act.

To maximize public safety while still maintaining transparency and public access, members of the public have an option to participate by teleconference/video conference or attend in-person. To observe and participate in the meeting by teleconference/video conference, please see the meeting link located at the top of the agenda. If attending in-person, you are required to comply with **Ordinance 22-03 - AN ORDINANCE OF THE SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT SPECIFYING RULES OF DECORUM FOR PARTICIPATION IN BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS** located at <https://s3.us-west-2.amazonaws.com/valleywater.org.if-us-west-2/f2-live/s3fs-public/Ord.pdf>

In accordance with the requirements of Gov. Code Section 54954.3(a), members of the public wishing to address the Board/Committee during public comment or on any item listed on the agenda, may do so by filling out a Speaker Card and submitting it to the Clerk or using the “Raise Hand” tool located in the Zoom meeting application to identify yourself in order to speak, at the time the item is called. Speakers will be acknowledged by the Board/Committee Chair in the order requests are received and granted speaking access to address the Board.

- Members of the Public may test their connection to Zoom Meetings at: <https://zoom.us/test>
- Members of the Public are encouraged to review our overview on joining Valley Water Board Meetings at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TojJpYCxXm0>

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This agenda has been prepared as required by the applicable laws of the State of California, including but not limited to, Government Code Sections 54950 et. seq. and has

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Under the Brown Act, members of the public are not required to provide identifying information in order to attend public meetings. Through the link below, the Zoom webinar program requests entry of a name and email address, and Valley Water is unable to modify this requirement. Members of the public not wishing to provide such identifying information are encouraged to enter "Anonymous" or some other reference under name and to enter a fictional email address (e.g., attendee@valleywater.org) in lieu of their actual address. Inputting such values will not impact your ability to access the meeting through Zoom.

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://valleywater.zoom.us/j/94403145442>

Meeting ID: 944 0314 5442

Join by Phone:

1 (669) 900-9128, 94403145442#

1. CALL TO ORDER:

1.1. Roll Call.

2. TIME OPEN FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON ANY ITEM NOT ON THE AGENDA.

Notice to the public: Members of the public who wish to address the Board/Committee on any item not listed on the agenda may do so by filling out a Speaker Card and submitting it to the Clerk or using the "Raise Hand" tool located in the Zoom meeting application to identify yourself to speak. Speakers will be acknowledged by the Board/Committee Chair in the order requests are received and granted speaking access to address the Board/Committee. Speakers' comments should be limited to three minutes or as set by the Chair. The law does not permit Board/Committee action on, or extended discussion of, any item not on the agenda except under special circumstances. If Board/Committee action is requested, the matter may be placed on a future agenda. All comments that require a response will be referred to staff for a reply in writing. The Board/Committee may take action on any item of business appearing on the posted agenda.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

3.1. Approval of July 21, 2025 Environmental and Water Resources Committee Minutes.

25-0897

Recommendation: Approve the minutes.
Manager: Candice Kwok-Smith, 408-630-3193
Attachments: [Attachment 1: 07212025 EWRC Minutes](#)
Est. Staff Time: 5 Minutes

4. REGULAR AGENDA:

4.1. Receive an Update on the Valley Water Demonstration Garden. [25-0888](#)
Recommendation: Receive an update on the Valley Water Demonstration Garden.
Manager: Kirsten Struve, 408-630-3138
Attachments: [Attachment 1: PowerPoint](#)
Est. Staff Time: 10 Minutes

4.2. Receive an Update on Valley Water Baylands Restoration Projects. [25-0883](#)
Recommendation: Receive background information on Valley Water's baylands restoration projects and an update on their current progress.
Manager: John Bourgeois, 408-630-2990
Attachments: [Attachment 1: PowerPoint](#)
Est. Staff Time: 20 Minutes

4.3. Review and Receive Updates on the Environmental and Water Resources Committee's Working Groups. [25-0886](#)
Recommendation: A. Review and receive updates on the Environmental and Water Resources Committee's Working Groups, and
B. Provide comments to the Board on implementation of Valley Water's mission applicable to working groups' recommendations.
Manager: Candice Kwok-Smith, 408-630-3193
Attachments: [Attachment 1: EWRC Working Groups October 2025](#)
[Attachment 2: EWRC FINAL Working Group Restructure](#)
Est. Staff Time: 5 Minutes

4.4. Review Environmental and Water Resources Committee Work Plan, the Outcomes of Board Action of Committee Requests; and the Committee's Next Meeting Agenda. [25-0887](#)
Recommendation: Review the Committee work plan to guide the committee's discussions regarding policy alternatives and implications for Board deliberation.
Manager: Candice Kwok-Smith, 408-630-3193
Attachments: [Attachment 1: EWRC 2025 Work Plan](#)
Est. Staff Time: 5 Minutes

5. STANDING ITEMS

- 5.1. Director's Reports.
- 5.2. Manager's Reports.

6. CLERK REVIEW AND CLARIFICATION OF COMMITTEE REQUESTS.

This is an opportunity for the Clerk to review and obtain clarification on any formally moved, seconded, and approved requests and recommendations made by the Committee during the meeting.

7. ADJOURN:

- 7.1. Adjourn. The Next Regular Meeting is Scheduled at 6:00 p.m. on January 26, 2026.

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Santa Clara Valley Water District

File No.: 25-0897

Agenda Date: 10/20/2025

Item No.: 3.1.

COMMITTEE AGENDA MEMORANDUM

Environmental and Water Resources Committee

Government Code § 84308 Applies: Yes No
(If "YES" Complete Attachment A - Gov. Code § 84308)

SUBJECT:

Approval of July 21, 2025 Environmental and Water Resources Committee Minutes.

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the minutes.

SUMMARY:

In accordance with the Ralph M. Brown Act, a summary of Committee discussions, and details of all actions taken by the Environmental and Water Resources Committee, during all open and public Committee meetings, is transcribed and submitted to the Committee for review and approval.

Upon Committee approval, minutes transcripts are finalized and entered into the Committee's historical record archives and serve as the official historical record of the Committee's meeting.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE IMPACT:

There are no Environmental Justice impacts associated with this item.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment 1: 07212025 EWRC Minutes

UNCLASSIFIED MANAGER:

Candice Kwok-Smith, 408-630-3193

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ENVIRONMENTAL AND WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE

DRAFT MINUTES

Monday, July 21, 2025

(Paragraph numbers coincide with agenda item numbers)

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Environmental and Water Resources Committee (Committee) Meeting was held on July 21, 2025, at Santa Clara Valley Water District, Headquarters Building, 5700 Almaden Expressway, San Jose, California.

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Committee Chair Charles Ice called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. A quorum was established with 11 members present.

Members in attendance were:

District 1: Loren Lewis

District 2: Chairperson Charles Ice, Uyen Mai

District 4: Bob Levy, Mitchell Ehrlich

District 5: Patrick Kwok , Mike Michitaka, Rachel Lam

District 6: Rebecca Gallardo

District 7: Tess Byler, Vice Chairperson Arthur M. Keller, Ph.D.

Members not in attendance were:

District 1: Swanee Edwards

District 2: Edgar Echevarria,

District 3: Charles Taylor, Bill Roth

District 5: Rachel Lam

District 6: Jim Piazza, Rebecca Gallardo

Board members in attendance were: Director Shiloh Ballard (District 2), and Director Nai Hsueh (District 5).

Staff members in attendance were: John Bourgeois, Zooey Diggory, Dave Leon, Kirsten Struve, Emily Tucker, and Jing Wu.

Public in attendance were: Katja Irvin.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairperson Ice declared time open for public comment on any item not on the agenda. There was no one who wished to speak.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3.1 APPROVAL OF April 21, 2025 ENVIRONMENTAL AND WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE MINUTES

Recommendation: Approve the minutes.

It was moved by Member Byler, seconded by Member Kwok, and carried unanimously to approve the April 21, 2025 Committee meeting minutes as submitted.

4. REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS

4.1. RECEIVE INFORMATION AND PROVIDE FEEDBACK ON VALLEY WATER'S WATER SUPPLY MASTER PLAN 2050

Recommendation: Provide feedback on the development of Water Supply Master Plan 2050.

Jing Wu reviewed the information on this item, per the attached Committee Agenda Memo, and the corresponding presentation materials contained in Attachments 1 and 2. Jing Wu and Kirsten Struve were available to answer questions.

Discussion ensued relating to wholesale rates and programs for low-income residents, determining factors for project selection, historical and forecasted water demand and its relation to population growth and ABAG forecasts, how groundwater banking is defined, portfolio analysis, public polling relating to wastewater reclamation, alternatives to groundwater storage, water supply portfolios with different levels of groundwater banking, demand forecasting and droughts, and recharge projects.

The Committee received the information and took no formal action.

4.2 RECEIVE AND DISCUSS INTRODUCTION TO THE UPPER PAJARO NATIVE ECOSYSTEM ENHANCEMENT TOOL AND PROVIDE FEEDBACK

Recommendation: Receive and discuss introduction to the Upper Pajaro Native Ecosystem Enhancement Tool and provide feedback as necessary.

Zooey Diggory reviewed the information on this item, per the attached Committee Agenda Memo, and the corresponding presentation materials contained in Handout 2. Zooey Diggory and John Bourgeois were available to answer questions.

Discussion ensued relating to the number of users and other stakeholders, using the tool to further Valley Water's stewardship mission, standardizing data, using the tool for various queries, and uploading projects to EcoAtlas.

The Committee received the information and took no formal action.

4.3 REVIEW AND RECEIVE UPDATES ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL AND WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE'S WORKING GROUPS

Recommendation:

- A. Review and receive updates on the Environmental and Water Resources Committee's Working Groups, and
- B. Provide comments to the Board on implementation of Valley Water's mission applicable to working groups' recommendations.

The item was received without a staff presentation.

Member Byler reported that an introductory meeting of the Integrated Water Resources Management Group was held on May 29, 2025.

The Committee received the information and took no formal action.

4.4 REVIEW ENVIRONMENTAL AND WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE WORK PLAN, THE OUTCOMES OF BOARD ACTION OF COMMITTEE REQUESTS; AND THE COMMITTEE'S NEXT MEETING AGENDA

Recommendation: Review the Committee work plan to guide the committee's discussions regarding policy alternatives and implications for Board deliberation.

Dave Leon reviewed the information on this item, per the attached Committee Agenda Memo, and the corresponding presentation materials contained in Attachments 1 and 2 and was available to answer questions.

Discussion ensued relating to possible items for the January, 2026 meeting.

The Committee received the information and took no formal action.

5. STANDING ITEMS

5.1 DIRECTOR'S REPORTS

No reports were given.

5.2 MANAGER'S REPORTS

John Bourgeois introduced himself to the new members and reported on Member Michitaka's meeting with Valley Water CFO Darin Taylor. Member Michitaka then provided a summary of his meeting wherein various questions relating to finances were discussed.

The Committee received the information and took no formal action.

6. CLERK REVIEW AND CLARIFICATION OF COMMITTEE'S REQUESTS TO THE BOARD

The Committee took no action.

7. ADJOURNMENT

7.1 ADJOURN

Chairperson Ice adjourned the meeting at 8:04 p.m. to the next regular meeting on Monday, October 20, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.

Dave Leon
Assistant Deputy Clerk II

Date approved:



Santa Clara Valley Water District

File No.: 25-0888

Agenda Date: 10/20/2025

Item No.: 4.1.

