



Santa Clara Valley Water District

CONFORMED COPY

*A motion was made to Accept the Management Response to the IMC Report on the SCWNFPP Annual Report for FY 2024-2025 with a correction to Attachment 1, page 11, Line Item F3, Staff's Response to be updated to correct typo and assert that Staff Agrees with Recommendation.

File No.: 26-0219

Agenda Date: 3/10/2026

Item No.: 4.4.

BOARD AGENDA MEMORANDUM

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

SUBJECT:

Accept Management Response to the Independent Monitoring Committee Report on the Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2024-2025.

RECOMMENDATION:

- A. Accept Management Response to the Independent Monitoring Committee Report on the Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2024-2025; and
- B. Provide additional direction as necessary.

SUMMARY:

On February 18, 2026, the Independent Monitoring Committee (IMC) issued its report on Santa Clara Valley Water District's (Valley Water) Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program (Safe, Clean Water Program) Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2024-25.

Over the past months, Project Managers, Unit Managers, Assistant Officers, and Deputy Officers managing projects in the Safe, Clean Water Program met with the IMC and its subcommittees for Safe, Clean Water Program Priorities A-F and the Finance subcommittee to review the Safe, Clean Water Program Fiscal Year 2024-25 Annual Report (FY25Annual Report), answer questions, and provide follow-up information as necessary. Throughout this review, the IMC members have shown passion and dedication to the Safe, Clean Water Program.

In its review of the FY25 Annual Report, the IMC agreed with the status of all 31 projects and had no recommendations. The IMC provided notes for Valley Water's consideration in developing future years Annual Reports, which staff will address moving forward.

In its cover letter, the IMC notes that, at its request, Valley Water staff presented on December 3, 2025, regarding the impact of jurisdictional complexities on Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program projects, including effects on cost and schedule and efforts underway to address these challenges. The IMC commented that the public should be better informed about these jurisdictional complexities and their impact on project cost and progress. While discussing specific obstacles can be challenging, it is important to communicate the broader systemic issues and the

need for improvement.

Valley Water appreciates the IMC's feedback and agrees that continued transparency and communication regarding jurisdictional complexities are important. Staff will continue to highlight these efforts and the progress being made, while enhancing communication about the nature of these complexities and their impact on project delivery.

Valley Water staff remains committed to the success of the Safe, Clean Water Program and to achieving its KPIs in a cost-effective and transparent manner. We value the IMC's thorough monitoring and look forward to continued collaboration through an open, constructive, and responsive review process.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE IMPACT:

There are no Environmental Justice impacts associated with this item.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

There is no financial impact associated with this item.

CEQA:

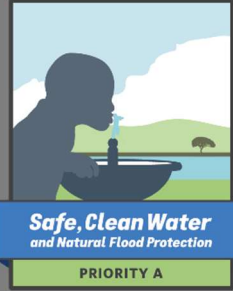
The recommended action does not constitute a project under CEQA because it does not have the potential for resulting in direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment 1: Management Response Table

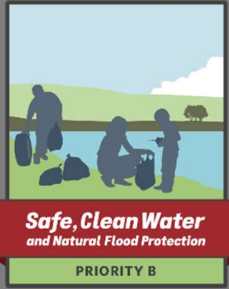
UNCLASSIFIED MANAGER:

Luz Penilla, 408-630-2228



Independent Monitoring Committee Report Fiscal Year 2024-2025
Project Recommendations
Priority A - Ensure a Safe, Reliable Water Supply

Project:	KPI:	Status		Recommendation:	Management Response:	
		Annual:	Adjustment/ Modification:			
A1	Pacheco Reservoir Expansion	1. Provide a portion of funds, up to \$10 million, to help construct the Pacheco Reservoir Expansion Project.	Scheduled to Start	Not Implement		
A2	Water Conservation Rebates and Programs	1. Award up to \$1 million per year toward specified water conservation program activities, including rebates, technical assistance, and public education, within the first seven (7) years of the Program.	Active	Adjusted (text)	IMC agrees with the project status. No recommendations.	No response is required.
A3	Pipeline Reliability	1. Install four (4) new line valves on treated water distribution pipelines.	Active	Adjusted (schedule)	IMC agrees with the project status. No recommendations.	No response is required.

