



Santa Clara Valley Water District Environmental and Water Resources Committee

HQ. Bldg. Boardroom, 5700 Almaden Expressway, San Jose, California
Join Zoom Meeting: <https://valleywater.zoom.us/j/94403145442>

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

**Monday, April 20, 2026
6:00 PM**

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

Bob Levy, Committee Chair
Rebecca Gallardo, Committee Vice
Chair

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

All public records relating to an open session item on this agenda, which are not exempt from disclosure pursuant to the California Public Records Act, that are distributed to a majority of the legislative body, will be available to the public through the legislative body agenda web page at the same time that the public records are distributed or made available to the legislative body. Santa Clara Valley Water District will make reasonable efforts to accommodate persons with disabilities wishing to participate in the legislative body's meeting. Please advise the Clerk of the Board Office of any special needs by calling (408) 630-2277.

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
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AGENDA

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Expressway, San Jose, California

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*****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.

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- 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.

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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 matters not listed on the agenda may do so by completing a Speaker Card and submitting it to the Clerk, or by using the "Raise Hand" feature within the Zoom meeting application to request recognition. Speakers will be acknowledged by the Board/Committee Chair in the order requests are received and, when recognized, will be granted speaking access to address the Board/Committee.

Public comments shall be limited to three (3) minutes per speaker, or such other time as determined by the Chair. State law does not permit the Board/Committee to take action on, or engage in extended discussion of, any item not appearing on the posted agenda, except as otherwise authorized under applicable law. If Board/Committee action is requested, the matter may be scheduled for consideration at a future meeting.

All public comments requiring a response will be referred to staff for a written reply. The Board/Committee may take action on any item of business appearing on the posted agenda.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- 3.1. Approval of January 26, 2026 Environmental and Water Resources Committee Minutes. [26-0257](#)
Recommendation: Approve the minutes.
Manager: Wendy Ho, 408-630-3874
Attachments: [Attachment 1: 01262026 EWRC minutes](#)
Est. Staff Time: 5 Minutes

4. REGULAR AGENDA:

- 4.1. Receive Information on Calabazas and San Tomas Aquino Creek-Marsh Connection Project Staff Recommended Alternative. [26-0370](#)
Recommendation: Receive Information on the Staff Recommended Alternative for Calabazas and San Tomas Aquino Creek-Marsh Connection Project, Project No. 20444001.
Manager: Lisa Bankosh, 408-630-2618
Attachments: [Attachment 1: Powerpoint](#)
Est. Staff Time: 20 Minutes
- 4.2. Receive Update on Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program's Project D7: Partnerships for the Conservation of Habitat Lands. (Sargent Ranch Update) [26-0376](#)
Recommendation: Receive an update on Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program's Project D7: Partnerships for the Conservation of Habitat Lands regarding Valley Water's partnership with Peninsula Open Space Trust to acquire and permanently protect Sargent Ranch.
Manager: Lisa Bankosh, 408-630-2618
Attachments: [Attachment 1: Powerpoint](#)
Est. Staff Time: 10 Minutes
- 4.3. Review and Receive Updates on the Environmental and Water Resources Committee's Working Groups. [26-0384](#)
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: Wendy Ho, 408-630-3874
Attachments: [Attachment 1: EWRC Working Groups April 2026](#)
[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.

[26-0383](#)

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

Manager: Wendy Ho, 408-630-3874

Attachments: [Attachment 1: 2026 EWRC Work Plan](#)

Est. Staff Time: 5 Minutes

5. STANDING ITEMS

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

6. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

- 6.1. Standing Items Report.

[26-0385](#)

Recommendation: Standing Items Report.

This item allows the Environmental and Water Resources Committee to receive verbal or written updates and discuss the Board's Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Work Plan Strategies. These items are generally informational; however, the Committee may request additional information and/or provide collective input to the assigned Board Committee.

Manager: Wendy Ho, 408-630-3874

Attachments: [Attachment 1: Board Work Plan Standing Items Report](#)
[Attachment 2: FY26 Board Work Plan](#)

Est. Staff Time: 5 Minutes

7. 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.

8. ADJOURN:

- 8.1. Adjourn. The Next Regular Meeting is Scheduled at 6:00 p.m. on July 20, 2026.

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Santa Clara Valley Water District

File No.: 26-0257

Agenda Date: 4/20/2026

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 January 26, 2026 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: 01262026 EWRC Minutes

UNCLASSIFIED MANAGER:

Wendy Ho, 408-630-3874

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ENVIRONMENTAL AND WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE

DRAFT MINUTES

Monday, January 26, 2026

(Paragraph numbers coincide with agenda item numbers)

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Environmental and Water Resources Committee (Committee) Meeting was held on January 26, 2026, 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 10 members present.

Members in attendance were:

District 2: Chairperson Charles Ice, Edgar Echevarria, Uyen Mai
District 4: Bob Levy, Matthew Frazier
District 5: Patrick Kwok, Rachel Lam
District 6: Rebecca Gallardo, Douglas Peterson
District 7: Vice Chairperson Arthur M. Keller, Ph.D.

Members not in attendance were:

District 1: Loren Lewis
District 3: Charles Taylor
District 5: Mike Michitaka
District 7: Tess Byler

Member Mitchell Ehrlich arrived as noted below.

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

Staff members in attendance were: Aaron Baker, Henry Barrientos, John Bourgeois, Samantha Greene, Dave Leon, Ryan McCarter, Wendy Murphy, and Kirsten Struve.

Members of the public in attendance were: Tess Byler, Director Richard Santos, Malcolm Smith (Black and Veatch), Melanie Tan (Black and Veatch), and Roya Yousefalahiyeh (Black and Veatch).

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. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

3.1 ELECTION OF COMMITTEE CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

Recommendation: Elect 2026 Committee Chair and Vice Chair.

Member Ehrlich arrived at 6:03 p.m.

It was moved by Member Gallardo, seconded by Member Peterson, and unanimously carried to elect Member Levy as Chairperson.

Chairperson Levy assumed control of the meeting.

It was moved by Chairperson Levy, seconded by Member Kwok, and unanimously carried to elect Member Gallardo as Vice Chairperson.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

4.1 APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 20, 2025 ENVIRONMENTAL AND WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE MINUTES

Recommendation: Approve the minutes.

It was moved by Member Ice, seconded by Member Keller, and carried by a vote of 10-0 to approve the October 20, 2025 Committee meeting minutes as submitted. Chairperson Levy abstained.

5. REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS

5.1 RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE DESALINATION ENGINEERING FEASIBILITY STUDY

Recommendation: Receive an Update on the Desalination Engineering Feasibility Study.

Henry Barrientos reviewed the information on this item, per the attached Committee Agenda Memo, and the corresponding presentation materials contained in Attachment 1. Henry Barrientos, Kirsten Struve, Melanie Tan (Black and Veatch), and John Bourgeois were available to answer questions.

Discussion ensued relating to wastewater treatment plants, management of brine, overall feasibility options and energy use, design specifications, the regional desalination pilot facility in Contra Costa County, costs of water transportation, and potential project timelines.

The Committee received the information and took no formal action.

5.2 RECEIVE UPDATE ON ANDERSON DAM SEISMIC RETROFIT PROJECT AND INCORPORATION OF FISH AND AQUATIC HABITAT COLLABORATIVE EFFORT (FAHCE) CONSERVATION MEASURES FOR COYOTE CREEK

Recommendation: Receive update on Anderson Dam Seismic Retrofit Project and incorporation of FAHCE conservation measures for Coyote Creek.

Wendy Murphy and Samantha Greene reviewed the information on this item, per the attached Committee Agenda Memo, and the corresponding presentation materials contained in Attachment 1. Wendy Murphy, Samantha Greene, John Bourgeois, and Ryan McCarter were available to answer questions.

Discussion ensued relating to intersections of Ogier Ponds and Coyote Creek, ownership of acreage to be acquired in the feasible alternatives, potential impact on hiking trails, the future usage of Ogier Ponds, water flow through the ponds, and monitoring of Coyote Creek.

The Committee received the information and took no formal action.

5.3 REVIEW AND APPROVE 2025 ANNUAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS REPORT FOR PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD (COMMITTEE CHAIR)

Recommendation:

- A. Approve the 2025 Accomplishments Report for presentation to the Board; and
- B. Provide comments to the Committee Chair to share with the Board as part of the Accomplishments Report presentation pertaining to the purpose, structure, and function of the Committee.

Dave Leon and John Bourgeois reviewed the information on this item, per the attached Committee Agenda Memo, and the corresponding presentation materials contained in Attachment 1 and were available to answer questions.

It was moved by Member Keller, seconded by Member Kwok, and unanimously carried to approve the Accomplishments Report for presentation to the Board as amended to remove item number 13, which was not heard by the Committee.

5.4 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.

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. Dave Leon and John Bourgeois were available to answer questions.

Member Peterson volunteered to serve on the Climate Change and Integrated Water Resources Working Group.

The Committee received the information and took no formal action.

5.5 REVIEW AND APPROVE ENVIRONMENTAL AND WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE WORK PLAN, THE OUTCOMES OF BOARD ACTION OF COMMITTEE REQUESTS, THE COMMITTEE'S NEXT MEETING AGENDA, AND RECOMMEND THE PROPOSED 2026 EWRC WORK PLAN TO THE BOARD

Recommendation: Review and Approve the Committee work plan to guide the committee's discussions regarding policy alternatives and implications for Board deliberation; and recommend the proposed 2026 EWRC Work Plan to the Board.

Dave Leon and John Bourgeois reviewed the information on this item, per the attached Committee Agenda Memo, and the corresponding presentation materials contained in Attachment 1 and were available to answer questions.

It was moved by Member Ice, seconded by Member Keller, and unanimously carried to forward the Committee work plan to the Board and delegate authority to the Chair and Vice Chair to make edits to the work plan before submittal to the Board.

6. STANDING ITEMS

6.1 DIRECTOR'S REPORTS

Director Hsueh reported that Board Chairperson Tony Estremera and Vice Chairperson Richard Santos were re-elected to serve as Chair and Vice Chair for 2026. Director Ballard thanked Members Ice and Keller for their service as Chair and Vice Chair, respectively.

6.2 MANAGER'S REPORTS

John Bourgeois thanked Members Ice and Keller for their service as Chair and Vice Chair for the previous two years.

6.3 ANNOUNCEMENTS

No announcements were made.

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

The Committee took no action.

8. ADJOURNMENT

7.1 ADJOURN

Chairperson Levy adjourned the meeting at 7:32 p.m. to the next regular meeting on Monday, April 20, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.

Dave Leon
Assistant Deputy Clerk II

Date approved:

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Santa Clara Valley Water District

File No.: 26-0370

Agenda Date: 4/20/2026

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 Information on Calabazas and San Tomas Aquino Creek-Marsh Connection Project Staff Recommended Alternative.

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive Information on the Staff Recommended Alternative for Calabazas and San Tomas Aquino Creek-Marsh Connection Project, Project No. 20444001.

SUMMARY:

Once constructed, the Calabazas and San Tomas Aquino Creek-Marsh Connection Project (Project) will create up to 1,800 acres of wetland within the former A4 and A8 complex salt ponds. For the Project to proceed with the construction phase, funding will need to be identified and secured. The Project is part of the larger South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project (SBSPRP) and is a partnership between Valley Water and the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge. The planning and design phases of the project are included in the Capital Improvement Program Five-Year Plan. With funding from the Watersheds Stream Stewardship Fund (Fund 12) and funding from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) San Francisco Bay Water Quality Improvement Fund (SFBWQIF), San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority (SFBRA) Measure AA, and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) Proposition 1 (Prop 1) Grant, Valley Water has completed a Planning Study for the Project, which identifies and compares feasible alternatives and recommends a preferred alternative. This memo summarizes the Planning Study and Staff Recommended Alternative.

Background

Historic channelization and other modifications to lower Calabazas and San Tomas Aquino Creeks have disrupted natural sediment transport to the Bay. The transition from managed salt ponds to open water habitat in the adjacent Pond A8 complex presented an opportunity to restore natural tidal and fluvial processes that deposit sediment and form marsh over time. A landscape visioning effort between Valley Water, the San Francisco Estuary Institute, and SBSPRP developed the project concept in 2018, and Valley Water completed a Feasibility Report in 2021. At the April 27, 2021

Board meeting, staff presented the Project scope, which included a preliminary evaluation of Project feasibility. The Project scoping identified three primary objectives: ecological restoration, resilient flood protection through sediment delivery to support marsh formation, and reduced long-term creek maintenance. Three broad implementation options were developed with estimated planning, design, permitting, and construction costs ranging from \$6 million to \$25 million, and the Board authorized proceeding with a Planning Study to refine alternatives and identify a staff-recommended option. Then, in 2023, the Board approved expanding the Project area to include the Valley Water-owned Pond A4. This expansion increased planning phase costs and duration. Valley Water secured funding for the Planning Study through the following grants:

- SFBRA Measure AA - \$3.37 million
- CDFW Prop 1 - \$0.5 million
- EPA SFBWQIF - \$3.8 million

These funds supported consultant contracts for planning, modeling, and related efforts.

Planning Process

Development of the Planning Study Report was guided by the primary objective: to ecologically restore and enhance the tidal and freshwater marsh and river habitat in the project area. Secondary objectives and/or incidental benefits include sea-level rise resiliency, reduced maintenance in lower Calabazas and San Tomas Aquino Creeks, and public access to the Bay to the maximum extent feasible consistent with the project. A series of public meetings were held to gather input on the Project objectives and alternatives. On May 16, 2023, staff presented conceptual alternatives to the community and on October 24, 2023, a stakeholder meeting was held to gather input on public access features and impacts associated with the Project. A systematic alternatives assessment methodology was then developed through extensive coordination with project partners and regulatory agencies, and focused stakeholder meetings. This structured screening and ranking methodology was used to evaluate restoration designs (including number and location of berm breaches, island habitat features, and active vs. passive creek realignment) against the Project objectives. Hydrodynamic modeling was used to simulate the effects of different breaching scenarios on sediment transport, marsh accretion, and water quality. On May 15, 2024, a public meeting was held to present the results of the feasible alternatives analysis and the preliminary Staff Recommended Alternative (SRA) and gather feedback from the community. Additional modeling was then conducted to assess rates of marsh accretion, flood risk, and water quality changes associated with the preliminary SRA under a range of future scenarios. Extensive water quality, habitat, and species surveys were conducted to establish a baseline for adaptive monitoring and to inform the environmental review and permitting process.

Staff Recommended Alternative

Based on the detailed feasible alternatives analysis, Alternative 6 (Creek Reconnection, Alviso Slough and Pond A4 Breaches) resulted in rapid marsh formation, improved water quality, and reduced creek maintenance in the most cost-effective manner. Key features of this alternative include:

-
- Connecting Calabazas and San Tomas Aquino Creeks to the A8 Ponds by breaching the inner Pond A8 berm and blocking flows to Guadalupe Slough (does not actively realign San Tomas Aquino Creek).
 - Restoring tidal action to the Pond A8 complex through three breaches of the outer levee and removal of the existing water control structure.
 - Connecting Sunnyvale East Channel to Pond A4.
 - Restoring tidal action to Pond A4 through one breach to Guadalupe Slough.
 - Building a vegetated ecotone on the southern edge of Ponds A4 and A8.
 - Construction of a one-mile segment of the San Francisco Bay Trail in partnership with the City of San Jose
 - Reducing costs by eliminating habitat islands and using passive restoration techniques.

Flood Risk

The Project was designed to reduce flood risk in San Tomas Aquino and Calabazas Creeks by increasing flow velocities and reducing sediment accumulation in the creeks at the 90-degree choke point. In addition, the 1,800 acres of restored tidal marsh act as a natural buffer that can grow vertically by trapping sediment, helping the shoreline keep pace with rising sea levels. The Project creates ecotones, gradual slopes which further buffer the shoreline by allowing marsh habitat to migrate upslope as water levels rise.

Wetland accretion and tidal circulation modeling was used to assess changes in coastal and fluvial floodplains (Calabazas Creek, San Tomas Aquino Creek, and the Guadalupe River) and water levels that result from the Project. Modeling indicates that the increased tidal marsh coupled with the increased tidal storage provided by the pond berm breaches will either reduce flood risk or keep it unchanged across most of the project area. In general, water levels along creeks are expected to be lower and extreme high tide water levels are expected to be lower through most of the project impact area. However, modeling indicated that increased water levels in Pond A4 (which is currently managed to remain at a low water level) may undermine the stability of and/or overtop portions of Pond A4 berm during the 100-year coastal storm event coupled with a 10-year fluvial flood event. Flood risk reduction measures at Pond A4 will be partially implemented as part of the Sunnyvale East/West Channels Flood Protection Project, and Valley Water will evaluate additional potential measures to be included in the Project during the Design Phase.

Water Quality

Previous restoration actions associated with the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project between 2011 and 2017 demonstrated that changes in tidal connectivity can mobilize legacy sediment-associated mercury, leading to short-term increases in methylmercury in water and biota. To better understand this risk and project impacts during the post-construction monitoring phase, Valley Water studied current water quality and mercury sedimentation and mobilization conditions in the ponds and sloughs. The study found that mercury was primarily found in sediments, while methylmercury was predominantly dissolved in the water. Additionally, there was significant bioaccumulation of methylmercury in fish.

Project-related short-term increases in turbidity and suspended sediment concentrations in Study

Area ponds and sloughs are expected to temporarily increase total mercury and methylmercury concentrations in the water column and subsequently increase the potential for methylmercury uptake in algae, invertebrates, and fish. In the long term, the improved tidal exchange is expected to reduce methylmercury production, and the enhanced sediment deposition is expected to bury the legacy mercury in the ponds. This could improve the bioaccumulation of methylmercury. In addition, improved tidal exchanges should address other water quality concerns, such as reducing algae production and salinity.

