

Palo Alto Flood Basin Tide Gate Structure Seismic Retrofit and Rehabilitation Project



The Palo Alto Flood Basin Tide Gate Structure photographed in spring of 2020.

About the project

Valley Water provides flood protection to homes, businesses, schools and highways in Santa Clara County. As part of our commitment, Valley Water will design and construct a seismic retrofit and rehabilitation of the existing Palo Alto Flood Basin (PAFB) Tide Gate Structure to extend the service life of the current structure up to an estimated 20 year timeframe. A long-term tide-gate replacement structure will be developed with the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) under the South San Francisco Bay Shoreline Phase II Project. The existing structure is located where the PAFB connects to the San Francisco Bay, one half mile northeast of the Byxbee Park parking lot on the Adobe Creek Loop Trail. The tide gate protects against coastal flooding and controls the downstream water levels for Matadero, Adobe and Barron creeks, which all drain to the PAFB. This project will continue to provide significant flood protection benefits to nearby homes, businesses and schools and a portion of U.S. Highway 101. Additionally, the project will continue to protect existing wildlife and habitat.

Project Background

The PAFB Tide Gate Structure was constructed in 1957. Due to its age and location in a corrosive marine environment, the tide gate structure is showing signs of deterioration, including spalled concrete and exposed reinforcement steel. Seepage was previously addressed by an emergency repair project in 2012. In 2017, Valley Water attempted minor maintenance repairs that would have extended the life of the structure. However, construction was suspended when difficulties were anticipated in dewatering the work area.

Project objectives

Short-term effort:

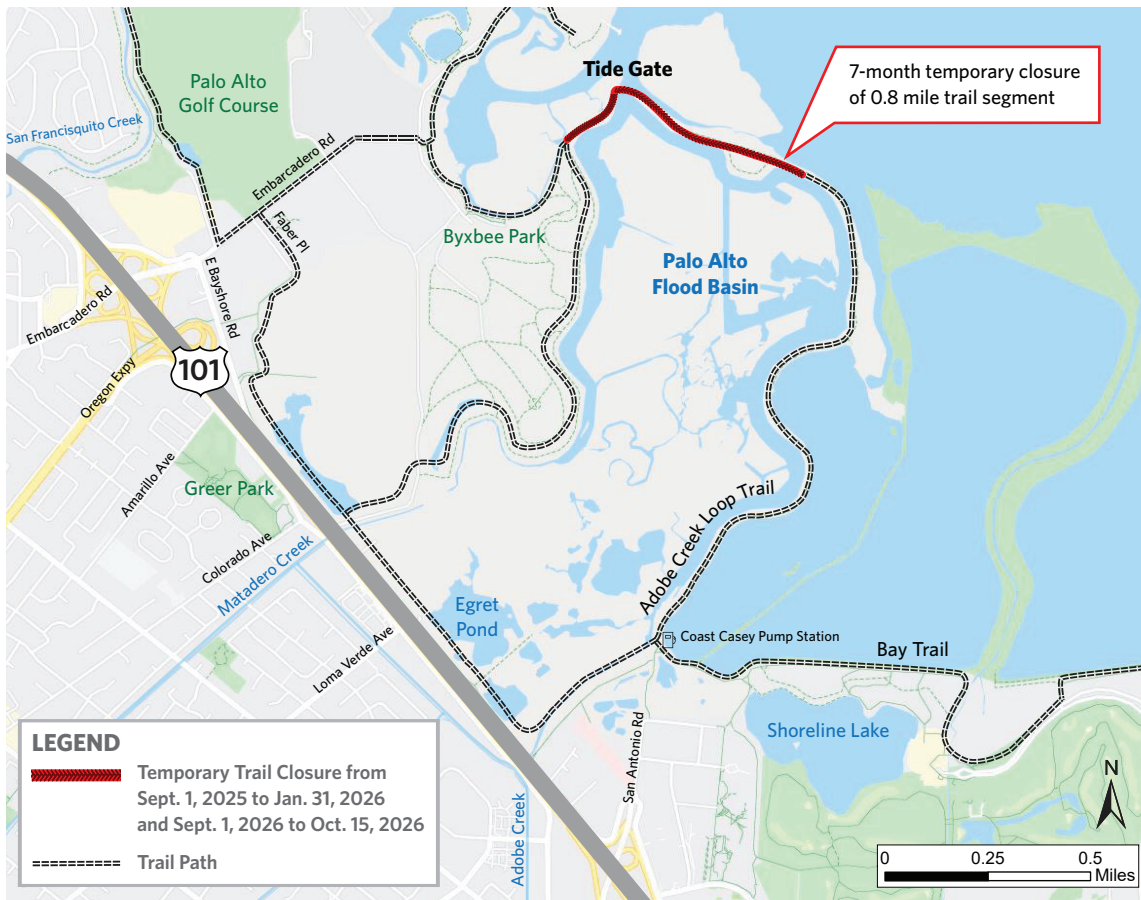
- Retrofit and rehabilitate the tide gate structure to reduce seismic vulnerabilities and extend the service life.

Long-term effort:

- Coordinate with the United States Army Corps of Engineers to construct a long-term replacement tide gate structure that will ensure alignment and elevation compatibility with the South San Francisco Bay Shoreline Phase II Project.



Profile view of the PAFB Tide Gate Structure.

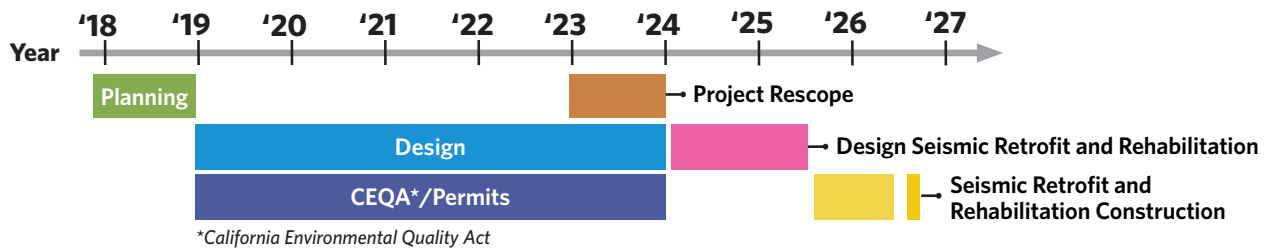


Geotechnical exploratory drillings occurring near the PAFB Tide Gate Structure.

Design phase

The short-term work design phase was completed in May 2025, which includes the preparation of detailed construction plans and specifications, along with refining cost estimates and permit acquisition details.

Palo Alto Flood Basin Tide Gate Structure Replacement Project Schedule

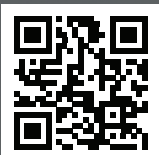


Learn More

For the latest information on the **Palo Alto Flood Basin Seismic Retrofit and Rehabilitation Project**, email Mohammad Hussaini at mhussaini@valleywater.org or visit delivr.com/2zvqk.

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