

Much of Santa Clara County is dependent on the ability of local streams to keep floodwaters away from homes, businesses and transportation routes. Many of those streams rely on levees to hold back floodwaters.

The Santa Clara Valley Water District maintains a Stream Maintenance Program to protect and manage more than 800 miles of streams in the county. A key part of the program is a levee-safety program for approximately 100 miles of levees along local streams.

The efforts are part of the Clean, Safe Creeks and Natural Flood Protection Plan. Approved by county voters in 2000, the measure created a 15-year program funded by a modest parcel tax to provide more flood protection along miles of creeks and to care for those improvements through an aggressive maintenance program.

What we do for levees

Levee inspection

Inspections look for many things that can affect levee integrity, including overgrown vegetation, burrowing rodents and/or erosion. When an inspection finds a problem, appropriate preventative measures are taken to ensure the safety of the levee, as well as nearby people and properties. Adequate levee maintenance also ensures our ability to access and service streams during an emergency, such as a flood event.

Vegetation management

Vegetation growth, if abundant, can restrict channel capacity, particularly at constricted locations such as bridge overpasses, culverts and other river crossings. Thick vegetation on a levee slope makes it difficult to detect rodent burrows. Root systems from vegetation can also damage the system's integrity.



Repair of levee due to erosion along Calabazas Creek (2006).

Burrowing animals

Burrowing animals can create an extensive and interconnected maze of burrows in a levee and its foundation. These holes can weaken the levee and contribute to levee failure by increasing the potential for "piping," or water running through the burrow passage. Piping weakens the soil and enlarges passageways. This, in turn, weakens the structure of the levee, sometimes to the point of collapse.

Erosion repair

Erosion and scour are probably the leading cause of levee failures during flood events. Erosion or scouring commonly occurs along non-protected levee and bank slopes.

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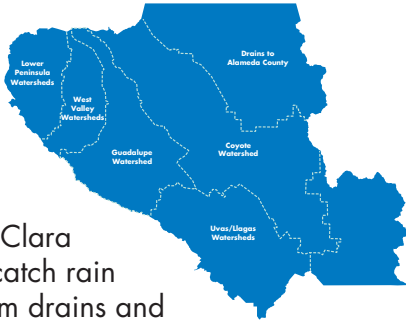
What we do

The Santa Clara Valley Water District manages water resources and provides stewardship for the county's five watersheds, including 10 reservoirs, hundreds of miles of streams and groundwater basins. The water district also provides flood protection throughout Santa Clara County.

Visit our website, www.valleywater.org.

You're in a watershed

No matter where you are, you're in a watershed. A watershed is the area of land that drains a common waterway. In Santa Clara County, our creeks catch rain and runoff from storm drains and carry the water north to San Francisco Bay or south to Monterey Bay. Along the way, some of the water is used to fill reservoirs for drinking water, replenish the underground aquifer and create better habitat for fish and wildlife.



Translations

此份聖塔克拉谷水利局 (Santa Clara Valley Water District) 的通知是要讓你知道，水利局已安排在您附近地區進行一項施工工程。要了解工程的詳細情形，請致電 (408) 265-2607 轉分機 2631。

Thông báo này của Nha Cấp Nước Santa Clara Valley (Santa Clara Valley Water District) về dự án xây dựng được dự trữ tiến hành trong khu xóm của quý vị. Muốn biết thêm chi tiết về dự án này, xin gọi (408) 265-2607, số chuyển tiếp (ext) 2488.

Ang paunawang ito ay mula sa Santa Clara Valley Water District upang ipagbigay-alam sa inyo ang proyektong nakatakdang gawin sa inyong lugar. Para sa karagdagang impormasyon tungkol sa proyektong ito, mangyaring tumawag sa (408) 265-2607 extension 3714.

Este aviso del Distrito de Aguas del Valle de Santa Clara (Santa Clara Valley Water District) es para informarle sobre un proyecto de construcción que está programado en su zona. Si desea más información sobre este proyecto, por favor llame al (408) 265-2607, extensión 2297.

Pollution hotline

To report illegal dumping of hazardous materials in, or around reservoirs and creeks, please call **1-888-510-5151**.

Contact us

For more information, contact the **Watershed Hotline** at **(408) 265-2607, ext. 2378**, or visit our website at www.valleywater.org and use our **Access Valley Water** customer request and information system. With three easy steps, you can use this service to find out the latest information on the project or to submit questions, complaints or compliments directly to a district staff person.

