



# **Santa Clara Valley Water District Board Policy and Planning Committee Meeting**

Headquarter Boardroom  
5700 Almaden Expressway

## **REGULAR MEETING AGENDA**

**Monday, November 6, 2023  
2:00 PM**

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

### **BOARD POLICY AND PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Nai Hsueh - Director District 5  
Tony Estremera, Director District 6  
Rebecca Eisenberg, Director District  
7

During the COVID-19 restrictions, 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) 265-2600.

### **COMMITTEE CLERK**

Michele L. King, CMC  
Clerk, Board of Directors

**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**  
**Board Policy and Planning Committee**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**AGENDA**

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Monday, November 6, 2023

2:00 PM

Headquarter Boardroom  
5700 Almaden Expressway  
San Jose, 95118

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\*\*\*IMPORTANT NOTICES AND PARTICIPATION INSTRUCTIONS\*\*\*

Santa Clara Valley Water District (Valley Water) Board of Directors/Board Committee meetings are held as a “hybrid” meetings, conducted in-person as well as by telecommunication, and is compliant with the provisions of the Ralph M. Brown Act.

To maximize public safety while still maintaining transparency and public access, members of the public have an option to participate by teleconference/video conference or attend in-person. To observe and participate in the meeting by teleconference/video conference, please see the meeting link located at the top of the agenda. If attending in-person, you are required to comply with Ordinance 22-03 - AN ORDINANCE OF THE SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT SPECIFYING RULES OF DECORUM FOR PARTICIPATION IN BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS located at <https://s3.us-west-2.amazonaws.com/valleywater.org.if-us-west-2/f2-live/s3fs-public/Ord.pdf>

In accordance with the requirements of Gov. Code Section 54954.3(a), members of the public wishing to address the Board/Committee during public comment or on any item listed on the agenda, may do so by filling out a Speaker Card and submitting it to the Clerk or using the “Raise Hand” tool located in the Zoom meeting application to identify yourself in order to speak, at the time the item is called. Speakers will be acknowledged by the Board/Committee Chair in the order requests are received and granted speaking access to address the Board.

- 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/81170871803>**

**Meeting ID: 811 7087 1803**

**Join by Phone:**

**1 (669) 900-9128, 81170871803#**

**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 any item not 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 to speak. Speakers will be acknowledged by the Board/Committee Chair in the order requests are received and granted speaking access to address the Board/Committee. Speakers' comments should be limited to three minutes or as set by the Chair. The law does not permit Board/Committee action on, or extended discussion of, any item not on the agenda except under special circumstances. If Board/Committee action is requested, the matter may be placed on a future agenda. All comments that require a response will be referred to staff for a reply in writing. The Board/Committee may take action on any item of business appearing on the posted agenda.*

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

- 3.1. Approval of Minutes. [23-1003](#)

Recommendation: Approve the September 7, 2023, Minutes.

Manager: Michele King, 408-630-2711

Attachments: [Attachment 1: September 7, 2023, Minutes](#)

#### 4. INFORMATION AND ACTION ITEMS:

- 4.1. Discuss Board Meeting Rules and Procedures. [23-1119](#)

Recommendation: A. Discuss Board Meeting Rules and Procedures; and  
B. Consider recommending Board Governance Policy changes for Board consideration; or  
C. Provide direction to staff, as appropriate.

Manager: Michele King, 408-630-2711

Attachments: [Attachment 1: Board Governance Policies GP-5 and GP-12](#)

- 4.2. Review Proposed Changes to Board Governance Policies - Executive Limitations (EL) 5 - Procurement. [23-1096](#)

Recommendation: A. Review and provide input on the proposed changes to Board Governance Policies, Executive Limitations (EL) 5 - Procurement; and  
B. Recommend that the revisions be presented to the full Board for approval.

Manager: Tony Ndah, 408-630-2208

Attachments: [Attachment 1: Revised Board Governance Policy EL-5-Procurement](#)

- 4.3. One Water Guadalupe Watershed Plan Priority Actions. [23-0664](#)

Recommendation: A. Review and provide input on One Water Guadalupe Watershed Plan Priority Actions; and  
B. Request that staff present the One Water Guadalupe Watershed Plan to the full Board for consideration.

Manager: Lisa Bankosh, 408-630-2618

Attachments: [Attachment 1: Guadalupe Watershed Priority Action List](#)  
[Attachment 2: PowerPoint](#)

- 4.4. Sea Level Rise Design Criteria. [23-1022](#)

Recommendation: Receive information on Sea Level Rise Design Criteria used for coastal flood management projects.

Manager: Lisa Bankosh, 408-630-2618

Attachments: [Attachment 1: Technical Memo](#)  
[Attachment 2: PowerPoint](#)



4.5. Review Committee 2023 Work Plan and Meeting Schedule.

[23-1004](#)

- Recommendation:      A. Review the 2023 Board Policy and Planning  
   Committee's Work Plan and incorporate any new tasks;  
   and  
   B. Schedule Committee meetings as appropriate.

Manager:                Michele King, 408-630-2711

Attachments:          [Attachment 1: 2023 BPPC Work Plan](#)

**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. ADJOURN:**

6.1. Adjourn to Regular Meeting at 2:00 p.m., on December 4, 2023.





# Santa Clara Valley Water District

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**File No.:** 23-1003

**Agenda Date:** 11/6/2023  
**Item No.:** 3.1.

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## **COMMITTEE AGENDA MEMORANDUM Board Policy and Planning Committee**

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

### **SUBJECT:**

Approval of Minutes.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Approve the September 7, 2023, 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:**

There are no Environmental Justice impacts associated with this item.

### **ATTACHMENTS:**

Attachment 1: September 7, 2023, Minutes

### **UNCLASSIFIED MANAGER:**

Michele King, 408-630-2711





BOARD POLICY AND PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING

# DRAFT MINUTES

Thursday, September 7, 2023  
2:30 PM

(Paragraph numbers coincide with agenda item numbers)

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

**1.1 ROLL CALL**

A special meeting of the Santa Clara Valley Water District (Valley Water) Board Policy and Planning Committee (Committee) was called to order at 2:30 p.m. on September 7, 2023.

Board Members in attendance: Director Nai Hsueh – District 5; Director Tony Estremera – District 6, constituting a quorum of the Committee. Director Rebecca Eisenberg – District 7, arrived as noted below.

Staff members in attendance: Lisa Bankosh, Rechelle Blank, John Bourgeois, Rick Callender, Theresa Chinte, Jennifer Codianne, Rachael Gibson, Chris Hakes, Brian Hopper, Michele King, Patrice McElroy, Brian Mendenhall, Carlos Orellana, Leslie Orta, Don Rocha, Kirsten Struve, Greg Williams, Tina Yoke, and Sarah Young.

2. **Time Open for Public Comment on Any Item Not on Agenda**

Committee Chair Hsueh declared time open for public comment on any item not on the agenda. There was no one present who requested to speak.

3. **3.1 Approval of Minutes.**

The Committee considered the August 10, 2023, meeting minutes.

Director Hsueh requested the following changes to minutes:

On Page 2, in the Conduct, section, second paragraph, remove the word “we’ve” and replace with “that a director has.”

In the fifth paragraph, after the words “and include a note,” insert “*in the memo,*” and after “Never publicly criticize an individual employee,” insert “*including BAOs as stated above,*” and remove the remain text, “*because it prohibits a director from speaking negatively above the CEO, District Counsel, and Clerk because they are different from personnel.*”

On Page 3, in Item 4.2 summary, third paragraph, remove the words “*listed in the EUP goals.*”

It was moved by Director Estremera, seconded by Director Hsueh, to approve the August 10, 2023, Minutes as amended, with Director Eisenberg absent.

4. **Information and Action Items**

#### **4.1 2023 Climate Change Action Plan.**

Lisa Bankosh, Assistant Officer, Fred Hochberg, Senior Climate Action Specialist, Ascent Environmental, and Brian Mendenhall, Senior Water Resource Specialist, reviewed the information on this item as outlined in the memo and PowerPoint presentation.

Director Eisenberg arrived during the presentation of this item.

The Committee expressed the need to identify a process to incorporate carbon neutrality alternatives into the CIP process, including at the beginning of the evaluations process and in current projects in the CIP.

Katja Irvin, had comments and questions on the update on flood adaptation, coastal flood protection and sea level rise project design, and the outreach and collaboration process and the possibility to include more public and stakeholders in the process.

Staff will include an item on the BPPC October agenda relative to sea level rise and will return in spring of 2024 with strategies on how to incorporate carbon reduction consideration into the CIP process.

#### **4.2 Board Governance Encampments of Unsheltered People Ends Policy E-6.**

Jennifer Codianne, Deputy Operating Officer, introduced this item.

It was moved by Director Estremera, seconded by Director Eisenberg, and unanimously approved to recommend the presented Encampments of Unsheltered People Ends Policy E-6 to the full board for adoptions consideration.

#### **4.3 Review Feedback Provided by the Board Advisory Committees Relating to Assigned Purposes, Accomplishments, and Suggested Areas of Improvement and Identify any Improvement Recommendations for Full Board Consideration.**

Michele King, Clerk of the Board, reviewed the information on this item as presented in the memo.

It was moved by Director Hsueh, seconded by Director Estremra, and unanimously approved to recommend that the board consider approving staff support to the Santa Clara Valley Water Commission and Agricultural Water Advisory Committee, at the same level that has been successful for the Environmental and Water Resources Committee.

It was also recommended that staff incorporate an orientation modeled after the Water Ambassador program for new Commissioners, and the other improvement subjects identified by the Advisory Committee members be incorporated into the appropriate Advisory Committee work plans.

#### **4.4 Review Committee 2023 Work Plan and Meeting Schedule.**

Chair Hsueh reviewed the work plan and meeting schedule, which includes review of the Executive Limitation Governance Policies, and the newly added Sea Level Rise information item. It was also identified that the review of the Chairperson Roles and Responsibilities from the line item.

5. **CLERK REVIEW AND CLARIFICATION OF COMMITTEE REQUESTS.**  
Michele King, Clerk of the Board, reviewed the actions taken by the Committee.
6. **ADJOURNMENT**  
Chair Director Hsueh adjourned the meeting at approximately 4:25 p.m.

Michele L. King  
Clerk of the Board

Approved:







# Santa Clara Valley Water District

**File No.:** 23-1119

**Agenda Date:** 11/6/2023

**Item No.:** 4.1.

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## **COMMITTEE AGENDA MEMORANDUM Board Policy and Planning Committee**

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

### **SUBJECT:**

Discuss Board Meeting Rules and Procedures.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

- A. Discuss Board Meeting Rules and Procedures; and
- B. Consider recommending Board Governance Policy changes for Board consideration; or
- C. Provide direction to staff, as appropriate.

### **SUMMARY:**

At the October 10, 2023, meeting, the Board referred to the Board Policy and Planning Committee (BPPC) to discuss various rules and procedures during board meetings, specifically: rules of order, time limits for Board members, germaneness of the discussion, and the roles of the Board Chair and Vice Chair and make a recommendation to the Board.

At the October 10, 2023, meeting there was a brief discussion to consider either Robert's Rules of Order or Rosenberg's Rules of Order as the policy for Board Meeting Rules.

**Robert's Rules of Order** provides common rules and procedures for deliberation and debate in order to place the entire elected body on the same footing and speaking the same language. The conduct of all business is controlled by the general will of the whole governing body - the right of the deliberate majority to decide.

**Rosenberg's Rules of Order** are a simplified set of parliamentary rules used in lieu of Robert's Rules of Order because they are more practical, logical, simple, easy to learn and user friendly. They have been simplified for smaller governing bodies while retaining the basic principles of order.

To support the discussion, staff reviewed current Valley Water Governance Policies GP-5: Chairperson's Role and GP-12: Conduct of Board Meetings (Attachment 1).

Staff also surveyed the City of San José, Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA), and

Metropolitan Water District (MWD) on their established policies and rules relating to meeting conduct and procedures.

The table below summarizes each agency's meeting policies on rules of order, time limits for directors, germaneness of discussion, and whether roles of the Chair and Vice Chair have been defined.

Detailed information on established policies and rules for each agency are also below, including links to the referenced agency documents.

Meeting Policies	Valley Water	City of San José	MTA	MWD
<b>Rules of Order</b>	GP-12 Conduct of Board Meetings	Robert's Rules of Order	Rosenberg's Rules of Order to supplement MTA's own Rules	Robert's Rules of Order as a Guide only, not formally adopted
<b>Time Limits for Directors</b>	Possible: GP-12.1.2.5 allows a motion to limit time for Board Debate. A two-thirds vote is required.	Possible: The Chair may set such time limits as he or she finds reasonable under the circumstances.	Possible: May be limited, at the discretion of the Chair, to such time as the Chair may find reasonable under the circumstances.	Yes: Directors can speak up to 3 minutes for each matter. The Chair or Board by majority vote, may allow additional time.
<b>Germaneness</b>	Yes: GP-12.1.5.4 allows for a "Call for Order of the Day" requesting that Board discussion should be redirected to items on published agenda.	Yes: The Council may not discuss or take action on any matter not appearing on the posted agenda unless one of the exceptions listed in the Brown Act is applicable.	Yes: Board Members shall confine themselves to the question under debate, avoiding all personalities and indecorous language.	No
<b>Role of Chair/Vice Chair Defined</b>	Yes: GP-5 Chairperson's Role	Yes	Yes	Yes

### Valley Water

(Excerpts taken from GP-5 and GP-12, Attachment 1)

***GP-12: Conduct of Board Meetings***

Valley Water follows its own adopted rules of order as defined in Governance Policy GP-12 including procedural rules for Board Meetings, Courtesy and Decorum, Voting and Public Comment.

***Non-Debatable Motions section GP-12.1.2.5***

Allows a Board Member to make a motion to limit time for Board debate. A two-thirds vote is required.

***Courtesy and Decorum section GP-12.1.5.4***

Call for Order of the Day. Requesting that Board discussion should be redirected to items on published agenda.

***GP-5 Chairperson's Role***

5.2 The authority of the Chairperson consists in making decisions that fall within topics covered by Board policies on Governance Process and Board Appointed Officer Linkage, with the exception of (a) employment or termination of a BAO and (b) where the Board specifically delegates portions of this authority to others. The Chairperson is authorized to use any reasonable interpretation of the provisions in these policies.

5.2.1. The Chairperson is empowered to chair Board meetings with all the commonly accepted power of that position (e.g., ruling, recognizing).

5.2.2. The Chairperson is empowered to modify previously approved Board Standing Committee work plans and agendas in the event returning to the Board would delay distribution of Standing Committee meeting materials.

5.2.3. The Chairperson has no authority to make decisions about policies created by the Board within Ends and Executive Limitations policy areas. Therefore, the Chairperson has no authority to supervise or direct the BAOs.

5.2.4. The Chairperson may represent the Board to outside parties in announcing Board-stated positions and in stating Chair decisions and interpretations within the area delegated to her or him.

5.2.5. The Chairperson may delegate this authority but remains accountable for its use.

5.2.6. The Chairperson will determine, in concert with the CEO as necessary, whether to place on an agenda consideration of documents of support or recognition (e.g., resolutions, commendations, certificates of appreciation, etc.) for individuals, organizations or efforts in the community by evaluating whether the individual, organization or effort has a clear nexus to issues relevant to the District.

5.2.7. The Chair may add agenda items to agendas.

5.2.8. The Chair may execute documents on behalf of the Board using electronic and/or digital signatures (such as DocuSign) as allowed by law in lieu of handwritten signatures, including the following Board-approved documents:

Agreements

Agreement Amendments

Contracts

Resolutions (excluding Resolutions of Appreciation) Ordinances

Board Meeting Minutes

Letters

**City of San Jose**

(Excerpts taken from San Jose City Council Resolution No. 2023-22:  
<<https://records.sanjoseca.gov/Resolutions/RES2023-22.pdf>>)

***Council Meeting Procedure***

The San Jose City Council is governed by the rules of procedure set forth in the most current version of Robert's Rules of Order (San Jose City Council Resolution No. 2023-22).

***Time Limits***

The Chair may set such time limits as he or she finds reasonable under the circumstances.

***Council Consideration***

The Council may not discuss or take action on any matter not appearing on the posted agenda unless one of the exceptions listed in the Brown Act is applicable.

***Council Discussion on Public Hearings and Agenda Items***

While considering any matter presented to them at public hearing, members of the Council may speak upon addressing the Chair and being recognized by the Chair. Councilmembers may address other members of the Council only through the Chair. Members of the Council who wish to ask questions of the speakers or of each other, or who wish to discuss the agenda item during the course of the discussion on the agenda item, may do so, but only after being recognized by the Chair.

***Role of the Chair for Council Meetings***

The Mayor presides over all Council meetings. In the Mayor's absence, the Vice Mayor serves as the presiding officer (Chair). In the absence of both the Mayor and Vice Mayor, the Mayor has discretion to appoint the Chair for the meeting. In the event the Mayor is unable to appoint the Chair, the Council designates the Chair. The Chair has the discretion to call matters on the agenda out of order to manage the meeting.

***Role of the Chair for Study Sessions***

The Mayor or, in the Mayor's absence, the Vice Mayor, presides as the Chair of the Study Session. In the absence of both the Mayor and the Vice Mayor, the Mayor has the discretion to appoint the Chair for the Study Session. In the event the Mayor is unable to appoint the Chair, the Council must designate the Chair.

Council Members study and consider all matters which may be referred to it by the City Council or the Rules and Open Government Committee; and all recommendations made at the Study Session are reported to the Council for action.

***Standing Committees***

The Mayor recommends the members of each Standing Committee from among the members of the City Council, with final appointment by the City Council.

The Chairperson and the Vice Chairperson of each Standing Committee are recommended by the

Mayor, with final appointment by the City Council. The Chairperson and Vice Chairperson may be removed in the same manner. The term for each Standing Committee appointment is one year, from the first day in January to December 31<sup>st</sup> and until a successor is duly appointed. Should a vacancy occur in any Standing Committee for whatever reason, appointment to the vacated position is for the unexpired term of the position created by said vacancy.

In the absence of both the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson, the Standing Committee members present may elect the Chair Pro Tem.

### ***Disorderly Conduct***

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 502 of the City Charter, the Mayor has the authority to preserve order at all Council meetings, to remove or cause the removal of any person from any meeting of the Council for disorderly conduct, to enforce the rules of the Council and to determine the order of business under the rules of Council. For the above purposes, the Mayor, or, in the Mayor's absence, the Chair of the meeting may command the assistance of any security staff or peace officers of the City to enforce all lawful orders of the Mayor or Chair.

### **Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA)**

(Excerpts taken from the VTA Administrative Code:

[https://www.vta.org/sites/default/files/2021-01/Admin Code 1-5-2021.pdf](https://www.vta.org/sites/default/files/2021-01/Admin%20Code%201-5-2021.pdf)

[<https://www.vta.org/sites/default/files/2021-01/Admin%20Code 1-5-2021.pdf>](https://www.vta.org/sites/default/files/2021-01/Admin%20Code%201-5-2021.pdf))

### ***VTA Board of Directors Rules and Procedures***

The Rules of Procedure govern the conduct of meetings of the VTA Board of Directors and its standing committees. They are established by and derive from the VTA Administrative Code and serve as a focused and in-depth subset of the Administrative Code that defines and governs the structure and process for these meetings. The Rules of Procedure are adopted and amended by its Governance & Audit Committee.

### ***Board Meeting Conduct***

All rules of order for the VTA Board of Directors shall be determined in accordance with Rosenberg's Rules of Order, latest edition. The General Counsel shall serve as parliamentarian and at the request of the Chairperson shall furnish parliamentary advice.

Any Board member desiring to speak shall address the Chairperson and upon recognition by the Chairperson shall confine themselves to the question under debate, avoiding all personalities and indecorous language. Members of the Board may address one another or persons in attendance only through the Chairperson. Except as otherwise herein provided, discussion at Board meetings, either by a Board member or by any person in attendance, may be limited, at the discretion of the Chairperson, to such time as the Chairperson may find to be reasonable under the circumstances. Any decision of the Chairperson to limit discussion may be overruled by the Board by an affirmative vote of a majority of the Board's membership.

Any Board member who is legally disqualified from participating in VTA action on any particular

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matter shall, as soon as such matter is reached on the agenda, disclose their disqualification and the reason therefore and shall take no part in the discussion, debate or vote on such matter. If such disqualification is not known to them at the time such matter is reached on the agenda, they shall make such disclosure as soon as his or her disqualification is known to them.

A Board member shall not be interrupted when speaking unless it is to call him or her to order, for the purpose of explanation, or to permit solicited responses. If a member, while speaking, be called to order, they shall cease speaking until the question of order is determined, when, if permitted, they may proceed.

