

Safe, Clean Water

and Natural Flood Protection

SANTA CLARA VALLEY
WATER DISTRICT



Environmental Benefits

What is the Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program Renewal?

The Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program (Safe, Clean Water Program) funds upgrades to pipelines, dams, and critical water infrastructure to improve water supplies and prepare for the risk of flooding, droughts, earthquakes, natural disasters, and climate change. The updated program will also continue to reduce toxins, hazards, and contaminants in our rivers, lakes, and streams through pollution prevention and creek cleanup efforts.

The proposed Safe, Clean Water Program renewal would ensure Valley Water's continued delivery of projects that will help provide safe clean drinking water, natural flood protection and a healthy environment.

What are the Safe, Clean Water Program community-preferred priorities?

- Ensure a safe, reliable water supply
- Reduce toxins, hazards and contaminants in waterways
- Protect our water supply for earthquakes and natural disasters
- Provide flood protection to homes, businesses, schools, and highways
- Restore wildlife habitat and provide open space
- Support public health and public safety for our communities

KEY RENEWAL BENEFITS

Environmental Stewardship for Fish, Wildlife and Habitat

- Restores and maintains healthy fish populations by providing \$44 million for environmental stewardship projects by including identifying and helping to remove priority barriers to fish passage, and improving habitat with instream gravel, boulders, and large wood.
- Continues to investigate, develop, and implement actions like creek-lake separations to reduce methylmercury in fish and other organisms in the Guadalupe River Watershed.
- Provides staff support and funding to restore degraded riparian, upland and wetland habitat, by removing invasive plants and/or revegetating with native species.

Environmental Stewardship for Our Community

- Program continues to consider environmental stewardship as a component of all work that Valley Water plans and implements, across all six program priorities.
- Provides expanded annual funding opportunities for grants and partnerships for environmental stewardship projects such as wildlife habitat restoration, wildlife corridors and crossings, and creek cleanups and education.

- Provides key funding and improvements for debris and litter clean-ups that ensure clean, healthy waterways throughout the county.
- Provides \$54 million to the South County Anderson Dam Seismic Retrofit project that protects Silicon Valley from inundation and destruction in the event of a dam failure, makes us more resilient in the event of a natural disaster, enhances the valley's water supplies, while also providing additional habitat benefits downstream.
- Provides funding and habitat restoration of tidal marsh habitat for endangered wildlife like the salt marsh harvest mouse and Ridgway Rail. Restored habitat also would provide rich feeding grounds for shorebirds, and nursery areas for young fish such as leopard sharks and steelhead trout.
- Provides \$38.7 million to continue the ongoing coordination with local cities and agencies to clean up large creekside encampments that contaminate waterways. This cooperative effort includes working with local municipalities, social services, and nonprofit advocacy groups that will help provide housing alternatives to the unhoused population.
- Provides funding to detect and remove invasive plant species, such as Arundo Donax, that displace native species and choke waterways throughout the county.
- Provides resources and financial assistance to community groups for 300 annual volunteer cleanup activities, such as National River Cleanup Day, California Coastal Cleanup Day, and Adopt-A-Creek.



Learn more at safecleanwater.org