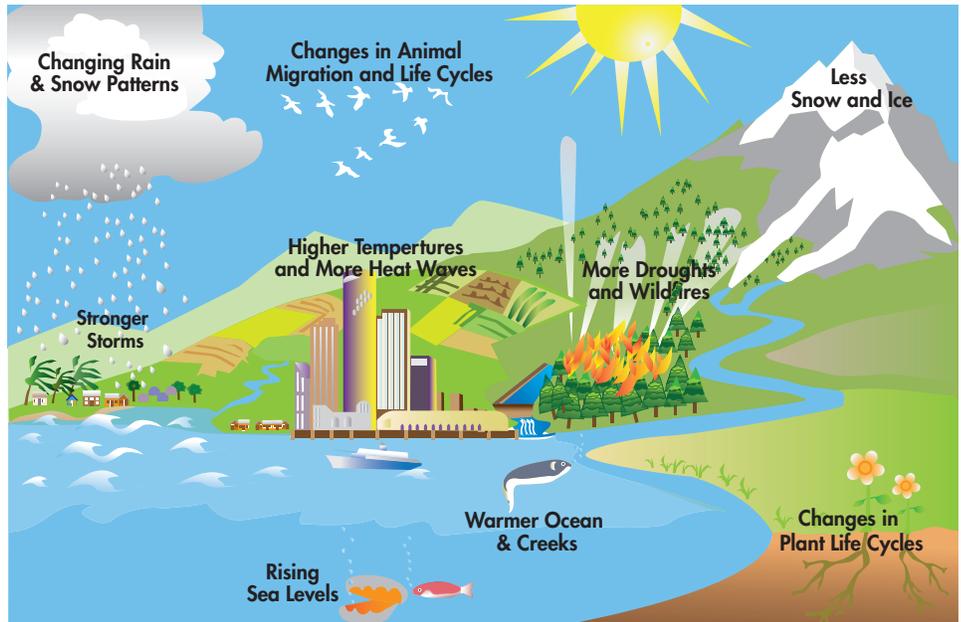


Background

Since 2008, the Santa Clara Valley Water District (district) and its board have been very engaged in climate change and global warming issues. During this time, the district has implemented many efforts to both reduce its impact and to develop adaptation strategies. As a result, the district has a mature greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction policy and program, and many areas of the district are implementing projects that will be helpful in adapting to the future impacts of climate change. Increasing our understanding of climate change risks and responding accordingly continues to be a focus of our work.



Potential impacts of climate change.

In 2013, the district established a project team to lead its managed response to climate change. A goal of the managed response includes preparing a Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP) by fiscal year 2019. This fact sheet provides a broad overview of the CCAP scope.



The district's CCAP is currently underway, and is scheduled for completion in 2019.

Overview

The CCAP will provide a framework for consistent and comprehensive planning for climate change and reducing GHGs, and for building upon the substantial efforts in place in many parts of the organization.

The plan will be a tool to ensure that potential conflicts between different climate change strategies

are evaluated and considered. During development of the CCAP, systematic methods will be developed for consistent district-wide risk and vulnerability assessments and adaptation planning. The plan will provide a consistent and defensible framework to communicate risks and actions. The plan will communicate to district staff and the public what the district sees as potential risks, and what it is planning to achieve and how. Monitoring and reporting will be implemented as part of a continual improvement process and to enhance future adaptation options as conditions unfold.

Scope of Work

The CCAP will identify potential future climate change impacts, risks, and vulnerabilities on all core service areas. Using this information, areas with potential impacts will be assessed to identify existing, enhanced, or new strategies to reduce risks to district core services and its mission. The strategies will be incorporated into existing district plans, budgets, and long term financial forecasts as appropriate. A review of the district's current efforts on GHG reductions will be included. Having all

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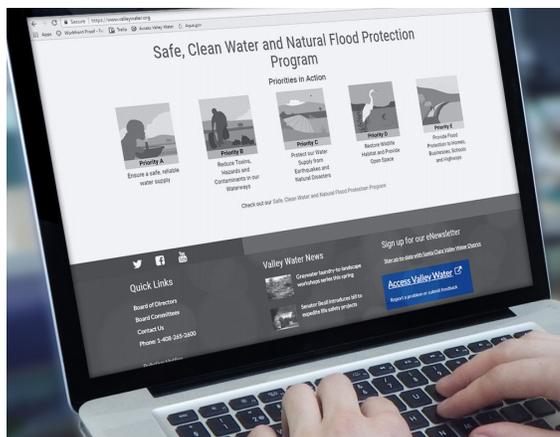
potential strategies together in one plan will allow for a review of conflicts and synergies between efforts to strengthen and improve the district's overall climate change responses. Having a comprehensive list of strategies will also allow for prioritization where needed. It will incorporate best available science and best practices to confront the threat of climate change. There will also be stakeholder engagement and communication, monitoring, and reporting components to ensure that the plan is implemented and updated as conditions or science is updated. The work to implement the plan will be incorporated into the district's existing structure, processes, plans and budget as appropriate.

Truly, we do live on a 'water planet.' For us, water is that critical issue that we need. It's the most precious substance on the planet, and it links us to pretty much every environmental issue, including climate change, that we're facing. - Philippe Cousteau, Jr.

What the Plan Is and Is Not

The plan will be developed using best available information, science, programs and internal subject matter experts. Since it relies on best available science and internal expertise, this CCAP will not be a 'research project'. The plan will be district-centric and district-driven. This means it will not recommend implementation strategies that are outside of district influence and resource capacities. Even though it is district-driven, it will include a stakeholder involvement and communication process. Stakeholder outreach is particularly important where the effects of climate change and district responses are not limited to our jurisdiction or core service delivery.

This CCAP will include comprehensive review of climate change as it relates to the district core services. It will include a suite of actions the district can take now and those it should continue to evaluate into the future.



CONTACT US

For more information, contact us at **408-630-2604** or by email at **ctulloch@valleywater.org**. Or use our **Access Valley Water** customer request and information system at **valleywater.org** 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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