Next Steps

Following the Committee's input, staff will finalize the Planning Study Report in June 2026. Project design is expected to begin in July 2026 and will be partially funded by existing grants. Staff will continue to seek grant funding to complete the design and construction of the Project.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE IMPACT:

The project will benefit surrounding communities, including the Alviso community, by providing habitat restoration, resilient flood protection, reducing invasive creek maintenance activities, and enhancing public access and recreational opportunities.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment 1: PowerPoint

UNCLASSIFIED MANAGER:

Lisa Bankosh, 408-630-2618

Calabazas/San Tomas Aquino Creek Marsh Connection Project

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

Environmental and Water Resources Committee Meeting

April 20, 2026

Presented by: Judy Nam, Senior Water Resources Specialist



Purpose of Today's Presentation

- Project Overview
- Present Planning Study Results
- Introduce Staff Recommended Alternative (Alt 6)
- Highlight key benefits, risks, and tradeoffs
- Receive Committee input

PROJECT LOCATION AND OBJECTIVES



**HABITAT
RESTORATION**



**RESILIENT FLOOD
PROTECTION**

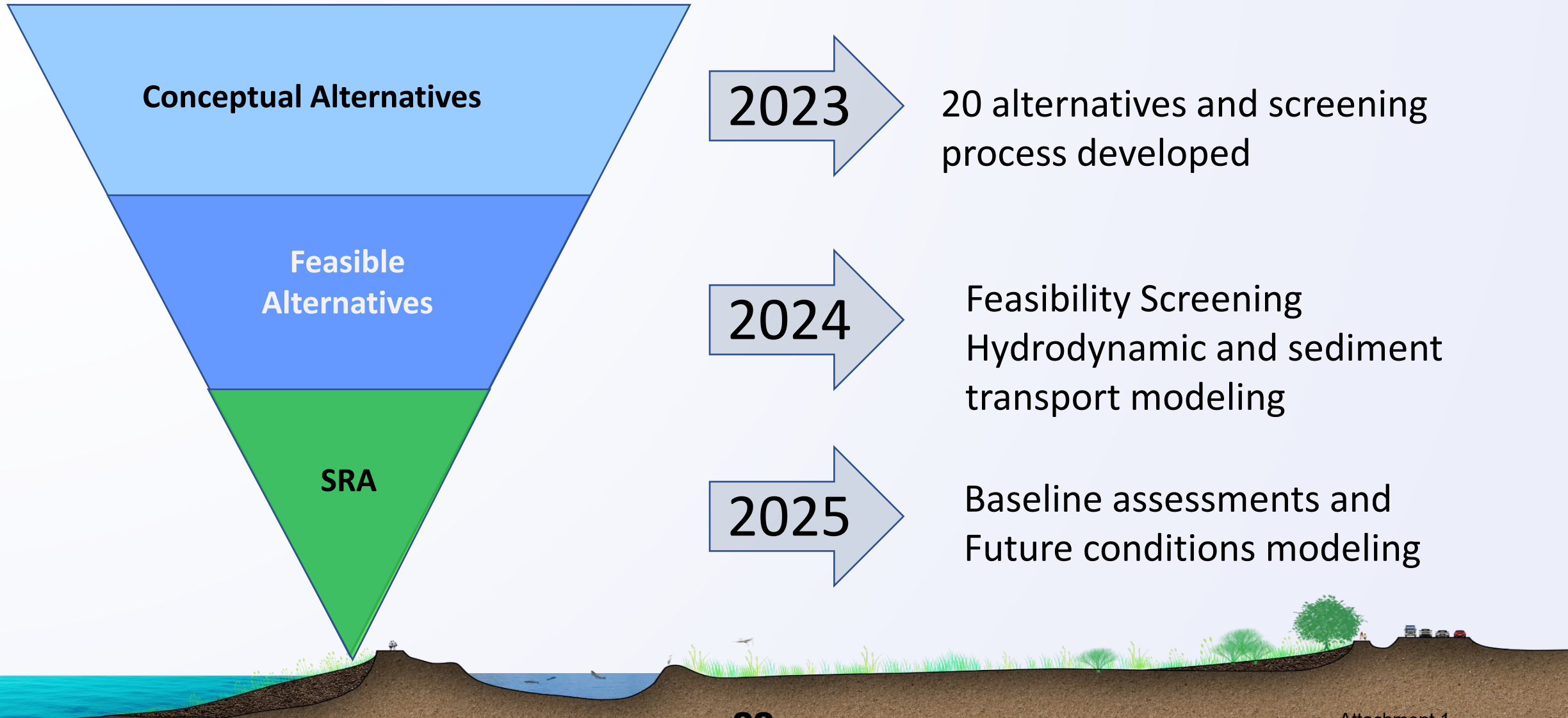


**REDUCED
MAINTENANCE NEEDS**

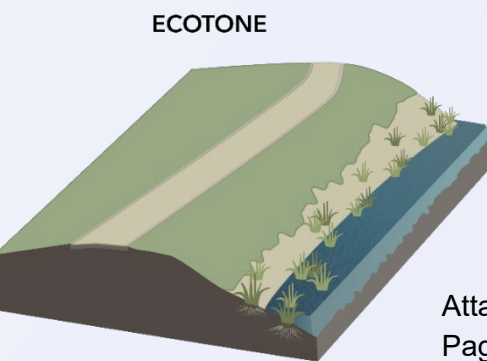
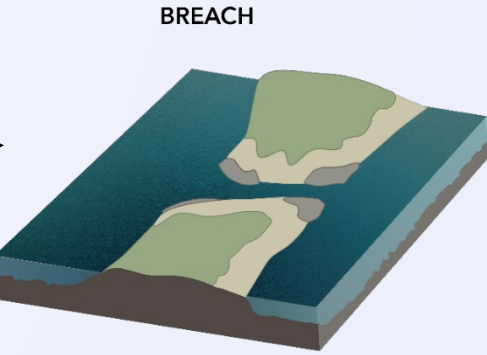
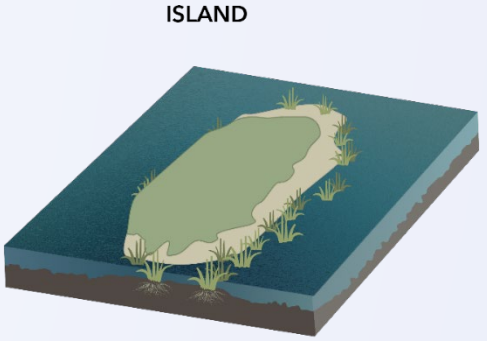
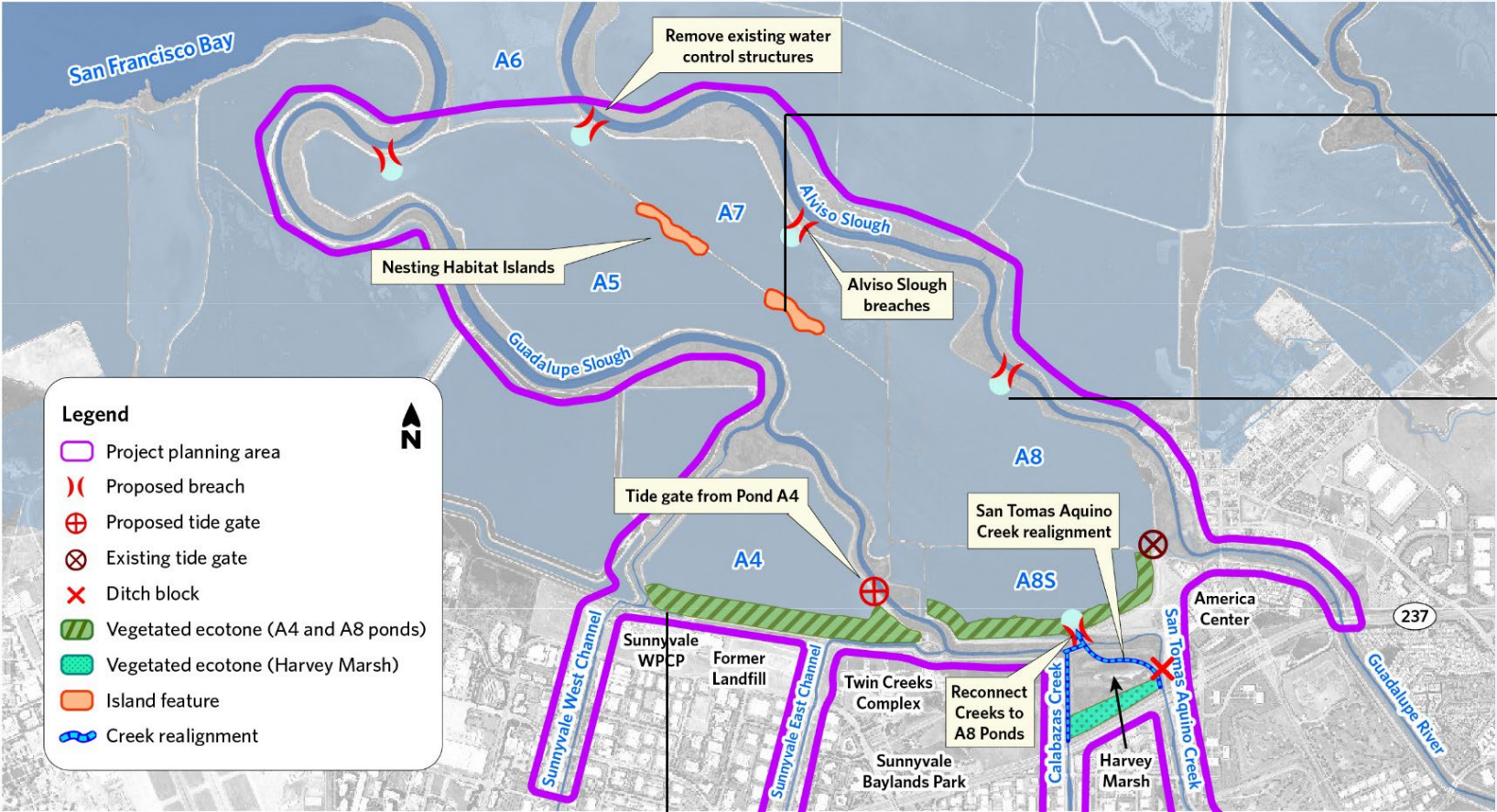


**ENHANCED
PUBLIC ACCESS**

PROJECT PLANNING PROCESS

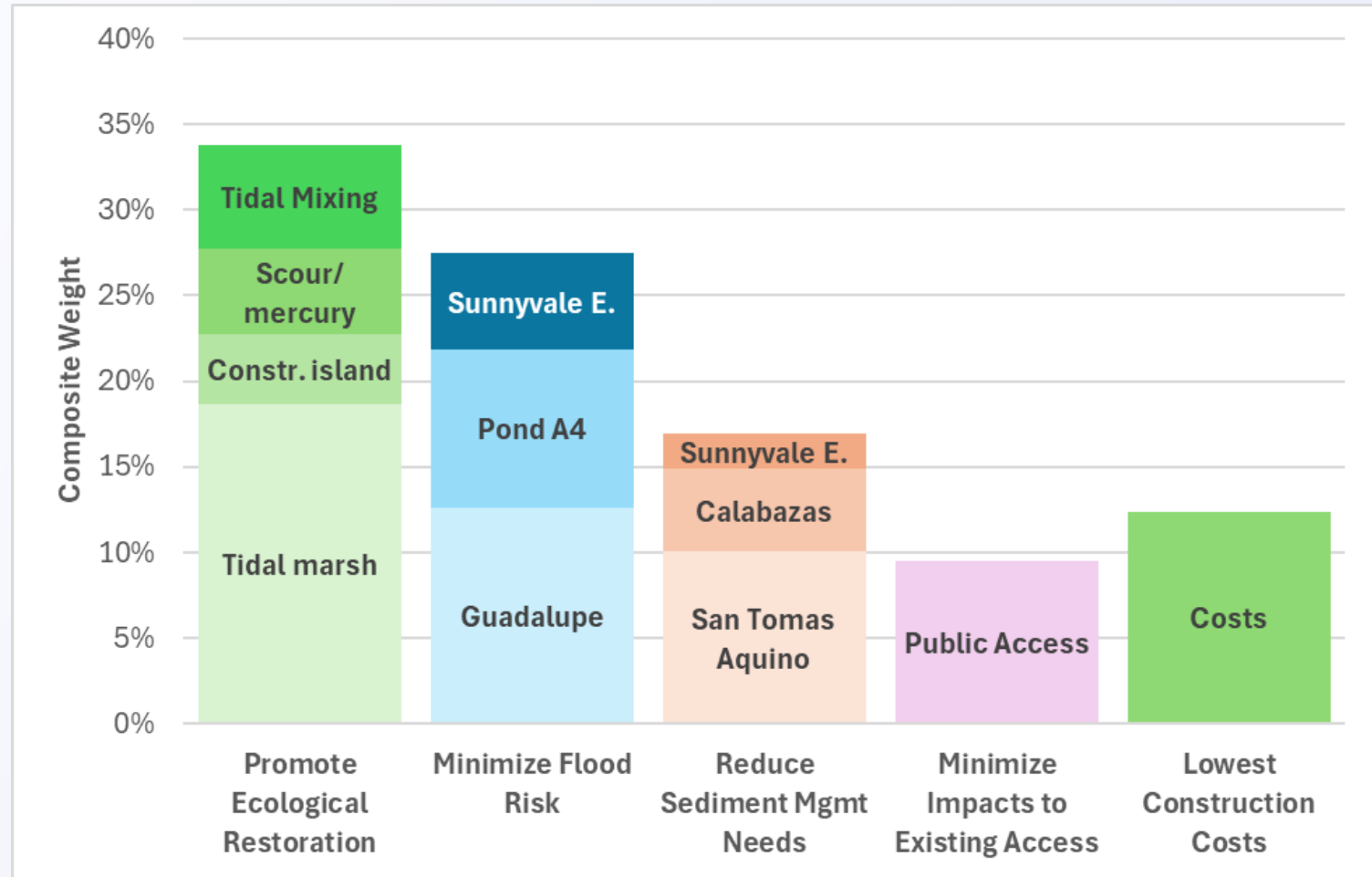


RESTORATION ELEMENTS CONSIDERED



FEASIBLE ALTERNATIVES ANALYSIS

- Assessment Methodology:
 - Categories broken into factors for scoring
 - Each factor given a weight



FEASIBLE ALTERNATIVES ANALYSIS SUMMARY

Assessment Categories	Alt. 1	Alt. 3	Alt. 5	Alt. 6	Alt. 7
Promote Ecological Restoration					
Minimize Flood Risk					
Reduce Sediment Management Needs					
Minimize Impacts to Existing Access					
Lowest Construction Costs					
Overall Rating					



Poor



Fair



Adequate

25

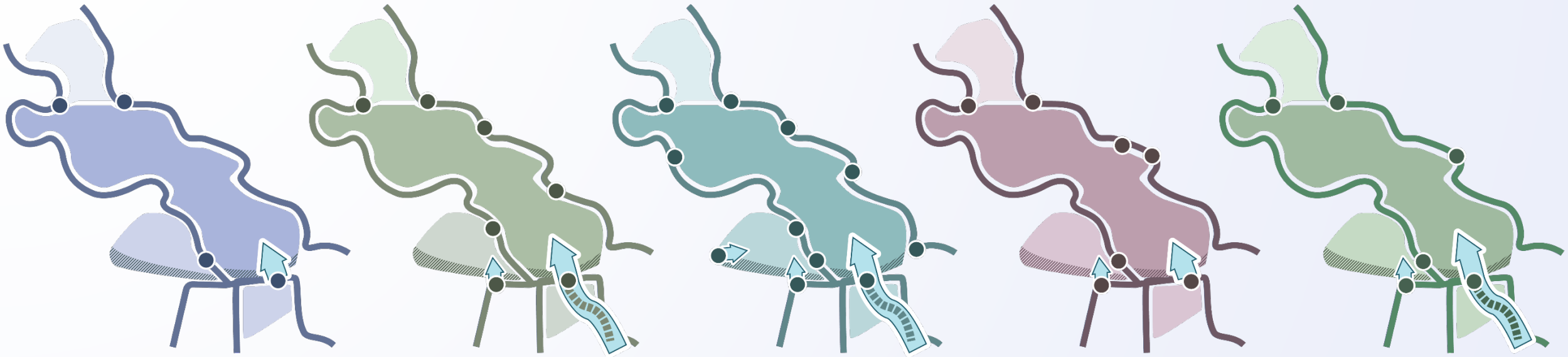


Very Good



Outstanding

FEASIBLE ALTERNATIVES ANALYSIS SUMMARY



ALTERNATIVE 1

ALTERNATIVE 3

ALTERNATIVE 5

ALTERNATIVE 6

ALTERNATIVE 7



Poor

Fair

Adequate

Very Good

Outstanding

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



Why Alternative 6

- Most effective marsh formation
- Improves water quality over time
- Reduces sediment buildup in creeks
- Most cost-effective among high-performing options
- Balances habitat, flood, and maintenance goals

Public Access Enhancements

Support for Bay Trail Reach 9



Key Benefits of the Recommended Alternative

Habitat & Ecology

- Accelerates tidal marsh formation
- Supports long-term ecosystem health

Flood Risk

- Increased tidal storage
- Lower or unchanged water levels in most areas

Operations

- Reduced sediment removal needs and lower long-term maintenance cost
- Lowest construction cost

Key Risks & Considerations

Flood Risk (Localized)

- Increased water levels in Pond A4 under extreme events
- Mitigation to be refined during design

Water Quality (Short-Term)

- Temporary increase in mercury mobilization
- Long-term improvement expected with tidal exchange

Implementation

- Requires securing construction funding

Funding & Next Steps

Planning & Design Funding Secured

- Measure AA, EPA, Prop 1, Fund 12

Next Steps

- Finalize Planning Study (June 2026)
- Begin Design (July 2026)
- Pursue construction funding



Questions

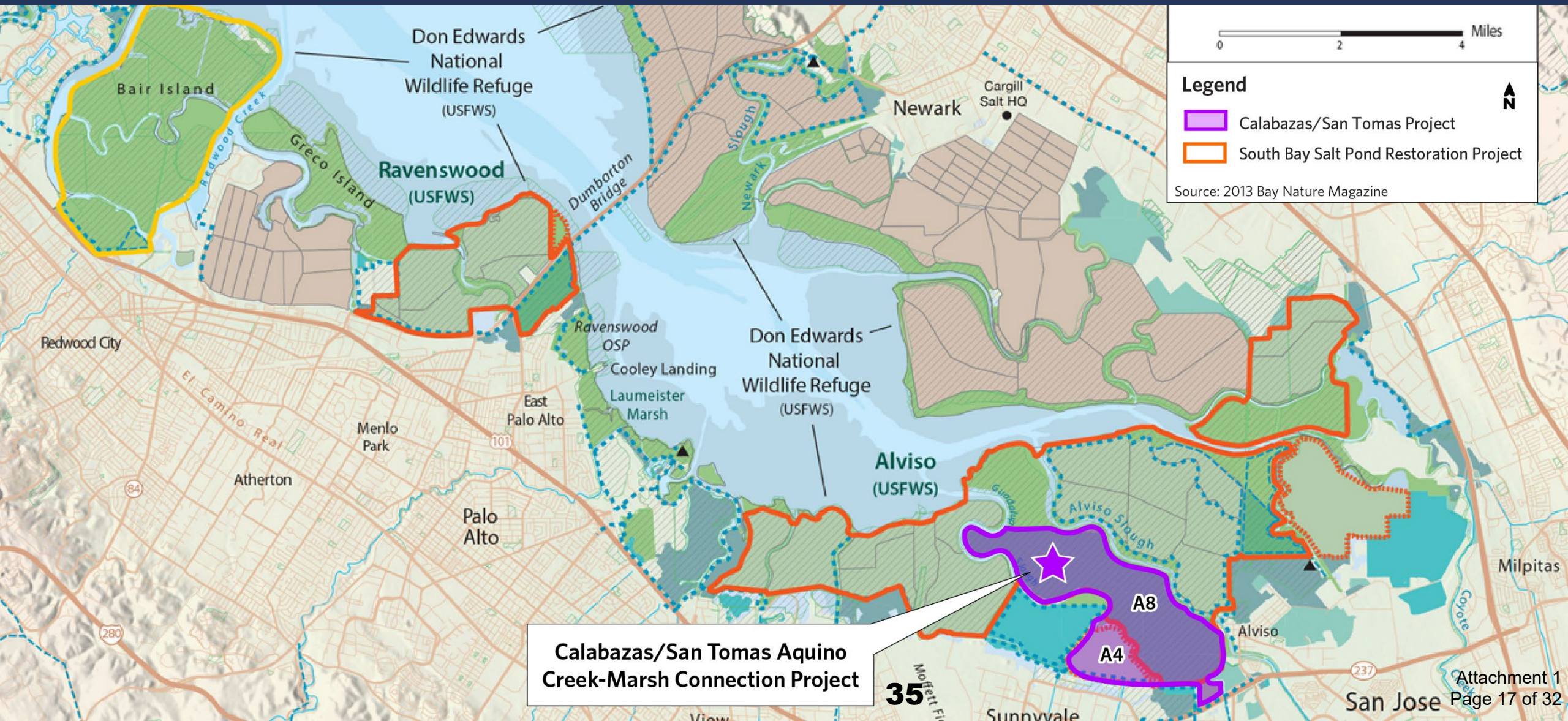


Extra:

