The Priority C project helps protect our drinking water supply and water quality infrastructure from natural disasters, such as earthquakes. This priority provides partial funding to retrofit Anderson Dam so that it can safely withstand a large earthquake. Known as the Anderson Dam Seismic Retrofit project, the project would continue to ensure public safety and secure a reliable water supply.

**PROJECT C1**
**ANDERSON DAM SEISMIC RETROFIT**

Anderson Reservoir is currently limited in its capacity due to seismic concerns, costing Santa Clara County valuable drinking water resources. This project, which continues the 2012 Safe, Clean Water project, provides a portion of the funds required to help restore the full operating capacity of Anderson Reservoir.

Anderson Dam creates the county’s largest surface water reservoir—Anderson Reservoir—which stores local rainfall runoff and imported water from the Central Valley Project. The reservoir is an important water source for drinking water treatment plants and the recharge of the groundwater basin. Besides restoring drinking water supplies and covering the earthquake retrofitting of Anderson Dam to improve reliability and safety, the upgrade also supports compliance with environmental regulations. Valley Water’s regular reservoir releases ensure that downstream habitat has healthy flows to sustain wildlife.

A breach of Anderson Dam at full capacity could have catastrophic consequences, including inundation of surrounding land more than 30 miles northwest to San Francisco Bay, and more than 40 miles southeast to Monterey Bay.

**Benefits**

- Brings the dam into compliance with today’s seismic standards
- Increases reliability and safety of our area’s largest reservoir by protecting it from earthquakes
- Eliminates operational restrictions issued by the two regulatory agencies—the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and the California Department of Water Resources Division of Safety of Dams (DSOD). In February 2020, FERC directed Valley
Water to begin safely lowering the reservoir to an elevation of 488 feet (essentially almost emptying the reservoir) beginning October 1, 2020. This project would restore Anderson Reservoir to its full capacity of approximately 90,373 acre-feet of water storage for our current and future water supply

- Ensures compliance with environmental laws and regulations
- Enhances native fish and wildlife habitat
- Minimizes the risk of uncontrollable releases from the reservoir, which could cause downstream flooding

**Key performance indicator**

1. Provide portion of funds, up to $54.1 million, to help restore full operating reservoir capacity of 90,373 acre-feet.

**Geographic area of benefit:** Countywide

**Estimated funding from Safe, Clean Water Renewal:** $54.1 million

**Estimated total project cost:** $576.3 million

*What happens to Priority C projects if funding is not available?*

A breach of Anderson Dam at full capacity could have catastrophic consequences, which makes the funding contribution from this program vital to the safety of our county.