



Independent Monitoring Committee Fiscal Year 2018-2019 Annual Report Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program General Recommendations

Subject:	Comment:	Staff Response:
Grants Programs	<p>Recommendations included in the IMC letter to the Board are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Valley Water review its process of administering SCW grants with the intent of streamlining the process to the benefit of both the grantor and grantee. Report metrics from the grants administration for each grant in FY19 and FY20 on three parameters: time to sign contract, time to pay after work completion, and reporting requirements (high, medium or low). 	<p>Staff agrees and will continue to identify areas to streamline the grant administration and grant application processes. The Board Audit Committee approved a desk audit of the grants program by an external auditor in FY20. Staff will work with the external auditor to identify streamlining opportunities, collect the IMC's requested metrics, and present the desk audit results to the IMC in FY21.</p>

<p>Priority D (Restore Wildlife Habitat and Provide Open Space)</p>	<p>Recommendations included in the IMC letter to the Board is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> At the end of the sixth year (40%) of the fifteen-year SCW, Priority D has spent only 19% of its budget, specifically D1: 20%, D2: 18%, D3: 30%, D4: 19%, D5: 26%, D6: 7%, D7: 10%, D8: 6%. The IMC is concerned that these environmental projects are not getting the priority the public expected. When Clean, Safe Creeks (CSC) ended, significant funds remained in Priority D. There is a concern that SCW could also end with unspent funds and uncompleted environmental projects. The benefits of environmental projects compound yearly. The earlier these projects can be completed, the more beneficial impact to our environment. The IMC would like to see Priority D projects completed at a faster pace than in the first six years of SCW. 	<p>Staff agrees with the IMC observation that at the end of the sixth year, Priority D is only at 19%, and there are a variety of reasons for this. One of the reasons for lower spending is that some of the big-ticket projects—capital projects, have been in planning and design and yet to go into construction. Other causes include a lower level of vegetation maintenance required due to the deferment of all new plantings in FY14-FY16 in response to the drought and the Phytophthora (plant pathogen) issues; project key performance indicators (KPIs) being achieved through partnerships and ways requiring fewer funds; and the cyclic nature of the projects.</p> <p>Expenditure is expected to rise significantly in the coming years as all Priority D projects are on target and the first project—D7: Partnerships for the Conservation of Habitat Lands—was completed in FY20.</p> <p>Capital projects typically expend smaller percentage of the project budget during planning and design phase, with major share being spent during construction. Starting FY20, expenditures will begin to rise significantly as Fish Habitat and Passage Improvement (D4) and Creek Restoration and Stabilization (D6) capital projects go into construction.</p> <p>Similarly, expenditures on management of revegetation projects (D1) have begun to rise and will further increase in FYs 21 and 22 with requests for three additional staff to support the growing effort.</p> <p>Other projects do not have consistent spending year-to-year, but cycle between high and low years. For example, Project D5: Ecological Data Collection and Analysis spending depends on the schedule and size of watersheds being assessed. So far, the expenditure has been low because either the watersheds assessed were small or larger watershed assessments had already been done or partly done before Safe, Clean Water funding became available. In FY20 and the subsequent years, spending will be significantly higher with the start of the re-assessment schedule with Coyote Watershed, among the largest watersheds in the county, being the first to be reassessed.</p>
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IMC Vacancies	<p>Recommendations included in the IMC letter to the Board is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The IMC encourages Board to actively recruit new IMC members to fill vacancies. The IMC also recommends that in recruiting new members, the Board clearly explain the time commitment involved, the timeline of the review and the nature of the IMC review process. Members should commit to attend majority of full committee and sub-committee meetings. 	<p>Staff acknowledges the concern expressed by the IMC. Currently, the IMC has two vacancies; one each in District 1 and District 2. Clerk of the Board (COB) staff regularly notifies Directors of the vacancies in their districts, and the IMC vacancies are also listed on the Board committee vacancies webpage on Valley Water's website. The webpage informs interested parties how to apply to serve on the committee. Staff will continue to work with Directors on recruiting and filling the committee vacancies in a timely manner. Staff will also provide interested candidates information on roles and responsibilities of IMC members, including the time commitment. Furthermore, staff will update the webpage with similar information, as well as review and discuss the time commitment requirements during the orientation of new committee members.</p>



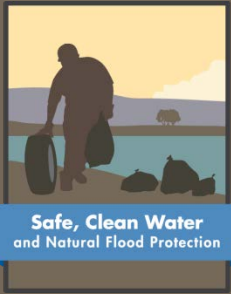
Independent Monitoring Committee

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Priority A

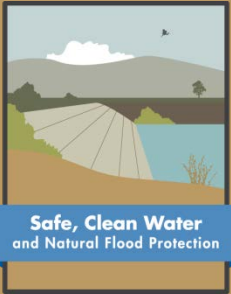
Ensure a Safe, Reliable Water Supply

Project:		Status:	Comment:	Staff Response:
A1	Main Avenue and Madrone Pipelines Restoration	Completed	IMC agrees with status. No recommendations.	No response required.
A2	Safe, Clean Water Partnerships and Grants	On Target	IMC agrees with status. Recommendation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff reach out to medical and health service providers in South County regarding the Nitrate Treatment System Rebate program. 	Staff agrees and plans to reach out to the Santa Clara County Department of Public Health (DPH) to help inform Santa Clara County's medical community of the Nitrate Treatment System Rebate Program, focusing on those that serve areas where elevated nitrate is most commonly observed.
A3	Pipeline Reliability Project	On Target	IMC agrees with status. No recommendations.	No response required.



