

## ONE WATER PLAN – COYOTE CREEK WATERSHED SURVEY RESPONSE TO COMMENTS

Comment Number	Organization (if applicable)	Comments on Objective A: Valley Water protects and maintains local water supplies and supports water conservation.	Valley Water Response
1	Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society	Water Conservation/Habitat creation: Can you add a re-evaluation of the recommended plant list for habitat value, to recommend more pollinator and bird friendly plantings by municipalities and individuals?	Valley Water’s Landscape Rebate Program’s approved plant list is based on the UC WUCOLS list (Water Use Classification of Landscape Species) to include only very low- and low-water use plants. Valley Water encourages the use of native plant species, and pollinator and bird friendly plant species as well. We include many such species in landscape designs we offer at <a href="http://SouthBayGreenGardens.org">SouthBayGreenGardens.org</a> . Valley Water is nearing completion of a Sustainable Landscaping Guide to educate the public on taking a watershed-approach to landscaping, which includes many topics including how to incorporate plants with habitat value in landscapes. We hope to publish this guide later this year (2021).
2	Santa Clara County Parks	Operational Capacity (A.1.1) should incorporate public recreation on surface water reservoirs. Consider allowing recreation fishing in groundwater recharge areas. Incorporating recreational elements into groundwater recharge facilities could expand opportunities for both Valley Water and public recreation agencies.	Valley Water does not have the resources to manage recreational use of our facilities; however, we are open into Joint Use Agreements with other agencies to provide these benefits as it does for many of the reservoirs and percolation facilities. Fishing occurs in many ponds, but these facilities need to be occasionally drained to maintain their capacity for percolation.
3	City of Santa Clara	Yes, important and should be a primary focus of Valley Water in light of the current drought in California and potentially reducing demand and need for some new supply projects and create less stress on current supplies.	Valley Water updates its Water Supply Master Plan every five years and provides annual updates to consider new water supply and conservation projects in light of future demands.
4	City of San Jose	Would like to see more info around conservation and building water use objectives. For example, VW could help lead water use data integration and reporting efforts towards San Jose benchmarking requirements (i.e. spearheading digital integration of water	Valley Water is open to collaborating with water retailers and municipalities, including the City of San José on how to integrate data and reporting efforts. Valley Water promotes Energy Star Portfolio Manager on our website to encourage awareness and use of this important tool.

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		providers with ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager).	
5	Friends of Stevens Creek Trail	I think so, but often VW seems a bit opaque about this. Details are sometimes kept secret. It has taken me years to learn about the Stevens Creek Pipeline and it is still a partial mystery.	Valley Water will share what it can. Exact pipeline locations are considered a security issue and so not typically shared unless projects are in the works that may impact residents.
6	CommUniverCity SJSU (San Jose State University)	See my previous comment on item 4. regarding apparent omissions in connections to water supply function of Valley Water	Water supply is an important multi-benefit when analyzing projects; however, water supply is managed at the County level and the entire system is interconnected. Additional groundwater recharge has not been identified as a priority need in the Coyote Watershed by the Water Supply Master Plan.
9	San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board	Valley Water protects and maintains local water supplies as a priority to protect against subsidence. We do not track whether Valley Water's water conservation efforts are adequate, or how they would compare to the water supply industry standards.	Valley Water establishes aggressive, measurable goals for its water conservation program; has been tracking the effectiveness of the program since 1993; and evaluates and adds new programs regularly.
12		Seems that this is addressed for supplies with stormwater capture and storage, but water conservation is not since the primary elements listed are related to flood protection	Target data will be shared in the full report, expected to be released this fall. Valley Water is nearing completion of its Water Conservation Strategic Plan which will assess progress towards its long-term water conservation savings goals and address strategies to meet those goals.
13	GCRCD	No measurable targets. For example, A.2.1 Annual water conservation savings. Valley water could meet this objective by having one household change one toilet to low flush. What are the measurable goals in numbers?	Measurable targets are being included in the full report for Coyote Creek Watershed and for subsequent watershed reports. Information shared with the survey was a glimpse into what is being measured.
14		How can you protect water supplies when you allow the creekside to be totally overrun with camps? I see Valley Water totally abdicating their responsibility.	Unfortunately, there is not a singular entity in charge of the creeks. Property owners whose land extends into the creek have a primary role. Creek ownership is a mosaic of ownership by the City, County, private parties, and Valley Water. We have attached a fact sheet that identifies Valley Water's role, and you may

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			<p>review Valley Water ownership on our website by using the following link.  <a href="https://gis.valleywater.org/FeeEasement/">https://gis.valleywater.org/FeeEasement/</a> The green areas show lands owned in fee title the yellow areas show land held in easement. Activities in the creek regardless of ownership are further regulated by state and federal regulatory agencies.</p> <p>During the Covid-19 pandemic the Center for Disease Control issued interim guidance to allow people who are living unsheltered or in encampments to remain where they are if no individual housing options are available due to the risk of spreading the disease. Following this guidance, public agencies in Santa Clara County and Valley Water have temporarily paused efforts to abate encampments. Countywide, the Valley Homeless Health Project (VHHP) is in the process of providing onsite vaccination at the encampments along waterways to the unhoused population. This is currently underway and they have asked Valley Water, Cities and Santa Clara County to continue to cease abatements for the next several months so that VHHP may continue their targeted approach. As the COVID-19 health threat diminishes over time, public agencies, will reassess whether and when to resume encampment abatements.</p> <p>Since we have ceased abating encampments this past year, Valley Water has been performing large scale trash cleanups throughout jurisdictional areas in our waterways countywide to prevent trash and debris that is generated from encampments from polluting the waterways.</p>
15		We will continue to have higher water bills without building more capacity	The One Water Plan incorporates water supply planning information; for more details, please see

