FY 2023-24
Board Work Plan
At the Santa Clara Valley Water District, we manage a complex water resource system that provides clean, safe water, flood protection and stewardship of streams and creeks to about 2 million residents and businesses here in Santa Clara County.

As elected officials, we are tasked with balancing the needs of our constituents and the county-wide challenges we face including our aging infrastructure, the need for storage capacity and federal funding for both our water supply and flood protection projects. While the goals identified in our Board Governance Policies provide guidance to achieve Valley Water’s mission, the Board’s work plan is a roadmap for the year ahead. It also helps us provide appropriate financial resources and staff through our budget process.

Part of our annual strategic planning process, my fellow board members and I have identified specific areas that we will be monitoring closely and engaging as necessary. We believe diversifying our water supply portfolio through recycled and purified water efforts and partnerships and pursuing storage opportunities will ensure water supply during this drought and the next one. At the same time, reducing flood risks and preparing our county for emergencies will remain top of mind. This year we have added a goal to assist in the relocation of unsheltered people along Valley Water’s waterways and to enhance collaboration with countywide agencies to find solutions to homelessness.

While our role is as policy makers, we will continue to engage in discussions through board committees, provide direction, and monitor progress in the focus areas. We also remain committed to supporting diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives to attract and maintain our valued workforce.

I am honored to lead my fellow board members during these challenging times and together, we’ll continue to focus on providing safe, secure and equitable water for everyone in Santa Clara County.

John L. Varela
Board Chair
Santa Clara Valley Water District
Valley Water

Founded in 1929, the Santa Clara Valley Water District (Valley Water) is the primary water resources agency for Santa Clara County, with key water supply, water quality, flood protection, and environmental stewardship responsibilities.

Valley Water Mission

Provide Silicon Valley safe, clean water for a healthy life, environment, and economy.

Values

1. Valley Water is entrusted to serve the public by carrying out its mission for the benefit of the community.
2. Valley Water is committed to providing excellent service to all customers.
3. All individuals are unique and important, and will be treated with fairness, dignity, and respect.
4. Valley Water takes pride in its work and is accountable to carry out its responsibilities safely with honesty and integrity.
5. Initiative, leadership, personal development, and training are vital for continuous improvement.
6. Open communication, cooperation, and teamwork are shared responsibilities and essential to the successful performance of Valley Water’s work.
7. Valley Water is committed to creating an inclusive work environment, which reflects and supports the diversity of the community and enriches our perspectives.
8. Valley Water strives to support a work culture and workplace environment that attracts and retains superior employees empowered to make decisions about, and take responsibility for, how they do their jobs.
9. Valley Water is committed to its employees and supports market-based competitive compensation that is equitable and rewards accomplishment and encourages high performance.
10. Valley Water is committed to sustaining a healthy work-life balance for its employees and places a high value on all the things that provide enrichment and fulfillment, including work and career, health and fitness, family and relationships, spirituality, community service, hobbies and passions, intellectual stimulation, rest and recreation.

Board of Directors

The Santa Clara Valley Water District Board of Directors (Board) is comprised of seven members, each elected from equally-divided districts. Specific job outputs of the Board include connecting with the community in Santa Clara County, developing policies to further Valley Water’s mission, and monitoring the performance of the organization.

The Board governs with an emphasis on outward vision, encouragement of diversity in viewpoints, strategic leadership more than administrative detail, and proactivity rather than reactivity.

The Board meets twice a month on the second and fourth Tuesday. All meetings are conducted in accordance with the Brown Act.
Board Committees

The Board of Directors has established Board Committees to assist in performing its job. Committees meet regularly and are conducted in accordance with the Brown Act.

• Agricultural Water Advisory Committee
• Board Audit Committee
• Board Ethics and Conduct Ad Hoc Committee
• Board Policy and Planning Committee
• Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Committee
• Diversity and Inclusion Ad Hoc Committee
• Environmental and Water Resources Committee
• Environmental Creek Cleanup Committee
• Joint Recycled Water Committee with the City of Sunnyvale
• Joint Recycled Water Policy Advisory Committee with the Cities of San Jose and Santa Clara (TPAC)
• Joint Water Resources Committee with the Cities of Morgan Hill and Gilroy
• Recycled Water Committee
• San Felipe Division Reach One Committee
• Santa Clara Valley Water Commission
• Santa Clara Valley Water District Youth Commission
• Stream Planning and Operations Committee (SPOC)
• Water Conservation and Demand Management Committee
• Water Storage Exploratory Committee

Purpose of the Board Work Plan

The purpose of the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Board Work Plan is to inform the public, community and stakeholders about the Board’s strategic focus and how it supports Valley Water’s mission and long-term goals and objectives.

To perform its job, the Board adheres to established Board Governance Policies. Included in the Board Governance Policies are Ends Policies, which are long-term goals and objectives for each of Valley Water’s core business areas (Water Supply, Natural Flood Protection, Water Resources Stewardship, and Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation).

Every year, the Board conducts planning sessions to evaluate their goals, objectives, challenges, and opportunities, and identifies the specific areas requiring tactical engagement for the upcoming fiscal year. The Board outlines their focus areas and process for monitoring progress in the Board Work Plan.

