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Stream Maintenance Program



As part of our Stream Maintenance Program (SMP), Valley Water plans to perform work along several creeks across Santa Clara County in 2024. Under the SMP, work occurs annually to reduce the risk of flooding and fire, keep our creeks healthy, and improve the environment. The county has over 800 miles of creeks, and Valley Water owns and manages about 295 miles of those streams. Portions of these streams are inspected and prioritized for maintenance projects each year through the SMP.

For decades, our crews have been trekking into streams to remove sediment build-up, manage vegetation, clear trash and debris, and stabilize banks eroded during high water flows. This work is especially critical given the wet winter our county experienced. Work to reduce fire danger continues to be necessary, particularly given the county's cyclical dry conditions, winter rains that promote vegetative growth, and the ongoing challenges of climate change. The SMP ensures streams with completed flood protection projects continue functioning and protecting homes, businesses, schools, and highways.

The projects listed in this brochure are part of this season's proposed work. Pending state and federal regulatory approvals, work on these projects can only be conducted within a limited work window between June 15, 2024 and October 15, 2024. In some instances, Valley Water may request and receive work extensions beyond October 15 to complete projects. Other

work, including minor maintenance and vegetation management projects, can occur year-round.

WHAT TO EXPECT AND SAFETY

Work on SMP projects typically occurs Monday through Friday, but Saturday work may be necessary to complete specific tasks. Work hours are set by local city ordinances, with work generally occurring between 7 a.m. and 5 p.m. Our crews strive to be courteous and follow safe practices with all neighbors. Any work before 8 a.m. will be limited to preparation activities with minimal noise impact.

Access to recreation is vital to many of us. Some trails will have temporary detours for public and workers' safety. Please comply with all construction signage and fencing to avoid entering active work areas. Trespassers place themselves and workers in danger as onsite crews operating large equipment are focused on work activities and may be unable to see or hear trespassers. Visit bit.ly/SCVW_TrafficandTrailImpacts for trail detours.

The Safe, Clean Water Program partially funds the SMP work. As part of this program, Priority D provides funding for Valley Water to conduct mitigation site maintenance on native plant revegetation projects in creeks, where we are responsible. Priority F provides funding for Valley Water to conduct vegetation management and sediment removal work to maintain creeks'

We are working in your neighborhood creeks!



design flows in areas where we are responsible. The funding for this work is critical as it helps enhance and establish habitats for wildlife and reduce flood risks to our communities. Thank you for your investment.

Details on the renewed Safe, Clean Water Program can be found at bit.ly/SafeCleanWater-ProjectUpdates. More Stream Maintenance Program information can be found online at <https://delivr.com/2gpuq> or by calling 408-265-2600. Keep debris and trash out of our streams. If you see trash polluting a creek, pond, or reservoir, please call 1 888-510-5151.

TYPES OF STREAM MAINTENANCE

Bank protection

High and sustained water flows can cause extensive damage to creek banks, eroding existing flood protection improvements and natural elements. Repairing creek banks also helps protect neighboring homes and property from damage.

Sediment removal

Sediment and debris washed downstream can restrict water flow in some areas. During a heavy storm, these restricted flow areas could cause water to back up, increasing the risk of flooding. Crews remove sediment to allow stormwater to flow through the creeks as designed. To the extent possible, Valley Water reuses sediment for environmental purposes and to reduce disposal costs.

Vegetation management

Valley Water crews manage over 3,000 acres of instream and upland vegetation annually. Selective removal of instream vegetation maintains flow conveyance in streams and riparian corridors. Managing upland vegetation restores maintenance access and maintains fire code compliance, given the county's cyclical dry conditions and the ongoing challenges of climate change. Valley Water's vegetation management work is crucial in helping to reduce fire risk.

Mitigation

Valley Water implements mitigation projects to offset impacts associated with some of the bank protection, sediment removal, and vegetation management work. Mitigation projects can include:

- **Riparian planting:** Enhances and establishes habitat for birds, amphibians, fish, and other terrestrial and aquatic species living in creek corridors to compensate for the unavoidable riparian impacts created by sediment removal, bank protection, and vegetation management activities. Invasive and non-native annuals and grasses that compete with native plants are removed. Vegetation that meets the habitat needs of the project site and has the highest likelihood of surviving and thriving is planted. Valley Water monitors and maintains riparian planting areas for five to seven years to ensure successful projects.
- **Invasive plant management:** Plant species such as Algerian Ivy, Cape Ivy, Himalayan Blackberry, Tree of Heaven, and Giant Reed are removed because they present a significant threat to the



Vegetation was removed from the east bank of Guadalupe River downstream of Coleman Avenue in San José to restore the stream's design flow conveyance capacity.