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			<a href="https://www.valleywater.org/your-water/water-supply-planning/water-supply-master-plan">https://www.valleywater.org/your-water/water-supply-planning/water-supply-master-plan</a>
17		Need to do more in this regard including living buildings and recycled water.	Valley Water continues to work toward expanding its recycled water program. Please see <a href="https://www.valleywater.org/your-water/recycled-and-purified-water">https://www.valleywater.org/your-water/recycled-and-purified-water</a>
18	Citizens Committee to Complete the Refuge	Water conservation must be a very high priority.	Water conservation continues to be a high priority for Valley Water with our goal to increase conservation significantly by 2040. Please see <a href="https://www.valleywater.org/water-conservation-programs">https://www.valleywater.org/water-conservation-programs</a>
19		This seems to have nothing to do with this plan or any of the priorities.	Water supply is planned through Valley Water's Water Supply Master Plan and Groundwater Management Plan. One Water considers water supply where multi-benefit projects are reasonable.
20	Flycasters, Inc of San Jose, CA	Yes, but I think VW could be more aggressive in promoting consumer water conservation.	Target data will be shared in the full report, expected to be released this fall. Valley Water is nearing completion of its Water Conservation Strategic Plan which will assess progress towards its long-term water conservation savings goals and address strategies to meet those goals.
<b>Comment Number</b>	<b>Organization (if applicable)</b>	<b>Comments on Objective B: Valley Water supports high quality surface and groundwater including chemical, biological, and physical aspects.</b>	<b>Valley Water Response</b>
1	Santa Clara County Parks	Work with adjacent landowners to relocate existing facilities further outside of floodplains. Consider water quality of systems connected to Valley Water reservoirs and streams (e.g., habitat, ponds, tributaries) and relevant infrastructure, and coordinate with landowners early in implementation processes. Some Priority Projects that separate creeks from ponds could cause poor water quality due to	Valley Water is working closely with SCC Parks on a comprehensive planning study analyzing separation of Coyote Creek from the Ogier Ponds. The study includes detailed modelling of potential water quality effects to the creek and ponds with and without separation. The planning study report is scheduled for completion in December 2022.

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		isolated water bodies; this needs to be addressed through comprehensive planning and design.	
3	City of San Jose	Pretty good detail here - would like to see more plans around monitoring and strategies for reducing Pollutants of Concern (POCs) such as pyrethroids, PFOS/PFAS, or trash.	Pyrethroids are addressed through DPR and stormwater permit provisions. Monitoring for pesticide related toxicity has long been required by stormwater permits and will continue to be a requirement of the upcoming permit. PFOS/PFAS are emerging contaminants taking a higher priority, and monitoring for them is expected to be included in the next stormwater permit and through the SF Bay Regional Monitoring Program. VW trash programs are already well developed and described in priorities B1 and B2 of the SCW program. <a href="https://www.valleywater.org/safe-clean-water-and-natural-flood-protection-program">https://www.valleywater.org/safe-clean-water-and-natural-flood-protection-program</a>
5	CommUniverCity SJSU (San Jose State University)	While Item P does appear to address this Evaluate sediment removal and water quality benefits at Lower Silver "Creek and Coyote Creek confluence and gravel augmentation of the deep pools" there is not enough information in the project description to agree or disagree with above statement	This project is at the conceptual stage. We welcome any input knowledgeable people might have to improve a potential project.
11	GCRC	No measurable targets. What are the numerical? For example, what is the optimal percentage of dissolved oxygen by season that is the benchmark of a healthy water system? What are the temperature targets? What level of and types of trash is acceptable? (Zero is not a realistic target, but what is?)	Measurable targets are being included in the full report for Coyote Creek Watershed and for subsequent watershed reports. Information shared with the survey was a glimpse into what is being measured.
12		Do you allow roundup to be sprayed? Do you protect riparian corridors? I don't see this happening.	We routinely use Round Up (glyphosate) and other herbicides as part of our integrated vegetation management program and our use is consistent with the product label, EPA recommendations, and risk exposure to humans and other wildlife. We employ various strategies for vegetation control depending on

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			<p>the task at hand, efficacy of each treatment, evaluation of past practices, target plant species, desired outcome, and presence/absence of sensitive species. Vegetation control activities include instream work for stream conveyance, upland work for access and fire protection, invasive plant eradication, native plant revegetation, ecological health/stewardship, and hazard tree analysis/mitigation. Every staff member applying herbicides on VW properties is a certified/licensed applicator with the State of California and is required to maintain this credential by on-going education and accumulation of CEU's. Herbicides can help reduce maintenance frequency and provide precise control of unwanted or invasive plants, thus allowing the release and proliferation of native riparian plants. Use of herbicides for specific vegetation management projects is reviewed and approved by the CA Dept of Fish and Wildlife and the Regional Water Quality Control Board (among other regulatory agencies) on an annual basis.</p>
13		Make sure groundwater is clean	An existing extensive groundwater monitoring system helps to ensure groundwater meets water quality standards.
14		MUCH more needs to be done in this area especially for surface water that ends up in the Bay. It's a huge problem and will be costly to fix. Better measurements are needed to see where the worst pollution is entering the creeks so projects can be prioritized.	Santa Clara Valley Urban Runoff Pollution Prevention Program (SCVURPPP), of which Valley Water is a part, has a long history of water quality monitoring. New monitoring provisions being developed for Municipal Regional Permit (MRP) 3 focus heavily on pollutants that might end up in the Bay (PCBs, Mercury, Trash), but they are not yet fully developed.
<b>Comment Number</b>	<b>Organization (if applicable)</b>	<b>Comments on Objective C: Valley Water maintains its flood facilities, reduces flood risks by improving facilities and prepares and informs the community of flood risks.</b>	<b>Valley Water Response</b>