COMMITTEE AGENDA MEMORANDUM

Environmental and Water Resources Committee

Government Code § 84308 Applies: Yes No
(If "YES" Complete Attachment A - Gov. Code § 84308)

SUBJECT:

Receive an Update on the Valley Water Demonstration Garden.

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive an update on the Valley Water Demonstration Garden.

SUMMARY:

Valley Water has kicked off the design of a Demonstration Garden located at the southeast corner of Valley Water's Headquarters building, located on Almaden Expressway. The design and subsequent construction of the garden will be funded by Measure S, Safe Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program (SCW). The Request for Proposal for Design Services for the Demonstration Garden Project was posted on February 14, 2025, and in June 2025, the contract was awarded to BFS Landscape Architects to provide design services. The approximately 26,000 square feet garden will showcase water conservation and sustainable practices, serve as a public gathering and educational space, and emphasize Valley Water's Landscape Rebate Program (LRP) requirements. The garden will highlight a watershed approach by incorporating features such as native and climate-appropriate plants, high-efficiency irrigation systems, educational signage, and integrated rainwater capture.

As part of the contract, BFS Landscape Architects (BFS) will develop a comprehensive conceptual layout and final design for the garden. Through the design process, staff will work with BFS to engage key internal and external stakeholders, including various Board committees and the public to gather and implement relevant feedback. BFS will also collaborate with Valley Water to plan effective educational signage to be implemented in the garden. To support long-term sustainability and functionality of the various garden elements, BFS will deliver site-specific landscape maintenance plans. The company will also provide oversight during the construction phase of the garden to ensure compliance with design specifications and verify proper installation of plants, irrigation, rainwater systems, and other elements.

The Concept Layout has been completed and highlights the overall vision, key ideas and functional relationships within the garden space. The spatial and organizational structure of the garden

preserves existing trees, respects the privacy of Valley Water offices overlooking the space, highlights views to the pond to the east, buffers the display beds from the busy parking lot and road to the west, and places at its center a shaded public gathering area for educational events.

The circulation pattern through the garden preserves existing pathways and adds new pathways with benches and overlooks to the display gardens. Garden plants used will all be selected from the Valley Water's LRP Qualifying Plant List. The display gardens themselves will feature individual species with labels alongside the paths, with plant compositions behind as visual backdrops. The public gathering area will have a combination of fixed seat wall benches and movable furniture for flexibility, particularly to accommodate educational field trips. Rain barrels and a dry creek bed with a semi-riparian area will support messaging about water conservation locally and regionally.

Next Steps

Staff is working with BFS to solicit feedback from the public through a survey offered to past and present Landscape Rebate Program participants and a design charette, tentatively scheduled for November 2025, to engage members of the landscape community and related stakeholders. The design is expected to be completed in Spring 2026. Upon completion of the design, Valley Water staff will develop and issue a Request for Proposal for the construction of the garden to design specifications. Fiscal Year 2027 SCW funding will be used for the construction of the demonstration garden.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE IMPACT:

Environmental justice impact on local communities are expected/likely to result from implementation of the water conservation program toward meeting the long-term water conservation 2030 and 2040 goals. Water conservation offers a range of environmental justice benefits by promoting equitable access to clean water, reducing pollution, protecting ecosystems, mitigating climate change, saving costs for vulnerable communities, enhancing drought resilience, and empowering residents with knowledge and skills for sustainable water use. Valley Water provides such water conservation information in multiple languages and via various outreach techniques to reach all members of our community. Valley Water acknowledges that during drought, disadvantaged communities may be disproportionately impacted. To address these impacts, Valley Water promotes access to equitable and affordable water supplies (Water Supply Goal 2.6).

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment 1: PowerPoint

UNCLASSIFIED MANAGER:

Kirsten Struve, 408-630-3138



Demonstration Garden Update

Environmental and Water Resources Committee, October 20, 2025
Ashley Shannon, Sr. Water Conservation Specialist

Valley Water Demonstration Garden

- Design services requested in February 2025 for an approximately 26,000 sq ft demonstration garden
- Contract awarded to BFS Landscape Architects in June 2025

Valley Water Demonstration Garden Project Map



Valley Water Demonstration Garden

Design services include:

- Design of sustainable demonstration garden
- Stakeholder engagement
- Construction Oversight and Quality Assurance
- Development of Comprehensive Maintenance Plans

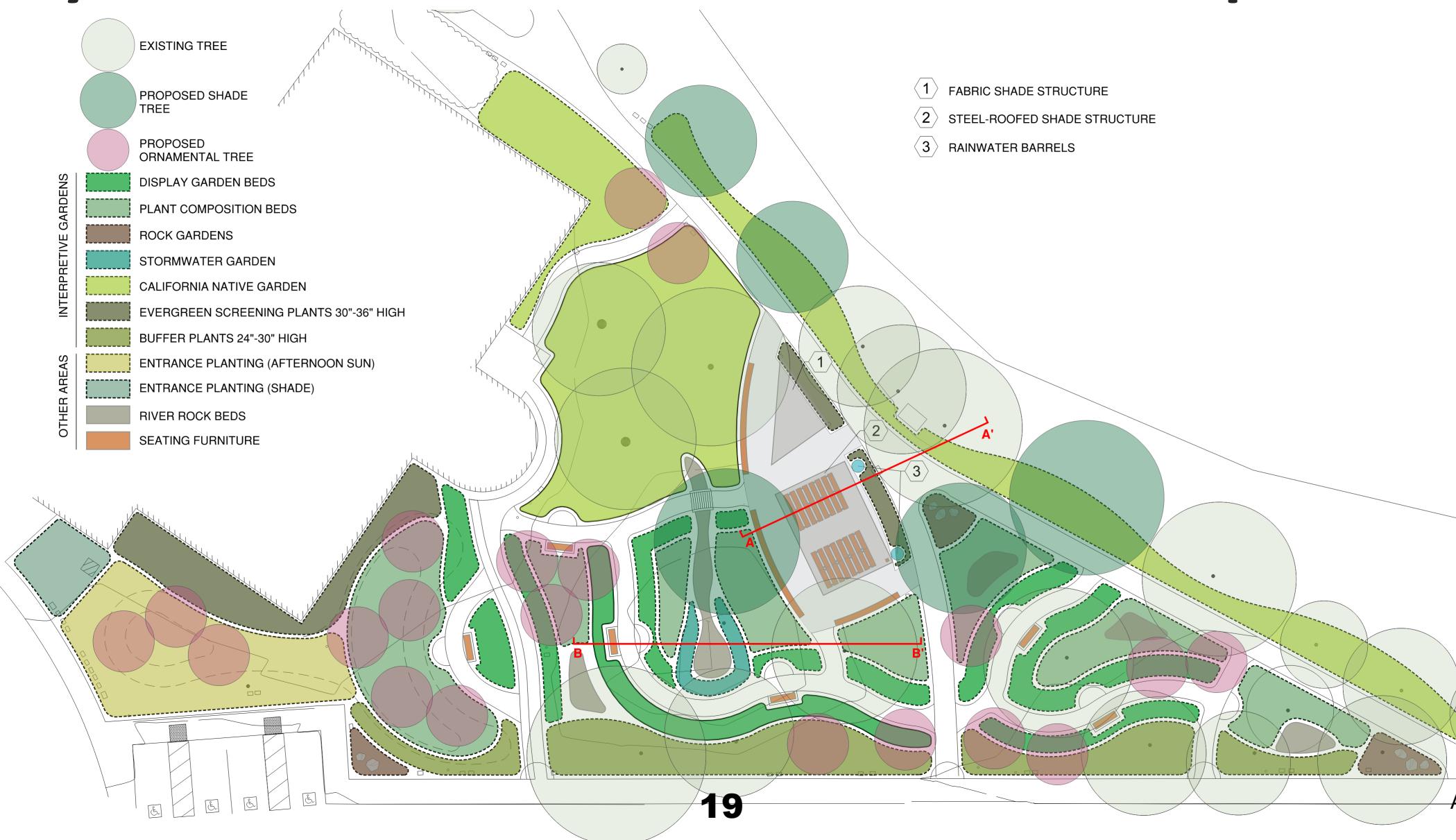


Current site conditions.

