



## Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program **Independent Monitoring Committee**

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February 11, 2021

To: Santa Clara Valley Water District Board of Directors

Subject: IMC Report in Review of SCW FY20 Annual Report

### **SUMMARY**

The Independent Monitoring Committee (IMC) presents its annual review of the Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program (SCW) for Fiscal Year 2019-2020 (FY20) to the Santa Clara Valley Water District (Valley Water) Board of Directors (Board). The IMC finds that funds from the 2012 Measure B are being spent in accordance with the voter-approved priorities and that Valley Water is acting responsibly to ensure projects move forward in a timely manner. In 2020, voters passed Measure S, replacing Measure B. Our next report to the Board in 2022 will close out Measure B. A future Measure S IMC will report to the Board for subsequent years.

### **PROCESS**

The IMC met on December 2, 2020, to begin its seventh annual SCW review process and elected a Chair and Vice Chair. Subcommittees were formed to review the six sections of the SCW report: Priorities A, B, C, D, E and Other Projects remaining from Clean, Safe Creeks and Natural Flood Protection Plan (CSC). For the purposes of reviewing the document, the IMC combined Priorities A and C, and E and Other Projects to form four subcommittees. Additionally, this year the IMC established a new Finance Subcommittee to review Program-level financial information that is contained in "Appendices A: Financial Information" and not covered during individual Priority review.

The five subcommittees met with Valley Water staff (Staff) in the first week of January 2021 and presented their findings to the full IMC on January 27, 2021. At each subcommittee meeting, a Chair was elected. IMC members agreed that subcommittee chairs led by the Chair of the IMC draft the IMC review to the Board.

The draft review was presented to the IMC on February 10, 2021 for final edits and approval. The IMC provided three levels of input: overview concerns/recommendations about SCW included in this letter, specific project recommendations for Board review (Attachment 1) and notes for Staff for future SCW reports (Attachment 2).

The IMC would also like to call special attention to the following:

The current IMC includes five new members and seven returning members. New members have brought a fresh perspective to the report and the work done by Staff. They reaffirmed that work done by Valley Water under SCW is intertwined with regulatory agencies, local governments, private landowners, environmental leaders and other stakeholders. The SCW annual report demonstrates problem-solving at a holistic level; partnerships with communities, non-profits and other like-minded agencies; open sharing of acquired knowledge with partners and stakeholders; and the complexity of managing large capital projects.

## **GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **Grants Program**

The IMC appreciates the work done by our community partners through the SCW grant opportunities. To ensure a well-run grant program for both Staff and the Grantees, the Board should ensure staffing is at a level to process grants in a timely manner and a reasonable Staff workload.

### **Impacts of COVID-19**

The IMC recognizes that the substantial impacts of COVID-19 were unpredictable. We ask that high-level examples of COVID-19's impact on the work done by Valley Water, including contractors and partners, be included in the next report.

### **Encampments**

The IMC strongly supports work currently underway by Staff to find solutions to address biohazards in encampments, including containment, cleanup and collection of feces and waste. We also ask that revegetation areas restored by Valley Water that will require additional restoration efforts due to encampment impacts are identified in future reports.

### **Report Format**

Completed projects for CSC, SCW, and Measure S should be tabbed at the back of the report with project description, KPIs, year completed, original costs, and final costs. Links for more detailed information should be included.

## PRESENTATIONS

IMC members gain a greater understanding of SCW projects from Staff presentations. The IMC requests the following presentations at the December 2021 meeting:

1. Water Conservation Programs and the Savings Model used to calculate cost-effectiveness
2. Management of the blending of CSC, SCW, and Measure S including capital projects and changes to the grant program
3. Anderson Dam and Pacheco Dam progress report, including permitting and funding challenges

The SCW IMC strongly suggests that the Board consider appointing at least 5 current SCW IMC members to the new IMC for Measure S. We also encourage Staff to use the existing report format for the first report from the Measure S IMC.

We thank the Board for the support they have shown for our past recommendations, and we thank Staff for their support during the review process.

