

## About Valley Water

Valley Water manages an integrated water resources system that includes the supply of clean, safe water, flood protection and stewardship of streams on behalf of Santa Clara County's 2 million residents. As the flood protection authority for Santa Clara County, Valley Water annually prepares creeks for winter rains through levee maintenance, sediment removal, bank repair and vegetation management. Valley Water has invested more than \$1 billion in flood protection efforts to protect nearly 100,000 parcels with many more projects planned. Under its Stream Maintenance Program, Valley Water also repairs damages to creeks to reduce the risk of flooding and to keep our communities safe.



**Valley Water**

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**SAN FRANCISQUITO CREEK**  
JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY

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

## About The San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority

In response to serious flooding during the winter of 1998, the San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority (SFCJPA) was formed in 1999 by the cities of East Palo Alto, Palo Alto, Menlo Park, the San Mateo County Flooding and Sea Level Resiliency District and Valley Water. The SFCJPA leads planning and implementation of projects that mitigate the risk of flooding along the San Francisquito Creek and the Bay. A significant amount of flood protection design and construction funding comes to the SFCJPA projects from Valley Water's Safe Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program. Project design and construction is funded by a combination of federal and state grants, and local funding.

## Are You Flood Safe?

We encourage you to prepare for potential flooding during the wet season. Flooding can occur when it rains heavily and the wet ground can't absorb any more water. Heavy rain on dry soil can run off faster than the ground can absorb, resulting in a flash flood. In both situations, creek levels can rise quickly and overbank, potentially causing dangerously fast-moving floodwater

to flow through neighborhoods, within minutes. Climate change may be causing changes to rainfall patterns. Warmer air can hold more moisture, leading to the potential for more intense rain events. You can be flood safe by being prepared and aware. Learn if your home or business is in a Special Flood Hazard Area, information about flood insurance, and flood preparedness and recovery by visiting [floodsmart.gov](http://floodsmart.gov).

## Protect Your Home From Flood Threats

- Winter storms can bring flooding. Be prepared!
- Gather building materials: plywood, plastic sheeting and sandbags.
- Use plastic sheeting, plywood and sandbags to seal doors or ground-level openings in the event of rising waters.
- Seal cracks in your home's foundation, exterior walls and small openings around pipes.
- Learn how to turn off utilities: electrical, gas and water.
- Keep your street's drains and gutters free of debris.
- Know how and where to obtain, fill and place sandbags.

# San Francisquito Creek

## Flood Protection | Ecosystem Restoration | Recreation

Providing flood protection to more than 5,700 homes and businesses in Palo Alto, Menlo Park and East Palo Alto.

### Flooding Can Happen—WHAT TO DO:

#### BEFORE

- **Subscribe to Santa Clara and San Mateo counties' emergency alert systems:**
  - » Santa Clara County AlertSCC at [emergencymanagement.sccgov.org/AlertSCC](https://emergencymanagement.sccgov.org/AlertSCC)
  - » San Mateo County SMCALERT at [smcgov.org/ceo/smc-alert](https://smcgov.org/ceo/smc-alert)
- Designate a meeting spot for everyone in your household. Prepare a household disaster plan and emergency kit for your home and vehicle. Know your evacuation routes.
- Report creek blockage by visiting Access Valley Water at [access.valleywater.org](https://access.valleywater.org) or by calling the SFCJPA at **650-643-1450**.
- Report creek or storm drain blockages:  
Menlo Park: **650-330-6780** (weekdays, 7 a.m.-4 p.m.)  
**650-330-6300** (after hours).  
[menlopark.gov/storms](https://menlopark.gov/storms)  
  
East Palo Alto: **650-368-1421**  
[cityofepa.org/publicworks/page/stormflood-protection-disaster-preparation](https://cityofepa.org/publicworks/page/stormflood-protection-disaster-preparation)  
  
Palo Alto: **650-496-6974** (weekdays, 7 a.m.-4 p.m.)  
**650-329-2413** (after hours).  
[cityofpaloalto.org/stormupdate](https://cityofpaloalto.org/stormupdate)

#### DURING

- Tune your radio to 740 AM, 90.1 FM and 106.9 FM for emergency information.
- If advised to evacuate, do so immediately. Turn off utilities at main switches or valves. Do not touch electrical lines or equipment if you are wet or standing in water.

- If a flood is imminent, avoid low-lying areas. Seek shelter in the highest area possible.
- Moving water is dangerous. Six inches of moving water can make you fall.
- Move your vehicles to higher ground before waters rise. Do not drive in flooded areas. If floodwater rises around your vehicle, get out, leave it behind, and move to higher ground.

#### AFTER

- If evacuated, return home only when authorities indicate it is safe to do so. Listen for news reports on water and road safety conditions.
- Clean and disinfect everything wet. Water and mud left from floodwater can contain sewage and chemicals.



Learn more about the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)'s Flood Insurance Program Risk Rating 2.0 changes to the federal program and find a local agent by visiting [floodsmart.gov](https://floodsmart.gov). You can also call the National Flood Insurance Program at **1-800-427-4661**.



