

## Coyote Creek Flood Management Measures Project and Coyote Creek Flood Protection Project

### About the Project

The **Coyote Creek Flood Protection Project** plans, designs, and constructs improvements along approximately nine miles of Coyote Creek, between Montague Expressway and Tully Road in San José. The project's primary goal is to reduce the risk of a flood event equivalent to the one experienced in February of 2017.

The Coyote Creek Flood Protection Project is comprised of two projects, the **Coyote Creek Flood Management Measures** (CCFMMP) and the **Coyote Creek Flood Protection Project** (CCFPP). Both projects are needed to provide flood protection to the 2017 level of flooding.

Other project objectives include:

- Enhancements to creek's habitat and health
- Improvements to water quality and bay ecosystems
- Creation of a self-sufficient natural system to reduce the need for maintenance
- Collaboration with City of San José to align public recreation and access

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**PRIORITY E**

**PRIORITY E** Provide flood protection to homes, businesses, schools, streets and highways



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PRIORITY E

## Coyote Creek Flood Protection Project

**PRIORITY E** Provide flood protection to homes, businesses, schools, streets and highways  
**PROJECT E1**

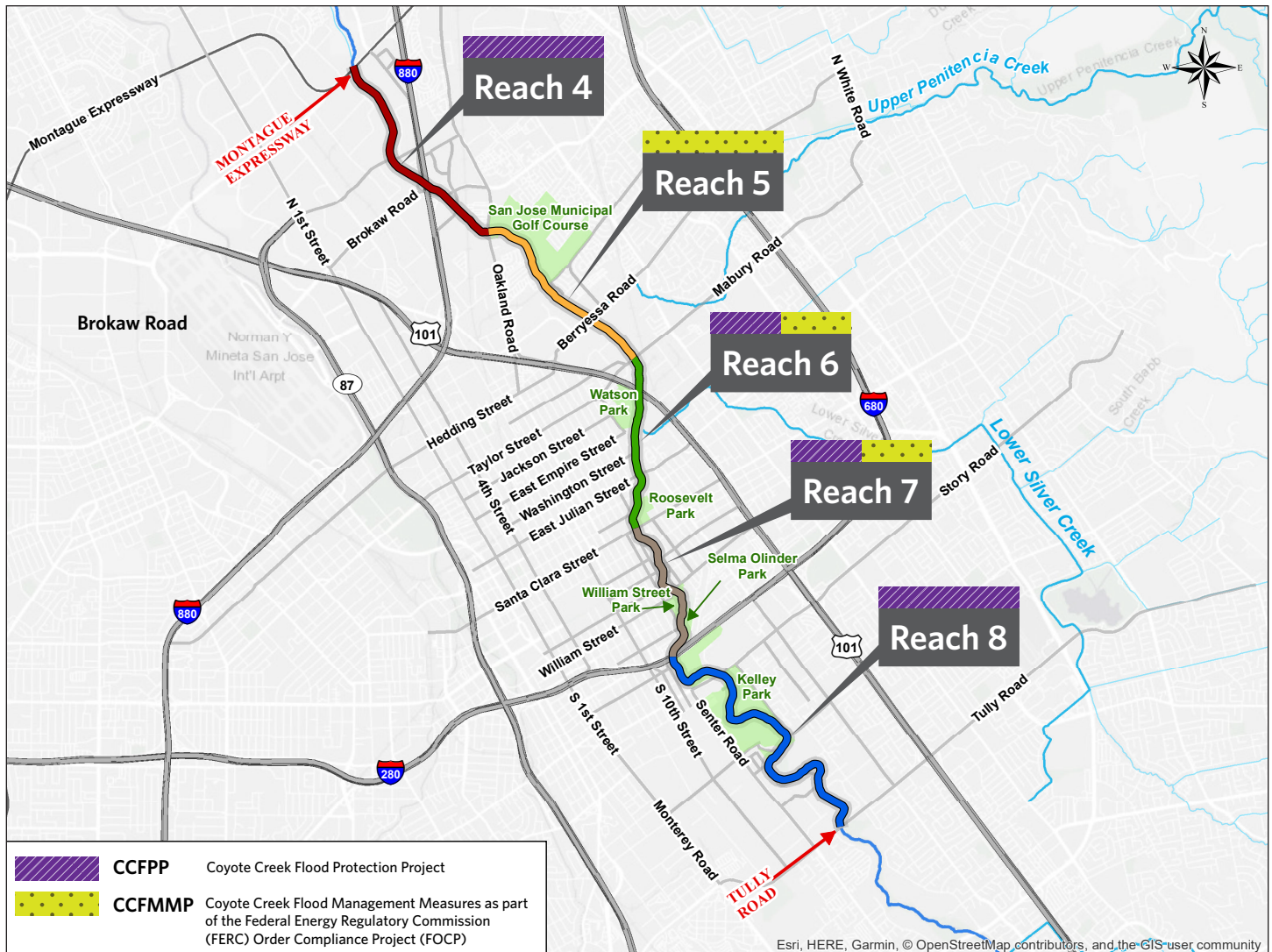
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## Public Input, Environmental and Regulatory Agency Review

As part of the preferred alternatives, both projects have various flood reduction elements proposed in different reaches along the nine miles of the Coyote Creek project. Reaches are sections of the creek used to identify where the work will occur. The planning phase was completed in mid-2020. The CCFPP is in the design phase, with staff and consultants gathering and evaluating critical data from various sections of Coyote Creek. Public meetings will continue to be held to update the community on key project milestones through the start of construction.

