

June 29, 2026

MEETING NOTICE & REQUEST FOR RSVP**TO: AGRICULTURAL WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE****Jurisdiction**

District 1
District 2
District 3
District 4
District 5
District 6
District 7
Loma Prieta Resource Conservation District
Santa Clara County Farm Bureau

Representative

Erin Gil
James Provenzano
Robert Long Jr.
Sheila Barry
Trevor Garrod
Tim Chiala
Vacant
Peter Van Dyke
Jan F. Garrod

Representative

Mitchell Mariani
Vacant
Vacant
Brent Bonino
Vacant
Vacant
Vacant

The regular meeting of the Agricultural Water Advisory Committee is scheduled to be held on **Monday, July 6, 2026, at 1:30 p.m., at Headquarters Building Boardroom, 5700 Almaden Expressway, San Jose, CA 95118.**

Enclosed are the meeting agenda and corresponding materials. Please bring this packet with you to the meeting. Additional copies of this meeting packet are available on our website at <https://www.valleywater.org/how-we-operate/committees/board-committees>.

A majority of the appointed membership is required to constitute a quorum, which is fifty percent plus one. A quorum for this meeting must be confirmed at least 48 hours prior to the scheduled meeting date or it will be canceled.

Further, a quorum must be present on the day of the scheduled meeting to call the meeting to order and take action on agenda items.

Members with two or more consecutive unexcused absences will be subject to rescinded membership.

Please confirm your attendance no later than **12:00 p.m., Thursday, July 2, 2026** by contacting Nicole Merritt at 1-408-630-3262, or nmerritt@valleywater.org.



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Santa Clara Valley Water District Agricultural Water Advisory Committee

HQ. Bldg. Boardroom, 5700 Almaden Expressway, San Jose, California
Join Zoom Meeting: <https://valleywater.zoom.us/j/98850905996>

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

**Monday, July 6, 2026
1:30 PM**

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

COMMITTEE: Trevor Garrod, Chairperson Tim Chiala, Vice Chairperson	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.	Vincent Gin Darin Taylor, (Staff Liaisons)
BOARD REPRESENTATIVES: Director Jim Beall Vice Chairperson Richard P. Santos Director John L. Varela		Nicole Merritt (COB Liaison) Deputy Clerk (Committee Meetings) nmerritt@valleywater.org 408-630-3262

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
Agricultural Water Advisory Committee
REGULAR MEETING
AGENDA

Monday, July 6, 2026

1:30 PM

HQ. Bldg. Boardroom, 5700 Almaden
Expressway, San Jose, California

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://valleywater.zoom.us/j/98850905996>

*****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.

- Members of the Public may test their connection to Zoom Meetings at: <https://zoom.us/test>
- Members of the Public are encouraged to review our overview on joining Valley Water Board Meetings at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TojJpYCxXm0>

Valley Water, in complying with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), requests individuals who require special accommodations to access and/or participate in Valley Water Board of Directors/Board Committee meetings to please contact the Clerk of the Board’s office at (408) 630-2711, at least 3 business days before the scheduled meeting to ensure that Valley Water may assist you.

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

not been prepared with a view to informing an investment decision in any of Valley Water's bonds, notes or other obligations. Any projections, plans or other forward-looking statements included in the information in this agenda are subject to a variety of uncertainties that could cause any actual plans or results to differ materially from any such statement. The information herein is not intended to be used by investors or potential investors in considering the purchase or sale of Valley Water's bonds, notes or other obligations and investors and potential investors should rely only on information filed by Valley Water on the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board's Electronic Municipal Market Access System for municipal securities disclosures and Valley Water's Investor Relations website, maintained on the World Wide Web at <https://emma.msrb.org/> and <https://www.valleywater.org/how-we-operate/financebudget/investor-relations>, respectively.

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.

Join Zoom Meeting:
<https://valleywater.zoom.us/j/98850905996>
Meeting ID: 988 5090 5996
Join by Phone:
1 (669) 900-9128, 988 5090 5996#

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 April 6, 2026 Agricultural Water Advisory Committee Minutes. [26-0583](#)

Recommendation: Approve the minutes.

Manager: Wendy Ho, 408-630-3874

Attachments: [Attachment 1: 04062026 AWAC Minutes](#)

Est. Staff Time: 5 Minutes

4. REGULAR AGENDA:

- 4.1. Receive Update on Valley Water's Periodic Evaluation to its Alternative Groundwater Sustainability Plan for the Santa Clara and Llagas Subbasins and the Periodic Evaluation of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan for the North San Benito Subbasin under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act. [26-0538](#)

Recommendation: Receive an update on Valley Water's periodic evaluation to its Alternative Groundwater Sustainability Plan for the Santa Clara and Llagas subbasins and the periodic evaluation of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan for the North San Benito Subbasin under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act.

Manager: Greg Williams, 408-630-2867

Attachments: [Attachment 1: PowerPoint](#)

Est. Staff Time: 10 Minutes

- 4.2. Receive an Update on the West Valley and Lower Peninsula Watershed Master Plans. [26-0515](#)

Recommendation: Receive an Update on the West Valley and Lower Peninsula Watershed Master Plans.

Manager: Lisa Bankosh, 408-630-2618

Attachments: [Attachment 1: PowerPoint](#)
[Attachment 2: Draft Priority Actions](#)

Est. Staff Time: 15 Minutes

- 4.3. Receive Information on the Impact to the Groundwater Production Charge Projection from the Dam Safety Program. [26-0564](#)

Recommendation: Receive information on the impact to the groundwater production charge projection from the Dam Safety Program.

Manager: Darin Taylor, 408-630-3068

Attachments: [Attachment 1: PowerPoint](#)

Est. Staff Time: 5 Minutes

- 4.4. Review 2026 Agricultural Water Advisory Committee (AWAC) Work Plan, [26-0585](#)
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.

Manager: Wendy Ho, 408-630-3874

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

Est. Staff Time: 5 Minutes

5. 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.*

6. REPORTS:

- 6.1. Government Affairs Report
- 6.2. Director's Report
- 6.3. Manager's Report
- 6.4. Committee Member's Report
- 6.5. Information Links:

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

- Board Policy and Monitoring Committee (BPMC) - formerly Board Policy and
Planning Committee & Diversity
and Inclusion Ad Hoc Committee

- Environmental Creek Cleanup Committee (ECCC) - formerly Homeless
Encampment Committee

- Water Supply and Demand Management (WSDM) - formerly Water Storage
Exploratory Committee & Water Conservation & Demand Management
Committee

<https://www.valleywater.org/your-water/water-supply-planning/monthly-water-tracker>

- Water Tracker

7. ADJOURN:

- 7.1. Adjourn. The Next Regular Meeting is Scheduled at 1:30 p.m., on October 5,
2026.

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Santa Clara Valley Water District

File No.: 26-0583

Agenda Date: 7/6/2026
Item No.: 3.1.

COMMITTEE AGENDA MEMORANDUM Agricultural Water Advisory Committee

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

SUBJECT:

Approval of April 6, 2026 Agricultural Water Advisory Committee Minutes.

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the minutes.

SUMMARY:

A summary of Committee discussions, and details of all actions taken by the Committee, during all open and public Committee meetings, is transcribed and submitted for review and approval.

Upon Committee approval, minutes transcripts are finalized and entered into the District's historical records archives and serve as historical records of the Committee's meetings.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE IMPACT:

Approval of minutes is not subject to environmental justice analysis.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment 1: 04062026 AWAC Minutes

UNCLASSIFIED MANAGER:

Wendy Ho, 408-630-3874

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AGRICULTURAL WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING

DRAFT MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, APRIL 6, 2026
1:30 PM

(Paragraph numbers coincide with agenda item numbers)

1. CALL TO ORDER:

A regular meeting of the Santa Clara Valley Water District (Valley Water) Agricultural Water Advisory Committee (AWAC) (Committee) was called to order in the Valley Water Headquarters Building Boardroom at 5700 Almaden Expressway, San Jose, California, and by Zoom teleconference, at 1:30 p.m.

1.1 Roll Call.

Committee members in attendance were District 2 James Provenzano, District 3 Robert Long Jr., Loma Prieta Resource Conservative District Representative Peter Van Dyke, Santa Clara County Farm Bureau Representative Jan Garrod, District 6 and Vice Chairperson Tim Chiala, and District 5 and Chairperson presiding, Trevor Garrod constituting a quorum of the Committee.

Committee members who were not in attendance in person were District 1 Representatives Erin Gil and Mitchell Mariani, and District 4 Representative Brent Bonino.

District 4 Representative Sheila Barry arrived as noted below.

Staff members in attendance were: Chanie Abuye, Jason Araujo, Joshua Golka, Walter Gonzalez, Andy Gschwind, Wendy Ho, Cindy Kao, Bassam Kassab, Patrice McElroy, Nicole Merritt, Carmen Narayanan, Mark Poole, Desiree Sausele, Kirsten Struve, Darin Taylor, Greg Williams, and Jing Wu.

Board Representatives in attendance were: Valley Water Vice Chairperson Richard P. Santos (District 3), Valley Water Director John Varela (District 1), and Valley Water Director Jim Beall (District 4).

Public in attendance were: Valley Water Director Rebecca Eisenberg (District 7), and Katja Irvin (Sierra Club).

2. TIME OPEN FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON ANY ITEM NOT ON THE AGENDA:

Chairperson Trevor Garrod declared time open for public comment on any item not on the agenda. There was no one present who wished to speak.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

3.1. Approval of January 5, 2026, Agricultural Water Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes.

Recommendation: Approve the minutes.

The Committee considered the attached minutes of the January 5, 2026, Committee meeting.

Peter Van Dyke and Chair Trevor Garrod expressed appreciation for Nicole Merritt's work in preparing the minutes.

Public Comments:
None.

It was moved by Peter Van Dyke and seconded by Jan Garrod and unanimously carried that the minutes be approved.

Sheila Barry arrived.

4. REGULAR AGENDA:

4.1. Review Proposed Fiscal Year (FY) 2026-2027 Groundwater Production Charges and Provide Committee Feedback.

Recommendation: Review proposed FY 2026-2027 Groundwater Production Charges and provide feedback.

Carmen Narayanan reviewed the information on this item, per the attached Committee Agenda Memo, and per the information contained in Attachment 1.

Carmen Narayanan, Darin Taylor, Cindy Kao, Valley Water Vice Chair Santos and Director Varela were available to answer questions.

The Committee discussed the following topics: confirmed the cancellation of the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) loan for the suspended Pacheco Reservoir Expansion Project and noted that no associated grant funding received will be required to be repaid; discussed how Valley Water works with the water retailers through sharing rate projections and seeking feedback on water use assumptions and noted

retailer rates cannot be controlled by Valley Water as the wholesaler; expressed concern regarding the agriculture rate compared to the residential rate in Zone W-2; discussed the basis for the increases to the capital cost recovery rate and open space credit projections noted on Pages 6 and Page 14 of Attachment 1; discussed how certain allocated energy costs may contribute to the water rates and how those costs vary by zone based on the number of treatment plants, imported water supplies, and recharge or recycled water activities; expressed interest in the renewable energy sources used at the water treatment plants; noted staff are monitoring the lower snow pack levels and reviewed the annual rate setting cycle and the contingencies in place including the Drought Contingency Reserve, Rate Stabilization Reserve, and the Supplemental Water Supply Reserve; noted staff do not anticipate a substantial rate increase beyond what is budgeted for the imported water supply; noted the Valley Water Board is working to keep a lower cost structure; expressed support for staff's level of details in the report; and discussed the challenges facing agriculture associated with rising utility costs, infrastructure costs, and county fines.

The Committee received and noted the information, provided feedback, and took no formal action.

4.2. Receive Update on Valley Water's Periodic Evaluation to its Alternative Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA).

Recommendation: Receive an update on Valley Water's periodic evaluation to its Alternative GSP under SGMA.

Chanie Abuye reviewed the information on this item, per the attached Committee Agenda, and per the information contained in Attachment 1.

Chanie Abuye and Greg Williams were available to answer questions.

The Committee discussed the following topics: expressed support for Valley Water's groundwater management efforts; discussed staffing resources and budget; discussed San Benito County Water District's GSP and noted Frazier Lake is included; and noted staff continue to manage the water quality and levels in the North San Benito Subbasin, which is in healthy condition.

Public Comments:
None.

The Committee received and noted the information, provided feedback, and took no formal action.

4.3. Receive an Update on Valley Water's South County Managed Aquifer Recharge Activities.

Recommendation: Receive an update on Valley Water's South County managed aquifer recharge activities.

Bassam Kassab reviewed the information on this item, per the attached Committee Agenda, and corresponding presentation materials contained in Attachment 3 were reviewed as follows: Bassam Kassab reviewed Slides 1-7 and Chanie Abuye reviewed Slides 8-9.

Bassam Kassab, Chanie Abuye, Jing Wu, and Desiree Sausele were available to answer questions.

Public Comments:
None.

The Committee discussed the following topics: reviewed groundwater conditions and water table levels at Laguna Seca; noted that proposed sewer service developments near San Pedro Ponds may require approval through Local Agency Formation of Santa Clara County (LAFCO); discussed natural groundwater recharge from rainfall and associated extraction charges; discussed the Madrone Channel Expansion and expressed support for continued planning of future groundwater recharge and percolation projects to enhance long-term water supply reliability; discussed feasibility of Flood-MAR; and the injection well process.

Public Comments:
None.

The Committee received and noted the information, provided feedback, and took no formal action.

4.4. Review 2026 Agricultural Water Advisory Committee (AWAC) 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.

The Committee considered this item without a staff presentation.

Nicole Merritt, Kirsten Struve, Chanie Abuye, and Valley Water Director Beall were available to answer questions.

Public Comments:
None.

The Committee discussed the following topics: expressed interest in quantifying agriculture's contribution to groundwater recharge; noted agricultural water use is highly efficient and that most water is returned to crops, based on the previous study presented to AWAC; discussed required measures implemented through open space stormwater permits

and the agricultural challenges associated with regulatory agencies; discussed soil conditions affecting percolation and associated potential credits and cost savings and expressed support for a map identifying priority areas.

The Committee expressed the following details regarding the AWAC Work Plan:

Add to Work Plan:

The Committee expressed support for adding language to the following Work Plan item: *Update on Valley Water's South County Managed Aquifer Recharge Activities*.

