

City of Palo Alto Benefits

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

The Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program funds upgrades to pipelines, dams, and critical water infrastructure to improve water supplies and prepare for the risk of natural disasters and climate change. The updated program will also continue to reduce toxins, hazards, and contaminants in our waterways, provide county-wide flood protection, and protect and improve our natural environment for the overall benefit of residents and wildlife.

KEY RENEWAL BENEFITS

- Provides funding to support approximately \$2 billion for local capital infrastructure projects that will spur economic activity and is estimated to create approximately 40,000 jobs for the local and regional economy.
- Provides \$46 million to continue the San Francisco Bay Shoreline Projection Project with partners to provide tidal flood protection, restore and enhance tidal marsh and related habitats, and provide recreational and public access opportunities along Santa Clara County's shoreline, including Palo Alto.
- Provides \$31.5 million to continue the San Francisquito Creek project (upstream of Highway 101), providing flood protection for approximately 3,000 homes and businesses in Palo Alto.
- Continues vegetation control and sediment removal for capacity along Matadero, Adobe and Barron Creeks, and continue emergency response planning and preparedness.
- Allows for restoration of tidal marsh habitat for endangered wildlife such as the salt marsh harvest mouse and Ridgway's rail; rich feeding grounds for shorebirds; and nursery areas for young fish such as leopard sharks and steelhead.
- Provides \$38.7 million to continue the ongoing coordination with local cities and agencies to help clean up large creekside encampments that may contaminate waterways. This cooperative effort includes working with local governments, social services, and nonprofit advocacy groups that will help provide housing alternatives to the unhoused population.
- Provides \$53.1 million in grants and partnerships for cities like Palo Alto, agencies, organizations and individuals for water conservation, pollution prevention, creek cleanups and education, wildlife habitat restoration and wildlife corridors and crossings, flood-inducing blockage removal, and access to trails and open space.
- Restores and maintains healthy fish populations by providing \$44 million for environmental stewardship projects, including identifying and helping to remove priority barriers to fish passage, and improving habitat with instream gravel, boulders, and large wood.