Throughout the year, the Board provides input, direction, and oversight on Valley Water’s budget, Capital Improvement Program, and other program plans and master plans to ensure there is funding and support to accomplish Valley Water’s mission. A strategy implementation is monitored by the Board through Executive Limitation requirements, staff-developed programs and plans, assigned Board Committee work, and Board Appointed Officer performance evaluations.
## FY 2023–24 Board Work Plan Goals

### Objective 1
**Protect and maintain existing assets and infrastructure and advance new projects.**

**Challenge/Opportunity**
The maintenance of Valley Water’s infrastructure is crucial to ensuring we continue to provide safe, clean water and critical flood protection for our communities. Timely maintenance is the most cost-effective investment, whereas deferred maintenance disproportionately increases costs and may result in unplanned outages and failures. In addition, there is a list of assets that are reaching the end of their design life and will require significant recapitalization.

**FY24 Tactics**
- Develop a Fuel Management Policy to guide the incorporation of wildfire planning efforts in an integrated and programmatic way.
- Continue a robust preventive maintenance program including monitoring asset condition and risk.
- Strategically plan for larger infrastructure renewal projects through Safe Clean Water Project F8 – Sustainable Creek Infrastructure for Continued Public Safety; Water Treatment Plant, Distribution System, and SCADA Master Plan Implementation Projects; Watersheds and Water Utility Operations and Maintenance and Asset Renewal Plans; and other Asset Management Plans.
- Advance infrastructure renewal projects identified in strategic planning efforts by initiating new Capital or Small Capital Projects, or by conducting work as part of ongoing operations projects.
- Expediently execute adopted Capital program and projects.

**Monitoring**
- Board Policy and Planning Committee
- Capital Improvement Program Committee

**Related Staff Plans**
- Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program
- Water Treatment Plant Master Plan Implementation Project
- Distribution System Master Plan Implementation Project
- SCADA Master Plan Implementation Project
- Watersheds and Water Utility Five-Year Operations and Maintenance and Asset Renewal Plans
- District-wide Asset Management Plan
- Watershed Asset Management Plan
- San Felipe Division Reach 1 FY23 Asset Condition Report
- Capital Improvement Program FY 2024-28 Five-Year Plan
### INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

#### Objective 2

**Improve internal capability to negotiate and acquire regulatory permits.**

**Challenge/Opportunity**

Valley Water continues to face increased project costs and extended timelines due to sometimes conflicting regulatory mandates from external agencies. Valley Water continues to pursue legislative and administrative solutions to resolve regulatory and permitting issues at the federal and state levels. Efforts should focus on staff capability and expertise, and the ability to negotiate effectively and build positive relationships with key regulatory agencies.

**FY24 Tactics**

- Continue to pursue efforts at the state and federal level to expedite permit review.
- Keep local, state, and federal legislators up to date on critical projects in case escalation is necessary.
- Continue to foster relationships at all levels within regulatory agencies and maintain an open dialogue with environmental and other stakeholders.
- Continue to work with the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) and the State Water Quality Control Board (SWQCB) under the terms of our Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to ensure that they protect water supply interests consistent with their authority.

**Monitoring**

- Board Policy and Planning Committee
- Capital Improvement Program Committee
- Stream Planning and Operations Committee

**Related Staff Plans**

- One Water Plan

---

#### Objective 3

**Educate the community, elected officials, and external stakeholders on our management of water resources in Santa Clara County.**

**Challenge/Opportunity**

A reliable supply of clean water is necessary for the social, economic, and environmental wellbeing of Santa Clara County. Valley Water must effectively communicate with the public on our management of water resources around several key issues including: the cost of water, the public perception of costs of different types of water, how to effectively implement our water supply strategies into the future, as well as our flood protection and environmental stewardship efforts.

**FY24 Tactics**

- Continue to apply strategies for effective community/stakeholder engagement and education.
- Continue to develop and refine metrics to understand and improve the return on investment (ROI) of outreach strategies.
- Continue increasing efforts to educate the public about the mix of different types of water in Valley Water’s portfolio, as well as our flood protection and environmental stewardship efforts.
- Engage directly with local government jurisdictions through strategic meetings.
- Continue engagement with cities on flood plain management, Community Rating System (CRS) program, and emergency action plans.
- Directly involve the Valley Water Board of Directors, local area partners, retailers, and the public with all water supply Master Plan development processes. Share the plan widely, and at the phase of a project where project alternatives are considered, key issues such as the cost of water, quality of water, reliability of our infrastructure, and strategies for implementing different improvement projects with varying levels of service will be explained through public meetings.

**Monitoring**

- Board of Directors
- Capital Improvement Program Committee
- Recycled Water Committee

**Related Staff Plans**

- Water Supply Master Plan
- Countywide Water Reuse Master Plan
- Water Treatment Plant Master Plan
- Distribution System Master Plan
## Objective 1

**Pursue new and diversified water supply and storage opportunities.**

### Challenge/Opportunity
Half of Santa Clara County’s water supply is imported from outside the county. During years when there is a lot of water, Valley Water may not be able to take advantage of these supplies due to limitations in existing storage and transmission infrastructure as well as regulatory constraints. Having a diverse portfolio of storage options helps Valley Water be resilient. Therefore, Valley Water is evaluating whether diversifying its storage portfolio could help maximize our use of storage and stored water recovery under future conditions. Water storage in reservoirs also provides environmental, recreational, and incidental flood risk reduction benefits. Challenges include determining the appropriate level of participation for Valley Water in collaborative water storage projects and prioritizing projects within funding constraints. In addition, as part of the Water Supply Master Plan, Valley Water continues to pursue the “no regrets” package which addresses advanced metering infrastructure, Graywater Rebate Program expansion, leak repair incentives, New Development Model Ordinance, and stormwater capture (agricultural land recharge, stormwater recharge in San Jose and Saratoga, rain barrel rebates, and rain garden rebates).