It was moved by Peter Van Dyke and seconded by Jan Garrod and unanimously approved to amend the Work Plan to include the following goal language:

Update on Valley Water's South County Managed Aquifer Recharge Activities:

- Goal to determine – regions preferred feasible for percolation in collaboration with Valley Water & landowners for mutual benefit.

Chairperson Trevor Garrod moved the Agenda to Item 6.1.

6. REPORTS:

6.1. Government Affairs Report

Josh Golka provided the federal and state verbal update.

6.2. Director's Report

Valley Water Director Varela invited the AWAC members to attend the San Luis Delta-Mendota Water Authority Board of Directors meetings.

Valley Water Vice Chairperson Santos highlighted the Joint Water Resources Committee – Cities of Gilroy and Morgan Hill April 4, 2026, meeting and expressed support for continued outreach to local legislators.

Valley Water Director Beall noted a recent visit to the Semitropic Water Storage District and discussed the WIFIA loan program.

6.3. Manager's Report

Darin Taylor confirmed no further information.

6.4. Committee Member Report

Vice Chairperson Tim Chiala shared invitation to the Santa Clara County Farm Bureau's golf tournament on April 23, 2026.

6.5. Information Link:

Links noted on agenda.

Chairperson Trevor Garrod returned the Agenda to Item 5.

5. 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.

Nicole Merritt confirmed no requests to speak were received from the public on all agenda items; the Committee reviewed and discussed the proposed FY 2026-2027 Groundwater Production Charges and expressed interest in the renewable energy sources under Item 4.1; received and noted the update on Valley Water's periodic evaluation to its alternative GSP under SGMA and expressed support for staff's work under Item 4.2; received and noted the update on Valley Water's South County's managed aquifer recharge activities under Item 4.3; and approved to amend the Work Plan to include the goal language under the *Valley Water's South County Managed Aquifer Recharge Activities*: to determine – regions preferred feasible for percolation in collaboration with Valley Water & landowners for mutual benefit under Item 4.4.

7. ADJOURN:

- 7.1. Adjourn. The Next Regular Meeting is Scheduled at 1:30 p.m. on July 6, 2026.

Chairperson Trevor Garrod adjourned the meeting at 3:37 p.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled to occur at 1:30 p.m. on July 6, 2026.

Date approved:

Nicole Merritt
Deputy Clerk
(Committee Meetings)



Santa Clara Valley Water District

File No.: 26-0538

Agenda Date: 7/6/2026

Item No.: 4.1.

COMMITTEE AGENDA MEMORANDUM Agricultural Water Advisory Committee

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

SUBJECT:

Receive Update on Valley Water's Periodic Evaluation to its Alternative Groundwater Sustainability Plan for the Santa Clara and Llagas Subbasins and the Periodic Evaluation of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan for the North San Benito Subbasin under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act.

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive an update on Valley Water's periodic evaluation to its Alternative Groundwater Sustainability Plan for the Santa Clara and Llagas subbasins and the periodic evaluation of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan for the North San Benito Subbasin under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act.

SUMMARY:

Under California's Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), Valley Water serves as the Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) for the Santa Clara and Llagas subbasins, which are located within Santa Clara County. Valley Water has an approved Alternative Groundwater Sustainability Plan (Alternative Plan) that describes the management of these groundwater basins.

In addition, Valley Water serves as the GSA for a very small portion of the North San Benito Subbasin that is located within Santa Clara County. San Benito County Water District (SBCWD) serves as the GSA for the vast majority of this basin. There is also an approved Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) that describes the management of this basin.

Under the SGMA, GSAs must provide comprehensive periodic evaluations of their GSPs or Alternative Plans every five years.

Valley Water staff last updated the Agricultural Water Advisory Committee (Committee) on April 6, 2026 with a schedule and outreach plan for the required periodic evaluation of the Alternative Plan that is due to DWR by December 17, 2026. This update summarizes progress on the periodic evaluation of the Alternative Plan for the Santa Clara and Llagas subbasins, including findings from an analysis of reported dry wells during the 2020-2022 drought. Staff will also share an update on the

periodic evaluation of the North San Benito Subbasin GSP.

Santa Clara and Llagas Subbasins

Staff are finalizing technical analyses and incorporating DWR recommended actions into the periodic evaluation of the Alternative Plan to improve plan implementation and facilitate DWR evaluation. For example, staff analysis of reported dry wells during the 2020-2022 drought show that nine wells within Santa Clara County were reported dry, including only 0.07% (4 of 6,130) of the total active and standby water supply wells in the Santa Clara and Llagas subbasins. All nine were domestic wells, including one well in the Santa Clara Subbasin, three in the Llagas Subbasin, four outside the subbasins, and one with no location information. No agricultural or municipal and industrial (M&I) supply wells were reported dry. Similar to the 2012-2016 drought, the reported dry wells are nearly all located along the subbasin boundary or outside the subbasin where natural geologic conditions result in relatively low groundwater storage and groundwater levels that are more vulnerable to pumping stress under drought conditions. The very small percentage and location of reported dry wells indicate that Valley Water's management practices maintain sustainable groundwater conditions, even during drought.

Valley Water provides information to assist well owners, including resources for dry wells on the Wells and Well Owners webpage (

<https://www.valleywater.org/contractors/doing-businesses-with-the-district/wells-well-owners>).

As work on the periodic evaluation of the Alternative Plan progresses, staff will update the Committee and engage interested parties through outreach, including email updates, social media posts, and public meetings. A public meeting will be held on July 30, 2026 and a public review of the draft periodic evaluation is expected to be available in late summer/early fall 2026 to solicit public input prior to consideration by Valley Water's Board of Directors in late fall 2026.

North San Benito Subbasin

Valley Water shares GSA responsibilities with SBCWD for the North San Benito Subbasin, the vast majority of which is located within San Benito County but also extends into southern Santa Clara County. The periodic evaluation of the GSP is being led by SBCWD, including all technical analyses. Valley Water staff are supporting the evaluation and update, including serving on the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). The second TAC meeting was held at the SBCWD on March 26, 2026. As work on this GSP update progresses, staff will update the Committee and engage interested parties. A public review of the draft GSP update for the North San Benito Subbasin is expected to be available in early fall 2026 to solicit public input prior to consideration by SBCWD and Valley Water's Board of Directors in late fall 2026.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE IMPACT:

There are no environmental justice impacts associated with this item.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment 1: PowerPoint

File No.: 26-0538

Agenda Date: 7/6/2026
Item No.: 4.1.

UNCLASSIFIED MANAGER:
Greg Williams, 408-630-2867

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Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) Update

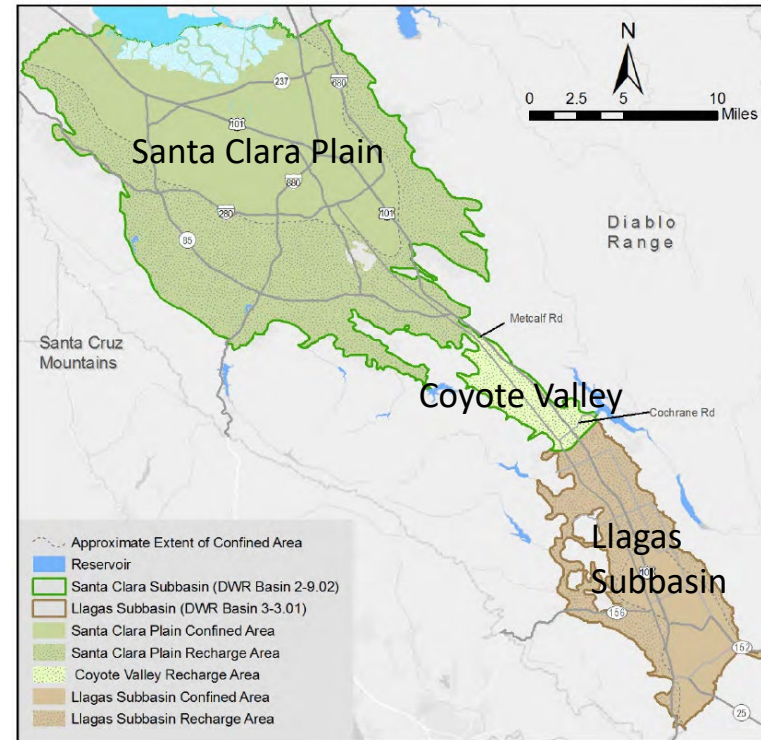
Presented by: Groundwater Management Unit

Agricultural Water Advisory Committee July 6, 2026 **19**

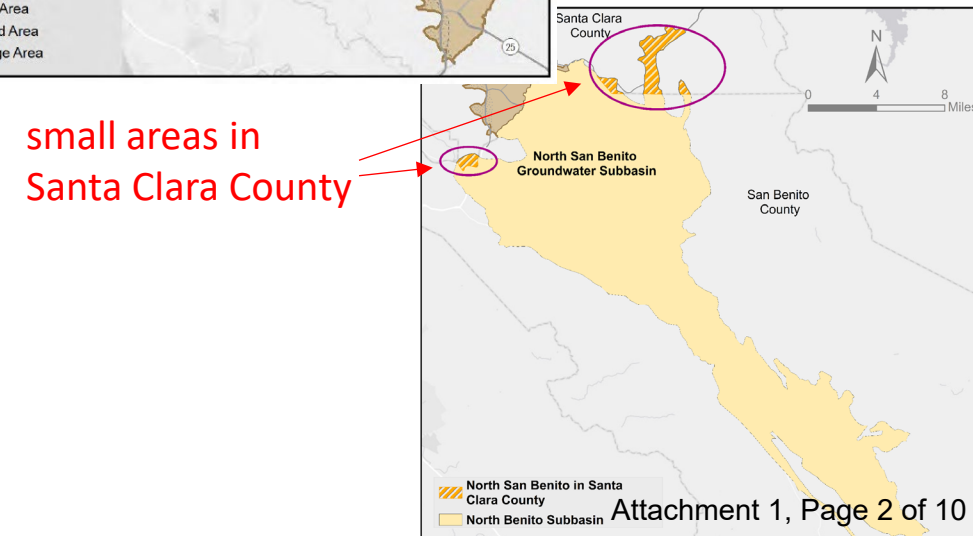
GSA Responsibilities

- Valley Water is the Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA):
 - Santa Clara and Llagas subbasins
 - North San Benito Subbasin in Santa Clara County
- Santa Clara and Llagas subbasins
 - April 1: Annual Water Year (WY) Report
 - December 17, 2026: Periodic evaluation of DWR approved Alternative Plan
- North San Benito Subbasin
 - January 12, 2027: Periodic evaluation of DWR approved Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP)
 - Led by San Benito County Water District

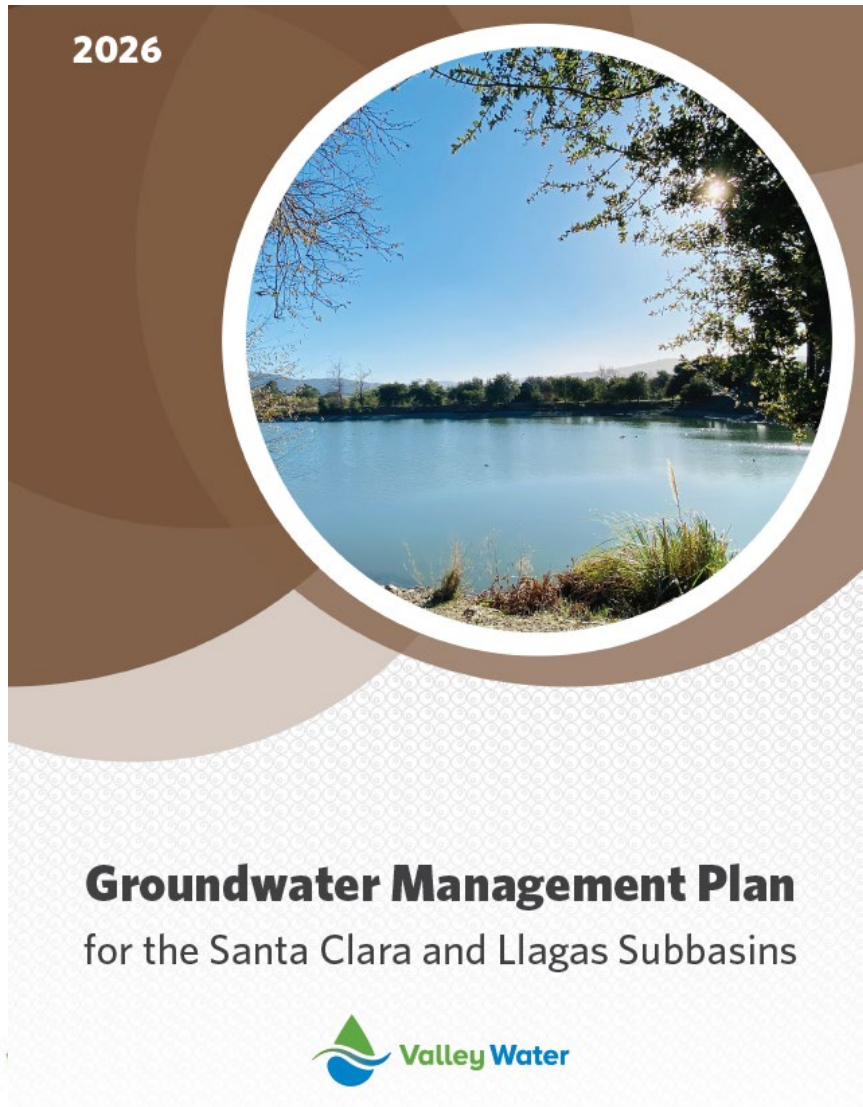
Santa Clara and Llagas Subbasins:



North San Benito Subbasin:



Periodic Evaluation of Alternative Plan



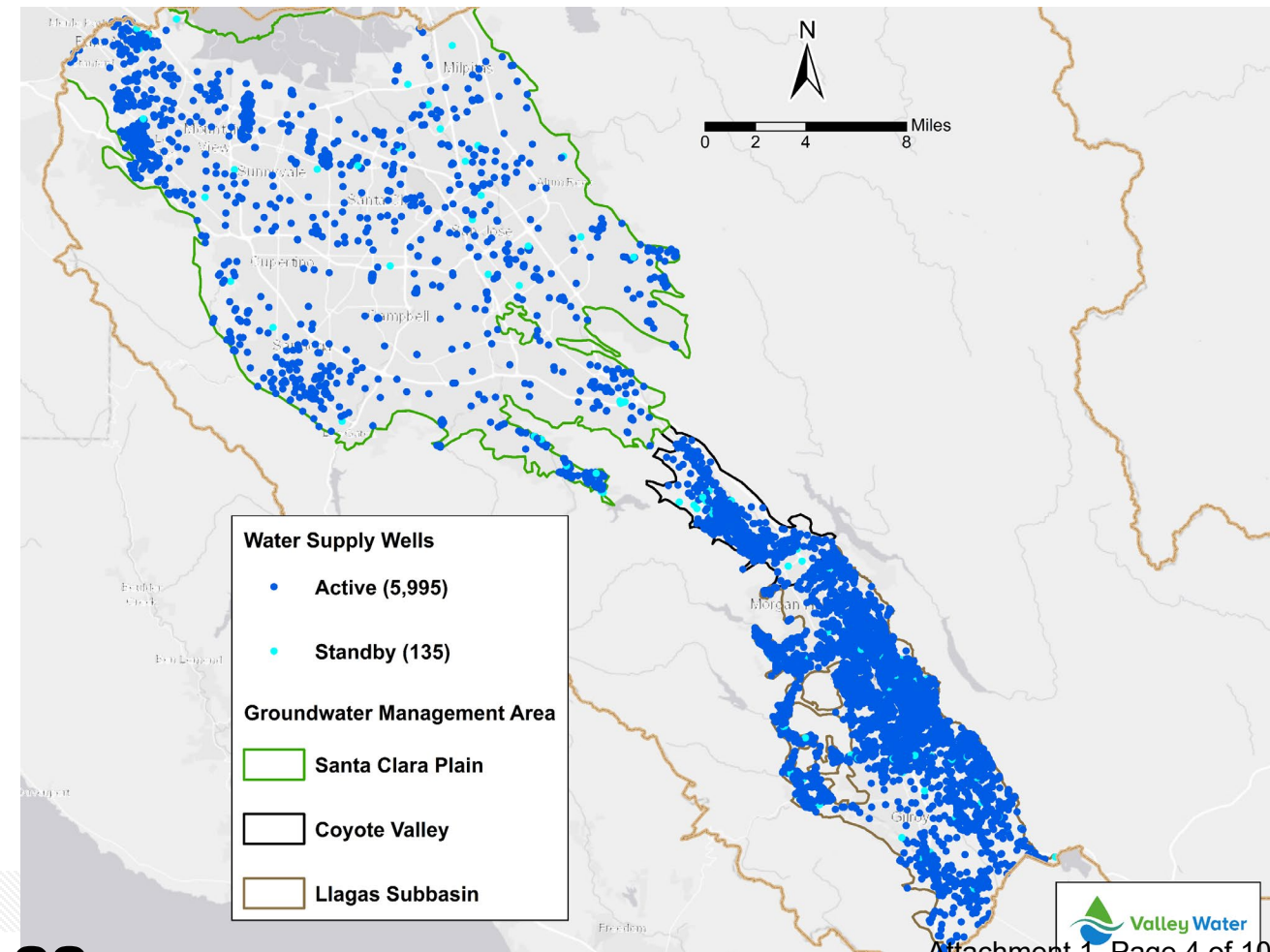
- 2026 Groundwater Management Plan (GWMP) (2015 – 2024)
 - Draft nearing completion
 - Starting internal review process
 - New and updated technical studies
- **On schedule to meet December 17, 2026 deadline**

Evaluation of Dry Supply Wells during Drought

4

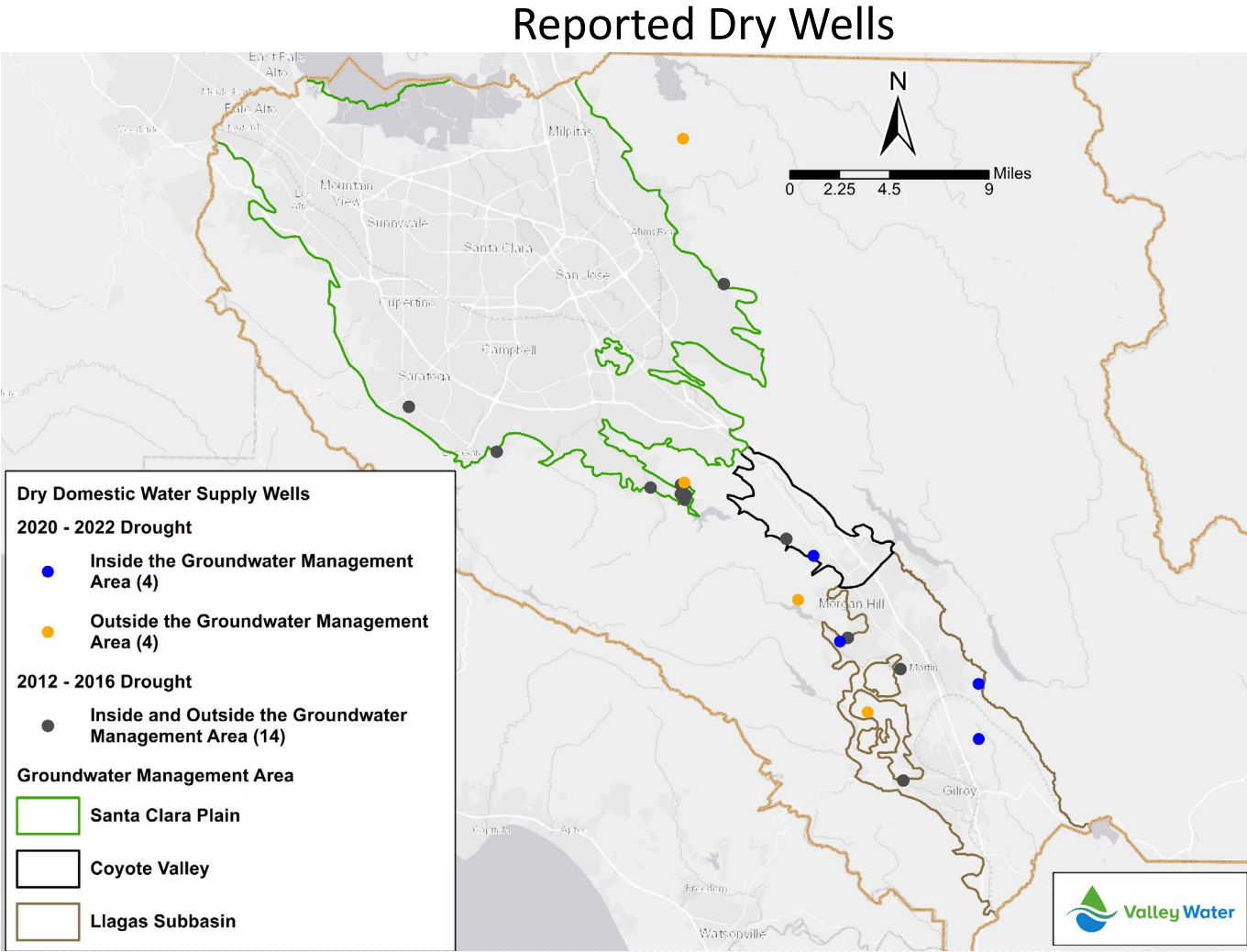
- 53,000 wells drilled in Santa Clara County, mostly monitoring wells
- 6,130 water supply wells in the Santa Clara and Llagas subbasins:
 - 4,191 domestic wells
 - 1,108 municipal and industrial (M&I) wells
 - 831 agricultural wells

6,130 Water Supply Wells



Reported Dry Wells during Recent Drought

- Dry wells during 2020–2022 drought:
 - 9 domestic wells; No agricultural or M&I wells
 - Only 4 wells inside the subbasins:
0.07% (4 of 6,130) of the supply wells
 - Similar spatial pattern as 2012–2016 drought:
where natural geology has lower groundwater storage and wells more vulnerable
- Valley Water’s management practices maintain sustainable groundwater, even during drought



Resources for Well Owners

<https://www.valleywater.org/contractors/doing-businesses-with-the-district/wells-well-owners>



For Residents ▾

Your Water ▾

Learning Center ▾

News & Events ▾

About Valley Water ▾

Services and Support

🔍

Well Permits and Inspections

Well Information and Groundwater Elevation App

Reporting Methods and Requirements

Ordinance 90-1

Wells and Well Owners

Nearly half of Santa Clara County's water supply originates from the county's groundwater resources. In some portions of the county, like the South County, the percentage of the water supply that originates from groundwater is much higher, reaching nearly 100 percent. Because groundwater is so important to the county's water supply, the Santa Clara Valley Water District's Board of Directors has directed staff to aggressively protect it. One of the ways the district accomplishes this is through the implementation of the District Well Ordinance Program.

Through the Well Ordinance Program the district regulates the construction, destruction, and maintenance of wells and other deep excavations.

- The district regulates wells because improperly constructed, maintained, or destroyed wells can act as conduits that bypass the natural protection afforded by unaltered geologic materials and allow poor quality surface or subsurface waters to move into drinking water aquifers.
- Well standards are also needed because improperly maintained wells may allow animals or small children to fall into them and become injured or drown.

Information for Well Owners

[A Guide For The Private Well Owner](#) is a downloadable publication that will answer many of your questions about a well owner's responsibilities, how to maintain a well properly, and how to test for water quality.

[Be Well Prepared](#) is a website created by the California Department of Water Resources that includes tools and resources to help communities that are dependent on groundwater to prepare for potential impacts to household water supplies, which include domestic well owners and residents that use and maintain their own well.

[Resources for Dry Wells in Santa Clara County](#) is a downloadable list of resources for owners of dry wells.



Community Outreach and Expected Schedule

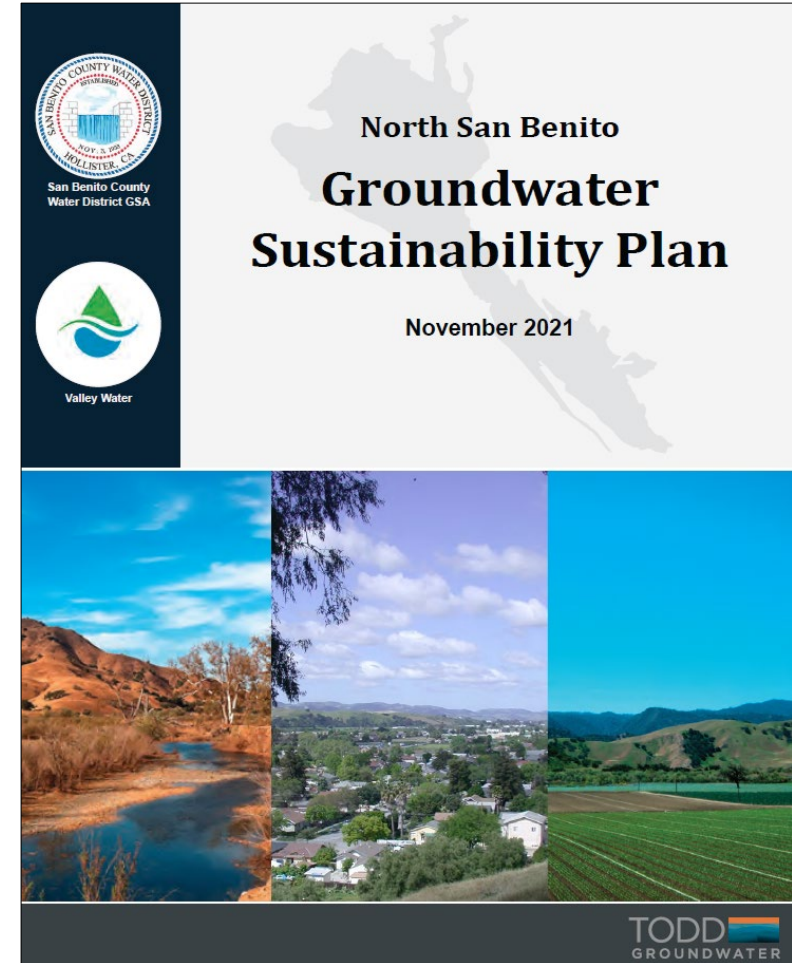
- **July 30, 2026:** Public meeting
- **August to October:** 60-day public review of draft 2026 GWMP
- **Board meeting early November:** Public hearing to adopt updated Plan
- **December 17, 2026:** Plan submission deadline to DWR

valleywater.org

Attachment 1
Page 8 of 10

Periodic Evaluation of Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP)

- Valley Water serving on Technical Advisory Committee
 - Meetings: January 13 and March 26, 2026
 - 2026 GSP Periodic Evaluation
 - Project and management actions
 - Water quality monitoring network and sustainable management criteria
 - Board of Directors Meeting and Resolution
 - October/November timeframe
- **January 12, 2027:** Deadline to submit to DWR





Valley Water

Clean Water • Healthy Environment • Flood Protection



Santa Clara Valley Water District

File No.: 26-0515

Agenda Date: 7/6/2026

Item No.: 4.2.

COMMITTEE AGENDA MEMORANDUM Agricultural Water Advisory Committee

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

SUBJECT:

Receive an Update on the West Valley and Lower Peninsula Watershed Master Plans.

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive an Update on the West Valley and Lower Peninsula Watershed Master Plans.

SUMMARY:

Background

Valley Water's Watershed Master Plans identify watershed management needs and develop prioritized, multi-benefit actions aligned with existing policies, programs, and community values. Watershed Master Planning includes the One Water Countywide Framework and watershed-specific plans that translate this framework into actions. The Board adopted the Framework and Coyote Watershed Plan in March 2022, followed by the Guadalupe and Upper Pajaro Watershed Plans in April 2024. Valley Water is currently developing the final two plans, the West Valley and Lower Peninsula Watershed Plans, anticipated for completion in early 2027.

The Watershed Master Plans are developed through a structured process based on five objective areas: natural ecosystems, flood risk, water quality, water supply, and climate change. The process includes three primary components: establishing existing watershed conditions (the setting), performance metrics, and priority actions. Setting reports establish baseline conditions and identify key challenges and opportunities, which inform development of metrics and targets used to evaluate performance and identify gaps. Based on this analysis, Priority Actions are developed to address challenges and gaps and advance progress toward objectives.