Valley Water Demonstration Garden Concept

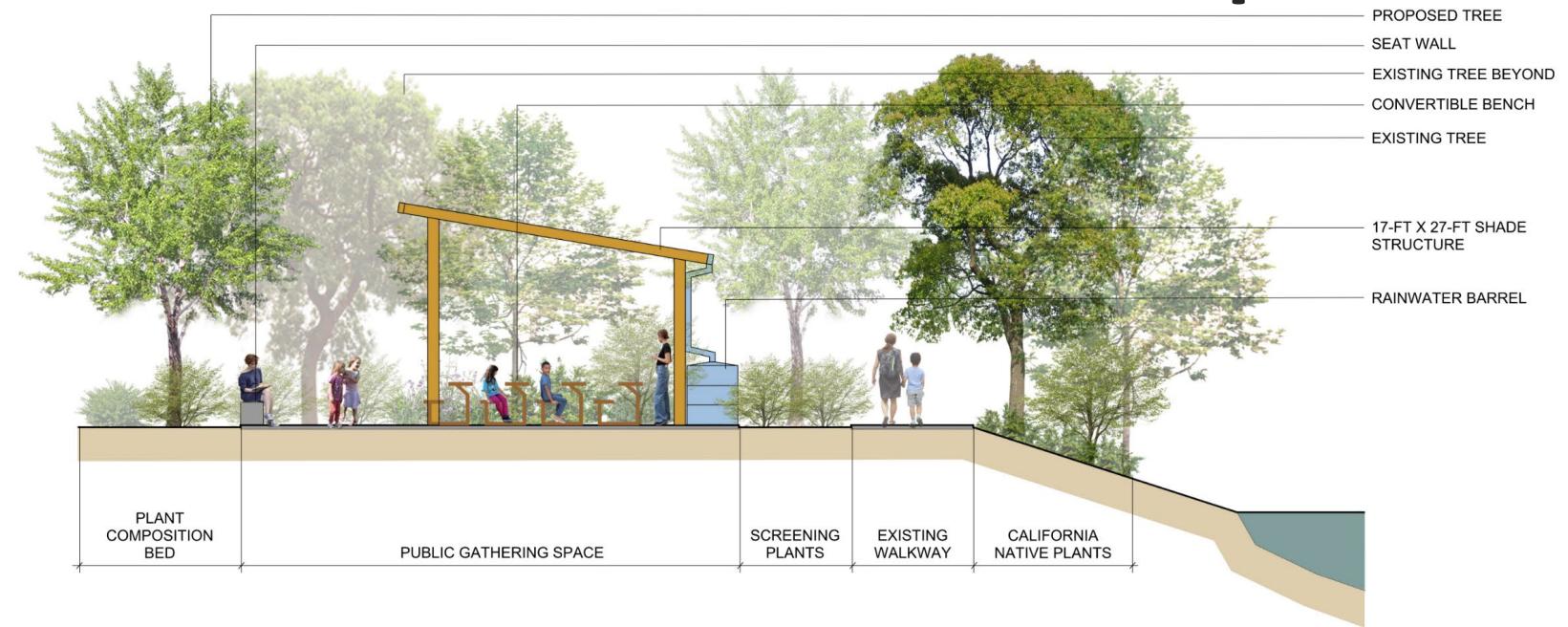


Valley Water Demonstration Garden Concept

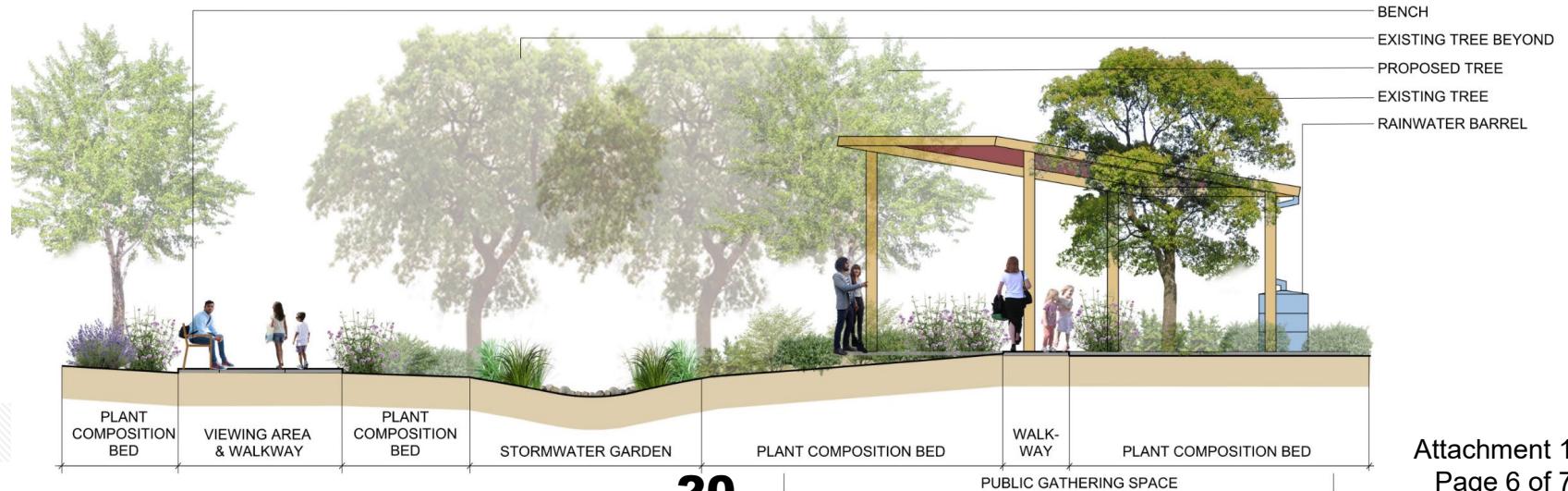


Valley Water Demonstration Garden Concept

Section A – Public Gathering Space



Section B – Display Gardens



Next Steps

Demo Garden:

- Public outreach survey
- Design Charette
- Design completion Spring 2026

FY26-FY28 SCW Funding:

- Valley Water Demonstration Garden Construction

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Santa Clara Valley Water District

File No.: 25-0883

Agenda Date: 10/20/2025

Item No.: 4.2.

COMMITTEE AGENDA MEMORANDUM Environmental and Water Resources Committee

Government Code § 84308 Applies: Yes No
(If "YES" Complete Attachment A - Gov. Code § 84308)

SUBJECT:

Receive an Update on Valley Water Baylands Restoration Projects.

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive background information on Valley Water's baylands restoration projects and an update on their current progress.

SUMMARY:

Valley Water provides safe, clean water, flood protection, and environmental stewardship for Santa Clara County residents. To support this mission, Valley Water is leading the restoration of significant portions of the San Francisco Baylands in northern Santa Clara County. Through this restoration effort, Valley Water is protecting our groundwater quality, improving flood protection and resilience to sea level rise, and improving the ecological habitat quality of the Baylands. This presentation will summarize the three Baylands restoration projects that Valley Water is leading:

1. South San Francisco Bay Shoreline Project (Phases 1-3)
2. Calabasas/San Tomas Aquino Creek-Marsh Connection Project
3. Pond A4 Resilient Habitat Restoration Project

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE IMPACT:

There are no Environmental Justice impacts associated with this item.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment 1: PowerPoint

UNCLASSIFIED MANAGER:
John Bourgeois, 408-630-2990

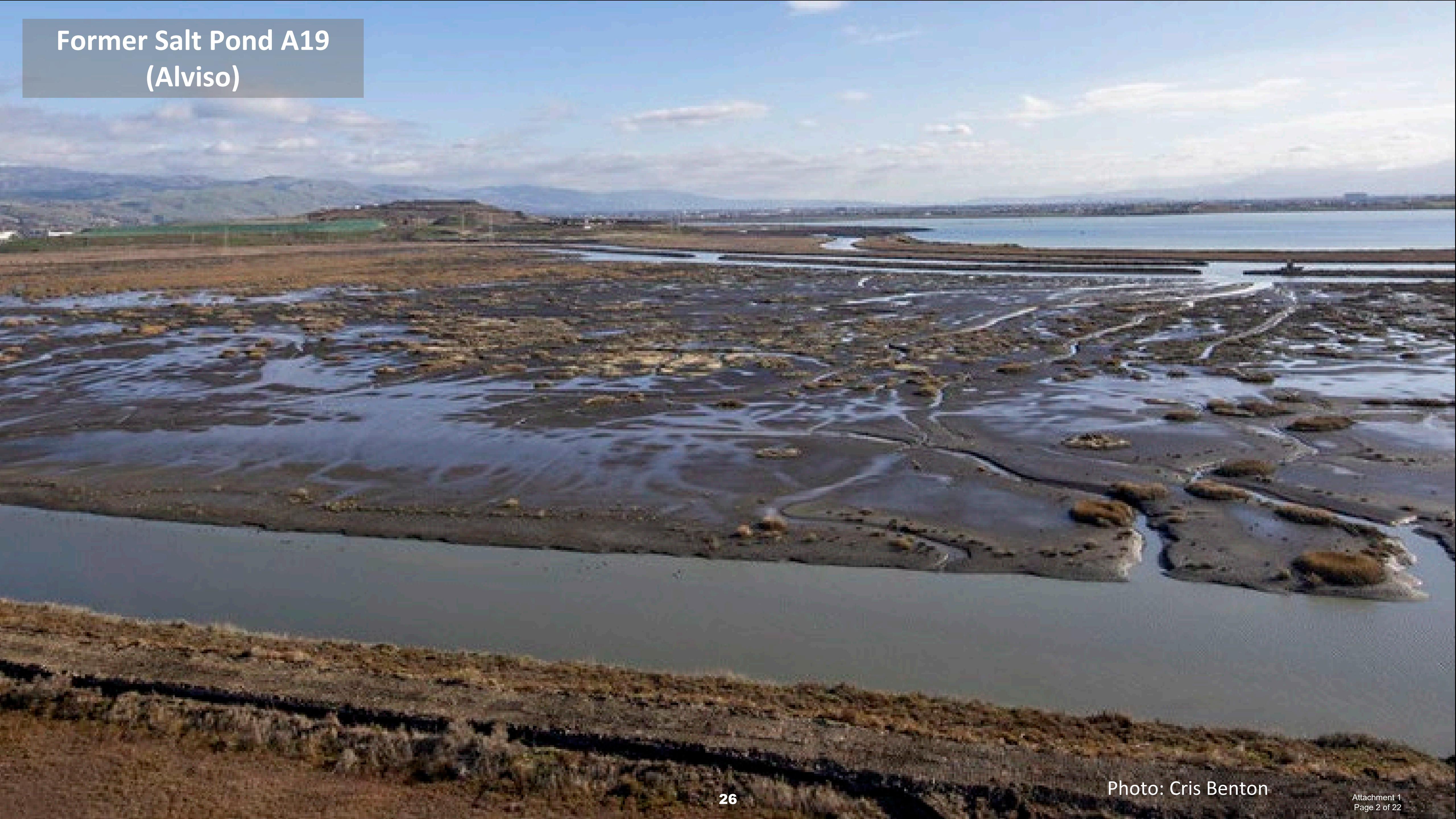


Valley Water Baylands Restoration Projects

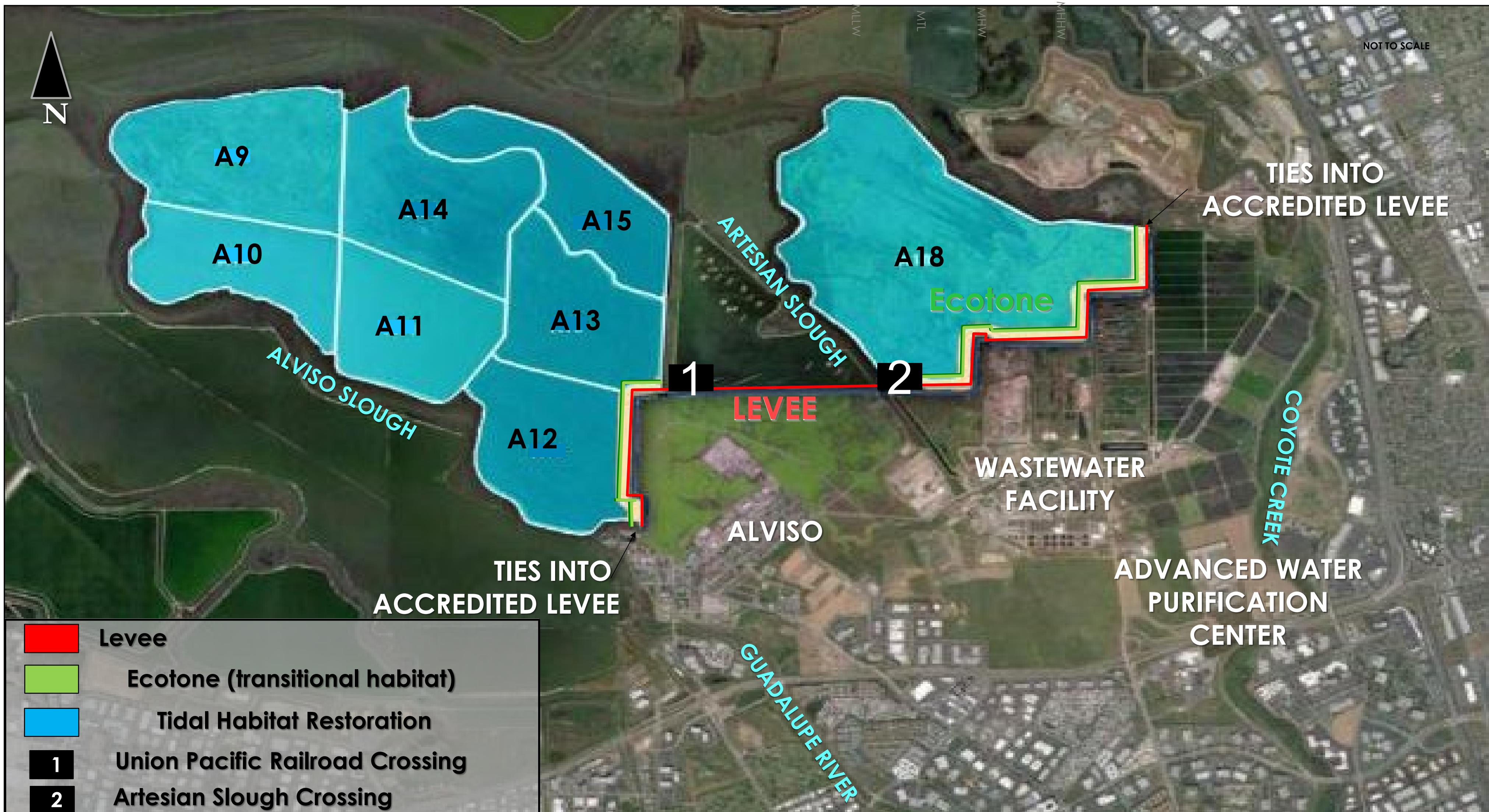
Environmental and Water Resources Committee Meeting, October 20, 2025