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1a	Santa Clara County Parks	Need to work with landowners of parcels. Flood protection facilities can also serve as recreational opportunities. Protect recreational values and amenities, and consider impacts to recreational facilities.	Given Valley Water's limited land ownership, our standard practice is to work with landowners. Valley Water supports recreational opportunities, however, must balance this with stewardship goals.
1b	Santa Clara County Parks	Flood protection should be coordinated at a regional level with partners to ensure improvements throughout the watershed.	Valley Water is the primary flood protection agency in Santa Clara County but recognizes the importance of coordination with other agencies to ensure reduced risk to the community, before, during and after flood emergencies.
3	California Trout	Maintenance of flood control facilities needs to take a more holistic look at watershed health and clearly integrated with operations, planning, and restoration/stewardship.	Valley Water agrees. Through One Water and Valley Water's recent funding measure (Measure S) it is doing just this through Project F8 which coordinates asset mgmt., operations and maintenance and watershed planning activities. This will help identify areas of risk and consider additional benefits such as stewardship at a reach and larger watershed scale.
4	City of San Jose	Consider more plans around flood-proofing buildings, rainwater capture, etc. - items that can integrate flood protection with water conservation.	There is room for improvement in coordination between Valley Water and municipalities who bear greater responsibility for urban stormwater systems. Valley Water was a lead for the regional Stormwater Resources Plan, which helps identify green stormwater infrastructure actions such as those mentioned here. <a href="https://scvurppp.org/swrp/">https://scvurppp.org/swrp/</a>
5	Friends of Stevens Creek Trail	This seems to be the objective that trumps all others, so yes. It's a bit inequitable that people buy cheap land because it floods then taxpayers pay to alleviate flooding to raise their property value and save them paying insurance.	While flood protection is a key function of Valley Water, we see Water Supply and Environmental Stewardship as being co-equal goals. Due to limited to no authority on where development occurs, more coordination is needed with municipalities to reduce development in floodplains.
7	Community Activist and Valley Water Ambassador	The Upper Llagas Creek Flood Control Project and other improvements, as well as updating the PPI is evidence of this objective	Upper Llagas Flood Protection is a part of the forthcoming Pajaro Watershed Plan under One Water.

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8		Inadequate a couple years ago.	Improvements in Board governance policy as well as project prioritization should help ensure improved protection of communities at risk of flooding.
9a	San Francisco Bay Regional Water Board	Valley Water plans and implements a well-developed Stream Maintenance Program for creeks that serve as flood control facilities. Valley Water is taking steps to plan, design, and eventually construct flood risk reduction projects. Another metrics for those efforts may be to pursue grant funding and to track and log grant proposal success. This is applicable because garnering grant funding would indicate that Valley Water's projects meet the expectations of funders, which are often public agencies that have regional multi-benefit goals and objectives that are consistent with One Water concepts.	Good suggestion. Our goal has been to develop a set of metrics that is more outcome-based but we will investigate this one a bit more.
9b	San Francisco Bay Regional Water Board	We have not tracked Valley Water's outreach to community members on flood risks.	Valley Water has a flood awareness campaign each year but is also looking at new ways to increase outreach to communities at risk of flooding, including those considered disadvantaged.
11		Yes. However, the existing communication to the community about flood risks must still be challenging since so many people have so many different ways to obtain information. Not to mention the multitudes of languages spoken and written in the region.	Valley Water's goal will be to share consistent information and make this available in various language where feasible.
12		Disagree, this needs more prioritized actions showing effective implementation of forecast alerts and continuous communication/updates during hazard events	Valley Water continues to develop its emergency action plans, some in concert with municipalities where necessary, and is improving upon its forecasting capabilities through local investments as well as regional partnerships.

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13	GCRCD	No measurable targets. For example, number of parcels and number of miles of streams are stated, but not what those numbers are. There is no way to plan or gauge success without measurable targets.	Measurable targets are being included in the full report for Coyote Creek Watershed and for subsequent watershed reports. Information shared with the survey was a glimpse into what is being measured.
15		Remove the choke hold at Santa Clara Street on Coyote Creek	Santa Clara Street is not a current low flow issue and did not flood in 2017. Note that the City is planning to replace the bridge soon for other reasons.
16	UNSCC	Work on the dams before they create a disaster.	Anderson Dam Seismic Retrofit Project is in progress with additional dam projects slated to follow. <a href="https://www.valleywater.org/flooding-safety/dam-safety-program">https://www.valleywater.org/flooding-safety/dam-safety-program</a>
17		Need to do more to restore the floodplain of coyote creek.	While Valley Water has limited jurisdiction over the floodplains of creeks in the county, we do incorporate restoration and enhancement into our projects and encourage municipalities to limit development in floodplains.
18		Consider facilities to include green infrastructure such as active flood plains	Valley Water was a lead for the regional Stormwater Resources Plan, which helps identify green stormwater infrastructure actions. Stormwater must be treated before it can be released into active floodplains and creeks so careful planning and coordination is needed. Green stormwater infrastructure will be considered as a possible action under Valley Water's One Water Plan.
19	Citizens Committee to Complete the Refuge	Projects must take a robust forward-looking view of flood protection, exceeding simple/current SLR and FEMA standards.	Benefits associated with One Water include planning more resiliently with consideration for multiple objectives including climate change and sea level rise.
20a		Equity needs to be added to this. Flood risks in the poorest areas with lower property values have not been reduced. Ask your lobbyists to lobby FEMA and other responsible agencies to change the racist way they calculate benefits and fund projects.	To address equity issues, the One Water Countywide Framework Report proposes updated flood risk analysis, improving upon past approaches. One such improvement is including social vulnerability (i.e. disadvantaged communities) in project ranking.