The watershed planning process includes extensive engagement with internal subject matter experts, partner agencies, community organizations, and the public to inform and refine plan development. Priority Actions for flood risk, natural ecosystems, and water quality are developed through analysis of watershed conditions, metrics, and this internal and external input. Priority Actions for water supply and climate change are predominantly generated through separate planning processes, such as the Water Supply Master Plan and Climate Change Action Plan, and are integrated with watershed management actions where possible.

Public and external partner engagement has been ongoing since a virtual kickoff in March 2025, followed by a public workshop at the Los Altos Community Center in September 2025 and participation in the Friends of Stevens Creek “Stevens Creek Watershed Summit” in March 2026. These efforts engaged local agencies, community and environmental organizations, and members of the public, and have informed refinement of watershed priorities, metrics, and draft actions. Staff have also coordinated with Board advisory committees, including the Environmental and Water Resources Committee (April 2025), Board Policy and Monitoring Committee (June 2025 and May 2026), and Agricultural Water Advisory Committee (July 2025), and are returning to the Agricultural Water Advisory Committee in July 2026 to provide a progress update.

Current Update

Since June 2025, development of the West Valley and Lower Peninsula Watershed Master Plans has progressed through completion of baseline assessment and into metric evaluation and initial action development. The watershed setting reports, completed in December 2025, document baseline conditions and identified key challenges and opportunities, including highly urbanized creek systems, limited riparian habitat, water quality impairments, and localized flood risks, as well as opportunities for habitat enhancement, nature-based flood management, and improved watershed connectivity.

Staff have developed and finalized performance metrics and targets to evaluate watershed conditions relative to desired outcomes. Initial analysis indicates that while some objectives, such as flood protection and water supply, are progressing toward targets, others-particularly related to ecological condition, riparian connectivity, and channel modification-show greater gaps. These results help identify where focused investment and action are needed and provide a consistent, data-driven basis for tracking progress.

Using the settings and metrics analysis, staff have begun developing draft priority actions across flood protection, ecological health, water quality, water supply, and climate resilience. The initial list is informed by existing Valley Water plans and programs, including the Water Supply Master Plan, Climate Change Action Plan, and Watershed Asset Management Program, as well as projects identified through ongoing operations and capital planning efforts. The list also incorporates input from partner agencies, community groups, and external partners gathered through outreach to date. Early actions emphasize multi-benefit approaches such as creek naturalization, fish passage improvements, riparian habitat enhancement, and nature-based flood risk reduction.

Committee Feedback Requested

Staff are seeking feedback from the Agricultural Water Advisory Committee on the draft priority actions developed to date for the West Valley and Lower Peninsula Watershed Master Plans (Attachment 2). Committee input will help refine and validate the proposed actions before the draft plans are shared more broadly with external stakeholders and incorporated into the final watershed master plans anticipated for completion in early 2027.

Next Steps

Staff will continue refining and validating priority actions through external partner engagement and technical evaluation throughout 2026. Final priority actions and draft plans are anticipated to be

presented to the Agricultural Water Advisory Committee and other advisory committees in early 2027.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE IMPACT:

The Watershed Master Planning process addresses environmental justice through targeted outreach to disadvantaged communities and by incorporating community input into decision-making. The Framework includes protocols to prioritize actions that reduce flood risk and improve health and safety for vulnerable populations, with progress tracked through environmental justice metrics. The process is objective and data-driven, ensuring transparency and equitable outcomes.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment 1: PowerPoint
Attachment 2: Draft Priority Actions

UNCLASSIFIED MANAGER:

Lisa Bankosh, 408-630-2618

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Lower Peninsula and West Valley Watershed Master Plans

Presented by: **Elizabeth Mercado**, Senior Engineer, Water Resources Planning and Policy Unit
Agricultural Water Advisory Committee - July 6th, 2026

Agenda

Purpose: Provide update on the West Valley and Lower Peninsula Watershed Master Plans

- Background
- Public Engagement
- Settings Overview
- Metrics Overview
- Priority Actions Development – Opportunity for Input
- Next Steps