### FY24 Tactics
- Explore opportunities to develop new surface and groundwater storage projects that help Valley Water meet future water supply needs and be resilient to climate change.
- Update the Water Supply Master Plan to provide information on participation levels, water supply benefits and costs of various portfolios to support water supply project and partnership decisions, including the “no regrets” package.
- Determine level of participation for projects and decisions about partnerships in accordance with the Water Supply Master Plan and water affordability.
- Pursue additional funding and partnership opportunities for the Pacheco Reservoir Expansion Project.
- Evaluate Valley Water’s continued participation in water storage projects during the MAP review process, bi-annual budget development, and other project-specific milestones.
- Explore, evaluate, and make progress on additional stormwater capture feasibility as part of the “no regrets” package.

### Monitoring
- Water Storage Exploratory Committee
- Recycled Water Committee
- Water Conservation and Demand Management Committee

### Related Staff Plans
- Water Supply Master Plan
- Annual Monitoring and Assessment Program (MAP) Updates
- Stormwater Resource Plans

## Objective 2

**Secure existing water supplies and water supply infrastructure.**

### Challenge/Opportunity
The Water Supply Master Plan’s “Ensure Sustainability” strategy includes securing existing water supplies and infrastructure. Valley Water’s local and imported water supplies are vulnerable to climate change impacts, droughts, earthquakes, and regulatory requirements that may restrict the amount of available water.

### FY24 Tactics
- Participate in and influence decisions regarding the Delta Conveyance Project.
- Participate in regional water supply resilience efforts.
- Build and maintain effective partnerships to increase resiliency.
- Complete and implement infrastructure master plans and asset management plans.
- Partner with the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) to ensure reliability of the South Bay Aqueduct.

### Monitoring
- Water Conservation and Demand Management Committee (Groundwater)
- Capital Improvement Program Committee (infrastructure projects)

### Related Staff Plans
- Water Supply Master Plan
- Groundwater Management Plan
- Infrastructure and Asset Management Plans
### Objective 3

**Lead purified water efforts with committed partners.**

**Challenge/Opportunity**
Recycled and purified water is a drought resilient, locally controlled water supply important to long-term sustainability. Purified water is recycled water that has been treated further using reverse osmosis and other advanced treatment to make it fit for drinking. Valley Water is pursuing indirect potable reuse which would use this purified water to replenish our groundwater. Implementation challenges include securing wastewater supply contractual agreements with wastewater agencies, available land, stringent regulatory requirements, and implementation costs.

**FY24 Tactics**
- Implement the first phase of the Purified Water Program, including release of a Request for Proposal (RFP) and enter into a contract for an Indirect Potable Reuse project that is implemented via a Public Private Partnership.
- Implement the Countywide Water Reuse Master Plan.
- Develop a Comprehensive Water Reuse Agreement for South County to advance water reuse and its production, distribution, and wholesaling in South County.
- Continue to actively be involved with the Direct Potable Reuse (DPR) guidance and ensure Valley Water is positioned to implement a DPR project in the future.
- Implement the Letter of Intent executed with the Cities of San José and Santa Clara to expand collaboration on the Silicon Valley Advanced Water Purification Center to develop a second potable reuse project.
- Continue to pursue recycled water grant funding.
- Continue to expand communications strategies to increase public awareness and acceptance of the Purified Water Program.
- Increase outreach to key stakeholders such as elected officials, chambers of commerce, environmental groups, and community organizations to increase support for the expansion of purified water for potable reuse.

**Monitoring**
- Recycled Water Committee

**Related Staff Plans**
- Water Supply Master Plan
- Countywide Water Reuse Master Plan

### Objective 4

**Complete the Anderson Dam Seismic Retrofit Project.**

**Challenge/Opportunity**
As our largest reservoir, Anderson serves not only as a critical water supply facility, but also supports Valley Water’s mission of flood protection and environmental stewardship. Given the reservoir’s critical importance to ensuring safe, clean water for our communities and to protect public safety, it is imperative that the Anderson Dam Seismic Retrofit Project (ADSRP) move forward expeditiously. This includes the reconstruction of the dam and completion of the interim risk reduction measures resulting from the February 20, 2020 directive from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC).

**FY24 Tactics**
- Maintain the Anderson Reservoir level in compliance with the FERC mandate.
- Continue the construction on the Anderson Dam Tunnel Project (ADTP).
- Continue the design of the ADSRP.
- Continue to work with appropriate regulatory agencies to advance the ADSRP.
- Release the Draft Environmental Impact Report for the ADSRP.
- Pursue necessary permits for ADSRP construction.
- Continue to educate and engage the public, key stakeholders, decision makers, and elected officials of the project progress and construction timeline.
- Coordinate ADSRP operations with the Fisheries and Aquatic Habitat Collaborative Effort (FAHCE).
- Compile lessons learned during the design, permitting and construction of the ADSRP to inform future capital project delivery.

**Monitoring**
- Capital Improvement Program Committee
- Stream Planning and Operations Committee

**Related Staff Plans**
- Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program
- Fish Habitat Restoration Plan
- Coyote Feasibility Study
- Water Supply Master Plan
- Capital Improvement Program FY 2024-28 Five-Year Plan
- Ogier Ponds Feasibility Study
### Objective 5

**Make water conservation a California way of life in Santa Clara County.**

#### Challenge/Opportunity

Droughts are a recurring feature of California’s climate and may intensify with climate change. Water conservation is an essential component in providing a reliable water supply and Valley Water has set an aggressive water conservation goal for annual water savings of 99,000 acre-feet (AF) by 2030 and 109,000 AF by 2040. As Valley Water faces challenges from climate change and drought, water conservation will continue to be amongst the most cost-effective tools for efficiently meeting current and future demands while mitigating droughts.