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20b		The commitment to complete both phases of the Coyote Creek flood protection project within 6 years is already out the window. That project only offers 20-year flood protection while all other projects offer 100-year protection.	The Coyote Creek project is now in design with a goal to protect properties most at risk of flooding and with frequent flooding. Flood projects vary from one to the next for level of protection and do not all provide risk reduction to the 100-year level. Level varies based on community preference, landscape conditions, and available budget.
21	Flycasters, Inc of San Jose, CA	In areas where feasible, fisheries habitat improvements should be incorporated in flood control projects.	Through Valley Water's natural flood protection principles, it builds environmental enhancements including fisheries improvements into its capital flood protection projects wherever feasible. In addition, overall improvements on a watershed scale, including fisheries habitat improvements, are being evaluated as part of the One Water Plan.
22	VTA	This is my only concern. Flood protection projects in the past have actually harmed the natural environment. Fast forward to today and I hope Valley Water will look to more innovative designs that not only function as intended but also are ecologically sustainable to ensure that 50 years from now we won't look back and conclude that we made another mistake in how we design such facilities.	Valley Water is working to improve its stewardship mission both through standalone projects and by incorporating environmental enhancements into its capital projects where feasible.
<b>Comment Number</b>	<b>Organization (if applicable)</b>	<b>Comments on Objective D: Valley Water maintains healthy watersheds and enhances and improves diverse, riverine, and tidal habitats.</b>	<b>Valley Water Response</b>
1a	Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society	Wildlife Corridors should be an urgent priority given the existing fragmentation and hazard to wildlife. Long term there will be no wildlife to cross...	Agree that wildlife corridors are a priority, thus their inclusion on the relatively short list of priorities for Coyote Creek watershed.

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1b	Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society	Also - to be truly integrated, every project (trail, culvert, anything) should be designed to accommodate wildlife movement - small reptiles or amphibians to large mammals - as appropriate	Valley Water accommodates trails and recreation on its facilities where appropriate, but design of such trails is typically responsibility of the trail manager (e.g. city, county). Valley Water will continue to consider stewardship an important aspect as new trails are being considered.
2a	Santa Clara County Parks	Work with landowners to move infrastructure out of stream channel.	Valley Water has limited land jurisdiction but will coordinate with agencies and other landowner for the improvement of watershed health and water resources management.
2b	Santa Clara County Parks	Coordinate early and often with landowners for proposed restoration that is outside of Valley Water ownership or jurisdiction.	Valley Water looks forward to continued coordination with County Parks.
2c	Santa Clara County Parks	Measurement of protected habitats and restoration should be attributed to all agencies and private landowners that contribute to Coyote Creek watershed.	While Valley Water has limited land ownership and jurisdiction, One Water metrics can be applied by others to lands throughout the watershed and information will be shared publicly through a shared dashboard.
4	California Trout	There is significant progress to be made here, and siloed departments and lack of clear communication with them and back out to public and interested parties makes momentum and shared opportunities for collaboration hard to implement.	Despite many quality projects having been implemented, we agree there is significant progress to be made. Departments are working together better than ever before with our joint integrated office and projects like One Water give Valley Water a mechanism to coordinate with external stakeholders.
5	Friends of Stevens Creek Trail	I haven't witnessed any harmful actions taken recently, but progress on mitigating past ones has been exceedingly slow and resulted in the expatriation of species from several creeks.	While quality projects are being implemented, there are many more to go. The watershed approach employed by Valley Water's One Water plan should aid in identifying areas still in need of improvement.
7	Community Activist and Valley Water Ambassador	I think Coyote Valley and Coyote Creek improvements through the retrofit of Anderson Dam are evidence of this objective.	Many actions may be tied to Anderson Dam and others will also be prioritized based on extensive outreach and work by Valley Water subject matter experts.

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8		No. Habitats for steel head trout and other fish are inadequate. Invasive plant species abound. Homeless encampments foul the river. Fallen trees and large branches exacerbate flood control.	There is still much to be done but each of these topics is a priority for Valley Water as evidenced by the list of priority actions in this watershed plan.
10	San Francisco Bay Regional Water Board	Most of the metrics in this objective are spatially related, or related to terrestrial observations and vegetation, though BMI is included in the "Enhance diverse, healthy riverine habitats" metric. There are no metrics for measuring fish and other aquatic biota, which seems like an oversight, and should be included. A metric for salmonids may include stream or watershed carrying capacity analyses (with actions that would increase carrying capacities).	Valley Water worked to consider metrics for the entire watershed including on and off stream. Examples of additional aquatic metrics include D.2.4 (remove barriers), D.2.8 (Stream flows that balance beneficial uses and support healthy aquatic habitat), and B.2.3 (Physical integrity (e.g. temperature, turbidity, trash)). One Water carries out existing monitoring for fish but is focusing One Water metrics on habitat that may support species rather than counting specific fish populations.
11		Add species of concern. Change maintain to protect and restore	Species of concern are included as a component of improving watershed health generally and specifically as part of D.2.4 (Instream: Number of human-made in-channel barriers that hinder steelhead trout movement).
12		No. Although the lofty goals as written allude to this objective, the studies, plans, habitat improvements are listed, but do not correlate to direct action that I see on the ground. In fact, item "I" has been done in reverse, where the District started removing Arundo downstream and worked its way upstream, counter to the statement in this document.	Valley Water is working to remove invasives and considering a broader program that may allow such management. Valley Water is also limited in the work it can do for properties not under its ownership and will need to continue to build on coordination with other agencies and owners.
13	GCRCD	No measurable targets. CRAM overall index and attribute scores from a probability based ambient stream condition survey at the watershed scale tells us nothing. It is a plan to make a plan. Without measurable targets there is nothing to comment upon.	Measurable targets are being included in the full report for Coyote Creek Watershed and for subsequent watershed reports. Information shared with the survey was a glimpse into what is being measured.