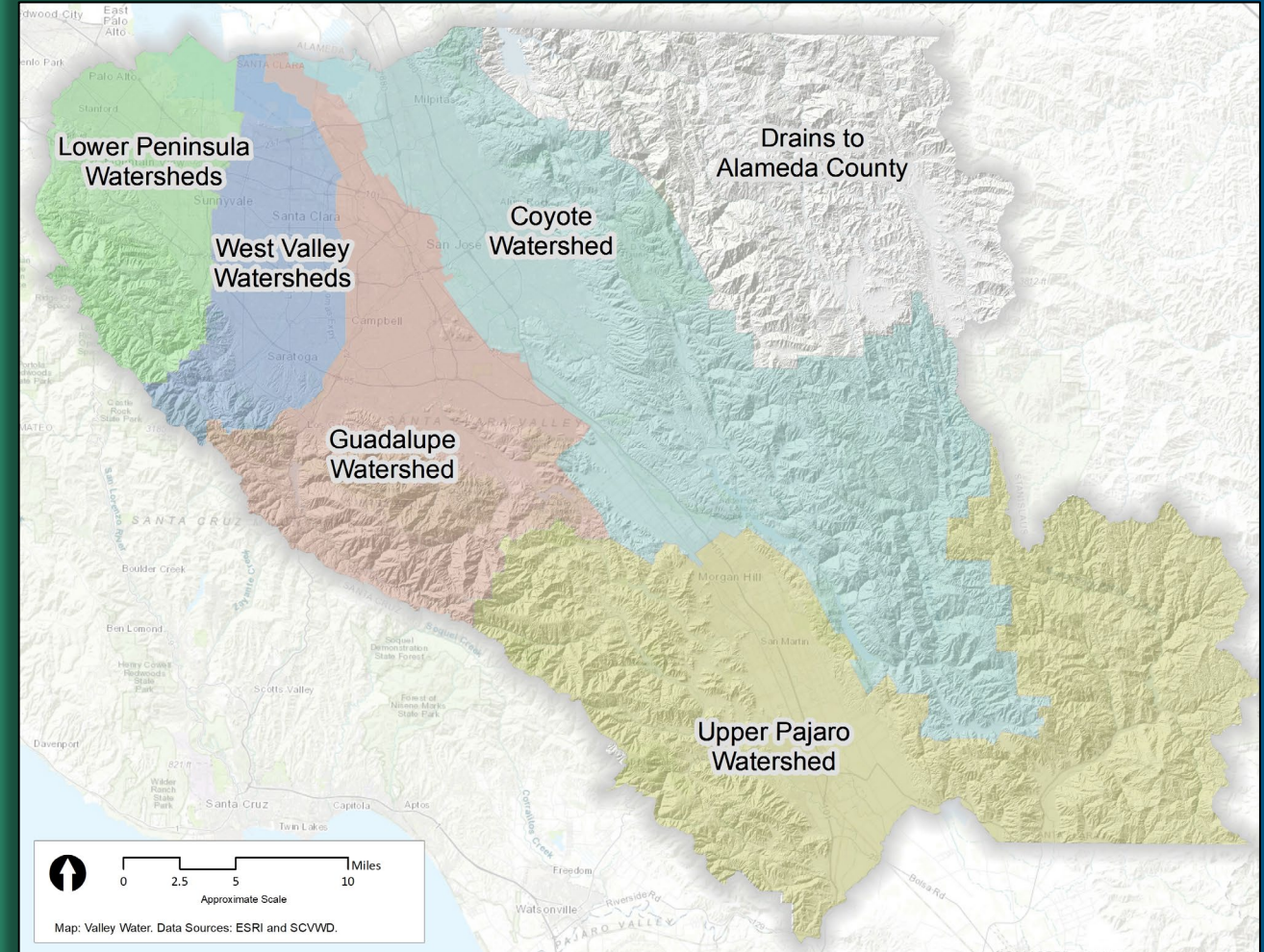
Watershed Master Plans - Progress

3

**West Valley
Lower Peninsula**
IN PROGRESS

**Upper Pajaro
Guadalupe**
2024

**Countywide Framework
Coyote**
2022



Watershed Master Plan - Objectives



**Natural
Ecosystems**



**Flood Risk
Reduction**



**Water
Quality**



**Water
Supply**



**Climate
Change**

Watershed Master Plan – Elements

Setting

+

Metrics

+

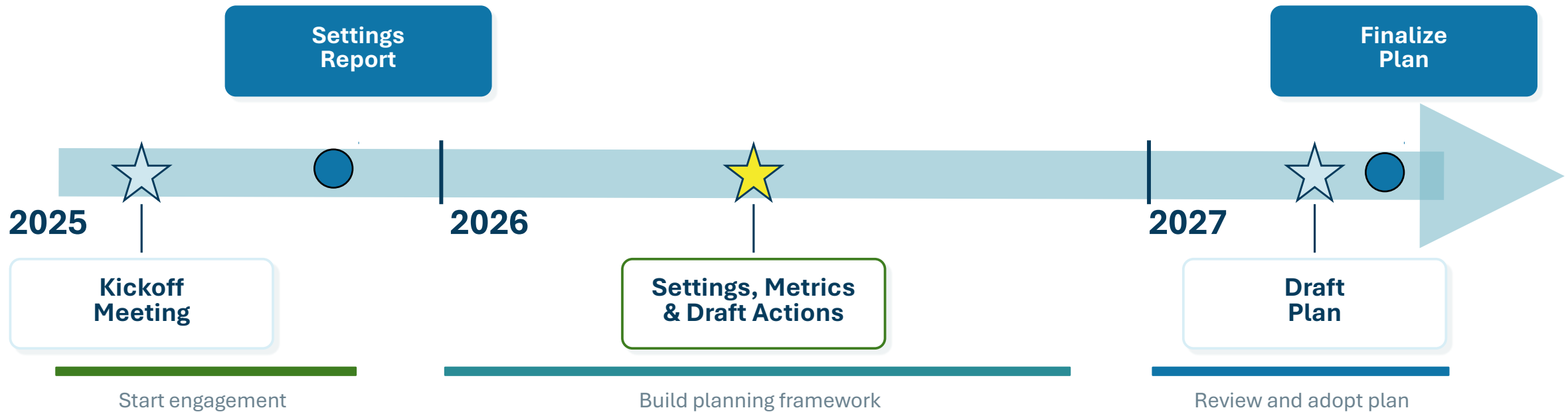
Priority Actions



West Valley & Lower Peninsula Watershed Master Plans

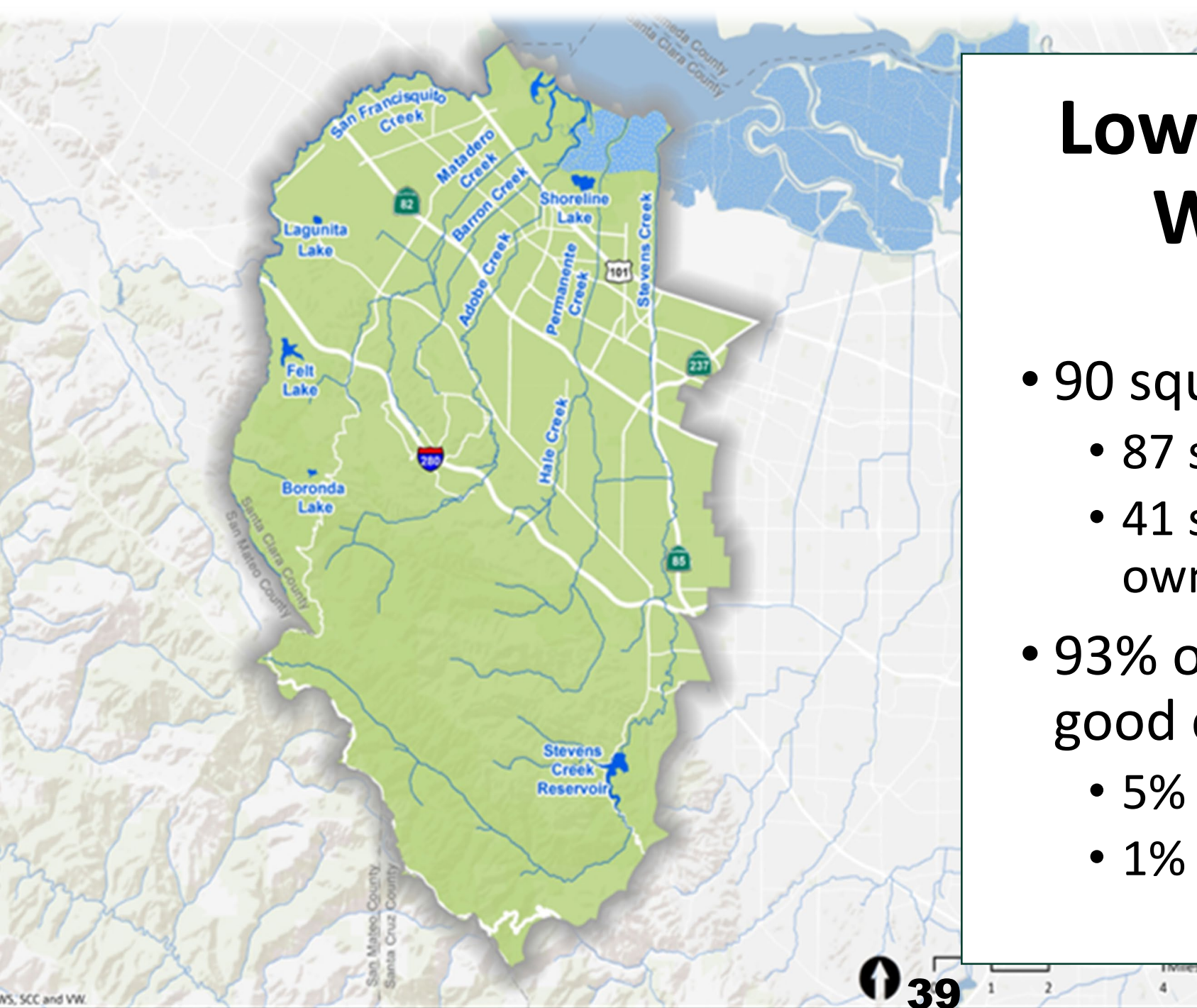
Planning Timeline

6



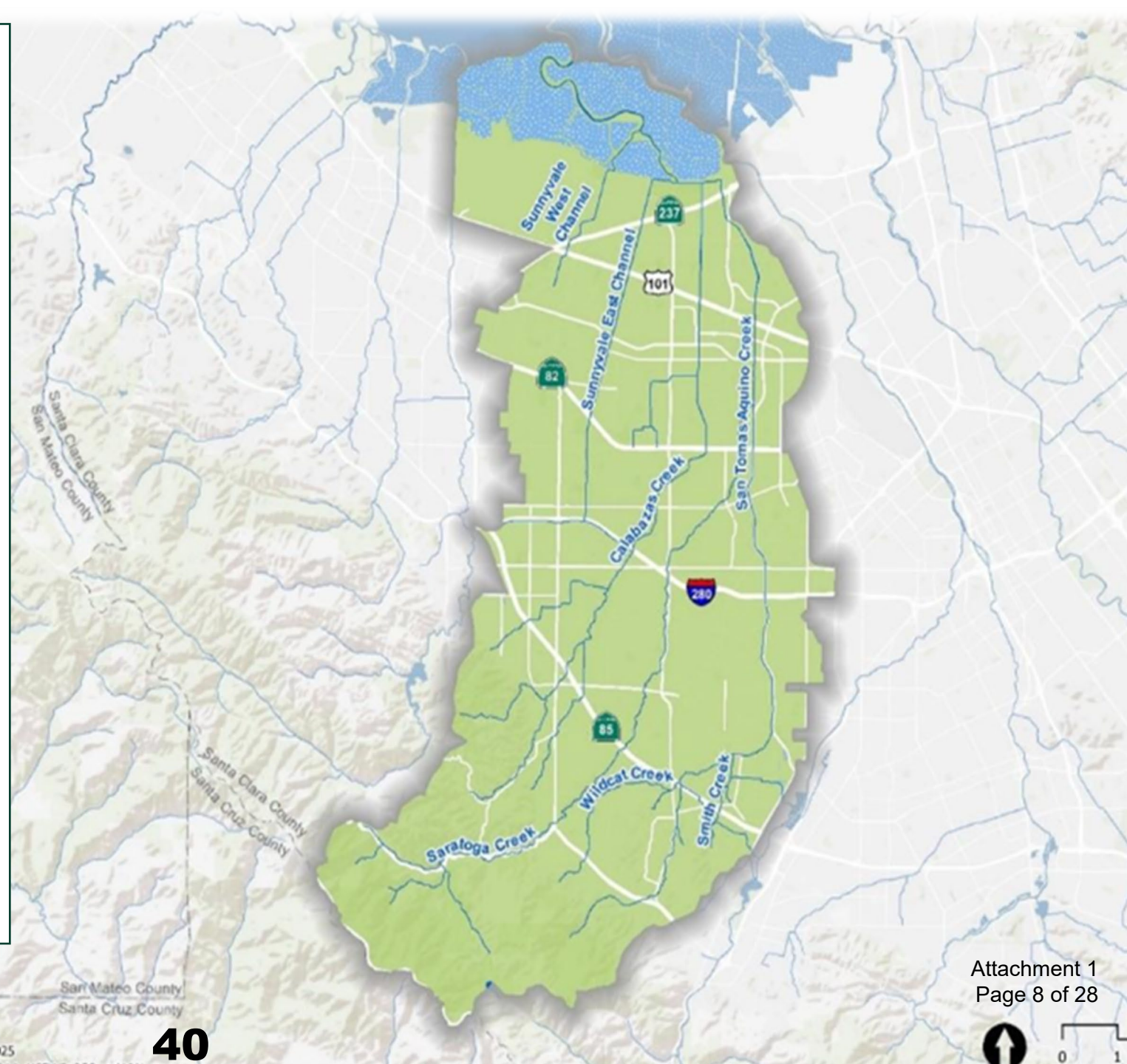
Lower Peninsula Watershed

- 90 square-mile area
 - 87 sq miles of creek
 - 41 sq miles of District-owned creek
- 93% of the creek is in good condition
 - 5% - shows signs of wear
 - 1% - poor condition



West Valley Watershed

- 85 square-mile area
 - 68 sq miles of creek
 - 55 sq miles of District-owned creek
 - Smallest watershed
- 88% of the creek is in good condition
 - 10% - shows signs of wear
 - 2% - poor condition



Community Network

List of Groups for Engagement

Agriculture/Ranching

Economic Vitality & Sustainability

Educational Institutions

Tribes/Environmental Justice

Environmental Org./Stewardship

Governing Bodies - Regulatory Agencies

Municipalities/Land Use Agencies

Open Space Conservation/Recreation

Residents/Community-Based Orgs

Special Joint Organizations/Coalitions

Subject Matter Experts/Research & Data

Water Resource Agencies / Special Districts

Outreach and Engagement

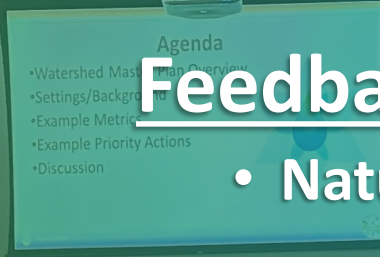
10

Community Meetings:

- March 2025 – Kickoff
- Sept. 2025 - Los Altos
- March 2026 - Stevens Creek Summit

Feedback:

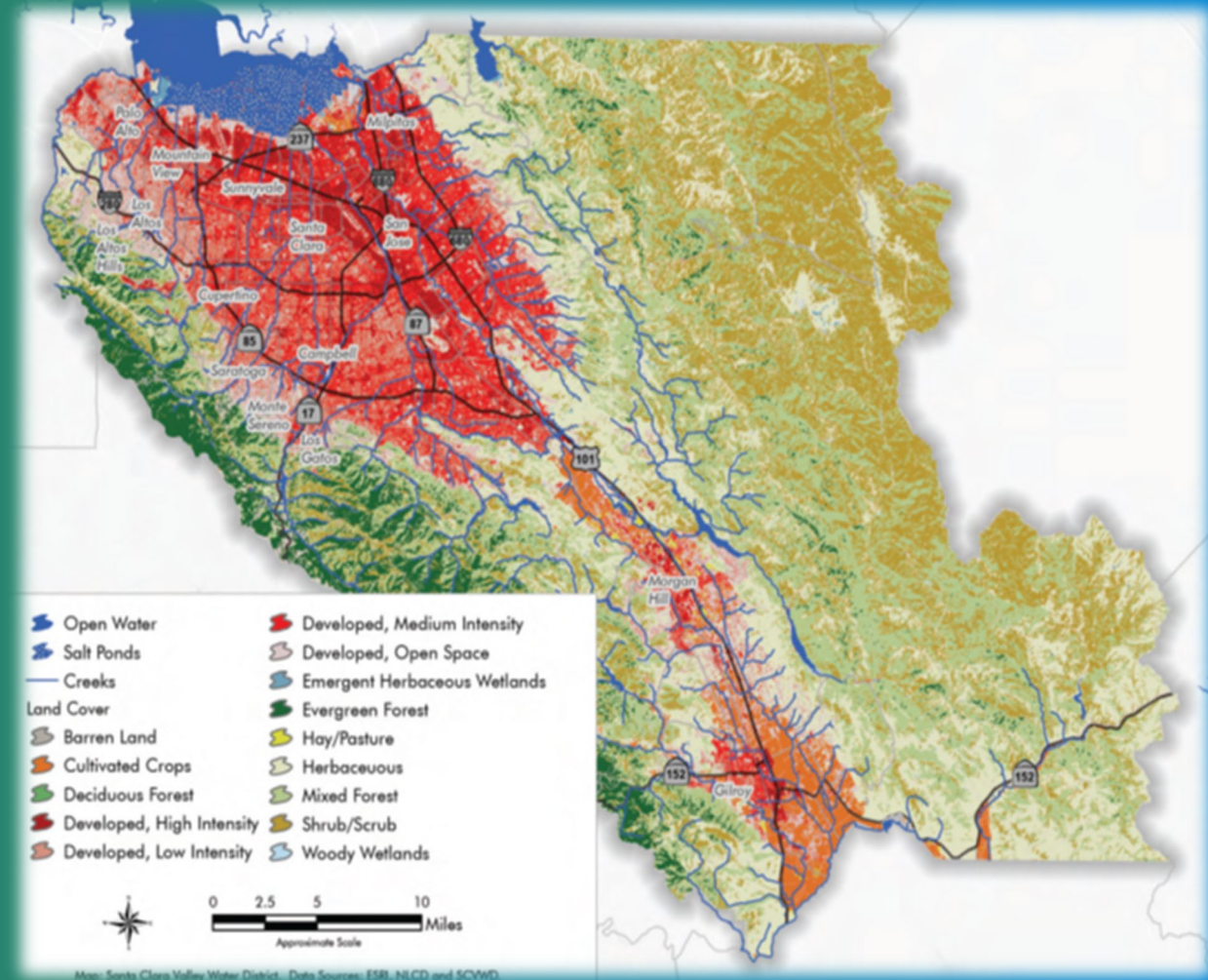
- Nature-based creek restoration
- Removal of fish passage barriers (i.e. Stevens Creek near Hwy 101)
- Expand trails and creek trail connectivity
- Increase riparian setbacks for future urban development
- Improve bird and pollinator habitat



Watershed Setting Reports

11

- Describes existing conditions
- Detailed assessment for each objective
- Identifies challenges and opportunities