Sincerely,



Kathy Sutherland, Chair

Independent Monitoring Committee

### Attachments:

1. IMC Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Annual Report
2. Notes for IMC Future SCW Reports

cc: Independent Monitoring Committee Members

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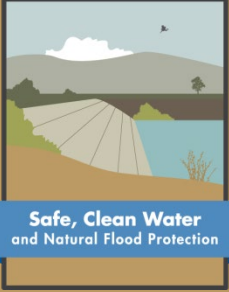
**Independent Monitoring Committee Report  
 Fiscal Year 2019-2020  
 Project Recommendations  
 Priority A - Ensure a Safe, Reliable Water Supply**

Project:		Status:	Comment:
A1	Main Avenue and Madrone Pipelines Restoration	Completed	IMC agrees with the project status. No recommendations.
A2	Safe, Clean Water Partnerships and Grants	On Target	IMC agrees with the project status. No recommendations.
A3	Pipeline Reliability Project	Adjusted	IMC agrees with the project status. No recommendations.



**Independent Monitoring Committee Report  
Fiscal Year 2019-2020  
Project Recommendations  
Priority B - Reduce Toxins, Hazards and Contaminants  
in our Waterways**

Project:		Status:	Comment:
B1	Impaired Water Bodies Improvement	On Target	IMC agrees with the project status. No recommendations.
B2	Interagency Urban Runoff Program	On Target	IMC agrees with the project status. No recommendations.
B3	Pollution Prevention Partnerships and Grants	On Target	IMC agrees with the project status. No recommendations.
B4	Good Neighbor Program: Encampment Cleanup	On Target	IMC agrees with the project status. No Recommendations.
B5	Hazardous Materials Management and Response	On Target	IMC agrees with the project status. No recommendations.
B6	Good Neighbor Program: Remove Graffiti and Litter	On Target	IMC agrees with the project status. No recommendations.
B7	Support Volunteer Cleanup Efforts and Education	On Target	IMC agrees with the project status. No recommendations.



**Independent Monitoring Committee Report  
 Fiscal Year 2019-2020  
 Project Recommendations  
 Priority C - Protect our Water Supply from Earthquakes  
 and Natural Disasters**

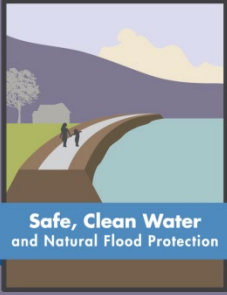
Project:		Status:	Comment:
C1	Anderson Dam Seismic Retrofit	On Target	IMC agrees with the project status. No recommendations.
C2	Emergency Response Upgrades	On Target	IMC agrees with the project status. No recommendations.



**Independent Monitoring Committee Report  
 Fiscal Year 2019-2020  
 Project Recommendations  
 Priority D - Restore Wildlife Habitat and Provide  
 Open Space**

Project:		Status:	Comment:
D1	Management of Revegetation Projects	On Target	IMC agrees with the project status. No recommendations.
D2	Revitalize Stream, Upland and Wetland Habitat	On Target	IMC agrees with the project status. No recommendations.
D3	Grants and Partnerships to Restore Wildlife Habitat and Provide Access to Trails	On Target	IMC agrees with the project status. No recommendations.
D4	Fish Habitat and Passage Improvement	Adjusted	IMC agrees with the project status. No recommendations.
D5	Ecological Data Collection and Analysis	On Target	IMC agrees with the project status. No recommendations.
D6	Creek Restoration and Stabilization	Adjusted	IMC agrees with the project status. No recommendations.
D7	Partnerships for the Conservation of Habitat Lands	Completed	IMC agrees with the project status. No recommendations.
D8	South Bay Salt Ponds Restoration Partnership	On Target	IMC agrees with the project status. No recommendations.





**Independent Monitoring Committee Report  
 Fiscal Year 2019-2020  
 Project Recommendations  
 Priority E - Provide Flood Protection to Homes, Businesses,  
 Schools and Highways**

Project:		Status:	Comment:
E1	Vegetation Control and Sediment Removal for Flood Protection	On Target	IMC agrees with the project status. No recommendations.
E2	Emergency Response Planning	On Target	IMC agrees with the project status. No recommendations.
E3	Flood Risk Reduction Studies	On Target	IMC agrees with the project status. No recommendations.
E4	Upper Penitencia Creek Flood Protection - Coyote Creek to Dorel Drive – San José	Adjusted	IMC agrees with the project status. No recommendations.
E5	San Francisquito Creek Flood Protection - San Francisco Bay to Middlefield Road – Palo Alto	Adjusted	IMC agrees with the project status. No recommendations.
E6	Upper Llagas Creek Flood Protection- Buena Vista Avenue to Wright Avenue – Morgan Hill, San Martin, Gilroy	Modified	IMC agrees with the project status. No recommendations.
E7	San Francisco Bay Shoreline Protection- Milpitas, Mountain View, Palo Alto, San José, Santa Clara and Sunnyvale	On Target	IMC agrees with the project status. No recommendations.
E8	Upper Guadalupe River Flood Protection- Highway 280 to Blossom Hill Road – San José	Adjusted	IMC agrees with the project status. No recommendations.



