



Safe, Clean Water Program FY26 Text Adjustments



June 9, 2026

Text adjustments to project description and/or Key Performance Indicators as part of the 5-Year Implementation Plan (FY27-31).

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PROJECT D1

MANAGEMENT OF RIPARIAN PLANTING AND INVASIVE PLANT REMOVAL

This project supports Valley Water management of at least 300 acres of existing riparian planting projects and 200 acres of invasive plant removal projects throughout the five (5) watersheds. The project also funds maintenance of future riparian planting and invasive plant removal sites, which are anticipated as part of upcoming environmental mitigation requirements. Funding for this project ensures that all required riparian planting and invasive plant removal projects are maintained as functional habitat that can support wildlife. In addition, this project includes targeted control of especially damaging non-native, invasive plant species, such as *Arundo donax*, throughout the county.

Climate change has increased temperatures and lengthened growing seasons, which facilitates the spread of non-native invasive vegetation by allowing it to establish early in spring before native species, thus transforming ecosystems.

Riparian planting aims to reestablish native California plant species, combating habitat loss and fragmentation from urban development and sprawl. Carefully selected perennial plants, which can thrive for decades, aid in climate change mitigation by producing oxygen and absorbing and storing carbon in various forms. The shade provided by mature trees helps to moderate the urban heat island effect, reducing the need for additional energy sources to keep us comfortable. Shade can also help moderate the water temperature of streams, limiting extreme changes that can impact fish and other aquatic organisms. Invasive plant control targets non-native species, often less tolerant to climate extremes like flooding and droughts. These species can hinder the reestablishment of native plants after such disturbances and can diminish forest carbon storage capacity. Invasive plants also tend to form dense monospecific thickets, increasing the risk of more frequent and severe wildfires. Management of riparian planting and invasive plant removal helps prevent the spread of non-native species, making the natural habitat less vulnerable and more resilient to climate change. Furthermore, restoring habitats that are damaged during regular operations is an important component of sustainable stewardship to protect nearby natural areas. It helps improve native habitat.

Benefits

- Maintains 300 acres of existing riparian planting sites
- Maintains 200 acres of existing invasive plant management projects
- Allows Valley Water to monitor plant survival and habitat functions
- Complies with environmental laws, which require long-term habitat mitigation for routine stream maintenance, flood protection and water supply projects
- Provides for the maintenance of future riparian planting and invasive plant management sites
- Addresses climate change impacts by making the natural habitat less vulnerable and more resilient

Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), FY22-36

1. Maintain a minimum of 300 acres of riparian planting projects annually to meet regulatory requirements and conditions.
2. Maintain a minimum of 200 acres of invasive plant management projects annually to meet regulatory requirements and conditions.
3. ~~Remove~~ Targeted control of 25 acres of ~~damaging non-native, invasive plant species, such as~~ *Arundo donax*, throughout the county over a 15-year period.

Geographic Area of Benefit: Countywide

PROJECT F3

FLOOD RISK ASSESSMENT STUDIES

This project is to enable Valley Water scientists to update custom software models of local creeks for the most current and accurate understanding of potential flood risks in high priority flood-prone areas and then develop options for managing those risks. Existing models will be verified, updated and recalibrated as conditions change. Updating our knowledge-base will lead to more effective creek management and maintenance. Valley Water will also convey this information to the community and partner cities.

When creek conditions necessitate rehabilitation to preserve flood protection, this project also funds preliminary engineering studies to isolate problem areas and explore potential solutions.

Under the 2012 Safe, Clean Water Program, Valley Water completed engineering studies on five (5) reaches of creeks as part of the Flood Risk Assessment Studies project. These were on Coyote Creek (Bay to Anderson Dam, including Rock Springs Neighborhood); Adobe and Barron creeks tidal flood protection (Highway 101 to Middlefield Road in Palo Alto); Alamos Creek (upstream of Almaden Lake in San José); and Ross Creek (Guadalupe River to Blossom Hill Road in San José). The Coyote Creek study completed under this project was utilized to develop the short-term interim projects that Valley Water built to help reduce the risk of flooding along Coyote Creek (See Project E1 - Coyote Creek Flood Protection Project). These include the installation of an interim floodwall and embankment along the creek to protect the Rock Springs community from a flood event equivalent to the February 2017 flood. Valley Water also updated the Alamos Creek 2-D hydraulic (HEC-RAS) model of the 1% (100-year event) floodplain and shared the information with the City of San José.

Revising flood models on a regular basis enables Valley Water to keep pace with changes in rainfall patterns and intensity as our climate changes. An up-to-date understanding of flood risks allows us to work toward preventing future flooding.

Benefits

- Provides more current and accurate mapping of areas at risk of flooding
- Provides the technical basis for developing future flood protection plans, and for potential funding partnerships
- Identifies, in a timely manner, the needs to prevent creek deterioration
- Identifies the need for flood mitigation or creek rehabilitation projects
- Facilitates communication with partner cities on evolving flood risks and possible solutions
- Addresses climate change by updating hydrology studies, which incorporate recent flow data, and mapping out floodplains based on those updated studies

Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), FY22-36

1. Complete engineering studies on three (3) creek reaches to address 1% (100-year) flood risk.
2. Annually, update **Valley Water's** floodplain maps on a minimum of three (3) creek reaches in accordance with new FEMA standards.