Challenges

Highly constrained, urban
creeks

Aging flood protection
infrastructure

Degraded habitat and limited
connectivity

Water quality impairments
from urban runoff

Climate change impacts

Opportunities

Multi-benefit projects

Nature-based solutions

Regional partnerships

Strategic asset renewal

Urban and Bayland
restoration

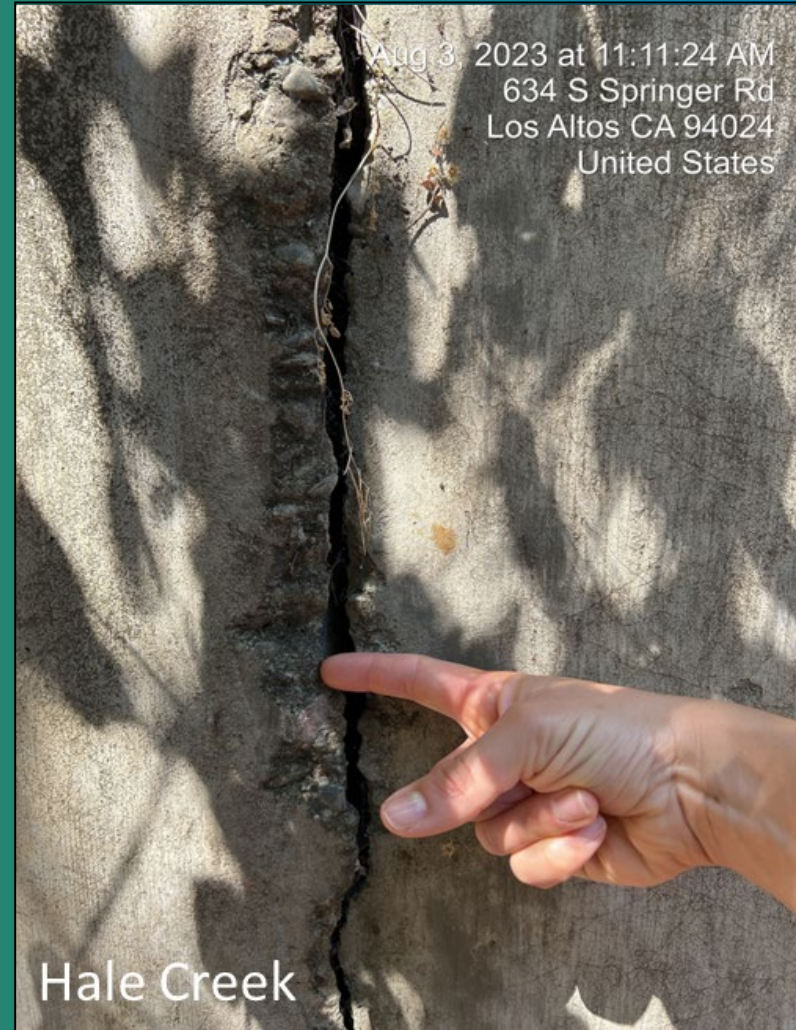
Existing Flood Protection Conditions 13



San Tomas Aquino
45

Existing Concrete Conditions

14



Existing Ecological Conditions

15



Moffett Fish Ladder

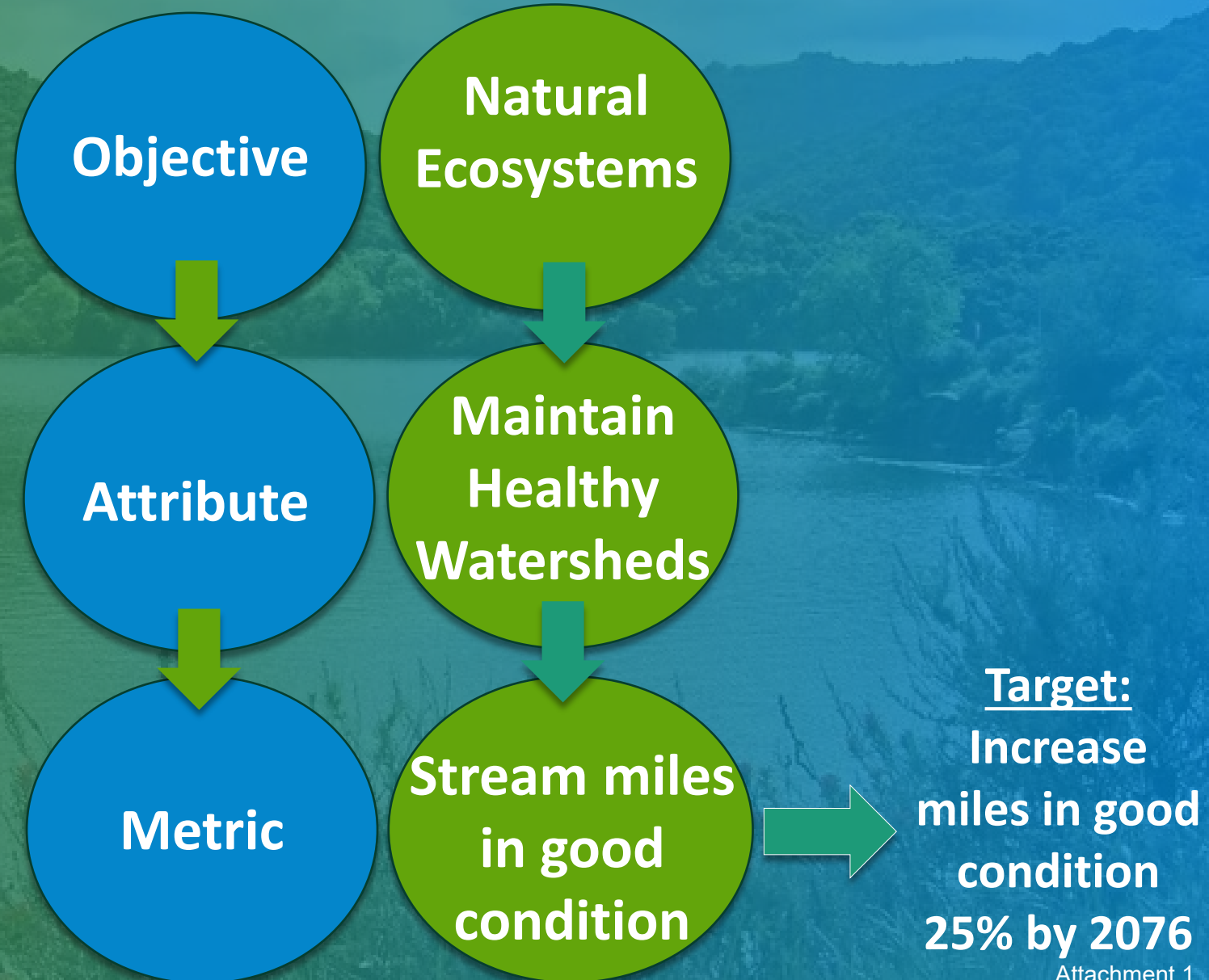
Existing Urbanization Conditions



Metrics

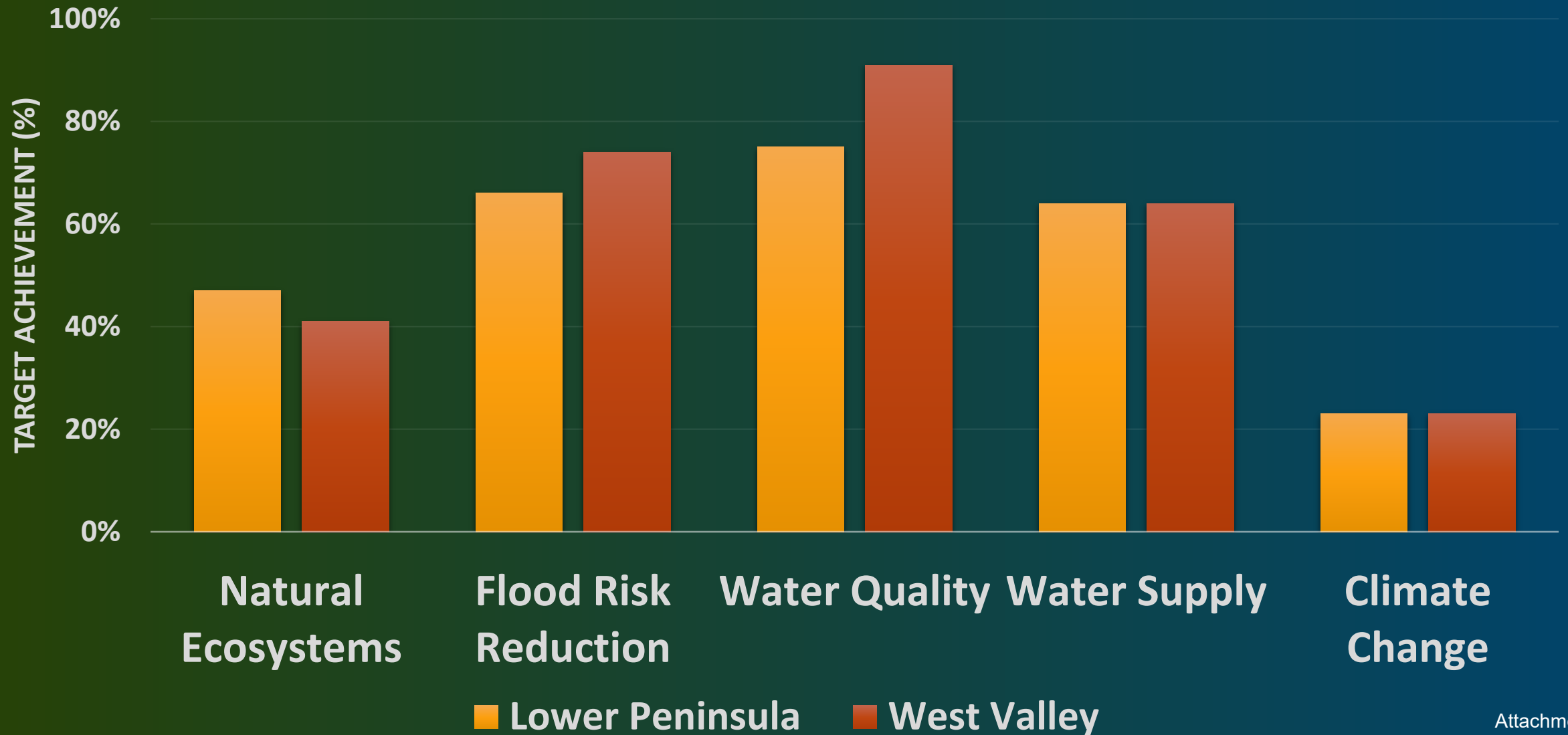
17

- Metrics are measurable components to show status and movement toward a target



Current Results

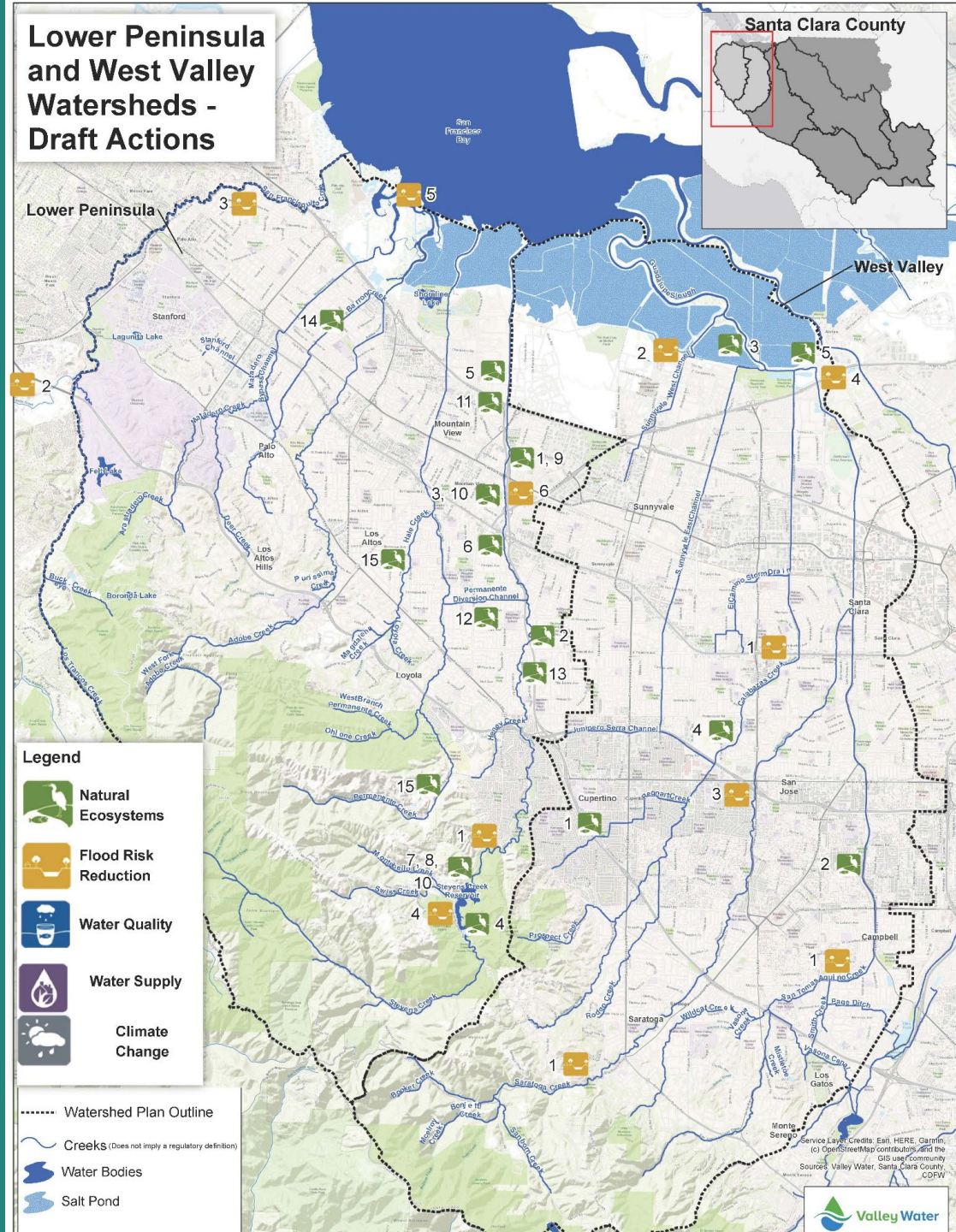
18



Priority Actions

- Existing and potential future projects within the watershed
- Actions address priorities set by metrics and community input

*Draft Actions Map of Lower Pen
and West Valley Watershed*



Draft Priority Actions in the Lower Peninsula & West Valley

- Aquatic Habitat Improvements
- Baylands Restoration
- Rehabilitation of Existing Infrastructure
- Hydrology Studies
- Groundwater Management
- Water Quality Improvement

Natural Ecosystems

21

Fish Passage Improvements

Implementation of identified priority sites for fish passage improvements.
(i.e. Lower Pen - ECO-2, ECO-3, ECO-4)



Aquatic Habitat Augmentation

Enhancing aquatic habitat with placement of gravel and large woody debris.
(i.e Lower Pen - ECO-1, ECO-9)



Flood Risk Reduction

22

Hydrology Studies

Estimating frequency, duration, and intensity of flood flows.

(i.e. Lower Pen FRR-1, West Valley FRR-1)



Flood Conveyance Improvements

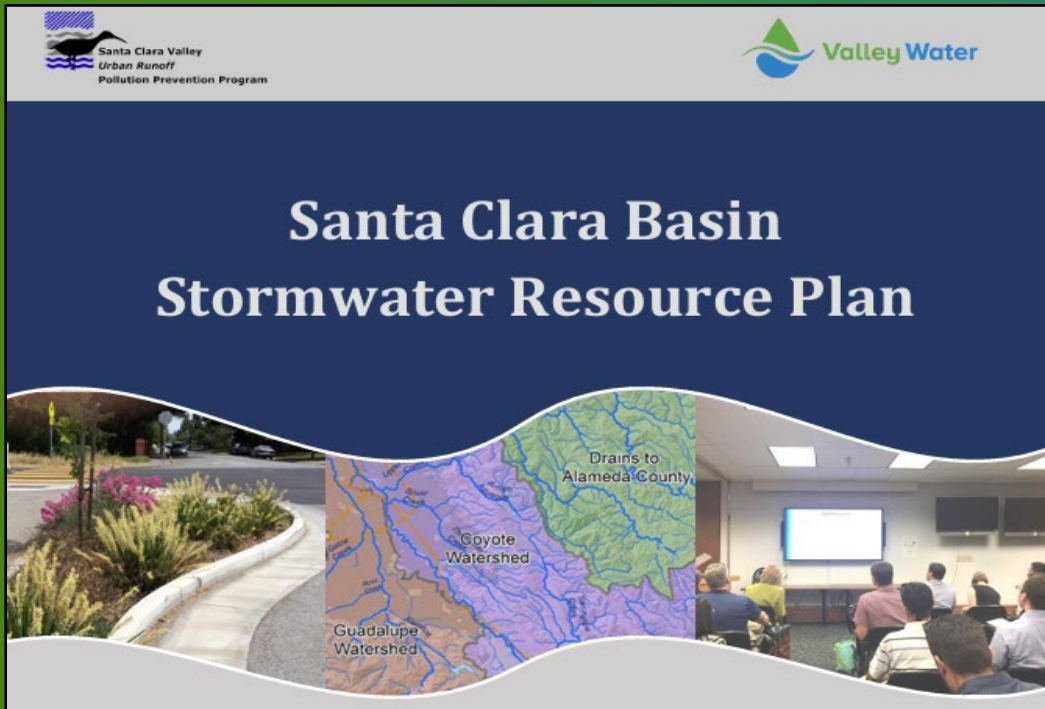
Enhancing the capacity of floodplains to manage floodwaters effectively.

(i.e. Lower Pen FRR-3, West Valley FRR-2)



Support Water Resources Plan Updates

Partner and support local municipalities and agencies on the updates of the Stormwater Resource Plan and Regional Shoreline Adaptation Plan. (i.e. WQ-1, WQ-2)



Trash Boom Partnerships

Partnering to prevent trash and debris from entering the Baylands.