YOUR INVESTMENT AT WORK

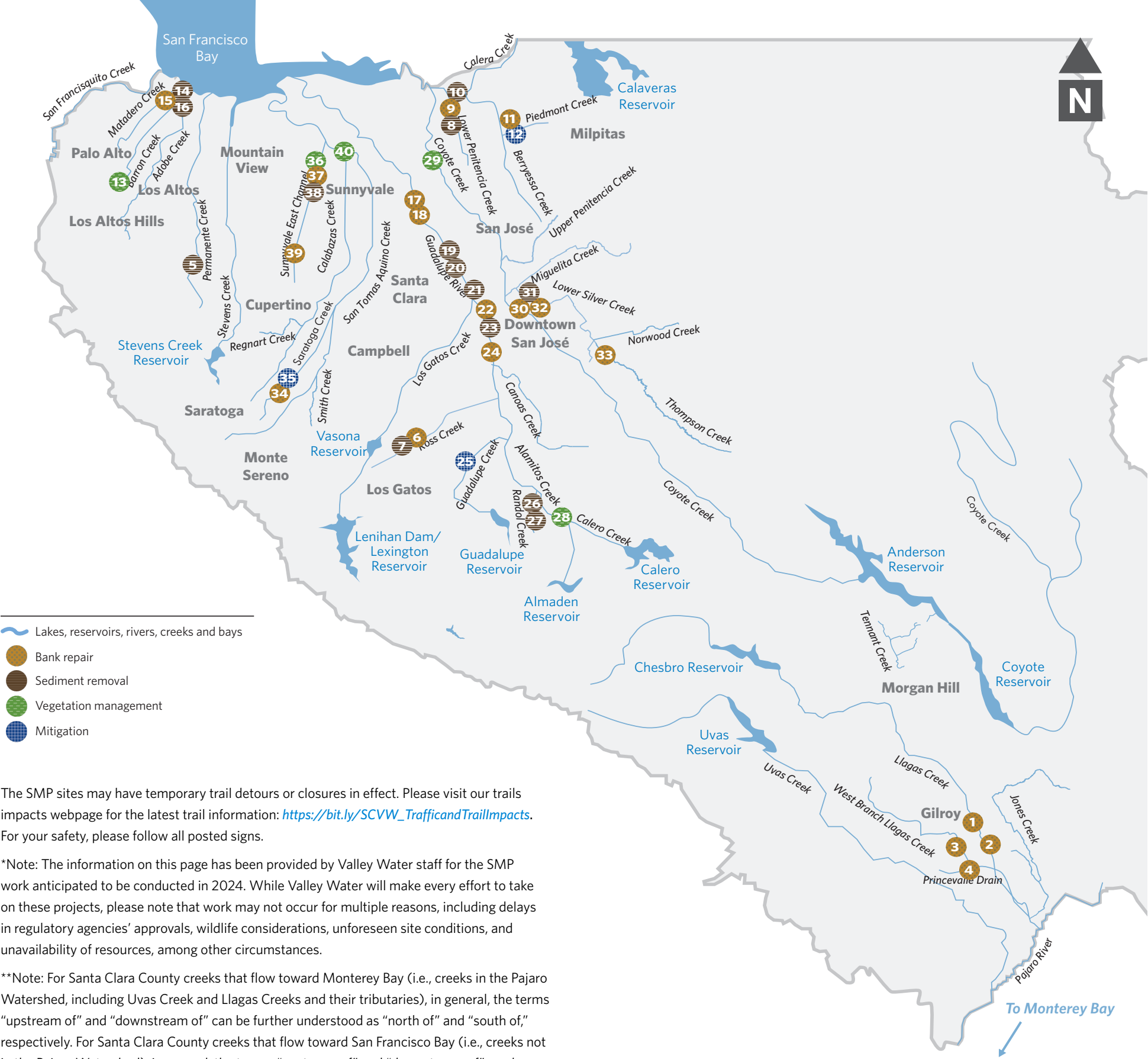
In November 2020, voters in Santa Clara County overwhelmingly approved Measure S, a renewal of Valley Water's Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program, first approved in 2012. The renewed program identifies the following six key community priorities, established with input from tens of thousands of residents and stakeholders:

- A** Ensure a Safe, Reliable Water Supply.
- B** Reduce Toxins, Hazards and Contaminants in our Waterways.
- C** Protect our Water Supply and Dams from Earthquakes and Other Natural Disasters.
- D** Restore Wildlife Habitat and Provide Open Space.
- E** Provide Flood Protection to Homes, Businesses, Schools, Streets and Highways
- F** Support Public Health and Public Safety for Our Community.

ecosystem. These plants spread aggressively and can negatively alter wildlife patterns, soil stability, and water quality. Invasive plants can increase the risk of flooding and fire danger, undermine structural assets, and obstruct access to roads, levees, and trails.

