

District Overview

The Santa Clara Valley Water District is the largest multi-purpose water supply, watershed stewardship and flood management special district in California. The District serves nearly two million people in Santa Clara County by providing a reliable and safe supply of water; enhancing streams and watersheds through creek restoration and habitat protection; providing flood protection for homes, schools and businesses; and partnering with other agencies to provide trails, parks and open space for community recreation.

The water district's unique multi-purposes enable it to use a comprehensive regional approach to water resources management and environmental protection that would not be possible if these services were fragmented among several agencies.

As the primary water resources agency for Santa Clara County, the water district encompasses all of the county's 1,300 square miles and serves the area's 15 cities: Campbell, Cupertino, Gilroy, Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, Los Gatos, Milpitas, Monte Sereno, Morgan Hill, Mountain View, Palo Alto, San Jose, Santa Clara, Saratoga and Sunnyvale. The District also serves the unincorporated areas of the county.

Collaboration with the community we serve is not only a key value but has proven to result in more successful outcomes. By seeking public input, the District is respecting the fact that our operations and projects have a direct impact on people's lives.

Community action created the District, when farmers and business representatives formed the Santa Clara Valley Water Conservation Committee in the 1920s. At that time, groundwater supplies were being over

pumped, causing the land to subside, or sink. The committee pursued creation of an organization to manage and replenish groundwater supplies, and the resulting Santa Clara Valley Water Conservation District later constructed reservoirs throughout the county to conserve water. The 1929 Santa Clara Valley Water District Act gives the District its authority to operate as a state special district, with jurisdiction throughout Santa Clara County.



The District Act authorizes the District to: "...provide comprehensive water management for all beneficial uses and protection from flooding within Santa Clara County. The District may take action to carry out all of the following purposes:

(a) to protect Santa Clara County from flood and storm waters of the district, including tidal flood waters and the flood and storm waters of streams that have their sources outside the district, but flow into the district;

(b) to protect from those flood or storm waters the public highways, life and property in the district, and the watercourses and watersheds of streams flowing within the district;

(c) to provide for the conservation and management of flood, storm, reclaimed, or recycled waters, or other waters from any sources within or outside the watershed in which the district is located for beneficial and useful purposes, including spreading, storing, retaining, and causing the waters to percolate into the soil within the district;

(d) to protect, save, store, recycle, distribute, transfer, exchange, manage, and conserve in any manner any of the waters;

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(e) to increase, and prevent the waste or diminution of, the water supply in the district;