(i.e. IP-3 in Lower Pen)

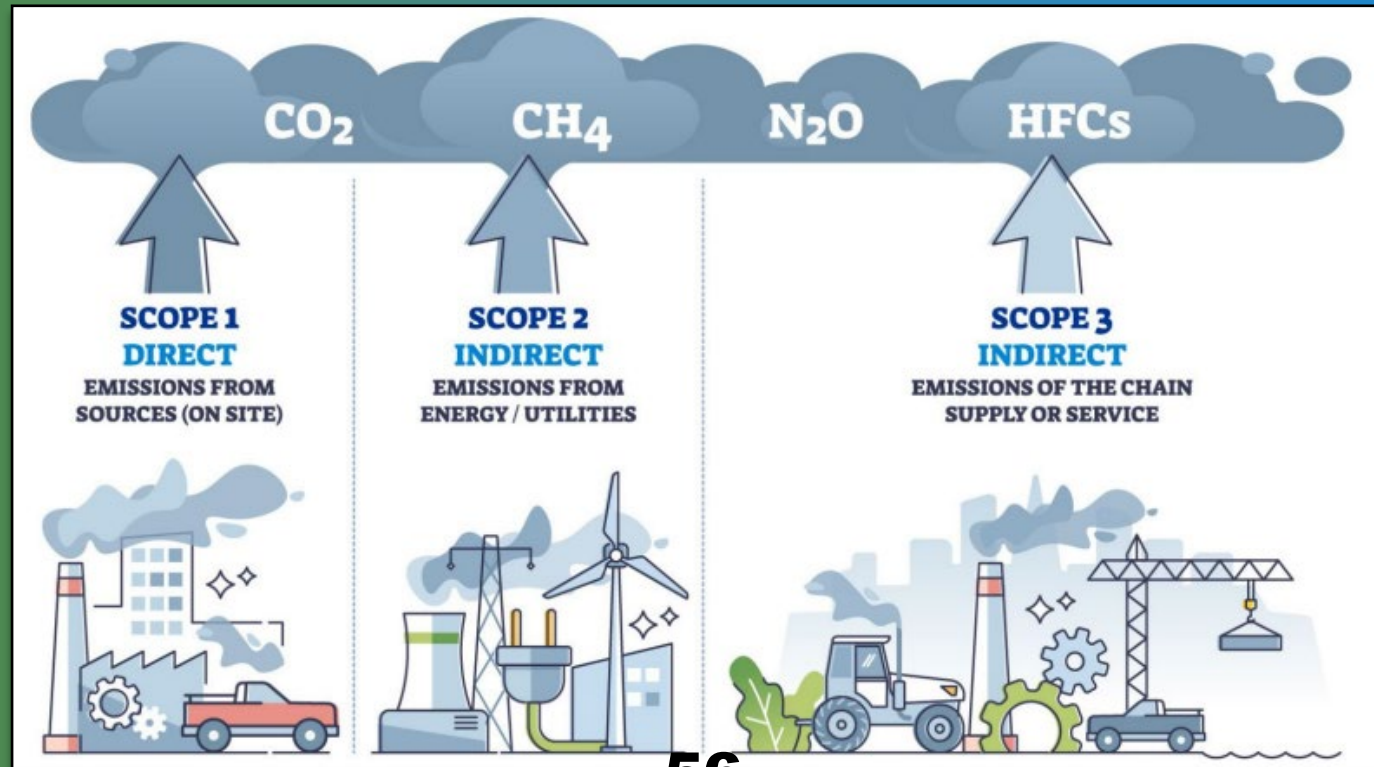


Climate Change

24

Greenhouse Gas Reduction Measures

Identifying and implementing GHG reduction measures to achieve Valley Water's carbon neutrality objectives.
(i.e. CC-1, CC-2, CC-3)



Overview of Completed and Ongoing Efforts

Water Supply (WS)	Water Quality (WQ)	Natural Ecosystems (ECO)
Groundwater Management of the Santa Clara Subbasin	Trash Capture Device Maintenance	Hale Creek Enhancement Project
Water Supply Master Plan 2050	Urban Runoff & Green Stormwater Infrastructure Program	Invasive Spartina Project
Climate Change	Good Neighbor Program – Encampment Cleanup	Integrated Invasive Plant Management Program
Reservoir Greenhouse Gas Emission Study	Mercury Monitoring & Reservoir Water Quality Studies	Early Detection & Rapid Response (EDRR) Program
Flood Risk Reduction (FRR)		San Tomas Aquino Creek Watershed Sediment Assessment
Emergency Response & Flood Forecasting System Upgrades		Saratoga Creek Hazard Tree Removal & Habitat Restoration
		Reservoir Greenhouse Gas Emission Study

Feedback Requested!

Your turn! Give input today and...

Visit the project's webpage at
valleywater.org/project-updates/watershed-master-plan

Contact Elizabeth Mercado
Emercado@valleywater.org

We'd love to hear from you at any time!
<https://beheard.valleywater.org/west-valley-watershed-plan>

<https://beheard.valleywater.org/lower-peninsula-watershed-plan>



West Valley & Lower Peninsula Watershed Master Plans

Planning Timeline

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QUESTIONS



Attachment 2: Draft Priority Actions for Lower Peninsula and West Valley Watersheds

Flood Risk Reduction Actions

Action ID	Watershed	Title	Brief Description	Activity Type
FRR-1	LP	Stevens Creek Hydrology Update Study	Update flood hydrology and hydraulic models to improve flood risk estimates and support future watershed planning.	Assessment / Study
FRR-2	LP	Searsville Watershed Restoration Project	Partner with Stanford to restore a free-flowing creek system, improve floodplain function, and reconnect natural sediment transport processes.	Partnership
FRR-3	LP	San Francisquito Creek Flood Protection (Reach 2)	Support flood protection improvements and bridge upgrades to reduce flood risk along lower San Francisquito Creek.	Partnership
FRR-4	LP	Stevens Creek Dam Seismic Stability Assessment	Evaluate dam performance under earthquake and extreme flood conditions and identify potential improvement options.	Assessment / Study
FRR-5	LP	Palo Alto Tide Gate Rehabilitation	Rehabilitate aging tide gates that help protect nearby communities, infrastructure, and creek systems from coastal flooding.	Project
FRR-6	LP	Stevens Creek Flood Protection Project	Develop flood protection improvements in high-risk reaches of Stevens Creek to reduce flood risk to nearby properties and facilities.	Project
FRR-1	WV	West Valley Watershed Hydraulic Analysis	Refine watershed hydraulic models and flood risk assessments to support future planning and project development.	Assessment / Study
FRR-2	WV	Saratoga Creek Flood Protection Project	Evaluate and develop flood risk reduction improvements along a reach of Saratoga Creek near Stevens Creek Boulevard.	Project
FRR-3	WV	San Tomas Aquino Creek Watershed Sediment Assessment	Assess sediment movement, erosion areas, and future watershed conditions to support resilient sediment management strategies.	Assessment / Study
FRR-4	WV	Sunnyvale West Channel Enhancement Project	Improve flood protection along the West Channel through infrastructure upgrades to reduce flood risk near the Sunnyvale Water Pollution Control Plant, surrounding businesses, and transportation corridors. The project will be developed in coordination with the City of Sunnyvale.	Project
FRR-5	WV	Sunnyvale East Channel Enhancement Project	Upgrade bridges, levees, floodwalls, and other flood management infrastructure along the East Channel to improve system performance and reduce flood risk in the Moffett Park and Sunnyvale area.	Project

Natural Ecosystem Actions

Action ID	Watershed	Title	Brief Description	Activity Type
ECO-1	LP	Improve Spawning & Rearing Habitat for Steelhead	Add gravel, large wood, pools, and other habitat features to improve conditions for native fish in Stevens Creek.	Project
ECO-2	LP	SF35 Gage Fish Passage Improvement	Improve fish passage conditions at the Stevens Creek SF35 gaging station.	Project
ECO-3	LP	Fremont Fish Ladder Improvement	Upgrade fish ladder infrastructure to improve fish movement and habitat connectivity on Stevens Creek.	Project
ECO-4	LP	Hetch Hetchy Drop Structure Fish Passage	Support the improvement of fish passage at the SFPUC-owned drop structure on Stevens Creek.	Partnership
ECO-5	LP	Landels Park Fish Passage Improvement	Support the improvement of fish passage at two drop structures near Landels Park to support steelhead migration on Stevens Creek.	Partnership
ECO-6	LP	Vernon Avenue Fish Passage Improvement	Improve passage conditions for juvenile and adult steelhead near Vernon Avenue on Stevens Creek.	Project
ECO-7	LP	El Camino Real Fish Passage Improvement	Support the improvement of fish passage near El Camino Real and adjacent storm drain infrastructure on Stevens Creek.	Partnership
ECO-8	LP	Gaging Weir 44 Fish Passage Improvement	Support the improvement of fish passage at Weir 44 on Stevens Creek while maintaining stream monitoring capabilities.	Partnership
ECO-9	LP	Stevens Reservoir Trap-and-Truck Study	Evaluate the feasibility of transporting steelhead around Stevens Creek Reservoir to improve access to habitat.	Assessment / Study
ECO-10	LP	Stevens Creek Multiport Outlet Study	Evaluate reservoir outlet modifications that could improve downstream water temperatures and habitat conditions.	Assessment / Study
ECO-11	LP	Moffett Fish Passage Improvement	Improve the existing Moffet fish ladder for performance and habitat connectivity on Stevens Creek.	Project
ECO-12	LP	Evelyn Avenue Fish Passage Improvement	Restore stream habitat and improve fish passage opportunities near Evelyn Avenue.	Project
ECO-13	LP	Highway 101 Fish Passage Improvement	Support the improvement of fish passage barriers at the CalTrans-owned Highway 101 crossing on Stevens Creek.	Partnership
ECO-14	LP	Permanente Creek Diversion Study	Assess opportunities to improve fish passage along the Permanente Creek Diversion.	Assessment / Study

ECO-15	LP	Stevens Creek Channel Stabilization	Stabilize eroding creek reaches while enhancing habitat and channel function.	Project
ECO-16	LP	Barron Creek Channel Improvements	Improve aging channel infrastructure while enhancing ecological conditions.	Project
ECO-17	LP	Permanente & Hale Creek Channel Improvements	Improve aging channel infrastructure while enhancing ecological conditions.	Project
ECO-1	WV	Regnart Creek Channel Stabilization	Address channel erosion and instability along Regnart Creek through targeted improvements that reduce maintenance challenges while enhancing ecological function and watershed resilience.	Project
ECO-2	WV	San Tomas Aquino Creek Channel Improvements	Evaluate erosion, sediment, maintenance challenges, and habitat conditions along San Tomas Aquino Creek to identify long-term, sustainable solutions that improve watershed resilience and ecological function.	Project
ECO-3	WV	Pond A4 Resilient Habitat Restoration	Restore habitat within Pond A4 using nature-based approaches that improve ecological conditions, support wildlife, and enhance long-term resilience to climate change and sea level rise.	Project
ECO-4	WV	Calabazas Creek Channel Improvements	Evaluate opportunities to improve channel stability, flood risk management, and long-term maintenance effectiveness along lower Calabazas Creek. A study will first identify sustainable and cost-effective solutions to address ongoing sediment, vegetation, erosion, and infrastructure challenges.	Project
ECO-5	WV	Calabazas and San Tomas Aquino Creek-Marsh Connection	Reconnect Calabazas Creek and San Tomas Aquino Creek to adjacent tidal marsh habitats to improve ecological connectivity, support native wildlife, and enhance long-term ecosystem resilience.	Project
ECO-18 ECO-6	LP & WV	Modified Channel Ecological Enhancement Planning	Identify and prioritize opportunities to enhance habitat and ecological function within modified creek channels. Potential projects will be evaluated based on ecological benefits, feasibility, and their ability to maintain flood protection while providing additional community and environmental benefits where appropriate.	Assessment / Study

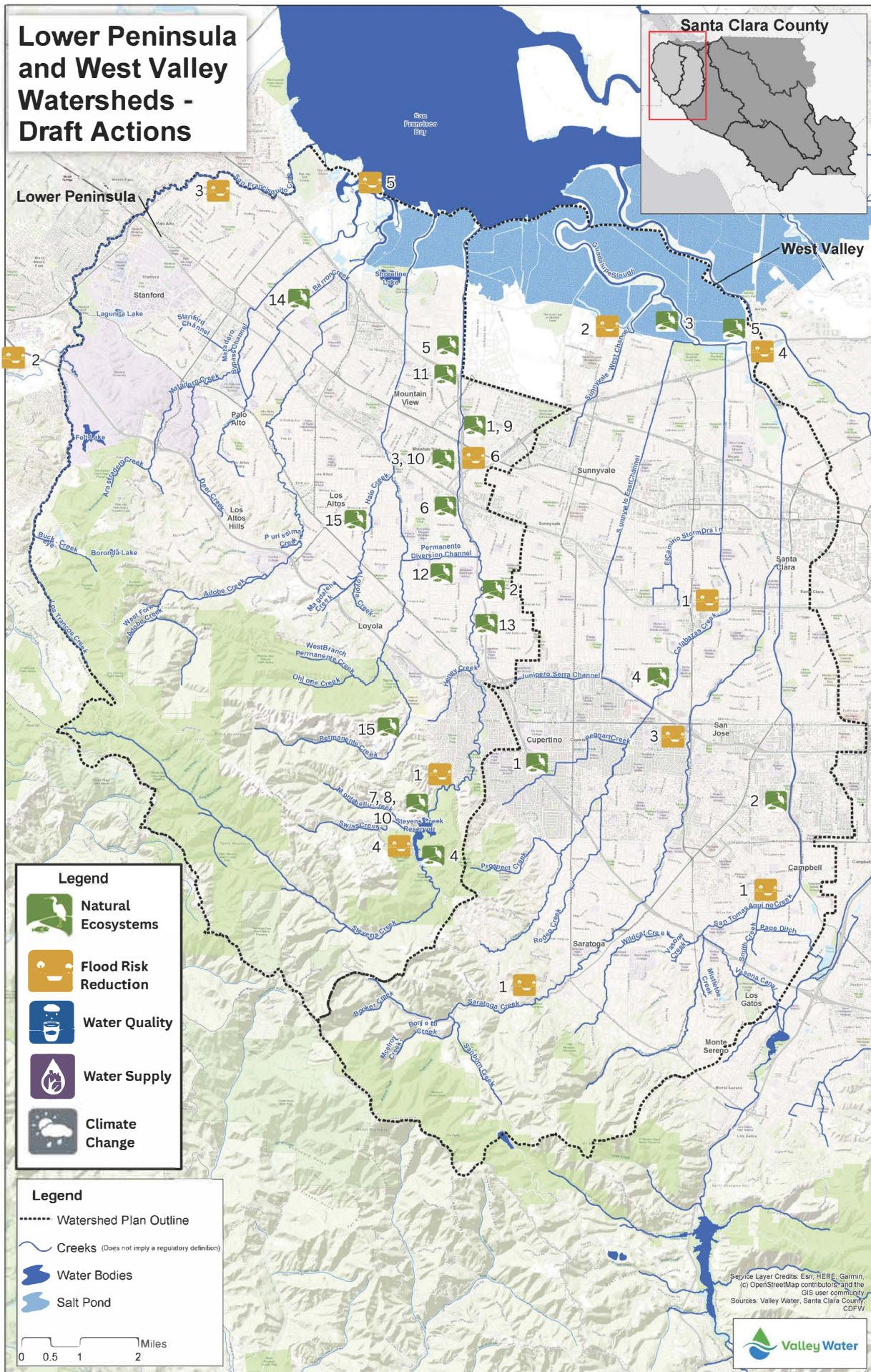
Climate Change Actions

Action ID	Watershed	Title	Brief Description	Activity Type
CC-1	LP & WV	Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan Update	Implement Valley Water's Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan to support progress toward net-zero emissions goals and improve climate resilience.	Plan
CC-2	LP & WV	Carbon Budget Tracking Program	Develop a carbon budget tracking tool and procedures to help monitor greenhouse gas emissions and track progress toward Valley Water's reduction targets.	Program

Water Quality Actions

Action ID	Watershed	Title	Brief Description	Activity Type
WQ-1	LP & WV	Partner with Local Municipalities to implement Stormwater Resource Plan	Valley Water plans to partner with municipalities throughout Santa Clara County to update the existing Santa Clara Basin Stormwater Resource Plan and identify projects that improve stormwater management and enhance the water quality of local creeks and waterways.	Partnership
WQ-2	LP & WV	Support and Advance Sea Level Rise Groundwater Studies	Support and expand studies evaluating the effects of sea level rise and saltwater intrusion on groundwater conditions, to further identify, prioritize, and develop adaptation projects and management strategies that improve long-term watershed resilience.	Partnership

Lower Peninsula and West Valley Watersheds - Draft Actions



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Santa Clara Valley Water District

File No.: 26-0564

Agenda Date: 7/6/2026

Item No.: 4.3.

