

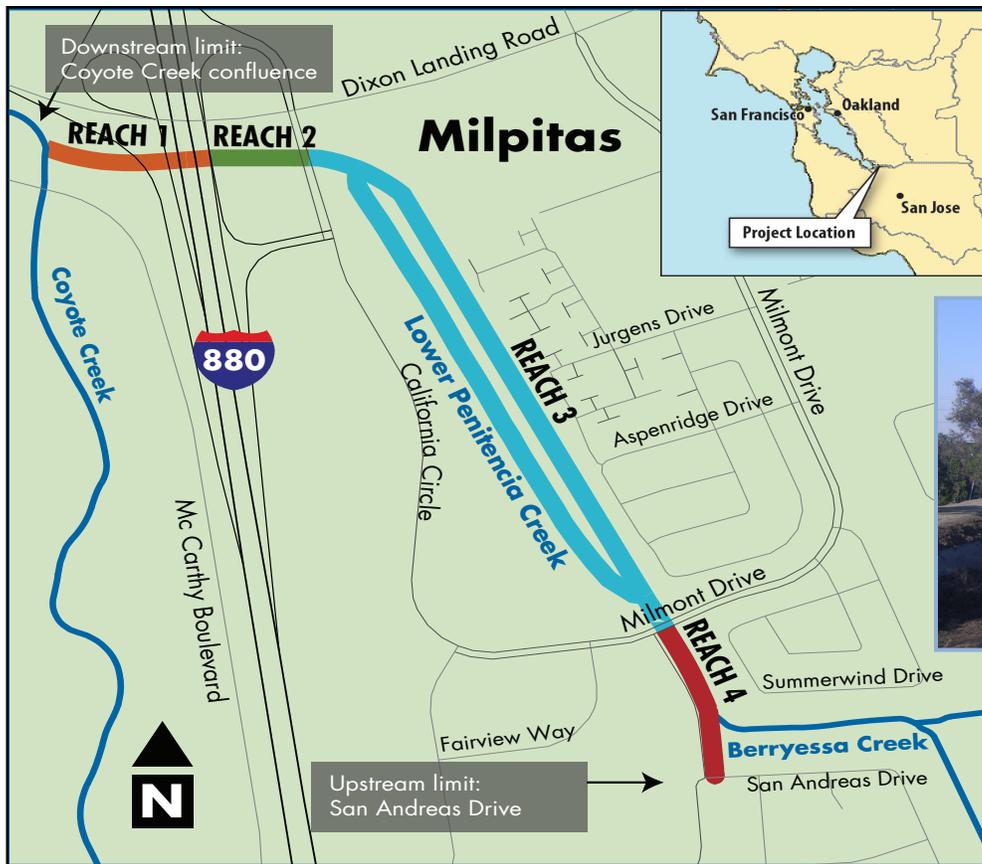
# Lower Penitencia Creek Improvements Project

## About the project

Lower Penitencia Creek receives flows from Berryessa Creek and flows into Coyote Creek. Construction has begun on improvements to Berryessa Creek that will bring more flows into Lower Penitencia Creek. The Lower Penitencia Creek Improvements Project extends approximately one mile from San Andreas Drive to the confluence with Coyote Creek. This project is funded by the water district's Watershed Stream Stewardship Fund.

In its current condition, Lower Penitencia Creek does not have the required capacity to convey the additional flows, the future one percent flood flows when Berryessa Creek flood improvements are completed. This project is necessary to provide continued flood protection for residents and businesses currently protected along the one mile project area.

# Lower Penitencia Creek Improvements Project



Map of project reaches along Lower Penitencia Creek in Milpitas, CA.

## Project history

Lower Penitencia Creek is located in the northeasterly portion of Santa Clara County within the City of Milpitas. It receives water from Berryessa Creek and flows into Coyote Creek. Lower Penitencia Creek is a trapezoidal channel that is both earth and concrete lined.

Lower Penitencia Creek channel improvements were constructed in 1955, 1962, 1965, and in the early 1980's. The channel improvements consisted of various modifications to the creek to increase capacity. In the reaches north of the confluence with Berryessa Creek, the channel was widened and levees were raised.

This project will prevent flooding from the channel caused by the future increased flows from Berryessa Creek.\*

\* Flooding in nearby areas caused by another creek will be addressed in a separate project.

\*\* A one-percent flood event has a 1-in-100 chance of occurring in any given year.