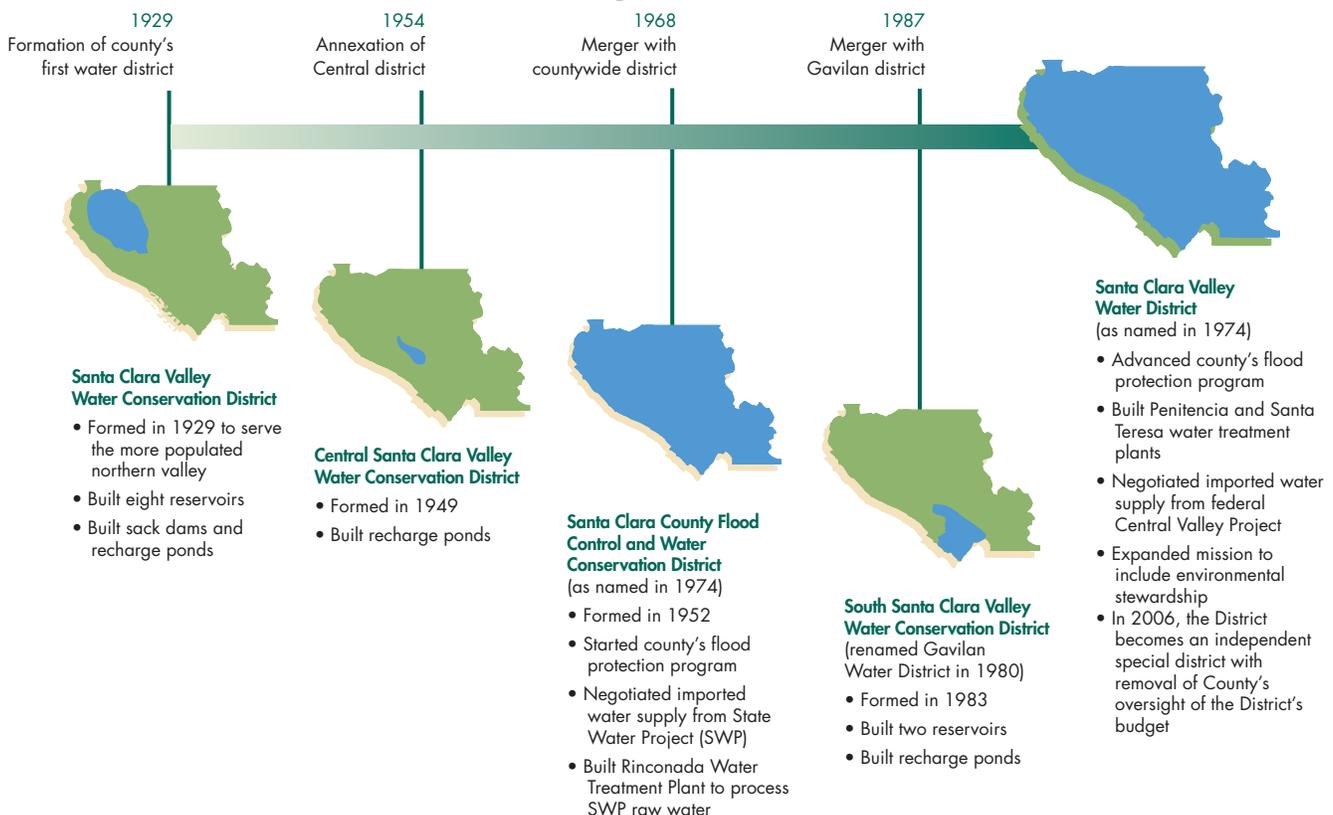
(f) to obtain, retain, reclaim, protect, and recycle drainage, storm, flood waters or treated wastewaters, or other waters from any sources, within or outside the watershed in which the district is located for any beneficial uses within the district;

(g) and to enhance, protect, and restore streams, riparian corridors, and natural resources in connection with carrying out the objects and purposes set forth in this section.”

Governance and Board of Directors

The District Act outlines the structure, function and operations of the District’s Board of Directors, which governs the District and directs the Board Appointed Officers. The Santa Clara Valley Water District Board of Directors is comprised of seven members each elected from equally-divided districts drawn through a formal process. The purpose of the Board, on behalf of Santa Clara County, is to provide Silicon Valley safe, clean water for a healthy life, environment and economy. The directors serve overlapping four-year terms, a structure created pursuant to the adoption of the District Act. Elections are held in November of even number years.

Evolution of the Santa Clara Valley Water District



Today's Santa Clara Valley Water District is the result of the consolidation of four agencies over time, as shown above. The water district's products and services have grown along with its increased levels of responsibility for critical water resource and environmental management functions.

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The Board elects a new chair and vice-chair annually in January.

The Board sets direction for the District through its policy governance structure. Through adopted policies, the Board determines the District's mission and goals and outcomes to be achieved for the good of the public. Specifically, the Board's Ends policies are the outcomes expected to be achieved by the organization for its customers. These include ensuring a safe, reliable source of water; flood protection; and environmental stewardship. The CEO dedicates resources to

implement programs and projects that achieve the Board's Ends policies.