Presented by: **John Bourgeois**, Deputy Officer

Former Salt Pond A19
(Alviso)



Shoreline Phase I – Authorized Project



ALT. 6 – CREEK RECONNECTION, ALVISO SL. & POND A4 BREACHES



Future Nature Based Treatment Horizontal Levee

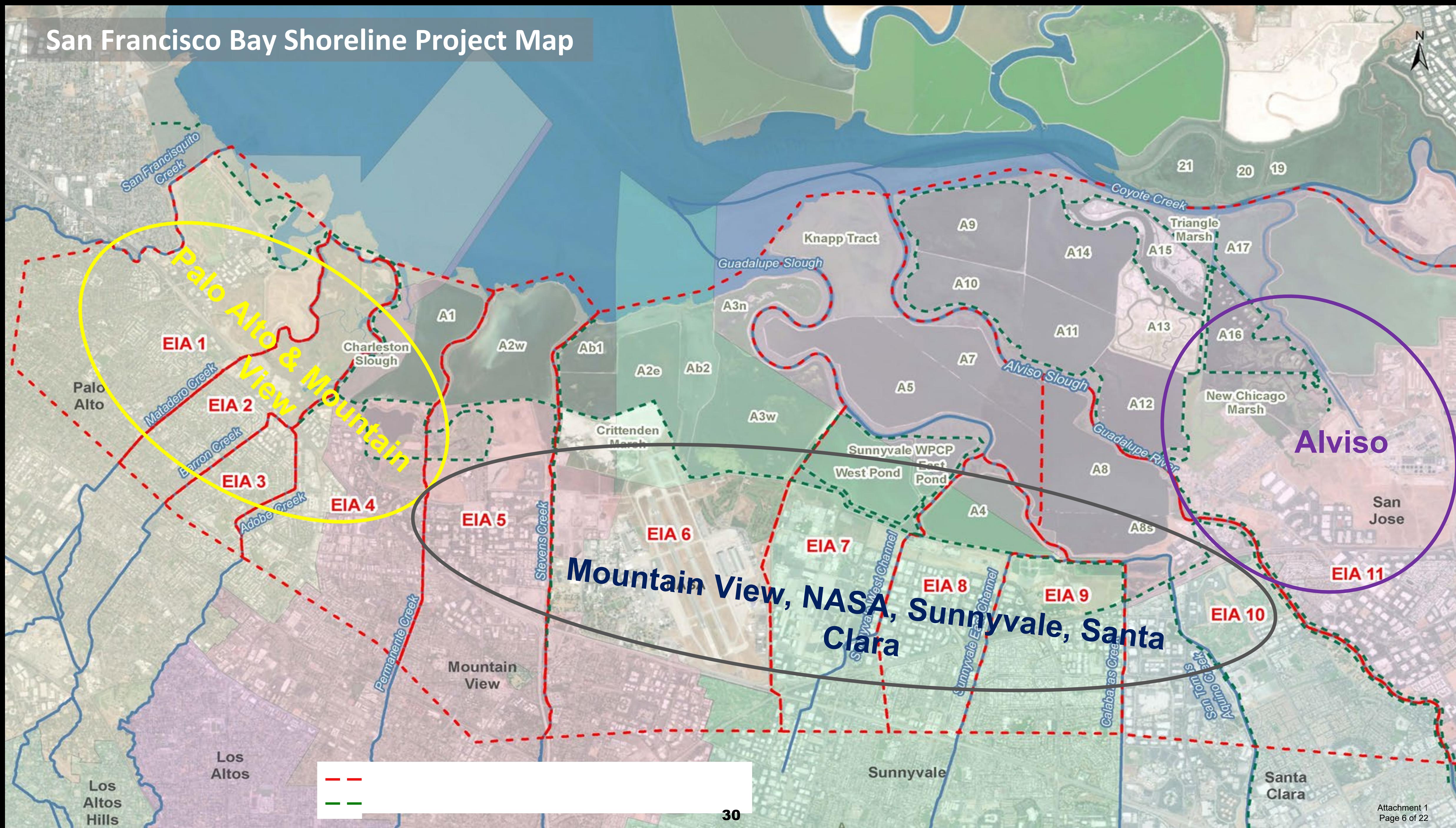
Location/extent TBD

28

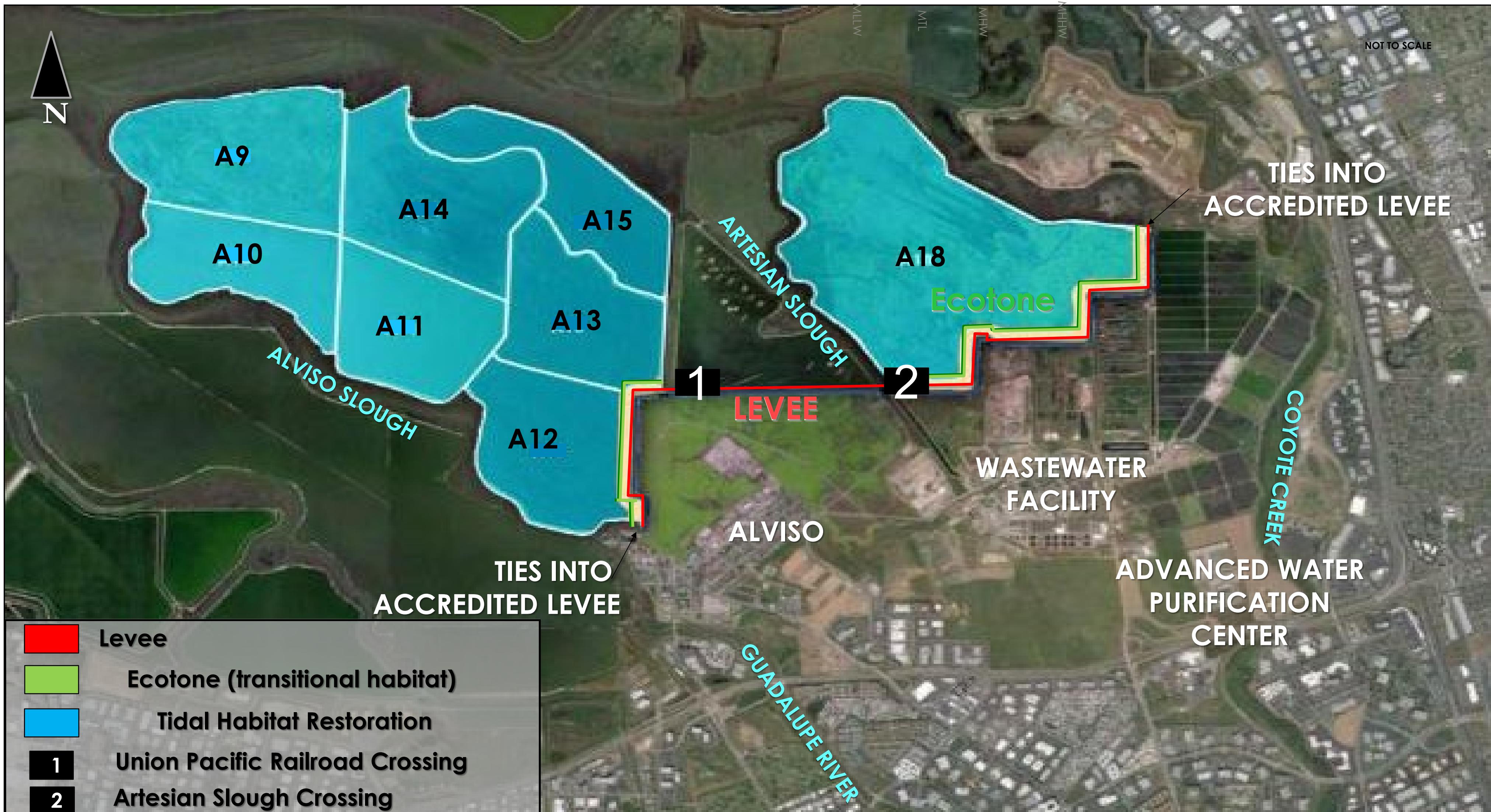


South San Francisco Bay Shoreline Project

San Francisco Bay Shoreline Project Map



Shoreline Phase I – Authorized Project

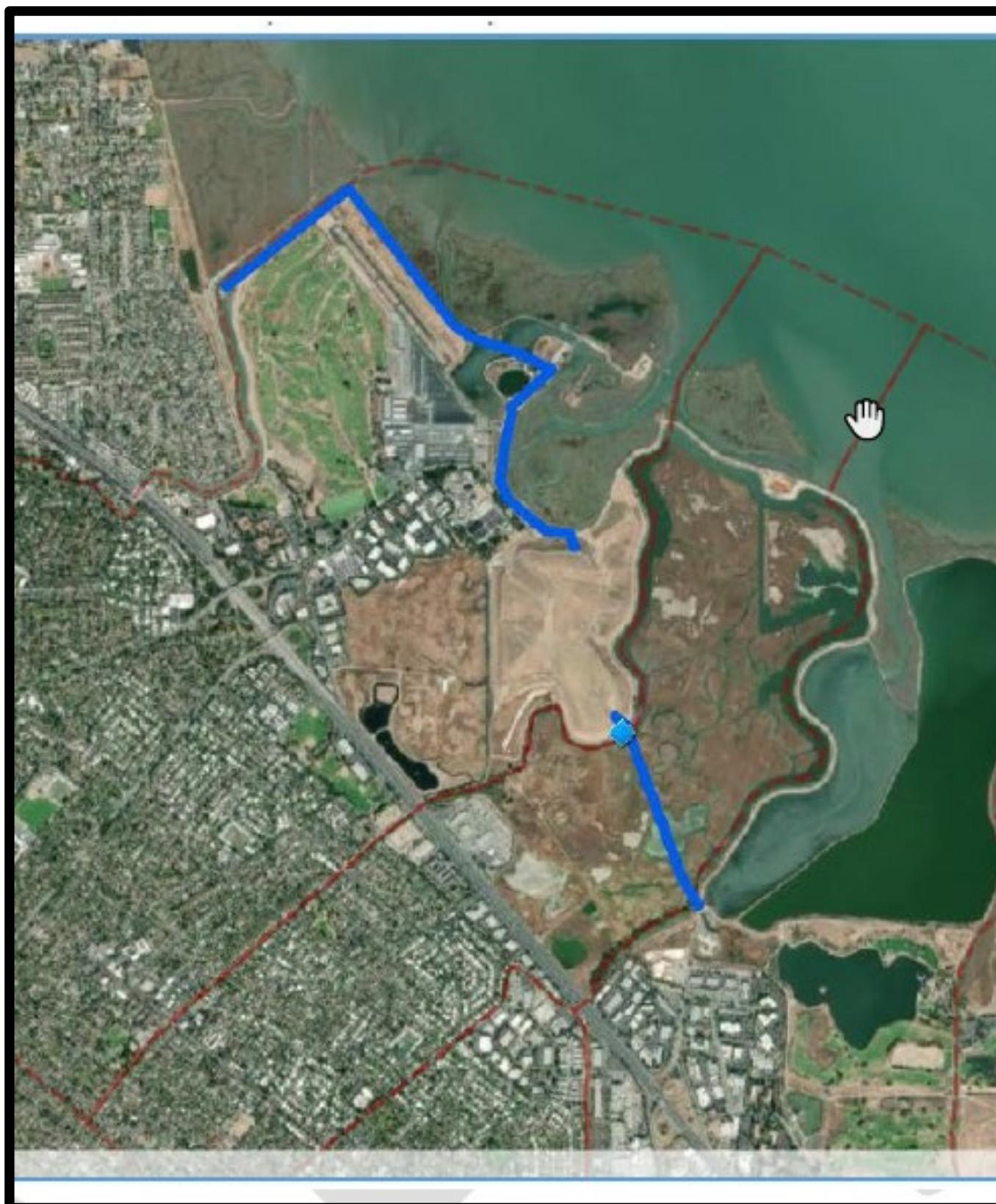


Shoreline Phase I Reaches 1-3 Construction

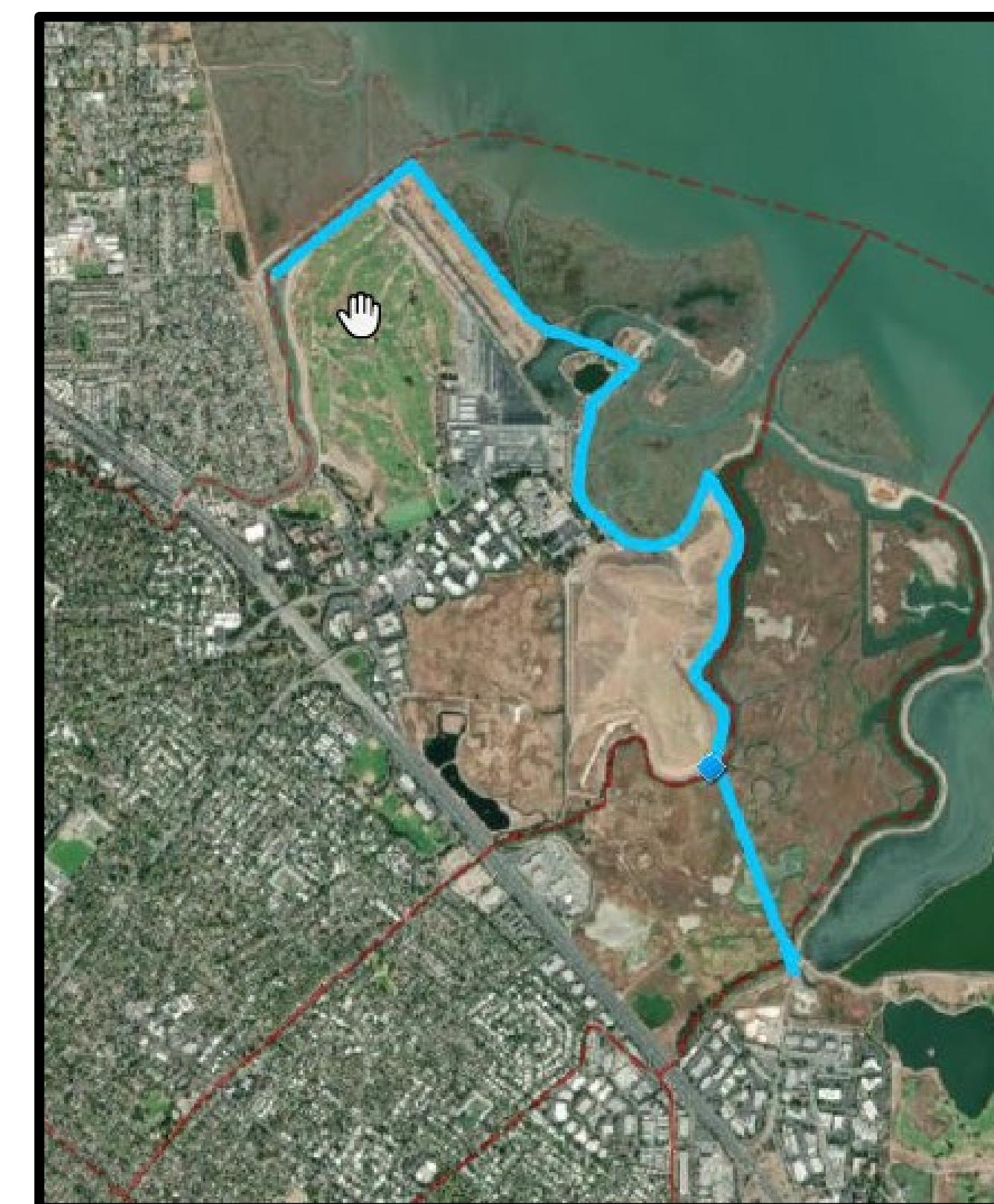


Palo Alto Feasibility: Estimated Damages were Far Less Than the Cost of Levee