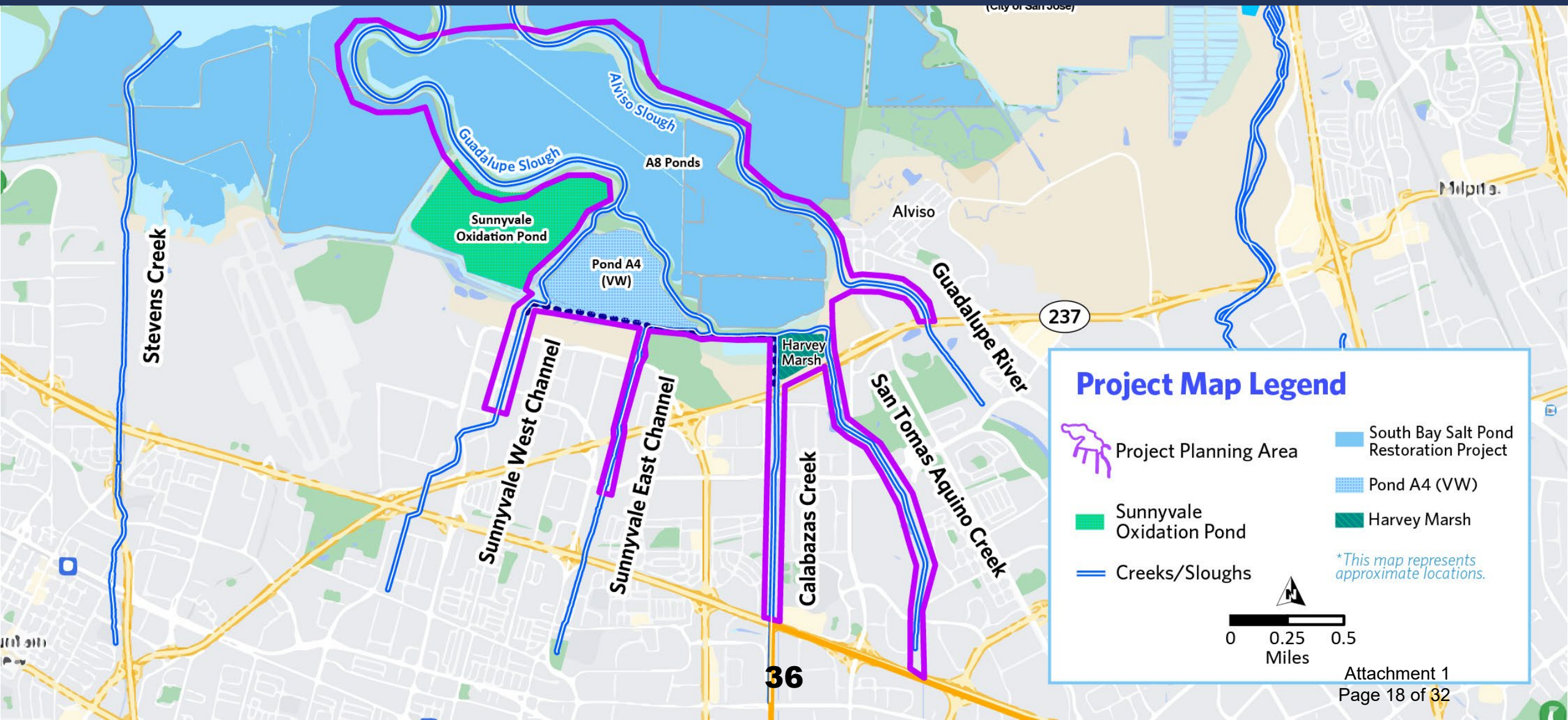
- Restoration Elements
- Feasible Alternatives
- Alternative Analysis Details



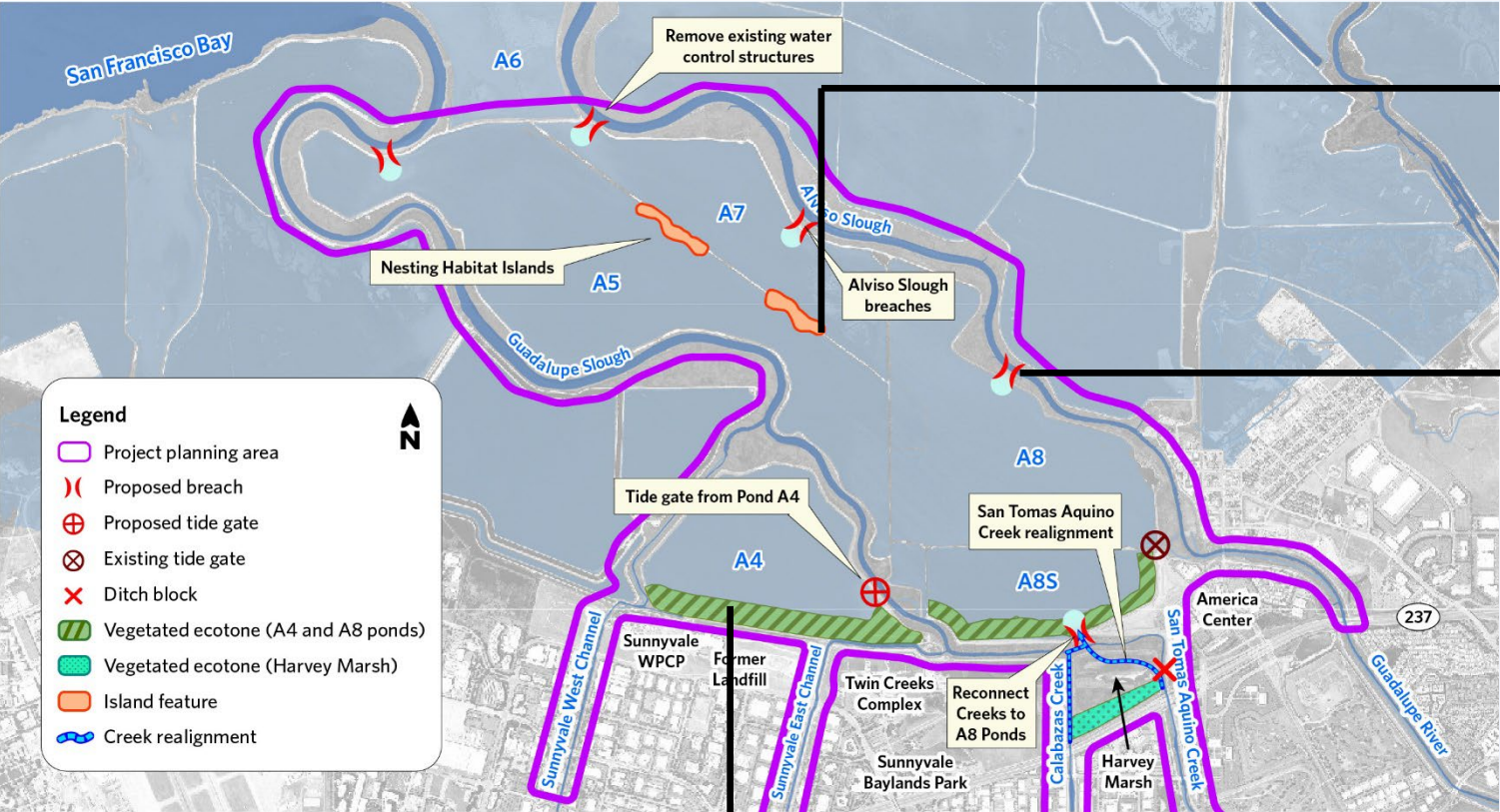
CONNECTION TO BROADER SOUTH BAY SALT POND RESTORATION



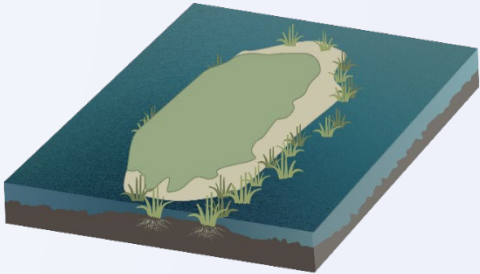
CALABAZAS/SAN TOMAS AQUINO CREEK-MARSH CONNECTION PROJECT



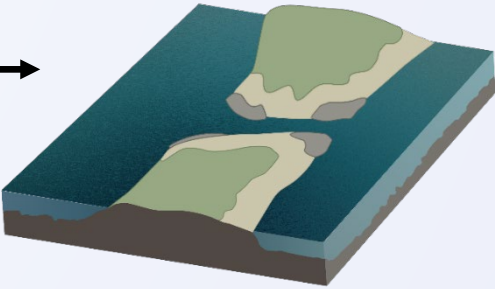
RESTORATION ELEMENTS CONSIDERED



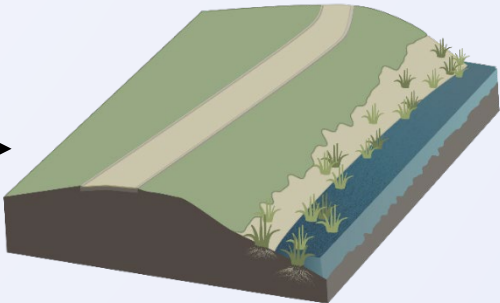
ISLAND



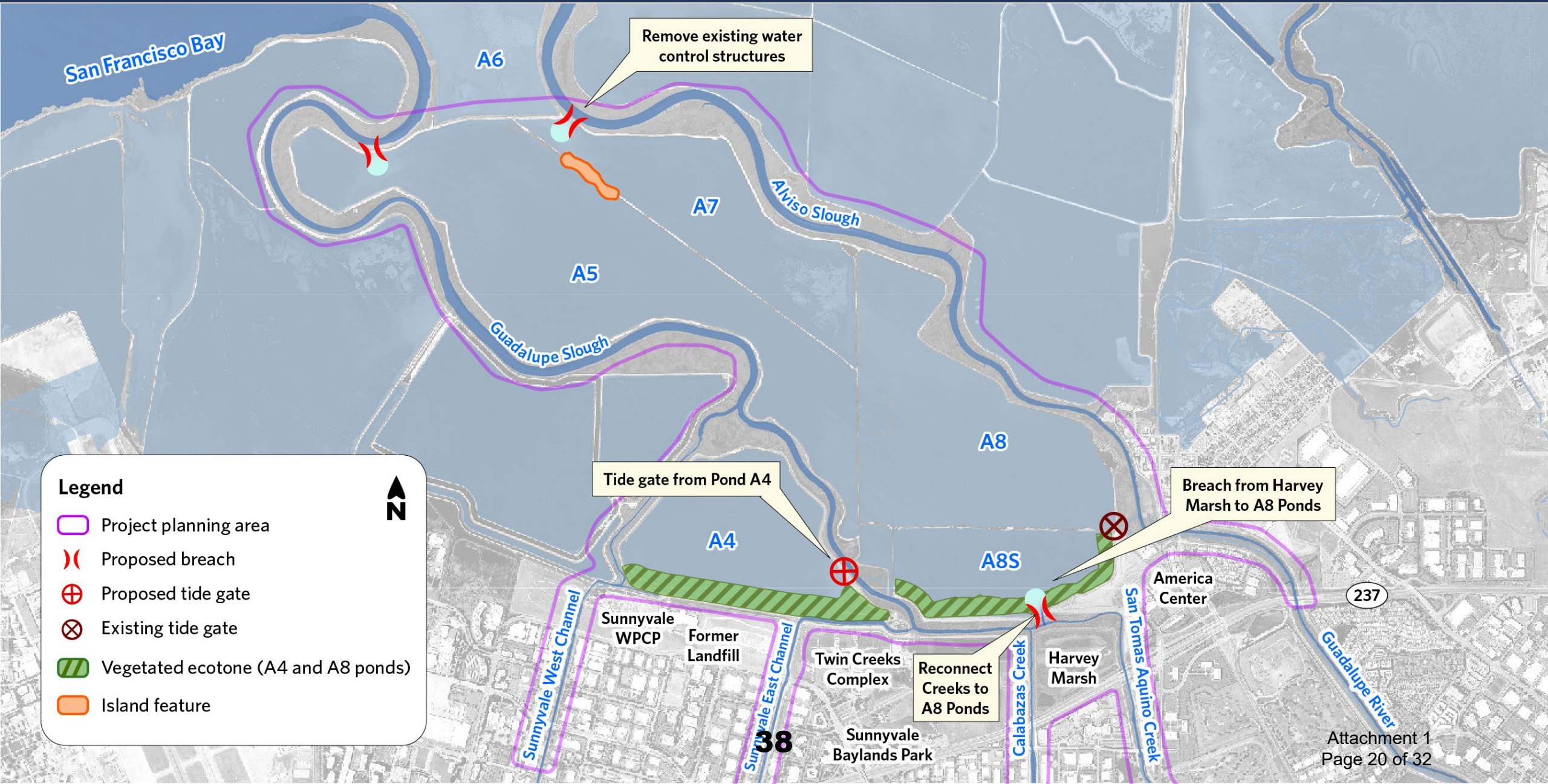
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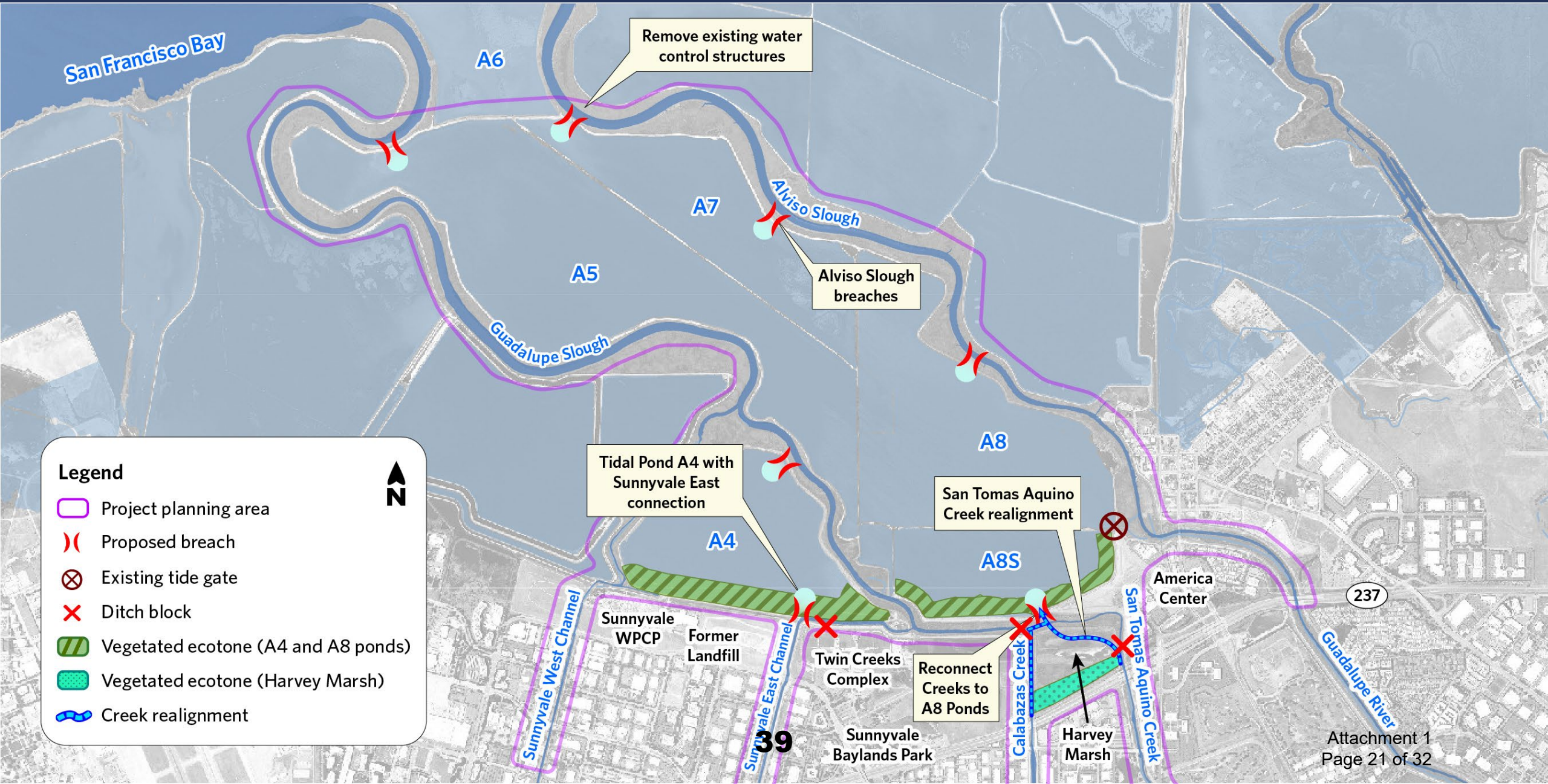
ECOTONE