In meeting the Board's Ends policies, the CEO and other Board Appointed Officers (BAOs) are solely accountable to the Board for organizational performance, which is monitored quarterly. The Board annually reviews and updates Ends and Executive Limitations policies to ensure they reflect the Board's collective values and perspectives. The Board's Policies can be viewed at <http://www.valleywater.org/About/BoardPolicies.aspx>

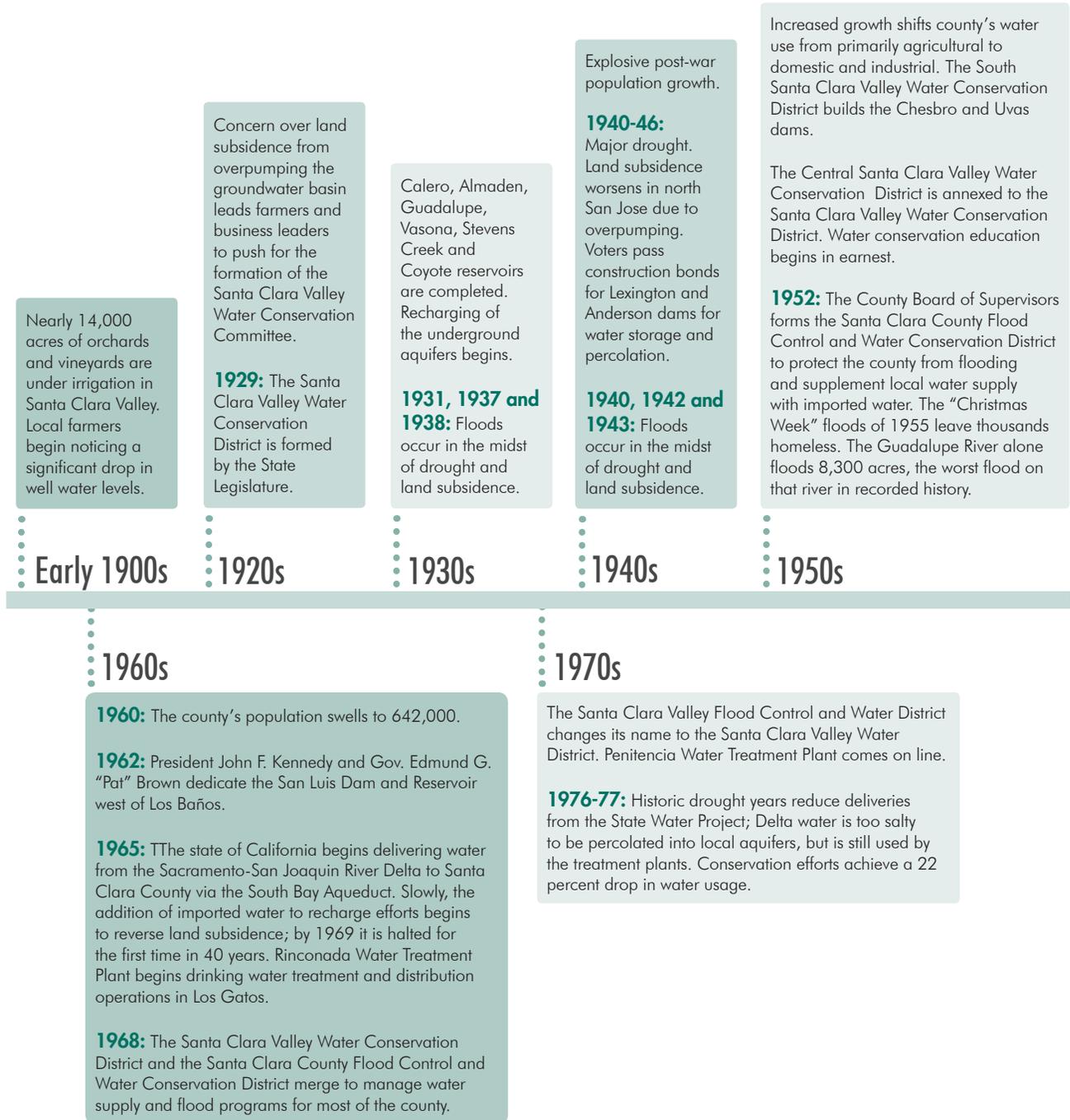
Board directorial districts



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History Timeline

For 80 years, the water district has improved and expanded its products and services to meet the growing needs of Santa Clara County residents



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Environmental mitigation for project impacts becomes a normal part of every construction project. Underground storage tanks are discovered leaking and potentially contaminating drinking water. The Santa Teresa Water Treatment Plant begins operation. Severe flooding occurs; voters approve funding for much-needed flood protection projects through benefit assessments.