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15		Get rid of the homeless encampments	Valley Water is contributing to addressing this challenge but has limited authority and must work within the limits of the District Act.
16	UNSCC	History has been mixed on this objective. They should but they historically haven't. Hence the Coyote Creek floods.	Valley Water continues to work toward improving upon its three missions of water supply, flood protection, and environmental stewardship. One Water gives additional support to plan and implement these in a more holistic, integrated manner.
17		Add temperature to the health metrics. Wildfire risk seems underrepresented.	Water temperature is included under B.2.3. Climate change metrics also consider temperature as part of the underlying impacts to water supply and stewardship.
18	Citizens Committee to Complete the Refuge	Do more to improve/expand the mouths of streams at the Bay e.g. the Calabazas/San Tomas Aquino project model.	Metric D.3.1 (Percentage of streams re-connected to Bayland tidal marsh) considers this and Valley Water will continue to work with other agencies to determine what is feasible.
19		Really? Haven't seen much evidence of this, especially not for riverine habitats. Creeks need water. Make a real commitment to provide flows into the creeks rather for the habitat than redirecting it all to the percolation ponds.	Valley Water continues to work toward improving upon its three missions of water supply, flood protection, and environmental stewardship. One Water gives additional support to plan and implement these in a more holistic, integrated manner.
20	Flycasters, Inc of San Jose, CA	Much more work needs to be done by VW to meet this objective as much of the riverine habitat has been neglected over a long period of time.	Valley Water takes its stewardship mission seriously. Tools like Coyote Creek Native Ecosystem Enhancement Tool (described in the Coyote Creek Watershed Plan) will help give additional details on where beneficial work may be implemented by Valley Water and others.
21		Please ensure that homeless communities are not harmed, evicted, or blamed during restoration activities. Environmental justice is crucial.	Valley Water committed to continuing its work to clean up creeks with passage of Measure S in November 2020 and it also considers environmental justice a key part of its work. It will take careful coordination with multiple agencies to solve the homeless crisis.

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Comment Number	Organization (if applicable)	Comments on Objective E: Valley Water mitigates and adapts to climate change with consideration for CO2 emissions, water supply, flood protection and environmental stewardship aspects.	Valley Water Response
1a	Santa Clara County Audubon Society	Can VW reduce its concrete footprint?	As facilities reach their end of life, Valley Water will consider whether replacing in kind is necessary or if a more natural approach may be taken while still providing adequate flood protection.
1b	Santa Clara County Audubon Society	I often think that ancient water management systems used to harvest and direct water (terracing etc.), would be better than our modern systems for some areas. With climate change and more erratic, large amplitude storm events it is important to look for expanding capacity for water retention in the Coyote and other watersheds - even if it means buying or leasing properties for that purpose.	Concepts like green stormwater infrastructure, floodMAR, and managed retreat must all be discussed as climate change becomes a more immediate challenge for water and land use agencies responsible for protecting and providing services to the public.
2a	Santa Clara County Parks	For E.1, Valley Waters contribution to climate change, request that you add miles of recreational trail on Valley Water property/easements as a sub-objective.	Since trails and recreation are not a key component of Valley Water's mission, this can be supported as a partner agency but is not necessarily a key metric for measurement by Valley Water.
2b	Santa Clara County Parks	For E.3.2: consider not just the number of new partnerships and efforts but strengthening existing partnerships with external organizations and landowners, and the effective completion of existing projects with those partners; suggest changing measurement to number of projects completed with external organizations.	Agreed. This metric is under review and while partnerships are clearly important, Valley Water recognizes it is important to track the most meaningful aspect(s) of such a measure.
3	City of Santa Clara	Building a climate resilient water supply is important specific details on curbing CO2 emissions are less clear.	Agreed. Details on curbing CO2 emissions are still in progress with Valley Water dedicating resources to figure this out as part of the mitigation component of our Climate Change Action Plan. Link:

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			<a href="https://www.valleywater.org/your-water/water-supply-planning/climate-change-action-plan">https://www.valleywater.org/your-water/water-supply-planning/climate-change-action-plan</a>
4	California Trout	Would like to see clear plan for use of purple pipe water having multiple benefits, such as tying it back upstream and piping it from facility in Alviso to other portions of Coyote Creek for ecological benefits instream, arresting subsidence, and recharging the aquifer through targeted percolation and recharge.	Valley Water does not own or operate the recycled water (purple pipe) system but will build and operate a plant and distribution system for purified water. The current plan for purified water is to be used for groundwater recharge at the Los Gatos Ponds, but we are looking into raw or treated water augmentation that would send purified water to treatment plants.
5	City of San Jose	Suggest adding more plans around coordinating GHG reduction programs with other agencies and improving water treatment and delivery processes to reduce GHG's.	Good suggestion. As Valley Water moves forward with implementation of its Climate Change Action Plan, coordinating internally and with outside agencies is part of our plan.
6	Friends of Stevens Creek Trail	There seems to be an awareness, but I have not learned of any specific actions.	Specific actions are still in progress. As in most cases, climate change is an additional aspect to other types of projects related to water supply, flood protection, and environmental stewardship.
7a	CommUniverCity SJSU (San Jose State University)	The current plan does a good job assessing flood risk but doesn't explicitly state whether this is in relationship to climate change.	Flood risk reduction is carried out with consideration of climate change where data is available. This is a little clearer along the edge of the bay with SLR, but we are also trying to improve forecasting for fluvial flooding as more intense storms may become commonplace.
7b	CommUniverCity SJSU (San Jose State University)	Additionally, there is little mention of the potential risk to flooding for underserved communities within the watershed. I would like to see the plan pay more explicit attention to these topics.	Valley Water is updating its prioritization process for flood risk reduction as a part of the One Water Plan. This includes addition of social vulnerability as a part of prioritization.

