Upper Llagas Creek (E6)

Fiscal Year

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Project update

After a complex planning and design effort, acquisitions of approximately 150 parcels and Resource Agency permit negotiations, the Upper Llagas Creek Flood Protection Project is ready to break ground in fall 2019. This project by Valley Water extends approximately 13.9 miles from downstream of Buena Vista Avenue in Gilroy, and upstream to just beyond Llagas Road within the City of Morgan Hill. Construction will occur in two phases each with specific planned improvements. The phases are identified on the project map (inside).

Topics Inside:
- Protecting people and property
- Project map and reaches
- Construction overview
- Project funding
- Project timeline
- Your Vote at Work
- About Valley Water

Your Vote at Work

In November 2012, voters passed the Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program. The 15-year program makes it possible to protect homes, schools and businesses from flooding; improve the health of creeks and bay ecosystems; and create trails and parks for recreational enjoyment.

This project is Priority E in the Program, which is providing $34.4 million of the approximate $180 million project cost. Funding sources include: the City of Morgan Hill ($3 million); 2000 voter approved Clean, Safe Creeks and Natural Flood Protection Fund ($17.3 million); 2012 voter approved Safe Clean Water Fund ($37.1 million); California Department of Water Resources State Subventions Program ($32 million); and Watershed and Stream Stewardship ($40 million).

About Valley Water

Valley Water, with a history dating back to 1929, manages an integrated water resources system that includes the supply of clean, safe water, flood protection and stewardship of streams on behalf of Santa Clara County’s 2 million residents. Valley Water effectively manages 10 dams and surface water reservoirs, three water treatment plants, an advanced recycled water purification center, and a state-of-the-art water quality laboratory. Of the more than 800 miles of streams in Santa Clara County, Valley Water owns and manages about 275 miles of streams. We operate nearly 400 acres of groundwater recharge ponds. We provide wholesale water and groundwater management services to local municipalities and private water retailers who deliver drinking water to homes and businesses. Valley Water is the flood protection authority for Santa Clara County, annually preparing creeks for winter rains through levee maintenance, sediment removal, bank repair and vegetation management. We have invested more than $1 billion in flood protection efforts to protect nearly 100,000 parcels with many more projects planned.

Si habla español, tienes preguntas sobre el contenido de este mensaje para favor de comunicarse con José Villarreal al Villarreal@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 Nguyễn tại NNguyen@valleywater.org hoặc (408) 630-2652.

If you have Chinese for the news, you can contact Sarah Young, Senior Specialist, at Shyoung@valleywater.org, or call (408) 630-2468.

CONTACT US

For more information, contact Neighborhood Liaison, José Villarreal at (408) 630-2879 or by email at jvillarreal@valleywater.org. Or use our Access Valley Water customer request and information system at https://valwater.com/2ydks to find out the latest information on Valley Water projects or to submit questions, complaints or compliments directly to a Valley Water staff person.

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Upper Llagas Creek Flood Protection Project

Priority E: Provide flood protection to homes, businesses, schools and highways.

Construction overview

Two construction phases are planned where improvements will occur: Phase 1 construction is anticipated to start in fall 2019 and includes Reaches 4, 7a, Lake Silveira and a portion of Reach 5. Phase 2 construction is anticipated to start in Spring 2020 and includes the remainder of Reach 5, Reaches 6, 7b, 8 and 14.

Work in non-residential areas could go until 10 p.m. Night work activities could include construction on bridges, roadways, utility relocation, mobilization, preparatory work, traffic control, and clearing.

Residents can expect increased truck traffic, noise, dust and temporary road and trail closures at various project points during construction. Valley Water will continue to use best management practices to minimize construction disturbances (i.e., noise, dust, etc.) to the neighborhood as much as is practical and work with the contractor to address resident concerns as they arise.

Project funding

The total cost of the Upper Llagas Creek Flood Protection Project is approximately $180 million, including planning, design, real estate acquisitions, utility relocations and construction. Funding comes from the voter-approved Clean, Safe Creeks and Natural Flood Protection fund, Safe, Clean Water Protection Program fund, Watershed Stream Stewardship Fund, State of California, and the City of Morgan Hill.

Some constructed elements will consist of creek channel widening and deepening, a high water flow bypass tunnel, box culvert replacements, utility relocations, revegetation of streamside habitat, and instream habitat improvements for wildlife. Mitigation improvements at Lake Silveira include creation of wetlands and restoration of 2,000 linear feet of Llagas Creek that is currently abandoned.

Construction will occur year-round, with in-channel work done during the dry season (early May through mid-October). Phase 1 construction in residential areas will take place Monday-Saturday, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Work in these areas will be subject to local noise ordinances.

Valley Water is dedicated to keeping residents and businesses safe through its flood protection programs. Each winter, hundreds of households and businesses in Morgan Hill are susceptible to flooding from Llagas Creek and its tributaries during major storm events.

The Upper Llagas Creek Flood Protection Project consists of approximately 13.9 miles of flood protection improvements along East Little Llagas Creek, West Little Llagas Creek, and Llagas Creeks within the cities of Gilroy, Morgan Hill, and the unincorporated area of San Martin. The project is separated into sections, called reaches, with each reach representing a geographic start and end point for specific project activities shown on the project map [above].

When completed, the project will:
- Provide flood protection for approximately 1,100 homes, 500 businesses, and more than 1,300 acres of agricultural land in southern Santa Clara County.
- Save residents and businesses thousands of dollars on flood insurance each year (upon completion and Federal Emergency Management Agency certification)
- Provide increased public safety by protecting residences and businesses from flooding.
- Preserve and enhance the creek habitat for fish and wildlife.
- Protecting people and property

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