#### FY24 Tactics

- Build on the recent drought’s momentum and continue achieving water savings from the public and encouraging conservation as a way of life through year-round educational outreach, effective water conservation programs, and media campaigns. Continue enforcement program of water waste restrictions as needed.
- Continue communication and educational outreach to promote Valley Water’s water conservation programs.
- Increase collaboration with our retailer partners to promote Valley Water’s water conservation programs.
- Implement new water conservation programs and engagement strategies identified within the Water Conservation Strategic Plan.
- Engage and support private-sector stakeholders, local, state, and federal agencies that promote water conservation.
- Develop and implement a Drought Response Plan with support and input from our retailer partners and the broader community to guide short-term behavioral changes during water shortages.
- Ensure water conservation programs support disadvantaged community members.
- Engage in opportunities and make efforts to obtain water use data from Valley Water retailers.
- Expand outreach and engagement to local businesses and corporations so they can be more actively involved in water conservation efforts.

#### Monitoring

- Water Conservation and Demand Management Committee

#### Related Staff Plans

- Water Conservation Strategic Plan
- Water Supply Master Plan
- Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program

---

### Objective 1

**Protect people and property from flooding by applying a comprehensive, integrated watershed management approach that balances environmental quality, sustainability, and cost.**

#### Challenge/Opportunity

Valley Water is challenged to sustain ecosystem health while managing local water resources for flood protection and water supply. By using an integrated approach to planning and design, there is an opportunity to create flood protection projects with multiple benefits.

#### FY24 Tactics

- Strengthen partnerships with the county and local municipalities to improve collaboration and coordination on flood protection projects and areas that are subject to flooding.
- Complete One Water plans for the Guadalupe and Pajaro watersheds.
- Complete construction of Reaches 1-3 of the Shoreline Phase I Project and pursue funding alternatives for Reaches 4-5 to provide 100-year coastal flood risk management, ecosystem restoration, recreational opportunities, and resiliency for sea level rise.
- Complete construction of Phase 2A of the Upper Llagas Flood Protection Project to provide flood protection and habitat enhancement; and finalize Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) funding agreement and begin construction for Phase 2B.
- Explore federal funding and grant opportunities to advance the Palo Alto Flood Basin Project into construction, a repair project to ensure a functional flood basin with wetland habitat.
- Advance the Sunnyvale East/West Channels Project into construction to provide 100-year storm water flood protection.
- Work with USACE to design Upper Guadalupe River Project to provide 100-year flood protection.
- Continue to partner with the San Francisquito Joint Powers Authority (JPA) on the San Francisquito Creek upstream 101 Project.
- Continue design and construction of the Coyote Creek Flood Mitigation and Flood Protection Projects.
- Begin to evaluate and prioritize addressing areas in the county known to flood on a regular basis.

#### Monitoring

- Capital Improvement Program Committee
- Board Policy and Planning Committee
- Safe Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program Independent Monitoring Committee

#### Related Staff Plans

- One Water Plan
- Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program
### Objective 2

**Provide flood protection equitably in all regions of the County, prioritizing disadvantaged communities.**

**Challenge/Opportunity**
As Valley Water continues to advance flood protection projects, the Board has an opportunity to strengthen relationships and improve coordination with conservation and environmental justice groups, as well as other local jurisdictions, with a specific focus on ensuring the voices of disadvantaged communities are equitably represented.

#### FY24 Tactics
- Continue progress on flood protection capital projects consistent with Valley Water’s commitment to the Safe, Clean Water Program and equitability in all regions.
- Plan flood risk reduction projects to provide a minimum level of protection countywide.

#### Monitoring
- Capital Improvement Program Committee
- Board Policy and Planning Committee

#### Related Staff Plans
- One Water Plan
- Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program

### Objective 1

**Plan and design projects with multiple benefits, including protecting ecosystem functions, enhancing habitat, and improving connectivity, equitably in all regions of the County.**

**Challenge/Opportunity**
Valley Water’s projects and programs require integrated planning to ensure capital improvements, operations, and maintenance activities are balanced with environmental stewardship goals. Valley Water strives to protect and restore habitats to support native species throughout Santa Clara County.

#### FY24 Tactics
- Continue to develop an integrated water resource plan for each watershed, including appropriate metrics to monitor Valley Water’s impacts on and benefit to the environment.
- Complete Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan as part of the Climate Change Action Plan implementation.
- Make significant progress on the grant-funded planning study for the San Tomas Aquino Calabazas Creek Realignment Project (which includes Pond A4).
- Complete construction of the Bolsa Creek Project by December 2023.
- Initiate access improvements and beneficial reuse of sediment at Pond A4.
- Continue to develop and build on partnerships with environmental organizations and tribal communities when developing projects.

#### Monitoring
- Board Policy and Planning Committee
- Capital Improvement Program Committee

#### Related Staff Plans
- One Water Plan
- Climate Change Action Plan

---

**NATURAL FLOOD PROTECTION**

**GOAL:** Sustain ecosystem health while managing local water resources for flood protection and water supply.

**ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP**

**GOAL:** Sustain ecosystem health while managing local water resources for flood protection and water supply.
### Objective 2

**Protect creeks, bay, and other aquatic ecosystems from threats of pollution and degradation.**

**Challenge/Opportunity**

Valley Water continues to coordinate with local cities and agencies to improve the health of our local waterways, including pollution prevention and addressing threats to water quality. Opportunities exist to further collaborate with the County, cities, and social services agencies on encampment management efforts and to develop long-term solutions for unhoused individuals to keep our creeks clean.