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8	Community Activist and Valley Water Ambassador	I am not aware of specific programs to mitigate CO2 emissions	<p>In 2013, Valley Water committed to carbon neutrality and, since this commitment, have implemented several projects to reach this goal. While these programs vary, they include mitigating direct and indirect emissions along with improving energy efficiency at Valley Water. Current mitigation efforts at Valley Water include, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Executive Limitation 4.9.3, a climate divestment policy, which prohibits investment in fossil fuel companies with significant carbon emissions.</li> <li>• Establishing a District-wide internal carbon offset methodology to facilitate emission reduction, including crediting emission reductions from water conservation programs, habitat restoration or enhancements, renewable energy production and contributions to countywide emission reduction efforts.</li> <li>• Increasing fleet fuel use efficiency.</li> <li>• Maintaining a portfolio of alternative renewable energy supplies.</li> <li>• Increasing operational energy use efficiency.</li> <li>• Identifying and developing opportunities to employ sources of alternative energy that reduce GHG emissions.</li> <li>• Conducting periodic GHG emission inventories.</li> <li>• Supporting Santa Clara County’s Green Business Program</li> </ul> <p>Valley Water's Board also adopted a Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP) in July 2021. The plan provides a comprehensive outline of all climate work occurring at Valley Water and areas to expand or develop new programs and projects. The plan is available on Valley Water's website (linked below) which outlines new, ongoing, and expansion actions. Link:  <a href="https://www.valleywater.org/your-water/water-supply-planning/climate-change-action-plan">https://www.valleywater.org/your-water/water-supply-planning/climate-change-action-plan</a></p>
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## ONE WATER PLAN – COYOTE CREEK WATERSHED SURVEY RESPONSE TO COMMENTS

10a	San Francisco Bay Regional Water Board	The climate resilience objectives sound good, but more work is needed in the list of actions. Only two actions incorporate this objective: #N- Coyote Valley Protection, Enhancement and Restoration, and #U-Green Stormwater Infrastructure for Communities.	It is possible additional priority actions have a climate change aspect to them. The climate change objectives through Valley Water's Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP) are being evaluated for overlap with One Water.
10b	San Francisco Bay Regional Water Board	More aggressive actions should be pursued soon including flood proofing - not just modifications in creeks, and partnering with cities to reduce water consumption (such as for landscaping needs), etc.	Additional coordination between water agencies and municipalities is certainly needed to meet climate change objectives.
10c	San Francisco Bay Regional Water Board	Water conservation could help provide more flexibility in water management alternatives that provide for ecological flows in creeks.	Valley Water continues to push for additional water conservation both during normal rain years and drought years.
11		Environmental stewardship through - protection and enhancements of species habitat. along streams and rivers.	Valley Water's climate change considerations also consider impacts to the natural environment and ways in which our work can help reduce such impacts.
13	GCRCD	No measurable targets. Again, a plan to make a plan.	Measurable targets are being included in the full report for Coyote Creek Watershed and for subsequent watershed reports. Information shared with the survey was a glimpse into what is being measured.
14		The more watered flora the less CO2	A difficult balance between water conservation and reduction of CO2.
16		Goals and objectives will have to be adjusted for changing circumstances and understanding.	Agreed. Included metrics are intended to be forward looking but adaptive management will be needed as conditions change over time.
17	Citizens Committee to Complete the Refuge	Projects must take a robust forward-looking view of flood protection, exceeding simple/current SLR and FEMA standards.	Especially near the bay, Valley Water is working to include SLR modeling results in its future projects.
19		Environmental stewardship is not prioritized and there's no mention about measures needed to protect habitats from climate change.	Climate change relation to habitats is an area of work Valley Water is still working on. We do recognize the importance of available habitat and corridors.

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20		Once environmental stewardship commitments from the ballot measure are completed, the amount of money going to that goes down to zero and the parcel taxes all go to water supply and flood protection. You have 10 years to complete all that with minimal funds and then no more money. Environmental stewardship is a miniscule percentage of the budget. It's a joke.	Environmental stewardship is a key component of Measure S. In the second 15 years of the program there are actually less commitments to large capital projects, meaning potentially more stewardship projects. In addition, Valley Water works to embed stewardship into its water supply and flood protection projects wherever feasible.
21	Flycasters, Inc of San Jose, CA	Not sure what VW is doing to address the effects of climate change.	While some of the priority actions for One Water's Coyote Creek Watershed Plan include reference to climate change, there are likely many others that will be highlighted as coordination between the Climate Change Action Plan and One Water Plan improves.
<b>Comment Number</b>	<b>Organization (if applicable)</b>	<b>Do you see your watershed interests addressed in the draft priority actions for Coyote Creek Watershed?</b>	<b>Valley Water Response</b>
1a	Santa Clara County Audubon Society	Can you add the restoration of Penitencia Creek and the percolation ponds of Overfelt Gardens Park?	Restoration will be considered as part of flood protection, with careful planning to not impact groundwater recharge at the ponds.
1b	Santa Clara County Audubon Society	Concerned with creekside trails and other recreational impacts to ecosystems and wildlife movement	Valley Water is working on a new trail policy to ensure careful consideration of habitat in relation to proposed trails and recreation on Valley Water property.
1c	Santa Clara County Audubon Society	Overall, many of the proposed projects likely to have devastating impacts to aquatic and riparian ecosystems, far above the remediation offered in category D.	Valley Water strives to reduce any environmental impact in line with state and federal regulations but also to further its stewardship mission.
2a	Santa Clara County Parks	The draft priority actions include little to no discussion of recreational opportunities. Recreational amenities and benefits should be considered throughout the priority actions.	Recreational opportunities are not explicitly part of Valley Water's mission. Future updates may include work critical for other organizations with additional coordination. Multi-benefit projects such as flood protection projects may still include recreational components where feasible.

