

Neighborhood Work | 2015 Lower Penitencia Creek Sediment Removal Project



Safe, Clean Water Priority E:
Provide flood protection to homes, businesses, schools and highways

About the project

The Santa Clara Valley Water District will work in your neighborhood to remove sediment from Lower Penitencia Creek between Highway 880 to the confluence with Berryessa Creek located south of Milmont Drive.

Work is planned for early September and will take approximately 45 days to complete.* Project work hours are 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. In the unlikely event of delays, work hours may include Saturdays.

A 10-person crew will work at the project site using excavators, bulldozers, generators and water and dump trucks. Expect typical construction noise during work hours. A generator, designed to operate more quietly, will continuously pump water around the project site and back into the creek farther north.

Trucks and crews will access the creek at California Circle and Milmont Drive. Expect no road closures, but traffic control or flaggers may be needed at times during work for safety. No trail closures are expected, however, some access points may be restricted during construction activities.

Part of the voter-approved Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Plan, this project will remove an estimated 23,000 cubic yards of sediment, enough to fill more than 2,800 dump trucks.

Why remove sediment?

Water flowing in a creek or river picks up and carries fine grains of soil, rock or mineral called sediment. When the flowing water slows down or reaches a wide or flat area, the sediment "drops out" and deposits into the stream bed. This can clog the creek, reducing the amount of water it can transport. Sediment fills the underwater spaces around rocks, fallen tree trunks and branches, eliminating places where fish and other species seek food and shelter.



Above: Purple line indicates project area. Right: The water district will remove sediment along Lower Penitencia Creek in Milpitas to improve the creek's capacity to carry floodwaters.



4 ways to report water waste

- Call (408) 630-2000
- Email drought@valleywater.org
- Download our Access Valley Water App
- Use Access Valley Water at valleywater.org

continued on back »

* Project start dates and duration may vary due to site conditions and equipment availability.

More about us

As the county's primary drinking water provider, the Santa Clara Valley Water District ensures the safety and abundance of drinking water. We operate 10 reservoirs which catch local rainfall and we import water from the Sierra Nevada snowmelt through the Delta. Some of that water replenishes the underground aquifer for later pumping from wells and some goes to one of our three drinking water treatment plants. Once we treat and test the water to meet all state and federal drinking water standards, we sell it to local water providers like the San Jose Water Company that resell it to individual homes and businesses. The water supply in some areas in northern Santa Clara County includes Sierra Nevada water imported through San Francisco's Hetch Hetchy system.

The water district also has a major role in the stewardship of local water resources. We care for hundreds of miles of streams by removing invasive vegetation, repairing creek bank erosion, planting native vegetation and removing sediment that can impact the creek's ability to carry floodwaters during rainy months. We also have many programs to reduce pollution and contamination in these waterways. Where the flood threat is significant, we undertake large construction projects such as building levees or replacing undersized bridges. Often, the water district can partner with a city or the county to open a trail or park alongside the creek, providing a recreational amenity for all to enjoy.

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.

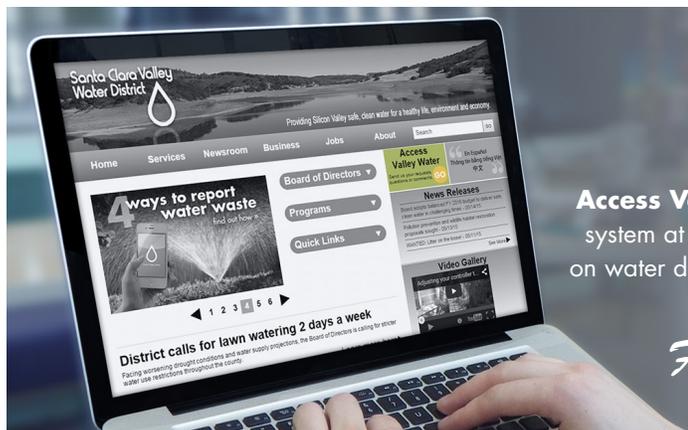
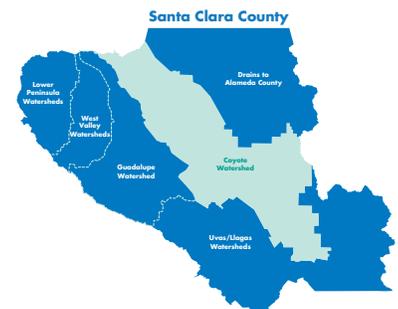
Your Safe, Clean Water Measure at work

This project is funded by the voter-approved Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection parcel tax passed in November 2012.

The 15-year plan's five priorities are to:

- Ensure a safe, reliable water supply for the future
- Reduce toxins, hazards and contaminants, such as mercury and pharmaceuticals, in our waterways
- Protect our water supply and local dams from the impacts of earthquakes and natural disasters
- Restore fish, bird and wildlife habitat and provide open space access
- Provide flood protection to homes, businesses, schools, streets and highways

Detailed information on the Safe, Clean Water Program, including projects and program descriptions, finances, implementation plans, and provisions for external oversight can be found at www.valleywater.org/SafeCleanWater.aspx.



CONTACT US

For more information, contact **Theo Hipol** at **(408) 630-2494** or by email at **thipol@valleywater.org**. Or use our **Access Valley Water** customer request and information system at valleywater.org to find out the latest information on water district projects or to submit questions, complaints or compliments directly to a district staff person.



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