**FY24 Tactics**

- Continue efforts to protect the ecosystem and water quality of our water bodies and the integrity of our infrastructure. Such efforts include preventing stormwater pollution, increased implementation of green stormwater infrastructure, addressing mercury pollution, encampment clean ups, and other efforts under Safe Clean Water B and F priorities.
- Continue partnership with City of San José to continue trash rafts removals.
- Continue partnerships and investments on a regional scale such as the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration and Santa Clara Valley Urban Runoff Pollution Prevention Program (SCVURPPP).
- Initiate Clean Camps Clean Creeks and portable toilet facility programs.
- Finalize Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with City of San José to manage encampments within stormwater Municipal Regional Permit (MRP) discharge sites on Coyote Creek.
- Expand opportunities for volunteers to support cleanup efforts and events.
- Support legislative efforts to eliminate or reduce waste entering waterways.

**Monitoring**

- Environmental Creek Cleanup Committee

**Related Staff Plans**

- One Water Plan
- Santa Clara Valley Urban Runoff Pollution Prevention Program
- Stormwater Resource Plan
- Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program

### Objective 3

**Complete and implement the Fisheries and Aquatic Habitat Collaborative Effort (FAHCE) agreement.**

**Challenge/Opportunity**

For over 25 years, Valley Water has been working to resolve compliance challenges and disagreements surrounding fish, wildlife, water quality, and other beneficial uses in the Coyote Creek, Guadalupe River, and Stevens Creek watershed areas. Challenges to implementing the FACHE agreement include completing the environmental review process, obtaining federal and state permits from multiple regulatory agencies, refining and processing water rights change petitions, the technical complexity of the fisheries impacts analysis, coordination with other ongoing related projects, and managing stakeholder expectations.

**FY24 Tactics**

- Prioritize the implementation of the FAHCE agreement and related efforts as soon as possible.
- Finalize the June 2021 Guadalupe River and Stevens Creek Environmental Impact Report (EIR).
- Advance 10 water right change petitions for securing water right orders.
- Continue to implement the FAHCE Plus pilot flow program in Guadalupe and Stevens Creek.
- Continue to implement feasibility studies, monitoring activities, and planning for various fish passage and habitat improvements as identified in existing stakeholder agreement.
- Continue fisheries monitoring program.
- Continue to support an adaptive management program that encompasses all three creeks.
- Continue coordination with the ADSRP project.

**Monitoring**

- Stream Planning and Operations Committee

**Related Staff Plans**

- Fish Habitat Restoration Plan for Coyote Creek, Guadalupe River, and Stevens Creek Watersheds
- Seismic Retrofit Programs for Dam Safety
- Aquatic habitat restoration plans/feasibility studies/site-specific improvements affecting all three watersheds (e.g., Countywide Large Woody Debris Program)
- Collaborative agreements for in-stream habitat improvements (e.g., Singleton Fish Barrier Removal with City of San José, Ogier Pond Feasibility Study in collaboration with the County)
- One Water Plan
### ADDRESSING ENCAMPMENTS OF UNSHELTERED PEOPLE

**GOAL:** Humanely assist in the permanent relocation of unsheltered people on Valley Water lands along waterways and at water supply and flood risk reduction facilities in order to address the human health, public safety, operational, and environmental challenges posed by encampments.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>FY24 Tactics</th>
<th>Challenge/Opportunity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Objective 1</strong></td>
<td>• Coordinate with the County, cities, and other service providers in a regional approach to safely relocate unsheltered individuals living along waterways and at water supply and flood risk reduction facilities.</td>
<td>The number of unsheltered individuals living in Santa Clara County has increased by 36 percent in the last five years, rising from 7,394 in 2017 to 10,028 in 2022, according to the Homeless Point-in-Time Count and Survey. In 2022, 77% of the unhoused population in the county were unsheltered, and Valley Water estimates that over 2,300 have taken refuge on Valley Water’s property or land easements. The waterways in Santa Clara County are flashy, meaning seemingly small creeks quickly can turn into raging torrents, surprising unsheltered people often hidden in riparian vegetation and potentially resulting in drownings or serious injury. These riparian areas include threatened and endangered species, sensitive constructed and natural habitats, and public infrastructure that is critical to water supply, groundwater recharge, and flood risk reduction activities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Initiate Clean Camps Clean Creeks and portable toilet facility programs.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Enhance Valley Water’s participation in countywide collaboration efforts to address challenges associated with homelessness.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Implement MOA with Santa Clara County to provide outreach services to unsheltered individuals living within waterways and at water supply and flood risk reduction facilities countywide.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Implement MOA with City of San José to provide comprehensive services to unsheltered individuals living within the high-risk flood zones of the Coyote Creek project footprint.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Develop a framework from internal working group recommendations on both short- and long-term strategies to address the challenges posed by encampments of unsheltered people living on Valley Water lands along waterways and at water supply and flood risk reduction facilities.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Work to develop a method to track encampments located on Valley Water lands along waterways and at water supply and flood risk reduction facilities to measure effectiveness of collaborative efforts.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Monitoring</strong></td>
<td>• Environmental Creek Cleanup Committee</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Related Staff Plans</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### FY24 Tactics

- Coordinate with the County and municipal partners, in a regional approach to identify lands to provide transitional or affordable housing or other services, allowing for unsheltered individuals and families to be safely relocated from flood risk areas, and reducing challenges for Valley Water staff performing operations and maintenance along waterways and at water supply and flood risk reduction facilities.
- Continue working with the County, municipal partners and police departments to support Valley Water staff safety, as well as the public safety of unsheltered individuals and residential neighbors when conducting encampment cleanup operations and maintenance activities.
- Continue to perform weed abatement and fuel reduction work around encampments to reduce wildfire risks.
- Implement agreements with the County and municipal partners to provide outreach or other necessary services to unsheltered individuals living along waterways and at water supply and flood risk reduction facilities countywide.