1980: The South Santa Clara Valley Water Conservation District is renamed the Gavilan Water District.

1987: South county voters approve annexing Gavilan Water District to the Santa Clara Valley Water District. The federal Central Valley Project, San Felipe Division, begins delivery of imported water to the county from San Luis Reservoir just as the valley enters a seven-year drought period.

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1980s

The county's population nears 1.7 million. The 1987-93 drought drives the District to seek new sources of water through recycling, water banking and aggressive water conservation.

1995: Flooding in the county highlights the need for flood protection, especially on the Guadalupe River in downtown San Jose.

1997: The District completes the IWRP long-term water supply planning process and initiates the Water Treatment Improvement Project (WTIP) to address increasingly stringent state and federal water quality standards.

1998: Flooding occurs on San Francisquito Creek and in the county. Changing community priorities, a growing commitment to staff diversity, strict state and federal regulations and an evolving environmental ethic lead the District into the 21st Century.

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1990s

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2000-16

The District takes a lead role in the fight against MTBE water contamination, addresses perchlorate contamination of more than 1000 South County well and partners with local wastewater agencies to increase recycling. The first phase of the WTIP is completed and the second phase launched.

2000: County voters endorse the Clean, Safe Creeks and Natural Flood Protection Plan (Measure B) and approve a special tax to ensure continuity of flood protection and stream stewardship services for 15 more years.

2005: The 15-year, \$346 million Downtown Guadalupe Flood Protection Project is completed, protecting an estimated 95,000 people from flooding and restoring critical endangered species habitat.

2006: Santa Teresa Water Treatment Plant delivers the District's first ozonated water, providing customers better-tasting, more healthful tap water.

2007: Assembly Bill 2435 passes, ending county oversight of the District's budget and other procedural holdovers from the 1968 merger. Penitencia Water Treatment Plant begins delivering ozonated water to customers.

2009: District Board calls for 15% mandatory conservation in response to continuing water shortage; recession drives significant District budget reductions.

2010: District Board continues call for 15% mandatory conservation. District implements protest procedure in accordance with proposition 218. New Board directorial boundaries are drawn. Directorial boundaries changed from five to seven.

2012: County voters endorse the Safe, Clean Water (Measure B) and approve a special tax to ensure continuity of flood protection, dam maintenance and stream stewardship services for 15 more years.

2014: The Silicon Valley Advanced Water Purification Center is completed, producing 8 million gallons a day of purified recycled water to enhance the quality of recycled "purple pipe" water used for non-potable purposes and demonstrating technologies that can be used to purify water to augment drinking water supplies.

2015 and 2016: : With the continuing severe drought, the District's imported water allocations are at record lows. For the first time, the Board called for mandatory water use reductions of 30% in 2015 and continues the target throughout 2016.

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Board Advisory Committees

Per the District Act, the Board may create Advisory Committees to serve at the pleasure of the Board. Accordingly, the Board has three Advisory Committees to prepare policy alternatives and to comment on the implementation of the District's mission.

The Advisory Committees, serving the Board on the following issues, are:

- **Agricultural Water:** agricultural water supply and use as well as groundwater production charges
- **Environmental and Water Resources:** water supply, flood protection, and environmental stewardship.
- **Santa Clara Valley Water Commission:** water supply, flood protection, and environmental stewardship.

