

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY—JOINT EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN

The first version of the Joint Emergency Action Plan for Severe Storm and Flood Response in City of San Jose (EAP) was approved by the Santa Clara Valley Water District (District) Board of Directors and San Jose City (City) Council at a joint meeting held on November 3, 2017. The EAP provided guidance on how the District and City would coordinate, communicate, and make decisions during storm and flood events and established a new method of classifying Flood Emergency Operational and Severity Levels. Since there was flooding on Coyote Creek in February of 2017, the EAP included an appendix of specific guidance related to Coyote Creek.

The EAP is to be reviewed and/or exercised annually and updated/revised as appropriate. The District Board of Directors and San Jose City Council delegated approval authority for updates and revisions of the EAP to the City Manager and District Chief Executive Officer (CEO) or their designee. In addition to an annual review and revision of the EAP in 2018, three new appendices are being added to provide specific guidance related to flood risks on Guadalupe River, Canoas Creek and Ross Creek.

The 2018 review and update to the EAP was initiated in April under the direction of a Joint Management Team and continues to be based on the concept of a Multi-Agency Coordination (MAC) Group. The updated EAP, which was drafted by a combined team of City and District staff, tested with independent reviews and reviewed in a multi-agency exercise, is responsive to knowledge gained from past flood events and is meant to serve as guidance during severe storms or flood events.

Three important improvements embodied in the EAP are:


1. The recognition that even though flood projects have been completed to protect the community, continued vigilance is required for those areas during severe storm events.
2. Appendices were added for Guadalupe River, Canoas Creek and Ross Creek that define detailed flood stages and severity of flooding in specific locations. The four threat stages and flood severity levels are keyed to National Weather Service levels of alert. These will be publicly visible at the District FloodWatch website with continually updated situational information.
3. Guadalupe River Temporary Flood Barrier deployment to protect downtown San Jose from flooding has been refined based on new modeling and the new threat and severity classifications.

This EAP will continue to provide oversight and guidance. It is not intended to provide ultra-detailed action lists of what to do during storm and flood monitoring and response, as the Stakeholders are individual jurisdictions and have independent responsibility and discretion on how to accomplish their tasks.

By signing here, on December 12, 2018, the City of San Jose City Manager and the Santa Clara Valley Water District Chief Executive Officer agree that the two primary Agency Stakeholders will respond according to the concepts outlined in this updated EAP and will continue work on maintaining the EAP, associated projects, and continually work to improve preparedness, mitigation and response to the next flood emergency:



David Sykes, City Manager
City of San Jose



Norma J. Camacho, Chief Executive Officer
Santa Clara Valley Water District