### ***Role of the Chair and Vice Chair***

The officers of the VTA Board are the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson who are elected annually by the Board from its voting membership for a one-year term according to a prescribed rotational series. The VTA Chairperson shall preside and preserve order at all regular meetings, workshop meetings, special meetings, and hearings of the Board. The Chairperson shall state every question coming before the Board, announce the decision of the Board, and decide all questions of order, subject, however, to an appeal by a fellow member of the Board. The Chairperson shall perform such other duties as prescribed in VTA's Administrative Code and by law. The Vice Chairperson, or in his or her absence, the Chairperson Pro Tem, shall perform the duties of the Chairperson when the Chairperson is absent.

### **Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD)**

(Excerpts taken from Metropolitan Water District Administrative Code:

[https://www.mwdh2o.com/media/18226/12\\_admincode.pdf](https://www.mwdh2o.com/media/18226/12_admincode.pdf), Statement of Metropolitan's Board of Principles of Governance: <https://www.mwdh2o.com/media/11795/principles-of-governance.pdf>)

### ***Board Product and Policies***

The Board will produce written governing policies addressing guidelines relative to Board governance to ensure appropriate organizational performance in serving the mission of MWD. The Board does not have a formally adopted system of parliamentary procedure. Robert's Rules of Order are used as a guide.

### ***Duties of the Chair of the Board***

The duties of the Chair include: (1) Presiding over meetings of the Board, with the exception that the Board may, by a majority vote, overrule parliamentary rulings of the Chair; (2) Ex officio membership on standing or special committees as designated in the Administrative Code; (3) Make committee appointments as set forth in the Code; and (4) other board duties not specifically delegated to another Board officer or director.

### ***Duties of the Vice Chair(s) of the Board***

The Vice Chairs selected by the Chair shall act in the Chair's absence, failure or inability to act. The Vice Chairs shall have ex officio membership on standing committees, subcommittees, or special committees as designated in the Code. The four Vice Chairs are as follows: (1) Vice Chair for Climate Action, (2) Vice Chair for Strategic Communications and Stakeholder Engagement Policy, (3) Vice

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Chair for Finance, Audit and Planning, and (4) Vice Chair for Organizational Integrity and Accountability.

***Board Discussion Time Limits***

Each director may speak for no more than three minutes on each matter before the Board or committee. The Chair of the Board or Committee, or the Board or committee by majority vote, may allow additional time.

***Statement of Metropolitan's Board Principles of Governance***

***Participation and Inclusion:***

Directors will actively listen to better understand one another, while maintaining an open mind and seeking common ground.

Adequate airtime will be afforded to all.

When conducting meetings, the Chairs will be afforded respect in carrying out their responsibilities.

***Effectiveness and Efficiency:***

Directors will enhance the success of their deliberations by coming prepared, staying on task, being focused, and clearly communicating their interests.

Directors will address questions to the Chair to prevent misunderstandings of intent.

Directors will strive to determine the will of the group while being considerate of different interests.

**ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE IMPACT:**

There are no Environmental Justice impacts associated with this item.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Attachment 1: Board Governance Policies GP-5 and GP-12

**UNCLASSIFIED MANAGER:**

Michele King, 408-630-2711





# Governance Policies of the Board

**Title:** Chairperson's Role  
**Category:** Governance Process

**Policy No. GP-5**

Adopted: September 7, 1999  
Chair: Larry Wilson

Latest Revision: February 22, 2022  
Chair: Gary Kremen

The Board of Directors revised and adopted this policy at its public meeting on the latest revision date.

The Chairperson assures the integrity of the Board's process and represents the Board to outside parties.

Accordingly:

- 5.1. The job result of the Chairperson is that the Board behaves consistently with its own policies and those legitimately imposed upon it from outside the organization.
  - 5.1.1. Board meeting discussion content will be only those issues which, according to Board policy, clearly belong to the Board to decide, not the BAOs.
  - 5.1.2. Board deliberation will be fair, open, and thorough, but also timely, orderly, and kept to the point.
- 5.2. The authority of the Chairperson consists in making decisions that fall within topics covered by Board policies on Governance Process and Board Appointed Officer Linkage, with the exception of (a) employment or termination of a BAO and (b) where the Board specifically delegates portions of this authority to others. The Chairperson is authorized to use any reasonable interpretation of the provisions in these policies.
  - 5.2.1. The Chairperson is empowered to chair Board meetings with all the commonly accepted power of that position (e.g., ruling, recognizing).
  - 5.2.2. The Chairperson is empowered to modify previously approved Board Standing Committee work plans and agendas in the event returning to the Board would delay distribution of Standing Committee meeting materials.
  - 5.2.3. The Chairperson has no authority to make decisions about policies created by the Board within Ends and Executive Limitations policy areas. Therefore, the Chairperson has no authority to supervise or direct the BAOs.
  - 5.2.4. The Chairperson may represent the Board to outside parties in announcing Board-stated positions and in stating Chair decisions and interpretations within the area delegated to her or him.

# Governance Policies of the Board

- 5.2.5. The Chairperson may delegate this authority but remains accountable for its use.
- 5.2.6. The Chairperson will determine, in concert with the CEO as necessary, whether to place on an agenda consideration of documents of support or recognition (e.g., resolutions, commendations, certificates of appreciation, etc.) for individuals, organizations or efforts in the community by evaluating whether the individual, organization or effort has a clear nexus to issues relevant to the District.
  - 5.2.6.1. A Board member may, at his or her discretion, request the CEO to prepare for the Board member's signature a Certificate of Appreciation for an individual, organization, or effort. The Chair may also sign the certificate.
  - 5.2.6.2. No more than three Board members may sign one of the above-mentioned documents, unless the action was approved by the Board at a Board meeting.
  - 5.2.6.3. Should there be disagreement between the Chair and a Board member over a request for placement of any of the above-mentioned documents on an agenda, the Board member may request that the matter be placed on the next available Board agenda for consideration.
- 5.2.7. The Chair may add agenda items to agendas.
- 5.2.8. The Chair may execute documents on behalf of the Board using electronic and/or digital signatures (such as DocuSign) as allowed by law in lieu of handwritten signatures, including the following Board-approved documents:

- Agreements
- Agreement Amendments
- Contracts
- Resolutions (excluding Resolutions of Appreciation) Ordinances
- Board Meeting Minutes
- Letters

- 5.3. The Board of Directors elects both the Chairperson (Chair) and Vice Chairperson (Vice Chair) of the Board. The Chair and Vice Chair each serve 1-year terms beginning at the first Board meeting in January of each year.

Accordingly:

- 5.3.1. Beginning in the calendar year 2012, the positions of Chair and Vice Chair shall rotate from member to member in numerical order continuing from the 2010 rotation: the District 4 Director

# Governance Policies of the Board

would be Chair and District 5 Director would be Vice Chair; the Vice Chair follows the Chair in sequence.

5.3.2. Any Board member may, at his/her discretion, and on a one-time basis, postpone, by one year, the acceptance of either the Chair or Vice Chair office by “swapping” with the Director immediately following him/her on the list of succession.

5.3.2.1. Provided, however, that newly-elected or appointed Board members will postpone, by one year, the acceptance of the Chair office by “swapping” with the Director immediately following him/her on the list of succession.

5.3.3. Any Board member may, at his/her discretion, decline to serve as Chair or Vice Chair. In the event the Board member declines to serve, that District shall be skipped and the next District Board member shall serve in their stead.

5.3.4. The Clerk of the Board shall maintain the list of Board member service as Chair or Vice Chair.

# Governance Policies of the Board

<b>Title: Conduct of Board Meetings</b> <b>Category: Governance Process</b>		
<b>Policy No. GP-12</b>	Adopted: June 9, 2015 Chair: Gary Kremen	Latest Revision: August 18, 2015 Chair: Gary Kremen
The Board of Directors revised and adopted this policy at its public meeting on the latest revision date.		

## 12.1. Procedural Rules for Board Meetings (“Rules”)

### 12.1.1. Basic Motions Subject to Debate

- 12.1.1.1. A motion puts forward a decision for consideration.
- 12.1.1.2. A motion to amend retains the basic motion but modifies it in some way.
- 12.1.1.3. A motion to substitute the motion under discussion eliminates the basic motion and places a new motion before the Board.

### 12.1.2. Non-Debatable Motions

- 12.1.2.1. A motion to adjourn. Four affirmative votes needed.
- 12.1.2.2. A motion to recess. Four affirmative votes needed.
- 12.1.2.3. A motion to fix the time to adjourn. Four affirmative votes needed.
- 12.1.2.4. A motion to table item under discussion. Four affirmative votes needed.
- 12.1.2.5. A motion to limit time for Board debate. Two thirds vote required.
- 12.1.2.6. A motion calling for a vote on the immediate question. Two thirds vote required.
- 12.1.2.7. A motion to close nomination. Two thirds vote required.
- 12.1.2.8. A motion objecting to Board consideration of an item on the agenda. Two thirds vote required.

### 12.1.3. A motion to suspend the Rules. Two thirds vote required.

### 12.1.4. Motion to Reconsider

- 12.1.4.1. A motion to reopen debate and discussion after vote has been taken. Four affirmative votes required.

# Governance Policies of the Board

12.1.4.2. Motion must be made at the meeting where item first voted upon or at the very next meeting.

12.1.4.3. Motion must be made by member who voted in majority on original motion.

## 12.1.5. Courtesy and Decorum

12.1.5.1. Point of Privilege – interrupting a speaking board member to make a ministerial request which addresses physical conditions of the meeting. Chair to inquire why speaker is being interrupted.

12.1.5.2. Point of Order – interrupting a speaking board member questioning whether board meeting is being properly conducted.

12.1.5.3. Appealing Ruling of the Chair. Four affirmative votes needed to reverse Chair's ruling.

12.1.5.4. Call for Order of the Day. Requesting that Board discussion should be redirected to items on published agenda.

12.1.5.5. Withdrawal of motion. Maker of motion seeks to immediately withdraw his/her motion. Motion is withdrawn without debate.

## 12.1.6. Voting

12.1.6.1. All members of the Board, when present, must vote except as hereinafter provided.

12.1.6.2. A member of the Board who has a conflict of interest regarding any matter being considered by the Board shall declare the conflict and abstain from participating in the Board's deliberation and Decision regarding the matter. A board member so abstaining must leave the Board chambers unless an exception otherwise applies.

12.1.6.3. Any member of the Board, once having answered the call of the roll or having been noted by the Clerk of the Board as being present at a meeting, shall advise the Chair of the Board prior to leaving the Board's Chambers for the remainder of the meeting.

12.1.6.4. The vote on any matter being considered by the Board may be delayed by the Chair of the Board until all members of the Board present for the meeting, and not excused as herein provided, are present at the Board's dais.

## 12.1.7. Public Comment

12.1.7.1. Comments from the public on Non-Agenda Items will generally be taken on any item within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Board and not on the published agenda prior to Board discussion on any item of business.

# Governance Policies of the Board

- 12.1.7.2. Comments from the public on Published Agenda Items shall be heard prior to any motion being made by a board member; or, if no motion is appropriate, prior to the Chair of the Board calling the next item of business on the published agenda.
- 12.2. Unless a higher vote is required by ordinance, resolution, state, or federal law, the affirmative vote of at least four members of the Board shall be required in order for the Board to take action on an item of business or the adoption of any ordinance or resolution.
- 12.3. The Board, Standing Committees, and Board Ad Hoc Committees shall conduct their meetings in an open and transparent manner by following the California Open Meeting Act and the District Act.



# Santa Clara Valley Water District

**File No.:** 23-1096

**Agenda Date:** 11/6/2023

**Item No.:** 4.2.

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## **COMMITTEE AGENDA MEMORANDUM Agricultural Water Advisory Committee**

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

### **SUBJECT:**

Review Proposed Changes to Board Governance Policies - Executive Limitations (EL) 5 - Procurement.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

- A. Review and provide input on the proposed changes to Board Governance Policies, Executive Limitations (EL) 5 - Procurement; and
- B. Recommend that the revisions be presented to the full Board for approval.

### **SUMMARY:**

Executive Limitation 5 (EL-5), initially adopted in June 1999, serves as a governance policy of the Board providing clear directives regarding authorized expenditures limits for purchasing and contract activities. The policy was last updated in December 2019. This policy is vital role in ensuring responsible and accountable procurement decision making within Valley Water.

The proposed revisions to EL-5 aim to expedite purchasing and contracting, while maintaining fair and open practices that stay within the Board's authorized expenditure limits. In addition to reformatting EL-5 to improve the readability, the proposed revisions include the following:

1. Increasing the Board authorized approval threshold for Competitive Procurements on Consultant Services Contracts from \$225,000 to \$500,000.
2. Increasing the Board authorized approval threshold for Non-Competitive Procurements on Consultant Services from \$225,000 to \$500,000.
3. Increasing the exemption time period from 1 month to 3 months for solicitations that do not receive responses.
4. Increasing the exemption limit on sponsorships from \$5,000 to \$10,000.

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Staff asks that the Committee review the proposed revisions to EL-5 (Attachment 1) and provide input as necessary.

**ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE IMPACT:**

There are no Environmental Justice impacts associated with this item. EL-5 ensures purchasing and contracts activities, use a fair, open and expeditious process and stay within the Board's authorized expenditures

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Attachment 1: Revised Board Governance Policy Executive Limitations (EL) 5 - Procurement

**UNCLASSIFIED MANAGER:**

Tony Ndah, 408-630-2208



# **Governance Policies of the Board**

## **IV. Executive Limitations**

# Governance Policies of the Board

IV.	EXECUTIVE LIMITATIONS	Page
EL-1	General Principles .....	V-3
EL-2	Customer Relations.....	IV-4
EL-3	Human Resources .....	IV-5
EL-4	Financial Management .....	IV-7
EL-5	Procurement .....	IV-10
EL-6	Asset Protection .....	IV-14
EL-7	Communication and Support to the Board.....	IV-17
EL-8	Inclusion, Equal Employment Opportunity, Discrimination/Harassment Prevention, and Diversity .....	IV-20
EL-9	Project Labor Agreement .....	IV-22

# Governance Policies of the Board

<b>Title: Procurement</b> <b>Category: Executive Limitations</b>		
<b>Policy No. EL-5</b>	Adopted: June 15, 1999 Chair: Larry Wilson	Latest Revision: TBD Chair: John L. Varela
The Board of Directors revised and adopted this policy at its public meeting on the latest revision date.		

Procurement and contracting activities and non-procurement transactions resulting in financial commitments shall stay within the Board's authorized expenditures. The BAO end-to-end process shall use fair, unbiased and open competition for procurements that exceed \$50,000, not allow splitting procurements to avoid the limits stated in EL-5, and apply procurement policies and practices supporting environmental stewardship, and social justice, including extended producer responsibility and reduced hazardous and solid waste generation, and add value to the communities in which they operate.

Further, a BAO shall:

- 5.1. Make a single purchase or contract within the stated thresholds below, unless authorized by the Board:
  - 5.1.1. Capital Construction Contracts that do not exceed \$50,000.
  - 5.1.2. Consultant Services Contracts that do not exceed \$500,000 and comply with the following:
    - 5.1.2.1. Financial auditing services contracts, not to exceed five fiscal years, subject to audit, and not awarded to the same auditing firm for consecutive terms.
    - 5.1.2.2. Competitively procure architecture and engineering (A&E) services based on demonstrated competence and professional qualifications, including architectural, landscape architectural, environmental, engineering, land surveying, and construction project management services over \$50,000.
    - 5.1.2.3. Do not use consultant services if Valley Water employees can accomplish the work at the appropriate skill level.
    - 5.1.2.4. Consider the consultant's performance history with Valley Water before entering into a consultant agreement.
  - 5.1.3. Procurement of non-capital construction and repair contracts, maintenance services, general services, goods, materials, and equipment as specified in the Board-approved budget.

# Governance Policies of the Board

## 5.2. Emergency Procurements

Procurements that are necessary to respond to emergencies defined by Public Contract Code §1102 or Government Code §8558(c) and essential to promptly attend to an emergency do not have a limit; however, the CEO must inform the Board about the emergency expenditures on a timely basis.

## 5.3. Small and Local Business Opportunities

Adhere to small business enterprise (SBE) and local business policies and procedures to provide access to opportunities and remove barriers to doing business with Valley Water.

## 5.4. Non-Competitive Procurements:

5.4.1. Operate with written procurement policies and procedures for non-competitive procurements to avoid conflicts of interest and favoritism and assure legal and fiscal compliance. Non-competitive purchases of goods, materials, equipment, general services exceeding \$50,000, and consultant services exceeding \$500,000 require approvals from the BAO procurement designee, the BAO, and the Board. Non-Competitive Procurements (NCP) must meet the criteria set forth below:

### 5.4.1.1. *Sole Source*

Only one firm can provide the service, material, or equipment; no equivalent is available to meet Valley Water's minimum needs.

### 5.4.1.2. *Single Source*

The service, material, or equipment is an unusual and compelling urgency that Valley Water would suffer substantial harm unless it is permitted to acquire the service, material, or equipment on a non-competitive basis.

## 5.4.2. *Solicitations Without Responses*

When a solicitation valued over \$50,000 is unsuccessful in obtaining bids or proposals, Procurement may complete a non-competitive procurement on the open market. The BAO procurement designee must first determine if the solicitation did not contain unreasonable requirements, and further postings will not alter the result. The procurement documents must be initiated within three months from the unresponsive solicitation bid or proposal due date. Procurement must prepare a justification memo as part of the procurement record.

## 5.5. Non-procurement financial commitments and transactions:

The BAO shall not make a non-procurement financial commitment unless authorized by the Board or one of the following exemptions is applicable:

5.5.1. Financial commitments resulting from an agreement with a governmental agency or regulated utility, including revenue and cost-sharing agreements and grant matching fund commitments. This exemption does not apply to grant applications or agreements whereby Valley Water receives federal funds.

# Governance Policies of the Board

- 5.5.2. Sponsorships not more than \$10,000.
- 5.5.3. Sponsorships, contributions, or memberships that have a nexus to Valley Water's mission, vision, or Board governance policies.
- 5.5.4. For Settlement of 3rd Party Claims – not to exceed \$50,000.
- 5.5.5. For Imported Water Management Contracts - No limit; the CEO will inform the Board promptly of Imported Water Management Contracts executed.
- 5.5.6. Financial commitments resulting from imported water management contracts; the CEO will inform the Board promptly of the commitments.
- 5.5.7. Leases for Valley Water occupied facilities or payments for miscellaneous facility services, such as telephone, electricity, gas, and water, and established rates or prices are governed by legislation or Federal, State, County, or municipal regulations.
- 5.5.8. Payments required by statute, regulation, or ordinance.
- 5.5.9. Payments to public utilities to relocate or install their utilities made necessary by Valley Water public work projects.
- 5.5.10. Rebates and refunds made according to Valley Water's water conservation rebate and refund programs.
- 5.5.11. Payment for educational services provided by non-profit institutions, such as public schools or universities.
- 5.5.12. Legal services deemed necessary by the sole discretion of Valley Water District Counsel, including but not limited to external legal counsel, expert consultants, expert witnesses, investigators, arbitrators, mediators, and other professionals, to provide services relating to existing and potential judicial, administrative, and alternate dispute resolution proceedings or legal matters of interest to Valley Water - No limit; provided District Counsel informs the Board immediately of the retention of external legal counsel and the necessity, therefore, pursuant to EL-7.11.
- 5.5.13. Payments to expert panel members for Valley Water-related projects and initiatives less than or equal to \$50,000 per member, up to \$225,000 maximum per panel per year.

# Governance Policies of the Board

5.5.14. Financial commitments resulting from a non-consultant agreement with or for the following:

- A. Governmental/City/County agency
- B. Regulated Utility
- C. Utility Relocation
- D. Water Transfer
- E. Memorandum of Understanding (MOU/MOA) or Interagency Agreements
- F. Revenue and Cost-Sharing Agreements
- G. Grant matching funds and Commitments (i.e., Safe Clean Water & Natural Flood Protection Grants Partnership Programs)

Note: This exemption does not apply to grant applications or agreements whereby the District receives federal funds.

5.5.15. Capital Projects - \$100,000 in budget adjustments to capital projects within the same fund in the fiscal year.



# Santa Clara Valley Water District

File No.: 23-0664

Agenda Date: 11/6/2023

Item No.: 4.3.

## COMMITTEE AGENDA MEMORANDUM Board Policy and Planning Committee

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

### SUBJECT:

One Water Guadalupe Watershed Plan Priority Actions.

### RECOMMENDATION:

- A. Review and provide input on One Water Guadalupe Watershed Plan Priority Actions; and
- B. Request that staff present the One Water Guadalupe Watershed Plan to the full Board for consideration.

