

## About Valley Water

Valley Water manages an integrated water resources system that includes the supply of clean, safe water, flood protection and stewardship of streams on behalf of Santa Clara County's 2 million residents. As the flood protection authority for Santa Clara County, Valley Water annually prepares creeks for winter rains through levee maintenance, sediment removal, bank repair and vegetation management. Valley Water has invested more than \$1 billion in flood protection efforts to protect nearly 100,000 parcels with many more projects planned. Under its Stream Maintenance Program, Valley Water also repairs damages to creeks to reduce the risk of flooding and to keep our communities safe.



**Valley Water**

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**SAN FRANCISQUITO CREEK**  
JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY

[SFCJPA.org](http://SFCJPA.org)

## About The San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority

In response to serious flooding during the winter of 1998, the San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority (SFCJPA) was formed in 1999 by the cities of East Palo Alto, Palo Alto, Menlo Park, the San Mateo County Flooding and Sea Level Resiliency District and Valley Water. The SFCJPA leads planning and implementation of projects that mitigate the risk of flooding along the San Francisquito Creek and the Bay. A significant amount of flood protection design and construction funding comes to the SFCJPA projects from Valley Water's Safe Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program. Project design and construction is funded by a combination of federal and state grants, and local funding.

## Are You Flood Safe?

We encourage you to prepare for potential flooding during the wet season. Flooding can occur when it rains heavily and the wet ground can't absorb any more water. Heavy rain on dry soil can run off faster than the ground can absorb, resulting in

a flash flood. In both situations, creek levels can rise quickly and overbank, potentially causing dangerously fast-moving floodwater to flow through neighborhoods, within minutes. You can be flood safe by being prepared and aware. Learn if your home or business is in a Special Flood Hazard Area by visiting [floodsmart.gov](http://floodsmart.gov).

## Protect Your Home From Flood Threats

- Winter storms can bring flooding. Be prepared!
- Gather building materials: plywood, plastic sheeting and sandbags.
- Use plastic sheeting, plywood and sandbags to seal doors or ground-level openings in the event of rising waters.
- Seal cracks in your home's foundation, exterior walls and small openings around pipes.
- Learn how to turn off utilities: electrical, gas and water.
- Keep your street's drains and gutters free of debris.
- Know how to obtain, fill and place sandbags.

# San Francisquito Creek

## Flood Protection | Ecosystem Restoration | Recreation

Providing flood protection to more than 5,700 homes and businesses in Palo Alto, Menlo Park and East Palo Alto.

### Flooding Can Happen—WHAT TO DO:

#### BEFORE

- **Subscribe to Santa Clara and San Mateo counties' emergency alert systems:**

- » Santa Clara County AlertSCC at [emergencymanagement.sccgov.org/AlertSCC](https://emergencymanagement.sccgov.org/AlertSCC)
- » San Mateo County SMCALERT at [smcgov.org/ceo/smc-alert](https://smcgov.org/ceo/smc-alert)

- Designate a meeting spot for everyone in your household. Prepare a household disaster plan and emergency kit for your home and vehicle. Know your evacuation routes.
- Report creek blockage by visiting Access Valley Water at [access.valleywater.org](https://access.valleywater.org) or by calling the SFCJPA at **650-643-1450**.
- Report creek blockages:  
Menlo Park: **650-330-6780** (weekdays, 7 a.m.-4 p.m.)  
**650-330-6300** (after hours).  
[menlopark.gov/storms](https://menlopark.gov/storms).  
East Palo Alto: **650-368-1421**  
Palo Alto: **650-496-6974** (weekdays, 7 a.m.-4 p.m.)  
**650-329-2413** (after hours).  
[cityofpaloalto.org/stormupdate](https://cityofpaloalto.org/stormupdate).

#### DURING

- Tune your radio to 740 AM, 90.1 FM and 106.9 FM for emergency information.
- If advised to evacuate, do so immediately. Turn off utilities at main switches or valves. Do not touch electrical lines or equipment if you are wet or standing in water.
- If a flood is imminent, avoid low-lying areas. Seek shelter in the highest area possible.