COMMITTEE AGENDA MEMORANDUM Agricultural Water Advisory Committee

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

SUBJECT:

Receive Information on the Impact to the Groundwater Production Charge Projection from the Dam Safety Program.

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive information on the impact to the groundwater production charge projection from the Dam Safety Program.

SUMMARY:

On April 14, 2026, the Valley Water Board of Directors held a public hearing on the February 2026 Annual Report on the Production and Augmentation of Water Supplies and Recommended Increases in Groundwater Production Charges for Fiscal Year 2026-27. During that discussion, the Board requested information on the impact to the Groundwater Production Charge Projection driven by the Dam Safety Program. The Dam Safety Program represents a series of planned future capital investments to retrofit the dams at Almaden, Calero, Coyote & Guadalupe reservoirs.

Staff provided information on the requested groundwater production charge impact at the public hearing held on April 28, 2026, and the purpose of this item is to share with the committee the information that was provided.

Attachment 1 shows the impact of the Dam Safety Program on the M&I (Municipal & Industrial) or non-agricultural groundwater charge projection for each groundwater benefit zone including zones W-2, W-5, W-7 and W-8. The Dam Safety Program does not benefit Zone W-8. Since, pursuant to current Board practice, the Agricultural groundwater production charge projection is linked to the zone with the lowest general (non-agricultural) groundwater production charge, and since this is currently Zone W-8, because Zone W-8 does not benefit from the Dam Safety Program, it is likely that, at least in the near-term, costs associated with the Dam Safety Program will have little or no impact on the Agricultural groundwater charge projection.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE IMPACT:

There are no Environmental Justice impacts associated with this item.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment 1: PowerPoint

UNCLASSIFIED MANAGER:

Darin Taylor, 408-630-3068



Agricultural Advisory Committee Impact of Dam Safety Program on Water Rates

July 6, 2026

Impact of Dam Safety Prgm on GW charge projection

Dam Safety Program includes future planned investments for Almaden, Calero, Coyote & Guadalupe

2

Municipal & Industrial Groundwater Charge
Year to Year Growth %

	FY27	FY28	FY29	FY30	FY31	FY32	FY33	FY34	FY35	FY36
North County Zone W-2	9.1%	9.1%	9.1%	9.1%	7.4%	7.4%	7.4%	7.4%	7.4%	7.4%
<i>Without Dam Safety Program</i>	<i>8.9%</i>	<i>8.9%</i>	<i>8.9%</i>	<i>8.9%</i>	<i>7.3%</i>	<i>7.3%</i>	<i>7.3%</i>	<i>7.3%</i>	<i>7.3%</i>	<i>7.3%</i>
South County Zone W-5	6.6%	6.6%	6.6%	6.6%	6.6%	6.6%	6.6%	6.6%	6.6%	6.6%
South County Zone W-7	9.4%	9.4%	9.4%	9.4%	9.4%	9.4%	9.4%	9.4%	9.4%	9.4%
South County Zone W-8	8.0%	8.0%	8.0%	8.0%	8.0%	8.0%	8.0%	8.0%	8.0%	8.0%

What is being done to minimize the impact of Dam Safety Program on GW charge projection?

3

Answer:

1. Valley Water completed CWIFP loan application in September 2025. Loan was slated for credit council approval in March 2026. No recent updates provided.
2. Preparing revised \$24M Prop 4 application for DWR funding for ADSRP. Preparing new \$20M Prop 4 application for Calero.
3. \$19.5M EDA Disaster Mitigation grant application in process for ADSRP.
4. Active monitoring of Federal and State grant opportunities.
5. Pursuing opportunities to partner with philanthropic organizations.
6. Working with Dam Safety Coalition to increase FY 27 Prop 4 dam safety allocation.

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Santa Clara Valley Water District

File No.: 26-0585

Agenda Date: 7/6/2026

Item No.: 4.4.

COMMITTEE AGENDA MEMORANDUM Agricultural Water Advisory Committee

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

SUBJECT:

Review 2026 Agricultural Water Advisory Committee (AWAC) 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 agendaized 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:

The review and approval of the Committee Work Plan is not subject to environmental justice analysis.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment 1: AWAC 2026 Work Plan

UNCLASSIFIED MANAGER:

Wendy Ho, 408-630-3874

2026 Work Plan: Agricultural Water Advisory Committee

Update: June 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 5	Committee Elects Chair and Vice Chair for 2026. (Action)	Accomplished January 5, 2026 The Committee unanimously approved Vice Chairperson Trevor Garrod as Chairperson. The Committee unanimously approved Tim Chiala as Vice Chairperson.
2	Annual Accomplishments Report.	January 5	Review and approve 2025 Accomplishments Report for presentation to the Board. (Action) Submit requests to the Board, as appropriate.	Accomplished January 5, 2026 The Committee unanimously approved the 2025 Annual Accomplishments Report for presentation to the Board. <i>The Board accepted the 2025 Annual Accomplishments Report at the March 24, 2026, meeting.</i>
3	Review and Discuss Resolution 17-75 and the Agricultural Water Advisory Committee (AWAC) Membership.	January 5	Review and discuss Reso. 17-75 and the AWAC Membership plan. (Action) Submit requests to the Board, as appropriate.	Accomplished January 5, 2026 The Committee discussed and noted the information, provided feedback, took no formal action, and expressed support for Committee members to remain actively engaged in agriculture and to conduct outreach within their respective areas to recruit potential new members.
4	Receive an Update on the Upper Llagas Flood Protection Project.	January 5	Receive update.	Accomplished January 5, 2026 The Committee received and noted the information, provided feedback, and took no formal action.

Yellow = Update Since Last Meeting

Blue = Action taken by the Board of Directors

2026 Work Plan: Agricultural Water Advisory Committee

Update: June 2026

ITEM	WORK PLAN ITEM BOARD POLICY	MEETING DATE	INTENDED OUTCOME(S) (Action or Information Only)	ACCOMPLISHMENT DATE AND OUTCOME
5	Review and Comment to the Board on the Fiscal Year 2026 – 2027 Preliminary Groundwater Production Charges.	January 5 April 6	Review and comment to the Board on the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Preliminary Groundwater Production Charges. (Action) Submit requests to the Board, as appropriate.	Accomplished January 5, 2026 The Committee received and noted the information, provided feedback, and took no formal action. Accomplished April 6, 2026 The Committee received and noted the information, provided feedback, and took no formal action. <i>The Board adopted the Resolutions: DETERMINING GROUNDWATER PRODUCTION CHARGES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027; and DETERMINING RAW SURFACE WATER, TREATED WATER, AND SOUTH COUNTY RECYCLED WATER CHARGES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027 at the May 12, 2026 meeting.</i>
6	Standing Items Report Fiscal Year 2026 Goals and Strategies.	January 5 October 5	Receive reports on standing items, FY2026.	Accomplished January 5, 2026 The Committee received the report on standing items for FY2025-2026 and took no action.
7	Government Affairs Report	January 5 April 6 July 6 October 5	Receive update.	Accomplished January 5, 2026 The Committee received the verbal federal, state, and local government updates and confirmed staff are monitoring Proposition 1 and Proposition 4 for project funding; and noted Valley Water has not taken a position on the Santa Clara County's rural zoning amendments. Accomplished April 6, 2026 The Committee received the federal and state, verbal government update.

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2026 Work Plan: Agricultural Water Advisory Committee

Update: June 2026

ITEM	WORK PLAN ITEM BOARD POLICY	MEETING DATE	INTENDED OUTCOME(S) (Action or Information Only)	ACCOMPLISHMENT DATE AND OUTCOME
8	Review and Approve the Proposed 2026 Agricultural Water Advisory Committee (AWAC) Work Plan and Recommend the Proposed 2026 AWAC Work Plan to the Board. Review and Discuss Outcomes of Board Action of Committee Requests, and the Committee's Next Meeting Agenda.	January 5 April 6 July 6 October 5	Review and approve the proposed 2026 Committee work plan and recommend the proposed 2026 AWAC Work Plan to the Board. (Action) Review and discuss outcomes of Board action of Committee requests, and the Committee's next agenda. And submit requests to the Board, as appropriate.	Accomplished January 5, 2026 The Committee unanimously approved to recommend the proposed 2026 AWAC Work Plan to the Board with the amendment to incorporate the Committee's feedback. <i>The Board approved the 2026 AWAC Work Plan at the March 24, 2026, meeting.</i> Accomplished April 6, 2026 The Committee expressed support for adding language to the following Work Plan item: <i>Update on Valley Water's South County Managed Aquifer Recharge Activities</i> and unanimously approved to amend the Work Plan to include the following goal language: <i>Update on Valley Water's South County Managed Aquifer Recharge Activities: Goal to determine – regions preferred feasible for percolation in collaboration with Valley Water & landowners for mutual benefit.</i>
9	Receive Update on Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) Compliance.	April 6 July 6 October 5	Receive update on SGMA compliance and Semitropic banking.	Accomplished April 6, 2026 The Committee received and noted the information, provided feedback, and took no formal action.
10	Receive an Update on Valley Water's South County Managed Aquifer Recharge Activities. Goal to determine – regions preferred feasible for percolation in collaboration with Valley Water & landowners for mutual benefit.	April 6 October 5	Receive update on Valley Water's South County managed aquifer recharge activities. Goal to determine – regions preferred feasible for percolation in collaboration with Valley Water & landowners for mutual benefit.	Accomplished April 6, 2026 The Committee received and noted the information, provided feedback, and took no formal action.

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2026 Work Plan: Agricultural Water Advisory Committee

Update: June 2026

ITEM	WORK PLAN ITEM BOARD POLICY	MEETING DATE	INTENDED OUTCOME(S) (Action or Information Only)	ACCOMPLISHMENT DATE AND OUTCOME
11	Receive Update on West Valley and Lower Peninsula Watershed Master Plans.	July 6	Receive update on West Valley and Lower Peninsula Watershed Master Plans.	
12	Receive Update on One Water Plan Upper Pajaro Watershed Plan Priority Actions.	-	Receive information about development of the One Water Upper Pajaro Watershed Plan. Review and provide input on One Water Upper Pajaro Watershed Plan Priority Actions.	<u>Staff requesting to remove this item from the Work Plan per project completion in 2025.</u>
13	Receive Update on the Dam Safety Program's Impact on Water Rates.	July 6	Receive information on the Dam Safety Program's Impact on Water Rates.	
14	Receive Drought Preparedness Update and Discuss the Potential of Forming a Subcommittee.	October 5	Receive Drought Preparedness Update and discuss the potential of forming a subcommittee.	
15	Receive Update on Valley Water's Water Supply Master Plan (WSMP) Monitoring and Assessment Program.	October 5	Receive update on Valley Water's WSMP Monitoring and Assessment Program.	

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2026 Work Plan: Agricultural Water Advisory Committee

Update: June 2026

ITEM	WORK PLAN ITEM BOARD POLICY	MEETING DATE	INTENDED OUTCOME(S) (Action or Information Only)	ACCOMPLISHMENT DATE AND OUTCOME
16	Receive Update on Semitropic Groundwater Storage Bank.	October 5	Receive update on Semitropic Groundwater Storage Bank.	
17	Review Climate Change and the benefits of ecosystems on Agriculture in Santa Clara County.	TBD	Discuss how climate change impacts the benefits of ecosystems on agriculture within Santa Clara County.	
18	Receive information on the County of Santa Clara's Agricultural Outreach and Awareness Campaign.	TBD	Receive information on the County of Santa Clara's Agricultural Outreach and Awareness Campaign.	
19	Receive an update of Valley Water's activities of the Unhoused and information on how enforcement of violations of companies are handled within the County.	TBD	Receive an update of Valley Water's activities of the Unhoused and information on how the enforcement of violations of companies are handled within the County. Board is requesting the committee give more detailed information on this item for the Board's consideration.	
BOARD WORK PLAN GOALS: Integrated Water Resources Management - Goal: Efficiently manage water resources across business areas. Water Supply – Goal: Provide a reliable, safe, and affordable water supply for current and future generations in all communities served. Natural Flood Protection – Goal: Provide natural flood protection to reduce risk and improve health and safety. Environmental Stewardship – Goal: Sustain ecosystem health while managing local water resources for flood protection and water supply. Addressing Encampment of Unsheltered People – Goal: safeguard water resources and facilities from encampment impacts. Extreme Weather Events – Goal: Mitigate carbon emissions and adapt Valley Water operations to extreme weather events.				

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7. **Business Management** – Goal: Promote effective management of water supply, flood protection, and environmental stewardship through responsive and socially responsible business services.

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