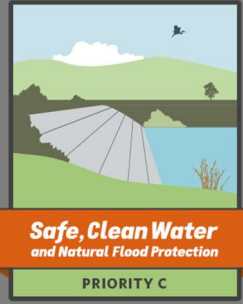


Independent Monitoring Committee Report Fiscal Year 2024-2025

Project Recommendations

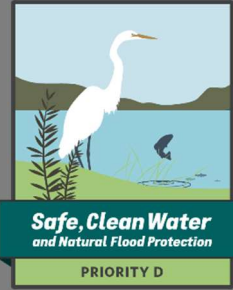
Priority B – Reduce Toxins, Hazards, and Contaminants in Our Waterways

Project:	KPI:	Status:		Recommendation:	Management Response:
		Annual	Adjustment/ Modification		
B1 Impaired Water Bodies Improvement	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate, develop, and implement actions to reduce methylmercury in fish and other organisms in the Guadalupe River Watershed. Prepare and update a plan for the prioritization of surface water quality improvement activities, such as addressing trash and other pollutants. Implement at least two (2) priority surface water quality improvement activities identified in the plan per 5-year implementation period. 	Active	None	IMC agrees with the project status. No recommendations.	No response is required.
B2 Inter-Agency Urban Runoff Program	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Address trash in creeks by maintaining trash capture devices or other litter control programs. Maintain Valley Water’s municipal stormwater compliance program and partner with cities to address surface water quality improvements, including participation in at least three (3) countywide, regional, or statewide stormwater program committees to help guide regulatory development, compliance, and monitoring. Support at least one (1) stormwater quality improvement activity per 5-year implementation period in Santa Clara County, including providing up to \$1.5 million over 15 years to support implementation of green stormwater infrastructure consistent with Santa Clara Basin and South County Stormwater Resource Plans. 	Active	None	IMC agrees with the project status. No recommendations.	No response is required.
B3 Hazardous Materials Management and Response	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Respond to 100% of hazardous materials reports requiring urgent on-site inspection in two (2) hours or less. 	Active	None	IMC agrees with the project status. No recommendations.	No response is required.
B4 Support Volunteer Cleanup Efforts	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Fund Valley Water’s creek stewardship program to support volunteer cleanup activities, such as annual National River Cleanup Day, California Coastal Cleanup Day, the Great American Litter Pick Up, and the Adopt-A-Creek Program. 	Active	None	IMC agrees with the project status. No recommendations.	No response is required.



Independent Monitoring Committee Report Fiscal Year 2024-2025
 Project Recommendations
 Priority C - Protect Our Water Supply and Dams from Earthquakes and Other Natural Disasters

Project:	KPI:	Status:		Recommendation:	Management Response:
		Annual	Adjustment/Modification		
C1 Anderson Dam Seismic Retrofit	1. Provide portion of funds, up to \$54.1 million, to help restore full operating reservoir capacity of 90,373 acre-feet.	Active	None	IMC agrees with the project status. No recommendations.	No response is required.

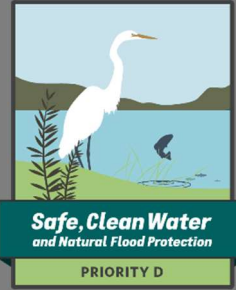


Independent Monitoring Committee Report Fiscal Year 2024-2025

Project Recommendations

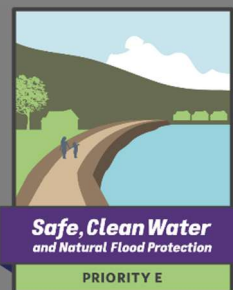
Priority D - Restore Wildlife Habitat and Provide Open Space

