

Frequently Asked Questions

Coyote Creek Flood Management Measures Project



1. What is happening along Coyote Creek?

This summer, Valley Water will begin construction on the first of two public-safety projects to reduce the risk of flooding in neighborhoods along nine miles of Coyote Creek, from Montague Expressway to Tully Road in San José.

2. What will happen to homeless encampments in the area?

Homeless encampments are currently located in the work area. The City and Valley Water estimate 100-200 individuals are living in the encampments. Work crews will be deploying heavy equipment in this area throughout the duration of the project. For the safety of the unhoused residents and work crews, it is necessary for all encampments to be removed from the work area before construction begins.

3. When do encampment residents need to leave the area?

May 15, 2023.

4. Where will homeless residents go when they leave the construction area?

Valley Water has agreed to help the City fund a range of solutions to help people living in the construction area find safe places to go. Valley Water is providing \$4.8 million toward this effort. Housing and shelter opportunities may include interim housing, shelters in San José and neighboring cities, rent-restricted affordable housing, and motel vouchers for a fixed period of time. These opportunities will be based on availability. The City and Valley Water are not able to guarantee housing or shelter opportunities to every person living in the construction area.

The money from Valley Water will also help the City store personal property removed from encampments, clear the construction area of trash and debris, and provide supportive services to help encampment residents stabilize their lives.

5. How are encampment residents being made aware of this project and the need to relocate?

The City of San José Housing Department, along with nonprofit partners HomeFirst and PATH, began daily outreach in the encampments in April 2023. Outreach

workers are sharing details about the project timeline with encampment residents, and helping encampment residents determine their eligibility for a number of housing and shelter programs.

Outreach teams will continue to be in the area daily until the construction area is completely cleared.

6. Is the Coyote Creek Flood Management Measures Project connected to the Anderson Dam Seismic Retrofit Project?

Yes. The Coyote Creek Flood Management Measures Project is one of five compliance projects the federal government is requiring Valley Water to complete as part of the Anderson Dam Seismic Retrofit Project. When work on Anderson Dam begins, more stormwater will flow through Coyote Creek, increasing the possibility of water spilling into the floodplain. For the safety of residents (both housed and unhoused) and businesses along Coyote Creek, it is important that the Flood Management Measures Project be complete by fall 2024 so Coyote Creek can handle a larger volume of water.

7. When is construction scheduled for the Coyote Creek Flood Management Measures Project?

The contractor is expected to mobilize equipment and materials by June 2023, with construction starting soon thereafter.

8. What is the main benefit of this project?

The project objective is to protect residents and businesses near Coyote Creek — from Montague Expwy to Tully Road — from floods up to the level that occurred on February 21, 2017. This is approximately equivalent to a 5% flood – i.e., a 20-year events.

9. How much will this project cost?

The total project cost, including design, planning, and construction, is expected to be \$115,692,000.

10. Who can I contact for more information?

For questions about the Flood Management Measures Project, please contact Jose Villarreal with Valley Water at JVillarreal@valleywater.org or 408-630-2879.

For questions about the abatement of encampments, please contact Daniel Lazo with the City of San José at Daniel.Lazo@sanjoseca.gov or 408-460-4468.