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2b	Santa Clara County Parks	Priority actions should be implemented with consideration for existing plans related to public access and use, e.g., relevant park master plans, Countywide Trails Master Plan.	Agree that priority actions should always consider relevant plans with overlapping jurisdiction or nearby facilities.
2c	Santa Clara County Parks	The draft priority actions do not identify key stakeholders for the broader priority actions, and should consider the need to work closely with existing landowners and partners as projects move forward (e.g., flood protection is not likely be completed solely on Valley Water property).	Priority actions were developed based on stakeholder input as well as staff expertise (who are working with stakeholders and landowners). Coordination with partners is standard practice for Valley Water but here is always room for improvement.
2d	Santa Clara County Parks	The draft priority actions identify measures to support underserved communities only in item U, related to green stormwater infrastructure; we suggest broader consideration of equity and community needs, including the community benefits provided through equitable access and recreational opportunities that can be integrated with flood protection and other One Water projects (e.g., trail access, other amenities that can serve historically marginalized populations).	Underserved communities are being considered throughout the One Water Plan. Valley Water continues to look for ways to address issues of equity and environmental justice. Information on areas underserved from an access/recreational opportunity perspective will be helpful to Valley Water as we consider dual use of our facilities for recreation where feasible.
2e	Santa Clara County Parks	The implementation timeframe for the draft priority actions does not appear to reflect the magnitude of potential construction timeframe and impacts associated with the actions; some projects are relatively short term or others long term in their implementation duration, but the implementation timeframe appears to refer only to the start of implementation. Additionally, some of the priority actions will likely have ongoing maintenance or recurring actions (e.g., invasive plant removal, trash reduction), rather than the one-time nature implied by the prioritization framework, and ongoing coordination and agreements with	The timeframe component is essentially start date for these projects. It is understood that some actions take longer to implement and that most actions will include a maintenance component. It is also possible that some short-term actions may start relatively soon but be required to carry on long-term at various locations to adequately address challenges; two examples of this are green stormwater infrastructure and wildlife corridors/crossings.

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		landowners and stakeholders will also be needed.	
3a	California Trout	I want to see clear FAHCE-related objectives integrated therein clearly so opportunities to make progress are not lost or precluded by other actions in the watershed.	One Water and FAHCE are coordinating to ensure that specific agreed-upon actions are incorporated per watershed. If something is considered a mandatory action and otherwise required, it will be given additional priority over 'nice to have' actions.
3b	California Trout	The scale and level of detail in the plan appears to be insufficient for planning and prioritizing specific projects at the reach scale. Perhaps "zooming in" on specific priority areas and identifying specific types of projects within an area of interest would be more helpful for the stakeholders.	Additional detail on a reach level can be found in Tier 3 documents/tools such as the Coyote Creek Native Ecosystem Enhancement Tool (CCNEET), which will be described as a case study in the Coyote Creek Watershed Plan.
4	City of San Jose	Yes - some. Would like to see more info/plans around water conservation, supply measures, and GHG reductions.	Water conservation and supply are primarily covered in Valley Water's Water Supply Master Plan (WSMP) with One Water covering any nexus for water supply work in the watersheds and for multi-benefit projects. GHG reductions are covered by the Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP) and One Water staff is working to include priority actions as the CCAP begins its implementation phase.

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5	Friends of Stevens Creek Trail	No. Homelessness needs to be in there explicitly. Trash is listed, but that isn't the only impact. There is human waste, human disruption of wildlife, human disruption of the creek (fish traps). We need get people out of there! It should be in the plan, even if we don't have the solution yet.	Valley Water's primary responsibility when it comes to homelessness-related issues is water quality/trash and other impacts to riparian corridors. Through funding in Measure S (2020), Valley Water hopes to coordinate with other agencies and organizations to take a more holistic approach in addressing this challenge.
6a	CommUniverCity SJSU (San Jose State University)	Item U Support green stormwater infrastructure projects that benefit underserved communities through stormwater resources plan implementation needs more clarification. How, specifically, can green stormwater infrastructure help underserved communities?	Green stormwater infrastructure can help in part to alleviate street flooding, improve stream water quality and help with heat island effects. While this can occur in any community, this action would like to first prioritize areas that have been traditionally underserved.
6b	CommUniverCity SJSU (San Jose State University)	Additionally, if this is an integrated plan, what is the connection to water supply? For example, this 2005 study identifies several groundwater replenishment features of the watershed but I do not see these represented in priority projects. I am confused.	While Valley Water has separate water supply plans such as the Water Supply Master Plan, Urban Water Management Plans, and Groundwater Management Plan, the idea is that One Water identify multi-benefit projects where water supply has an impact or need in the watershed. Some examples may be off stream recharge ponds, instream recharge, groundwater dependent ecosystems, and flood managed aquifer recharge (FloodMAR). Specific needs for additional recharge have not risen to a priority level at this point in Coyote Creek watershed but could be incorporated into future iterations of the watershed plans.
7	Community Activist and Valley Water Ambassador	Yes, but would like to see additional water in Laguna Seca.	Valley Water continues to work with Open Space Authority on potential Laguna Seca restoration/enhancement. It is included as a part of the Coyote Valley priority action.
8	San Francisco Bay Regional Water Board	Yes, partially. The One Water program has measurable objectives but additional details may be needed.	Additional details on measurable objectives including targets will be available in the full report. In addition, Valley Water is working with SFEI to develop a dashboard of metric results in a new module within the EcoAtlas tool.