Project:	KPI:	Status:		Recommendation:	Management Response:
		Annual	Adjustment/Modification		
D1 Management of Riparian Planting and Invasive Plant Removal	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain a minimum of 300 acres of riparian planting projects annually to meet regulatory requirements and conditions. Maintain a minimum of 200 acres of invasive plant management projects annually to meet regulatory requirements and conditions. Remove 25 acres of <i>Arundo donax</i> throughout the county over a 15-year period. 	Active	Adjusted (text)	IMC agrees with the project status. No recommendations.	No response is required.
D2 Revitalize Riparian, Upland and Wetland Habitat	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Revitalize at least 21 acres over a 15-year period through native plant revegetation and/or removal of invasive exotic species. Develop an Early Detection and Rapid Response Program Manual. Identify and treat at least 100 occurrences of emergent invasive species over a 15-year period, as identified through the Early Detection and Rapid Response Program. Develop at least eight (8) information sheets for Early Detection of Invasive Plant Species. 	Active	None	IMC agrees with the project status. No recommendations.	No response is required.
D3 Sediment Reuse to Support Restoration Projects	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Reuse sediment meeting applicable screening criteria at available Valley Water or partnership project sites to support restoration. Provide up to \$4 million per 15-year period to support activities necessary for sediment reuse. 	Active	None	IMC agrees with the project status. No recommendations.	No response is required.
D4 Fish Habitat and Passage Improvement	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Complete planning and design for one (1) creek/lake separation. Partially fund the construction of one (1) creek/lake separation project in partnership with local agencies. Use \$8 million for fish passage improvements by June 30, 2028. Update study of all major steelhead streams in the county to identify priority locations for fish migration barrier removal and installation of large woody debris and gravel as appropriate. Complete five (5) habitat enhancement projects based on studies that identify high priority locations for large wood, boulders, gravel, and/or other habitat enhancement features. 	Active	Adjusted (text & schedule)	IMC agrees with the project status. No recommendations.	No response is required.



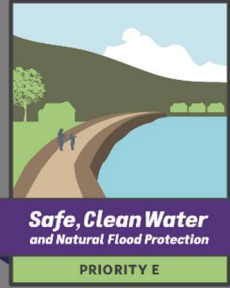
Independent Monitoring Committee Report Fiscal Year 2024-2025
Project Recommendations
 Priority D - Restore Wildlife Habitat and Provide Open Space

Project:	KPI:	Status:		Recommendation:	Management Response:	
		Annual	Adjustment/ Modification			
D5	Ecological Data Collection and Analysis	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reassess and track stream ecological conditions and habitats in each of the county's five (5) watersheds every 15 years. 2. Provide up to \$500,000 per 15-year period toward the development and updates of five (5) watershed plans that include identifying priority habitat enhancement opportunities in Santa Clara County. 	Active	None	IMC agrees with the project status. No recommendations.	No response is required.
D6	Restoration of Natural Creek Functions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Construct the Hale Creek Enhancement Pilot Project, which includes restoration and stabilization of a 650-foot section of concrete-lined channel on Hale Creek, between Marilyn Drive and North Sunshine Drive on the border of Mountain View and Los Altos. 2. Construct the Bolsa Road Fish Passage Project along 1,700 linear feet of Uvas-Carnadero Creek in unincorporated Santa Clara County, which includes geomorphic design features that will restore stability and stream function. 	Completed	None	IMC agrees with the project status. No recommendations.	No response is required.
D7	Partnerships for the Conservation of Habitat Lands	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide up to \$8 million per 15-year period for the acquisition or enhancement of property for the conservation of habitat lands. 	Active	None	IMC agrees with the project status. No recommendations.	No response is required.



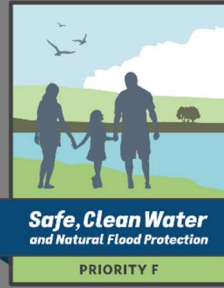
Independent Monitoring Committee Report Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Project Recommendations Priority E - Provide Flood Protection to Homes, Businesses, Schools, Streets, and Highways