### SUMMARY:

#### Background

One Water is an integrated water resources long-range plan which aims to move Santa Clara Valley Water District's (Valley Water) operations in a more sustainable direction over time by identifying Priority Actions that will meet Santa Clara County's most critical water resources needs over the next 30 years. Planning is based on five measurable objectives addressing water supply, water quality, flood risk, natural ecosystems, and climate change. The One Water Countywide Framework identifies metrics for each objective, and specific targets are set during individual watershed planning processes. For the water supply and climate change objectives, One Water incorporates information from the Water Supply Master Plan, Climate Change Action Plan, Asset Management Plans, and other relevant planning documents to identify Priority Actions. For water quality, flood risk, and natural ecosystems objectives, Priority Actions are identified through extensive analysis of existing watershed conditions, gap identification using metric and target data, external stakeholder outreach, and expert staff review. One Water is Valley Water's only long-range plan for flood protection and environmental stewardship.

Draft Priority Actions are vetted through an executive steering committee and then presented to the Board Policy and Planning and relevant Board Advisory Committees before being considered by the full Board for adoption. With adoption, the Board confirms the identified Priority Actions to be moved into Valley Water operational projects and capital programs. In March 2022, the Board of Directors adopted the One Water Countywide Framework and Coyote Watershed Plan. At this time, staff will provide draft Priority Actions for the Guadalupe Watershed for Committee review. Priority actions for

the Upper Pajaro Watershed will be presented in December 2023.

#### New Planning Procedure: Flood Vulnerability Assessment

Historically, Valley Water designed flood protection projects to remove parcels from FEMA's flood insurance maps, which are based on the extent of floodwaters from a 1% (100-year) event. Recognizing that these large infrastructure projects were becoming cost prohibitive and/or undesirable to the community, the Board of Directors approved a revised approach in 2021 to focus on providing health and safety throughout the County. This revised approach is reflected in Board Governance Ends Policy E3.3.

As part of the Guadalupe Watershed planning analysis, staff developed a new procedure which implements the revised Ends Policy. The procedure utilizes a variety of modelling and spatial data representing physical, statistical, and social risk factors to assess watershed-wide flood vulnerability. Physical hazards including deep or fast-moving flood waters in addition to flood extent, are identified for the 25-year return interval storm. The location of statistical hazards including frequent floods and hot spots as identified by the Flood Information Team (FIT) program are also incorporated. Finally, social vulnerability to flooding as measured by the location of underserved communities and critical facilities are added. Spatial overlay of these data results in a "heat map" that identifies potential future projects, which are included as Priority Actions for the watershed. Once all One Water watershed plans are complete, anticipated in 2026, staff will develop a countywide Flood Risk Management Master Plan to further prioritize projects and develop level of service goals for projects selected to move into the CIP.

#### Watershed Priority Actions

The Guadalupe Watershed Draft Priority Actions (Attachment 1) were identified through metric data analysis, expert and stakeholder input, and the flood vulnerability assessment described above. Results of the flood vulnerability assessment identified five vulnerable areas in the Guadalupe Watershed. Of these five, two will be addressed by the Upper Guadalupe Flood Protection Project, while three are recommended for planning studies: Alamitos Creek (approximately 270 acres and 357 parcels include a school at risk of flooding in a 25-year event); Ross Creek (partially addressed by the Upper Guadalupe Flood Protection Project, but approximately 231 acres and 1,214 parcels at risk of flooding in a 25-year event); and Calero Creek (approximately 72 acres and 91 parcels are at risk of flooding in a 25-year event). Additional Priority Actions were identified to maintain and restore capacity to existing flood protection projects. The total order of magnitude cost of short-term (0-10 year start time) flood protection actions within the Guadalupe Watershed is projected to be between \$5 million and \$22 million. These costs for flood protection actions are for planning phase only and do not include existing CIP flood protection projects such as Shoreline, Lower Guadalupe, and Upper Guadalupe.

Ecological Resources and Water Quality Priority Actions reflect an intensive stakeholder engagement process which developed a 'habitat vision' for each subwatershed in the Guadalupe. Priority Actions implement the Fisheries and Aquatic Habitat Collaborative Effort (FAHCE) habitat improvement projects, assess the feasibility of the Alamitos Drop Structure to enhance aquatic habitat, partnerships to improve wildlife connectivity, reduce wildlife risk, and maximize habitat potential of watershed lands, and partnerships to reach a functional zero number of unsheltered people residing



in waterways. The total order of magnitude cost of short-term water quality and ecological resource actions within the Guadalupe Watershed is projected to be between \$7 million and \$71 million. The range of costs includes partnerships; however, Valley Water's role and cost contributions are yet to be determined (e.g., technical expertise or cost sharing).

Next steps

Staff will incorporate input from the Committee and present the Priority Actions to appropriate Board Advisory Committees this fall, followed by completion of full Guadalupe Watershed Plan document to be considered by the Board of Directors in early 2024.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Attachment 1: Guadalupe Watershed Priority Action List

Attachment 2: PowerPoint

**UNCLASSIFIED MANAGER:**

Lisa Bankosh, 408-630-2618



ATTACHMENT 1: GUADALUPE WATERSHED PRIORITY ACTION LIST

Action Number	Priority Action * FAHCE actions	Description	Activity Type	Partner Agencies	Involved VW Department	Implementation Timeframe (0-10, 11- 20, 21-50)	Cost (by magnitude, \$, \$\$, \$\$\$, etc.)
	Flood Risk Reduction Actions (FRR) - Short -Term						
FRR-01	Conduct Rodent Study	Conduct an engineering assessment study of rodent damage Countywide to (1) Quantify the extent to which rodent damage threatens the structural integrity of levees, (2)prioritize locations for repairing rodent damage, and (3) develop a methodology for future inspections and maintenance guidelines in order to rank/prioritize rodent damage to levees. Potential pilot location: Guadalupe River Bay to Tasman - had rodent damage that could potentially be addressed by O&M and/or WARP. Inspection records show 40% of reach with rodent holes and score of 88 (POF 4)	Assessment/Study		Asset Management, O&M, WARP	Short Term (0-10)	\$\$
FRR-04	Conduct Canoas Creek flood protection planning study (U/S of Corps project reach)	The Upper Guadalupe River Project, in partnership with USACE, is planning to eliminate overtopping in Canoas Creek near the confluence with the Guadalupe River. However, there are additional breakouts upstream of the confluence along Canoas Creek. Study should also address Asset management concerns: Guadalupe River Confluence to Hillsdale Drive: general erosion due to rodent damage and burrowing (reach-wide issue). Sediment removal is performed every 2-3 years Blossom Hill Road to Calero Avenue: Grading work is needed. Over 80% of assets is in moderate-high risk zone. Potential Alternative: Removing one of the two maintenance roads would increase flood capacity as well as increase ecological habitat in the channel. Also has the potential to be used as stormwater mitigation.  Flood Risk (25-Yr): 231 Acres; 1,214 parcels	Assessment/Study	CSJ	Design and Construction Unit 6	Short Term (0-10)	\$\$\$
FRR-05	Conduct engineering study to assess and repair Los Gatos Creek from HWY 280 to Lark Ave, HWY 280 to Bascom Ave, and near Guad River confluence	Hwy 280 to Lark Ave: general erosion due to rodent damage. Hwy 280 to Bascom Ave: Grading work is needed. In stream vegetation and herbaceous veg in channel and on both banks Guadalupe River Confluence to Vasona Dam Veg (ISV, TRE, VGH) a main concern in the downstream end near Guadalupe confluence. GSC (Rodent Control) is a bigger concern in the upstream end - Camden ponds to Lark Ave. Substantial amount of veg removal done (invasive plants) near Dam multiple times (less than 6").	Assessment/Study	CSJ, Town of Los Gatos	Asset Mgmt.	Short Term (0-10)	\$\$\$
FRR-06	Complete Guadalupe River Tasman Dr -I-880	This project plans, designs, and constructs improvements along the Guadalupe River from Tasman Drive to Interstate 880 to restore the 100-year flood conveyance capacity. The project is considering several alternatives to achieve the Project objectives, including structural alternatives and flow modification alternatives, which could increase climate change resiliency. Implementation steps include Planning (current phase), design, and construction.	Project	CSJ, CSC	Business Planning and Analysis, Design and Construction	Short Term (0-10)	\$\$\$\$
FRR-07	Complete Guadalupe River—Upper, Interstate 280 to Blossom Hill Road (E8)	This project partners with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to plan, design, and construct improvements along approximately 6 miles of the Guadalupe River, from Interstate 280 to Blossom Hill Road, to provide 1% flood protection, provide long-term net gains of 15 acres in riparian forest acreage, quality, and continuity of wildlife habitat, and conditions favoring Chinook salmon and steelhead trout, provide access to an additional 19 miles of suitable upstream spawning and rearing habitat, coordinate with the City of San Jose and the community to establish a continuous maintenance road suitable for trail development between Interstate 280 and Los Alamitos Creek, improve water quality by reducing bank erosion and sedimentation-related impacts along the river and tributaries. Implementation steps include Planning (current phase), design, and construction.	Project	CSJ	Business Planning and Analysis Unit, Design and Construction Division	Short Term (0-10)	\$\$\$\$\$

ATTACHMENT 1: GUADALUPE WATERSHED PRIORITY ACTION LIST

Action Number	Priority Action * FAHCE actions	Description	Activity Type	Partner Agencies	Involved VW Department	Implementation Timeframe (0-10, 11- 20, 21-50)	Cost (by magnitude, \$, \$\$, \$\$\$, etc.)
FRR-09	Model how environmental restoration projects would reduce flooding downstream	Initial studies show that adding floodplain "nodes" or small pockets of expanded floodplain area in constrained urban channels improves flood storage and flood risk downstream. Not much is known about how this would work specifically for open spaces in the Guadalupe Watershed that could be converted to floodplain "nodes"	Assessment/Study	N/A	H&H, Unit 241	Short Term (0-10)	\$
FRR-10	Complete the South San Francisco Bay Shoreline Project, Phase I (EIA 11, San Jose / Alviso)	This project is a partnership with the California State Coastal Conservancy, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and regional stakeholders to provide tidal flood protection, restore and enhance tidal marsh and related habitats, and provide recreational and public access opportunities along Santa Clara County's shoreline. EIA 11 includes the urban area of North San José, the community of Alviso and the San José-Santa Clara Regional Wastewater Facility. Construction work on Reaches 1 through 3 began in December 2021 and is estimated to continue until Summer 2025. Reach 1 extends from Alviso Marina to Union Pacific Railroad and Reaches 2 and 3 stretch from the Union Pacific Railroad to Artesian Slough. Design of Reaches 4 and 5, which extend from the Artesian Slough East to Coyote Creek, are on hold while construction phasing, access points, haul routes, staging, and easements are being addressed with the property owner. USACE and the non-federal partners are looking for alternative measures that meet project objectives and reduce construction costs. Implementation steps include Planning (current phase), design, and construction.	Project	CSCC, USACE, CSJ	Watersheds Design and Construction	Short Term (0-10)	\$\$\$\$
FRR-11	Conduct Planning Study for Calero Creek Flood Risk Reduction Project	Calero Creek – Alamitos Creek confluence up to Calero Reservoir. There are many residential properties along the lower floodplain but the majority of the floodplain is rural sparsely populated with structures. Santa Teresa Creek is a major tributary of Calero Creek. Flood Risk (25-Yr):72 acres, 91 parcels.	Project	N/A	Design and Construction Unit 6	Short Term (0-10)	\$\$
	Ecological Resource Actions (ECO) - Short Term						
ECO-01a	*Partner with others to design and construct Guadalupe Creek project 1-1 from the Study of Santa Clara County Steelhead Streams to Identify Priority Locations for Gravel Augmentation and Large Woody Debris Placement	The Study of Santa Clara County Steelhead Streams to Identify Priority Locations for Gravel Augmentation and Large Woody Debris Placement (Balance Hydrologics, 2018) identified Guadalupe Creek project #1-1 (downstream of Guadalupe Dam) as feasible and appropriate, but it still requires design and construction.	Project	RCD, CDFW, NMFS, no	EMMU	Short Term (0-10)	\$\$
ECO-01b	*Partner with others to design and construct Guadalupe Creek project 3-1 from the Study of Santa Clara County Steelhead Streams to Identify Priority Locations for Gravel Augmentation and Large Woody Debris Placement	The Study of Santa Clara County Steelhead Streams to Identify Priority Locations for Gravel Augmentation and Large Woody Debris Placement (Balance Hydrologics, 2018) identified Guadalupe Creek project #3-1 (by Wagner Road) as feasible and appropriate, but it still requires design and construction.	Project	RCD, CDFW, NMFS, no	EMMU	Short Term (0-10)	\$\$
ECO-02	*Improve suitable spawning and rearing habitat for salmonids below Calero and Almaden Dams in coordination with the FAHCE Adaptive Management Team.	Calero Creek and Alamitos Creek support various life stages of steelhead and salmon. Enhancing habitat in these reaches is important for supporting fish populations, and habitat availability in multiple creeks under various flow management regimes provides habitat diversity that can make fish populations more resilient to drought and climate change conditions. The addition of gravel, other coarse sediment, large wood, pools >1.5 ft deep, and restoration of pool-riffle morphology would improve habitat conditions and complement the flow regimes below the dams. The Study of Santa Clara County Steelhead Streams to Identify Priority Locations for Gravel Augmentation and Large Woody Debris Placement Santa Clara County, California (Balance Hydrologics, 2018) can be used to identify opportunities for this action; planning, design, and construction will be needed. Short term action that may continue into medium term (11-20 years).	Project	RCD, CDFW, NMFS, no	Watersheds	Short Term (0-10)	\$\$\$

ATTACHMENT 1: GUADALUPE WATERSHED PRIORITY ACTION LIST

Action Number	Priority Action * FAHCE actions	Description	Activity Type	Partner Agencies	Involved VW Department	Implementation Timeframe (0-10, 11- 20, 21-50)	Cost (by magnitude, \$, \$\$, \$\$\$, etc.)
ECO-02a	*Partner with others to design and construct Alamitos Creek project 1-1 from the Study of Santa Clara County Steelhead Streams to Identify Priority Locations for Gravel Augmentation and Large Woody Debris Placement	The Study of Santa Clara County Steelhead Streams to Identify Priority Locations for Gravel Augmentation and Large Woody Debris Placement (Balance Hydrologics, 2018) identified Alamitos Creek project #1-1 (downstream of Almaden Dam) as feasible and appropriate, but it still requires design and construction. Action would inject gravels at the top of the reach to naturally form bed features downstream	Project	CDFW, NMFS, Water Board, USFWS	Watersheds	Short Term (0-10)	\$\$\$
ECO-03	*Complete feasibility study of fish passage at Almaden Dam in coordination with the FAHCE Adaptive Management Team.	Tributaries to Almaden Reservoir support suitable habitat for steelhead and salmonid, but Almaden Dam blocks fish access to them. The benefits of and options for providing fish access beyond the dam (e.g., bypass channel, fish ladders, assisted migration) should be investigated in time to inform seismic retrofit planning. Other dams are not as important to assess as there is not the same amount of suitable habitat upstream of other unpassable dams in the watershed.	Assessment/Study	DODS, County Parks, NMFS, CDFW	Watersheds	Short Term (0-10)	\$\$
ECO-04	Assess feasibility of modifying Alamitos Drop Structure to enhance habitat	The Alamitos Drop Structure is critical water supply infrastructure and has a ladder to provide fish passage, but there are concerns that it may limit aquatic habitat and geomorphic connectivity with upstream habitat. Modifications of the structure will require analysis of water rights and alternative water supply infrastructure and/or operations, and could require extensive upstream and/or downstream channel work to create a functional gradient and more natural morphology through the area. This assessment would ideally be done before or concurrently with Alamitos Creek restoration through Almaden Lake.	Assessment/Study	NMFS, CDFW	Office of Integrated Water Management (both Water Utility and Watersheds)	Short Term (0-10)	\$\$
ECO-05	*Coordinate with other entities to improve fish passage at priority barriers owned by others in coordination with the FAHCE Adaptive Management Team.	Physical fish passage barriers have been inventoried and should be removed or remediated, generally from downstream to upstream. Valley Water should remove or remediate those that they own and in partnership with public landowners, but should also support the efforts of partners to remediate those on private property, such as: Guadalupe River at Hillsdale Avenue Bridge and at SJWC low-flow crossing, Pheasant Creek culvert, an old dam on Guadalupe Creek, and an Alamitos Creek private drop structure. Prioritization depends on landowner permission and funding availability. When possible, these efforts should restore natural pool-riffle morphology and facilitate sediment transport. These efforts will require planning, design, and construction.	Project	NMFS, CDFW, VHA, RCDs, SJWC, native tribes, non-profit organizations	Watersheds	Short Term (0-10)	\$\$\$
ECO-06	Partner to support the Alma Bridge Road Newt Passage Project	MidPeninsula Regional Open Space District and County Roads and Airports, along with many other stakeholders including Valley Water and County Parks, are working together to address the high mortality of newts on Alma Bridge Road that is occurring seasonally each year when the newts are crossing the road. The Alma Bridge Road Newt Passage Project is working towards the goal of installing appropriate road enhancements (e.g., raised section(s) of road, new undercrossings, and directional fencing), some of which would be on Valley Water property. As of 2022, the project is exploring the feasibility of the various road improvement options.	Partnership	Midpen, County Roads and Airports, SC County Parks	Environmental Mitigation and Monitoring Unit	Short Term (0-10)	\$
ECO-07	Partner to support the Highway 17 Wildlife and Trail Crossings Project	Together with private and public partners, Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (MidPen) is working towards the goal of installing two independent road crossings across Highway 17 adjacent to Lexington Reservoir, some of which would be on Valley Water property. The wildlife undercrossing and recreational trail overcrossing would link over 30,000 acres of protected lands in the Santa Cruz Mountains. As of 2022, the project is exploring the feasibility of these crossings.	Partnership	MROSD, Caltrans, various other stakeholders	Watersheds (EMMU)	Short Term (0-10)	\$\$\$
ECO-08	Develop program to incorporate restoration of areas impacted by unhoued encampments into Stream Maintenance Program	Existing and historical creekside encampment locations are tracked and mapped by Valley Water staff. After working with partners to reduce the prevalence of encampments within waterways and provide new housing for unsheltered individuals, impacted areas should be remediated and restored by removing trash and pollutants and replanting disturbed vegetation. A program to restore impacted areas will require planning, design, and implementation.	Program	CSJ, CSC, Town of Los Gatos, City of Campbell, Town of Monte Sereno, SCC, non-profit organizations	Watersheds Operations and Maintenance	Short Term (0-10)	\$

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ECO-09	Develop and incorporate vegetation cover guidelines to decrease wildfire risk to native habitats	Complying with permit requirements for vegetation cover can result in plant and canopy densities that exacerbate the risk and severity of wildlife in riparian habitats, which are typically more resistant to wildfire, and nearby residential and commercial areas. Technical information should be evaluated to identify vegetation cover goals that result in environmental benefits without significantly increasing wildfire risks. Permitting agencies should be involved in this evaluation so that there is trust when the guidance is used in mitigation and revegetation plans. Consider connecting with local tribes to learn about traditional burn methods and plan a fire prevention program for the entire watershed, including the urban areas. This action is a study and plan/program.	Policy	RCD, CDF, municipal fire districts, Water Board, CDFW, non-profit organizations	Watersheds	Short Term (0-10)	\$
ECO-10	Conduct Study identifying areas to expand and connect riparian corridors around channels, particularly where they are missing or only very narrow. Identify strategies and highest priorities to preserve, create, and enhance undeveloped buffers around creeks	Vegetated buffers around channels, typically referred to as riparian corridors, provide myriad ecosystem services, but have been removed or are only very narrow along many miles of channel. Forest, shrubland, grassland, and wetland communities can all be appropriate to establish, depending upon physical, groundwater, and land use conditions, and could be incorporated into multiple-benefit efforts for wildlife connectivity, groundwater recharge, and/or flood risk reduction. Such efforts would need to be balanced with land uses and landowner needs, and lands that flood frequently could be used to focus landowner outreach efforts. Valley Water should implement this action on its land and in association with other projects, but can also support the efforts of partners to implement this action on private property. Undeveloped buffers around creeks allow for flooding and geomorphic processes that do not impact development, farming, or people, and for habitat development, buffering, and wildlife movement. This action includes desk-top analysis to identify opportunities, priorities, and strategies for undeveloped areas that have the best potential for supporting conservation and restoration that provides multiple benefits. This action includes planning, design, and implementation. Short term action that may continue into medium term (11-20 years).	Project	VHA, OSA, County Parks, RCDs, native tribes, non-profit organizations	Watersheds, EMMU, VFO, CPRU, Land Management, and/or SMP	Short Term (0-10)	\$\$\$
ECO-11	Conduct Study identifying areas to expand and enhance sycamore alluvial woodland	Sycamore alluvial woodland (SAW) is a rare sensitive natural community that depends on specific ranges of substrate and flow conditions. Opportunities to expand and enhance SAW should be investigated in the watershed. Given the physical conditions necessary to support SAW, these opportunities are most likely to occur in the upper watershed and above dams. This action includes planning, design, and implementation. Short term action that may continue into medium term (11-20 years).	Assessment/Study	VHA, OSA, MidPen, County Parks, SJWC	Watersheds	Short Term (0-10)	\$\$\$
ECO-12	Partner to enhance rearing habitat in Guadalupe River	Guadalupe River support various life stages of steelhead and salmon. Enhancing habitat in the mainstem can help directly support fish populations, and habitat availability in multiple creeks and reaches under various flow management regimes provides habitat diversity that can make fish populations in the watershed more resilient to drought and climate change conditions. The addition of gravel, other coarse sediment, large wood, pools >1.5 ft deep, and restoration of pool-riffle morphology would improve habitat conditions. The Study of Santa Clara County Steelhead Streams to Identify Priority Locations for Gravel Augmentation and Large Woody Debris Placement Santa Clara County, California (Balance Hydrologics, 2018) project #1-1 near the Alamitos Drop Structure has already been identified as feasible and appropriate, and needs only design and implementation. Other locations would include planning, design, and implementation. Short term action that may continue into medium term (11-20 years).	Project	RCD, non-profit organizations	Watersheds (FAHCE)	Short Term (0-10)	\$\$