- **Instream habitat improvement:** Work is done to address the impacts of removing sediment and large woody debris from certain streams. This can include adding rocks and logs or root wads to the creek to create a higher-quality habitat for fish and other species.
- **Compensatory mitigation:** This is the restoration, establishment, enhancement, or preservation of natural resources to replace resources impacted by maintenance activities. In addition to the above work types, compensatory mitigation may include the restoration of existing floodplains and bank rehabilitation by remediating unauthorized excavations, concrete removal, and sediment removal to promote wetland habitat.

2024 Stream Maintenance Program (SMP) Map



The SMP sites may have temporary trail detours or closures in effect. Please visit our trails impacts webpage for the latest trail information: https://bit.ly/SCVW_TrafficandTrailImpacts. For your safety, please follow all posted signs.

*Note: The information on this page has been provided by Valley Water staff for the SMP work anticipated to be conducted in 2024. While Valley Water will make every effort to take on these projects, please note that work may not occur for multiple reasons, including delays in regulatory agencies' approvals, wildlife considerations, unforeseen site conditions, and unavailability of resources, among other circumstances.

**Note: For Santa Clara County creeks that flow toward Monterey Bay (i.e., creeks in the Pajaro Watershed, including Uvas Creek and Llagas Creeks and their tributaries), in general, the terms "upstream of" and "downstream of" can be further understood as "north of" and "south of," respectively. For Santa Clara County creeks that flow toward San Francisco Bay (i.e., creeks not in the Pajaro Watershed), in general, the terms, "upstream of" and "downstream of" can be further understood as "south of" and "north of," respectively.

This map is not to scale and offers a graphic representation for reference purposes only.

2024 SMP Projects*

No.	City(s)	Name of Project**	No.	City(s)	Name of Project**
1	Gilroy	Llagas Creek downstream of Buena Vista Ave.	21	San José	Guadalupe River downstream of Park Ave.
2	Gilroy	Llagas Creek upstream of Leavesley Rd.	22	San José	Guadalupe River upstream of San Carlos St.
3	Gilroy	West Branch Llagas Creek downstream of Murray Ave.	23	San José	Guadalupe River upstream of Woz Wy.
4	Gilroy	Princeville Drain downstream of Automall Pkwy.	24	San José	Guadalupe River downstream of Willow St.
5	Los Altos	Permanente Diversion Channel upstream of Grant Rd.	25	San José	Guadalupe Creek upstream of Meridian Ave. (Los Capitancillos Meadow Restoration)
6	Los Gatos	Ross Creek downstream of Camino del Cerro	26	San José	Randol Creek upstream of Camden Ave.
7	Los Gatos	Ross Creek downstream of Camino del Cerro	27	San José	Randol Creek upstream of Rajkovich Wy.
8	Milpitas	Lower Penitencia Creek upstream of N. Abbott Ave.	28	San José	Alamitos Creek, Camden Ave. to Almaden Expwy.
9	Milpitas	Lower Penitencia Creek upstream of N. Abbott Ave.	29	San José	Coyote Creek, Tasman Dr. to Montague Expwy.
10	Milpitas	Berryessa Creek downstream of N. Abel St.	30	San José	Coyote Creek upstream of William St.
11	Milpitas	Piedmont Creek upstream of Vista Wy.	31	San José	Lower Silver Creek downstream of Alum Rock Ave.
12	Milpitas	Piedmont Creek upstream of Vista Wy.	32	San José	Lower Silver Creek upstream of Alum Rock Ave.
13	Palo Alto	Barron Creek downstream of Miranda Ave. (Barron Debris Basin)	33	San José	Thompson Creek downstream of Aborn Rd.
14	Palo Alto	Barron Creek upstream of Hwy. 101	34	Santa Clara	Saratoga Creek upstream of Pruneridge Ave.
15	Palo Alto	Barron Creek upstream of Hwy. 101	35	Santa Clara	Saratoga Creek upstream of Pruneridge Ave.
16	Palo Alto	Adobe Creek upstream of Hwy. 101	36	Sunnyvale	Sunnyvale East Channel upstream of Tasman Dr.
17	San José	Guadalupe River downstream of Trimble Rd. (inboard)	37	Sunnyvale	Sunnyvale East Channel upstream of Tasman Dr.
18	San José	Guadalupe River downstream of Trimble Rd. (outboard)	38	Sunnyvale	Sunnyvale East Channel upstream of Tasman Dr.
19	San José	Guadalupe River Secondary Channel downstream of Coleman Ave.	39	Sunnyvale	Sunnyvale East Channel downstream of Fremont Ave.
20	San José	Guadalupe River downstream of Coleman Ave.	40	Sunnyvale, Santa Clara	Calabazas Creek downstream of Tasman Dr.