Project:	KPI:	Status:		Recommendation:	Management Response:
		Annual	Adjustment/ Modification		
E1 Coyote Creek Flood Protection	1. Construct flood protection improvements along Coyote Creek between Montague Expressway and Tully Road to provide protection from floods up to the level that occurred on February 21, 2017, approximately a 5% (20-year) flood event.	Active	Adjusted (schedule)	IMC agrees with the project status. No recommendations.	No response is required.
E2 Sunnyvale East and Sunnyvale West Channels Flood Protection	1. Provide 1% (100-year) flood protection for 1,618 properties and 47 acres (11 parcels) of industrial land, while improving stream water quality and working with other agencies to incorporate recreational opportunities.	Active	Adjusted (schedule)	IMC agrees with the project status. No recommendations.	No response is required.
E3 Lower Berryessa Flood Protection, including Tularcitos and Upper Calera Creeks (Phase 3)	1. With local funding only: Complete the design phase of the 1% (100-year) flood protection project to protect an estimated 1,420 parcels.	Scheduled to Start	None	IMC agrees with the project status. No recommendations.	No response is required.
E4 Upper Penitencia Creek Flood Protection	1. Preferred project with federal and local funding: Construct a flood protection project to provide 1% (100-year) flood protection to 8,000 parcels. 2. With local funding only: Construct a 1% (100-year) flood protection project from Coyote Creek confluence to Capital Avenue to provide 1% (100-year) flood protection to 1,250 parcels, including the new Berryessa BART station.	On Hold	Adjusted (schedule)	IMC agrees with the project status. No recommendations.	No response is required.
E5 San Francisquito Creek Flood Protection	1. Preferred project with federal, state and local funding: Protect more than 3,000 parcels by providing 1% (100-year) flood protection. 2. With state and local funding only: Protect approximately 3,000 parcels by providing 1% (100-year) flood protection downstream of Highway 101, and approximately 1.4% (70-year) protection upstream of Highway 101.	Active	Adjusted (text & schedule)	IMC agrees with the project status. No recommendations.	No response is required.



Independent Monitoring Committee Report Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Project Recommendations Priority E - Provide Flood Protection to Homes, Businesses, Schools, Streets, and Highways

Project:	KPI:	Status:		Recommendation:	Management Response:	
		Annual	Adjustment/ Modification			
E6	Upper Llagas Creek Flood Protection	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Preferred project with federal and local funding: Plan, design and construct flood protection improvements along 13.9 miles of Upper Llagas Creek from Buena Vista Avenue to Llagas Road to provide flood protection to 1,100 homes, 500 businesses, and 1,300 agricultural acres, while improving stream habitat. With local funding only: Construct flood protection improvements along Llagas Creek from Buena Vista Avenue to Highway 101 in San Martin (Reaches 4 and 5 (portion)), Monterey Road to Watsonville Road in Morgan Hill (Reach 7a), approximately W. Dunne Avenue to W. Main Avenue (portion of Reach 8), and onsite compensatory mitigation at Lake Silveira. 	Active	Adjusted (funding)	IMC agrees with the project status. No recommendations.	No response is required.
E7	San Francisco Bay Shoreline Protection	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Provide a portion of the local share of funding for planning, design and construction phases for the Santa Clara County shoreline area, EIAs 1-4. Provide a portion of the local share of funding for planning and design phases for the Santa Clara County shoreline area, EIAs 5-9. 	Active	None	IMC agrees with the project status. No recommendations.	No response is required.
E8	Upper Guadalupe River Flood Protection	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Preferred project with federal and local funding: Construct a flood protection project to provide 1% (100-year) flood protection to 6,280 homes, 320 businesses and 10 schools and institutions. With local funding only: Construct flood protection improvements along 4,100 feet of Guadalupe River between the Southern Pacific Railroad (SPRR) crossing, downstream of Willow Street, to the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) crossing, downstream of Padres Drive, and provide gravel augmentation along approximately 800 linear feet of the Upper Guadalupe River in San José, from approximately the Union Pacific Railroad Bridge to West Virginia Street Bridge to improve aquatic habitat for migrating steelhead and all native fish species and channel stability. 	Active	Modified (funding)	IMC agrees with the project status. No recommendations.	No response is required.