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Action Number	Priority Action * FAHCE actions	Description	Activity Type	Partner Agencies	Involved VW Department	Implementation Timeframe (0-10, 11- 20, 21-50)	Cost (by magnitude, \$, \$\$, \$\$\$, etc.)
ECO-12a	Design and construct Guadalupe River project 1-1 from the Study of Santa Clara County Steelhead Streams to Identify Priority Locations for Gravel Augmentation and Large Woody Debris Placement	The Study of Santa Clara County Steelhead Streams to Identify Priority Locations for Gravel Augmentation and Large Woody Debris Placement (Balance Hydrologics, 2018) identified Guadalupe River project #1-1 near the Alamitos Drop Structure as feasible and appropriate, but it still requires design and construction. Inject gravel downstream of Alamitos drop structure. Wood can be installed here as well.	Project	RCD, non-profit organi	Watersheds (FAHCE, SMP)	Short Term (0-10)	\$\$
ECO-12b	Include rearing habitat enhancements in the Upper Guadalupe River Project	USACE is re-evaluating and will eventually design and construct the remaining reaches of the Upper Guadalupe River Project (UGRP). As the local sponsor, Valley Water should advocate for the inclusion of salmonid rearing habitat features and enhancement in the re-evaluation design. Information from Valley Water's UGRP Reach 6 Aquatic Habitat Improvement Project should be relayed to USACE in time to inform the UGRP design.	Project	USACE, NMFS	Watersheds Design and Construction	Short Term (0-10)	\$\$
ECO-15	Explore partnerships for habitat enhancement on Los Gatos Creek downstream of Lexington Reservoir	The extent of benefits and feasibility of options is uncertain and dependent on numerous land owner, land use, water management, and infrastructure variables. Given the effort and complexity of these efforts, and relatively short reaches of habitat that could become accessible or improved, committing to a plan or even a study is premature without first communicating with key Los Gatos Creek landowners to gauge interest and willingness to partner. This action is to convene those initial discussions.	Assessment/Study	VW, Town of Los Gatos, County Parks		Short Term (0-10)	\$\$
ECO-16	Facilitate the beneficial reuse of large wood and sediment from Lexington Reservoir	Reservoirs trap sediment and large wood that could be beneficially reused downstream to mitigate incision and provide aquatic habitat. This is problematic in much of the Guadalupe River watershed due to high mercury levels, but not likely in Lexington Reservoir. The amount of these materials in the reservoir, their condition and relocation risk factors (e.g., mercury and pathogens), and the logistics to remove, store, and relocate them needs to be evaluated to understand if beneficial reuse is feasible and appropriate.	Assessment/Study	VW, County Parks, Water Board	Watersheds (FAHCE, EMMU, and/or SMP)	Short Term (0-10)	\$\$
ECO-18	Partner to maximize the native habitat potential of the Guadalupe Gardens	The Guadalupe Gardens is an underutilized park owned by the City of San Jose, the uses of which are limited by its proximity to the airport, but that may have relatively high groundwater elevation. This action would evaluate the potential for lowering the ground surface elevation of the park to match an appropriate flood stage of the Guadalupe River or depth to groundwater to allow for flood inundation and/or create wetland habitat. This could create suitable habitat for beaver and encourage natural floodplain and wet meadow integration, in conjunction with public access and recreation. This action is a feasibility study.	Assessment/Study	City of San Jose, SPUR, SJ Airport (County Roads and Airports)	Watersheds (FAHCE, EMMU, and/or SMP)	Short Term (0-10)	\$
ECO-19	Assess modified channels to identify strategies and priorities to enhance the ecological conditions	Straightened, trapezoidal channels, many of which are owned and/or maintained by Valley Water, reduce the ecological condition of riverine habitat in the watershed. The form and function of modified channels and other low scoring riverine/riparian reaches (based on CRAM scores) can be improved by expanding floodplains, adding aquatic habitat complexity, allowing for or planting more native vegetation, reducing invasive plants, and expanding and improving buffers around creeks. Valley Water can prioritize this work where it would also provide community benefits, such as trails, shade, and views of nature, and/or where channels or adjacent access roads are failing or at risk of doing so. This action includes planning and design.	Project	N/A	Asset Management, EMMU, SMP	Short Term (0-10)	\$\$
	Water Quality Actions (WQ)- Short Term						
WQ-01	Develop program to partner with agencies such as Resource Conservation Districts to facilitate erosion control on private properties	Erosion from private properties triggers downstream sediment removal for flood risk reduction, mobilizes pollutants, and impairs substrates of salmonids. Valley Water should help fund or provide other support for projects to help reduce this effect on private lands.	Program	GCRC	Watersheds S&P	Short Term (0-10)	\$



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WQ-04	Create or expand existing water quality monitoring program to support One Water metrics	The Guadalupe Watershed's metrics track critical physical, biological and chemical water quality values, however much of this data still needs to be collected. Establish a new water quality monitoring program or expand existing water quality measuring efforts to correct this data gap and collect this data for future One Water Plan updates. Also consider including any pesticide monitoring and emerging toxins. Some of this action can be supported by partners.	Program	SCVURPPP	Environmental Planning Unit/Water Quality	Short Term (0-10)	\$\$
WQ-05	Partner with Santa Clara County, cities, and other organizations to reach a functional zero number of unsheltered people residing on Valley Water lands along waterways.	Existing and historical creekside encampment locations are tracked and mapped by Valley Water staff. After working with partners to reduce the prevalence of encampments within waterways and provide new housing for unsheltered individuals, impacted areas should be remediated and restored by removing trash and pollutants and replanting disturbed vegetation. A program to restore impacted areas will require planning, design, and implementation.	Partnership	CSJ, CSC, Town of Los Gatos, City of Campbell, Town of Monte Sereno, SCC, non-profit organizations	Unhoused Task Force, CPRU	Short Term (0-10)	\$\$\$
	Water Supply Actions (WS)- Short Term						
WS-01	Complete Almaden Dam Improvements	This project plans, designs, and constructs improvements to the Almaden Dam outlet works to modify or construct a new intake structure, capable of releasing 246 cubic feet-per-second of water without flushing of sediments through the outlet works, correct existing problems with the outlet energy dissipation structure, piping and valves, and stabilize and improve maintenance access.	Project	N/A	Dam Safety	Short Term (0-10)	\$\$\$\$
WS-02	Complete Almaden-Calero Canal Repairs	Due to the deteriorating condition of the 5-mile-long Almaden-Calero Canal (Canal), improvements to the Canal are being undertaken ahead of the elements of work at the Almaden Dam (elements of work related to the dam include new outlet works and a new spillway). Staff has commenced the design activities related to the rehabilitation of the Canal only. 50% design documentation is expected to be completed in 2024.	Project	N/A	Dam Safety	Short Term (0-10)	\$\$\$
WS-05	Complete Vasona Pump Station Upgrade	This project designs, and constructs improvements to the Vasona Pump Station, including replacing aging pumps, motors, drives, valves, actuators, flow meters, and electrical and control systems that have reached the end of their useful life; and adds one redundant pump.	Project	N/A	Business Planning and Analysis Unit, Treatment Plants Project Delivery Unit	Short Term (0-10)	\$\$\$\$
WS-06	Complete Rinconada Water Treatment Plant - Residuals Remediation	This project plans, designs, and constructs modifications to the Rinconada Water Treatment Plant (RWTP) residuals management processes	Project	N/A	Business Planning and Analysis Unit, Construction Services Unit	Short Term (0-10)	\$\$\$\$
WS-07	Complete Rinconada Water Treatment Plant - Reliability Improvement	This project plans, designs, and constructs new facilities at Rinconada Water Treatment Plant (RWTP) that will improve plant reliability	Project	N/A	Business Planning and Analysis Unit, Treatment Plants Project Delivery Unit	Short Term (0-10)	\$\$\$\$\$
WS-08	Complete Santa Teresa Water Treatment Plant Electrical Improvement	This project plans, designs, and constructs improvements to ensure the safety, operational reliability and maintainability of electrical systems at Santa Teresa Water Treatment Plant (STWTP).	Project	N/A	Business Planning and Analysis Unit, Treatment Plants Project Delivery Unit	Short Term (0-10)	\$\$\$\$



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	Medium Term Actions						
CC-01	Support the development of a single model/map of sea level rise that can be shared with regional agencies	While sea level rise models already exist, a coordinated standard of seal level rise modeling has not been accepted across all Bay Area cities and counties. Support the development of a single model/map of SLR that can be shared with regional agencies. Evaluate how SLR may change the creek profile at the coastal and fluvial flooding interface.	Partnership		Hydrology, Hydraulics and Geomorphology, Design and Construction	Medium Term (11-20)	\$
CC-02	Develop policy on integrating Forecast Informed Reservoir Operations (FIRO) into Water Supply and Flood Risk Reduction resilience strategy (at Lexington Reservoir)	Forecast Informed Reservoir Operations have been shown to improve water supply and increase flexibility in reservoirs to provide floor risk reduction. FIRO is a promising solution to the increasing rainfall intensity projected to occur with Climate change. Although this has been used unofficially and in emergency situations at Valley Water already, there may be benefit to creating an official policy. This is being studies currently through the Guadalupe River - Tasman to I-880 Project for use at Lexington Reservoir.	Policy	N/A	Water Supply Planning, H&H, Raw Water, Water Utility, Legal	Medium Term (11-20)	\$\$\$
ECO-01	*Improve suitable spawning and rearing habitat for steelhead trout and salmon on Guadalupe Creek below Guadalupe Reservoir in coordination with the FAHCE Adaptive Management Team.	Most of Guadalupe Creek supports multiple life stages of salmonids. The addition of gravel, other coarse sediment, large wood, pools >1.5 ft deep, and restoration of pool-riffle morphology would improve habitat conditions in this very important salmonid reach and mitigate the effects of Guadalupe Dam on sediment supply. The Study of Santa Clara County Steelhead Streams to Identify Priority Locations for Gravel Augmentation and Large Woody Debris Placement Santa Clara County, California (Balance Hydrologics, 2018) project #1-1 and 3-1 have already been identified as feasible and appropriate, but still require design and construction. Additional locations will require planning, design, and construction.	Project	RCD, CDFW, NMFS, non-profit organizations	Watersheds	Medium Term (11-20)	\$\$\$
ECO-14	Partner to support assessment, enhancement, and management of livestock stock ponds for habitat	Stock ponds are important not only for livestock but also can provide critical habitat for native wildlife that have come to depend on these reliable sources of water and wetland habitat. They help maintain biodiversity and can provide for important habitat areas if designed and managed for native species correctly. Valley Water does not own stock ponds, but can support this effort through information and cost sharing and technical support.	Partnership	VHA, County Parks, Open Space Districts, CDFW, USFWS, OSA	Office of Integrated Water Management (both Water Utility and Watersheds)	Medium Term (11-20)	\$
ECO-17	*Seek Funding for and Complete Alamitos Creek Separation and Restoration Project (formerly Lake Almaden Improvement Project) in coordination with the FAHCE Adaptive Management Team.	Separating Alamitos Creek from Almaden Lake is a priority action in the VHP and Santa Clara Valley RCIS, and an important type of action in the NMFS recovery plan for the region and FAHCE. It will improve fish passage, reduce mercury load and methylation, and reduce water temperature, and more. Valley Water has prepared 60% designs and a FEIR, but the approach to the project needs to be reconsidered to reduce construction costs. Ideally this action would be planned and undertaken in coordination with any assessment efforts for improved fish passage at the Alamitos Drop Structure. This action includes planning, re-design, and construction.	Project	VHA, CDFW, NMFS, Water Board, City of San Jose	Watersheds (FAHCE, EMMU, and/or SMP)	Medium Term (11-20)	\$\$\$\$

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ECO-20	Complete studies and agency negotiations to facilitate safe sediment reuse.	Sediment removal to reduce flood risk and facilitate fish passage robs downstream habitats and the Bay of critical sediment supply, is costly, and impacts the environment. In the Guadalupe River watershed, however, such efforts also help reduce the amount of mercury in the environment and that is delivered to the Bay. The reuse of removed sediment can support habitat development, protect against sea level rise, and greatly reduce the cost and effort of securing sediment for restoration projects, but cannot increase mercury exposure risks. Progress must be made on two levels to facilitate safe sediment reuse on a watershed-scale: (1) the necessary regulatory approvals must be sought, technically justified, and secured, and (2) the physical space and equipment necessary for sediment storage, sorting, and cleaning must be secured. A Pilot Study in partnership with SFEI is currently underway in a different watershed, which will help inform this watershed's work. This action includes assessment and planning.	Assessment/Study	Regional Board, BCDC, SFEI	Planning & Policy, EMMU, SMP, Design & Construction	Medium Term (11-20)	\$\$
FRR-02	Conduct Alamitos Creek Planning Study (and incorporate ECO-17)	Randol Creek Levee is known to have uneven elevations on either side of the creek channel, creating a flooding risk for a local school parking lot. The school also experiences flooding from Alamitos Creek. Additionally, the Camden Avenue culvert in this area is undersized, creating a backwater effect and increasing flood risk. Due to the many sources of flood risk in this area, a more wholistic flood risk planning study is needed in this area. Alamitos Creek - Almaden Lake to Foothills (Almaden Rd/Beltran Rd Intersection). There are man made levees along Alamitos Creek from Almaden Lake up to McKean Road. This area of the floodplain is densely populated with residential properties. From McKean Road up to the Beltran Road, the floodplain is very rural and sparsely populated. The project would include the following tributaries: Golf Creek, Greystone Creek, and Randol Creek. Flood Risk (25-Yr): 270 acres 357 parcels.	Assessment/Study	CSJ	Design and Construction Unit #6	Medium Term (11-20)	\$\$\$
FRR-03	Conduct Ross Creek flood protection planning study (U/S of Corps project reach)	The Upper Guadalupe River Project, in partnership with USACE, is planning to eliminate overtopping in Ross Creek near the confluence with the Guadalupe River. However, there are additional breakouts upstream of the confluence along Ross Creek, as well as sediment deposition issues in certain reaches. A Feasibility Study has already been done for Ross Creek, so the next step is an alternatives analysis or full Planning Study. Potential Alternative: Incorporate Asset Management concerns: Kirk Rd to Camden and Union to Camino Del Cerro(end): mainly erosion. 45% of assets in moderate-high risk zone. Rest of Creek: (mainly Jarvis to Lone Hill) Erosion, Sediment and MGR (Grading Work) Ross Creek tends to have erosion issues thru-out and reoccurring sed removal and H&H concerns. Potential Alternative: Removing one of the two maintenance roads would increase flood capacity as well as increase ecological habitat in the channel. Also has the potential to be used as stormwater mitigation.  Flood Risk (25-Yr): 231 Acres; 1,214 parcels	Assessment/Study	CSJ	Design and Construction Unit 6	Medium Term (11-20)	\$\$\$
FRR-08	Perform Feasibility Study of using existing ponds and lakes to store floodwater when necessary	Assess the feasibility of expanding the use of existing ponds and lakes (Almaden, etc.) to store floodwater when necessary, considering off channel storage options along the creeks to reduce flood flows and the need for flood protection infrastructure. The use of Valley Water's percolation ponds, lakes and reservoirs comes with a large amount of political and logistical issues. Study should determine if it is worth adding flood storage as an additional option.	Assessment/Study	SCC Parks	Watersheds, Raw Water	Medium Term (11-20)	\$\$
WQ-02	Partner to support Santa Clara County Parks in the remediation of legacy mercury mine waste at twenty-three high priority sites designated by the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board in Almaden Quicksilver County Park	Support Santa Clara County Parks in the remediation of legacy mercury mine waste at twenty-three high priority sites designated by the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board in Almaden Quicksilver County Park (SFBRWQCB, 2022).	Partnership	County Parks, Water Board	Environmental Planning Unit	Medium Term (11-20)	\$\$\$\$\$
WQ-03	Partner to support Private Property Owners in the remediation of legacy mercury mine waste in Upper Watershed	Support Private Property Owners in the remediation of legacy mercury mine waste in high priority sites designated by the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board in the Upper Watershed.	Partnership	Water Board, Private Property Owners	Environmental Planning Unit/Water Quality	Medium Term (11-20)	\$\$\$\$\$

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WQ-03a	Encourage Waste Management to remediate legacy mercury mining waste along Guadalupe Creek near the site of the former Guadalupe Mine.	Encourage Waste Management to remediate legacy mercury mining waste along Guadalupe Creek near the site of the former Guadalupe Mine. Private property owners may not have the funds or resources needed to remediate the legacy mercury, but it is a source that affects the whole watershed. Consider ways to support remediation.	Partnership	Waste Management, Water Board	Environmental Planning Unit/Water Quality	Medium Term (11-20)	\$\$\$\$
WQ-03b	Encourage property owner(s) to remediate mercury mine waste from the former Santa Teresa Mine.	Encourage property owner(s) to remediate mercury mine waste from the former Santa Teresa Mine. Private property owners may not have the funds or resources needed to remediate the legacy mercury, but it is a source that affects the whole watershed. Consider ways to support remediation.	Partnership	Private Property Owners, Water Board	Environmental Planning Unit/Water Quality	Medium Term (11-20)	\$\$\$\$
WS-04	Complete Almaden Valley Pipeline Replacement project	This pipeline is used to supply raw water to Valley Water’s water treatment plants and groundwater recharge facilities. This pipeline provides access, with no redundancy, to local raw water sources from Valley Water’s Anderson and Calero Reservoirs and imported water from the United States Bureau of Reclamation San Luis Reservoir and San Felipe system.	Project	N/A	Business Planning and Analysis Unit, Pipelines Project Delivery Unit	Medium Term (11-20)	\$\$\$\$
WS-09	Construct Indirect Potable Reuse (Palo-Alto) - Los Gatos Recharge System	Design and construction of an Advanced Water Purification Facility (AWPF) located in Palo Alto, pump station, water conveyance pipelines to the existing Los Gatos Recharge System (LGRS) complex located in the City of Campbell, lateral pipelines and associated facilities.	Project	City of Palo Alto and Mountain View	Business Planning and Analysis Unit, Recycled Water Unit/Water Supply Division, Raw Water, Groundwater units	Medium Term (11-20)	\$\$\$\$
	Long Term Actions						
ECO-13	As habitat enhancements are implemented, adapt FAHCE monitoring as needed in coordination with FAHCE Adaptive Management Team (AMT)	FAHCE has a robust monitoring program in place. As watershed enhancement are being planned and implemented, whether undertaken by FAHCE or not, the fisheries and aquatic habitat monitoring conducted under FAHCE should be strategically adapted to help detect changes resulting from implemented projects. Such monitoring could include additional water temperature monitoring, additional PIT antennae, or other monitoring determined appropriate by VW and its FAHCE AMT.	Program	CDFW, NMFS, Water Board, USFWS	Watersheds (FAHCE)	Long Term (21-50+)	\$\$
WS-03	Complete Calero and Guadalupe Dams Seismic Retrofits	This project plans (engineering and environmental), designs and constructs improvements for the Calero and Guadalupe Dams to stabilize the embankments enough to withstand a Maximum Credible Earthquake and implement improvements, as necessary, for the dam systems to safely pass the Probable Maximum Flood (PMF).	Project	N/A	Business Planning and Analysis Unit, Dam Safety	Long Term (21-50+)	\$\$\$\$
WS-10	Construct a pipeline to connect raw water system to Lexington Reservoir or Vasona Reservoir	Constructs a pipeline between either Vasona or Lexington Reservoir and the raw water system to provide greater flexibility in using local water supplies. The pipeline would allow surface water from the reservoir to be put to beneficial use elsewhere in the county and increase utilization of existing water rights, especially in combination with the Los Gatos Ponds Potable Reuse Project. In addition, the pipeline will enable Valley Water to capture some wet-weather flows that would otherwise flow to the Bay. Water quality issues would require pretreatment/management. An institutional alternative could include an agreement to use some of Valley Water’s reservoir water right at San Jose Water Company’s Montevina Water Treatment Plant.	Project	N/A	Water Supply Planning and Conservation/ Water Supply Division, Raw Water	Long Term (21-50+)	\$\$\$\$