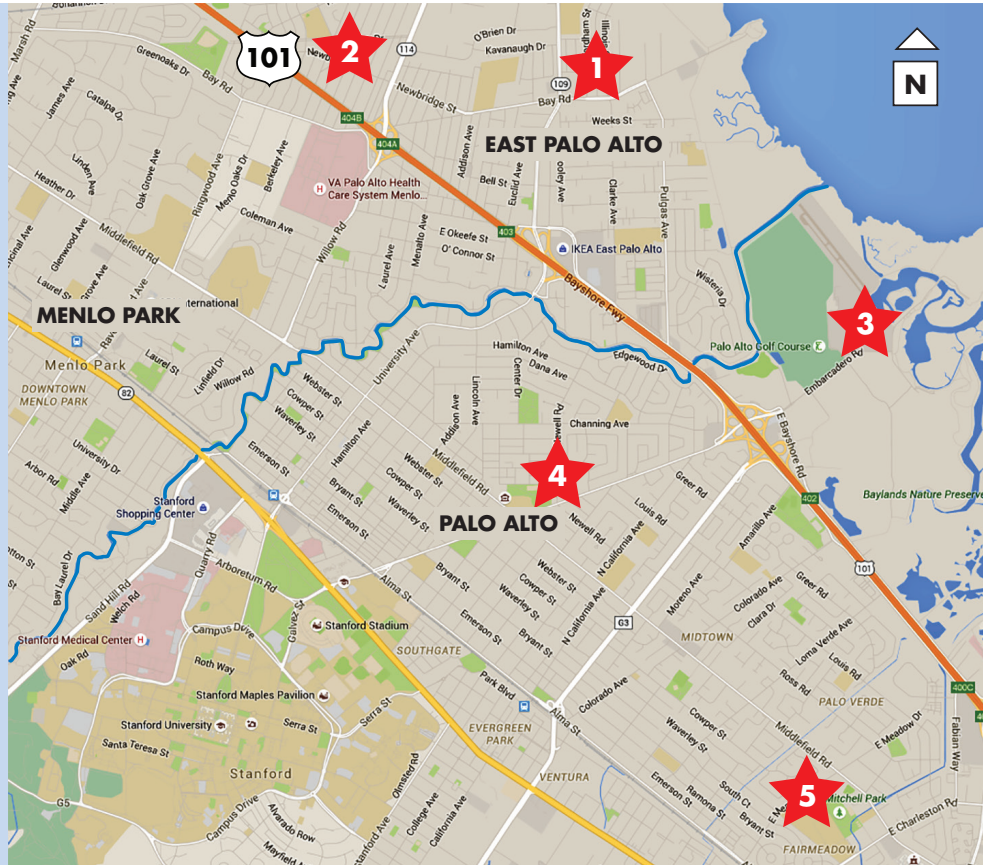
For more info regarding flood safety please visit: [valleywater.org/floodready](https://valleywater.org/floodready)



## Sandbag Stations

1. **East Palo Alto:** City maintenance yard, 150 Tara St.
2. **Menlo Park:** Fire station No. 77, 1467 Chilco St.
3. **Palo Alto:** Palo Alto Airport, 1925 Embarcadero Rd.
4. **Palo Alto:** Rinconada Park, Hopkins Ave at Newell Rd.
5. **Palo Alto:** Mitchell Park, 600 E. Meadow Dr.

*The above-listed locations offer filled and unfilled sandbags.*



## Be Flood Ready!

Prepare and be flood aware with the following tips:

- Create an emergency plan with your household.
- Get flood insurance or renter's insurance with appropriate coverage. Most have a 30-day waiting period for the policy to take place. Assemble a 3-day emergency kit.
- Know two or more evacuation routes.
- Check if your home or business is in a Special Flood Hazard Area and know your flood risk.
- Protect your property from flood threats. For locations for sandbags to protect your home, visit [valleywater.org/floodready](http://valleywater.org/floodready) or call **408-630-2650**.
- Avoid floodwaters—turn around, don't drown.
- Download disaster emergency app. You can register for the American Red Cross® "Emergency: Severe Weather App" on your smartphone.
- Keep creeks clean. Report blockages and illegal dumping in creeks to Valley Water watershed hotline at **408-630-2378**.

## Important Numbers

For any emergency call **9-1-1**.

To report street flooding or blocked storm drains:

### Menlo Park

650-330-6780 (weekdays, 7 a.m.-4 p.m.)

650-330-6300 (after hours).

[menlopark.gov/storms](http://menlopark.gov/storms)

### Palo Alto

650-496-6974 (weekdays, 7 a.m.-4 p.m.)

650-329-2413 (after hours).

