

Flooding...

can happen during intense rainfalls, but typically occurs after several days of heavy rain that saturates the ground. It can strike quickly with little or no warning. While the water district's many reservoirs provide some buffer between rainfall and creekflow, most creeks do not have a reservoir and water levels rise quickly during intense rainstorms.

When creeks overbank, the floodwater typically flows swiftly through neighborhoods and away from streams. Dangerously fast-moving floodwaters can flow thousands of feet away from the flooded creek within minutes.

While the chances seem slim for a flood in the 1 percent floodplain (the area designated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency that has a 1 percent chance of flooding in any given year), the real odds of a 1 percent flood are **greater than one in four** during the length of a 30-year mortgage. Santa Clara County has had several floods over the years, most notably in 1995 and 1997 along the Guadalupe River. Call your city or the water district to determine if your property is in a floodplain.

You are receiving this notice because your property is in or near the flood hazard area as mapped by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Creeks that flood

These Santa Clara County creeks are flood prone:

- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Adobe Creek | Los Gatos Creek |
| Alamias Creek | Lower Penitencia Creek |
| Alamitos Creek | Lower Silver Creek |
| Almendra Creek | Loyola Creek |
| Barron Creek | McAbee Creek |
| Berryessa Creek | Pajaro River |
| Bodfish Creek | Permanente Creek |
| Calabazas Creek | Purissima Creek |
| Calera Creek | Quimby Creek |
| Calero Creek | Randol Creek |
| Canoas Creek | Ross Creek |
| Corralitos Creek | San Francisquito Creek |
| Coyote Creek | San Martin Creek |
| Crosley Creek | San Tomas Aquino Creek |
| Deer Creek | Santa Teresa Creek |
| Dexter Creek | Saratoga Creek |
| East Little Llagas Creek | Shannon Creek |
| Edmundson Creek | Sierra Creek |
| Fisher Creek | Smith Creek |
| Fowler Creek | South Babb Creek |
| Gavilan Creek | Stevens Creek |
| Golf Creek | Sunnyvale east and west channels |
| Greystone Creek | Tennant Creek |
| Guadalupe River | Upper Penitencia Creek |
| Hale Creek | Upper Silver Creek |
| Heney Creek | Uvas-Carnadero Creek |
| Jones Creek | Vasona Creek |
| Llagas Creek | West Little Llagas Creek |
| Los Coches Creek | Wildcat Creek |

To report...

street flooding or blocked storm drains, or to contact your local floodplain manager call:

Campbell	408.866.2145
Cupertino	408.777.3269
Gilroy	408.846.0444
Los Altos	650.947.2785
Los Altos Hills	650.941.7222
Los Gatos	408.399.5770
Milpitas	408.586.2600
Monte Sereno	408.354.7635
Morgan Hill	408.776.7333
Mountain View	650.903.6329
Palo Alto	650.329.2413
San José	408.277.4373
Santa Clara	408.615.3080
Saratoga	408.868.1245
(After hours emergency)	408.299.2507
Sunnyvale	408.730.7510
Unincorporated	408.299.2507



For more information, scan the QR code to access us on valleywater.org.



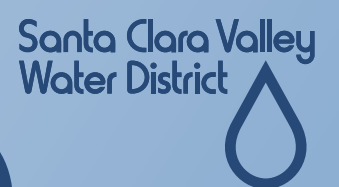
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San Jose, CA 95118
www.valleywater.org • 408.265.2600

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- 1 Constructing a new bridge on Calabazas Creek in Saratoga.
- 2 New culvert for Lower Silver Creek under Capitol Expressway.
- 3 Creating a new floodplain for the Guadalupe River at West Virginia Street in San Jose.

2011 notice



Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection

safecleanwater.org



To ensure safe, clean water and provide flood protection in Santa Clara County, the water district is planning the future of our water resources.

This summer, we heard from nearly 14,000 residents through face-to-face, phone and website surveys. We would like your input as we make planning decision for the years ahead.

Please visit safecleanwater.org to learn more about the challenges and opportunities facing our local waterways and water supply.

Our long-term planning goals include:

- Supplying safe, healthy water
- Keeping our water system free of toxins
- Retrofitting for earthquakes
- Restoring wildlife habitat
- Providing natural flood protection

Stay safe before, during and after a **flood**

Protect your property from flooding

- Periodically examine your property for flood risks. Seal any cracks in the foundation and exterior walls of your home and seal small openings around pipes with grout, concrete, crack filler or caulk.
- Gather emergency building materials, such as plywood, plastic sheeting and sandbags. **For sandbag locations and to find out how to use them, visit www.valleywater.org or call 408.265.2600.**
- Construct barriers to stop floodwater from entering the building.
- Keep rain gutters and drainage channels free of debris. Consider tarping or seeding any unvegetated slopes on your property.

Before a flood

- Prepare a family disaster plan for floods, earthquakes and fires. Make an emergency kit for your home and car with emergency supplies such as a flashlight, batteries, water and non-perishable food. Move insurance policies, documents and other valuables to a safe deposit box.
- Be aware of the locations of streams and drainage channels in your neighborhood (see the list of local **“Creeks that flood”** on the back).
- Learn how to turn off utilities to your home and keep your car’s gas tank full so you won’t be stranded.
- Learn the best route to high ground to avoid flood waters.
- The smartest thing you can do to prepare for floods is **purchase flood insurance**.
- Remember, there is a 30-day waiting period before flood insurance takes effect.