\*Cost by Magnitude (up to \$ amount): \$ = \$100k, \$\$ = 1M, \$\$\$ = 10M, \$\$\$\$ = 100M, \$\$\$\$\$ = 100M+





# Valley Water

Clean Water • Healthy Environment • Flood Protection





# One Water: Guadalupe Watershed Plan

Board Policy and Planning Committee Meeting

11/6/2023



# Meeting Objectives

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- Review One Water planning process
- Provide an overview of Flood Vulnerability Assessment
- Share and discuss Priority Actions



## WHAT IS ONE WATER?

*Valley Water's integrated master planning process for identifying priority actions and directing Valley Water's resources using measurable metrics and targets*

### 1. One Water Planning Process

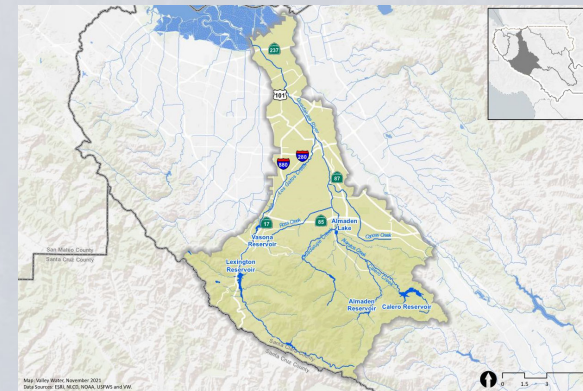


# One Water Plans



## COUNTYWIDE FRAMEWORK

Provides overall vision, goals and objectives as guidance for all plans



## WATERSHED LEVEL PLANS

Specific Plans for each of the five watersheds comprising Valley Water's service area

### 1. One Water Planning Process



# One Water Measurable Objectives

Water Supply



Flood Risk Reduction



Climate Change



Water Quality



Natural Ecosystem



1. One Water Planning Process





# One Water Metrics

## Water Supply



- Reservoir capacity
- Recycled water production
- Managed recharge capacity
- Annual water conservation

## Water Quality



- Chemical integrity (e.g., pH, dissolved oxygen (DO), nutrients, pesticides, regulated contaminants)
- Biological integrity (e.g., bacteria, harmful algal blooms, invasive species, toxicity, fish tissue, mercury)
- Physical integrity (e.g., temperature, turbidity, trash)

## Flood Risk Reduction



- Asset management
- Emergency action plans
- Flood forecasts
- Parcels subject to frequent flooding
- Flood risk in disadvantaged communities

## Natural Ecosystems



- California Rapid Assessment Method (CRAM) scores
- Protected stream buffers
- Wildlife corridor enhancements
- Natural habitat area
- Invasive plant coverage
- Fish passage barriers
- Riparian corridor connectivity

## Climate Change



- Net GHG emissions
- Green stormwater infrastructure
- Annual water conservation
- Critical facilities subject to severe floods
- Stream channel length and connectivity

# Flood Vulnerability Assessment

## Physical Hazard

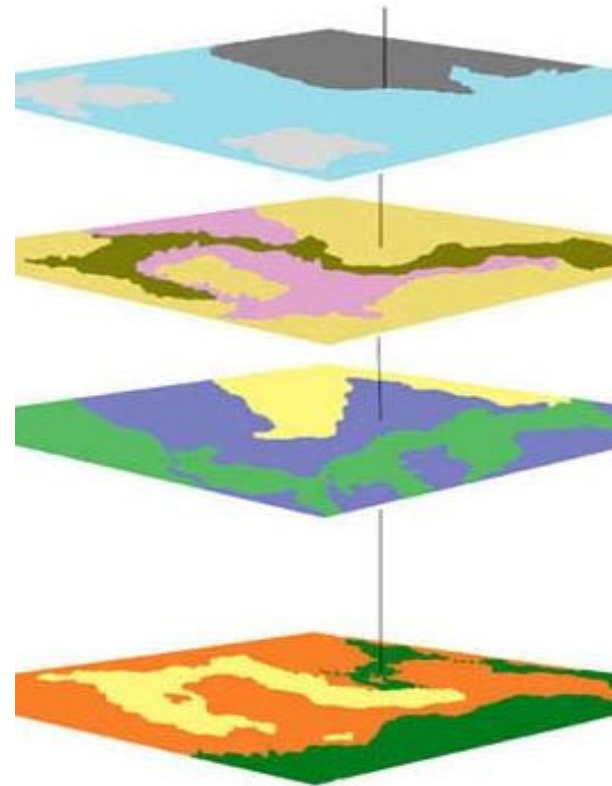
- Flood Depths
- Flood Velocities

## Statistical Hazard

- FIT Hot Spots
- Historical Flooding

## Social Vulnerability

- Critical Facilities
- CalEnvironScreen
- Area Median Income

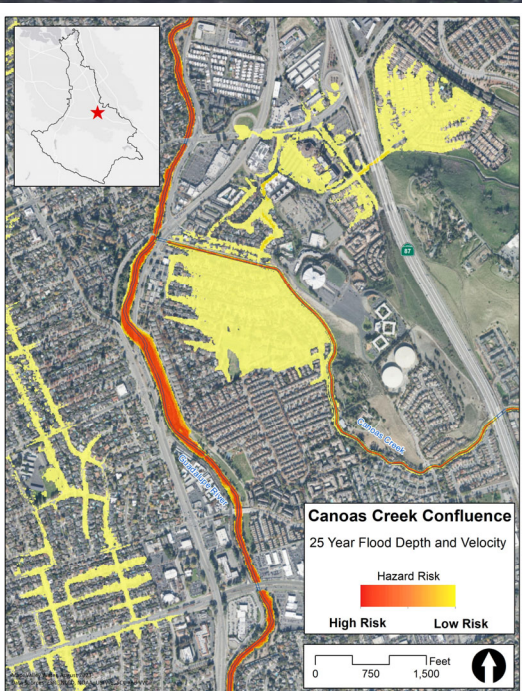




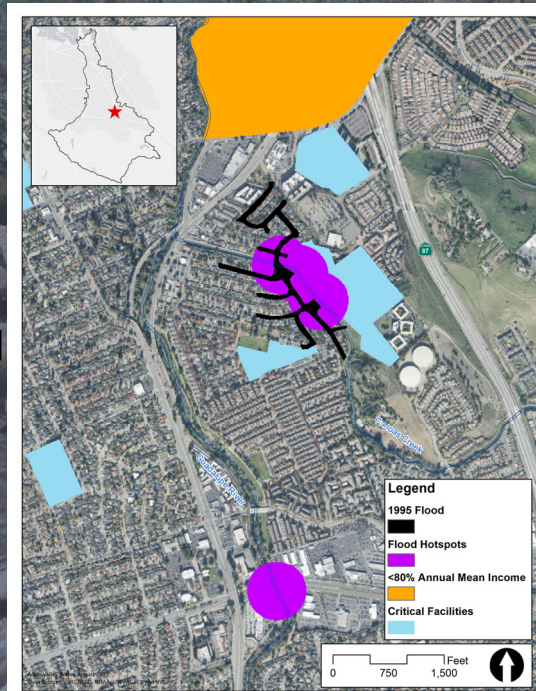
## Physical

## Statistical and Social

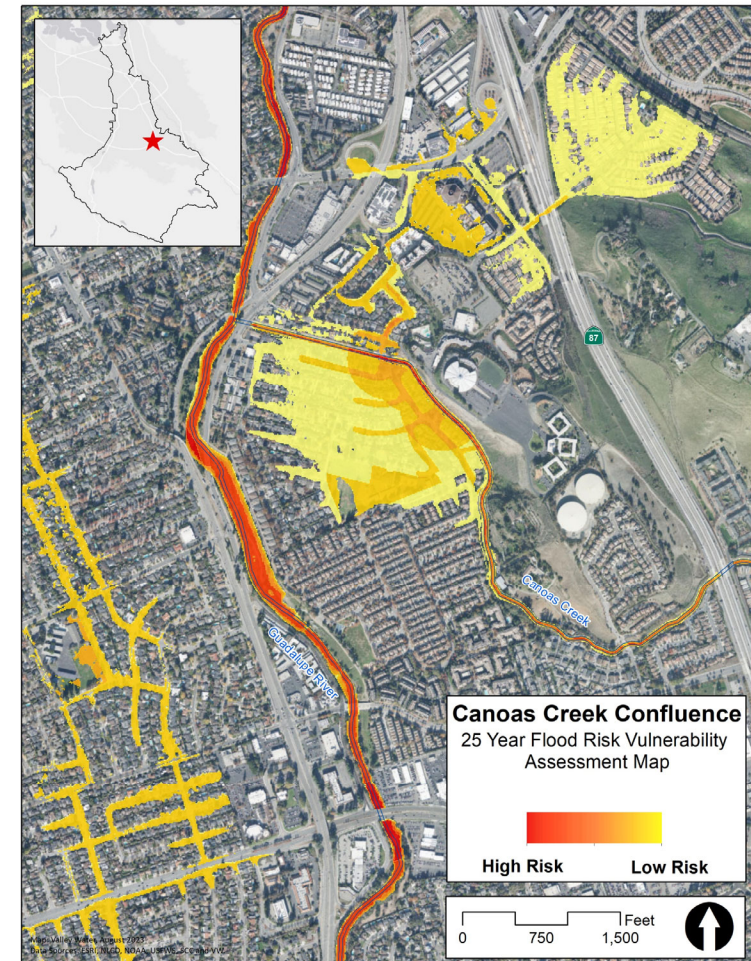
## Combined Vulnerability Map



+



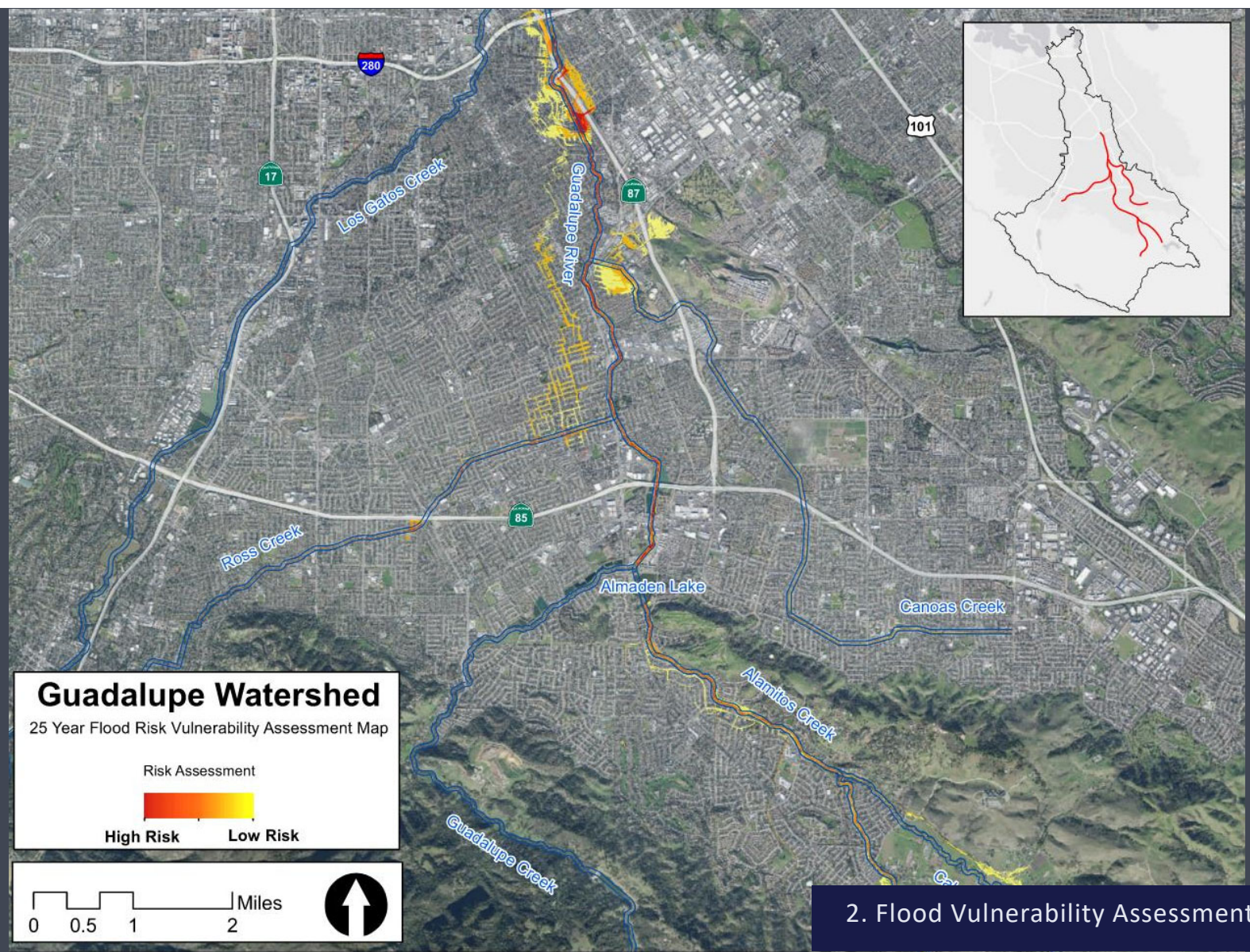
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## 2. Flood Vulnerability Assessment

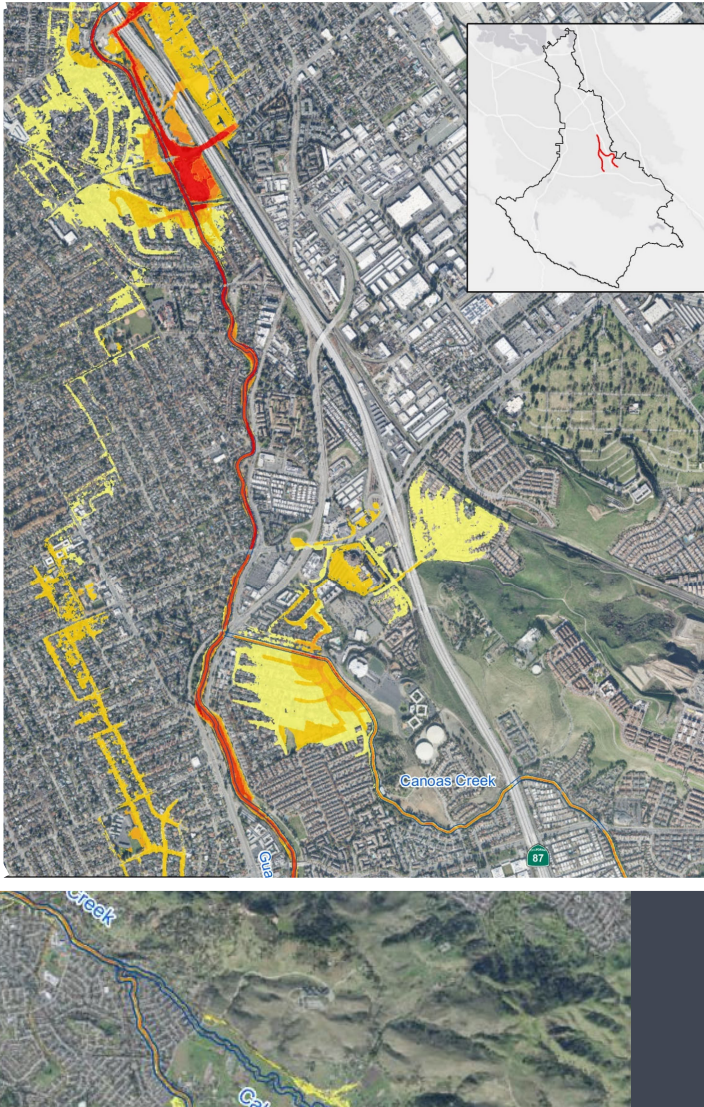
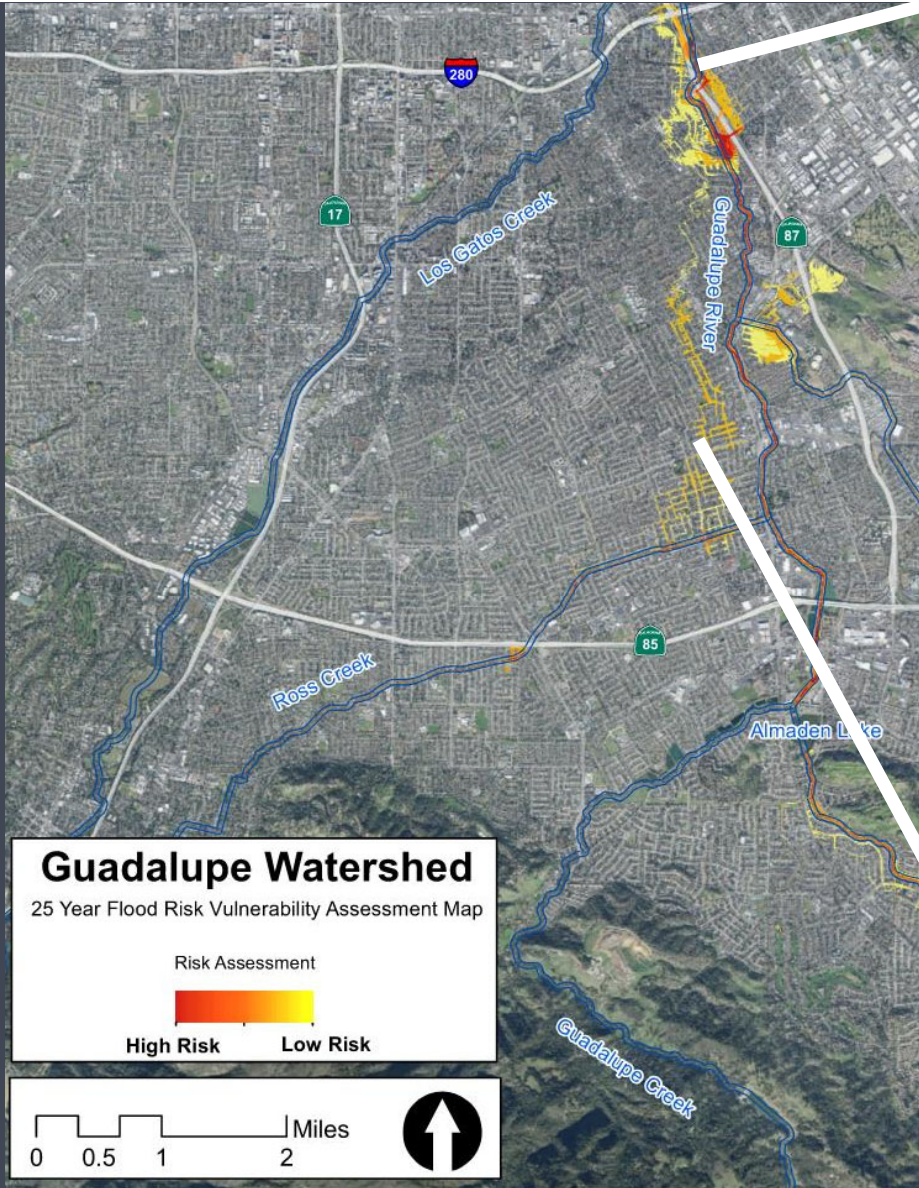