The CCFPP is in the environmental review stage and state and federal regulatory agency permitting will follow the completion of the design phase.

The project elements include berms, levees, floodwalls, acquiring properties and passive barriers. This project is being designed to require little to no stream-channel changes, leaving the stream habitat undisturbed. The design simplifies the regulatory compliance requirements for this project as the alternatives being considered are all outside the creek channel, which also aids in expediting the project schedule.

Activities to prepare the sites for the flood protection measures include tree and vegetation removal, and collaboration with social service providers to assist the unhoused prior to and during planned onsite relocations. Valley Water prioritizes the areas to prevent potential hazards throughout construction.



## Flood Protection Urgency and Anderson Dam Tunnel Project Relationship

Coyote Creek starts upstream of Anderson Reservoir and continues at the base of Anderson Dam. Currently, to prevent the dam from slumping in a large earthquake, the dam is being retrofitted under the Anderson Dam Seismic Retrofit Project. The seismic retrofit of Anderson Dam will help us protect our regional water supply, ensure public safety, and provide environmental benefits. Before the retrofit of Anderson Dam can begin, the Anderson Dam Tunnel Project needs to be completed. The tunnel project will build a new 24-foot-diameter tunnel that allows Valley Water to maintain water levels in Santa Clara County's largest reservoir. This work is anticipated to be completed in mid-2024.

To reduce the risk of flooding downstream of Anderson Dam from the water flows generated in Coyote Creek by the tunnel project, approximately 40% of the flood risk mitigation measures from the Coyote Creek Flood Protection Project (CCFPP) had to be expedited. Reaches 5 and sections of 6 and 7 are part of the Coyote Creek Flood Management Measures Project (CCFMMMP), started construction in the summer of 2023 and is scheduled for completion by the end of 2024.

The remaining 60% of the original Coyote Creek project will be completed in its original schedule and coincide with the completion of the Anderson Dam Seismic Retrofit Project's diversion tunnel. Reaches 4, 8, and parts of 6 and 7 are in the CCFPP, with construction anticipated to start spring 2025 and conclude at the end of 2027.

