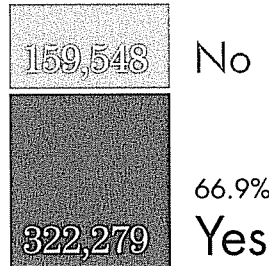


# FACT SHEET

## Clean, Safe Creeks and Natural Flood Protection Plan

### Your vote at work!

In November of 2000 the voters of Santa Clara County supported a ballot measure entitled the Clean, Safe Creeks and Natural Flood Protection Plan.



This plan, which created a countywide special parcel tax, promised four major outcomes which would be completed over the course of a 15-year period. The plan makes it possible to protect homes, schools and businesses from flooding, while improving the health of creek and bay ecosystems and creating trails and parks for recreational enjoyment.

To ensure accountability to the voters, the ballot measure also created an Independent Monitoring Committee, appointed by the Santa Clara Valley Water District Board of Directors. The Independent Monitoring Committee annually reviews the implementation of the intended results of the program and reports its findings to the board, which makes the committee report available to the residents and voters of Santa Clara County.

### What's in the plan?

1	Flood protection for homes, schools, businesses and transportation	
2	Clean, safe water in our creeks and bays	
3	Healthy creek and bay ecosystems	
4	Trails, parks and open space along waterways	

### Plan outcomes

#### 1 Flood protection for homes, schools, businesses and transportation

Outcome 1 is designed to protect homes, schools, businesses and transportation networks from flooding.

The plan includes flood protection projects to safeguard approximately 16,000 parcels, including homes, schools, businesses, agricultural lands and public facilities. Vital transportation networks (220 miles of streets and highways in all) will also be protected by these projects.

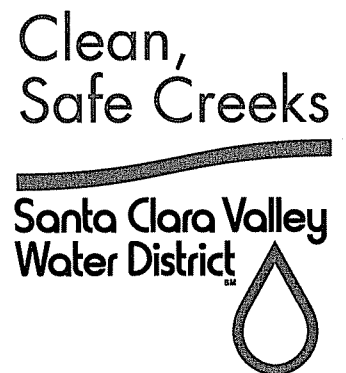
The flood protection projects, and their status at the end of 2006 are as follows:

- Permanente Creek**  
From San Francisco Bay to El Camino Real, protecting 1,664 parcels in Mountain View
  - Planning underway and to be completed by December 2007.
  - Design to be completed by December 2009 and construction slated to begin in June 2010.

- San Francisquito Creek**  
Planning and design only from San Francisco Bay to Searsville Dam in Palo Alto
  - A feasibility study is being conducted by the federal partner, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.
  - Project design will be delayed at least five years due to low levels of funding appropriated by Congress.

- Coyote Creek**  
From Montague Expressway to I-280 (Planning, design and partial construction), protecting 1,400 parcels in San Jose
  - Conceptual alternatives development begun.

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## Sunnyvale West And East Channels

Protecting 1,629 parcels in Sunnyvale, Cupertino and San Jose

- Planning and environmental review phases of Sunnyvale West and East Channels being combined to increase cost effectiveness.
- Construction of Sunnyvale West Channel improvements slated to begin in 2012.
- Construction slated to begin in June 2013.

## Calabazas Creek

From Miller to Wardell, protecting nearly 2,500 parcels in the cities of Sunnyvale, Cupertino, San Jose, Santa Clara and Saratoga.

- Planning phase currently underway and to be completed by December 2007.
- Feasible alternatives analysis initiated.
- Design to be completed by June 2010, followed by two to three years of construction.

## Upper Guadalupe River

From Interstate 280 to Blossom Hill Road, protecting nearly 6,989 parcels in San Jose

- Construction of the Willow Glen Way Bridge began in May 2006.
- Completed design of second fish barrier removal project on Guadalupe creek, near Hicks Road.
- Project on schedule, though construction of channel improvements has been delayed due to lack of congressional construction authorization.

## Upper Berryessa Creek

From Calaveras Boulevard to Old Piedmont, protecting 1,814 parcels in Milpitas and San Jose

- Federal partner, the Army Corps proceeding with planning works.
- If Congressional appropriations are provided for this project, construction is estimated to begin in 2010.

## Upper Llagas Creek

From Buena Vista Avenue to Wright Avenue, protecting 1,397 parcels in Morgan Hill

- Completed District and City of Morgan Hill cost-shared project work - Property acquisitions for the project continues
- The project at risk due to a recent reevaluation of its benefit/cost ratio by the federal project partner, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

In addition to the nine flood protection projects identified in the plan, the water district also removes sediment from stream beds to preserve flood flow capacity.

## Sediment Removal To Preserve Flood Protection Capacity

- Removed 44,824 cubic yards (5,600 dump truck loads) in the first five years of the program compared to the target of 40,000 cubic yards.

