

A Notice of Availability of the Stream Maintenance Program Renewal (also referred to as “SMP-3” or Program Renewal) Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) was distributed on July 21, 2025, which started a 45-day public review and comment period. This notice is to announce that the comment period, which was initially set to end on September 3, 2025, has been extended to conclude at 5:00 pm on September 17, 2025.

Topic: Stream Maintenance Program Renewal Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR)

What: Revised Notice of Availability of Draft EIR; Notice of Virtual Public Information Meeting to Provide Information on the Draft EIR

When: September 17, 2025

Why: Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act, Santa Clara Valley Water District (Valley Water), as the lead agency is providing notice that a Draft Subsequent Environmental Impact Report (Draft SEIR) has been prepared for the Stream Maintenance Program Renewal (also referred to as “SMP-3” or Program Renewal) described below and is available for public review. The Draft SEIR addresses the potential environmental effects that could result from implementation of the Program Renewal. Valley Water invites comments on the adequacy and completeness of the environmental analyses and mitigation measures described in the Draft SEIR.

Project Location: The scope of the Program Renewal includes the portions of Santa Clara County below the 1,000-foot elevation contour. Valley Water generally performs routine maintenance work where it owns property in fee title, has an easement, or has maintenance obligations pursuant to rights of entry, licenses, and agreements. The maintenance work area is the stream or channel itself, and typically extends past the top-of-bank, where access is provided. Where levees have been constructed, the work area extends at least to the outside toe of the levee.

Municipalities within the Program Renewal Area include: the Cities of Campbell, Cupertino, Gilroy, Los Altos, Milpitas, Morgan Hill, Monte Sereno, Mountain View, Palo Alto, San Jose, Santa Clara, Saratoga, and Sunnyvale, and the Towns of Los Altos Hills and Los Gatos. It is possible that certain maintenance activities could occur in a hazardous waste site or listed toxic site and is further evaluated in the Draft SEIR.

Project Description and Environmental Review: Since 2002, Valley Water has implemented the Stream Maintenance Program (SMP or Program) to guide, manage, and conduct routine maintenance of streams, improved channels, and related flood protection facilities such that these facilities can continue to provide adequate flow conveyance capacity and function properly. The first Program period (2002-2011) is referred to as “SMP-1” and the

associated EIR was certified in 2002. In 2011, Valley Water updated the Program (referred to as “SMP-2”) and *Stream Maintenance Program Manual* (referred to as SMP Manual) to guide the Program through the 2012-2022 planning period. A SEIR was prepared for the SMP-2 update and was certified in 2012. In 2021, Valley Water initiated the third iteration of the SMP Renewal (“SMP-3” or Program Renewal) to: (1) review SMP activities and revise the SMP Manual, (2) update its environmental compliance documentation, and (3) renew necessary SMP permits to guide the on-going Program.

Although the SMP is an ongoing program (with an indefinite time horizon), the previous SMP-2 Manual and Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) used a 10-year planning period from 2014-2023 to forecast SMP activities and consider potential environmental effects. In 2023, Valley Water requested extensions from regulatory agencies for various SMP-2 regulatory agency permits that were set to expire in 2023. Valley Water received permit extensions that are valid through 2026. The proposed Program Renewal (including the revised SMP manual and the Draft SEIR) is intended to cover the 10-year planning period from 2027 through 2036. These updated Program documents are intended to fully replace the previous SMP-2 Manual and supporting documents. Valley Water has prepared this Draft SEIR to provide the public, responsible agencies, and trustee agencies with information about the potential environmental effects associated with the adoption and implementation of the updated SMP for the 2027-2036 period.

The principal maintenance activities under the Program Renewal are sediment removal, vegetation management, bank stabilization, management of animal conflicts, minor maintenance, and downed tree management.

The Draft SEIR evaluates the potential environmental impacts of the Program Renewal and four alternatives: a No Project Alternative; a Reduced Frequency Alternative; a Limited Work in Unmodified Channels Alternative; and a Limited Activities Alternative.

The Draft SEIR analysis found that significant environmental effects could occur as a result of the Program Renewal, specifically in the areas of aesthetics, air quality, biological resources, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, noise, water quality, and cumulative impacts. All impacts would be mitigated to a level of insignificance except for certain program-level and/or cumulative impacts related to biological resources (interference with the use of native wildlife nursery sites), and noise (potential exceedances of certain noise and vibration levels), which were found to be significant and unavoidable.

Public Review: The Draft SEIR and supporting documents are available on Valley Water’s website <https://www.valleywater.org/public-review-documents> and upon request at (408) 630-2090. Copies of the Draft SEIR are also available to review at the following county libraries and Valley Water offices:

- Santa Clara Valley Water District; 5750 Almaden Expressway; San Jose, CA 95118-3686
- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library; 150 E. San Fernando St.; San Jose, CA 95112
- Morgan Hill Public Library; 660 W. Main Ave.; Morgan Hill, CA 95037
- Palo Alto (Rinconada) Public Library; 1213 Newell Rd.; Palo Alto, CA 94303
- Cupertino Public Library; 10800 Torre Avenue; Cupertino, CA 95014-3207

- Milpitas Public Library; 160 N. Main Street; Milpitas, California 95035

Public Comments: Written comments should be received during the public review period which begins on July 21, 2025, and ends at 5 p.m. on **September 17, 2025**. Comments must be postmarked or received by **September 17, 2025**. Please mail, email, or hand deliver comments to Valley Water at:

Santa Clara Valley Water District
Attention: Billy Williams, Senior Environmental Planner
5750 Almaden Expressway
San Jose, CA 95118-3686

Written comments may also be submitted by email: bwilliams@valleywater.org (please include the subject line: SMP – Program Renewal EIR Comments), or by going to the Valley Water website listed above. All comments received including names and addresses, will become part of the official public record.