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9		Wondering about the Pacheco Reservoir and why it is not important in being preserved.	Pacheco Reservoir is located within the Pajaro River watershed and thus not included in this Coyote Creek Watershed Plan. Valley Water plans to begin the Pajaro Watershed Plan in FY2022 (July 2021 - June 2022).
10		yes and no (yes, increased stream trail access); (no, specific measurable targets for native salmonids)	Stream trail access may be included in other opportunities but must be considered carefully so as not to conflict with habitat and species. Metric D.2.4 specifically relates to native fish.
11		Would like to see more on water conservation, timing of releases from dam for wildlife, fish	Water conservation and supply are primarily covered in Valley Water's Water Supply Master Plan (WSMP). Timing of releases from dams is under consideration and not deemed a specific priority action (though certainly important to consider).
12	GCRCD	Improving habit and removing barriers for fish, particularly steelhead appear to be included; however, the action plan is a very high-level document without details and measurable goals. Therefore, I cannot answer this question.	Specific metrics and targets will be included in the full report when available. In addition, Valley Water is working with SFEI to develop a dashboard of metric results in a new module within the EcoAtlas tool.
14		Also, there are no creative ways for more water storage	One Water team is coordinating with staff in charge of the Water Supply Master Plan and Groundwater Management Plan to look for creative opportunities.
15	Bay Area Ridge Trail Council	I am interested in public access and connected regional trails. I see project-specific trails mentioned in the priority actions for the Coyote Creek Watershed, but it does not have a broader connectivity. Trails and public access are the way to build stewards of the land and waterways and needs to be prioritized because trail projects are complex.	Trails and recreation are not a part of Valley Water's mission and so inclusion of these topics is limited and done so in relation to other types of actions such as flood protection projects.

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16		There needs to be a focus on restoring Coyote Creek and its tributaries by moving homes out of the flood plain using Transfer of Development Rights in partnership with cities and county and by putting more emphasis on conservation, living buildings, and recycled water. Take sea level rise and wildfires into account.	Valley Water's primary responsibility when it comes to homelessness-related issues is water quality/trash and other impacts to riparian corridors. Through funding in Measure S (2020), Valley Water hopes to coordinate with other agencies and organizations to take a more holistic approach in addressing this challenge. Sea level rise is being considered for any projects near the bay.
18		The options for answering the questions above are inadequate. This list of actions is admirable but there are too many "priority" actions.	This plan is a long-range master plan intended to be a roadmap for priority actions for approximately 50 years. Thus, a long list of priority actions was deemed appropriate. Additional engagement opportunities will be made available as development of the individual watershed plans continues.
19		Actions in traditionally underserved areas should be prioritized. Everything gets fixed first in the wealthiest areas.	Equity and environmental justice are important to Valley Water and One Water is taking the lead in reconsidering how projects are prioritized.
20	Flycasters, Inc of San Jose, CA	Yes, to some extent. I think the priority actions are too broad and lack details on specific actions to undertake in specific reaches of the watershed. More details are needed on where, how and when fisheries restoration projects will be completed which will meet the objectives of a true river corridor management plan or fisheries habitat restoration plan.	Additional detail on a reach level can be found in Tier 3 documents/tools such as the Coyote Creek Native Ecosystem Enhancement Tool (CCNEET), which will be described as a case study in the Coyote Creek Watershed Plan. In addition, as more studies and coordination are carried out, these details will be added into the watershed plans (which are anticipated to be updated approximately every 5 years).
<b>Comment Number</b>	<b>Organization (if applicable)</b>	<b>Please provide any further comments or ideas about the One Water approach.</b>	<b>Valley Water Response</b>
1	Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society	I look for more integration on the PROJECT level (for example, wildlife crossings as mentioned above)	This is consistent with One Water goals to create integrated, multi-benefit projects wherever possible.
2	Community Activist and Valley Water Ambassador	Perhaps have a community workshop in South County about the One Water Approach. You may have done this but cannot find an outreach in my files.	Outreach will be conducted in south county as we move on to the Pajaro (Uvas/Llagas) Watershed Plan. County and Morgan Hill have been engaged in some aspects of One Water to date.

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4		I like the concept. I just wish that the objectives and priorities could be spread more evenly to protect the watershed for which VW has much control.	Please keep in mind that even if something is called a flood project for example, that it will include stewardship elements wherever feasible.
6		Support One Water approach, but in severe droughts or floods, still very hard trade-offs!	Agree that trade-offs are difficult. Therefore, long-range planning that considers resiliency will help now and in challenging years in the future.
7	GCRC	This is a very disappointing document. For a project that was so many years in the making, there is not much to comment upon. Without measurable targets how can one assess the value of your action plan? It is impossible to make any logical cost/benefit analysis. Let's take a simple example, Priority Action J: Enhance Riparian and Aquatic Habitat along Middle Coyote Creek: addition of in-channel features. This ostensibly meets objectives B.2 and D. How so? This sounds like a good idea, yet it seems that the measurability ought to be a key element of any action. What are the specific targets we want to meet in the Middle Coyote regarding temperature and turbidity? What is the current level? After the project, did we achieve our target? And in regard to objective D. because there are no numbers associated with percent of habitat restored or improved, there is no way to assess the overall impact (or lack thereof) of this action.	Please consider this is not the full document, rather it is two important results that include priority actions and metrics. The full document does include targets set for Coyote Creek watershed where feasible and countywide for others not measurable at the watershed scale.
10		The area should work toward lessening dependence on Delta water to meet the settlement agreement over for imperiled fish species in the Sacramento River and San Francisco Bay/Sacramento - San Joaquin Delta Estuary	Valley Water is interested in increasing local reliability so that it has more control over water sources. Delta projects are not prioritized as part of the One Water Plan.

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12	Citizens Committee to Complete the Refuge	Always keep an open door/eye so that the Plan can adapt as conditions and science demand.	Agreed. The plan will be developed as a framework and five watershed plans and will be updated periodically to address new challenges.
14	Flycasters, Inc of San Jose, CA	The concept is good but lacks detail on actions to address fisheries habitat improvements.	This is a long-range planning document. Additional details can be found in related documents such as the Coyote Creek Native Ecosystem Enhancement Tool (CCNEET).