Proposed Levee Alignments (Blue/Aqua lines)



Lowest Cost Alternative
\$280M

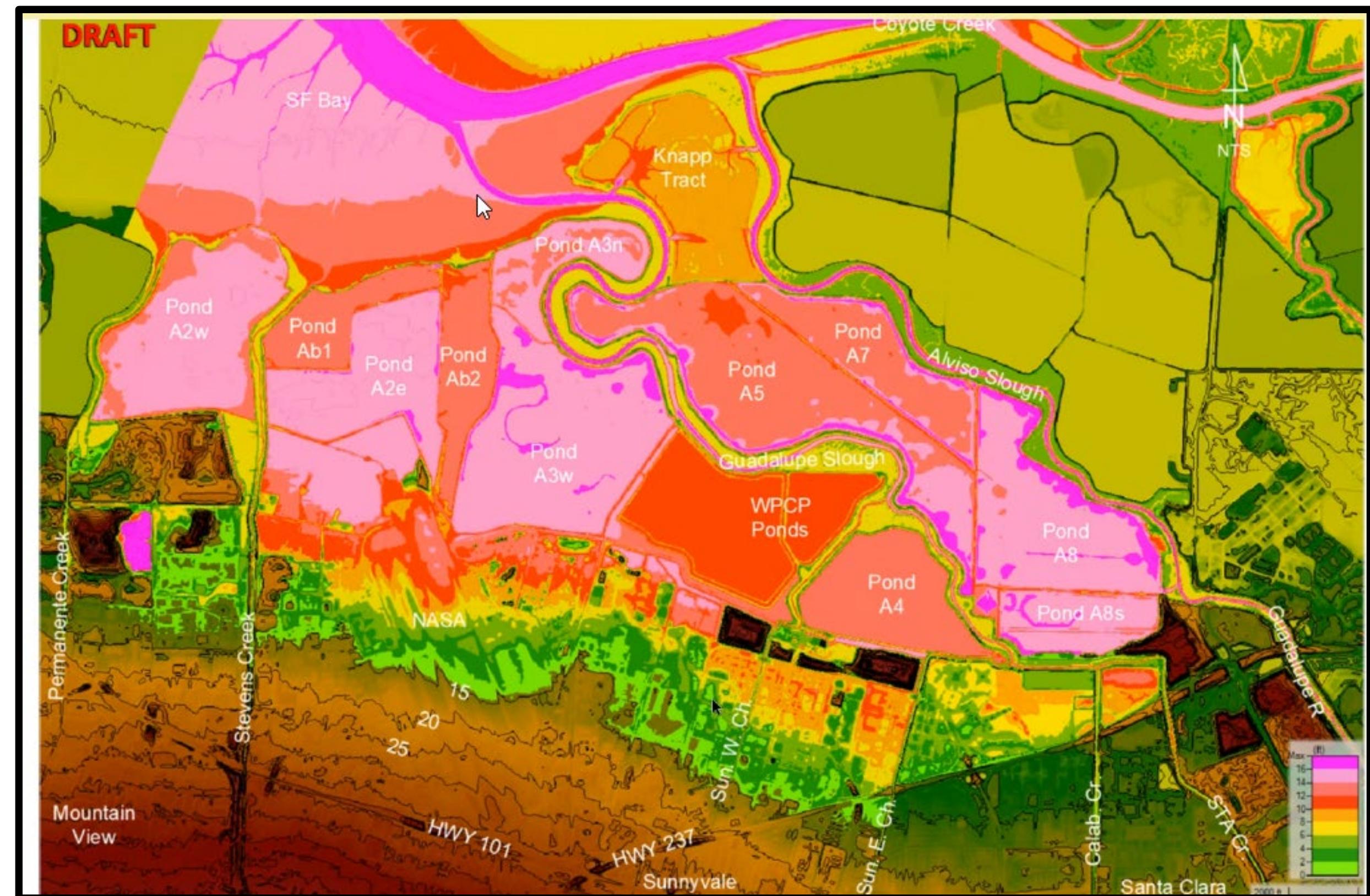


Highest Cost Alternative
\$406M ₃₃

SLR Scenario	Approximate Damages (Supportable Project Cost)	Sea Level Change by 2080
Low	\$25M	+0.54 ft
Interm.	\$30M	+1.23 ft
High	\$110M	+3.31 ft

Sunnyvale Feasibility Study

- Kicked-off in August 2023
- Scoping in Progress
 - Reviewing background information
 - Hydraulic modeling
 - Developing preliminary alternatives
 - Outreach meetings
- Next Steps
 - Approval of budget to complete feasibility study
 - Identify alternative to move forward