For more information regarding the Board's Advisory Committees, please visit: <http://www.valleywater.org>About/BoardCommittees.aspx>

Meeting our Safe, Clean Water commitments

In 2012, Santa Clara County voters approved the Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection (Safe, Clean Water) special parcel tax to fund projects addressing the following community priorities:

- Ensuring safe reliable water for the future;
- Reducing toxins, hazards and contaminants in our waterways;
- Protecting water supply and local dams from the impacts of earthquakes and natural disasters;
- Restoring fish, bird, and wildlife habitat; and
- Providing flood protection to homes, businesses, schools, streets and highways.

Water Safe, Clean Water builds on the success of the Clean, Safe Creeks and Natural Flood Protection (Clean, Safe Creeks) plan approved by the voters in 2000. Safe, Clean Water replaces the Clean, Safe Creeks measure in its entirety beginning July 1, 2013. The program is funded by a combination of revenues from the continuation of an annual special tax, reserves from unspent funds of the Clean, Safe Creeks plan, and state and federal funding. The program includes a debt financing component that will help fund capital projects earlier in the program. Program funds will be used to meet remaining Clean, Safe Creeks plan commitments and to fulfill the community projects listed above.

Independent Monitoring Committee

To ensure accountability to the voters, the ballot measure also created an Independent Monitoring Committee, appointed by the Santa Clara Valley Water District Board of Directors. The Independent Monitoring Committee annually reviews the implementation of the intended results of the program and reports its findings to the Board, which makes the Committee report available to the residents and voters of Santa Clara County.

For a detailed description of the committee's charge and processes please follow the link below: <http://www.valleywater.org/SCWIMC.aspx>

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Water Retailers Committee

The Water Retailers Committee is a staff-level committee that facilitates communication between the District and retail water agencies in the county. Retailers Committee members are comprised of water retailer agency staff who select a committee chair. Subcommittees on water supply and quality, finance, water conservation and emergency preparedness, to name a few, provide

more in-depth information and discussion forums for the committee. Through these efforts, the District is able to stay attuned to the retailers' needs and coordinate joint efforts.

For information regarding the Water Retailers, please visit: <http://www.valleywater.org/EkContent.aspx?id=182&terms=water+retailers>

ISO Certified Quality and Environmental Management System

The certification of the Santa Clara Valley Water District's operations to the internationally-recognized International Organization for Standardization, or ISO, demonstrates our commitment to continual improvement, customer satisfaction, delivery of quality programs and services to the community, and operating in an environmentally responsible manner.

ISO is the world's largest developer of voluntary international standards, which are state of the art specifications for products, services, and good practices, helping make industry more efficient and effective.

The water district has an extensive history of ISO commitment and experience, having first been registered to ISO 9001 in 2002 for quality management systems and to ISO 14001 in 2004 for environmental management systems.

Our integrated quality and environmental management system is currently certified to ISO 9001:2008 standards for quality products and services and to ISO 14001:2004 standards for environmental protection through pollution prevention.

ISO certification validates that our processes continue to be effectively implemented by our employees to improve efficiency, reduce waste, and produce consistent results for our customers.

We believe that maintaining ISO certification is important because it reinforces our focus on quality, customer satisfaction, and continual improvement; a reflection of Silicon Valley's culture of innovation and excellent customer experience.

Note: The ISO standard clause numbers for both Quality and Environmental Management Systems are cross-referenced in italics.

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Major water utility zones of benefit in Santa Clara County



As part of the District's core water supply function, two major water utility zones form the basis for establishing District water charges. Zone W-2 encompasses the Santa Clara Valley groundwater basin north of Metcalf Road. It includes those groundwater producing facilities that benefit from recharge with local and imported water. Zone W-5 comprises the entire Llagas groundwater basin from Metcalf Road south to the Pajaro River. Water charges are set separately for each zone, reflecting District activities carried out in each.

Watershed areas and flood control zones of Santa Clara County



More than 800 miles of creeks flow through Santa Clara County. The District works to protect both the natural attributes of these waterways and the communities that surround them as part of its watershed stewardship core function. Fifty-one years of working for flood protection has reduced the intensity and frequency of flooding in Santa Clara County.