## 2 Clean, safe water in our creeks and bays

Improving the quality of water in the county's creeks and bays and the natural features of stream corridors is vital to Santa Clara County's quality of life, and are key components of the water district's watershed approach.

- Eliminated 25 kg of mercury in Guadalupe Watershed and piloted a treatment system in Lake Almaden for reduction in methyl mercury
- Removed more than 30,000 cubic yards of trash and debris from neighborhood creeks
- Cleared bridges and floodwalls of more than 1.2 million square feet of graffiti
- Cleaned creek channels of illegally dumped chemicals in more than 300 incidents countywide

## 3 Healthy creek and bay ecosystems

The health of a creek reflects the conditions throughout the watershed, not just those along its banks. The water district's environmental work protects and restores habitats and encourages the return of endangered species such as the red-legged frog, steelhead trout and salt marsh harvest mouse. In the five years of the program, the water district has:

- Created 300 acres of tidal wetlands
- Repaired and strengthened nearly five miles of creek banks
- Removed non-native invasive vegetation from 60 acres of local waterways

## 4 Trails, parks and open space along waterways

Watersheds, stream corridors and flood protection levees offer hundreds of acres of land for the entire community to use and enjoy. The water district partners with cities and the county to provide open space and recreational opportunities.

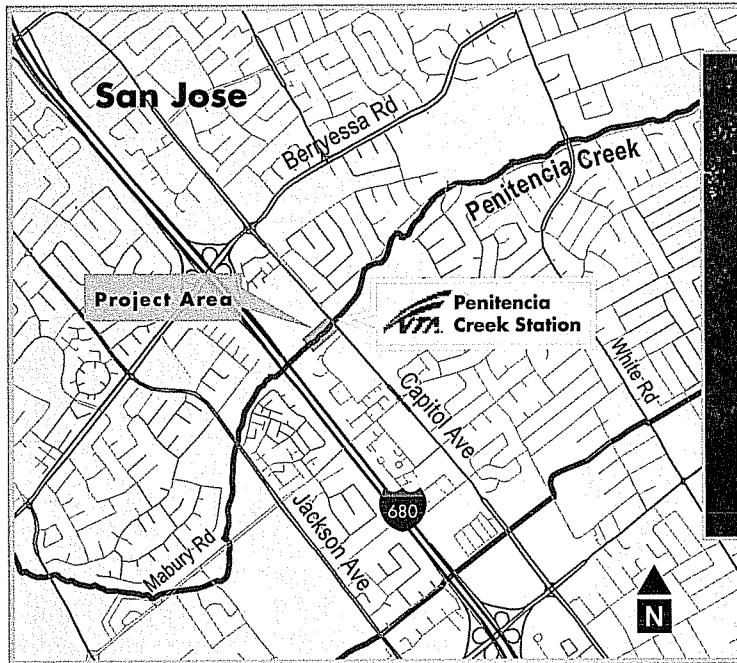
- Instituted a grant program to partner with cities and the county to build as many as 70 miles of trails along levees and to purchase land for open space preservation
- Constructed more than 30 miles of trails along Coyote, San Tomas Aquino, Berryessa, Lower Silver, Saratoga, Calabazas, Penitencia, Regnart and Uvas creeks, and the Guadalupe River

## Contact Us

If you have questions or concerns about this topic, contact **Customer Relations** at **(408) 265-2607**, ext. **2000**.

# Santa Clara Valley Water District Clean, Safe Creeks

## Penitencia Creek Trail Bank-Repair Project



Left: Highlighted portion of the Penitencia Creek bank will be repaired. Above: Penitencia Creek Trail will be closed between Jackson Avenue and Capitol Avenue.

### Neighborhood work

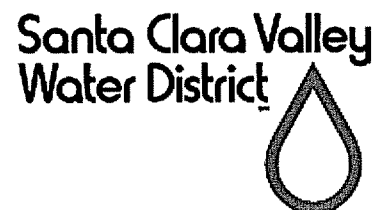
The Santa Clara Valley Water District and Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department will be joining forces to rebuild a portion of the Penitencia Creek Trail threatened by erosion. Starting in June, bank work and trail work will be done from Interstate 680 to Capitol Avenue in East San Jose. The trail itself will be closed between Jackson Avenue and Capitol Avenue. It is expected to reopen by the end of the year.

A portion of the Penitencia Creek bank just west of the Valley Transportation Agency light rail station on Capitol Avenue is eroding away, carrying pieces of the trail and surrounding vegetation into the creek. The crumbling creek bank also threatens steelhead trout, which are protected under federal law. Without repairs, the trail could wash away entirely and destroy the steelhead habitat.

While the trail is closed, water district crews will rebuild about 400 feet of the south side of the creek bank. A fence between the creek and the Capitol Estates Condominiums complex will also be relocated further south.