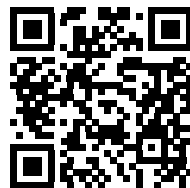
- Moving water is dangerous. Six inches of moving water can make you fall.
- Move your vehicles to higher ground before waters rise. Do not drive in flooded areas. If floodwaters rise around your vehicle, abandon the vehicle and move to higher ground.

#### AFTER

- If evacuated, return home only when authorities indicate it is safe to do so. Listen for news reports on water and road safety conditions.
- Clean and disinfect everything wet, as mud left from floodwater can contain sewage and chemicals.



Learn more about the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)'s Flood Insurance Program Risk Rating 2.0 changes to the federal program and find a local agent by visiting [floodsmart.gov](https://floodsmart.gov). You can also call the National Flood Insurance Program at **1-800-427-4661**.



For more info regarding flood safety please visit:  
[valleywater.org/floodready](https://valleywater.org/floodready)

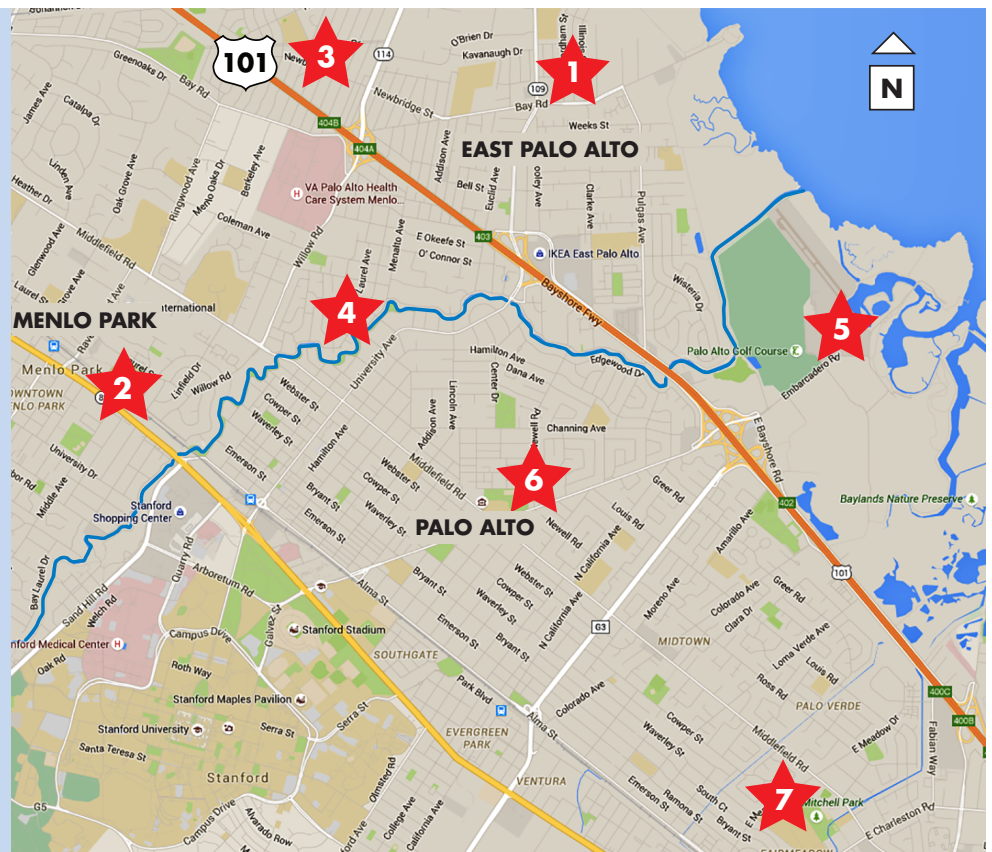




## Sandbag Stations

1. **East Palo Alto:** City maintenance yard, 150 Tara Rd.
2. **Menlo Park:** Burgess Park parking lot at Alma St. and Burgess Dr.
3. **Menlo Park:** Fire station No. 77, 1467 Chilco St.
4. **Menlo Park:** Pope St. Island, 222 Laurel Ave.
5. **Palo Alto:** Palo Alto Airport, 1925 Embarcadero Rd.
6. **Palo Alto:** Rinconada Park, Hopkins Ave at Newell Rd.
7. **Palo Alto:** Mitchell Park, 600 E. Meadow Dr.