### Monitoring

- Environmental Creek Cleanup Committee

### Related Staff Plans

- Environmental Creek Cleanup Committee
Objective 1: Address future impacts of climate change to Valley Water’s mission and operations.

Challenge/Opportunity: Valley Water’s ability to fulfill its mission will be challenged in the future by warmer temperatures, changing precipitation patterns, reduced snowpack, and rising sea levels. Valley Water has been working on greenhouse reduction efforts since 2008 and many adaptation actions over the past decade; however, with adoption of the Climate Change Action Plan there is an opportunity for greater impact.

FY24 Tactics:
- Complete Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan: Identify specific and measurable actions to reduce emissions and approve long-term emissions reduction goals ensuring that all Valley Water activities are considered.
- Continue to monitor progress on adaptation actions as identified in the Climate Change Action Plan and support high priority projects such as the South San Francisco Bay Shoreline.
- Ensure incorporation of environmental justice (EJ) considerations into planning and processes to support mitigation of carbon emissions and climate change impacts.
- Explore opportunities for carbon sequestration in all our programs and projects.

Monitoring:
- Board Policy and Planning Committee

Related Staff Plans:
- Climate Change Action Plan

Objective 1: Incorporate racial equity, diversity and inclusion throughout Valley Water as a core value.

Challenge/Opportunity: Valley Water is committed to creating and maintaining a diverse, inclusive, and equitable work environment that is devoid of discrimination and harassment and provides equal opportunity employment and advancement. Valley Water aims to implement the same values in the community through its flood protection, water supply, and environmental stewardship projects and has an opportunity to serve as a leader for racial equity, diversity, and inclusion throughout the state.

FY24 Tactics:
- Continue to monitor implementation of a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Master Plan that institutes best practices to address internal and external disparities and builds an organizational culture that is consistent with the Board’s Resolution addressing racial equity, diversity, and inclusion.
- Remain committed to environmental justice, equity, and the fair treatment and meaningful engagement of all people regardless of race, color, sex, gender, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, disability status (mental and physical), medical condition, genetic information, ancestry, national origin, immigration status, age, marital status, tribe, culture, income, religion, military status, or English language proficiency, with respect to the planning, projects, policies, services, and operations of Valley Water.
- Continue to collaborate with external stakeholders that are engaged in developing diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives and actively participate in and provide leadership for diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts throughout the state.
- Continue to advance and foster mutually beneficial partnerships with regional tribal communities.

Monitoring:
- Diversity & Inclusion Ad Hoc Committee

Related Staff Plans:
- Racial Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Master Plan
## Objective 2

**Maintain appropriate staffing levels and expertise while prioritizing the safety of our staff.**

### Challenge/Opportunity

The Board recognizes that Valley Water’s workforce is the critical component to providing clean, safe drinking water, effective flood protection, and environmental stewardship. The Board therefore remains committed to supporting the recruitment of capable employees with knowledge and subject matter expertise, investing in staff training to meet changing skills and capacity needs, developing the necessary policies and guidance that strengthen employee safety, and establishing Valley Water as an employer of choice.

### FY24 Tactics

- Implement an automated forecasting tool to develop and finalize a long-term staffing strategy that aligns with future capital and operational needs.
- Continue to implement initiatives that will expand hiring outreach to individuals that are disabled or have health conditions/impairments, military veterans, and formerly incarcerated individuals, with an emphasis on hiring from the local region.
- Develop next generation and career pathways program to provide internal and external development for professional growth.
- Advance the development of a skilled trades apprenticeship program.
- Maximize the safety of staff working in creeks, encampments, and Valley Water facilities, and continue to promote health & safety guidance to protect staff from public health emergencies and environmental impacts.

### Monitoring

- Environmental Creek Cleanup Committee
- Diversity & Inclusion Ad Hoc Committee
- Financial Sustainability Working Group

### Related Staff Plans

- Operating and Capital Budget
- Board and Management Audit Reports

---

## Objective 3

**Provide affordable and cost-effective level of services.**

### Challenge/Opportunity

The Board understands its responsibility to regularly evaluate and monitor Valley Water’s financial status to ensure the level of services provided are reasonable and cost effective. As such, driving continual improvement efforts are key to delivering affordable and effective services while controlling expectations regarding what Valley Water can achieve and what it can afford to do. In addition, the affordability of water continues to be a major issue faced by communities across the nation, particularly disadvantaged communities. The Board has an opportunity to raise issues around water affordability at local and statewide levels and advocate for changes that benefit disadvantaged communities.

### FY24 Tactics

- Complete 3-4 Board-initiated or management-initiated performance audits, or other performance improvement efforts, benchmarking studies, or best practice implementations.
- Establish Valley Water as a statewide leader in conversations around water affordability.
- Implement Biennial Budget for FY24.
- Continue to seek and obtain grants and funding opportunities from federal, state and other sources.