# Draft Results: 25-Year or 4% Flood



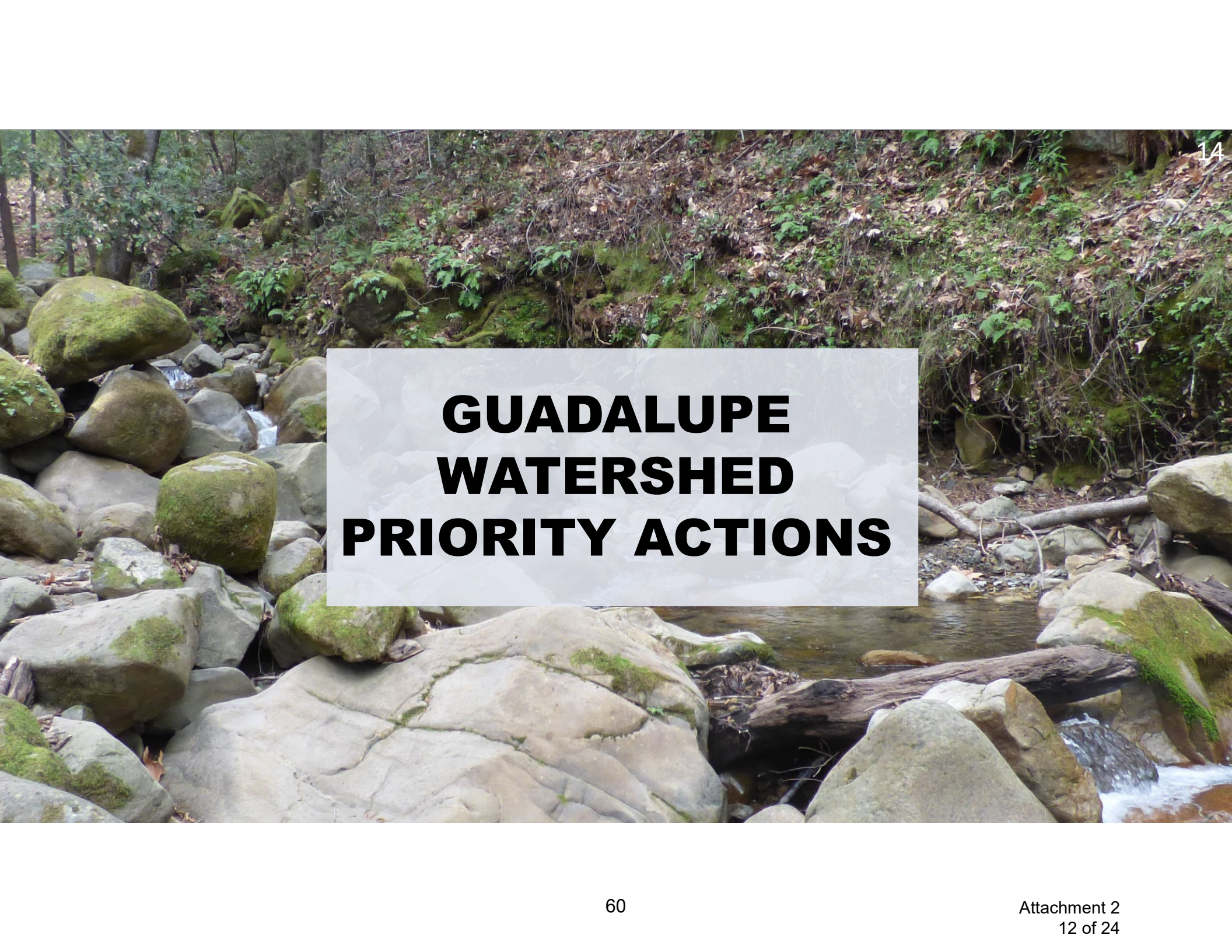


**Draft  
Results:  
Upper  
Guadalupe  
River**



**2. Flood Vulnerability Assessment**





# **GUADALUPE WATERSHED PRIORITY ACTIONS**



# Developing and Refining Watershed Priority Actions

- **Collaborative process**
  - One Water Team
  - Valley Water Subject Matter Experts
  - Valley Water Steering Committee
  - External Stakeholders
- **Feedback collected through**
  - Online surveys
  - Virtual meetings
  - In-person workshops



## 3. Priority Actions

# External Stakeholders

**11**

COHORTS

**141**

ORGANIZATIONS/AGENCIES/BUSINESSES

**~230**

INDIVIDUAL CONTACTS

- Subject Matter Experts
- Local & County Governments
- Community Based Organizations
- Special Districts
- Regulatory Agencies
- Residents/Municipal Organizations
- Businesses
- Environmental Groups
- Farmers/Ranchers

3. Priority Actions



# Priority Action Overview

55 actions across 5 One Water objectives

2 Climate Change

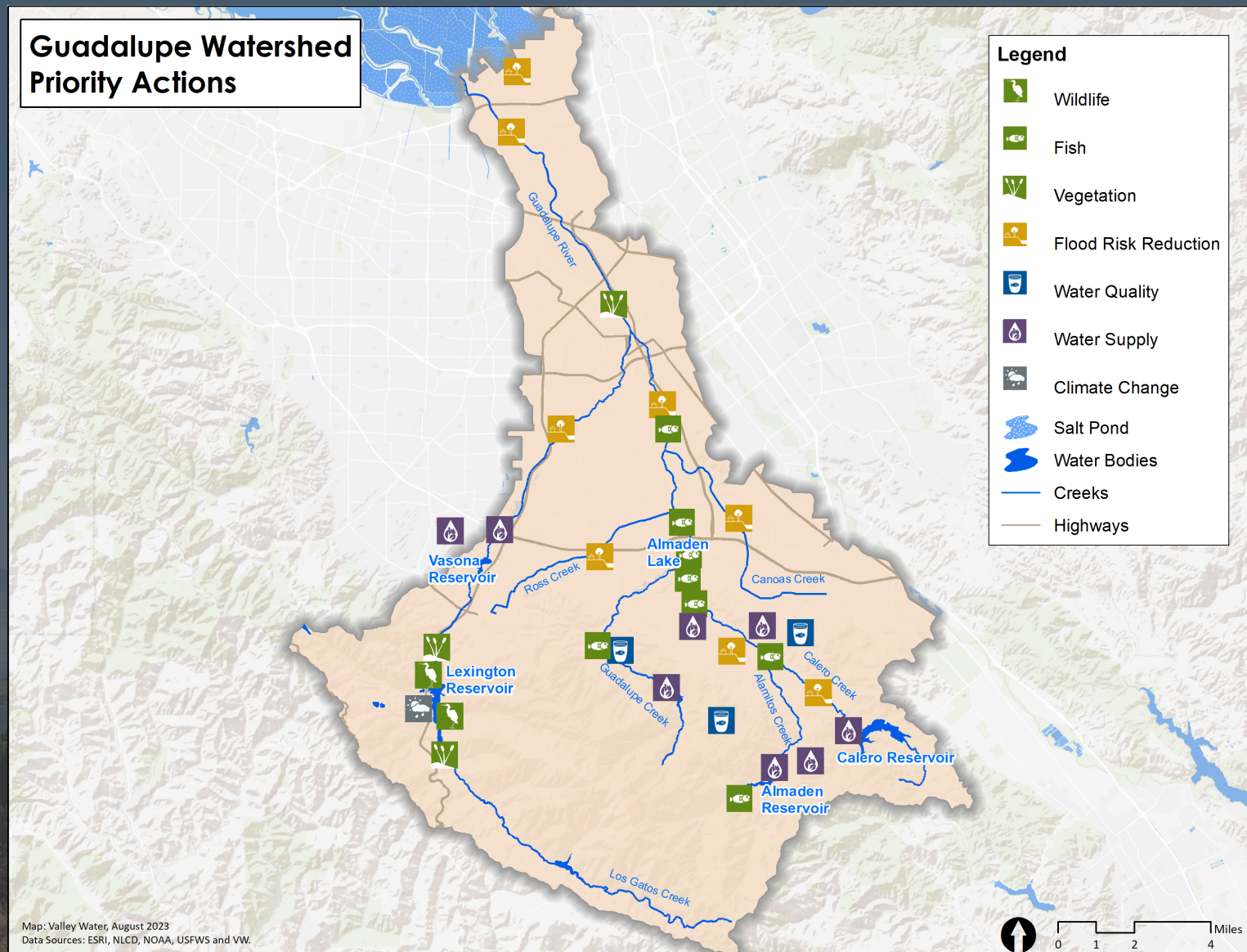
25 Ecological Resources

11 Flood Risk Reduction

10 Water Supply

7 Water Quality

## 3. Priority Actions





# Watershed-wide Priority Actions

## Short-Term

- Partner With Others To Design And Construct Alamos Creek Project 1-1 (ECO-02a)
- Coordinate With Other Entities To Improve Fish Passage At Priority Barriers Owned By Others (ECO-05)
- Develop Program To Incorporate Restoration Of Areas Impacted By Unhoused Ecampments Into Stream Maintenance Program (ECO-08)
- Develop And Incorporate Vegetation Cover Guidelines To Decrease Wildfire Risk To Native Habitats (ECO-09)
- Assess Modified Channels To Identify Strategies And Priorities To Enhance The Ecological Conditions (ECO-19)
- Conduct Rodent Study (FRR-01)
- Model How Environmental Restoration Projects Would Reduce Flooding Downstream (FRR-09)
- Develop Program To Partner With Agencies To Facilitate Erosion Control On Private Properties (WQ-01)
- Create Or Expand Existing Water Quality Monitoring Program To Support One Water Metrics (WQ-04)
- Partner With Santa Clara County, Cities, And Other Organizations To Reach A Functional Zero Number Of Unsheltered People Residing On Valley Water Lands Along Waterways (WQ-05)














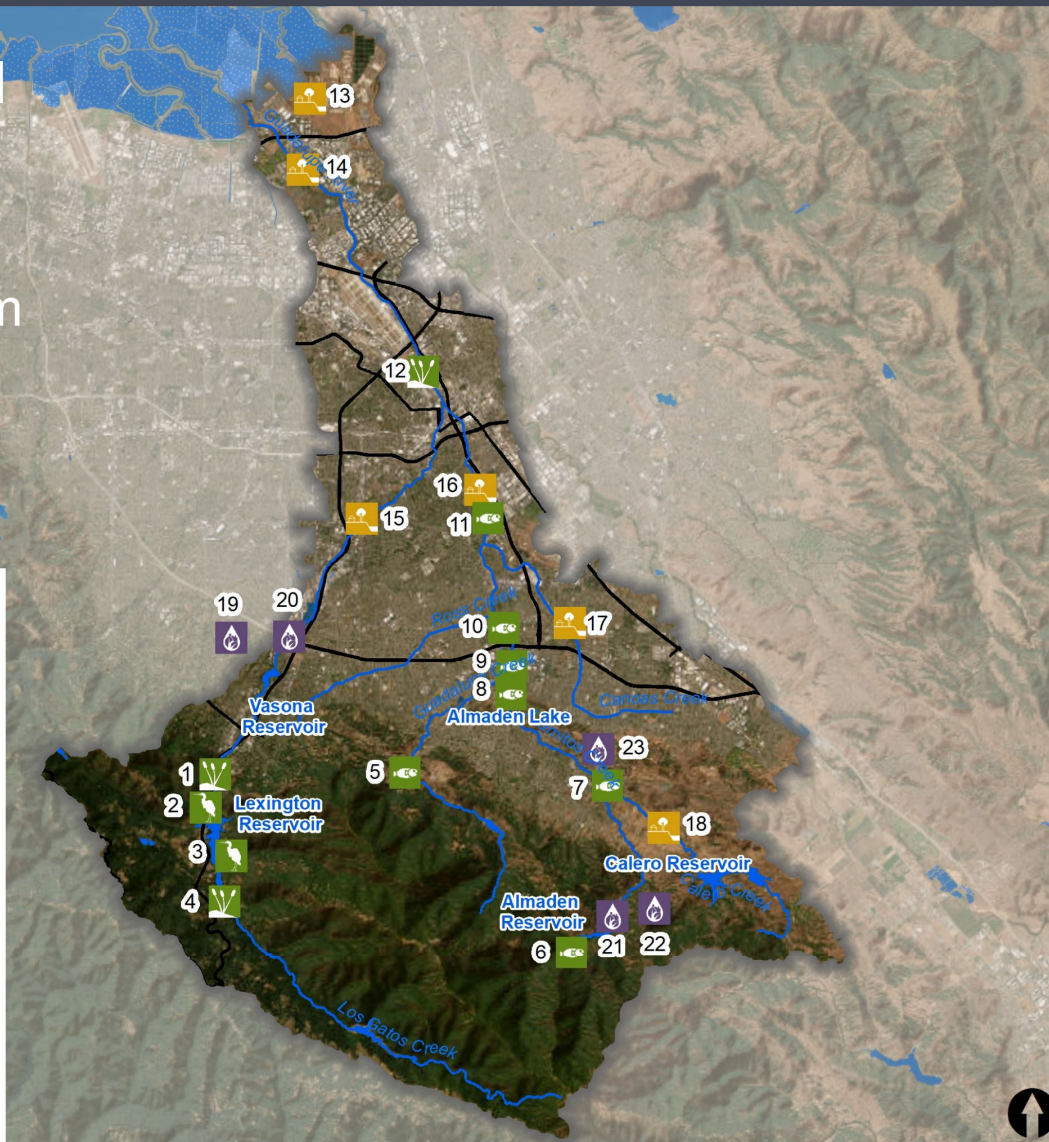
- Creeks
- Water Bodies
- Salt Pond
- Highways




























# Mapped Priority Actions Short Term

-  Wildlife
-  Fish
-  Vegetation
-  Flood Risk Reduction
-  Water Supply
-  Water Quality
-  Climate Change
-  Creeks
-  Water Bodies
-  Salt Pond
-  Highways



## Priority Actions

-  1: Explore Partnerships For Habitat Enhancement On Los Gatos Creek Downstream Of Lexington Reservoir (ECO-15)
-  2: Partner To Support The Highway 17 Wildlife And Trail Crossings Project (ECO-07)
-  3: Partner To Support The Alma Bridge Road Newt Passage Project (ECO-06)
-  4: Facilitate The Beneficial Reuse Of Large Wood And Sediment From Lexington Reservoir (ECO-16)
-  5: Design And Construct Guadalupe Creek Project 3-1 (ECO-01b)
-  6: Almaden Dam Fish Passage Feasibility Study (ECO-03)
-  7: Improve Suitable Spawning And Rearing Habitat For Salmonoids Below Calero And Almaden Dams (ECO-02)
-  8: Assess Feasibility Of Modifying Alamitos Drop Structure To Enhance Habitat (ECO-04)
-  9: Design And Construct Guadalupe Creek Project 1-1 (ECO-01a)
-  10: Design And Construct Guadalupe River Project 1-1 (ECO-12a)
-  11: Include rearing Habitat Enhancements In The Upper Guadalupe River Project (ECO-12b)
-  12: Partner To Maximize The Native Habitat Potential Of Guadalupe Gardens (ECO-18)
-  13: South San Francisco Bay Shoreline Project Phase I (FRR-10)
-  14: Assessment And Repair Of Guadalupe River From Tasman To I-880 (FRR-06)
-  15: Conduct Engineering Study To Assess And Repair Los Gatos Creek From I-280 To Bascom Ave (FRR-05)
-  16: Complete Guadalupe River Upper From I-280 To Blossom Hill Road (FRR-07)
-  17: Canoas Creek Flood Protection Planning Study (FRR-04)
-  18: Calero Creek Floodrisk Reduction Project (FRR-11)
-  19: Complete Rinconada Water Treatment Plant Residuals Remediation And Reliability Improvement (WS-06, WS-07)
-  20: Vasona Pump Station Upgrade (WS-05)
-  21: Complete Almaden Dam Improvements (WS-01)
-  22: Complete Almaden-Calero Canal Repairs (WS-02)
-  23: Complete Santa Teresa Water Treatment Plant Electrical Improvement (WS-08)



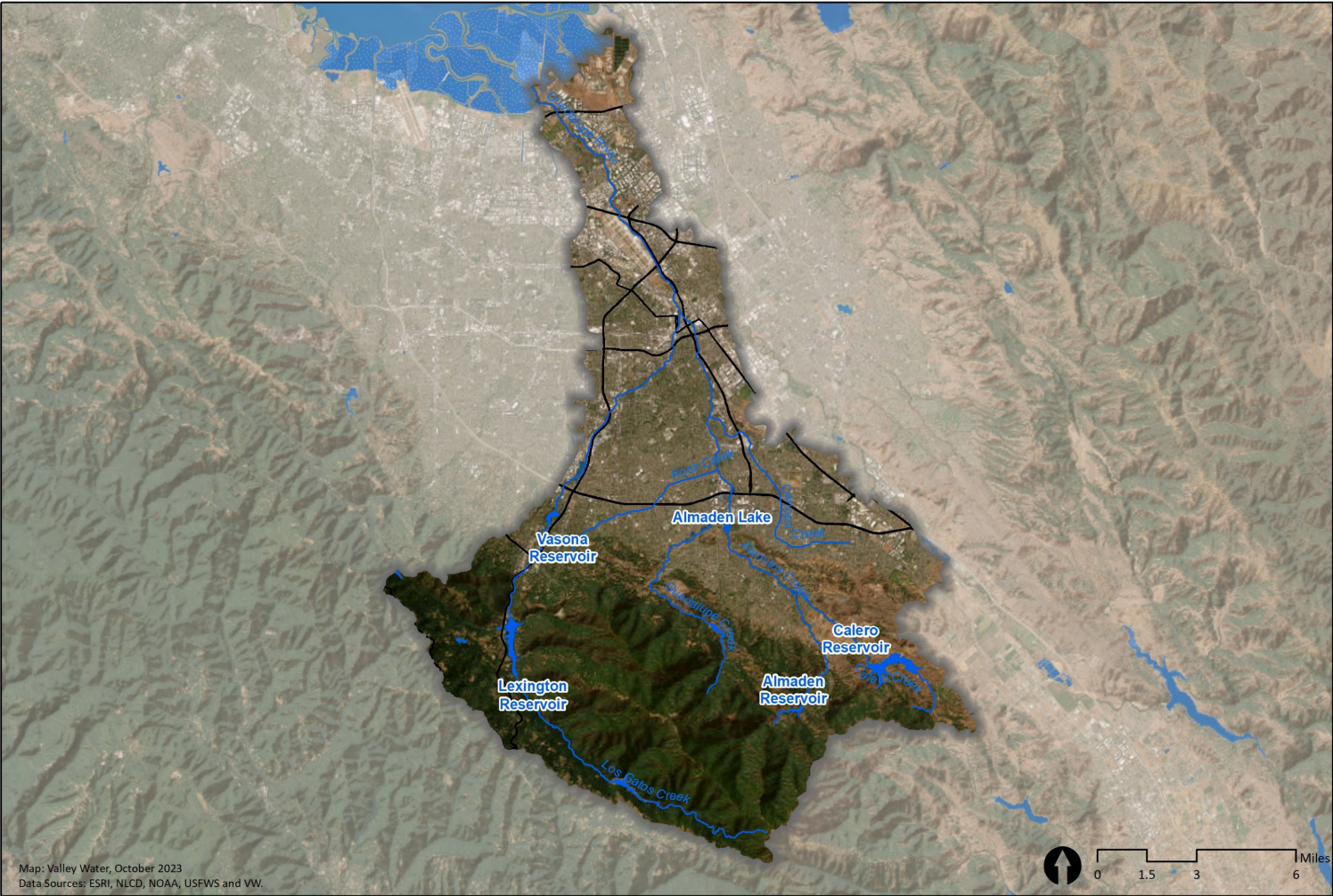
# Watershed-wide Priority Actions

## Medium-Term

- Support The Development Of A Single Model/Map Of Sea Level Rise That Can Be Shared With Regional Agencies (CC-01)
- Improve Suitable Spawning And Rearing Habitat For Steelhead Trout And Salmon On Guadalupe Creek Below Guadalupe Reservoir (ECO-01)
- Conduct Study Identifying Areas To Expand And Connect Riparian Corridors Around Channels (ECO-10)
- Conduct Study Identifying Areas To Expand And Enhance Sycamore Alluvial Woodland (ECO-11)
- Partner To Enhance Rearing Habitat In Guadalupe River (ECO-12)
- Partner To Support Assessment, Enhancement, And Management Of Livestock Stock Ponds For Habitat (ECO-14)
- Complete Studies And Agency Negotiations To Facilitate Safe Sediment Reuse (ECO-20)
- Perform Feasibility Study Of Using Existing Ponds And Lakes To Store Floodwater (FRR-08)
- Partner To Support Private Property Owners In The Remediation Of Legacy Mercury Mine Waste In Upper Watershed (WQ-03)
- Construct Indirect Potable Reuse (Palo-Alto) - Los Gatos Recharge System (WS-09)

## Long-Term

- Adapt FACHE Monitoring In Coordination with FACHE Adaptive Management Team (ECO-13)
- Construct Pipeline To Connect Raw Water System To Lexington Reservoir Or Vasona Reservoir (WS-10)