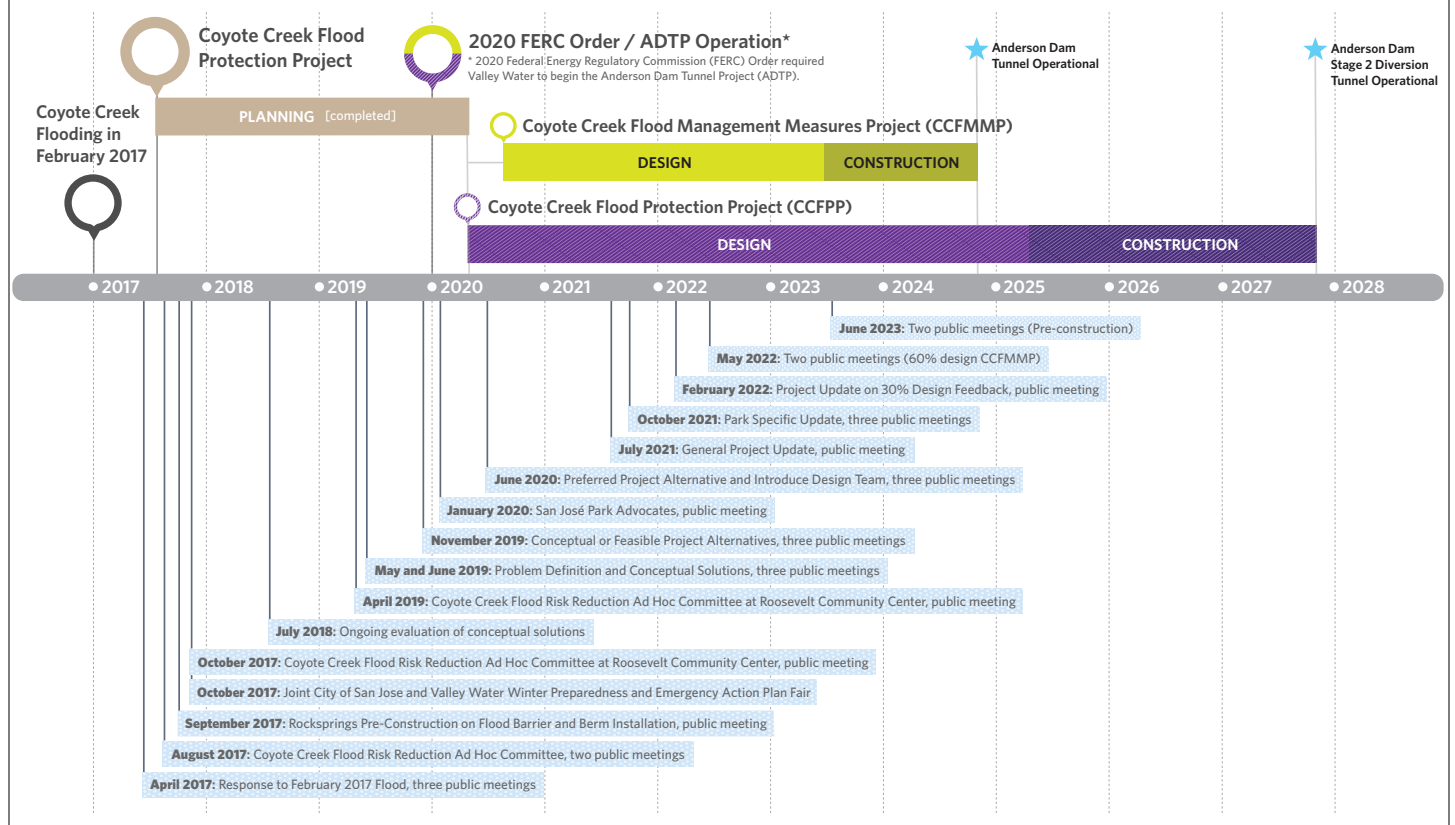


Vinyl sheet pile wall installed next to Rocksprings Park. Under the preferred alternatives for Reach 8, the sheet pile will be extended and raised.



A type of flood barrier known as a berm was installed behind the Nordale and Rocksprings neighborhoods to help reduce future flood risks.

### Coyote Creek Flood Protection Project and Coyote Creek Flood Management Measures Project - Timeline and Public Engagement



## Flood Risk Reduction

Since 2017, Valley Water has implemented several short-term interim projects to help reduce the risk of flooding along Coyote Creek. These include the installation of an interim floodwall and embankment along the creek in the Rocksprings community. Other interim projects include repairing a 150-foot levee adjacent to the South Bay Mobile Home Park, installing flood gauges on bridges that provide real-time visual information on water levels, and removing invasive vegetation from Valley Water and City of San José properties in parts of the creek that experienced the most flooding. The proposed project alternatives will further enhance these existing improvements.



(Top) A barrier installed in the closed position and embedded in the ground.  
(Bottom) A passive barrier in the process of opening.

## Funding

The Coyote Creek Flood Protection Project was originally funded by the countywide Clean, Safe Creeks and Natural Flood Protection Plan (Safe, Clean Water Program) parcel tax passed by voters in November 2000. Then, in November of 2012 and 2020, voters reaffirmed their commitment to providing flood protection to homes, schools, businesses and highways by renewing the Safe, Clean Water Program. In December 2019, the Valley Water Board of Directors voted to allocate local funding to construct the preferred project. The tunnel project funds the Coyote Creek Flood Management Measures Project which will help reduce the

risk of flooding once the tunnel project is operational. Valley Water continues to explore state and federal funding sources and partnership opportunities.

## Coyote Creek Watershed and Ownership

The Coyote Creek Watershed consists of a 322 square mile area with six major tributary creeks and is the largest watershed in the County of Santa Clara. It extends from the urbanized valley floor upward to the vast natural areas of the Diablo Mountain Range. Coyote Creek, its main waterway, is the longest creek in the county. The project is located in the central section of the Coyote Watershed in the mid-section of Coyote Creek.

The mid-reach is currently owned by the City of San José and private landowners, with only a fraction owned by Valley Water. While the city also owns the upper reach between Tully Road and Anderson Dam, the county and some private landowners have property rights as well. Property owners whose land extends into the creek are responsible for maintaining the creek sections on their property. Valley Water owns a small section of Coyote Creek, most of which is north of Interstate 880. Valley Water is coordinating with these property owners to construct the CCFPP. An ownership map for the project reaches is available on the project's webpage.

A full list of projects in the **Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program** can be found at [valleywater.org/safecleanwater](http://valleywater.org/safecleanwater).

## Learn more

For information and updates on **Project E1: Coyote Creek Flood Protection Project and Coyote Creek Flood Management Measures Project**, email [JVillarreal@valleywater.org](mailto:JVillarreal@valleywater.org) or visit [valleywater.org/coyote-creek](http://valleywater.org/coyote-creek).

## CONTACT US

To find out the latest information on Valley Water projects or to submit questions or comments, use our **Access Valley Water** customer request system at [access.valleywater.org](http://access.valleywater.org).



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