

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 or may be requested using the contact information below.

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.

Santa Clara Valley Water District

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



You're in a watershed

No matter where you are, you're in a watershed.

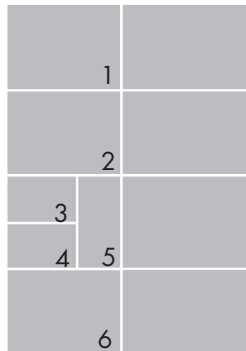
A watershed is the area of land that drains a common waterway. In Santa Clara County, our creeks catch rain and runoff from storm drains and carry the water north to San Francisco Bay or south to Monterey Bay. Along the way, some of the water is used to fill reservoirs for drinking water, replenish the underground aquifer and create better habitat for fish and wildlife.



This project is in the **West Valley Watershed**, an 85-square-mile area of multiple small-creek watersheds.

On the cover:

1. Flooding along Calabazas Creek at Bollinger Road, Feb. 7, 1998.
2. Calabazas Creek, north of Rainbow Drive.
3. Killdeer (*Charadrius vociferus*).
4. Pacific tree frog (*Hyla regilla*).
5. Common burreed (*Sparganium eurycarpum*), a native wetland plant from Guadalupe River.
6. San Tomas Creek Trail.



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Clean, Safe Creeks

Santa Clara Valley Water District



inside: **Calabazas 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 93,000 properties from flood-prone areas, but another 73,000 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 five years, the water district has removed more than 30,000 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. In the past five years, the water district has created nearly 300 acres of tidal wetlands in South San Francisco Bay and plans to create another 250 acres of wetlands. In addition, it has removed nearly 60 acres of invasive plant species along local waterways.



Trails, Parks and Open Space

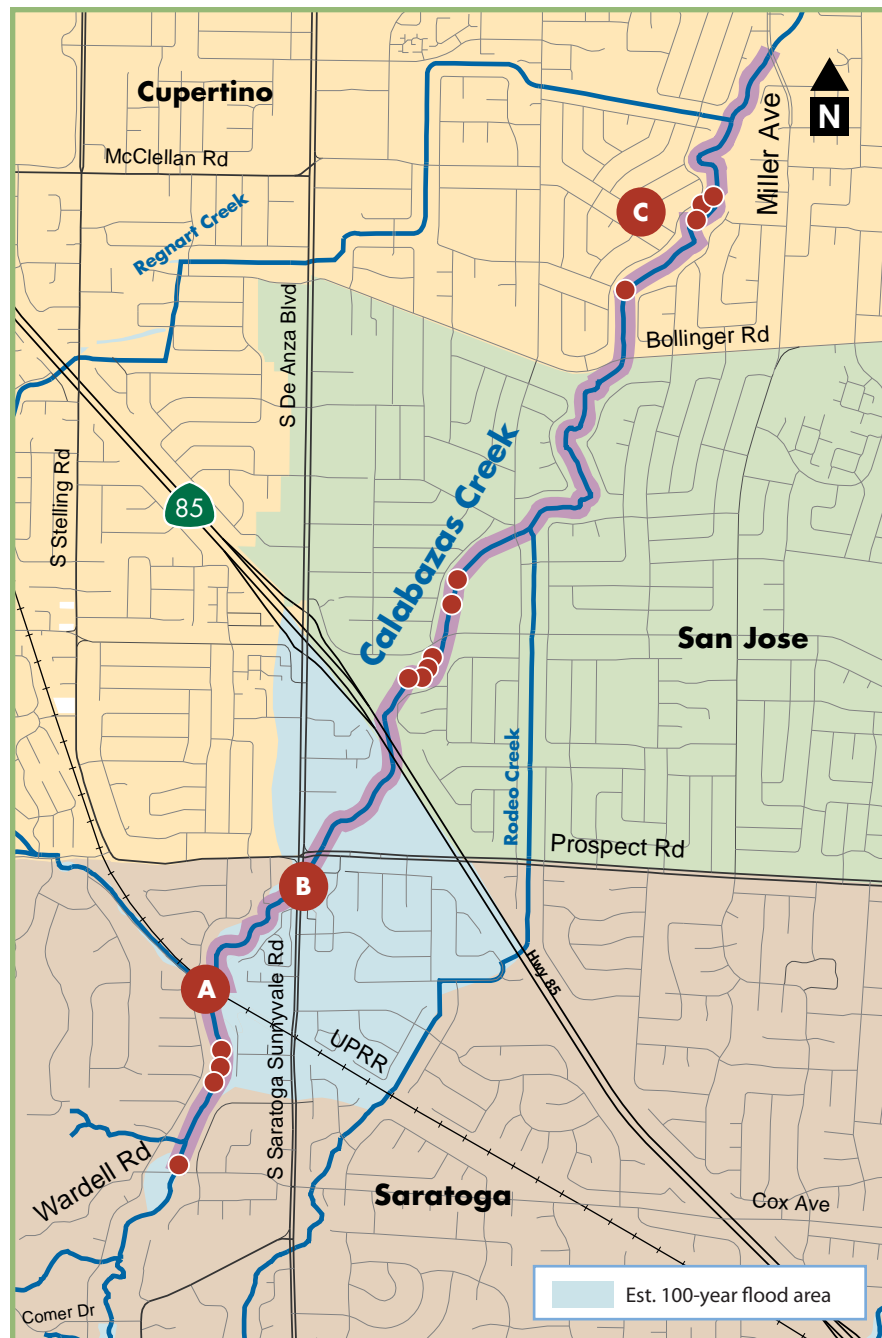
The water district works with cities and the county to provide open space and recreational opportunities. More than 30 new miles of creekside trails have been constructed in the past five years and an additional 40 miles are planned.