### Monitoring

- Board Audit Committee
- Financial Sustainability Working Group

### Related Staff Plans

- Operating and Capital Budget
- Board and Management Audit Reports
Appendix A
Board Governance Policies/Ends Policies

The Board has adopted Board Governance Policies which describe how the board conducts its business, what they have directed the Board Appointed Officers (BAO) to accomplish, and constraints on the BAOs that establish prudent and ethical boundaries within which all activity and decisions must take place.

Ends Policies, also referred to as Long Term Goals and Objectives, provide direction to the BAOs to accomplish Valley Water’s mission.

A full list of the Board Governance Policies can be found here: https://www.valleywater.org/how-we-operate/board-governance-policies

Ends Policy E-1: Mission and General Principles
In implementing Board directions, staff will be guided by the following general principles:

1.1. An integrated, socially equitable, and balanced approach in managing a sustainable water supply, effective natural flood protection, and healthy watersheds is essential to the future of all communities served.

1.2. Effective public engagement by Valley Water is achieved through transparent, open communication that informs and generates participation among all communities, including disadvantaged communities, communities of color, and communities with limited English proficiency, as well as other key stakeholders.

1.3. Collaboration with government, academic, private, non-governmental, and non-profit organizations, as well as diverse and disadvantaged communities is integral to accomplishing the Valley Water mission.

1.4. A net positive impact on the environment and providing benefits equitably across all communities is required in order to accomplish the Valley Water mission.

1.5. Recognize that Valley Water operations and services are critical to the economic vitality of Silicon Valley, ensuring that economic benefits are equitable for all communities that we serve.

1.6. As standard practice, all work products shall be visually pleasing, sustainable, cost-effective, culturally appropriate, equitable across all communities, and reflect the characteristics of the surrounding urban setting and natural habitat using appropriate materials, colors, shapes, art works, vegetation, and surface treatments. This includes the naming of facilities in a manner that is respectful of all diverse communities.

1.7. Valley Water is committed to environmental justice and shall provide for the fair treatment and meaningful engagement of all people regardless of race, color, gender identity, disability status, national origin, tribe, culture, income, immigration status, or English language proficiency, with respect to the planning, projects, policies, services, and operations of Valley Water. Environmental Justice is achieved when all people receive:
   • equitable consideration in the planning and execution of flood protection, water supply, safe drinking water, water resources stewardship projects, and protection from environmental and health hazards, and
   • equal access to Valley Water’s decision-making process.

Ends Policy E-2: Water Supply Services

Valley Water provides a reliable, safe, and affordable water supply for current and future generations in all communities served.

GOAL
2.1. Meet 100 percent of annual water demand during non-drought years and at least 80 percent of demand in drought years.

GOAL
2.2. Protect and sustain the county’s existing, diverse water supplies.

Objectives
2.2.1. Manage groundwater to ensure sustainable supplies and avoid land subsidence.
2.2.2. Aggressively protect groundwater from the threat of contamination.
2.2.3. Protect imported water supplies and associated contracts and partnerships.
2.2.4. Protect and manage local surface water supplies and associated water rights.
2.2.5. Deliver reliable, high quality drinking water from water treatment plants.

GOAL
2.3. Protect and maintain existing water infrastructure.

Objectives
2.3.1. Plan for infrastructure maintenance and replacement to reduce risk of failure.
2.3.2. Prioritize funding for maintenance and replacement of existing water infrastructure over investments in new infrastructure.
2.3.3. Prepare for and respond effectively to water utility emergencies.

GOAL
2.4. Increase regional self-reliance through water conservation and reuse.

Objectives
2.4.1. Maximize utilization of all demand management tools.
2.4.2. Incentivize water use efficiency and water conservation.
2.4.3. Promote, protect and expand potable and non-potable water reuse.
2.4.4. Promote stormwater capture and reuse.

GOAL
2.5. Manage water resources using an integrated, science-based approach.

Objectives
2.5.1. Plan for future water supply needs.
2.5.2. Promote efficient and reliable operation of water supply systems.
2.5.3. Promote water supply projects with multiple benefits, including environmental stewardship and flood protection.
2.5.4. Invest in and rely on science to support planning and decision-making.
2.5.5. Build and maintain effective partnerships to achieve water supply goals.

GOAL
2.6. Promote access to equitable and affordable water supplies.

Objectives
2.6.1. Promote equal access to clean, safe, and affordable water supply across all communities served.
2.6.2. Maintain affordable water rates through cost-effective water supply investments and management.
2.6.3. Continue customer assistance and incentive programs.

Ends Policy E-3: Natural Flood Protection

Natural flood protection is provided to reduce risk and improve health and safety for residents, businesses, and visitors, now and into the future.

GOAL
3.1. Maintain flood protection facilities to design levels of protection.

Objectives
3.1.1. Prioritize maintenance of existing facilities over construction of new capital projects.
3.1.2. Inspect and maintain facilities on a regular basis.
3.1.3. Perform maintenance using maintenance guidelines updated on a regular basis.

GOAL
3.2. Assist people, businesses, schools, and communities to prepare for, respond to, and recover from flooding through equitable and effective engagement.

Objectives
3.2.1. Develop, maintain, and communicate emergency action plans.
3.2.2. Develop, maintain, and communicate flood information to the community.
3.2.3. Provide expertise in flood forecasting and flood warning systems to municipalities.