*The above-listed locations offer filled and unfilled sandbags.*



## Important Numbers

For any emergency call **9-1-1**.

To report street flooding or blocked storm drains:

- **Menlo Park**  
650-330-6780 (weekdays, 7 a.m.-4 p.m.)  
650-330-6300 (after hours).  
[menlopark.gov/storms](http://menlopark.gov/storms).
- **Palo Alto**  
650-496-6974 (weekdays, 7 a.m.-4 p.m.)  
650-329-2413 (after hours).  
[cityofpaloalto.org/stormupdate](http://cityofpaloalto.org/stormupdate).
- **East Palo Alto**  
650-368-1421

## Working to Lower Your Rates

In addition to flood protection projects designed to remove properties from flood zones, educating local municipalities and other flood risk reduction efforts can help lower your insurance premiums through our participation in FEMA's Community Rating System (CRS). This is a voluntary incentive program that recognizes communities for taking actions that exceed federal requirements. In exchange for a community's proactive efforts, policyholders may benefit from reduced flood insurance premiums.

Contact your city to learn how your flood insurance rates are being reduced.

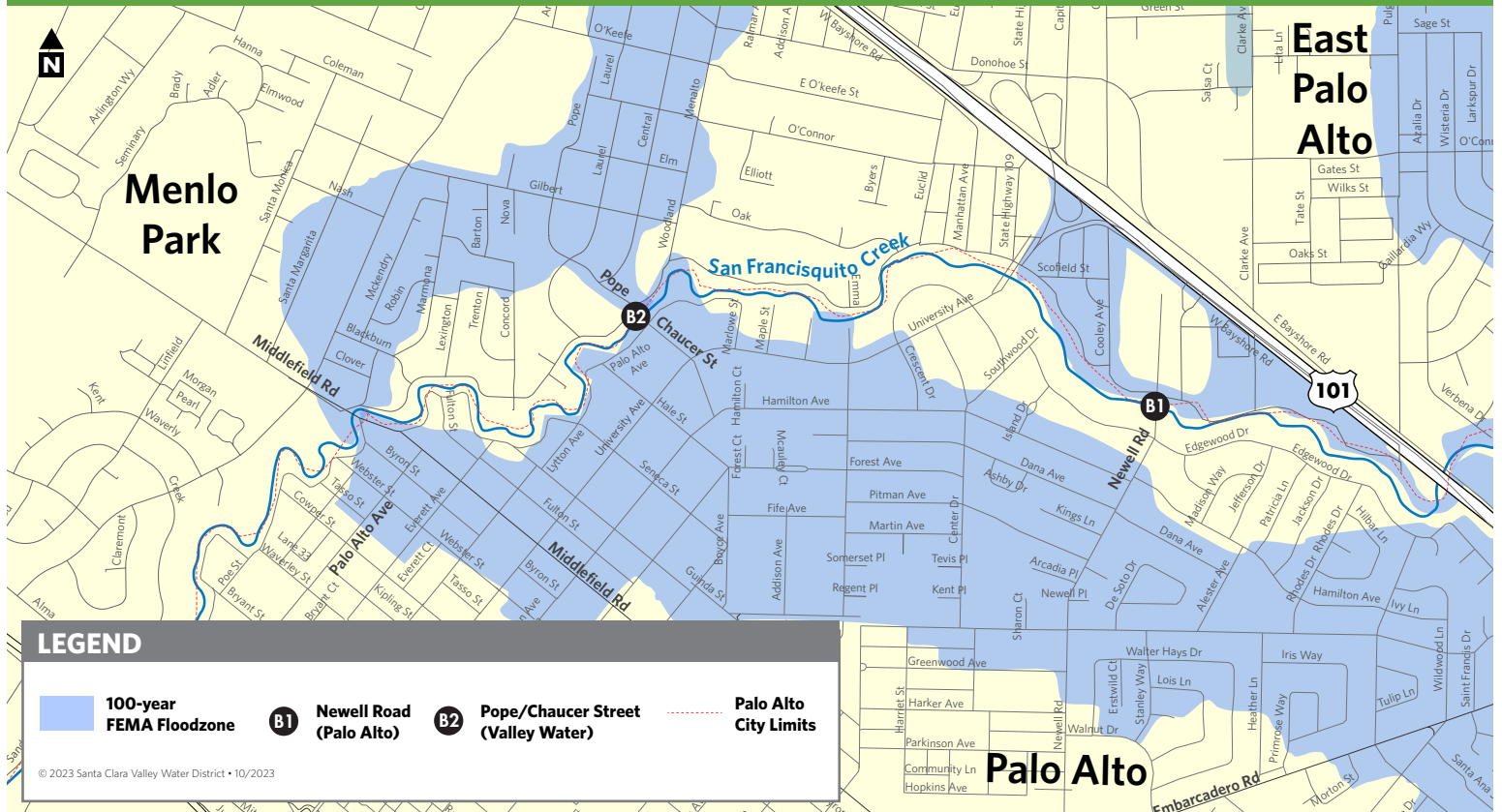
## Be Flood Ready!

