

Notice of Intent to Adopt a
Mitigated Negative Declaration



In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (California Public Resources Code Sections 21000 et seq.) and CEQA Guidelines (Title 14, California Code of Regulations, Sections 15000 et seq.), an Initial Study of the Palo Alto Flood Basin Tide Gate Structure Replacement Project on Project was prepared to evaluate environmental impacts. Based on the Initial Study, it has been determined that a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) is the appropriate level of review. This is a Notice of Intent to adopt an MND for this project in accordance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15072.

Project Title: Palo Alto Flood Basin Tide Gate Structure Replacement Project

Project Description: Santa Clara Valley Water District (Valley Water) is proposing to replace the existing Palo Alto Flood Basin tide gate structure in order to maintain flood protection in the communities surrounding the flood basin and along the U.S. Highway 101 corridor. The Project would involve construction of a new 132-foot-wide tide gate structure slightly inboard (upstream) and southeast of the existing 113-foot-wide deteriorating tide gate structure, removal of the existing tide gate structure and levee, and construction of a new levee that ties into the new tide gate structure. Construction of the Project would occur in two phases with separate dewatering systems to allow continued operation of a tide gate throughout construction. Specific project elements include up to 2.3 miles of levee trail resurfacing (for access); installation of two sheet pile dewatering systems; construction of the new tide gate structure on a concrete foundation supported by drilled piles; demolition and removal of the existing tide gate structure and levee; and construction of a new levee connecting to the new tide gate structure. Construction would span up to 5 years but would be limited to September 1 through January 31 annually to avoid and minimize impacts on biological resources.

Project Location: The project is located in Santa Clara County in the northwest corner of the Palo Alto Flood Basin in the City of Palo Alto.

Public Review: The Draft MND is available online at: <https://www.valleywater.org/pafbtidegates>. Due to the current shelter in place order, hard copies of the Draft MND will not be available for public review. The public comment period on the Draft MND closes at 5 p.m. on October 15, 2020.

Contact: Comments on the Draft MND should be submitted via mail or electronically, by **5 p.m. on October 15, 2020** to:

Santa Clara Valley Water District
Attention: Alex Hunt
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San Jose, CA 95118
ahunt@valleywater.org

For further information, please contact **Alex Hunt** at **408-630-3007**, or by email at **ahunt@valleywater.org**.