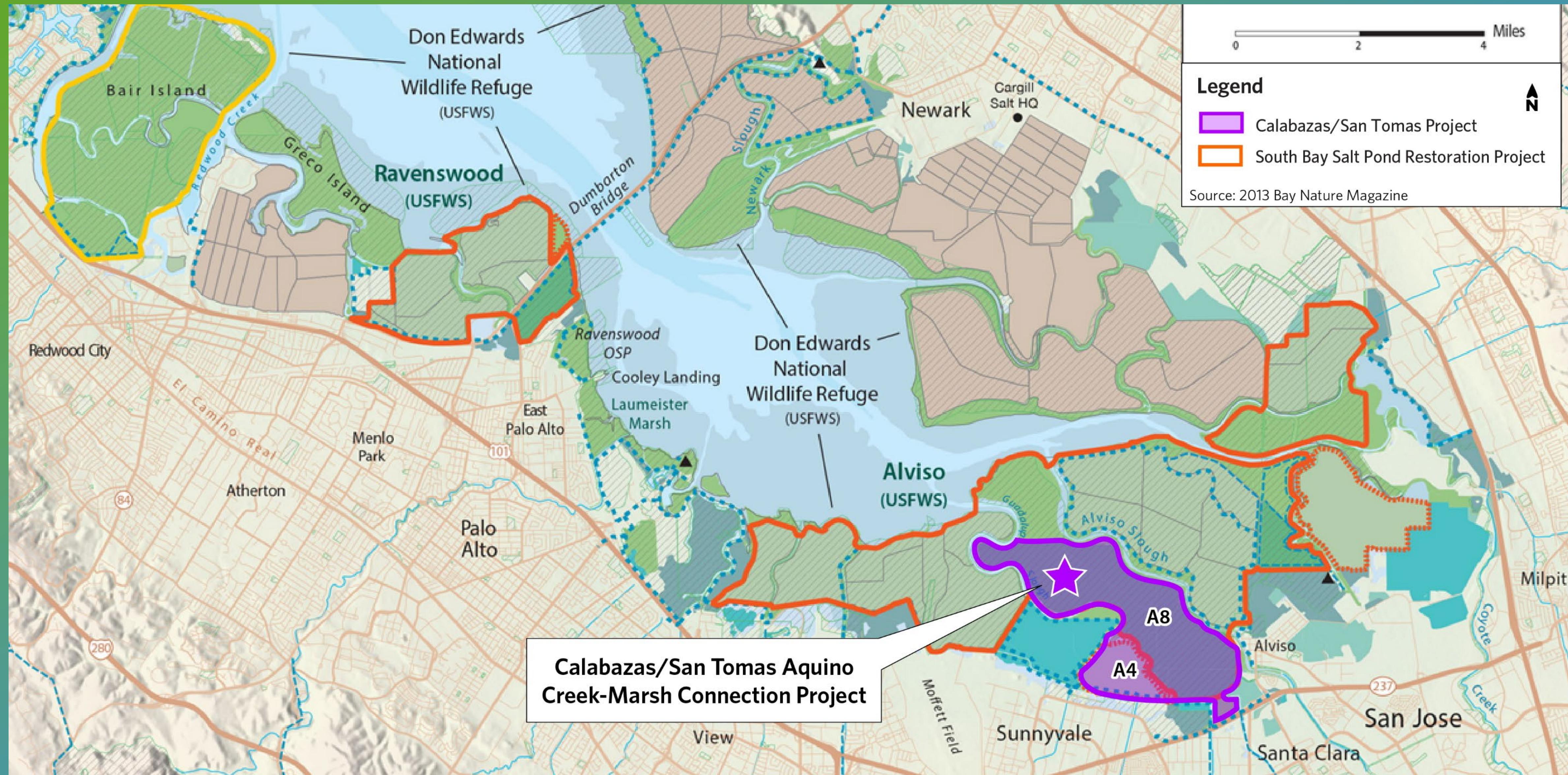


Hydraulic models are used to estimate future flooding due to coastal flood events and Sea Level Rise

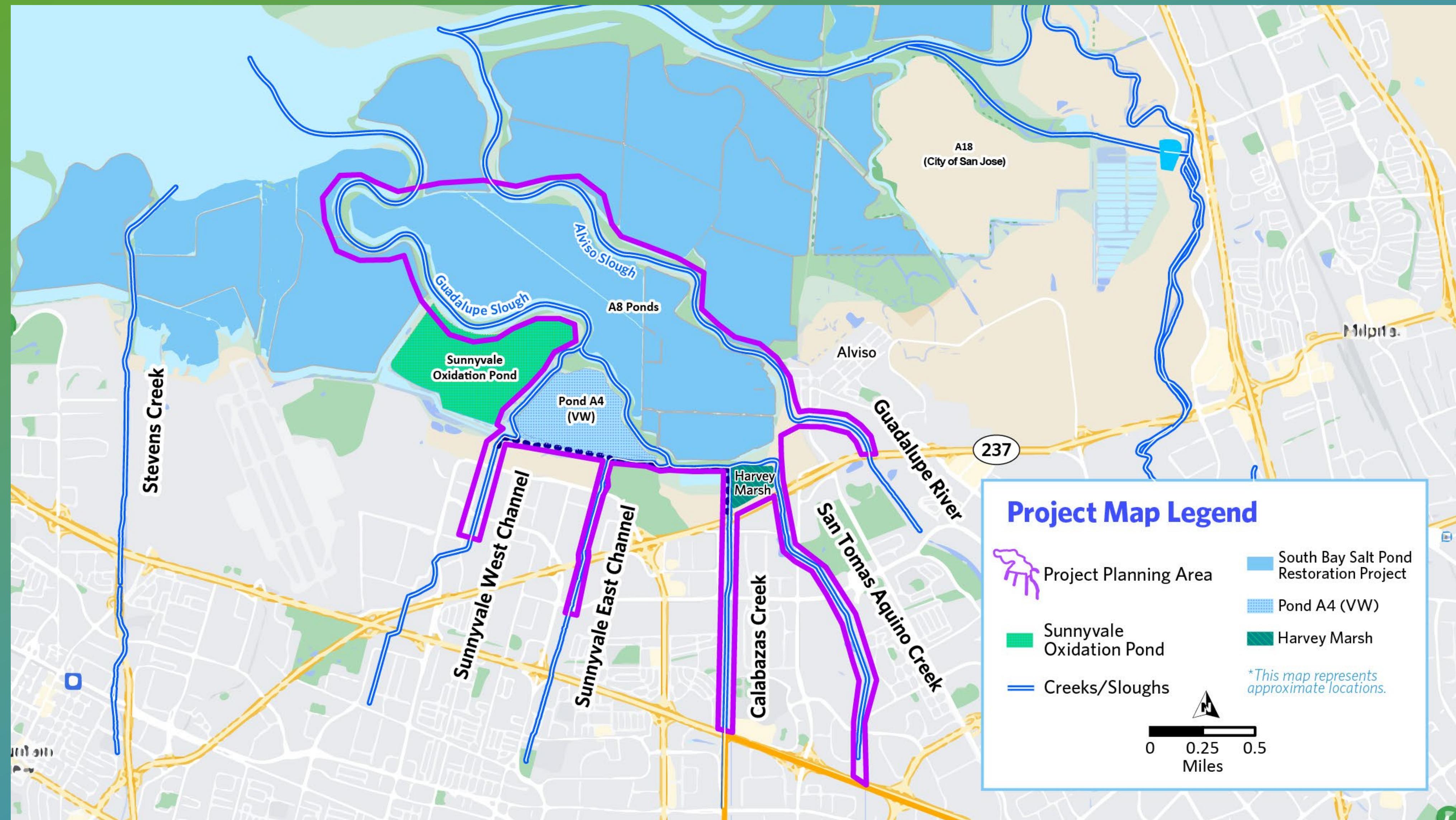
Calabazas/San Tomas Aquino Creek Marsh Connection Project

South Bay Salt Ponds
A8 Ponds, and Coyote
Creek
Dick Lyons, 2017

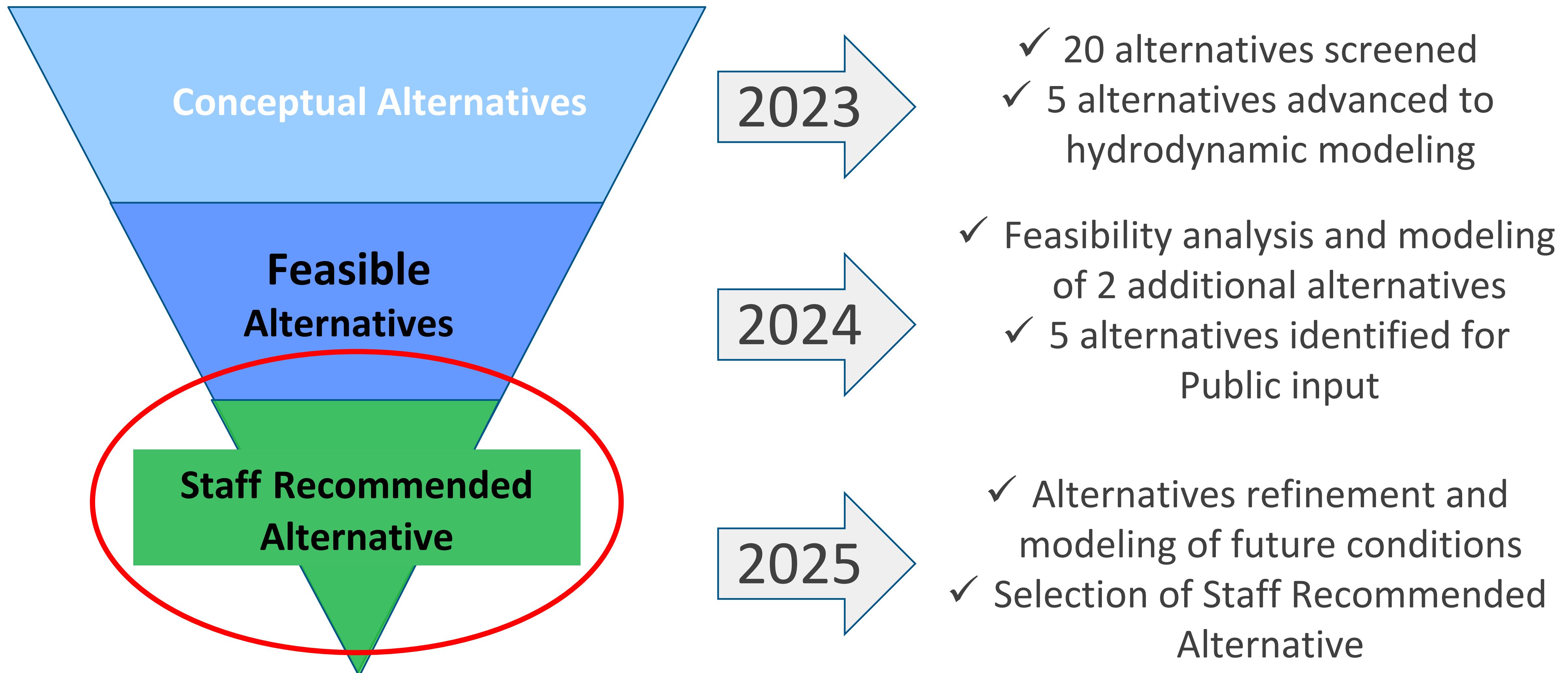
Connection to Broader South Bay Salt Pond Restoration