Geographic Area of Benefit: Countywide

PROJECT D5

ECOLOGICAL DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS

This project continues to build and update watershed data to track stream ecosystem conditions, helping Valley Water and other county agencies and organizations make informed watershed, asset management and natural resource decisions. The new and updated information will be used to develop or modernize integrated watershed plans ~~(such as watershed profiles, One Water Plan and Stream Corridor Priority Plans)~~ that identify potential projects, support grant applications, environmental analyses and permits, and are shared with land use agencies, environmental groups, and the public to make efficient and coordinated environmental decisions throughout the county. These data and plans will help integrate and enhance Valley Water's programs, projects, maintenance and stewardship actions through standardized, repeatable and defensible measurements that ide, organize and integrate information on stream and habitat conditions.

Measuring changes in ecological conditions through time allows Valley Water, resource agencies, land managers and the public to understand and respond to climate change effects and evolving creek and habitat conditions.

Benefits

- Improves natural resource, watershed and asset management decisions
- Provides a systematic, scientific guide for decisions and actions to improve stream conditions
- Supports effective and environmentally sound design options
- Provides reliable data on countywide stream conditions and basis for measuring the success of past mitigation and environmental stewardship project projects
- Facilitates a watershed approach to resource management, permitting and restoration planning
- Supports climate change adaptation by providing data to better understand its effects on local habitats to enable increased habitat resiliency

~~Key~~ Performance Indicators (KPIs), FY22-36

1. Reassess and track stream ecological conditions and habitats in each of the county's five (5) watersheds every 15 years.
2. Provide up to \$500,000 per 15-year period toward the development and updates of five (5) watershed plans that include identifying priority habitat enhancement opportunities in Santa Clara County.

Geographic Area of Benefit: Countywide

PROJECT E8

UPPER GUADALUPE RIVER FLOOD PROTECTION, HIGHWAY 280 TO BLOSSOM HILL ROAD—SAN JOSÉ

Preferred project: A federal-state-local partnership

This federally authorized project continues a project in partnership with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to plan, design and construct improvements along 5.5 miles of the channel extending from Interstate 280 to Blossom Hill Road. Improvements include channel widening, construction of floodwalls and levees, replacement of road crossings and planting of streamside vegetation. Reducing flood frequency and bank erosion will improve water quality, while planned mitigation measures will give fish access to an additional 12 miles of habitat within and upstream of the project reach.

~~In January 2021, USACE initiated a General Reevaluation Study of the preferred project. The General Reevaluation Report (GRR) is expected to be completed by June 2025. The scope of the project may change as a result of the GRR findings.~~

Local-funding-only project

The locally funded project entails constructing flood protection improvements along 4,100 feet of Guadalupe River between the Southern Pacific Railroad (SPRR) crossing, downstream of Willow Street, to the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) crossing, downstream of Padres Drive (Reach 7). It also includes completing a gravel augmentation project along approximately 800 linear feet of the Upper Guadalupe River in San José, from approximately the Union Pacific Railroad Bridge to West Virginia Street Bridge to improve aquatic habitat for migrating steelhead and channel stability. Flood damage will be reduced through the local-funding-only project. However, protection from the 1% (100-year event) flood is not provided without completion of the entire Upper Guadalupe River Flood Protection Project.

Mitigation elements of the project, namely Reach 10B (from Curtner Avenue to Almaden Expressway) and Reach 12 (from Brahmam Lane to Blossom Hill Road), were completed in 2015 in partnership with USACE.

Benefits

- Preferred project will construct 1% flood conveyance capacity for 5.5 miles of channel in San José, protecting approximately 6,280 homes, 320 businesses and 10 schools/institutions
- Local funding only constructs improvements to 4,100 linear feet of Guadalupe River between the Southern Pacific Railroad (SPRR) crossing, downstream of Willow Street, to the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) crossing downstream of Padres Drive to convey 1% flow
- Improves stream habitat values and fisheries
- Improves stream water quality
- Allows for creekside trail access
- Addresses climate change as the project is designed to increase flow capacity, thereby reducing flood risks from storm events projected to become more frequent and intense due to climate change. Furthermore, the project accounts for 2 feet of sea level rise

Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), FY22–36

1. Preferred project with federal and local funding: Construct a flood protection project to provide 1% (100-year) flood protection to 6,280 homes, 320 businesses and 10 schools and institutions.
2. With local funding only: Construct flood protection improvements along 4,100 feet of Guadalupe River between the Southern Pacific Railroad (SPRR) crossing, downstream of Willow Street, to the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) crossing, downstream of Padres Drive, and provide gravel augmentation along approximately 800 linear feet of the Upper Guadalupe River in San José, from approximately the Union Pacific Railroad Bridge to West Virginia Street Bridge to improve aquatic habitat for migrating steelhead and all native fish species and channel stability.