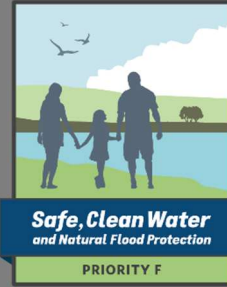


Independent Monitoring Committee Report Fiscal Year 2024-2025

Project Recommendations

Priority F – Support Public Health and Public Safety for Our Community

Project:	KPI:	Status:		Recommendation:	Management Response:	
		Annual	Adjustment/ Modification			
F1	Vegetation Control and Sediment Removal for Capacity	1. Maintain completed flood protection projects for flow conveyance.	Active	None	IMC agrees with the project status. No recommendations.	No response is required.
F2	Emergency Response Planning and Preparedness	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinate with local municipalities to merge Valley Water-endorsed flood emergency processes with their own emergency response plans and processes. Complete five (5) flood management plans/procedures per 5-year period, selected by risk priorities. Train Valley Water staff and partner municipalities annually on disaster procedures via drills and exercises before testing the plans and procedures. Test flood management plans/procedures annually to ensure effectiveness. 	Active	None	IMC agrees with the project status. No recommendations.	No response is required.
F3	Flood Risk Assessment Studies	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Complete engineering studies on three (3) creek reaches to address 1% (100-year) flood risk. Annually, update floodplain maps on a minimum of three (3) creek reaches in accordance with new FEMA standards. 	Active	None	IMC agrees with the project status. No recommendations.	No response is required.
F4	Vegetation Management for Access and Fire Safety	1. Provide vegetation management for access and fire risk reduction on an average of 495 acres per year, totaling 7,425 acres along levee, property lines and maintenance roads over a 15-year period.	Active	None	IMC agrees with the project status. No recommendations.	No response is required.
F5	Good Neighbor Program: Encampment Cleanup	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Manage 300 acres annually to clean up trash, debris, and hazardous pollutants generated from encampments and to reduce the amount of these pollutants entering streams. Provide up to \$500,000 per year in cost-share with local agencies for services related to encampment cleanups, including services supporting staff safety, discouraging re-encampments along waterways or addressing the socio-environmental crisis with the goal of reducing the need for encampment cleanups. 	Active	None	IMC agrees with the project status. No recommendations.	No response is required.



Independent Monitoring Committee Report Fiscal Year 2024-2025

Project Recommendations

Priority F – Support Public Health and Public Safety for Our Community

Project:	KPI:	Status:		Recommendation:	Management Response:	
		Annual	Adjustment/ Modification			
F6	Good Neighbor Program: Graffiti and Litter Removal and Public Art	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Cleanup identified trash and graffiti hotspots at approximately 80 sites four (4) times per year. Respond to requests on litter or graffiti cleanup within five (5) working days. Provide up to \$1.5 million over 15 years to implement public art projects on Valley Water property and infrastructure. 	Active	None	IMC agrees with the project status. No recommendations.	No response is required.
F7	Emergency Response Upgrades	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain existing capabilities for flood forecasting and warning. Improve flood forecast accuracy and emergency response time working with the National Weather Service and through research and development. 	Active	None	IMC agrees with the project status. No recommendations.	No response is required.
F8	Sustainable Creek Infrastructure for Continued Public Safety	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Provide up to \$7.5 million in the first 15-year period to plan, design and construct projects identified through Watersheds asset management plans. 	Active	Adjusted (schedule)	IMC agrees with the project status. No recommendations.	No response is required.
F9	Grants and Partnerships for Safe, Clean Water, Flood Protection and Environmental Stewardship	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Provide a grant and partnership cycle each year for projects related to safe, clean drinking water, flood protection and environmental stewardship. Provide annual funding for bottle filling stations to increase drinking water accessibility, with priority for installations in economically disadvantaged communities and locations that serve school-age children and students. Provide annual mini-grant funding opportunity for projects related to safe, clean drinking water, flood protection and environmental stewardship. Provide up to \$3 million per 15-year period for a Creekside Neighbor Rebate Program for watershed activities, including bank repair, sediment removal, and downed tree management. 	Active	None	IMC agrees with the project status. No recommendations.	No response is required.