Calabazas/San Tomas Aquino Creek-Marsh Connection Project



Project Planning Process



ALT. 6 – CREEK RECONNECTION, ALVISO SL. & POND A4 BREACHES



Future Nature Based Treatment Horizontal Levee

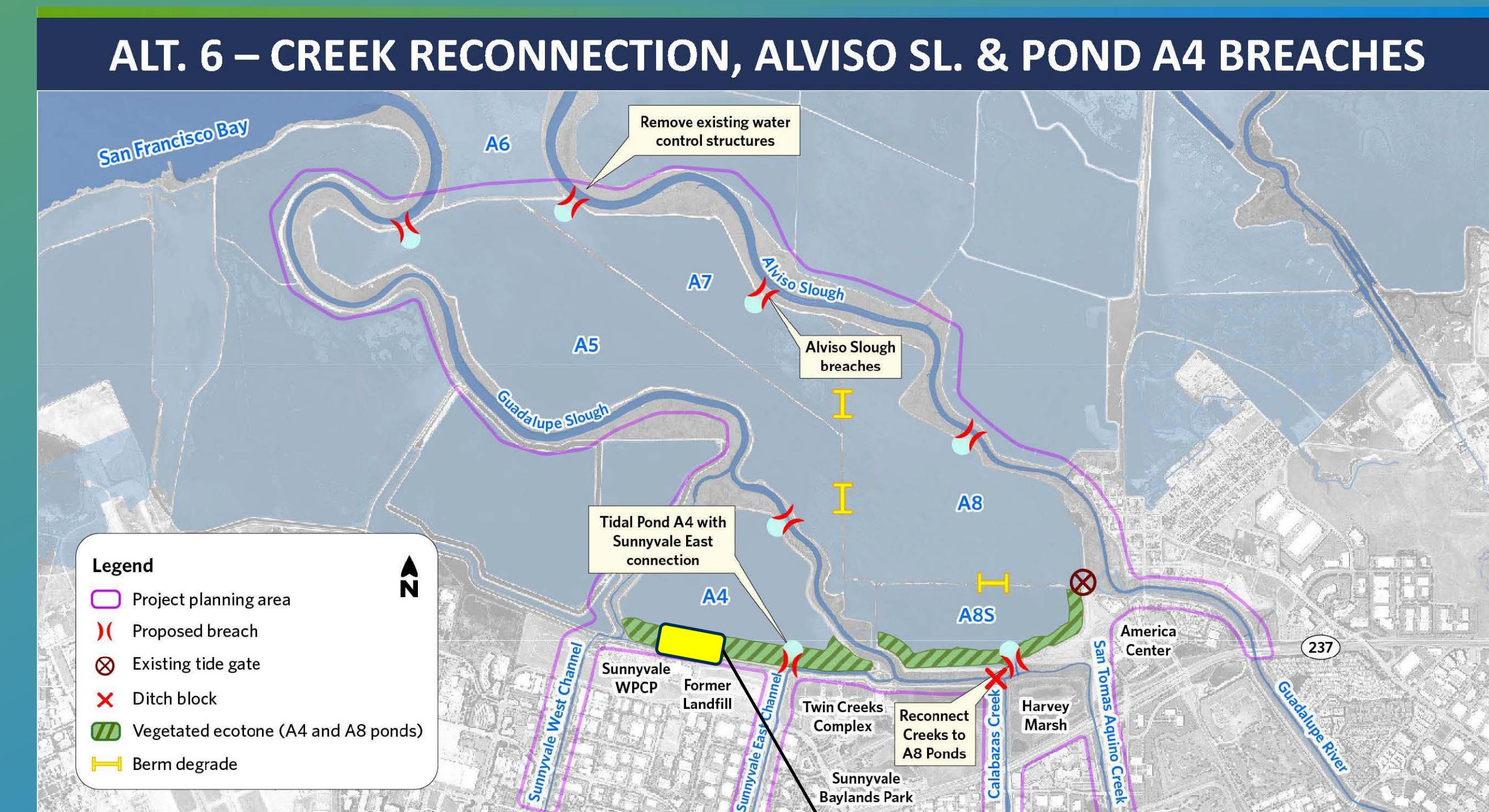
Location/extent TBD 39

Next Steps



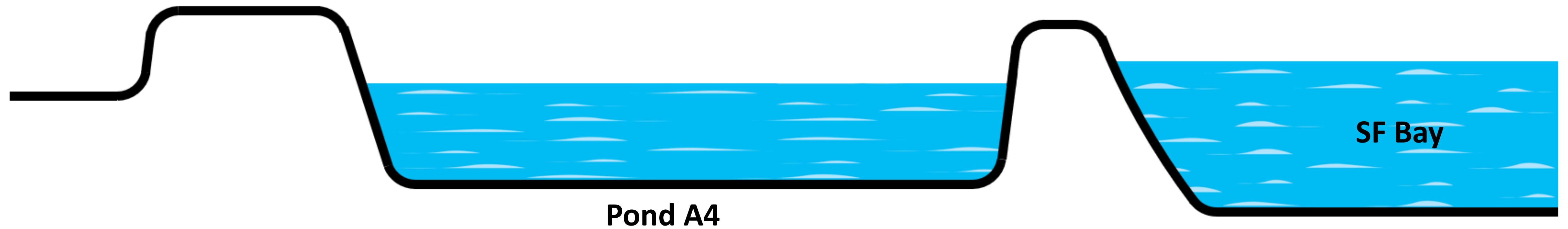
Pond A4 Resilient Habitat Restoration Project

Calabazas/San Tomas Aquino Creeks Marsh Connection Project



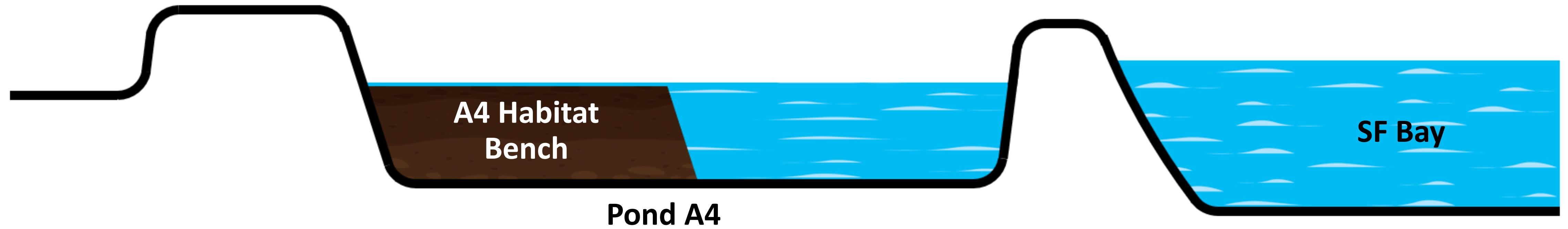
Existing Condition

Sunnyvale



Starting in 2026

Sunnyvale

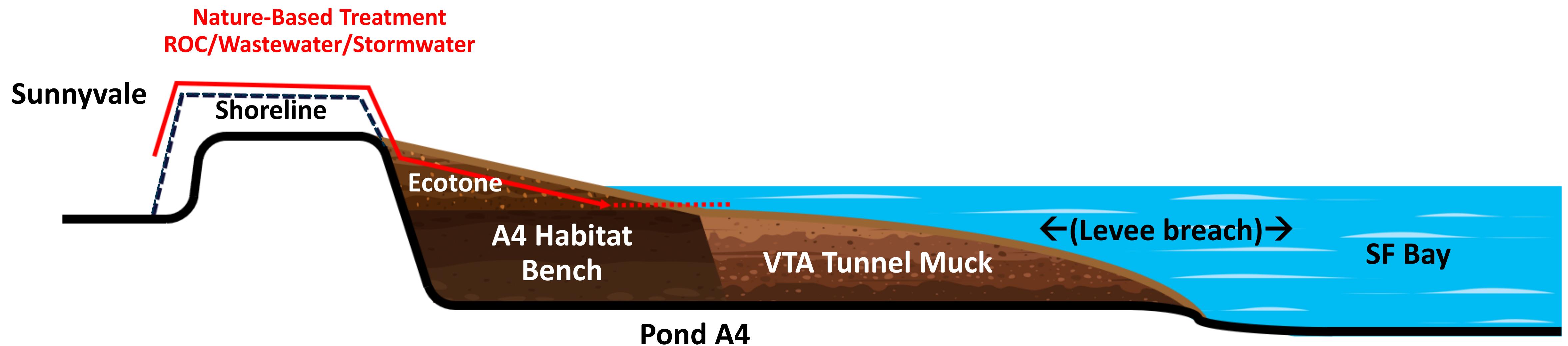


Starting as Early as 2028

Sunnyvale



Starting as Early as 2035



QUESTIONS





Santa Clara Valley Water District

File No.: 25-0886

Agenda Date: 10/20/2025

Item No.: 4.3.

COMMITTEE AGENDA MEMORANDUM

Environmental and Water Resources Committee

Government Code § 84308 Applies: Yes No
(If "YES" Complete Attachment A - Gov. Code § 84308)

SUBJECT:

Review and Receive Updates on the Environmental and Water Resources Committee's Working Groups.

RECOMMENDATION:

- A. Review and receive updates on the Environmental and Water Resources Committee's Working Groups, and
- B. Provide comments to the Board on implementation of Valley Water's mission applicable to working groups' recommendations.

SUMMARY:

At the Committee's October 2021, meeting, the Committee approved the working groups' structure to align with the issues and policies that the Board of Directors has on their work plan and calendar for the fiscal year.

The Board will continue to keep the Committee informed of the working groups' activities and results.

This will be a standing agenda item.

BACKGROUND:

The District Act provides for the creation of advisory boards, committees, or commissions by resolution to serve at the pleasure of the Board.

Accordingly, the Board has established Board Committees, which bring respective expertise and community interest, to advise the Board, when requested, in a capacity as defined: prepare Board policy alternatives and provide comment on activities in the implementation of the District's mission for Board consideration. In keeping with the Board's broader focus, Board Committees will not direct the implementation of District programs and projects, other than to receive information and provide comment.

Further, in accordance with Governance Process Policy-3, when requested by the Board, the Board's Committees may help the Board produce the link between the District and the public through information sharing to the communities they represent.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE IMPACT:

There are no environmental justice impacts associated with this item.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment 1: EWRC Working Groups October 2025

Attachment 2: EWRC FINAL Working Group Restructure

UNCLASSIFIED MANAGER:

Candice Kwok-Smith, 408-630-3193

FY 2025 EWRC Working Groups

Working Group Number/Title		Member Name	Lead	Total Members
EWRC Oversight Manager: John Bourgeois, jb Bourgeois@valleywater.org , 1-408-630-2990				
1	INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT:			
	Valley Water Staff Liaison: Heidi Williams, heidiwilliams@valleywater.org , 1-408-630-3112	Tess Byler, Charles Ice, Loren Lewis	Tess Byler	3
2	WATER SUPPLY:			
	Valley Water Staff Liaison: Jing Wu, jwu@valleywater.org , 1-408-630-2330	Arthur M. Keller, Patrick S. Kwok, Mike Michitaka, Jim Piazza	Arthur Keller	4
3	NATURAL FLOOD PROTECTION:			
	Valley Water Staff Liaison: Katie Muller, kmuller@valleywater.org , 1-408-630-2934	Arthur M. Keller, Mike Michitaka, Charles Taylor, Tess Byler	Arthur Keller	4
4	ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP:			
	Valley Water Staff Liaison: John Bourgeois, jb Bourgeois@valleywater.org , 1-408-630-2990	Swanee Edwards, Bob Levy, Jim Piazza, Rebecca Gallardo	Bob Levy	4
5	CLIMATE CHANGE:			
	Valley Water Staff Liaison: Nick Mascarello, nmascarello@valleywater.org , 1-408-630-3147	Bob Levy, Charles Taylor	Bob Levy	2

FY 2025 EWRC Working Groups

Working Group Number/Title	Member Name	Lead	Total Members
Lead Member			

SPECIAL NOTES:
See 2021 EWRC Working Group Restructure Guidelines.
Members should limit the number of working groups they participate in because of possible Brown Act Violations (2-3 groups only).
Please Note: You will be sharing your phone number and email address with the other members when signing up for a working group.
When planning meetings, the Group Chair (Lead) should contact Dave Leon via email (daveleon@valleywater.org) and John Bourgeois ([jb Bourgeois@valleywater.org](mailto:jbourgeois@valleywater.org)) with meeting date/time and location and how many members are expected to attend.

Environmental and Water Resources Committee

Draft Work Plan Revisions, Working Groups

Originated on August 10, 2021

(Latest revision: October 2025)

The Environmental and Water Resources Committee (EWRC) has a broad mandate that includes all aspects of the Valley Water mission (see attached excerpt from Board Resolution 17-75). However, this broad mandate can at times result in a dilution of purpose. These draft work plan revisions are aimed at focusing the EWRC's efforts in a way that takes better advantage of the resources and experience of a strong and diverse membership, while strengthening the advisory role of the EWRC to the benefit of the Valley Water Board and staff.

The EWRC takes its direction from the Board. Action items as directed by the Board will take top priority in Committee business.

The defined roles of the EWRC are to:

1. Provide input on policy.
2. Provide comment on activities in the implementation of Valley Water's mission.
3. Act as a link between Valley Water and the public.
4. Produce and present an Annual Accomplishments Report.