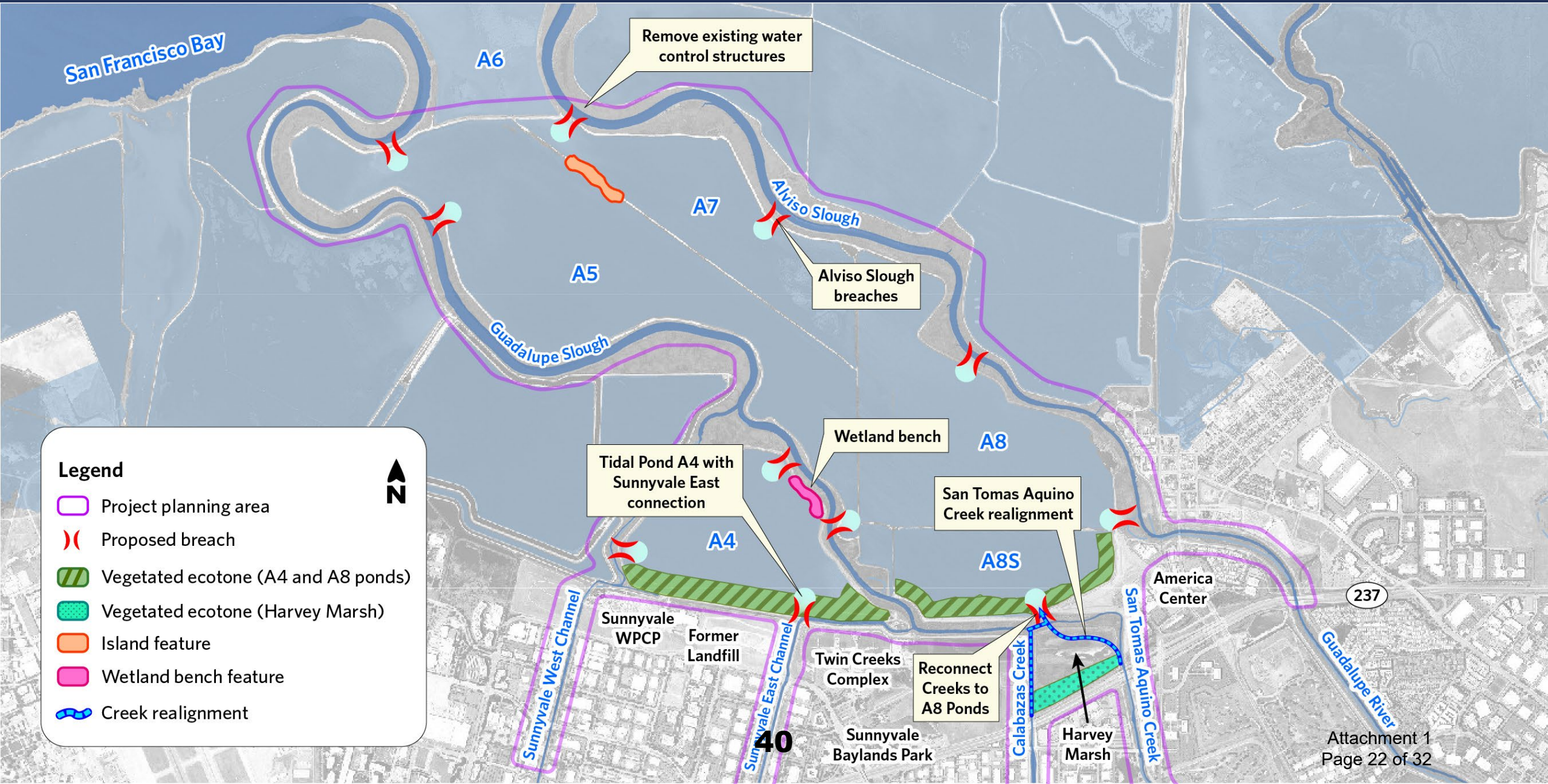
ALT. 1 – MINIMUM TIDAL CONNECTIVITY



ALT. 3 – CREEK REALIGNMENT, ALVISO SL. & POND A4 BREACHES



ALT. 5 - MAXIMUM TIDAL CONNECTIVITY



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



ALT. 7 - CREEK REALIGNMENT, HARVEY MARSH ENHANCEMENT

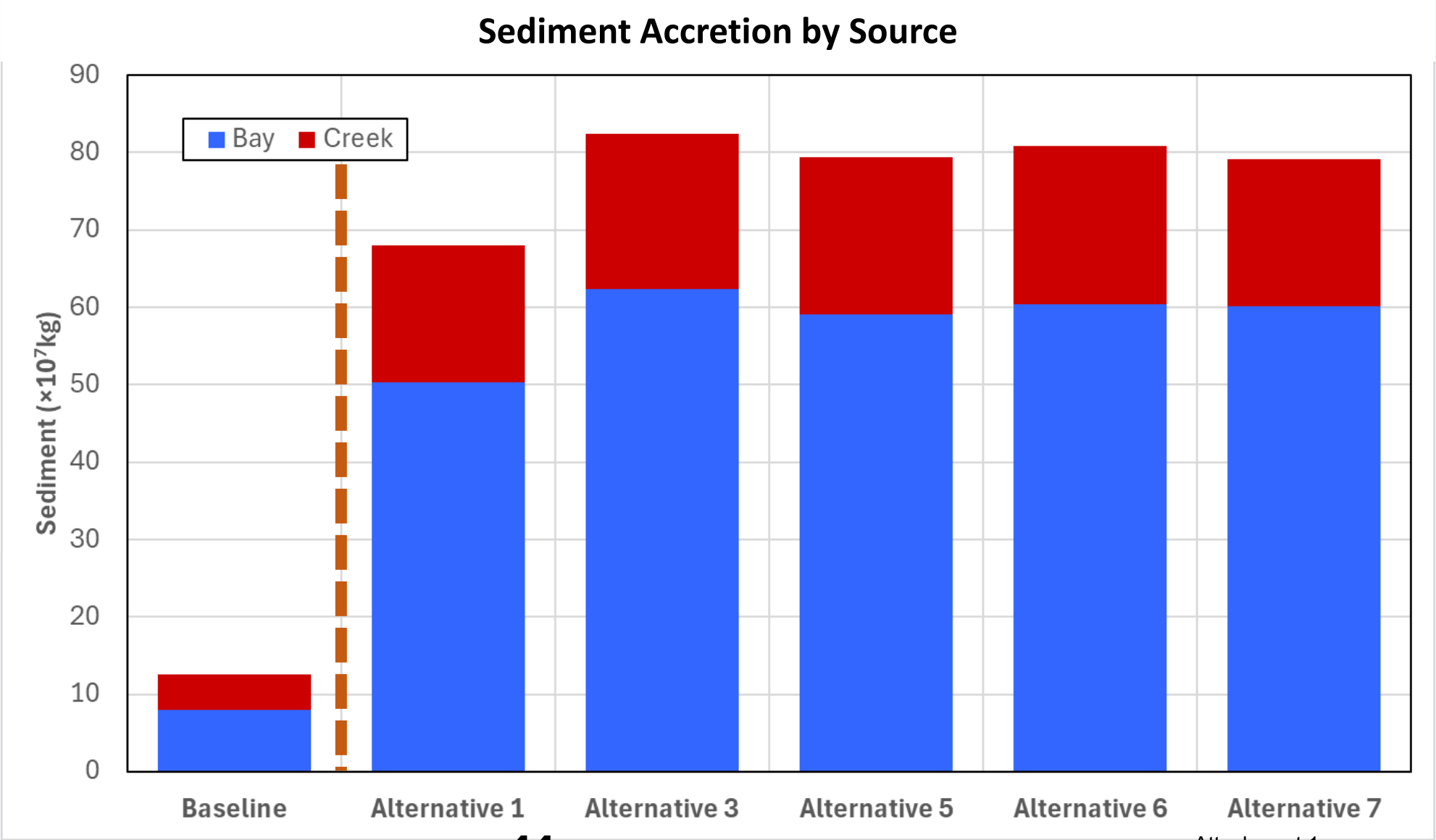


Alternatives Analysis



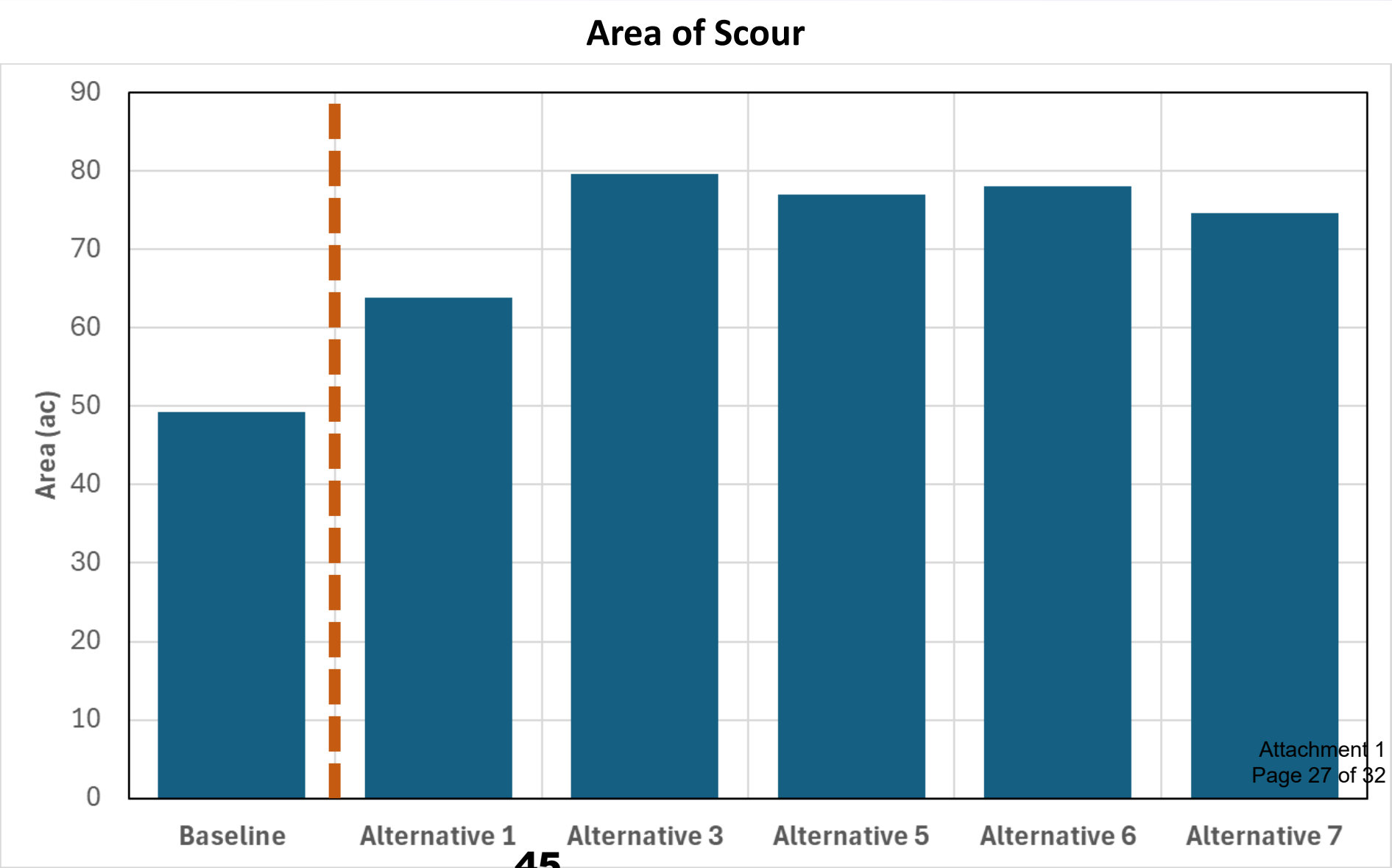
Sediment Modeling Results

*Increased
Tidal Marsh
Sediment
Accretion*



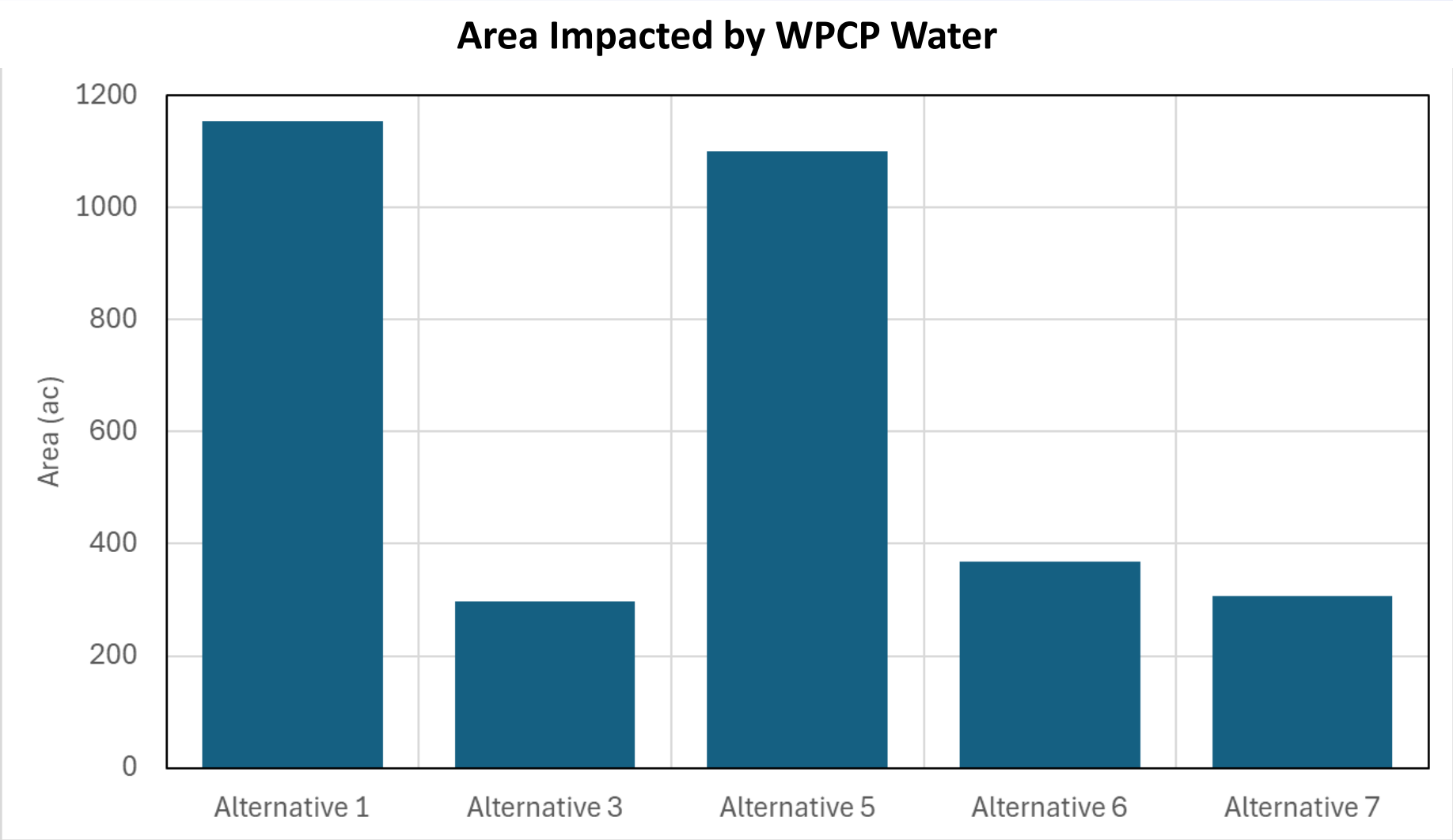
Sediment Modeling Results

*Less sediment
scour → Less
Mercury
Mobilization*



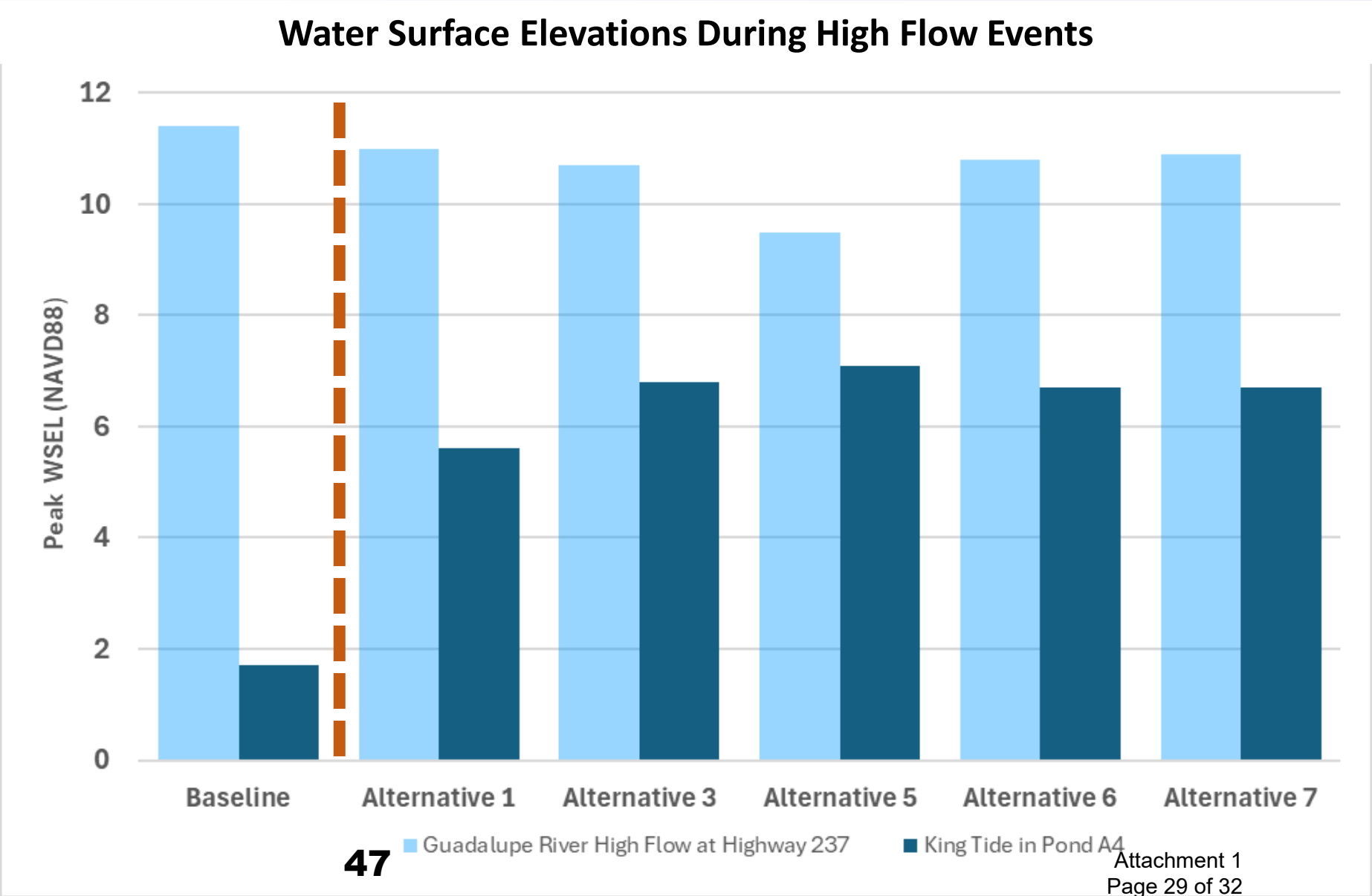
Hydrodynamic Modeling Results

*Less mixing with
Sunnyvale
Water Pollution
Control Plant
(WPCP) water
➡ Reduced
potential for
algae blooms*



Modeling of King Tides and High Flow Events

Pond breaches increase tidal storage → reduces tidal range and flood risk

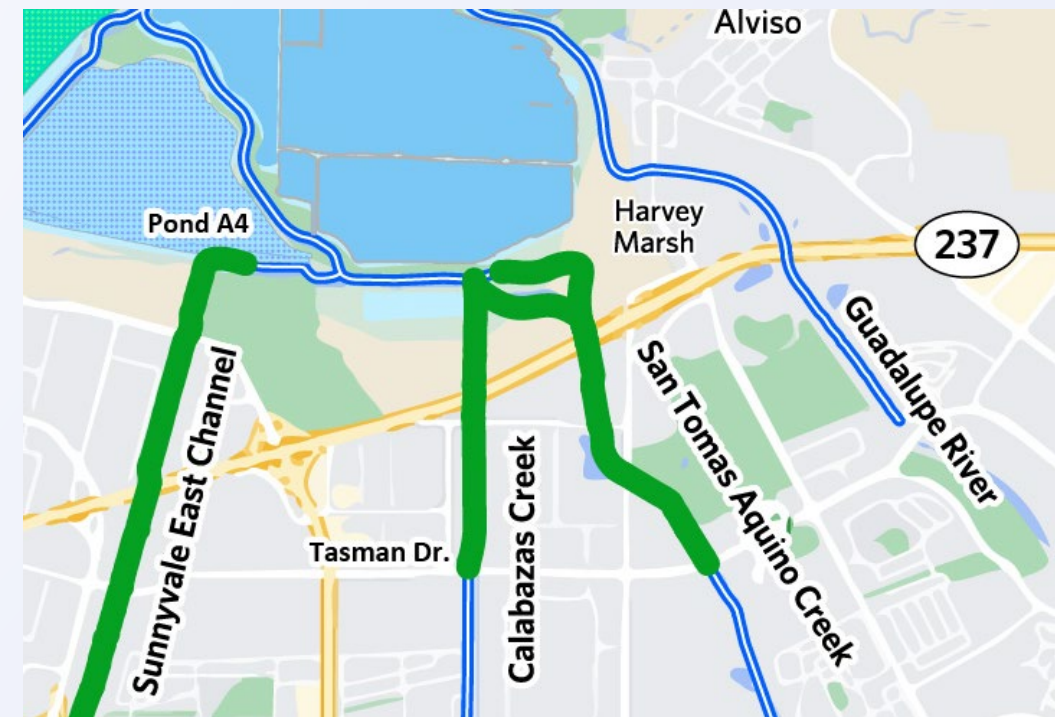
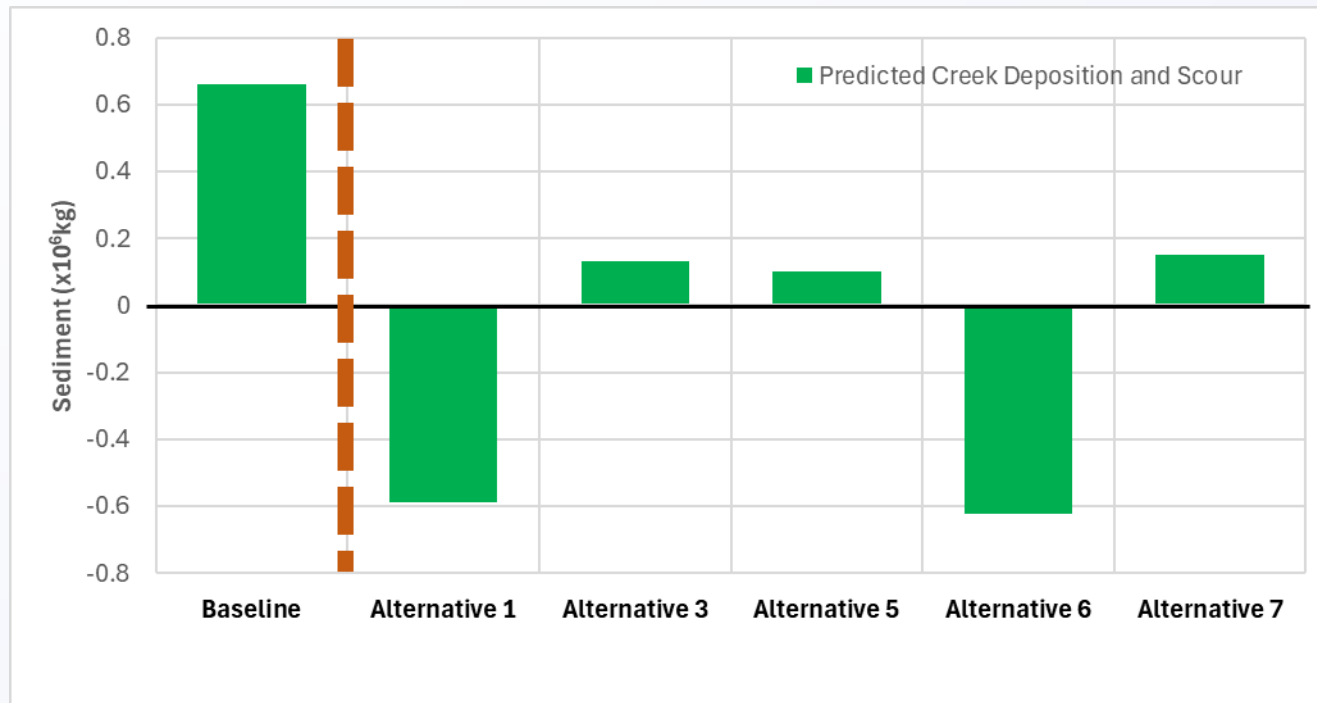


Combined Sediment Accumulation in Creeks

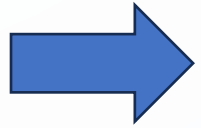
Reduced Sediment Deposition in Creeks

➡ *Reduces future sediment removal costs*

➡ *Supports tidal marsh creation at southern end of Ponds*



Public Access Enhancements



*Support for Bay
Trail Reach 9*



Bay Trail Reach 9



50



Attachment 1
Page 32 of 32



Santa Clara Valley Water District

File No.: 26-0376

Agenda Date: 4/20/2026

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 Update on Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program's Project D7: Partnerships for the Conservation of Habitat Lands. (Sargent Ranch Update)

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive an update on Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program's Project D7: Partnerships for the Conservation of Habitat Lands regarding Valley Water's partnership with Peninsula Open Space Trust to acquire and permanently protect Sargent Ranch.