## Planning phase

The project is currently in the planning phase. Staff has evaluated existing creek conditions to develop alternatives that meet the project objectives outlined on the next page. The staff-recommended alternative consists of the following elements:

- Constructing vegetated benches (a step or terrace constructed next to the bank that is above the channel) in Reaches 1 and 2
- Relocating and raising an existing levee in Reach 1
- Constructing floodwalls in Reaches 2, 3 and 4
- Replacing the California Circle and Milmont Drive bridges



Standing on west levee looking north at Milmont Drive.

# Objectives

Overall project objectives are to:

- Convey the Lower Berryessa Creek 1-percent design flow\*\*
- Meet required water surface elevations at Coyote Creek and Berryessa Creek confluences
- Minimize the need for seasonal removal of sediment and non-woody vegetation
- Maintain existing Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) accreditation along the east levee located between California Circle and Berryessa Creek
- Enable FEMA certification of the improvements



Standing at California Circle looking east.



Standing on south side levee looking east towards Highway 880.

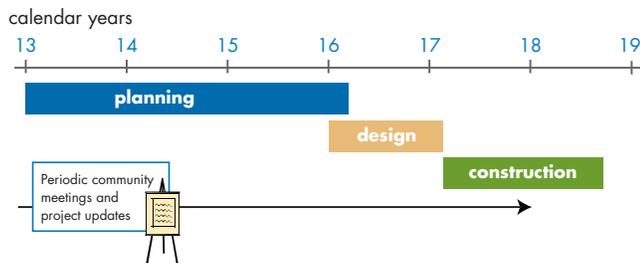


Standing at California Circle looking west at Highway 880.



Standing on east levee looking west at California Circle.

# Project schedule



**Drought Watch**  
Find out more about the 2015 drought at:  
<http://www.valleywater.org/drought/>

NORMAL    ALERT    SEVERE    CRITICAL    EMERGENCY

**RAIN OR SHINE.**  
KEEP SAVING WATER.

[save20gallons.org](http://save20gallons.org)  
Santa Clara Valley Water District

Make water conservation a daily way of life.  
For water-saving tips, visit [save20gallons.org](http://save20gallons.org)

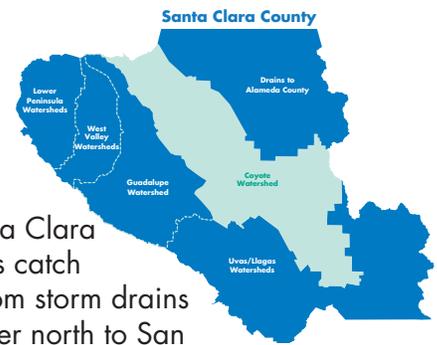
## More about us

As the county's primary drinking water provider, the Santa Clara Valley Water District ensures the safety and abundance of drinking water. We operate 10 reservoirs which catch local rainfall and we import water from the Sierra Nevada snowmelt through the Delta. Some of that water replenishes the underground aquifer for later pumping from wells and some goes to one of our three drinking water treatment plants. Once we treat and test the water to meet all state and federal drinking water standards, we sell it to local water providers like the San Jose Water Company that resell it to individual homes and businesses. The water supply in some areas in northern Santa Clara County includes Sierra Nevada water imported through San Francisco's Hetch Hetchy system.

The water district also has a major role in the stewardship of local water resources. We care for hundreds of miles of streams by removing invasive vegetation, repairing creek bank erosion, planting native vegetation and removing sediment that can impact the creek's ability to carry floodwaters during rainy months. We also have many programs to reduce pollution and contamination in these waterways. Where the flood threat is significant, we undertake large construction projects such as building levees or replacing undersized bridges. Often, the water district can partner with a city or the county to open a trail or park alongside the creek, providing a recreational amenity for all to enjoy.

## 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 **Coyote Watershed**. Sixteen major creeks drain this 322-square-mile area. The county's largest watershed extends from the urbanized valley floor upward to the vast natural areas of the Diablo range. Coyote Creek, its main waterway, is the longest creek in the county.

**4 ways to report water waste**

- Call (408) 630-2000
- Email [drought@valleywater.org](mailto:drought@valleywater.org)
- Download our Access Valley Water App
- Use Access Valley Water at [valleywater.org](http://valleywater.org)

## Contact us

For more information, contact **Rechelle Blank** at **(408) 630-2615**, or visit our website at [www.valleywater.org](http://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 district staff person.

Follow us on:

- /scvwd
- /valleywater
- /valleywater