3.2.4. Provide expertise to encourage public agencies to reduce flood risk and protect floodplain benefits.

GOAL
3.3. Increase the health and safety of residents countywide by reducing community flood risk.

Objectives
3.3.1. Provide equitable, timely, and achievable flood protection for health and safety.
3.3.2. Protect people and property from flooding by applying a comprehensive, integrated watershed management approach that balances environmental quality, sustainability, and cost.

Ends Policy E-4: Water Resources Stewardship
Water resources stewardship protects and enhances ecosystem health.

GOAL
4.1. Use a science-based, inclusive approach to protect Santa Clara County’s watersheds and aquatic ecosystems for current and future generations.

Objectives
4.1.1. Develop and share data to support resilient ecosystems and healthy populations of native species.
4.1.2. Monitor stream, reservoir, and Bay ecosystem health.
4.1.3. Use data to prioritize and equitably implement actions to reduce pollution, restore endangered species habitat, and enhance ecosystem function.

GOAL
4.2. Sustain ecosystem health while managing local water resources for flood protection and water supply.

Objectives
4.2.1. Plan and design projects with multiple benefits, including protecting ecosystem functions, enhancing habitat, and improving connectivity, equitably in all regions of the county.
4.2.2. Operate Valley Water facilities to balance water supply, flood protection, and ecosystem sustainability.

GOAL
4.3. Encourage inclusive, sustainable management of water resources in the Bay-Delta and its watersheds to protect imported water supply.

Objectives
4.3.1. Meet future water supply demand through diverse and coordinated water supply planning.
4.3.2. Promote holistic ecosystem management through science-based decision-making.
4.3.3. Actively engage in the protection of source water quality through collaboration and funding.

GOAL
4.4. Prevent and address pollution of local streams, reservoirs, and the Bay, equitably across all communities.

Objectives
4.4.1. Encourage stormwater capture, treatment, and reuse.
4.4.2. Prepare and respond to spills and dumping that threaten local waterways.
4.4.3. Collaborate with agencies and nonprofits to address homelessness and its impacts to Santa Clara County Waterways.

GOAL
4.5. Engage the community to promote watershed stewardship by providing meaningful engagement in Valley Water programs for all people regardless of race, color, gender identity, disability status, national origin, tribe, culture, income, immigration status, or English language proficiency.

Objectives
4.5.1. Provide appropriate and equal public access to Valley Water’s streamside and watershed lands.
4.5.2. Engage and educate the community in stream and watershed protection.
4.5.3. Build partnerships to protect and enhance watersheds and aquatic ecosystems.

Ends Policy E-5: Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation
Valley Water is carbon neutral and provides equitable, climate-resilient water supply, flood protection, and water resource stewardship to all communities in Santa Clara County. This will be accomplished through the implementation of the Climate Change Action Plan.

GOAL
5.1. Minimize greenhouse gas emissions from Valley Water’s operations.

Objectives
5.1.1. Expand the use of clean technology in vehicles, equipment, and buildings, and develop carbon-efficient construction and service delivery practices.
5.1.2. Optimize energy use and expand renewable energy portfolio.
5.1.3. Incentivize low carbon practices, projects, and efforts by employees, contractors, and partners.

GOAL
5.2. Adapt Valley Water’s assets and operations to reduce climate change impacts.

Objectives
5.2.1. Improve the resiliency of Santa Clara County’s water supply to drought and other climate change impacts.
5.2.2. Provide equitable protection from sea level rise and flooding, prioritizing disadvantaged communities.
5.2.3. Improve ecosystem resiliency through water resources stewardship.
5.2.4. Prepare for climate-related emergencies and provide equal access to information and services, particularly to disadvantaged communities.
Appendix B

Staff Program Plans and Master Plans

Program plans and master plans are developed by staff to achieve the Board’s long-term goals and objectives in relation to Valley Water’s mission and overall business management.

Below is a list of program and master plans that have been referenced in the Board Work Plan. Other plans not listed below can be obtained by contacting the Office of the Clerk of the Board at (408) 630-2277 or clerkoftheboard@valleywater.org.

- Board Audit Reports
  https://www.valleywater.org/board-audit-committee-audit-reports
- Capital Improvement Program
  https://www.valleywater.org/how-we-operate/five-year-capital-improvement-program
- Climate Change Action Plan
- Countywide Water Reuse Master Plan
  https://www.valleywater.org/your-waters/recycled-and-purified-water
- Groundwater Management Plan
  https://www.valleywater.org/your-waters/where-your-water-comes/groundwater/sustainable
- Ogier Ponds Feasibility Study
  https://www.valleywater.org/project-updates/ogier-ponds-coyote-creek-separation-project
- One Water Plan
  https://www.valleywater.org/project-updates/one-water-plan
- Operating and Capital Budget
  https://www.valleywater.org/how-we-operate/finance-budget
- Racial Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Master Plan
  https://www.valleywater.org/how-we-operate/about-valley-water/office-racial-equity-diversity-inclusion
- Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program
- Santa Clara Valley Urban Runoff Pollution Prevention Program
  https://scvurppp.org/
- Stormwater Resource Plan
  https://scvurppp.org/swrp/
- Water Conservation Strategic Plan
  https://www.valleywater.org/droughtsaving-water/studies-and-reports
- Water Supply Master Plan
  https://www.valleywater.org/your-waters/water-supply-planning/water-supply-master-plan
- Water Utility Infrastructure Master Plan
  https://www.valleywater.org/project-updates/water-utility-infrastructure-master-plan-implementation-projects