SUMMARY:

The voter-approved Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program provides funding for activities focused on restoring wildlife habitat and providing open space through Project D7: Partnerships for Conservation of Habitat Lands. In January 2026, Valley Water entered into a Grant Agreement with Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST) to contribute \$3,950,000 towards the acquisition and permanent protection of a portion of the property known as Sargent Ranch. The property, located entirely within the Juristac Tribal Cultural Landscape, is a critical landscape linkage for wildlife and is widely known for its scenic beauty and unique natural features, such as its tar springs, live oak trees, and free-flowing streams.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE IMPACT:

This action is not subject to Environmental Justice Analysis because no likely adverse impacts are expected.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment 1: PowerPoint

File No.: 26-0376

Agenda Date: 4/20/2026
Item No.: 4.2.

UNCLASSIFIED MANAGER:
Lisa Bankosh, 408-630-2618



Valley Water

Clean Water • Healthy Environment • Flood Protection



Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program
Priority D – Project D7

Partnerships for Conservation of Habitat Lands: Sargent Ranch



Priority D

Restore wildlife habitat
and provide open space access

**Safe, Clean Water
and Natural Flood Protection**

D7: Partnerships for the Conservation of Habitat Lands*

Select a Grants and Environmental Protection Proj 

Funding from this project helps the community acquire and protect habitat to preserve local ecosystems.

KPI#1: Provide up to \$8 million per 15-year cycle for acquisition or enhancement of property which:

- Protects, enhances, and restores natural resources
- Contributes to the recovery of special status species
- Reduces habitat fragmentation



Completed Partnership Agreements

2018: Baird/Tilton Ranch

- \$8 million
- 834-acre parcel
- Coyote ceanothus
- Valley Habitat Agency



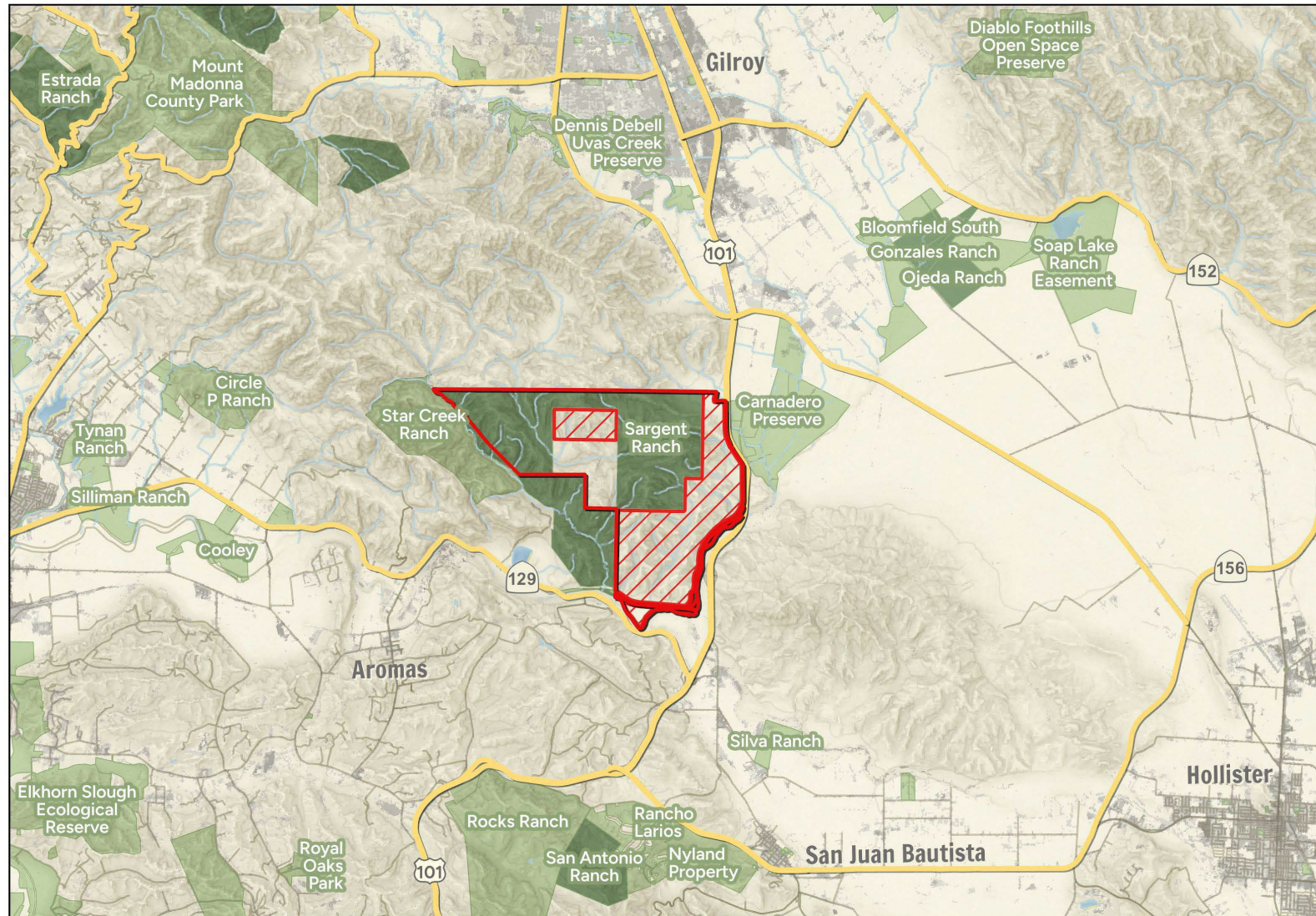
Completed Partnership Agreements

2024: Richmond Ranch

- \$4 million
- 944-acre parcel (partial)
- Headwaters of Thompson and Silver Creeks
- Valley Habitat Agency/County Parks



Proposed Partnership: Sargent Ranch



Map date: 12/3/2025

Sources: ESRI, POST, CPAD, San Benito/Santa Cruz/Santa Clara/Monterey County.

Special-Status Species at Sargent Ranch

- South-Central California Coast steelhead
- California tiger salamander
- California red-legged frog
- Northwestern pond turtle
- American badger
- Bald eagle
- White-tailed kite
- Prairie falcon
- Long-eared owl
- Western burrowing owl
- Least Bell's vireo
- Pink cream-sacs
- Hoover's button celery

Juristac Tribal Cultural Landscape

Most sacred landscape of the Amah Mutsun people

Proposed Partnership: Sargent Ranch

- \$3.95 million
- 5,254 acre parcel (partial)
- Largest and highest priority conservation property
- Regionally-significant natural and cultural resource values
- Peninsula Open Space Trust





***and Natural
Flood Protection***

For more information visit:
<https://www.valleywater.org/safe-clean-water-and-natural-flood-protection-program>

END OF PRESENTATION

Questions & Answers





Santa Clara Valley Water District

File No.: 26-0384

Agenda Date: 4/20/2026

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 April 2026

Attachment 2: EWRC FINAL Working Group Restructure

UNCLASSIFIED MANAGER:

Wendy Ho, 408-630-3874

FY 2025 EWRC Working Groups

Working Group Number/Title		Member Name	Lead	Total Members
EWRC Oversight Manager: John Bourgeois, jbourgeois@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 jbourgeois@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 (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 agendaize 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 agendaize 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.: 26-0383

Agenda Date: 4/20/2026

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 2026 Work Plan

UNCLASSIFIED MANAGER:

Wendy Ho, 408-630-3874

2026 Work Plan: Environmental and Water Resources Committee

Updated April 10, 2026

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 2026	January 26	Committee Elects Chair and Vice Chair for 2026. (Action)	Accomplished January 26, 2026 The Committee unanimously elected Bob Levy as Chairperson and Rebecca Gallardo as Vice Chairperson.
2	Annual Accomplishments Report	January 26	Review and approve 2025 Accomplishments Report for presentation to the Board. (Action)	Accomplished January 26, 2026 The Committee unanimously approved the 2025 Accomplishments Report for presentation to the Board.
3	Update Status of Working Groups	January 26 April 20 July 20 October 19	Receive updates on the status of the working groups. (Action) Submit requests to the Board, as appropriate.	Accomplished January 26, 2026 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	January 26 April 20 July 20 October 19	Receive and review the 2026 Board-approved Committee work plan. (Action) Submit requests to the Board, as appropriate.	Accomplished January 26, 2026 The Committee unanimously approved to recommend the proposed 2026 EWRC Work Plan to the Board.
5	Standing Items Report Fiscal Year 2026 Goals and Strategies:	April 20 July 20 October 19	Receive quarterly reports on standing items. (Information)	

2026 Work Plan: Environmental and Water Resources Committee

Updated April 10,2026

ITEM	WORK PLAN ITEM BOARD POLICY	MEETING DATE	INTENDED OUTCOME(S) (Action or Information Only)	ACCOMPLISHMENT DATE AND OUTCOME
6	Anderson Dam and FAHCE	January 26	Receive Update on Anderson Dam Seismic Retrofit Project and Incorporation of Fish and Aquatic Habitat Collaborative Effort (FAHCE) Conservation Measures for Coyote Creek.	Accomplished January 26, 2026 The Committee received the information and took no formal action.
7	Stream Maintenance Program Update	July 20	Receive an update on SMP 3	
8	San Tomas/Calabazas realignment	April 20	Receive update on San Tomas/Calabazas realignment project Feedback on alternatives	
9	Sargent Ranch purchase	April 20	Receive an update on Valley Water's contribution to Sargent Ranch purchase	
10	Water Supply Master Plan Monitoring and Assessment Program	October 19	Receive update on MAP.	
11	Desalination Feasibility Study	January 26 October 19	Receive an update on the desalination feasibility study	Accomplished January 26, 2026 The Committee received the information and took no formal action.
12	Pure Water Silicon Valley	July 20	Receive an update on the Pure Water Silicon Valley potable reuse project	
13	Review Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Board Work plan	October 19	Review Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Board Work Plan (Information)	

BOARD WORK PLAN GOALS:

1. **Integrated Water Resources Management** - Goal: Efficiently manage water resources across business areas.
2. **Water Supply** – Goal: Provide a reliable, safe, and affordable water supply for current and future generations in all communities served.
3. **Natural Flood Protection** – Goal: Provide natural flood protection to reduce risk and improve health and safety.
4. **Environmental Stewardship** – Goal: Sustain ecosystem health while managing local water resources for flood protection and water supply.
5. **Addressing Encampment of Unsheltered People** – Goal: safeguard water resources and facilities from encampment impacts.
6. **Extreme Weather Events** – Goal: Mitigate carbon emissions and adapt Valley Water operations to extreme weather events.
7. **Business Management** – Goal: Promote effective management of water supply, flood protection, and environmental stewardship through responsive and socially responsible business services.



Santa Clara Valley Water District

File No.: 26-0385

Agenda Date: 4/20/2026

Item No.: 6.1.

COMMITTEE AGENDA MEMORANDUM Environmental and Water Resources Committee

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

SUBJECT:

Standing Items Report.

RECOMMENDATION:

Standing Items Report.

This item allows the Environmental and Water Resources Committee to receive verbal or written updates and discuss the Board's Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Work Plan Strategies. These items are generally informational; however, the Committee may request additional information and/or provide collective input to the assigned Board Committee.

SUMMARY:

The Santa Clara Valley Water District Environmental and Water Resources Committee is an official board advisory committee that assists the board with policies and issues pertaining to water supply, flood protection and environmental stewardship.

In January 2022, the Board of Directors approved aligning the Board Advisory Committees' agendas and work plans with the Board's yearly work plan.

The new agenda format will allow regular reports on the Board's priorities from the Board's committees and/or Board committee representative and identify subjects where the committees could provide advice to the Board on pre-identified subjects in a timely manner to meet the Board's schedule and distribute information/reports that may be of interest to committee members.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE IMPACT:

The Standing Items Report is not subject to environmental justice analysis.

ATTACHMENTS:

File No.: 26-0385

Agenda Date: 4/20/2026
Item No.: 6.1.

Attachment 1: Board Work Plan Standing Items Report
Attachment 2: FY26 Board Work Plan

UNCLASSIFIED MANAGER:
Wendy Ho, 408-630-3874

FY2025-2026 BOARD WORK PLAN – STANDING ITEMS REPORT

July-December 2025

INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT GOAL: Efficiently manage water resources across business areas.	
Objective 1:	Protect and maintain existing assets and infrastructure and advance new projects.
Updates:	• On August 29, 2025, Valley Water’s Board of Directors held a Special Workshop focused on its Capital Improvement Program. The goal of the workshop was to engage in constructive dialogue on the current challenges in executing Valley Water’s Capital Improvement Program, identify these challenges, their impacts, any financial gaps, and possible strategies related to each of Valley Water’s three primary revenue funding sources. • In October 2025 Valley Water started work on a project to inspect and repair the West Pipeline, one of the key parts of our water delivery network. Built in 1966, the West Pipeline carries treated drinking water from the Rinconada Water Treatment Plant in Los Gatos to local water retailers serving communities in Campbell, Cupertino, Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, Los Gatos, Mountain View, Santa Clara, Saratoga, Sunnyvale, and West San Jose. Crews will repair 25 sections along 2.8 miles of the West Pipeline, from More Avenue in Los Gatos to Cox Avenue in Saratoga. The work began in late October 2025 and will continue through April 2026. • On November 12, 2025, staff presented to the Board updates to the process for prioritizing Capital Improvement Program projects to better align project prioritization with risk to public health and safety, strategic goals, and financial feasibility, ensuring that limited funding is directed toward the most critical and impactful projects. • On December 9, 2025 the Board accepted the work as complete for the Santa Clara Conduit Inspection and Rehabilitation Project - Phase 2, as part of the 10-Year Pipeline Inspection and Rehabilitation Project. The Santa Clara Conduit (SCC) consists of approximately 22 linear miles of primarily 96-inch prestressed concrete cylinder pipe (PCCP). It conveys raw water from the Bifurcation structure near Casa De Fruta Parkway and Pacheco Pass Highway to the Coyote Pumping Plant in Morgan Hill. • In the summer of 2025, Valley Water completed a major upgrade to the Coyote Percolation Dam located in San Jose on Coyote Creek. Valley Water replaced the old flashboard dam with a state-of-the-art inflatable bladder dam. This modern system provides greater control, allowing us to raise or lower the dam to adapt to changing creek conditions. This enables us to maintain recharge operations during low flows and safely pass higher volumes of water during storms. This project also included a revamped fish passage and construction of a new operations control building.
Objective 2:	Improve internal capacity to negotiate and acquire regulatory permits.
Updates:	

Objective 3:	Educate and engage the community, elected officials and interested parties on our management of water resources in Santa Clara County.
Updates:	- On August 19, 2025, Valley Water held a joint meeting with the City of San Jose Mayor and Councilmembers. The meeting included updates and discussion on the Ourified Water Project, the Anderson Dam Seismic Retrofit Project and Coyote Creek Flood Protection Project and the Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program. - In August 2025 Valley Water was recognized by the National Association of Flood & Stormwater Management Agencies (NAFSMA) for its efforts in promoting public awareness about flooding and emergency preparedness during the past winter season. Winning NAFSMA's second-place award for Excellence in Communications underscores Valley Water's commitment to ensuring that residents in high-risk flood areas know the potential dangers, have signed up for alerts, and can find locations to obtain free sandbags in emergencies. - On September 23, 2025 the Board directed staff to send a letter to cities in Santa Clara County encouraging participation in water conservation programs and promoting water use efficiency, and specifically encouraging participation in the Model Water Efficient New Development Ordinance (MWENDO). - On November 25, 2025, the Board adopted a Resolution recognizing the City of Santa Clara for being the first City to adopt Model Water Efficient New Development Ordinance (MWENDO) Measures. By adopting MWENDO measures through the City's Rules and Regulations, the City demonstrates a proactive approach to maximizing water efficiency, water conservation, and enhancing resilience to local challenges such as climate variability, drought, and potential growth in water demand.

WATER SUPPLY GOAL: Provide a reliable, safe, and affordable water supply for current and future generations in all communities served.	
Objective 1:	Explore and pursue diversified, sustainable and cost-effective water storage opportunities.
Updates:	On August 26, 2025, the Board of Directors voted to suspend development of the Pacheco Reservoir Expansion Project. The decision followed a staff update that identified several challenges, including rising costs, longer timelines for environmental reviews, uncertainty in regulations, and complex permitting processes.
Objective 2:	Secure existing water supplies and water supply infrastructure
Updates:	- In the summer of 2025, Valley Water completed a major upgrade to the Coyote Percolation Dam located in San Jose on Coyote Creek. Valley Water replaced the old flashboard dam with a state-of-the-art inflatable bladder dam. This modern system provides greater control, allowing us to raise or lower the dam to adapt to changing creek conditions. This enables us to maintain recharge operations during low flows and safely pass higher volumes of water during storms. This project also included a revamped fish passage and construction of a new operations control building. - On November 12, 2025 the Board adopted the Water Supply Master Plan 2050 (WSMP). The WSMP is Valley Water's guiding document for long-term water supply investments to ensure water supply reliability for Santa Clara County. Updated approximately every five years, this long-range plan assesses projected future county-wide demands and evaluates and recommends water supply and infrastructure projects to meet those demands to achieve Valley Water's level of service goal through the planning horizon. The plan has been updated to address existing and emerging challenges, like climate change and changes in water demand and supply.

	- On December 9, 2025 the Board accepted the work as complete for the Santa Clara Conduit Inspection and Rehabilitation Project - Phase 2, as part of the 10-Year Pipeline Inspection and Rehabilitation Project. The Santa Clara Conduit (SCC) consists of approximately 22 linear miles of primarily 96-inch prestressed concrete cylinder pipe (PCCP). It conveys raw water from the Bifurcation structure near Casa De Fruta Parkway and Pacheco Pass Highway to the Coyote Pumping Plant in Morgan Hill. - In October 2025 Valley Water started work on a project to inspect and repair the West Pipeline, one of the key parts of our water delivery network. Built in 1966, the West Pipeline carries treated drinking water from the Rinconada Water Treatment Plant in Los Gatos to local water retailers serving communities in Campbell, Cupertino, Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, Los Gatos, Mountain View, Santa Clara, Saratoga, Sunnyvale, and West San Jose. Crews will repair 25 sections along 2.8 miles of the West Pipeline, from More Avenue in Los Gatos to Cox Avenue in Saratoga. The work began in late October 2025 and will continue through April 2026.
Objective 3:	Lead purified water efforts with committed partners.
Updates:	- On September 12, 2025, Valley Water hosted the National Water Research Institute (NWRI) Independent Advisory Panel for a workshop focused on the Pure Water Silicon Valley Project. Staff presented on purified water public outreach efforts and the plans and considerations for the future. - In 2025, staff hosted 1,591 members of the public through 86 in-person tours of the Silicon Valley Advanced Water Purification Center. Since the Purification Center opened in 2014, staff have hosted 21,451 members of the public through 988 tours, including recurring in-person public and private group tours, VIP tours, special events, and virtual tours. - Valley Water is the first agency to bottle purified water for outreach purposes under new regulations established in 2017, the second agency in California, and third in the nation to bottle purified water for outreach and demonstration purposes as part of its comprehensive education program. In 2025, staff distributed 11,064 bottles at Purification Center tours, Valley Water events, community events, and through industry partners. All the purified water bottles were distributed before they expired in October 2025, and staff distributed a total of nearly 16,000 bottles between 2024 and 2025 which has been a great success. Staff are in the process of producing additional purified water bottles for distribution in 2026.
Objective 4:	Complete the Anderson Dam Seismic Retrofit Project.
Updates:	On July 8, 2025, the Board Accept the Work as Complete for the Coyote Percolation Dam Replacement Project. The Coyote Percolation Dam Replacement Project (Project) is one of several Anderson Dam Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Order Compliance Projects (FOCP), which are a set of interim risk reduction measures required prior to the construction and operation of the Anderson Dam Seismic Retrofit Project. The objective of this Project is to minimize the adverse impacts of groundwater recharge and increased creek flow velocity on aquatic resources by replacing the existing steel flashboard dam with a rubber bladder dam. The Project entailed the construction of a new dam foundation and rubber dam, a new control building to house the rubber dam air blowers, constructed erosion protection, and fish passage improvements to the existing fish ladder and downstream dam section.