Independent Monitoring Committee Notes

Fiscal Year 2024-2025

Notes for future Annual Reports

Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program

Subject:	Note:	Staff Response:
Financial Appendices A-B	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Appendix A-1.2, Revenue, Beginning FY22 Reserves, there should be a footnote explaining why there is no Program-To-Date Actual. Also, perhaps insert a dash (-) or N/A instead of a zero, so it doesn't look like a number should be there. In Appendix A-1.2, near the bottom of the table (breakdown of Total Reserve Balance), there are two columns being added to a total, but these have zeros. Find a better way to show. Perhaps insert a dash (-) or N/A. Add a footnote to Appendix A-1.2 specifying the cost elements captured within the Planning and Development line item. In Appendix A-1.3, Priority A, Initial Funding Allocation vs. Adjusted 15-Year Plan (graph), include either as a separate item, a clearly labeled inactive project, or a footnoted adjustment to ensure that it reconciles with the previous table showing Initial and Adjusted 15-Year Plan for all priorities. Include in the Program's 5-Year Implementation Plan (FY2027-31) information about the use of long-term debt in the Safe, Clean Water Program. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Staff agree and will update Appendix A-1.2 and add the footnote explaining why there is no Program-To-Date Actual; and add a dash (-) or a N/A instead of a zero, so it doesn't look like a number should be there. Staff agree and will update Appendix A-1.2 and add a dash (-) or N/A instead of a zero in the columns, so it doesn't look like a number should be there. Staff agrees and will add a footnote to Appendix A-1.2 specifying the cost elements captured within the Planning and Development line item. Staff agrees and will include either as a separate item, a clearly labeled inactive project, or a footnoted adjustment to ensure that it reconciles with the previous table showing the Initial and Adjusted 15-Year Plan for all priorities. Staff agrees and will include in the Program's 5-Year Implementation Plan (FY2027-31) information about the use of long-term debt in the Safe, Clean Water Program.
A2: Water Conservation Rebates and Programs	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Under benefits, list the goal of conserving 126,000 acre-feet of water per year by 2050. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Staff agrees and will list the goal of conserving 126,000 acre-feet of water per year by 2050 under benefits.
A3: Pipeline Reliability	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Include information about the connection between the Pipeline Rehabilitation Plan and Project A3 schedule. Include clearer funding details, such as the Safe, Clean Water funding cap and the Water Utility Enterprise Fund contribution, and cost increases and their causes, within the project update. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Staff agrees and will include information about the connection between the Pipeline Rehabilitation Plan and Project A3 schedule. Staff agrees and will include clearer funding details, such as the Safe, Clean Water funding cap and the Water Utility Enterprise Fund contribution, and cost increases and their causes, within the project update.
D1: Management of Revegetation Projects	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Insert the acronym KPI at the first usage of Key Performance Indicator on a project page. Restate the complete KPI at the beginning of each update section so readers can easily understand which performance measure is being referenced. Correct the typo error in Figure D1.4 In Figure D1.4, also display the cumulative amount removed with the goal of 25 acres at the end of 15 years. Increase the size of the legend in Figure D1.9. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Staff agrees and will insert the acronym KPI at the first usage of Key Performance Indicator on a project page. Staff agrees and will restate the complete KPI at the beginning of each update section. Staff agrees and has corrected the typo error in Figure D1.4 Staff agrees and will display the cumulative amount removed in Figure D1.4, with the goal of 25 acres by the end of 15 years. Staff agrees and will increase the size of the legend in Figure D1.9.
D6: Creek Restoration and Stabilization	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Increase the size of the legend in Figures D6.1 and D6.2. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Staff agrees and will increase the size of the legend in Figures D6.1 and D6.2.



Independent Monitoring Committee Notes
Fiscal Year 2024-2025
Notes for future Annual Reports
Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program

Subject:	Note:	Staff Response:
F2: Emergency Response Planning and Preparedness	1. Update the annual report that the after-action review in KPI #4 was completed.	1. Staff agrees and will update the annual report that the after-action review in KPI #4 was completed.
F3: Flood Risk Assessment Studies	1. Through the development of the next 5-year implementation plan, specifically take a look at the remaining funds available for the delivery of this project's KPI to ensure that there is sufficient funding.	1. Through the development of the next 5-year implementation plan, specifically take a look at the remaining funds available for the delivery of this project's KPI to ensure that there is sufficient funding.
F7: Emergency Response Upgrades	1. Add the term "Rating curves" to the glossary.	1. Staff agrees and will add the term "Rating curves" to the glossary.

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