Work is expected to begin in mid-to-late June. Once the water district's work is completed in late August, County Parks will oversee reconstruction of the trail. Work is anticipated to finish at the end of the year. Project work hours are Monday through Friday, between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. No Saturday work is expected.

Equipment used for the project will include excavators, water trucks, a compactor, a loader to make repairs. Typical construction noise can be expected during work hours. A generator, designed to operate more quietly, will be used continuously to pump water around the project site and back into the creek further downstream. Crews will use environmentally friendly building techniques, such as logs, to stabilize the bank and improve the riparian habitat.

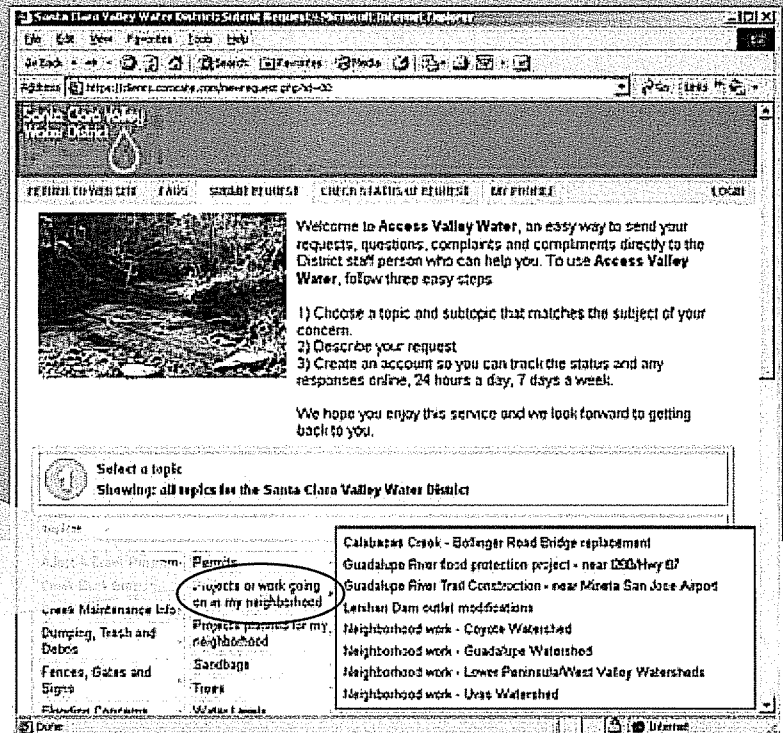


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# Contact us

For information on the bank repair project, contact **Stacey Lee** at **(408) 265-2607**, ext. **3078**, or visit our website at [www.valleywater.org](http://www.valleywater.org) and use our **Access Valley Water** customer request and information system. With three easy steps, you can use this service to find out the latest information on the project or to submit any questions, complaints, or compliments directly to a district staff person.

**Use Access Valley Water to search for projects or work going on in your neighborhood.**



## What we do

The Santa Clara Valley Water District manages water resources and provides stewardship for the county's five watersheds, including 10 reservoirs, more than 800 miles of streams and groundwater basins. The water district also provides flood protection throughout Santa Clara County.

## You're in a watershed

No matter where you are, you're in a watershed. A watershed is the area of land that drains a common waterway. In Santa Clara County, our creeks catch rain and runoff from storm drains and carry the water north to San Francisco Bay or south to Monterey Bay. Along the way, some of the water is used to fill reservoirs for drinking water, replenish the underground aquifer and create better habitat for fish and wildlife.

This project is in the Coyote Watershed. Sixteen major creeks drain this 322-square-mile area. The county's largest watershed extends from the urbanized valley floor upward to the vast natural areas of the Diablo range. Coyote Creek, its main waterway, is the longest creek in the county.

## Pollution hotline

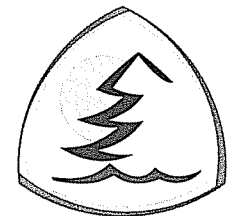
To report illegal dumping of hazardous materials in, or around reservoirs and creeks, please call **1-888-510-5151**.

## Your Clean, Safe Creeks vote at work

This project is funded by the voter-approved Clean, Safe Creeks and Natural Flood Protection parcel tax passed in November 2000. The 15-year plan makes it possible to protect homes, schools and businesses from flooding, while improving the health of creek and bay ecosystems and creating trails and parks for recreational enjoyment.

## Partnership for creekside trails

The water district partners with cities and the county to create trails, parks and open space along waterways. To date, the voter-approved Clean, Safe Creeks and Natural Flood Protection Plan has provided more than \$3 million in funding for planning and construction of nearly 60 miles of trails in Santa Clara County.



**SANTA CLARA COUNTY PARKS**

For more information on the trail work and closure, contact **Jim O'Connor** of Santa Clara County Parks at **(408) 355-2226**.