- Creeks
- Water Bodies
- Salt Pond
- Highways

Guadalupe  
Watershed
















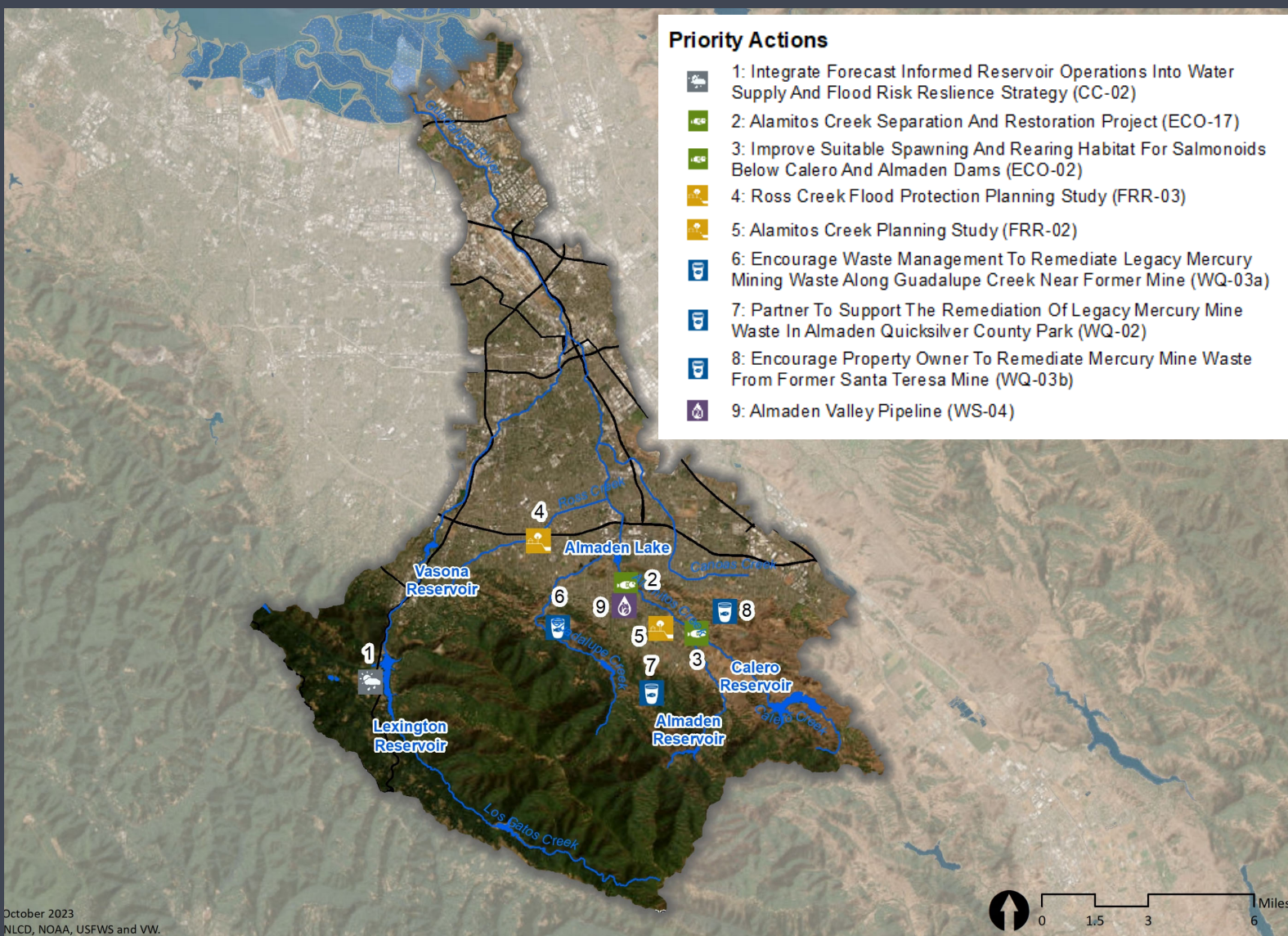
# Mapped Priority Actions Medium Term

## Priority Actions

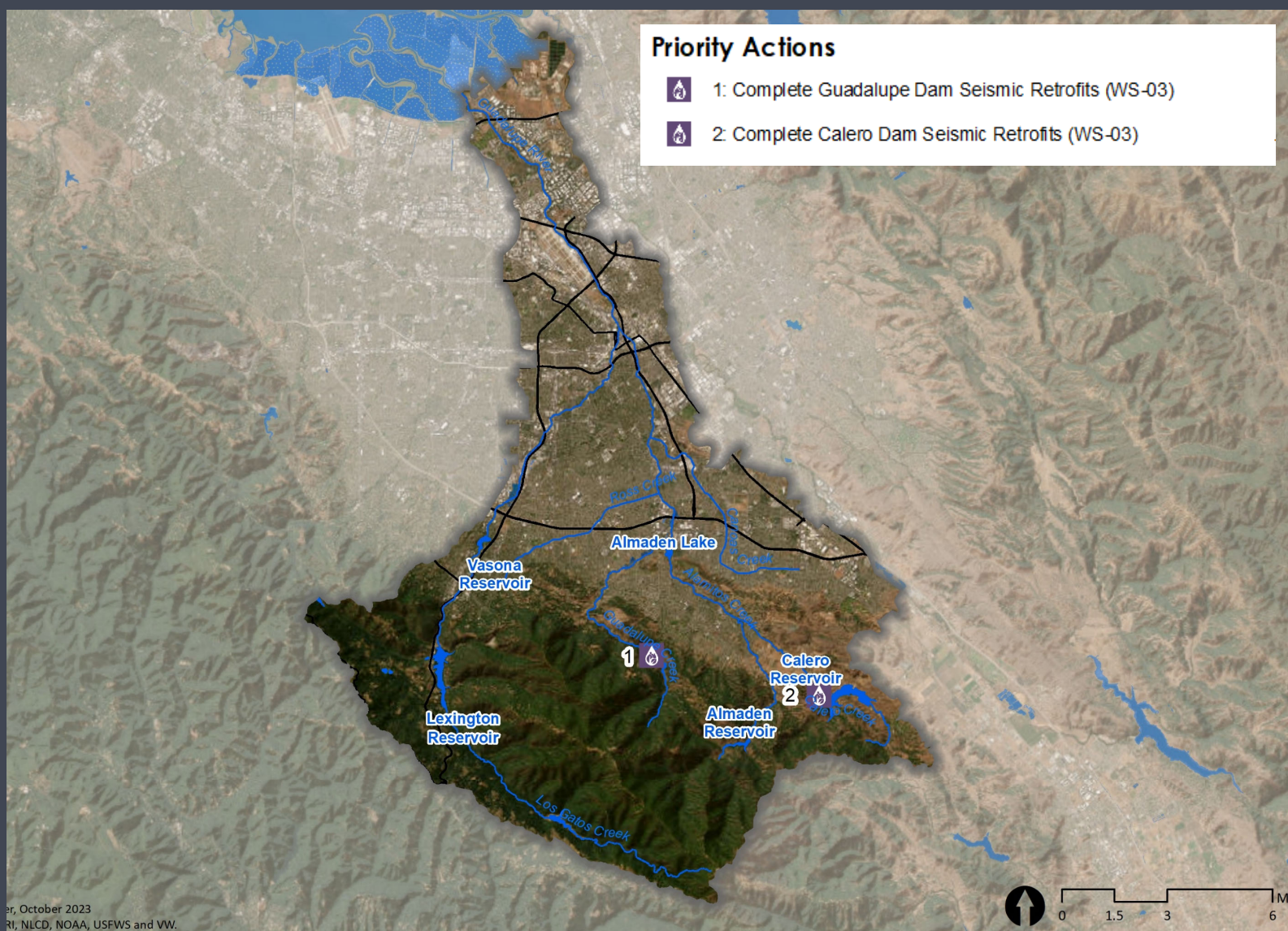
- 1: Integrate Forecast Informed Reservoir Operations Into Water Supply And Flood Risk Resilience Strategy (CC-02)
- 2: Alamos Creek Separation And Restoration Project (ECO-17)
- 3: Improve Suitable Spawning And Rearing Habitat For Salmonoids Below Calero And Almaden Dams (ECO-02)
- 4: Ross Creek Flood Protection Planning Study (FRR-03)
- 5: Alamos Creek Planning Study (FRR-02)
- 6: Encourage Waste Management To Remediate Legacy Mercury Mining Waste Along Guadalupe Creek Near Former Mine (WQ-03a)
- 7: Partner To Support The Remediation Of Legacy Mercury Mine Waste In Almaden Quicksilver County Park (WQ-02)
- 8: Encourage Property Owner To Remediate Mercury Mine Waste From Former Santa Teresa Mine (WQ-03b)
- 9: Almaden Valley Pipeline (WS-04)

-  Wildlife
-  Fish
-  Vegetation
-  Flood Risk Reduction
-  Water Supply
-  Water Quality
-  Climate Change
-  Creeks
-  Water Bodies
-  Salt Pond
-  Highways

## 3. Priority Actions





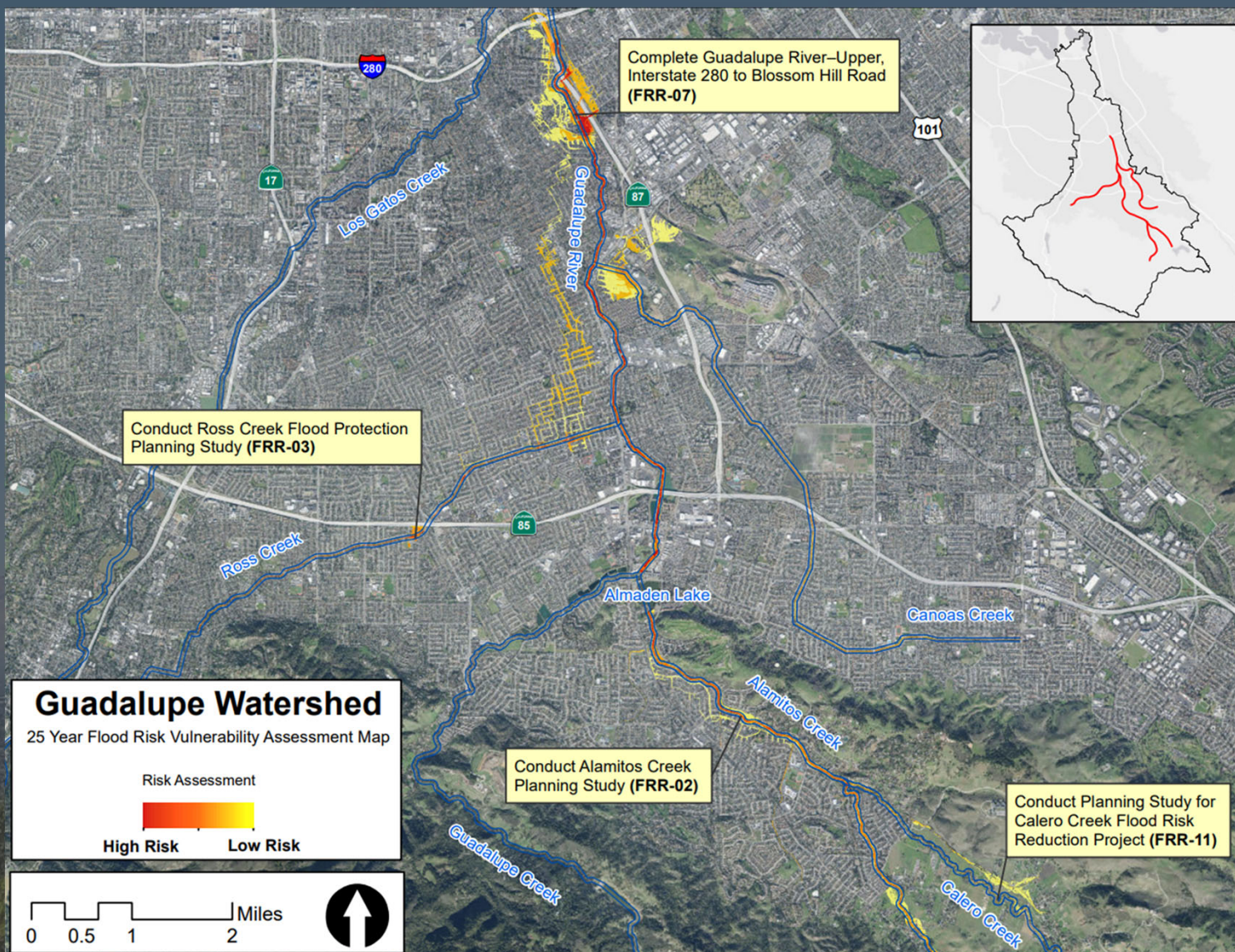


## Mapped Priority Actions Long Term

### 3. Priority Actions



## Priority Action Focus Area



### 3. Priority Actions



## Next Steps

- Incorporate feedback from Committee
- Present Priority Actions to appropriate Board Advisory Committees
- Finalize Watershed Plan
- Seek adoption of Plan by Board of Directors



# QUESTIONS





# Valley Water

Clean Water • Healthy Environment • Flood Protection



# Santa Clara Valley Water District

**File No.:** 23-1022

**Agenda Date:** 11/6/2023

**Item No.:** 4.4.

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## COMMITTEE AGENDA MEMORANDUM Board Policy and Planning Committee

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

### SUBJECT:

Sea Level Rise Design Criteria.

### RECOMMENDATION:

Receive information on Sea Level Rise Design Criteria used for coastal flood management projects.

### SUMMARY:

At the September 7, 2023, Board Policy and Planning Committee meeting, the Committee directed staff to provide information at their next meeting about the Sea Level Rise (SLR) projections used by Santa Clara Valley Water District (Valley Water) to guide the design of coastal flood management projects. The South San Francisco Bay Shoreline Projects (and the fluvial flood protection projects which tie into them) are designed to meet FEMA criteria for the 100 year coastal flood event with up to 2.69 ft. An analysis of how this value compares with the most current SLR science is provided as Attachment 1. In summary, the 2.69 ft SLR estimate is compared with similar values from the 2022 US Army Corps (USACE) sea level change calculator, the state sea level rise guidance (Ocean Protection Council, 2018) and an updated 2022 study by NOAA, with findings that 2.69 ft is conservative for the rise between 2000 and 2050, on the high end for 2000 - 2070, and more in the middle of the range for 2000-2100. Based on this, 2.69 ft is still a reasonable sea level rise target for the Shoreline Projects, but Valley Water should stay abreast of the current science and implement adaptive management practices accordingly.

### ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE IMPACT:

There is no environmental justice impact associated with SLR design assumptions. The South San Francisco Bay Shoreline Projects, including the project currently under construction, will provide coastal flood protection to underserved communities and therefore have a beneficial environmental justice impact.

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**File No.:** 23-1022

**Agenda Date:** 11/6/2023  
**Item No.:** 4.4.

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**ATTACHMENTS:**

Attachment 1: Technical Memo

Attachment 2: PowerPoint

**UNCLASSIFIED MANAGER:**

Lisa Bankosh, 408-630-2618



# TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM

**PROJECT:** South San Francisco Bay Shoreline Project      **DATE:** October 16, 2023  
Phases I – III

**SUBJECT:** How sea level rise design criteria of 2.69 ft for 2017  
to 2067 period compares with current science

**PREPARED:** Emily Zedler, P.E., Ph.D.

This memo defines Valley Water’s Sea Level Rise (SLR) assumptions used for the planning and design of the three phases of the South San Francisco Bay Shoreline Project (Shoreline Projects). Recent projects, such as the Permanente Creek and Sunnyvale E-W Flood Protection Projects, will also minimize SLR impacts along the South Bay by being designed to tie into the Shoreline levee to create a continuous line of protection in the future. Currently, the Shoreline Projects are all being designed with the same criteria; specifically, to meet FEMA freeboard criteria for the 100-year coastal flood event with 2.69 ft of sea level rise (SLR). The following questions are addressed herein:

1. What is 2.69 ft of Sea Level Rise (SLR) based on?
2. Is this estimate consistent with current science?
3. What is Valley Water’s approach to address sea level rise risks moving forward?

The 2.69 ft SLR value is based on a study by the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) completed in 2013 and represents a high emissions scenario (based on the National Resource Council Curve III) for the 50-year span from 2017 to 2067 (Noble 2017). However, the most recent “State Agency Sea Level Rise Action Plan for California” recommended use of 3.5 feet as a “target for the minimum of SLR planning and preparation” for projects constructed by 2050 (Ocean Protection Council [OPC] 2022), noting that the action plan is based on SLR values published in the OPC 2018 study “State of California Sea Level Rise Guidance”. The implication is that projects constructed around 2050 should plan for sea level rise of about 3.5 feet for the period from 2050 to 2100, given that there is a reasonable chance of “SLR of up to ...3.5 feet by 2100”. However, using a value of 2.69 ft for design of the Shoreline Projects is still defensible based on the target 50-year lifetime for the Shoreline Projects (~ 2020 to 2070) and the current science, as discussed below.

Tables 1, 2, and 3 summarize key SLR estimates from three recent studies – the OPC 2018 update (the basis for the 2022 state action plan), a 2022 sea level rise update study (NOAA 2022), and 2022 updated SLR estimates from a sea level change calculator maintained by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE 2022). The values in these tables provide SLR estimates for three periods: 2000- 2050, 2000-2070 and 2000-2100. In contrast, the 2013 USACE SLR estimate of 2.69 ft represents the rise over the 50-year period from 2017 to 2067. Although the values in the table below are for slightly different time periods and total durations than 2017 to 2067, the comparison is still valid. This is due to the fact that, first, comparing the rise over longer durations/later time periods is generally conservative when comparing values with similar emissions scenarios. Second, SLR is exponential, so that the rise occurring within (say) the first 20 years of a seventy-year period is much smaller than the rise that would occur during the latter 50 years. So, comparing the rise estimated for 2000 to 2070 with that for 2017 to 2067 may



not result in wildly different numbers. Third, this approach makes use of readily available, published values from the references. If the 2.69 ft SLR figure is still current, you would expect 2.69 ft rise between 2017 and 2067 to be on the high side of the values from Table 1 (compared with rise from 2000 to 2050), somewhat comparable to the values in Table 2 (compared with rise from 2000 to 2070, due to the exponential nature of SLR) and on the lower side when compared with values in Table 3 (compared with rise from 2000 to 2100). The values in the tables below show that this is indeed the case and suggest that the 2.69 ft of rise is still a reasonable design criterion for the Shoreline Projects.

**Table 1. Updated SLR Estimates for 2000 to 2050**

Study	Sea Level Rise Estimates & Notes
Updated US Army Corps	High: 1.55 ft
OPC 2018	66% Probability: 0.6 – 1.1 ft 5% Probability: 1.4 ft 0.5% Probability: 1.9 ft Note- all high emissions scenarios; SLR is tracking on that curve currently
NOAA 2022	Intermediate (provides similar values as those from extrapolations performed in the report based on historical data): 0.6 – 1 ft High: 0.9 to 1.8 ft Values for southwest region, converted from meters to feet (Table 2.2)

**Table 2. Updated SLR Estimates for 2000 to 2070**

Study	Sea Level Rise Estimates & Notes
Updated US Army Corps	High: 2.69 ft
OPC 2018	66% Probability: 1 to 1.9 ft 5% Probability: 2.4 ft 0.5% Probability: 3.5 ft Note- all high scenarios; we may or may not track on this curve in the future
NOAA 2022	N/A

**Table 3. Updated SLR Estimates for 2000 to 2100**

Study	Sea Level Rise Estimates & Notes
Updated US Army Corps	High: 4.96
OPC 2018	66% Probability: 1.6 to 3.4 5% Probability: 4.4 ft 0.5% Probability: 6.9 ft Note- all high scenarios; we may or may not track on this curve in the future
NOAA 2022	Greater than 99% chance of exceeding 1.6 ft with 5 deg C of warming since 1850 to 1900 climatology. 23% to 99% chance of falling into the 1.6 to 3.3 ft range. Up to 23% chance of happening with 5 deg C of warming since 1850 to 1900 climatology: 3.3 to 4.9 ft Tables 2.4 and 2.5.



While this analysis demonstrates that a SLR estimate of 2.69 ft is reasonable to use for design of the Shoreline Projects, it should be acknowledged that although the Shoreline Projects are intended to meet this design criteria for their 50-year lifespan, depending on future emissions, the Projects could last longer. Furthermore, the Shoreline Projects are being designed to meet FEMA freeboard standards, and the 2 feet of freeboard provides an extra factor of safety. However, Valley Water will continue to follow the evolving science of SLR predictions will strive to incorporate adaptive management into our projects to address uncertainty. Adaptive management may include using flexible construction techniques such as adjustable weirs or wider levee bases for future expansion, or constructing mitigation projects as new risks are identified.