Contact us

For more information, contact Senior Project Manager **Saeid Hosseini** at **(408) 265-2607, ext. 2680**. Also, 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 water district staff person.

Calabazas Creek flood protection project



The Calabazas Creek Flood Protection Project extends 3.7 miles from Miller Avenue to Wardell Road.

Completed project included the following elements:

- A** Bridge replacement
Union Pacific Railroad Crossing
- B** Culvert replacement and detention area
Prospect Road to Saratoga-Sunnyvale Road
- C** Erosion repair
● Various locations Miller Avenue to Wardell Road

Protecting people and properties

Calabazas Creek has a history of flooding, having experienced major events within the project area in 1955, 1980, 1983, 1998 and 2002. In December of 2002, the area around Bollinger Road was flooded. During the 1955 flood, water poured into residential streets and homes, forcing the evacuation of more than 100 families. Flooding can result in millions of dollars in damage to homes, businesses, schools, and other infrastructure. Disruption to businesses and transportation networks can 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 \$11 million (2008 value) per event.

Each winter, thousands of households, schools and businesses in Cupertino, San Jose and Saratoga are susceptible to flooding from Calabazas Creek during a major storm event. The Santa Clara Valley Water District has completed construction of a flood protection project along 3.7 miles of the creek from Miller Avenue to Wardell Road.



Flooding from Calabazas Creek in 1986.

By the numbers

The Clean, Safe Creeks plan provided \$12 million to design and construct this project to:

- Provide flood protection in the cities of Saratoga and San Jose from Miller Avenue to Wardell Road
- Protect more than 400 parcels from a 100-year flood
- Provide long-term benefits to stream ecology, hydrology, wildlife and fisheries
- Stabilize key erosion sites and improve water quality
- Improve natural habitat
- Provide environmental enhancements
- Prevent potential damages for a single event in excess of \$11 million (2008 value) from a 100-year flood event

Looking ahead

Now that construction of Calabazas Creek Flood Protection Project is complete, the water district will begin to work on the Letter of Map Revision (LOMR) for FEMA approval. Once FEMA has received our LOMR application, review and approval can take up to two years.



Bridge replaced at the Union Pacific Railroad crossing.



(Top) Culvert replaced at Saratoga-Sunnyvale Road and (right) the construction of a detention basin to store excess storm flows.

project schedule