With these simple guiding principles in mind, to make the committee more directly connected to its stated purpose, we propose the following structure:

Policy and Implementation Input (roles 1 and 2 above)

The formation of 5 Working Groups:

1. **Integrated Water Resources Management** (sample topics: One Water Plan [Integrated Water Resources Master Plan], Flood-MAR [Managed Aquifer Recharge], Green stormwater infrastructure); staff liaison: Senior Water Resources Specialist overseeing One Water (currently Heidi Williams)
2. **Water Supply** (sample topics: Anderson Dam Seismic Retrofit project, Purified Water, Pacheco Reservoir Expansion Project); staff liaison: Senior Water Resources Specialist (currently Jing Wu)
3. **Natural Flood Protection** (sample topics: Shoreline Phase 2, Upper Penitencia Creek); staff liaison: Unit Manager (currently Katie Muller)
4. **Environmental Stewardship** (sample topics: FAHCE, habitat connectivity and riparian corridors, fish passage including gravel and LWD); staff liaison: Unit Manager (currently John Bourgeois)
5. **Climate Change** (sample topics: Climate Change Action Plan [CCAP] Implementation, GHG methodology updates); staff liaison: Senior Water Resources Specialist overseeing CCAP (currently Nick Mascarello)

Access to the staff liaisons should be used respectfully, with the intent of 1) clarifying questions on specific topics and 2) obtaining access to background information and/or resources being provided to other committees.

Each Working Group will have 4-8 members and will designate a Lead.

Assigned Work: Assigned tasks by the Board will take priority for the EWRC. When input on an issue is desired by the Board, the item will go first to the Working Group (unless time does not permit and the WG feels the item can go straight to the full Committee). The Working Group will then present recommendations to the full committee for action if deemed appropriate.

Proactive Topics: If there are items that the EWRC would like more information on, and they are not an item requested from the Board, we suggest the following process:

- When applicable, EWRC liaison (see below) will attend the relevant Board or Committee where the item is being discussed.
- Discuss the item at the Working Group level to see if there is consensus on whether an item is appropriate to be brought to the entire Committee.
- Bring the item to the full EWRC during the standing agenda item to review the work plan and vote on whether or not to fully agendize the item for discussion at a subsequent meeting. If time is short, the Working Group Lead may bring the item to the Chair and Vice Chair of the EWRC who will consult with staff and may agendize it for the next meeting.
- Questions to consider when voting on an item:
 - Is the item being adequately addressed in another forum (see Standing Items Report for updates)?
 - Will the item, if brought to the EWRC, fall under one of the stated purposes of the Committee?
 - Can the EWRC positively contribute to the item to benefit Valley Water and the community?
 - Is there support from the Board liaisons for spending time on this item?

Board and Committee Liaisons (roles 1 and 2 above)

We recommend that EWRC assign a liaison (plus an alternate) to each Board Committee and that these Committee members briefly report out at each quarterly EWRC (as done under the Working Groups Update, a standing item on the agenda). The Chair will assign at-large appointments, and each Working Group will assign those liaisons for committees designated to that Working Group (see below). Updates will include any items that may be of interest to the EWRC and/or pertinent to the Committee Work Plan.

The Board Committees that we recommend designated liaisons include (with Working Group designation in parenthesis):

- Board Audit Committee (At-Large)
- Board Policy and Planning Committee (At-Large)
- Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Committee (At-Large)
- Diversity and Inclusion Ad Hoc Committee (At-Large)
- Homeless Encampment Committee (Environmental Stewardship)
- Recycled Water Committee (Water Supply)

- Stream Planning and Operations Committee (Environmental Stewardship)
- Water Conservation and Demand Management Committee (Water Supply)
- Water Storage Exploratory Committee (Water Supply)

Roles and responsibilities: The Board Committee liaisons are expected to regularly attend their designated Board Committee meetings, alerting their alternate if they are unable to attend. At those meetings, they will represent EWRC interests, report back to EWRC any items of interest, and elevate recommendations within their Working Groups on any items desired for proactive engagement (see above). The meeting schedule of these committees can be located as part of the regular meeting minutes and ongoing agenda item (Informational Link Reports), as well as at the below links. Typical meeting frequency and duration are listed below but are subject to variances.

<https://www.valleywater.org/how-we-operate/committees/board-committees>

- Board Policy and Planning Committee (BPPC) (typically 1 meeting per month, 2 hours)
- Stream Planning and Operations Committee (SPOC) (formerly FAHCE Ad Hoc Committee, typically every other month, 2 hours)
- Homeless Encampment Committee (typically every other month, 2 hours)
- Water Storage Exploratory Committee (WSEC) meetings are scheduled as called for by the Committee Chair, but typically 2 hours

<https://www.valleywater.org/how-we-operate/committees/board-advisory-committees>

- Redistricting Advisory Committee (RAC) this is a special Committee for Redistricting and will be completed by March 2022.
- Water Conservation and Demand Management Committee (WCaDMC) (typically 1 meeting per month, 2 hours)

Stakeholder Engagement (role 3 above)

The EWRC represents a vital cross-section of the Valley Water constituency. We want to emphasize the EWRC's role in being an extension of the larger community. As such, we request that EWRC members perform three vital functions:

1. Communicate relevant Valley Water issues and project updates to your network.
2. Bring to the Committee any environmental and water resources concerns or issues you are hearing in the community.
3. Bring to the Committee any environmental justice concerns or issues you are hearing in the community.

EWRC members have been carefully selected by Board members to represent a broad cross-section of the community. As leaders in the community, the Board values and relies on the EWRC members to assist in two-way communication with stakeholders and residents.

Pertinent excerpts from Board Resolution 17-75 on the functions of advisory committees.

RESOLUTION 17- 75

PROVIDING FOR AND DEFINING THE STRUCTURE AND FUNCTION OF

ADVISORY COMMITTEES TO THE SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND REPEALING RESOLUTION

...

1.2 The Committees are established to assist the Board with policy review and development, provide comment on activities in the implementation of the District's mission for Board consideration, and to identify Board-related issues pertaining to the following:

1.2.2 Environmental and Water Resources Committee: ***water supply, flood protection, and environmental stewardship.***

...

1.3 In accordance with Governance Process Policy-8, the specific duties of the Committees are to:

1.3.1. Provide ***input on policy alternatives*** for Board deliberation.

1.3.2 Provide ***comment on the activities in the implementation*** of the District's mission for Board consideration.

1.3.3 Produce and present to the Board an ***Annual Accomplishments Report*** summarizing the outcomes of the Committee's annual Board-approved work plan.

1.3.4 Further, in accordance with Governance Process Policy-3, when requested by the Board, the Advisory Committees may help the Board produce the ***link between the District and the public*** through information sharing to the communities they represent.



Santa Clara Valley Water District

File No.: 25-0887

Agenda Date: 10/20/2025

Item No.: 4.4.

COMMITTEE AGENDA MEMORANDUM

Environmental and Water Resources Committee

Government Code § 84308 Applies: Yes No
(If "YES" Complete Attachment A - Gov. Code § 84308)

SUBJECT:

Review Environmental and Water Resources Committee Work Plan, the Outcomes of Board Action of Committee Requests; and the Committee's Next Meeting Agenda.

RECOMMENDATION:

Review the Committee work plan to guide the committee's discussions regarding policy alternatives and implications for Board deliberation.

SUMMARY:

The attached Work Plan outlines the topics for discussion to be able to prepare policy alternatives and implications for Board deliberation. The work plan is agendized at each meeting as accomplishments are updated and to review any work plan assignments by the Board.

BACKGROUND:

Governance Process Policy-8:

The District Act provides for the creation of advisory boards, committees, or commissions by resolution to serve at the pleasure of the Board.

Accordingly, the Board has established Advisory Committees, which bring respective expertise and community interest, to advise the Board, when requested, in a capacity as defined: prepare Board policy alternatives and provide comment on activities in the implementation of the District's mission for Board consideration. In keeping with the Board's broader focus, Advisory Committees will not direct the implementation of District programs and projects, other than to receive information and provide comment.

Further, in accordance with Governance Process Policy-3, when requested by the Board, the Advisory Committees may help the Board produce the link between the District and the public through information sharing to the communities they represent.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE IMPACT:

There are no Environmental Justice impacts associated with this item.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment 1: EWRC 2025 Work Plan

UNCLASSIFIED MANAGER:

Candice Kwok-Smith, 408-630-3193

2025 Work Plan: Environmental and Water Resources Committee

Updated October 2025

The annual work plan establishes a framework for committee discussion and action during the annual meeting schedule. The committee work plan is a dynamic document, subject to change as external and internal issues impacting the District occur and are recommended for committee discussion. Subsequently, an annual committee accomplishments report is developed based on the work plan and presented to the District Board of Directors.

ITEM	WORK PLAN ITEM BOARD POLICY	MEETING DATE	INTENDED OUTCOME(S) (Action or Information Only)	ACCOMPLISHMENT DATE AND OUTCOME
1	Election of Chair and Vice Chair for 2025	January 27	•Committee Elects Chair and Vice Chair for 2025. (Action)	Accomplished January 27, 2025 The Committee elected Charles Ice as Chairperson and Arthur Keller as Vice Chairperson
2	Annual Accomplishments Report	January 27	•Review and approve 2024 Accomplishments Report for presentation to the Board. (Action)	Accomplished January 27, 2025 The Committee approved the Accomplishments Report with minor grammatical edits.
3	Update Status of Working Groups	January 27 April 21 July 21 October 20	•Receive updates on the status of the working groups. (Action) •Submit requests to the Board, as appropriate.	Accomplished January 27, April 21, and July 21, 2025 The Committee received the information and took no formal action.
4	Review of Environmental and Water Resources Committee Work Plan, the Outcomes of Board Action of Committee Requests and the Committee's Next Meeting Agenda	April 21 July 21 October 20	•Receive and review the 2025 Board-approved Committee work plan. (Action) •Submit requests to the Board, as appropriate.	Accomplished April 21 and July 21, 2025 The Committee received the information and took no formal action.
5	Standing Items Report Fiscal Year 2025 Goals and Strategies:	April 21 July 21 October 20	•Receive quarterly reports on standing items. (Information)	Accomplished April 21 and July 21, 2025 The Committee received the information and took no formal action.

2025 Work Plan: Environmental and Water Resources Committee

Updated October 2025

ITEM	WORK PLAN ITEM BOARD POLICY	MEETING DATE	INTENDED OUTCOME(S) (Action or Information Only)	ACCOMPLISHMENT DATE AND OUTCOME
6	One Water Plan – Lower Peninsula and West Valley Watershed Plans	April 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Receive information on the two draft Watershed Plans. •Provide feedback to staff. (Action) 	<u>Accomplished April 21, 2025</u> The Committee received the information and took no formal action
7	Water Supply Master Plan Update	April 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Provide feedback on the Water Supply Master Plan 2050 portfolio development and analysis. 	<u>Accomplished April 21, 2025</u> The Committee received the information and took no formal action
8	Upper Pajaro Native Ecosystem Enhancement Tool	July 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Receive information on the Upper Pajaro Native Ecosystem Enhancement Tool. •Provide feedback to staff 	<u>Accomplished July 21, 2025</u> The Committee received the information and took no formal action
9	Baylands Projects Update	October 20	Receive an update on the various VW projects occurring along SF Bay.	
10	Demonstration Garden	October 20	Receive an update on the Valley Water Demonstration Garden.	
11	Review Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Board Work plan	October 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Review Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Board Work Plan (Information) 	