## REFERENCES

- NOAA 2022. Sweet, W.V., et al. Global and Regional Sea Level Rise Scenarios for the United States: Updated Mean Projections and Extreme Water Level Probabilities Along U.S. Coastline. NOAA Technical Report NOS 01. <https://oceanservice.noaa.gov/hazards/sealevelrise/noaa-nos-techrpt01-global-regional-SLR-scenarios-US.pdf>.
- Noble 2017. Preliminary Feasibility Study for South San Francisco Bay Shoreline Economic Impact Areas 1 to 10. Appendix II: Statistic Analysis of Water Surface Elevation via Monte Carlo Simulation. Final Report. February 2017.
- Ocean Protection Council, 2018. State of California Sea Level Rise Guidance, 2018 Update. [https://opc.ca.gov/webmaster/ftp/pdf/agenda\\_items/20180314/Item3\\_Exhibit-A\\_OPC\\_SLR\\_Guidance-rd3.pdf](https://opc.ca.gov/webmaster/ftp/pdf/agenda_items/20180314/Item3_Exhibit-A_OPC_SLR_Guidance-rd3.pdf)
- Ocean Protection Council, 2022. State Agency Sea Level Rise Action Plan for California, February 2022. [https://www.opc.ca.gov/webmaster/\\_media\\_library/2022/02/Item-7\\_Exhibit-A\\_SLR-Action-Plan-Final.pdf](https://www.opc.ca.gov/webmaster/_media_library/2022/02/Item-7_Exhibit-A_SLR-Action-Plan-Final.pdf)
- USACE 2022. United States Army Corps of Engineers Sea Level Change Curve Calculator, Version 2022.72. Values extracted for this report used Tide gage 9414290 at San Francisco. [https://cwbi-app.sec.usace.army.mil/rccslc/slcc\\_calc.html](https://cwbi-app.sec.usace.army.mil/rccslc/slcc_calc.html)





# Valley Water

Clean Water • Healthy Environment • Flood Protection

Valley Water PPT Template  
Version Release v.3

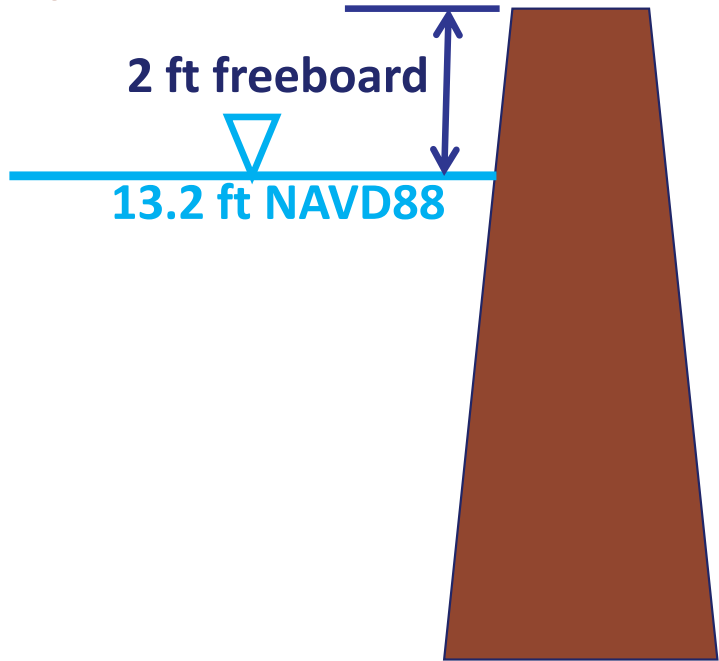
# Sea Level Rise Update

Presented by: **Emily Zedler**, Senior Engineer



# Shoreline Project, Phase I Design Criteria 3

Top of Levee = 15.2 ft NAVD88



13.2 ft NAVD88:

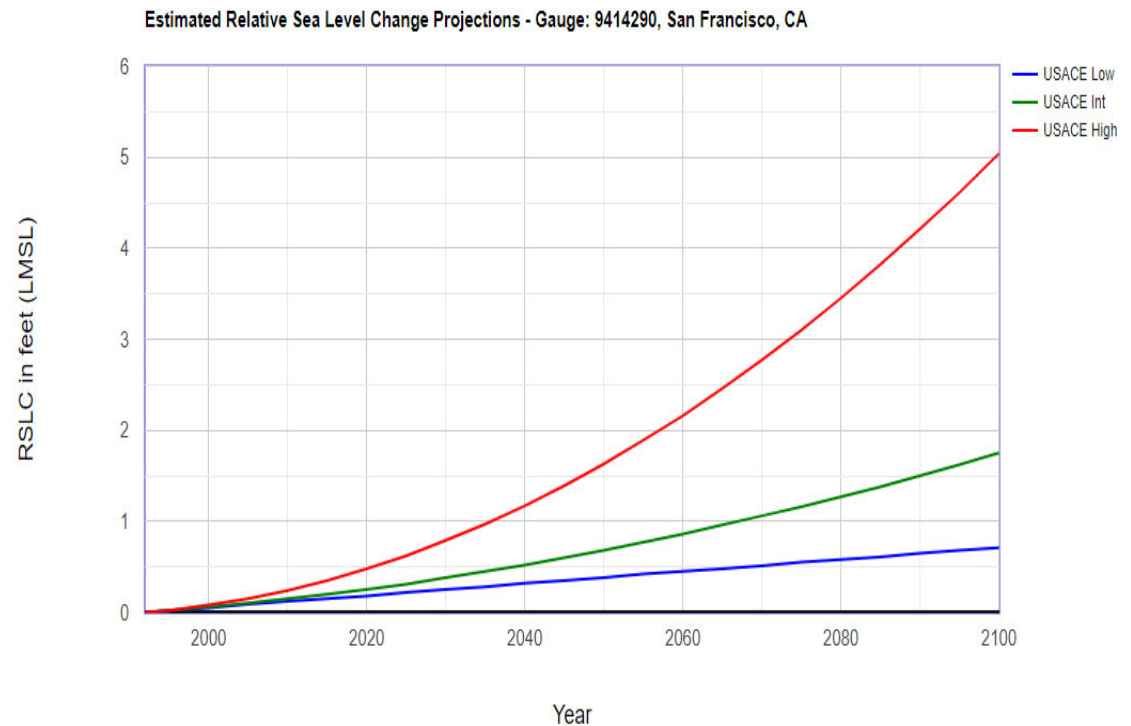
- 100- Year coastal flood elevation for Year 2067
- Includes 2.69 ft sea level rise (2013 estimate from 2017 to 2067)

# Sea Level Rise Projections

4

SLR projections vary by their assumed...

- Emissions scenario
- Thermal expansion of ocean water
- Local subsidence/uplift
- Ice mass loss (from glaciers, ice sheets)



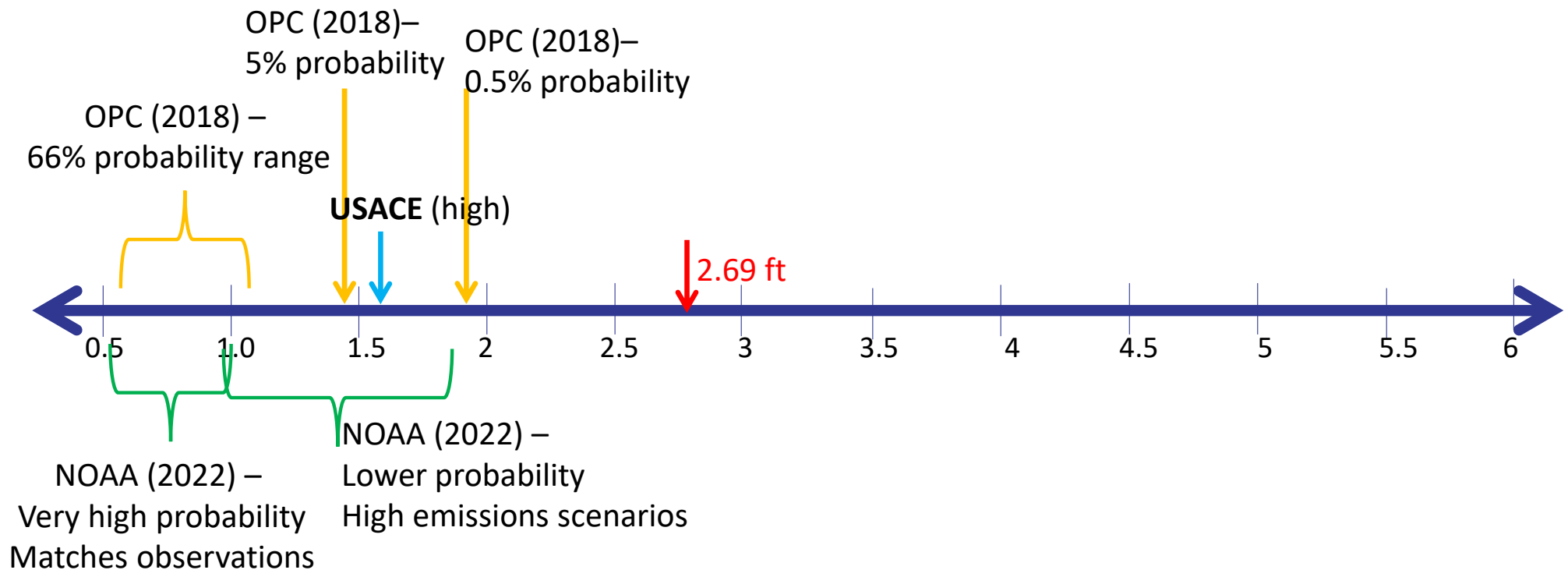
# SLR Projections Comparative Analysis

5

Is the 2.69 ft sea level rise estimate consistent with the current science?

- Updated Corps of Engineers values (online calculator)
- Ocean Protection Council (2018 guidance & recommended for state guidance)
- NOAA (2022) Study – very current, includes latest data

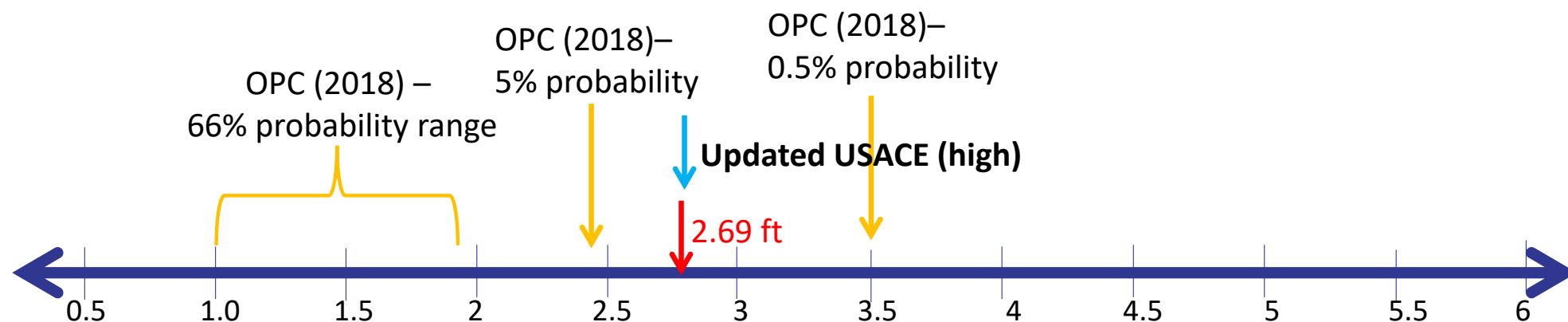
# Sea Level Rise Projections (2000 – 2050)





# Sea Level Rise Projections (2000 – 2070)

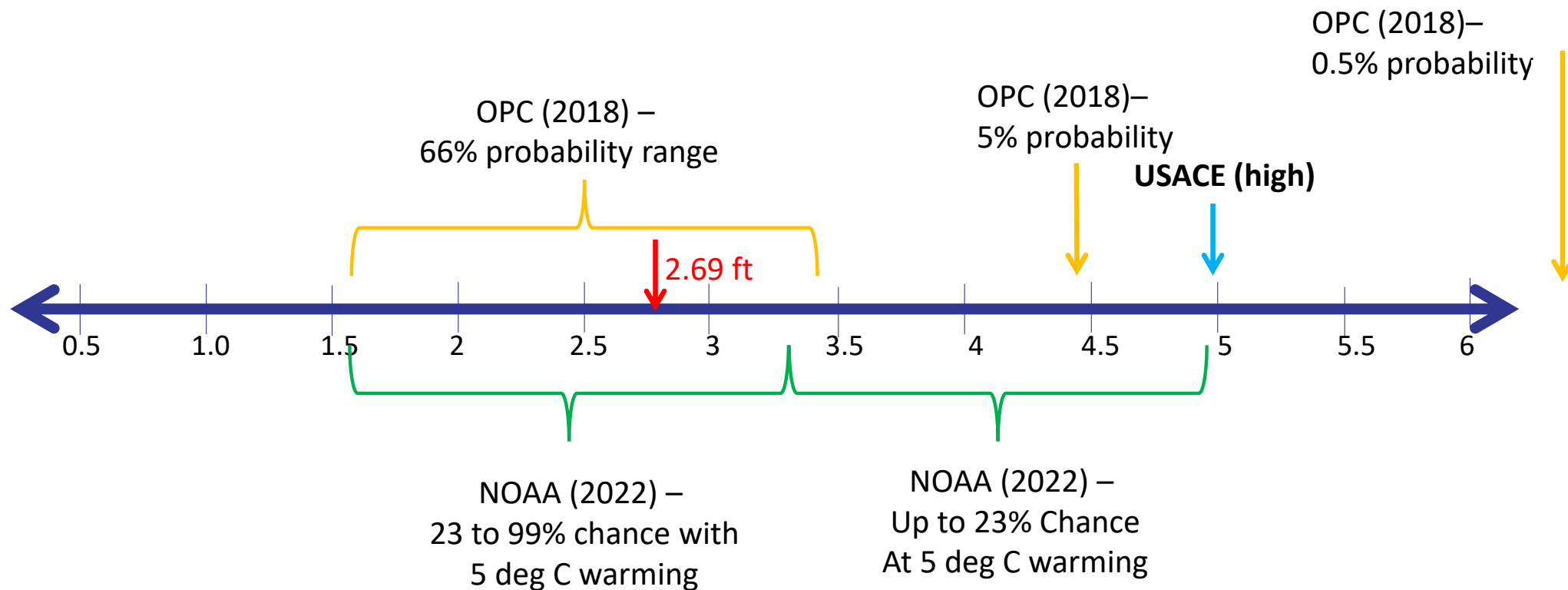
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valleywater.org

# Sea Level Rise Projections (2000 – 2100)

8



# Conclusion

9

- 2.69 ft is on the high end of values for 2000 - 2070, and middle of the likely range for year 2000 -2100.
- The Shoreline Projects will likely perform as intended for their intended 50 year life span.
- ~ 2 ft of FEMA freeboard will also provide a factor of safety

# Next Steps

10

- Valley Water will continue to monitor the evolving science of sea level rise predictions.
- Given the uncertainty in sea level rise predictions, Valley Water will strive to incorporate adaptive management measures to address sea level rise risks for our projects.



# QUESTIONS





# Valley Water

Clean Water • Healthy Environment • Flood Protection



# Santa Clara Valley Water District

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**File No.:** 23-1004

**Agenda Date:** 11/6/2023

**Item No.:** 4.5.

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## **COMMITTEE AGENDA MEMORANDUM Board Policy and Planning Committee**

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

### **SUBJECT:**

Review Committee 2023 Work Plan and Meeting Schedule.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

- A. Review the 2023 Board Policy and Planning Committee's Work Plan and incorporate any new tasks; and
- B. Schedule Committee meetings as appropriate.

### **SUMMARY:**

This allows the Committee an opportunity to review its 2023 Work Plan and meeting schedule (Attachment 1) and identify additional tasks and schedule meetings as appropriate.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE IMPACT:**

There are no Environmental Justice impacts associated with this item.

### **ATTACHMENTS:**

Attachment 1: 2023 BPPC Work Plan

### **UNCLASSIFIED MANAGER:**

Michele King, 408-630-2711





## 2023 Board Policy and Planning Committee Work Plan and Schedule

Subject	Task	1/11/23	2/6/23	3/6/23	4/3/23	4/28/23	6/5/23	6/30/23	8/10/23	9/7/23	11/6/2023	12/4/2023
Board Planning Process	<b>A. Provide Support for Board Planning Activities</b>											
	1. Discuss FY23-24 Board Budget Message & Board Work Plan						X					
	2. Planning for Board's FY23-24 Strategic Planning Workshop											
	<b>B. Provide Support for Board Policy Review</b>											
	1. Update on Expansion of the Water Resources Protection Manual	X										
	2. Fuel Management Policy and Wildfire Resilience Plan											
	3. One Water Watershed Plans										X	
	4. Update on Climate Change Action Plan Implementation Update.	X							X	X	X	
	5. Develop a Board Ethics and Code of Conduct Policy for Board Approval.			X		X	X	X	X			
	6. Review Board Governance Policies related to the Election of the Board Chairperson/Vice Chairperson and the Chairperson's role.			X			X					
	7. Unhoused Ends Policy						X		X	X		
Board Committees Principles and Structures	8. Review Governance Policies of the Board: Executive Limitations										X	
	9. Discuss Board Meeting Rules and Procedures.										X	
Board Committees Principles and Structures	<b>C. Align Board Committees' Work Plans with Board Planning Calendar</b>											
	1. Review Effectiveness of Board Advisory Committees (External) - Meet with BPPC prior to presenting Accomplishment Reports to Board.		X		X					X		
Other Assignments Requested by Board	<b>D. Other Assignments as Requested by the Board</b>											
	1. Analyze Santa Clara County Civil Grand Jury Final Report: If You Only Read the Ballot, You're Being Duped, October 7, 2022, and Provide Recommendations to Full Board by March 31, 2023.		X									
	2. Review Candidate Statement Fee Associated with Filing for a Santa Clara Valley Water District Board of Director Seat								X			

## 2023 Board Policy and Planning Committee Accomplishments Report

Subject	Task	Action Taken
Board Planning Process	<b>A. Provide ongoing support for Board Planning Activities</b>	
	1. Discuss FY23-24 Board Budget Message & Board Work Plan	6/5/23 - Committee reviewed draft plan, provided input and recommended approval to the Board.
	2. Planning for Board's FY23-24 Strategic Planning Workshop	
	<b>B. Provide Support for Board Policy Review</b>	
	1. Expansion of the Water Resources Protection Manual	1/11/23 - Received an update and provided input on the WRPM and outreach efforts related to the guidelines and standards for land use near streams.
	2. Fuel Management Policy and Wildfire Resilience Plan	
	3. One Water Watershed Plans	
	4. Climate Change Action Plan Implementation Update.	1/11/23 - Received an update and provided input on high-priority climate change mitigation and adaption actions. 8/8/23 – This item was continued to the September Committee meeting. 09/07/23 – Received an update on implementation of Climate Change Adaptation actions.
	5. Develop a Board Ethics and Code of Conduct Policy for Board Approval.	3/6/23 - Committee requested the Chair work with staff to create a draft policy framework for review and input. 6/30/23 – Committee reviewed draft policy, provided input, made revisions and will recommend that the Board approve. 8/8/23 – Committee reviewed the updated draft policy, provided additional input and approved presenting to the full board for review and approval.

	6.	Review Board Governance Policies related to the Election of the Board Chairperson/Vice Chairperson and the Chairperson's role.	3/6/23 - Committee requested that staff return to the Board to clarify this assignment and probably outcome. 6/5/23 – Committee reviewed policy and recommended to the Board that it be revised to allow the Board Chairperson/Vice Chairperson be elected by a simple majority; and requested more direction on the policy related to the role of the Chairperson.
	7.	Unhoused Ends Policy	6/5/23 - Committee reviewed draft policy, provided input and requested that staff return in August with new draft. 8/8/23 – Committee requested that staff work with Chair Hsueh on the draft policy and schedule on future committee agenda. 9/7/23 – Committee recommend staff presenting the E-6 policy to full board for adoption consideration.
	8.	Review Governance Policies of the Board: Executive Limitations	
	9.	Discuss Board Meeting Rules and Procedures.	
<b>Board Committees Principles and Structures</b>	<b>C.</b>	<b>Align Board Committees' Work Plans with Board Planning Calendar</b>	
	1.	Review Effectiveness of Board Advisory Committees (External) - Meet with BPPC prior to presenting Accomplishment Reports to Board.	2/6/23 - Board Advisory Committee Chairs/Vice Chairs attended meeting and provided feedback. Information collected will be shared with the Committees and will return to the BPPC for possible recommendations to the Board. 9/7/23 – Committee approved recommending applying current EWRC staff support process to the Water Commission and Ag Water Committee to full board for consideration.
<b>Other Assignments Requested by Board</b>	<b>D.</b>	<b>Assignments as Requested by the Board</b>	
	1.	Analyze Santa Clara County Civil Grand Jury Final Report: If You Only Read the Ballot, You're Being Duped, October 7, 2022, and Provide Recommendations to Full Board by March 31, 2023.	2/5/23 - BPPC reviewed the report and made recommendations to the full board.
	2.	Review Candidate Statement Fee Associated with Filing for a Santa Clara Valley Water District Board of Director Seat	8/20/23 - Committee recommended to the Board to consider supporting each candidate with their statements fees by providing financial reimbursement of 50% or more, as the Board may determine.