[cityofpaloalto.org/stormupdate](http://cityofpaloalto.org/stormupdate)

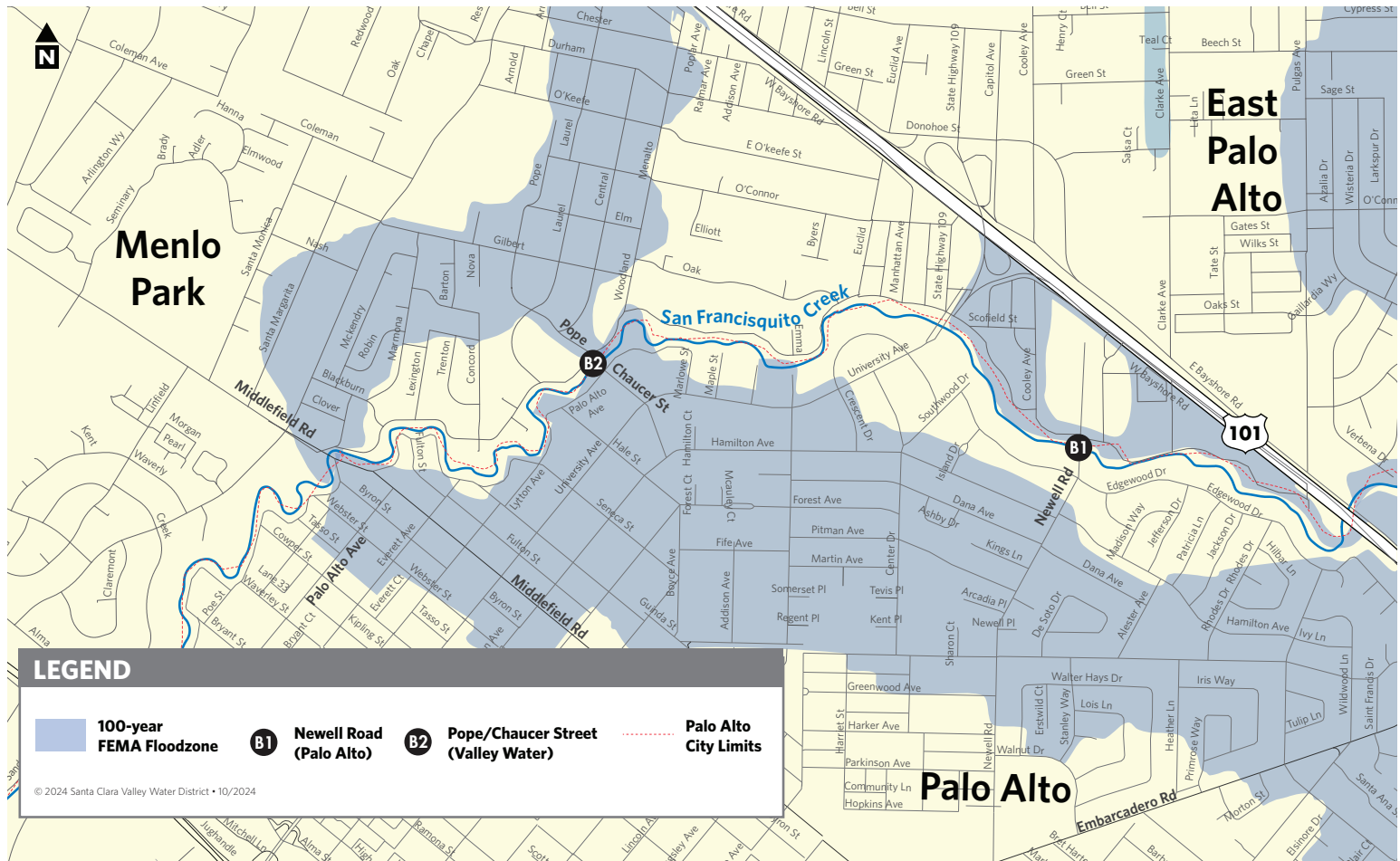
### East Palo Alto

650-368-1421

[cityofepa.org/publicworks/page/stormflood-protection-disaster-preparation](http://cityofepa.org/publicworks/page/stormflood-protection-disaster-preparation)



# San Francisquito Creek Flood Project Updates



## The Community Rating System Program

FEMA's Community Rating System (CRS) is a voluntary incentive program that recognizes communities for taking actions that exceed federal requirements. In exchange for a community's proactive efforts, National Flood Insurance Program policyholders may benefit from reduced flood insurance premiums. Contact your city to learn more.

## Project Updates

Projects are being planned that will reduce the risk of flooding. To learn more about these projects please visit:

- [cityofpaloalto.org/newell](https://cityofpaloalto.org/newell)
- [sfjcpa.org/reach-2-upstream-project](https://sfjcpa.org/reach-2-upstream-project)
- [valleywater.org/project-updates/e5-san-francisquito-creek-flood-protection-0](https://valleywater.org/project-updates/e5-san-francisquito-creek-flood-protection-0)

## Subscribe to Newsletters

### Valley Water

[valleywater.org/sign-valley-water-enews](https://valleywater.org/sign-valley-water-enews)

### San Francisquito Creek JPA

[sfjcpa.org/connectwithus](https://sfjcpa.org/connectwithus)

### Palo Alto

[cityofpaloalto.org/UpliftLocalNews](https://cityofpaloalto.org/UpliftLocalNews)

### East Palo Alto

[lp.constantcontactpages.com/su/DZvKBG6](https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/su/DZvKBG6)

### Menlo Park

[menlopark.gov/weeklydigest](https://menlopark.gov/weeklydigest)