Construction update – Spring 2019

Lower Berryessa Creek Flood Protection Project

About the Lower Berryessa Creek Flood Protection Project

When complete, the Lower Berryessa Creek Flood Protection Project will provide 100-year flood protection to approximately 1,820 homes, schools and businesses in Milpitas. It will provide new floodwalls, improved levees, and widened creek channels to accommodate high water flows. In addition, the project will enhance and enlarge tidal and freshwater wetlands, along with riparian habitats. The project is being implemented in three phases.

3 Ways to get project updates

2. Use Access Valley Water (http://delivr.com/2yukx), the water district’s customer request and information system, to request project information or to submit questions, complaints or compliments directly to a water district staff person.
3. Sign up to receive project updates via email using the QR code below.

Contact Information

If you have questions about this project, please contact Albert Le at (408) 630-2860 or albertle@valleywater.org.
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Phase 1 – Completed
This phase stretches along Lower Berryessa Creek, from the confluence at Lower Penitencia Creek to Abel Street. The construction of Phase 1 was completed in December 2016. On the east and north sides of the creek, the flood protection improvements included earthen levees. On the west and south sides of the creek, they included concrete floodwalls. Revegetation of freshwater wetlands was also established within the creek channel.

Phase 2 – Levee remediation and Lower Calera Creek construction starts this year.
This phase has two segments and progress will continue this summer. The first segment of Phase 2 is along Lower Berryessa Creek, stretching from Abel Street to Calaveras Boulevard. The flood protection improvements for this segment includes improved earthen levees on the north side of the creek and concrete floodwalls on the south side of the creek. A riparian habitat area was also included within the creek channel. Major construction activities were completed in 2018, but construction crews will return this summer to perform levee remediation work.

The second segment of Phase 2 is along Lower Calera Creek, stretching from the Lower Berryessa Creek confluence to Milpitas High School (see map). The flood improvements for this segment include a raised U-frame channel and concrete floodwalls on both banks of the creek. In addition to these flood protection improvements, wetlands with native vegetation will be created within the Lower Calera Creek channel.

Phase 3 – Planning
Phase 3 of this project stretches along Upper Calera Creek and Tularcitos Creek. The flood risk reduction options for this phase are currently being studied, and the potential funding sources are in the process of being identified. Once this planning phase is completed, Valley Water will obtain the necessary permitting from regulatory agencies before starting construction on Phase 3.

Completed floodwall and levee near Gill Memorial Park in Milpitas.

Completed Lower Berryessa Creek flood improvements between North Milpitas and Calaveras boulevards.

Lower Berryessa Creek levee improvements
The Santa Clara Valley Water District (Valley Water) is dedicated to keeping residents and businesses safe through its flood protection programs. Phase 2 activities resumed along Lower Berryessa Creek in Milpitas, between Abel Street and Calaveras Boulevard, in early May 2019. All major construction work was completed last year, but construction crews have returned to complete levee remediation work. These improvement activities are expected to occur between May and November of this year.

They include:
• Installing a temporary creek diversion system to allow for dry working conditions during construction.
• Removing and replacing the top 3-foot layer of the levee between Abel Street and Hillview Drive.
• Placing new trails between Abel Street and Calaveras Boulevard after the completion of levee remediation.

In addition to the remediation, we will be completing the remaining vegetation work for this segment of the project.

What to expect during construction
• Regular work hours are 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Friday. Occasional Saturday and Sunday work may be necessary.
• Truck hauling will occur between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. in order to avoid peak traffic hours.
• A majority of the construction work will be conducted in and along the creek, within Valley Water’s right of way.
• Expect typical construction noise during work hours from heavy equipment, such as excavators and hauling trucks. Minor vibrations may be felt as large equipment moves through the work site.
• A water truck will spray the work area to control any dust from construction activities.
• Temporary lane closures will occur along N. Milpitas Boulevard for trucks and crews to access the creek. Two-way traffic will be maintained, but may be reduced to one lane in each direction. Flaggers may be used for traffic control.
• Generators may be used to pump and divert water around the project site and back into the creek farther downstream.

A majority of the construction work will be conducted in and along the creek, within Valley Water’s right of way.

Example of the levee remediation work.

The Lower Berryessa Creek Flood Protection Project extends approximately 1.7 miles through the City of Milpitas, from its confluence with Lower Penitencia Creek south to Calaveras Boulevard.