Independent Monitoring Committee **Fiscal Year 2018-2019 Annual Report** **Priority B** **Reduce Toxins, Hazards and Contaminants in our Waterways**

Project:		Status:	Comment:	Staff Response:
B1	Impaired Water Bodies Improvement	On Target	IMC agrees with status. No recommendations.	No response required.
B2	Interagency Urban Runoff Program	On Target	IMC agrees with status. No recommendations.	No response required.
B3	Pollution Prevention Partnerships and Grants	On Target	IMC agrees with status. No recommendations.	No response required.
B4	Good Neighbor Program: Encampment Cleanup	On Target	IMC agrees with status. No recommendations.	No response required.
B5	Hazardous Materials Management and Response	On Target	IMC agrees with status. No recommendations.	No response required.
B6	Good Neighbor Program: Remove Graffiti and Litter	On Target	IMC agrees with status. No recommendations.	No response required.
B7	Support Volunteer Cleanup Efforts and Education	On Target	IMC agrees with status. No recommendations.	No response required.



**Independent Monitoring Committee
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Priority C
Protect our Water Supply from Earthquakes and Natural Disasters**

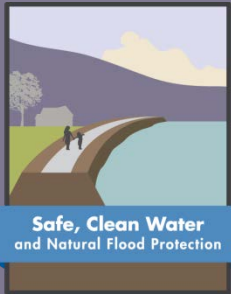
Project:		Status:	Comment:	Staff Response:
C1	Anderson Dam Seismic Retrofit	On Target	IMC agrees with status. No recommendations.	No response required.
C2	Emergency Response Upgrades	On Target	IMC agrees with status. No recommendations.	No response required.



Independent Monitoring Committee **Fiscal Year 2018-2019 Annual Report** **Priority D** **Restore Wildlife Habitat and Provide Open Space**

Project:		Status:	Comment:	Staff Response:
D1	Management of Revegetation Projects	On Target	IMC agrees with status. No recommendations.	No response required.
D2	Revitalize Stream, Upland and Wetland Habitat	On Target	IMC agrees with status. No recommendations.	No response required.
D3	Grants and Partnerships to Restore Wildlife Habitat and Provide Access to Trails	On Target	IMC agrees with status. No recommendations.	No response required.
D4	Fish Habitat and Passage Improvement	Adjusted	IMC agrees with status. No recommendations.	No response required.
D5	Ecological Data Collection and Analysis	On Target	IMC agrees with status. No recommendations.	No response required.
D6	Creek Restoration and Stabilization	Adjusted	IMC agrees with status. No recommendations.	No response required.
D7	Partnerships for the Conservation of Habitat Lands	On Target	IMC agrees with status. No recommendations.	No response required.

D8	South Bay Salt Ponds Restoration Partnership	On Target	IMC agrees with status. No recommendations.	No response required.
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**Independent Monitoring Committee
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Priority E
Provide Flood Protection to Homes, Businesses, Schools and Highways**

Project:		Status:	Comment:	Staff Response:
E1	Vegetation Control and Sediment Removal for Flood Protection	On Target	IMC agrees with status. No recommendations.	No response required.
E2	Emergency Response Planning	On Target	IMC agrees with status. No recommendations.	No response required.
E3	Flood Risk Reduction Studies	On Target	IMC agrees with status. No recommendations.	No response required.
E4	Upper Penitencia Creek Flood Protection Coyote Creek to Dorel Drive – San José	On Target	IMC agrees with status. No recommendations.	No response required.
E5	San Francisquito Creek Flood Protection San Francisco Bay to Middlefield Road – Palo Alto	Adjusted	IMC agrees with status. No recommendations.	No response required.

E6	Upper Llagas Creek Flood Protection Buena Vista Avenue to Wright Avenue – Morgan Hill, San Martin, Gilroy	Adjusted	IMC agrees with status. No recommendations.	No response required.
Project:		Status:	Comment:	Staff Response:
E7	San Francisco Bay Shoreline Protection Milpitas, Mountain View, Palo Alto, San José, Santa Clara and Sunnyvale	On Target	IMC agrees with status. No recommendations.	No response required.
E8	Upper Guadalupe River Flood Protection Highway 280 to Blossom Hill Road – San José	On Target	IMC agrees with status. No recommendations.	No response required.



Independent Monitoring Committee Fiscal Year 2018-2019 Annual Report Other Capital Flood Protection Projects and Clean, Safe Creeks Grants Projects

Project:	Status:	Comment:	Staff Response:
Permanente Creek Flood Protection San Francisco Bay to Foothill Expressway – Mountain View	Adjusted	IMC agrees with status. No recommendations.	No response required.
Sunnyvale East and Sunnyvale West Channel Flood Protection San Francisco Bay to Inverness Way and Almanor Avenue – Sunnyvale	Adjusted	IMC agrees with status. No recommendations.	No response required.
Berryessa Creek Flood Protection Calaveras Boulevard to Interstate 680 – Milpitas and San José	Completed	IMC agrees with status. Recommendation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Add an asterisk to status of “Completed” with the explanation that there may be outstanding financial obligations for mitigation. 	Staff agrees and will add an asterisk to the status of “Completed” with the explanation that there may be outstanding financial obligations for mitigation.
Coyote Creek Flood Protection Montague Expressway to Tully Road – San José	On Target	IMC agrees with status. No recommendations.	No response required.
Calabazas Creek Flood Protection Miller Avenue to Wardell Road	Completed	IMC agrees with status. No recommendations.	No response required.

Clean, Safe Creeks Grants Projects	Adjusted	IMC agrees with status. No recommendations.	No response required.
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