



Let's work together to create change!

Grants and Partnership Program



Photo courtesy of Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District

Standard Grants Program

Valley Water is excited to announce the 2026 Standard Grants Program application cycle is now open.

Application Deadline: April 24, 2026, 11:59 p.m. (PT).

The 2026 Standard Grants Program provides \$1.87 million in total funding for Implementation Grants, offering up to \$500,000 per eligible project.

Implementation Grants

Implementation Grants support construction-ready and large-scale projects in Santa Clara County that advance safe, clean drinking water and water conservation, flood risk reduction, and environmental stewardship.

Eligible projects include:

- Creeks and stream restoration
- Water conservation or recycled water infrastructure
- Creating or enhancing wetland, riparian, and tidal marsh habitats
- Protecting species of special status
- Improving fish passage and habitat
- Removing non-native, invasive plant species and planting native species

Funding Details

- Grant requests can be up to **\$500,000** per project.
- Projects must be completed within **five years**.
- Up to **90%** of eligible costs are reimbursed during the project, with the final **10%** reimbursed upon project completion.
- Minimum **15%** match of total project cost required.
- Projects must have completed the **CEQA compliance** prior to applying.

Who Can Apply

Public agencies, including:

- Local cities, towns, and county agencies
- Open space, resource conservation, and special districts

Organizations that are not public agencies may partner with a public agency; the public agency must apply and serve as the grant recipient.

Informational Workshop

Attend the virtual informational workshop to learn more.

March 11, 2026
1:00 - 2:30 p.m.

Register for the virtual workshop via Zoom
valleywater.org/standardgrants



Have questions?



Call the Grants hotline at **408-630-2080**.



Email staff at grants@valleywater.org.



Visit valleywater.org/grants for more information.



Scan the QR code to schedule a Zoom meeting with Grants staff.

<https://calendly.com/2026standardgrants>



Previous Grants Projects

Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District's Hendry's Creek Restoration Project

This project enhanced a section of Hendry's Creek within the Sierra Azul Open Space Preserve in Santa Clara County. Project activities included removing stream impediments like sediment and culverts, restoring landforms to prevent future erosion, removing invasive plants, and installing native plants along the creek banks. Together with project partners Grassroots Ecology and San Jose Conservation Corps, this project successfully restored a 0.75 mile section of Hendry's Creek and tributaries.



Native plants thrive along the banks of Hendry's Creek nearly two years after revegetation.

Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority's Pond Restoration Project at Rancho Cañada del Oro Open Space Preserve

This project is designed to restore and enhance three ponds in Rancho Cañada del Oro Open Space Preserve to improve habitats for sensitive aquatic species like the California red-legged frog and western pond turtle. Restoration began in 2025 and included removing invasive catfish, deepening and reshaping ponds to improve structural integrity, installing a clay liner to reduce seepage, and planting wetland vegetation to enhance wildlife habitat. While monitoring is still underway, inspections in January 2026 found the return of western pond turtles and California newts in the ponds.



After its restoration, Pond RC-07 can securely hold rainwater.

Safe, Clean Water Program

Funding for the Safe, Clean Water Grants and Partnerships Program is made possible through the Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program, a voter-approved special parcel tax that funds local projects that deliver safe, clean water, natural flood protection, and environmental stewardship to all the communities in Santa Clara County.

YOUR TAX DOLLARS AT WORK