Prepare and be flood aware with the following tips:

- Create an emergency plan with your household.
- Get flood insurance.
- Assemble a 3-day emergency kit.
- Know two or more evacuation routes.
- Check if your home or business is in a Special Flood Hazard Area and know your flood risk.
- Protect your property from flood threats. For locations for sand bags to protect your home, visit [valleywater.org/floodready](http://valleywater.org/floodready) or call **408-630-2650**.
- Avoid floodwaters—turn around, don't drown.
- Download disaster emergency apps. You can register for Santa Clara County's emergency alerts by downloading the free preparedness app "ReadySCC" or Red Cross Flood app on your smart phone.
- Keep creeks clean. Report blockages and illegal dumping in creeks to Valley Water watershed hotline at **408-630-2378**.



# San Francisquito Creek Flood Protection Updates



## Project Progress

Flood risk reduction improvements from U.S. Highway 101 to San Francisco Bay were completed in June 2019. They provide protection against a 1% or 100-year creek flow event during high tide.

The improvements included:

- Doubled creek capacity.
- Restored and improved more than 20 acres of tidal marsh.
- New levees and floodwalls along 1.5 miles of creek.
- New and improved access to creek side trails.

As part of this project, Caltrans replaced the U.S. Highway 101 bridge over San Francisquito Creek, which was a major constriction to creek flow, and PG&E relocated and upgraded its gas transmission pipeline and electrical transmission lines.

This project is the cornerstone of the San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority's (SFCJPA) overall plan to protect East Palo Alto, Palo Alto, and Menlo Park residents and properties from creek and bay flooding. In addition to continuing improvements upstream along the creek, we are beginning the design of the first phase of our Strategy to Advance Flood protection, Ecosystems and Recreation along the Bay (SAFER Bay) in East Palo Alto and Menlo Park.

## Upcoming Efforts

The project will protect flood prone areas of East Palo Alto, Palo Alto and Menlo Park along San Francisquito Creek upstream of U.S. Highway 101. Funding strategies including obtaining grant funding are in progress. The regulatory permits and design work are on schedule in coordination with the project's anticipated construction timeline. Project elements include replacing the Newell Road Bridge within the next two years. By the year 2026, the project work will focus on widening and stabilizing narrow channel and creek bank areas, replacing aged top bank structures and the Pope/Chaucer Bridge.

The project team is reviewing relevant details about the creek channel from last winter's storms and may adjust the designs of some project elements, if it is deemed helpful to do so.

A future project phase may include new facilities upstream, west of Interstate-280 that can detain peak storm water during events like the 1998 flood of record. If determined to be feasible and cost-effective, this phase will provide additional protection to areas downstream.