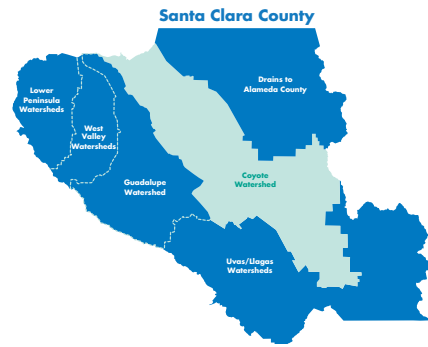


You're in a watershed

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.



This project is in the **Coyote Watershed**. Sixteen major creeks drain this 322-square-mile area. The county's largest watershed extends from the urbanized valley floor upward to the vast natural areas of the Diablo range. Coyote Creek, its main waterway, is the longest creek in the county.

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To sign-up for our monthly e-newsletter, go to www.valleywater.org/Newsletter/SignUp.aspx or drop an email to info@valleywater.org.



On the cover:

1. Flooding on Old Piedmont Road from Berryessa Creek, January 1983.
2. Berryessa Creek, Los Coches Street to Yosemite Drive
3. Dragon Fly (order Odonata)
Photograph by Janell Hillman.
4. California Buckeye (Aesculus Californica)
Photograph by Janell Hillman.
5. Scrub Jay (Aphelocoma Coerulescens).
Photograph by Don DeBold.
6. Lower Penitencia Creek Trail downstream of Capital Avenue.

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Santa Clara Valley Water District

5750 Almaden Expwy
San Jose, CA 95118
www.valleywater.org



US Army Corps of Engineers®

Clean, Safe Creeks

Santa Clara Valley Water District



inside: **Upper Berryessa Creek** flood protection project

Natural Flood Protection

Santa Clara Valley Water District is the primary flood protection agency in Santa Clara County. During the past 30 years, the water district has removed more than 100,00 properties from flood-prone areas, but another 69,000 still remain vulnerable to flooding.



Clean, Safe Water in Creeks and Bays

Improving the quality of water in the county's creeks and bays is vital to Santa Clara County's quality of life. Over the past ten years, the water district has removed more than 100,000 cubic yards of trash and debris from neighborhood creeks.



Healthy Creek and Bay Ecosystems

The health of a creek reflects the conditions throughout a watershed, not just those along its banks. Since 2001, the water district has created or restored nearly 300 acres of tidal wetlands in South San Francisco Bay and nearly 60 acres of riparian habitat throughout Santa Clara County.



Trails, Parks and Open Space

The water district works with cities and the county to provide open space and recreational opportunities. More than 50 new miles of creekside trails have been constructed in the past five years and an additional 35 miles are planned.



CONTACT US

For more information about this project, contact **Christopher Hakes** at (408) 630-3796 or visit our website at 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 district projects or to submit questions, complaints or compliments directly to a district staff person.

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Upper Berryessa Creek flood protection project



The Berryessa Creek Flood Protection Project extends 2.2 miles from Calaveras Boulevard to Interstate 680.

Protecting people and properties

Upper Berryessa Creek has a history of flooding, having experienced major events within the project area in 1982, 1983, and 1998. In 1982, the bank overflowed south of Calaveras Boulevard. In 1983, flooding occurred at Montague Expressway, at the confluences with Piedmont and Los Coches creeks, and again along Calaveras Boulevard. In 1998 the creek overflowed at the confluence with Piedmont Creek. The 1983 flood was the largest on record since the records began in 1970. To date, the creek has a 25 percent chance of flooding each year.

Flooding can result in millions of dollars in damage to homes, businesses, schools, and other infrastructure. Disruption to businesses and transportation networks such as the upcoming

BART station at Montague Expressway will result in significant loss of productivity and revenue. One of the project's goals is to avoid utility and transportation shutdowns and prevent potential damages from a 100-year flood exceeding \$528 million (2011 value) per event.

Each winter, thousands of households, schools and businesses in Milpitas and San Jose are susceptible to flooding from Upper Berryessa Creek during a major storm event. The Santa Clara Valley Water District and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) has initiated design of a flood protection project along 2.2 miles of the creek from Calaveras Boulevard to Interstate 680.

By the numbers

The Clean, Safe Creeks plan provides \$75 million to design and construct a project to:

- Provide flood protection in the cities of Milpitas and San Jose from Interstate 680 to Calaveras Boulevard and for more than 30 miles of streets including Highway 237 and Montague Expressway
- Protect 650 parcels from a 100-year flood event
- Provide long-term benefits to stream ecology and environmental habitat
- Minimize project impacts to the environment
- Identify environmental enhancement opportunities
- Reduce erosion, sedimentation, maintenance requirements, and improve water quality
- Provide increased opportunities for recreation
- Prevent potential damages in excess of \$528 million (2011 value) from a 100-year flood event

Looking ahead

The Upper Berryessa Creek flood protection project offers a tremendous opportunity for a multi-purpose project to increase flood protection, create recreational opportunities and improve the environment. The water district will continue to work with the community and cities to provide critical flood protection needs for Milpitas and San Jose.

Your Clean, Safe Creeks vote at work

The project is funded by the countywide Clean, Safe Creeks and Natural Flood Protection parcel tax passed by voters in November 2000. The 15-year plan makes it possible to protect homes, schools and businesses from flooding, while improving the health of creek and bay ecosystems and creating trails and parks for recreational enjoyment.

An independent monitoring committee reviews the water district progress on accomplishing the plan. The annual report is available at www.valleywater.org.



Plans include replacement of the Union Pacific Railroad Bridge that currently restricts water flows during high storm events.



Erosion has been an ongoing issue along Berryessa Creek. The water district and the Corps will address this problem and provide a 100-year level of protection.

Project schedule