Objective 5:	Make water conservation a California way of life in Santa Clara County.
Updates:	• On September 23, 2025 the Board directed staff to send a letter to cities in Santa Clara County encouraging participation in water conservation programs and promoting water use efficiency, and specifically encouraging participation in the Model Water Efficient New Development Ordinance (MWENDO). • On November 25, 2025, the Board adopted a Resolution recognizing the City of Santa Clara for being the first City to adopt Model Water Efficient New Development Ordinance (MWENDO) Measures. By adopting MWENDO measures through the City's Rules and Regulations, the City demonstrates a proactive approach to maximizing water efficiency, water conservation, and enhancing resilience to local challenges such as climate variability, drought, and potential growth in water demand.

NATURAL FLOOD PROTECTION	
GOAL: Provide Natural Flood Protection to reduce risk and improve health and safety.	
Objective 1:	Protect people and property from flooding in all regions of the County by applying a comprehensive, integrated watershed management approach that balances environmental quality, environmental justice, sustainability, and cost.
Updates:	• On September 18, 2025, Valley Water carefully relocated an 18,000-pound pedestrian bridge in Morgan Hill to make room for major flood protection improvements along West Little Llagas Creek, ensuring both safety and continued trail access for the community. • On September 25, 2025 Valley Water in collaboration with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the California State Coastal Conservancy, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, marked the completion of Reaches 1 through 3 levees of the South San Francisco Bay Shoreline Phase I Project—a major milestone in the region's effort to protect vulnerable communities and critical infrastructure from coastal flooding and sea-level rise. The milestone marks the construction of two miles of engineered coastal flood protection levee north of State Route 237, between Alviso Marina County Park and Don Edwards Wildlife Refuge. Additionally, this initial phase lays the groundwork for restoring 3,000 acres of tidal wetlands, a vital ecological buffer and habitat for endangered species. • On October 3, 2025 the Coyote Creek Flood Management Measures Project (CCFMMP) was awarded the 2025 Outstanding Flood Management Project Award from the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) San Francisco Section. The award recognized the CCFMMP for demonstrating excellence in its design and construction, specifically for its use of the hydraulic press-in method for the installation of sheet piles to lower construction noise and vibration to minimize impacts to local residents and businesses as well as staying on a tight schedule despite several setbacks. • In October 2025, Valley Water completed its annual Stream Maintenance Program (SMP) work for 2025 throughout Santa Clara County. Under the SMP, work occurs annually to reduce the risk of flooding and fire, keep our creeks healthy, and improve the environment. As part of Valley Water's SMP work, 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. The SMP ensures streams with completed flood protection projects continue functioning and protecting homes, businesses, schools, and highways. • On October 28, 2025, the Board received an update on the San Francisquito Creek Flood Protection Project from the San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority *(SFCJPA) and approved of a portion of Valley Water's Fiscal Year 2025-2026 annual member contribution to the SFCJPA operating budget for "Capital Expenditures".

	• On October 30, 2025 Valley Water’s Office of Emergency Services (OES) hosted its annual Winter Preparedness Workshop for external agencies that included the County of Santa Clara, City of San Jose, City of Palo Alto, City of Milpitas, City of Morgan Hill and many others. The purpose of the workshop is to inform agency partners of Valley Water preparedness efforts for the Winter season. • On November 12, 2025, the Board received its annual Winter Preparedness Briefing which provides information regarding various measures Valley Water has taken to prepare for the Winter season including its flood awareness campaign and community outreach, emergency action planning and coordination with local agencies.
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ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP GOAL: Sustain ecosystem health while managing local water resources for flood protection and water supply.	
Objective 1:	Plan and design projects with multiple benefits, including protecting ecosystem functions, enhancing habitat, and improving connectivity in all regions of the County.
Updates:	• In the summer of 2025, Valley Water completed a major upgrade to the Coyote Percolation Dam located in San Jose on Coyote Creek. Valley Water replaced the old flashboard dam with a state-of-the-art inflatable bladder dam. This modern system provides greater control, allowing us to raise or lower the dam to adapt to changing creek conditions. This enables us to maintain recharge operations during low flows and safely pass higher volumes of water during storms. This project also included a revamped fish passage and construction of a new operations control building. • On September 18, 2025, Valley Water carefully relocated an 18,000-pound pedestrian bridge in Morgan Hill to make room for major flood protection improvements along West Little Llagas Creek, ensuring both safety and continued trail access for the community. • On September 25, 2025 Valley Water in collaboration with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the California State Coastal Conservancy, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, marked the completion of Reaches 1 through 3 levees of the South San Francisco Bay Shoreline Phase I Project—a major milestone in the region’s effort to protect vulnerable communities and critical infrastructure from coastal flooding and sea-level rise. The milestone marks the construction of two miles of engineered coastal flood protection levee north of State Route 237, between Alviso Marina County Park and Don Edwards Wildlife Refuge. Additionally, this initial phase lays the groundwork for restoring 3,000 acres of tidal wetlands, a vital ecological buffer and habitat for endangered species. • In November 2025, Valley Water partnered with Trout Unlimited to remove Pickell’s Dam, once a century-old barrier on Little Arthur Creek that no longer served a purpose but continued to block steelhead migration and disrupt the creek’s natural process. Located about a mile upstream from Uvas Creek, the barrier cut off more than three miles of spawning habitat for South-Central California Coast Steelhead, a species listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. Valley Water funded, permitted and provided biological support for the project, while Trout Unlimited, a national nonprofit with expertise in habitat restoration, managed design and implementation. The National Marine Fisheries Service, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band also played key roles in the effort.

Objective 2:	Protect creeks, bay, and other aquatic ecosystems from threats of pollution and degradation.
Updates:	On September 20, 2025 Valley Water joined forces with the Creek Connections Action Group to remove litter and debris from creeks across Santa Clara County. The effort reflects a shared commitment to protecting the environment, supporting healthy ecosystems and preventing trash from entering our waterways and ultimately, the San Francisco and Monterey bays. Local cleanups were part of the larger effort organized by the California Coastal Commission. This year's cleanups in Santa Clara County saw an incredible turnout: 1,911 volunteers, 56 cleanup sites, 76.15 miles of waterways cleaned, and approximately 30,885 pounds of trash and recyclables collected.
Objective 3:	Complete and implement the Fisheries and Aquatic Habitat Collaborative Effort (FAHCE) agreement.
Updates:	- On November 18, 2025 Valley Water held a Stream Planning and Operations Committee (SPOC) Meeting and received an update from staff on FAHCE implementation activities that have occurred since the last regular SPOC meeting on August 20, 2024 including stakeholder and adaptive management meetings, the completion of the first Annual Monitoring Report, and the release of a public outreach video - On September 11, 2025, Valley Water revised and redistributed to the Adaptive Management Team (AMT) a Draft Annual Report of the implementation of FAHCE-Plus flow measures at Lexington, Calero, Guadalupe, Almaden, and Stevens Creek reservoirs in accordance with the adaptive management framework outlined in the Fish Habitat Restoration Plan. - On October 2, 2025, Valley Water received a first-place STAR Award from the California Association of Public Information Officials (CAPIO) for the video, "A Story of Resilience," showcasing the FAHCE program. The video highlights Valley Water's biologists as they monitor Central California Coast steelhead. The video shows the team collecting critical data on fish populations, using electrofishing and tagging to track juvenile steelhead as they migrate from local creeks through San Francisco Bay to the Pacific Ocean. The video has reached over 75,000 views on Valley Water's social media platforms.

ADDRESSING ENCAMPMENTS OF UNSHELTERED PEOPLE GOAL: Safeguard water resources and facilities from encampment impacts.	
Objective 1:	Protect waterways and facilities from encampment impacts while collaborating with community partners and supporting regional efforts to reduce homelessness.
Updates:	In November 2025, Valley Water worked in collaboration with City of Gilroy officials and law enforcement as well as local unhoused advocates to clear two large encampments in Gilroy that were impacting critical access to nearby creeks. Having safe access to waterways is important as Valley Water prepares for the winter storm season. Additionally, the safety of Valley Water staff who regularly work along County waterways remains a top priority for the agency.
Objective 2:	Protect the safety of Valley Water staff, residential neighbors, and unhoused individuals by working independently and in partnership with law enforcement agencies.
Updates:	In November 2025, Valley Water worked in collaboration with City of Gilroy officials and law enforcement as well as local unhoused advocates to clear two large encampments in Gilroy that were impacting critical access to nearby creeks. Having safe access to waterways is important as Valley Water prepares for the winter storm season. Additionally, the safety of Valley Water staff who regularly work along County waterways remains a top priority for the agency.

EXTREME WEATHER EVENTS GOAL: Mitigate carbon emissions and adapt Valley Water operations to extreme weather events.	
Objective:	Address future impacts of extreme weather events to Valley Water’s mission and operations.
Updates:	On June 9, 2025, Valley Water’s Board Policy and Monitoring Committee received an update on Valley Water’s Draft Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan (GHGRP), including baseline emissions inventory, emissions forecast, emissions reduction measures for achieving carbon neutrality by 2045, and stakeholder input received on the Draft GHGRP.

BUSINESS MANAGEMENT GOAL: Promote effective management of water supply, flood protection, and environmental stewardship through responsive and socially responsible business services.	
Objective 1:	Maintain budgeted staffing levels and expertise, prioritize the safety of our staff, and build and sustain a collaborative working environment for all staff and partners while ensuring fair employment.
Updates:	On December 10, 2025 Valley Water Human Resources staff gave a presentation to the Board Policy and Monitoring Committee on the agency’s commitment and efforts to creating equitable hiring opportunities for U.S. military veterans, including implementing a Veteran Hiring Pledge, publishing a dedicated Valley Water Veteran career page, instituting a Veteran preference at the application stage, and targeted outreach to veterans groups.
Objective 2:	Provide affordable and cost-effective level of services.
Updates:	- On October 30, 2025, Valley Water hosted its Procurement “Meet the Primes” event in the Water Quality Lab parking lot. The two-hour event brought together more than 100 businesses, including prime consultants and contractors, sub-consultants, sub-contractors, and suppliers. The purpose of the event was to create a direct connection between small and diverse businesses and Valley Water staff, while also promoting collaboration among vendors. This initiative supports Valley Water’s ongoing commitment to expanding access to contracting and to strengthening the vendor community that supports our projects and programs. - On November 11, 2025 the Board received information from two consultants who together performed a study to validate or suggest refinements to Valley Water’s current water use projections for Valley Water-managed water use, analyze water demand elasticity, and determine or address the affordability of water to residents and businesses within Santa Clara County. The study showed Valley Water’s approach to projecting water use is consistent with peers and based on multiple affordability indicators, residential water bills are generally below threshold levels. - On December 9, 2025 the Board approved the proposed audit topics and auditor assignments for the 2026 Annual Audit Plan, including the development of the 2026 Risk Assessment, evaluating Valley Water’s infrastructure maintenance programs, conducting a Pacheco Reservoir Expansion Project closeout audit, and evaluating the investigations process.

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Valley Water

FY 2025-26

Board Work Plan

Chair's Message

At the Santa Clara Valley Water District, we are entrusted to deliver clean, safe water, protect our communities from flooding, and care for the environment that sustains Santa Clara County's two million residents and businesses.

As your elected representatives, our objective is to keep water rates as affordable as possible while supporting the economic vitality and quality of life that defines Silicon Valley. The Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Board Work Plan serves as our strategic roadmap for achieving these goals in the year ahead.

This year's work plan outlines key actions and milestones for several high-priority water supply and flood protection projects, including the Anderson Dam Seismic Retrofit Project, the South San Francisco Bay Shoreline Project, the Upper Llagas Creek Flood Protection Project, and the Coyote Creek Flood Protection Project. It also highlights our progress toward long-term investments in water reliability, most notably through the anticipated completion of the Water Supply Master Plan 2050, which will serve as a guiding framework for ensuring a resilient water supply for generations to come.

We also remain committed to addressing the complex challenge of encampments along our waterways. In partnership with local agencies and community partners, we are taking a coordinated approach that includes enforcing the Water Resources Protection Zone Ordinance, pursuing the development of interagency Memoranda of Agreement, and conducting large-scale trash cleanups on Valley Water lands.

While our primary role as a Board is to set policy, we are equally dedicated to overseeing the effective implementation of these efforts—ensuring that resources are allocated efficiently, responsibilities are clear, and all actions align with our Governance Policies.

It is an honor to serve as Board Chair this year. Together, we will continue building on our shared mission to provide safe, secure, and sustainable water resources for all who live and work in Santa Clara County.



Tony Estremera
Board Chair
Santa Clara Valley Water District



Valley Water

Founded in 1929, the Santa Clara Valley Water District (Valley Water) is the primary water resources agency for Santa Clara County, with key water supply, water quality, flood protection, and environmental stewardship responsibilities.

Valley Water Mission

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

Values

1. Valley Water is entrusted to serve the public by carrying out its mission for the benefit of the community.
2. Valley Water is committed to providing excellent service to all customers.
3. All individuals are unique and important, and will be treated with fairness, dignity, and respect.
4. Valley Water takes pride in its work and is accountable to carry out its responsibilities safely with honesty and integrity.
5. Initiative, leadership, personal development, and training are vital for continuous improvement.
6. Open communication, cooperation, and teamwork are shared responsibilities and essential to the successful performance of Valley Water's work.
7. Valley Water is committed to creating an inclusive work environment, which reflects and supports the diversity of the community and enriches our perspectives.
8. Valley Water strives to support a work culture and workplace environment that attracts and retains superior employees empowered to make decisions about, and take responsibility for, how they do their jobs.
9. Valley Water is committed to its employees and supports market-based competitive compensation that is equitable and rewards accomplishment and encourages high performance.
10. Valley Water is committed to sustaining a healthy work-life balance for its employees and places a high value on all the things that provide enrichment and fulfillment, including work and career, health and fitness, family and relationships, spirituality, community service, hobbies and passions, intellectual stimulation, rest and recreation.

Board of Directors

The Santa Clara Valley Water District Board of Directors (Board) is comprised of seven members, each elected from equally-divided districts. Specific job outputs of the Board include connecting with the community in Santa Clara County, developing policies to further Valley Water’s mission, and monitoring the performance of the organization.

The Board governs with an emphasis on outward vision, encouragement of diversity in viewpoints, strategic leadership more than administrative detail, and proactivity rather than reactivity.

The Board meets twice a month on the second and fourth Tuesday. All meetings are conducted in accordance with the Brown Act.



John L. Varela
District 1



Shiloh Ballard
District 2



Richard Santos
Vice Chair, District 3



Jim Beall
District 4



Nai Hsueh
District 5



Tony Estremera
Chair, District 6



Rebecca Eisenberg
District 7

Board Committees

The Board of Directors has established Board Committees and Board Advisory Committees to assist in performing its job. Committees meet regularly and are conducted in accordance with the Brown Act.

Board Committees:

- Board Audit Committee
- Board Policy and Monitoring Committee
- Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Committee
- Environmental Creek Cleanup Committee
- Joint Recycled Water Advisory Committee with the City of Sunnyvale
- Joint Recycled Water Policy Advisory Committee with the Cities of San Jose and Santa Clara
- Joint Recycled Water Policy Committee with the Cities of Palo Alto, East Palo Alto, and Mountain View
- Joint Water Resources Committee with the Cities of Morgan Hill and Gilroy

- Recycled Water Committee
- San Felipe Division Reach One Committee
- Stream Planning and Operations Committee (SPOC)
- Water Supply and Demand Management Committee

Board Advisory Committees:

- Agricultural Water Advisory Committee
- Environmental and Water Resources Committee
- Santa Clara Valley Water Commission
- Santa Clara Valley Water District Youth Commission



Purpose of the Board Work Plan

The purpose of the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Board Work Plan is to inform the public, community and stakeholders about the Board's strategic focus and how it supports Valley Water's mission and long-term goals and objectives.

To perform its job, the Board adheres to established Board Governance Policies. Included in the Board Governance Policies are Ends Policies, which are long-term goals and objectives for each of Valley Water's core business areas (Water Supply, Natural Flood Protection, Water Resources Stewardship, and Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation).

Every year, the Board conducts planning sessions to evaluate their goals, objectives, challenges, and opportunities, and identifies the specific areas requiring tactical engagement for the upcoming fiscal year. The Board outlines their focus areas and process for monitoring progress in the Board Work Plan.

Throughout the year, the Board provides input, direction, and oversight on Valley Water's budget, Capital Improvement Program, and other program plans and master plans to ensure there is funding and support to accomplish Valley Water's mission. Strategy implementation is monitored by the Board through Executive Limitation requirements, staff-developed programs and plans, assigned Board Committee work, and Board Appointed Officer performance evaluations.



FY 2025–26 Board Work Plan Goals

		
Integrated Water Resources Management	Water Supply	Natural Flood Protection
GOAL: <i>Efficiently manage water resources across business areas.</i>	GOAL: <i>Provide a reliable, safe, and affordable water supply for current and future generations in all communities served.</i>	GOAL: <i>Provide natural flood protection to reduce risk and improve health and safety.</i>

			
Environmental Stewardship	Addressing Encampments of Unsheltered People	Extreme Weather Events	Business Management
GOAL: <i>Sustain ecosystem health while managing local water resources for flood protection and water supply.</i>	GOAL: <i>Safeguard water resources and facilities from encampment impacts..</i>	GOAL: <i>Mitigate carbon emissions and adapt Valley Water operations to extreme weather events.</i>	GOAL: <i>Promote effective management of water supply, flood protection, and environmental stewardship through responsive and socially responsible business services.</i>



INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

GOAL: *Efficiently manage water resources across business areas.*

Objective 1	Protect and maintain existing assets and infrastructure and advance new projects.
Challenge/ Opportunity	The maintenance of Valley Water's infrastructure is crucial to ensuring we continue to provide safe, clean water and critical flood protection for our communities. Timely maintenance is the most cost-effective investment, whereas deferred maintenance disproportionately increases costs and may result in unplanned outages and failures. In addition, there is a list of assets that are reaching the end of their design life and will require significant recapitalization.
FY26 Tactics	- Finalize the Wildfire Risk Assessment and Modeling Framework Project to delineate wildfire risk profiles associated with Valley Water land rights and High-Value Resources and Assets and establish a primary decision-making tool for the identification and implementation of fuel load reduction projects. - Advance high-priority infrastructure renewal projects identified through asset management planning efforts by initiating new Capital or Small Capital Projects, or by conducting work as part of ongoing operations and maintenance projects. - Plan, manage, and expediently execute adopted Capital program and projects, and deliver through project completion.
Monitoring	- Board Policy and Monitoring Committee - Capital Improvement Program Committee
Related Staff Plans	- Watershed Master Plans - Watershed Asset Management Plan - Countywide Water Reuse Master Plan (CoRe Plan) - Water Supply Master Plan - Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program - Water Treatment Plant Master Plan Implementation Project - Distribution System Master Plan Implementation Project - SCADA Master Plan Implementation Project - Water Utility Five-Year Operations and Maintenance and Asset Renewal Plans - District-wide Asset Management Plan - San Felipe Division Reach 1 FY24 Asset Condition Report - Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Five-Year Plan





INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

Objective 2	Improve internal capability to negotiate and acquire regulatory permits.
Challenge/ Opportunity	Valley Water continues to face increased project costs and extended timelines due to sometimes conflicting regulatory mandates from external agencies. Valley Water continues to pursue legislative and administrative solutions to resolve regulatory and permitting issues at the federal and state levels. Efforts should focus on staff capability and expertise, and the ability to negotiate effectively and build positive relationships with key regulatory agencies.
FY26 Tactics	• Continue to pursue efforts at the state and federal level to expedite permit review. • Keep local, state, and federal legislators up to date on critical projects in case escalation is necessary. • Continue to foster relationships at all levels within regulatory agencies and maintain an open dialogue with environmental and other interested parties. • Seek regulatory and environmental community network support during the planning phase of CIP projects, during watershed master planning, and through direct coordination at environmental community network meetings. • Continue to work with the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) under the terms of our Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), as well as the State Water Resources Control Board as applicable, to ensure that they protect water supply and water quality interests consistent with their authority.
Monitoring	• Board Policy and Monitoring Committee • Capital Improvement Program Committee • Stream Planning and Operations Committee • Water Supply and Demand Management Committee
Related Staff Plans	• Watershed Master Plans • Capital Project Planning Studies (e.g. Ogier Ponds, San Tomas Calabazas Creek-Marsh Reconnection, Guadalupe Tasman – I-880, Shoreline Planning Studies)





INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

Objective 3	Educate and engage the community, elected officials and interested parties on our management of water resources in Santa Clara County.
Challenge/ Opportunity	A reliable supply of clean water is necessary for the social, economic, and environmental wellbeing of Santa Clara County. Valley Water must effectively communicate with the public on our management of water resources around several key issues including: the cost of water, the public perception of costs of different types of water, how to effectively implement our water supply strategies into the future, as well as our flood protection and environmental stewardship efforts.
FY26 Tactics	• Continue to apply strategies for effective community/partner engagement and education. • Continue increasing efforts to educate the public about the mix of different types of water in Valley Water's portfolio, as well as our flood protection and environmental stewardship efforts. • Engage directly with local government jurisdictions through strategic meetings. • Continue engagement with cities on flood plain management and emergency action plans • Directly involve the Valley Water Board of Directors, local area partners, retailers, and the public with the development of the Water Supply Master Plan 2050. Share the plan widely at the phase where project alternatives are considered, key issues such as the cost of water, reliability of our infrastructure, and strategies for implementing different improvement projects with varying levels of service will be explained through public meetings. • Engage the community in water resources management through the Watershed Master Planning Process. • Ensure robust outreach and engagement of interested parties as it relates to the CIP. • Engage elected officials with an annual VIP Water Walk Tour, including but not limited to, a legislative briefing as part of the program..
Monitoring	• Board of Directors • Capital Improvement Program Committee • Recycled Water Committee
Related Staff Plans	• Water Supply Master Plan • Watershed Master Plans • Countywide Water Reuse Master Plan • Water Treatment Plant Master Plan • Distribution System Master Plan





WATER SUPPLY

GOAL: *Provide a reliable, safe, and affordable water supply for current and future generations in all communities served.*

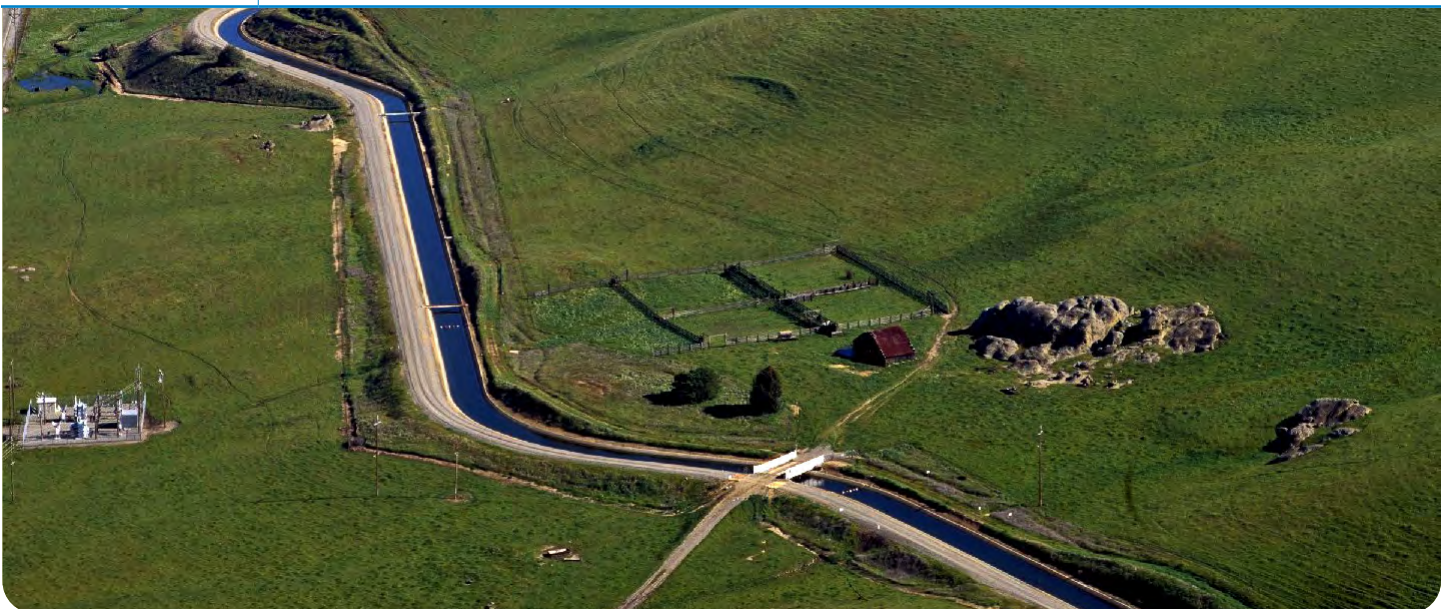
Objective 1	Explore and pursue diversified, sustainable and cost-effective water storage opportunities.
Challenge/ Opportunity	Half of Santa Clara County's water supply is imported from outside the county. During years when water is plentiful, Valley Water may not be able to take advantage of these supplies due to limitations in existing storage and transmission infrastructure as well as regulatory constraints. Having a diverse portfolio of storage and supply options helps Valley Water be resilient. Therefore, Valley Water is evaluating whether diversifying its storage portfolio could help maximize our use of storage and stored water recovery under future conditions. Water storage in reservoirs also provides environmental, recreational, and incidental flood risk reduction benefits. Challenges include influencing project development to ensure important benefits are realized, determining the appropriate level of participation for Valley Water in collaborative water storage projects and prioritizing projects within funding constraints. In addition, Valley Water is evaluating water supply projects, such as direct potable reuse, regional/state projects, and water conservation.
FY26 Tactics	• Explore opportunities to develop new surface and groundwater storage projects that help Valley Water meet future water supply needs and provide resiliency to extreme weather events. • Finalize the Water Supply Master Plan 2050 to provide information on participation levels, water supply benefits and costs of various portfolios to support water supply project and partnership decisions, as well as cost of water shortage. • Identify and secure appropriate participation levels for projects and make decisions about partnerships informed by the Water Supply Master Plan 2050 and water affordability analyses. • Evaluate Valley Water's continued participation in water storage projects at project-specific milestones and as part of the Water Supply Master Plan process, annual MAP updates, and bi-annual budget development.
Monitoring	• Water Supply and Demand Management Committee • Recycled Water Committee • CIP Committee
Related Staff Plans	• Water Supply Master Plan • Annual Monitoring and Assessment Program (MAP) Updates





WATER SUPPLY

Objective 2	Secure existing water supplies and water supply infrastructure
Challenge/ Opportunity	The Water Supply Master Plan’s “Ensure Sustainability” strategy includes securing existing water supplies and infrastructure. Valley Water’s local and imported water supplies are vulnerable to extreme weather events, droughts, earthquakes, and regulatory requirements that may restrict the amount of available water.
FY26 Tactics	▪ Participate in and influence decisions regarding the Delta Conveyance Project. ▪ Participate in regional water supply resilience efforts. ▪ Build and maintain effective partnerships to increase resiliency. ▪ Complete and implement infrastructure master plans and asset management plans. ▪ Partner with the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) to ensure reliability of the South Bay Aqueduct. ▪ Continue environmental planning & permitting process and advance the design of the Calero Dam Seismic Retrofit Project ▪ Continue environmental planning & permitting process and advance the design of the Guadalupe Dam Seismic Retrofit Project
Monitoring	▪ Water Supply and Demand Management Committee (Groundwater) ▪ CIP Committee (infrastructure projects)
Related Staff Plans	▪ Water Supply Master Plan ▪ Groundwater Management Plan ▪ Infrastructure and Asset Management Plans





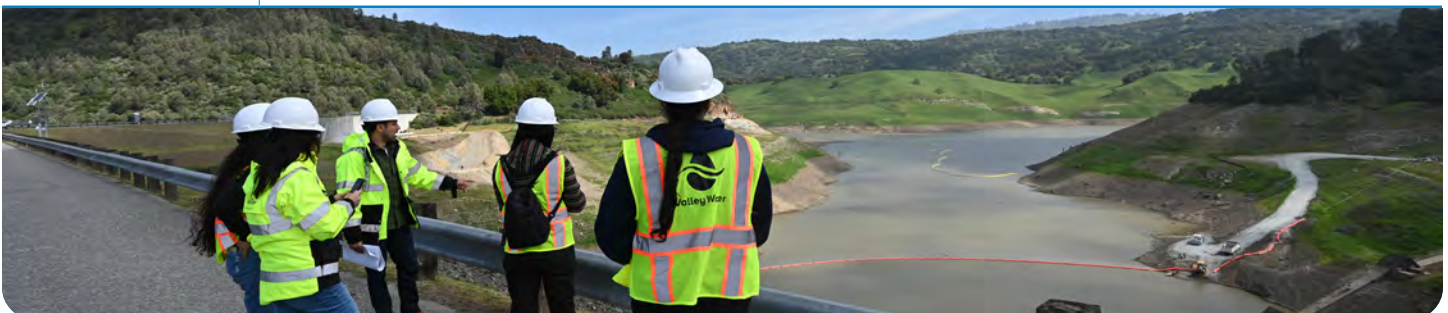
WATER SUPPLY

Objective 3	Lead Purified Water Efforts with committed partners.
Challenge/ Opportunity	Recycled and purified water is a drought resilient, locally controlled water supply important to long-term sustainability. Purified water is advanced treated wastewater that has been treated further using reverse osmosis and other advanced treatment to make it fit for drinking. Valley Water is pursuing direct potable reuse which would use this purified water in the raw water supply or directly serve it to customers. Implementation challenges include securing wastewater supply contractual agreements with wastewater agencies, available land, stringent regulatory requirements, and implementation costs.
FY26 Tactics	• Continue developing Pure Water Silicon Valley, including initiating design for a demonstration facility, validation of a full-scale facility as a validated CIP project, and completion of a project charter and exclusive negotiation agreement for land for the full-scale facility by FY26. • Implement the Countywide Water Reuse Master Plan. • Develop a Comprehensive Water Reuse Agreement or amend the existing agreements for South County to advance water reuse and its production, distribution, and wholesaling in South County. • Continue to pursue recycled water grant funding, and complete project-specific feasibility studies to advance federal grant opportunities. • Continue working with the Palo Alto Regional Wastewater Facility and City of Sunnyvale on recycled and purified water projects. • Continue to expand communications strategies to increase public awareness and acceptance of the Purified Water Program. • Increase outreach to interested parties such as elected officials, chambers of commerce, environmental groups, and community organizations to increase support for the expansion of purified water for potable reuse.
Monitoring	• Recycled Water Committee • Joint Recycled Water Advisory Committee with the City of Sunnyvale • Joint Recycled Water Policy Advisory Committee with the Cities of San Jose and Santa Clara • Joint Recycled Water Policy Committee with the cities of Palo Alto, East Palo Alto and Mountain View • Joint Water Resources Committee with Cities of Morgan Hill and Gilroy
Related Staff Plans	• Water Supply Master Plan • Countywide Water Reuse Master Plan





Objective 4	Complete the Anderson Dam Seismic Retrofit Project.
Challenge/ Opportunity	As our largest reservoir, Anderson serves not only as a critical water supply facility, but also supports Valley Water's mission of flood protection and environmental stewardship. Given the reservoir's critical importance to ensuring safe, clean water for our communities and to protect public safety, it is imperative that the Anderson Dam Seismic Retrofit Project (ADSRP) move forward expeditiously. This includes the reconstruction of the Dam and completion of the interim risk reduction measures resulting from the February 20, 2020, directive from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC).
FY26 Tactics	▪ Maintain the Anderson Reservoir level in compliance with the FERC mandate. ▪ Continue the construction on the Anderson Dam Tunnel Project (ADTP). ▪ Complete the design documents of the ADSRP. ▪ Continue the procurement process for ADSRP; award the Construction Management Services contract and advertise the Construction contract. ▪ Continue to work with appropriate regulatory agencies to advance the ADSRP. ▪ Pursue necessary permits for ADSRP construction. ▪ Continue to educate and engage the public, key partners, decision makers, and elected officials of the project progress and construction timeline. ▪ Coordinate ADSRP operations with the Fisheries and Aquatic Habitat Collaborative Effort (FAHCE). ▪ Compile lessons learned during the construction of the ADTP to inform ADSRP and future capital project delivery.
Monitoring	▪ Capital Improvement Program Committee. ▪ Stream Planning and Operations Committee
Related Staff Plans	▪ Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program ▪ Fish Habitat Restoration Plan ▪ Coyote Feasibility Study ▪ Water Supply Master Plan ▪ Capital Improvement Program ▪ Ogier Ponds Feasibility Study





WATER SUPPLY

Objective 5	Make water conservation a California way of life in Santa Clara County.
Challenge/ Opportunity	Droughts are a recurring feature of California’s climate and may intensify with extreme weather events. Water conservation is an essential component in providing a reliable water supply and Valley Water has set an aggressive water conservation goal for annual water savings of 99,000 acre-feet (AF) by 2030 and 110,000 AF by 2040, and 126,000 AF by 2050. As Valley Water faces challenges from extreme weather events and drought, water conservation will continue to be amongst the most cost-effective tools for efficiently meeting current and future demands while mitigating droughts. By implementing the guiding principles in the Board’s resolution calling for conservation as a way of life on June 13, 2023, Valley Water will continue encouraging water conservation as a life-long habit and seek to keep drought-level participation and engagement in conservation programs.
FY26 Tactics	• Continue achieving water savings from the public and minimize water use rebound increasing to pre-drought levels through continued water waste restriction enforcement, year-round educational outreach, media campaigns and effective water conservation campaigns to encourage conservation as a way of life. • Increase collaboration with our retailer partners to promote Valley Water’s water conservation programs and to obtain needed data to better target programs. • Engage and support private-sector organizations, local, state, and federal agencies that promote water conservation. • Increase participation of local businesses and corporations so they may partake in conservation efforts and programs, including compliance with new restrictions on watering CII nonfunctional turf through continued partnerships with: (1), BAWSCA to host a series of workshops to support regional water retailers’ compliance with water efficiency related state regulations, including the Conservation Framework and the ban on irrigating non-functional turf; and (2), CalWEP to provide funding for and collaborate on the development of a non-functional turf toolkit intended to equip water retailers with resources that promote consistent approaches, guidelines, and outreach messaging for the various stakeholder groups affected by the ban • Ensure water conservation programs are available to all sectors of the community and support renters, seniors, and U.S. veterans. • Develop and implement a Drought Response Plan with support and input from our retailer partners and the broader community. • Continue to pursue the “no regrets” package, which addresses advanced metering infrastructure, Graywater Rebate Program expansion, leak repair incentives, and stormwater capture (agricultural land recharge, stormwater recharge, rain barrel rebates, and rain garden rebates). • Continue to advocate with cities to promote Valley Water’s water conservation programs to residents and businesses and renew and develop additional cost-share agreements with cities for Valley Water’s various conservation programs.
Monitoring	• Water Supply and Demand Management Committee
Related Staff Plans	• Water Conservation Strategic Plan • Stormwater Resource Plans • Water Supply Master Plan • Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program



NATURAL FLOOD PROTECTION

GOAL: *Provide natural flood protection to reduce risk and improve health and safety.*

Objective 1	Protect people and property from flooding in all regions of the County, by applying a comprehensive, integrated watershed management approach that balances environmental quality, environmental justice, sustainability, and cost.
Challenge/ Opportunity	Valley Water is challenged to sustain ecosystem health while managing local water resources for flood protection and water supply. By using an integrated approach to planning and design, there is an opportunity to create flood protection projects with multiple benefits, while ensuring schools, senior centers, and group homes for youth and individuals with disabilities, etc., are all represented.
FY26 Tactics	▪ Strengthen partnerships with the county and local municipalities to improve collaboration and coordination on flood protection projects and areas that are subject to flooding. ▪ Finalize Subsequent Environmental Impact Report (SEIR) for the Stream Maintenance Program 2026-2036 (SMP-3). ▪ Complete Flood Vulnerability Assessments for the Lower Peninsula and West Valley Watersheds to address risks to health and safety and locations where infrastructure is no longer meeting the design level of service. ▪ Ensure active participation by county and local municipal governments in the watershed master planning process. ▪ Complete construction of Reaches 1-3 of the Shoreline Phase I Project and pursue funding alternatives for Reaches 4-5 to provide 100-year coastal flood risk management, ecosystem restoration, recreational opportunities, and resiliency for sea level rise. ▪ Continue construction for Upper Llagas Creek Flood Protection Project Phase 2B and work with NRCS to identify additional funding beyond the \$80M for the project secured in FY25. ▪ Continue construction for the Palo Alto Flood Basin Project, a repair project to replace six hydraulic flap gates and includes seismic retrofit and rehabilitation work. ▪ Advance the Sunnyvale East/West Channels Project into construction to provide 100-year storm water flood protection. ▪ Work with USACE to design the Upper Guadalupe River Project for 100-year flood protection, while also evaluating smaller-scale interim projects, developing an implementation strategy, and pursuing potential grant funding. ▪ Continue to partner with the San Francisquito Joint Powers Authority (JPA) on the San Francisquito Creek upstream 101 Project. ▪ Determine what policy role Valley Water should play with the San Francisquito Creek JPA, including determining what entity should be responsible for ongoing operations and maintenance. ▪ Continue design and construction of the Coyote Creek Flood Protection Project and ongoing plant maintenance of Coyote Creek Flood Management Measures Project.
Monitoring	▪ Capital Improvement Program Committee ▪ Board Policy and Planning Committee ▪ Safe Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program Independent Monitoring Committee
Related Staff Plans	▪ Watershed Master Plans ▪ Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program ▪ CIP Five-Year Plan ▪ Stream Maintenance Program



ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

GOAL: *Sustain ecosystem health while managing local water resources for flood protection and water supply.*

Objective 1	Plan and design projects with multiple benefits, including protecting ecosystem functions, enhancing habitat, and improving connectivity in all regions of the County.
Challenge/ Opportunity	Valley Water’s projects and programs require integrated planning to ensure capital improvements, operations, and maintenance activities are balanced with environmental stewardship goals. Valley Water strives to protect and restore habitats to support native species throughout Santa Clara County.
FY26 Tactics	• Continue to develop West Valley and Lower Peninsula watershed master plans, including appropriate metrics to monitor Valley Water’s impacts on and benefit to the environment. • Complete Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Reduction Plan as part of the Extreme Weather Events Action Plan implementation. • Complete the Planning Study Report for the Calabazas/San Tomas Aquino (STA) Creek-Marsh Connection Project (Creek-Marsh Connection Project). • Complete the Ogier Ponds Separation from Coyote Creek Planning Study Report. • Complete the Moffett Fish Ladder Planning Study Report and continue design for the preferred alternative. • Begin construction of Pond A4 Resilient Habitat Restoration Project Phase 1, including staging area construction and initial mudflat creation. • Continue to develop and build on partnerships with environmental organizations and tribal communities when developing projects.
Monitoring	• Board Policy and Monitoring Committee • Capital Improvement Committee • Stream Planning and Operations Committee
Related Staff Plans	• Watershed Master Plans • Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan • Extreme Weather Events Action Plan • CIP Five-Year Plan





ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

Objective 2	Protect creeks, bay, and other aquatic ecosystems from threats of pollution and degradation.
Challenge/ Opportunity	Valley Water continues to coordinate with local cities and agencies to improve the health of our local waterways, including pollution prevention and addressing threats to water quality. Opportunities exist to further collaborate with the County, cities, and social services agencies on encampment management efforts and to develop long-term solutions for unhoused individuals to keep our creeks clean.
FY26 Tactics	• Continue efforts to protect the ecosystem and water quality of our water bodies and the integrity of our infrastructure. Such efforts include preventing stormwater pollution, increased implementation of green stormwater infrastructure, addressing mercury pollution, encampment clean ups, and other efforts under Safe Clean Water B and F priorities. • Continue to manage the Portable Toilet Facility Program to reduce bio-waste discharges into the waterways. • Continue partnerships and investments on a regional scale such as the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration and Santa Clara Valley Urban Runoff Pollution Prevention Program (SCVURPPP). • Continue opportunities for volunteers to support cleanup efforts and events. • Support legislative efforts to eliminate or reduce waste entering waterways. • Pursue MOAs with local agencies and the County to holistically manage encampments on waterways.
Monitoring	• Environmental Creek Cleanup Committee
Related Staff Plans	• Watershed Master Plans • Santa Clara Valley Urban Runoff Pollution Prevention Program • Stormwater Resource Plan • Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program





ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

Objective 3	Complete and implement the Fisheries and Aquatic Habitat Collaborative Effort (FAHCE) agreement.
Challenge/ Opportunity	For over 25 years, Valley Water has been working to resolve compliance challenges and disagreements surrounding fish, wildlife, water quality, and other beneficial uses in Coyote Creek, Guadalupe River, and Stevens Creek watershed areas. Challenges to fully implementing the FAHCE agreement include obtaining federal and state permits from multiple regulatory agencies, refining and processing water rights change petitions, the technical complexity of the fisheries impacts analysis, coordination with other ongoing related projects, and managing expectations of interested parties.
FY26 Tactics	▪ Continue to implement the FAHCE Plus flow measures. ▪ Continue to implement feasibility studies, monitoring activities, and planning for various fish passage and habitat improvements as identified in existing Settlement Agreement. ▪ Continue fisheries monitoring program. ▪ Continue to support an adaptive management program that encompasses all three creeks. ▪ Continue coordination with the ADSRP project. ▪ Continue to plan and design phase 1 non-flow measures at Ogier Ponds and Moffett Fish Ladder.
Monitoring	▪ Stream Planning and Operations Committee
Related Staff Plans	▪ FAHCE Annual Monitoring Report ▪ Fish Habitat Restoration Plan for Coyote Creek, Guadalupe River, and Stevens Creek Watersheds ▪ Seismic Retrofit Programs for Dam Safety ▪ Aquatic habitat restoration plans/feasibility studies/site-specific improvements affecting all three watersheds (e.g., Countywide Large Woody Debris Program) ▪ Collaborative agreements for in-stream habitat improvements (e.g., collaboration with County Parks) ▪ Watershed Master Plans ▪ Ogier Ponds Planning Study Report





ADDRESSING ENCAMPMENTS OF UNSHELTERED PEOPLE

GOAL: *Safeguard water resources and facilities from encampment impacts.*

Objective 1	Protect waterways and facilities from encampment impacts while collaborating with community partners and supporting regional efforts to reduce homelessness.
Challenge/ Opportunity	Valley Water is challenged to protect waterways, water supply facilities, and flood risk reduction infrastructure from the impacts of encampments, which include discharge of trash, debris, biowaste, and other hazardous materials, soil erosion, and wildfire risks, as well as damage to flood protection infrastructure and environmental mitigation sites. Opportunities exist to collaborate with local governments, service providers, and unsheltered people to reduce these impacts and to support regional efforts that provide housing and services for unsheltered individuals.
FY26 Tactics	• Continue large scale trash cleanups on Valley Water lands to reduce encampment-generated pollution. • Enforce the Water Resources Protection Zones (WRPZ) Ordinance to address high-priority health, safety, and environmental hazards. • Provide outreach on Encampment Condition Guidelines to promote safer practices. • Continue management of the Portable Toilet Facility Program to reduce bio-waste discharges. • Continue to provide waste receptacles in heavily impacted encampment areas as needed. • Continue to support the provision of outreach services through the agreement with the Santa Clara County Office of Supportive Housing. • Continue geospatial mapping of encampments on Valley Water lands to monitor intervention effectiveness. • Explore joint committees, MOAs, or other partnerships with agencies to address encampments collaboratively. • Coordinate with agency and private partners on land use opportunities to support emergency or transitional housing. • Explore state legislation and policy opportunities to support the expansion of housing and service options for unsheltered individuals. • Pursue state and federal grants with local partners in support of efforts to develop low-barrier navigation centers, supportive housing, transitional housing, and affordable housing. • Pursue rehabilitation and restoration of encampment-related environmental impacts under the Stream Maintenance Program (SMP).
Monitoring	• Environmental Creek Cleanup Committee
Related Staff Plans	• Water Resources Protection Zones Ordinance Implementation Plan



ADDRESSING ENCAMPMENTS OF UNSHELTERED PEOPLE

Objective 2	Protect the safety of Valley Water staff, residential neighbors, and unsheltered individuals by working independently and in partnership with law enforcement agencies.
Challenge/ Opportunity	There are serious safety concerns for staff, residential neighbors, and unsheltered individuals in and around encampments on Valley Water lands. Hazards include threats, aggressive behavior, exposure to weapons and dangerous animals, wildfire from campfires, solar panels, and propane tanks, and flood risks that can cause serious injury or death. Opportunities exist to expand the use of technology and strengthen collaborations with law enforcement agencies, the District Attorney's Office, and local municipalities to improve incident response and manage risks to enhance safety for all.
FY26 Tactics	• Utilize geospatial tracking and critical event notifications to provide staff with real-time security advisories. • Continue working with local law enforcement to support staff safety, including maintaining the Stream Stewardship Law Enforcement agreement with San Jose Police Department. • Collaborate with law enforcement and the Santa Clara County District Attorney's Office to enforce WRPZ Ordinance prohibitions, especially for high priority violations that impact safety. • Pursue restraining orders against individuals who threaten staff. • Continue weed abatement and fuel reduction work around encampments to reduce wildfire risks. • Pursue MOAs with local municipalities and the County to improve incident response and address activities that threaten the safety of staff and the public.
Monitoring	• Environmental Creek Cleanup Committee
Related Staff Plans	• Water Resources Protection Zones Ordinance Implementation Plan





EXTREME WEATHER EVENTS

GOAL: *Mitigate carbon emissions and adapt Valley Water operations to extreme weather events.*

Objective 1	Address future impacts of extreme weather events to Valley Water's mission and operations.
Challenge/ Opportunity	Valley Water's ability to fulfill its mission will be challenged in the future by warmer temperatures, changing precipitation patterns, reduced snowpack, and rising sea levels. Valley Water has been working on greenhouse reduction efforts since 2008 and many adaptation actions over the past decade; however, with adoption of the Extreme Weather Events Action Plan there is an opportunity for greater impact.
FY26 Tactics	- Finalize Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Reduction Plan which updates GHG inventory methodology to include all Valley Water activities and identifies specific, measurable actions to reduce emissions and streamline CEQA for future capital projects. - Continue to monitor progress on adaptation actions as identified in the Extreme Weather Events Action Plan and support high priority projects such as the South San Francisco Bay Shoreline project. - Ensure incorporation of environmental justice (EJ) considerations into planning and processes to support mitigation of carbon emissions and impact from extreme weather events. - Complete Valley Water carbon sequestration program to offset emissions from capital projects.
Monitoring	Board Policy and Monitoring Committee
Related Staff Plans	- Extreme Weather Events Action Plan - Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan





BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

GOAL: *Promote effective management of water supply, flood protection, and environmental stewardship through responsive and socially responsible business services.*

Objective 1	Maintain appropriate staffing levels and expertise, prioritize the safety of our staff, and build and sustain a collaborative working environment for all staff and partners while ensuring fair employment.
Challenge/ Opportunity	The Board recognizes that Valley Water’s workforce is the critical component to providing clean, safe drinking water, effective flood protection, and environmental stewardship. The Board therefore remains committed to supporting the recruitment of capable employees with knowledge and subject matter expertise, investing in staff training to meet changing skills and capacity needs, developing the necessary policies and guidance that strengthen employee safety, and establishing Valley Water as an employer of choice.
FY26 Tactics	• Continue to implement initiatives that will expand hiring outreach to individuals that are disabled or have health conditions/impairments, military veterans, and formerly incarcerated individuals, with an emphasis on hiring from the local region. • Continue to implement next generation and career pathways program to provide internal and external development for professional growth. • Advance the development of a skilled trades apprenticeship program. • Maximize the safety of staff working in creeks, encampments, and Valley Water facilities, and continue to promote health & safety guidance to protect staff from public health emergencies and environmental impacts.
Monitoring	• Board Policy and Monitoring Committee
Related Staff Plans	





BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

Objective 2	Provide affordable and cost-effective level of services.
Challenge/ Opportunity	The Board understands its responsibility to regularly evaluate and monitor Valley Water’s financial status to ensure the level of services provided are reasonable and cost effective. As such, driving continual improvement efforts are key to delivering affordable and effective services while controlling expectations regarding what Valley Water can achieve and what it can afford to do. In addition, the affordability of water continues to be a major issue faced by communities across the nation. The Board has an opportunity to raise issues around water affordability at local and statewide levels and advocate for changes that benefit all communities.
FY26 Tactics	• Complete 3-4 Board-initiated or management-initiated performance audits, or other performance improvement efforts, benchmarking studies, or best practice implementations. • Establish Valley Water as a statewide leader in conversations around water affordability. • Continue to seek and obtain grants and funding from federal, state and other sources. • Continue to fund a residential water rate assistance program.
Monitoring	• Board Audit Committee
Related Staff Plans	• Operating and Capital Budget • Board and Management Audit Reports



Appendix A

Board Governance Policies/Ends Policies

The Board has adopted **Board Governance Policies** which describe how the board conducts its business, what they have directed the Board Appointed Officers (BAO) to accomplish, and constraints on the BAOs that establish prudent and ethical boundaries within which all activity and decisions must take place.

Ends Policies, also referred to as **Long Term Goals and Objectives**, provide direction to the BAOs to accomplish Valley Water's mission.

A full list of the Board Governance Policies can be found here:

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

Ends Policy E-1: Mission and General Principles

In implementing Board directions, staff will be guided by the following general principles:

- 1.1. An integrated, socially equitable, and balanced approach in managing a sustainable water supply, effective natural flood protection, and healthy watersheds is essential to the future of all communities served.
- 1.2. Effective public engagement by Valley Water is achieved through transparent, open communication that informs and generates participation among all communities, including disadvantaged communities, communities of color, and communities with limited English proficiency, as well as other key stakeholders.
- 1.3. Collaboration with government, academic, private, non-governmental, and non-profit organizations, as well as diverse and disadvantaged communities is integral to accomplishing the Valley Water mission.
- 1.4. A net positive impact on the environment and providing benefits equitably across all communities is required in order to accomplish the Valley Water mission.
- 1.5. Recognize that Valley Water operations and services are critical to the economic vitality of Silicon Valley, ensuring that economic benefits are equitable for all communities that we serve.
- 1.6. As standard practice, all work products shall be visually pleasing, sustainable, cost-effective, culturally appropriate, equitable across all communities, and reflect the characteristics of the surrounding urban setting and natural habitat using appropriate materials, colors, shapes, art works, vegetation, and surface treatments. This includes the naming of facilities in a manner that is respectful of all diverse communities.
- 1.7. Valley Water is committed to environmental justice and shall provide for the fair treatment and meaningful engagement of all people regardless of race, color, gender identity, disability status, national origin, tribe, culture, income, immigration status, or English language proficiency, with respect to the planning, projects, policies, services, and operations of Valley Water. Environmental Justice is achieved when all people receive:
 - equitable consideration in the planning and execution of flood protection, water supply, safe drinking water, water resources stewardship projects, and protection from environmental and health hazards, and
 - equal access to Valley Water's decision-making process.

Ends Policy E-2: Water Supply Services

Valley Water provides a reliable, safe, and affordable water supply for current and future generations in all communities served.

GOAL

- 2.1. Meet 100 percent of annual water demand during non-drought years and at least 80 percent of demand in drought years.

GOAL

- 2.2. Protect and sustain the county's existing, diverse water supplies.

Objectives

- 2.2.1. Manage groundwater to ensure sustainable supplies and avoid land subsidence.
- 2.2.2. Aggressively protect groundwater from the threat of contamination.
- 2.2.3. Protect imported water supplies and associated contracts and partnerships.
- 2.2.4. Protect and manage local surface water supplies and associated water rights.
- 2.2.5. Deliver reliable, high quality drinking water from water treatment plants.

GOAL

- 2.3. Protect and maintain existing water infrastructure.

Objectives

- 2.3.1. Plan for infrastructure maintenance and replacement to reduce risk of failure.
- 2.3.2. Prioritize funding for maintenance and replacement of existing water infrastructure over investments in new infrastructure.
- 2.3.3. Prepare for and respond effectively to water utility emergencies.

GOAL

- 2.4. Increase regional self-reliance through water conservation and reuse.

Objectives

- 2.4.1. Maximize utilization of all demand management tools.
- 2.4.2. Incentivize water use efficiency and water conservation.
- 2.4.3. Promote, protect and expand potable and non-potable water reuse.
- 2.4.4. Promote stormwater capture and reuse.

GOAL

- 2.5. Manage water resources using an integrated, science-based approach.

Objectives

- 2.5.1. Plan for future water supply needs.
- 2.5.2. Promote efficient and reliable operation of water supply systems.
- 2.5.3. Promote water supply projects with multiple benefits, including environmental stewardship and flood protection.
- 2.5.4. Invest in and rely on science to support planning and decision-making.
- 2.5.5. Build and maintain effective partnerships to achieve water supply goals.

GOAL

- 2.6. Promote access to equitable and affordable water supplies.

Objectives

- 2.6.1. Promote equal access to clean, safe, and affordable water supply across all communities served.
- 2.6.2. Maintain affordable water rates through cost-effective water supply investments and management.
- 2.6.3. Continue customer assistance and incentive programs.

Ends Policy E-3: Natural Flood Protection

Natural flood protection is provided to reduce risk and improve health and safety for residents, businesses, and visitors, now and into the future.

GOAL

- 3.1. Maintain flood protection facilities to design levels of protection.

Objectives

- 3.1.1. Prioritize maintenance of existing facilities over construction of new capital projects.
- 3.1.2. Inspect and maintain facilities on a regular basis.
- 3.1.3. Perform maintenance using maintenance guidelines updated on a regular basis.

GOAL

- 3.2. Assist people, businesses, schools, and communities to prepare for, respond to, and recover from flooding through equitable and effective engagement.

Objectives

- 3.2.1. Develop, maintain, and communicate emergency action plans.
- 3.2.2. Develop, maintain, and communicate flood information to the community.

- 3.2.3. Provide expertise in flood forecasting and flood warning systems to municipalities.
- 3.2.4. Provide expertise to encourage public agencies to reduce flood risk and protect floodplain benefits.

GOAL

- 3.3. Increase the health and safety of residents countywide by reducing community flood risk.

Objectives

- 3.3.1. Provide equitable, timely, and achievable flood protection for health and safety.
- 3.3.2. Protect people and property from flooding by applying a comprehensive, integrated watershed management approach that balances environmental quality, sustainability, and cost.

Ends Policy E-4: Water Resources Stewardship

Water resources stewardship protects and enhances ecosystem health.

GOAL

- 4.1. Use a science-based, inclusive approach to protect Santa Clara County's watersheds and aquatic ecosystems for current and future generations.

Objectives

- 4.1.1. Develop and share data to support resilient ecosystems and healthy populations of native species.
- 4.1.2. Monitor stream, reservoir, and Bay ecosystem health.
- 4.1.3. Use data to prioritize and equitably implement actions to reduce pollution, restore endangered species habitat, and enhance ecosystem function.

GOAL

- 4.2. Sustain ecosystem health while managing local water resources for flood protection and water supply.

Objectives

- 4.2.1. Plan and design projects with multiple benefits, including protecting ecosystem functions, enhancing habitat, and improving connectivity, equitably in all regions of the county.
- 4.2.2. Operate Valley Water facilities to balance water supply, flood protection, and ecosystem sustainability.

GOAL

- 4.3. Encourage inclusive, sustainable management of water resources in the Bay-Delta and its watersheds to protect imported water supply.

Objectives

- 4.3.1. Meet future water supply demand through diverse and coordinated water supply planning.
- 4.3.2. Promote holistic ecosystem management through science-based decision-making.
- 4.3.3. Actively engage in the protection of source water quality through collaboration and funding.

GOAL

- 4.4. Prevent and address pollution of local streams, reservoirs, and the Bay, equitably across all communities. Protect waterbodies from pollution and degradation.

Objectives

- 4.4.1. Encourage stormwater capture, treatment, and reuse.
- 4.4.2. Prepare and respond to spills and dumping that threaten local waterways.
- 4.4.3. Collaborate with agencies and nonprofits to address homelessness and its impacts to Santa Clara County Waterways.

GOAL

- 4.5. Engage the community to promote watershed stewardship by providing meaningful engagement in Valley Water programs for all people regardless of race, color, gender identity, disability status, national origin, tribe, culture, income, immigration status, or English language proficiency.

Objectives

- 4.5.1. Provide appropriate and equal public access to Valley Water's streamside and watershed lands.
- 4.5.2. Engage and educate the community in stream and watershed protection.
- 4.5.3. Build partnerships to protect and enhance watersheds and aquatic ecosystems.

Ends Policy E-5: Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation

Valley Water is carbon neutral and provides equitable, climate-resilient water supply, flood protection, and water resource stewardship to all communities in Santa Clara County. This will be accomplished through the implementation of the Climate Change Action Plan.

GOAL

5.1. Minimize greenhouse gas emissions from Valley Water's operations.

Objectives

- 5.1.1. Expand the use of clean technology in vehicles, equipment, and buildings, and develop carbon-efficient construction and service delivery practices.
- 5.1.2. Optimize energy use and expand renewable energy portfolio.
- 5.1.3. Incentivize low carbon practices, projects, and efforts by employees, contractors, and partners.

GOAL

5.2. Adapt Valley Water's assets and operations to reduce climate change impacts.

Objectives

- 5.2.1. Improve the resiliency of Santa Clara County's water supply to drought and other climate change impacts.
- 5.2.2. Provide equitable protection from sea level rise and flooding, prioritizing disadvantaged communities.
- 5.2.3. Improve ecosystem resiliency through water resources stewardship.
- 5.2.4. Prepare for climate-related emergencies and provide equal access to information and services, particularly to disadvantaged communities.

Ends Policy E-6: Encampments of Unsheltered People

Valley Water is committed, through a regional approach, to address the human health, safety, operational and environmental challenges posed by encampments of unsheltered people on Valley Water lands along waterways and at water supply and flood risk reduction facilities.

GOAL

6.1. Achieve a functional zero level of unsheltered people on Valley Water lands along waterways and at water supply and flood risk reduction facilities.

Objectives

- 6.1.1. Actively participate in a collaborative regional approach with the County, cities, and other service providers to support their efforts in addressing the challenges posed by encampments of unsheltered people.
- 6.1.2. Increase the level of service for encampment cleanup efforts based on need and resource availability.
- 6.1.3. Identify Valley Water lands for regional partners to use for housing or other services for unsheltered people.

Appendix B

Staff Program Plans and Master Plans

Program plans and master plans are developed by staff to achieve the Board's long-term goals and objectives in relation to Valley Water's mission and overall business management.

Below is a list of program and master plans that have been referenced in the Board Work Plan. Other plans not listed below can be obtained by contacting the Office of the Clerk of the Board at **(408) 630-2277** or ***clerkoftheboard@valleywater.org***.

- Board Audit Reports
<https://www.valleywater.org/board-audit-committee-audit-reports>
- Capital Improvement Program
<https://www.valleywater.org/how-we-operate/five-year-capital-improvement-program>
- Countywide Water Reuse Master Plan
<https://www.valleywater.org/your-water/recycled-and-purified-water>
- Groundwater Management Plan
<https://www.valleywater.org/your-water/where-your-water-comes/groundwater/sustainable>
- Ogier Ponds Feasibility Study
<https://www.valleywater.org/project-updates/ogier-ponds-coyote-creek-separation-project>
- Operating and Capital Budget
<https://www.valleywater.org/how-we-operate/financebudget>
- Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program
<https://www.valleywater.org/safe-clean-water-and-natural-flood-protection-program>
- Santa Clara Valley Urban Runoff Pollution Prevention Program
<https://scvurppp.org/>
- Stormwater Resource Plan
<https://scvurppp.org/swrp/>
- Water Conservation Strategic Plan
<https://www.valleywater.org/droughtsaving-water/studies-and-reports>
- Water Supply Master Plan
<https://www.valleywater.org/your-water/water-supply-planning/water-supply-master-plan>
- Water Utility Infrastructure Master Plan
<https://www.valleywater.org/project-updates/water-utility-infrastructure-master-plan-implementation-projects>

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Valley Water

Clean Water • Healthy Environment • Flood Protection

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