**Independent Monitoring Committee Report  
Fiscal Year 2019-2020  
Project Recommendations  
Other Capital Flood Protection Projects and  
Clean, Safe Creeks Grants Projects**

Project:	Status:	Comment:
Permanente Creek Flood Protection San Francisco Bay to Foothill Expressway – Mountain View	Adjusted	IMC agrees with the project status. No recommendations.
Sunnyvale East and Sunnyvale West Channel Flood Protection San Francisco Bay to Inverness Way and Almanor Avenue – Sunnyvale	Adjusted	IMC agrees with the project status. No recommendations.
Berryessa Creek Flood Protection Calaveras Boulevard to Interstate 680 – Milpitas and San José	Completed	IMC agrees with the project status. No recommendations.
Coyote Creek Flood Protection Montague Expressway to Tully Road – San José	Adjusted	IMC agrees with the project status. No recommendations.
Calabazas Creek Flood Protection Miller Avenue to Wardell Road	Completed	IMC agrees with the project status. No recommendations.
Clean, Safe Creeks Grants Projects	Completed	IMC agrees with the project status. No recommendations.



# Independent Monitoring Committee Report Fiscal Year 2019-2020 General Notes for future Annual Reports Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program

Subject:	Note:
Weblinks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create shorter hyperlinks.</li> </ul>
Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In projects with more than one Valley Water funding source, include a graph or a pie chart showing the Valley Water funding sources.</li> </ul>
Five-Year Implementation Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When referencing the 5-Year Implementation Plan, identify the year range.</li> </ul>
Anticipated milestones	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Instead of projecting a specific month for anticipated milestones, identify the fiscal year.</li> </ul>



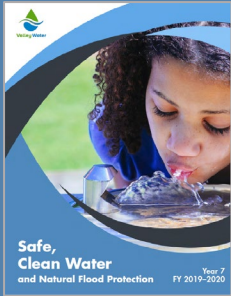
# Independent Monitoring Committee Report Fiscal Year 2019-2020 General Notes for future Annual Reports Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program

Subject:

Note:

Financial Appendices

- At the beginning of the financial appendices section, introduce a summary page highlighting what is being shared with the community in these appendices.
- Renumber Appendix A: Annual Financial Summary and Appendix A: Cumulative Financial Summary tables as A-1.1 and A-1.2, respectively
- In Appendix A: Annual Financial Summary table, create distinct columns to show 'Budget Adjustment' and 'Carryforward'.
- In Appendix A-1.2: Cumulative Financial Summary table:
  - Modify the header of the last column to reflect that the comparison is with the 15-Year Adjusted Plan.
  - Clarify that the "Current 15-year Forecast" is a staff forecast on which the Board has not taken any action.
  - Footnote 6 about Currently Authorized Project Reserves should include a reference to the Appendix A-2.1 Currently Authorized Project Reserves table.
- In Appendix A-2.1: Currently Authorized Project Reserves table, modify headers to communicate more clearly.



## Independent Monitoring Committee Notes Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Notes for future Annual Reports Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program

Subject:	Note:
<b>C2:</b> Emergency Response Upgrades	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make the website more user-friendly so rainfall data can be easily accessed and give a quick demonstration to the IMC.</li> </ul>
<b>D1:</b> Management of Revegetation Projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide link to the reports to regulatory agencies that document the success of the projects.</li> <li>• Develop a graphic depicting the projected cumulative acres requiring maintenance in future years as more projects are completed.</li> </ul>
<b>E3:</b> Flood Risk Reduction Studies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Include information on how flood studies conducted under this project are used in other Valley Water projects.</li> </ul>
<b>E5:</b> San Francisquito Creek Flood Protection (San Francisco Bay to Middlefield Road - Palo Alto)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In FY21 annual report, include the projection for the budget shortfall and brief description of the strategy to address it.</li> </ul>

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