



Dear Community,

Out of an abundance of caution, the Santa Clara Valley Water District wants to notify you that a portion of the Lower Guadalupe Flood Protection Project, while still providing flood protection, will not do so to the level originally intended.

First, we want to emphasize that community safety is always a top priority for Valley Water. During the rains, we have been monitoring the levels of the river and doing what we can to maximize its ability to carry water that flows into it. We will continue to monitor this area through the rainy season and adjust maintenance and reservoir operations to help flows move down the river.

Second, we want to tell you what this means, how we got here and what we're doing to fix it.

Our results are preliminary, but recent analyses have shown that a four-mile stretch of the river between Tasman Drive and Airport Parkway will no longer provide protection against a flood that has a one-in-a-100 chance of occurring in any given year.

A variety of circumstances led us here, including permit restrictions from state and federal agencies that limit removal of larger trees to preserve the natural conditions of the creek, excessive vegetation growth, and the challenge of balancing the environmental benefits of a more natural creek with maintaining capacity. Part of our analysis includes examining the highest level the water reaches within the river's banks. When staff analyzed the high levels from 2017, we found that vegetation growth was more robust than anticipated, affecting the river's ability to handle these high flows.

Our next step is to conduct a full analysis to understand the impact and determine a solution. We anticipate having a permanent fix under way by 2021.

In the meantime, we have our Field Information Teams monitoring the area during the rainy season. These teams will keep an eye on the area and let us know what issues need to be dealt with immediately. Currently, we are redoubling efforts to work within our permits and clear what we can to maximize the river's capacity.

It's likely that more flood protection construction in the area will be needed. We are currently looking at alternatives, including a flood wall or higher levees, and will keep the community apprised. Because we are still in the early stages of determining what exactly is needed, we will not have a proposed completion date right away.

Based on weather forecasts, Valley Water will do our best to manage the water level in Lexington Reservoir which flows into Los Gatos Creek and eventually to the Lower Guadalupe River.

Valley Water is coordinating with the cities of San José and Santa Clara to monitor water levels and provide notifications of hot spots along the river during high-flow events.

Visit valleywater.org/floodready for tips on how to keep your home and family safe from flooding, a list of sandbag distribution sites, and to track stream and reservoir status.

For questions, please contact Melanie Richardson at mrichardson@valleywater.org.

Melanie Richardson
Chief Operating Officer, Watersheds
Santa Clara Valley Water District





Clean Water • Healthy Environment • Flood Protection

Si habla español y tiene preguntas sobre el contenido de este mensaje por favor de comunicarse con José Villarreal al JVillarreal@valleywater.org o (408) 630-2879.

Nếu bạn nói tiếng Việt và có thắc mắc về nội dung của thông báo này, xin vui lòng liên hệ với Ngọc Nguyen tại NNguyen@valleywater.org hoặc (408) 630-2632.

如果你說中文並對上述訊息有疑問, 請聯繫 Sarah Young, 電郵 SYoung@valleywater.org, 或者電話: (408) 630-2468.

Kung ang wika mo ay Tagalog at kailangan mo pa ng impormasyon, tawagan mo si Benjamin Apolo sa (408) 630-2042 o sumulat sa BApolo@valleywater.org.