During a flood

- Be aware that flash flooding can occur. If a flood is imminent, avoid low-lying areas and seek shelter in the highest areas possible.
- Tune to radio stations KCBS (740 AM) for emergency information, traffic updates and instructions.
- If you must evacuate, turn off utilities at the main switches or valves. Disconnect electrical appliances. Do not touch electrical equipment if you are wet or standing in water.
- If advised to evacuate, do so immediately. Evacuation is easier and safer before floodwaters become too deep.
- Do not walk through moving water. Six inches of moving water can make you fall. If you have to walk in water, walk where it is not moving. Use a stick to check the firmness of the ground in front of you and to aid in balance.
- Do not drive into flooded areas. If floodwaters rise around your car, abandon the car and move to higher ground. A foot of water will float many vehicles. Two feet of rushing water can carry away most vehicles, including SUVs and pick-ups.

After a flood

- Listen for news reports on whether the community’s water supply is safe to drink.
- Avoid floodwaters. Oil, gasoline or raw sewage may have contaminated the water. Underground or downed power lines may also have electrically charged the water.
- Stay away from downed power lines and report them to your power company.
- Return home only when authorities indicate it is safe.
- Never try to walk, swim, drive or play in floodwater.
- Service damaged septic tanks, cesspools, pits and leaching systems as soon as possible. Damaged sewage systems are serious health hazards.
- Clean and disinfect everything wet. Mud left from floodwater can contain sewage and chemicals.
- Any improvements greater than 50 percent of structure’s value need to meet National Flood Insurance Program requirements.

We speak your language

Esta publicación contiene información sobre los recursos de agua, la administración del medio ambiente y protección contra inundaciones en el Condado de Santa Clara. Si desea recibir un ejemplar en español, por favor comuníquese con el Distrito de Aguas del Valle de Santa Clara (Santa Clara Valley Water District) al (408) 265-2607, ext. 2297.

Tập tài liệu này gồm có các tin tức về những nguồn cung cấp nước, sự quản lý môi trường và phòng ngừa lũ lụt trong Quận Santa Clara. Để nhận được bản sao của tập tài liệu này bằng tiếng Việt, xin liên lạc Ty Thủy Cục Thung Lũng Santa Clara (Santa Clara Valley Water District) ở số (408) 265-2607, số chuyển tiếp ext. 3211.

此份刊物包含關於聖他克拉拉縣境內的水源、環境管理及防洪資訊。若要取得此份刊物的中文版，請與聖他克拉拉谷水利局聯絡，電話為 (408) 265-2607 轉分機 2361。

Do you need flood insurance?

Your basic homeowners insurance does not cover losses from flooding. The federal government offers disaster assistance in the form of reconstruction loans only in a declaration of a federal emergency. Unlike disaster loans, you won’t need to repay money from flood insurance.

Federal law requires flood insurance if you have a federally regulated mortgage and your building is in an area shown on maps prepared by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) as subject to flooding during a 1 percent flood event. All communities in Santa Clara County participate in FEMA’s National Flood Insurance Program, which means that you can purchase flood insurance to protect your property from the hazards of flooding. Education and other flood-risk reduction efforts like this brochure help to lower your insurance premiums through FEMA’s Community Rating System. Lenders are legally responsible for determining if flood insurance is required for a loan, but your city will provide assistance in reading and interpreting the FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map and provide information about FEMA elevation certificates.

In some cases, FEMA will lift the flood insurance requirement after the completion of flood protection projects. This notice was mailed to all properties that appear on FEMA’s maps, some of which have not yet been updated. There can be as much as a 12- to 24-month delay between a project’s completion and the update of FEMA’s maps.

There is a 30-day waiting period before flood insurance takes effect. Contents coverage is separate, so renters and businesses can insure their belongings. Contents coverage is also available to homeowners separately from the required structural coverage. Securing both policies will cover your building and your belongings in case of a flood. Most insurance agents sell it. Call 1.888.724.6978 or go online at Floodsmart.gov to find a local agent. Flood insurance is a good idea to protect your property and belongings even if it’s not required by your lender.

Special permits required in floodplains

Construction within a FEMA designated floodplain may have special permit requirements from your local municipality. Contact your community’s building department for more information before you build, grade or fill. If you see building or filling without a permit sign posted, please contact your local community’s building department. **Use the contact phone list provided on the back.**

Healthy creek ecosystems

A healthy stream is an irreplaceable natural resource and a wonderful amenity that can bolster a property’s value. Make the most of your local creeks by helping to keep them healthy. Through proper care of stream banks and riparian vegetation, you can enhance your property, prevent erosion problems, avoid flood losses, preserve water quality and contribute to the survival of fish and wildlife. **The water district has restored or created more than 345 acres of tidal and/or riparian habitat.**

The guidelines and standards for land use near streams manual can help creekside property owners large and small to make the right decisions in caring for their property. **Find a copy at www.valleywater.org/Programs/WaterResourcesProtectionCollaborative.aspx**

Keeping debris out of creeks helps water flow

Creeks are a valuable natural resource that support sensitive wildlife and ecosystems and serve as natural drainage systems that carry stormwater away from homes, roads and businesses safely to the bay. For our waterways to carry runoff during heavy rainfall, it is important to keep creeks free of trash and debris, which can impede the flow of water and cause flooding. While most people realize trash and chemicals should not go into a creek, many don’t know that yard waste, leaves and soil also pollute a creek and can obstruct water flow, resulting in flooding and erosion. **Where we own the creek or have easement, the water district repairs creek banks and levees, removes sediment from creek channels, inspects waterways and cleans up illegally dumped items such as shopping carts, cans and general litter.**

Do not dump

It is illegal to dump anything into a creek or storm drain. Help keep the storm drain and flood management systems operating by reporting illegal dumping. Drains in your street flow directly to local creeks. Storm drain systems, the gutters, drains and pipes in the street are all maintained by cities.

To report localized flooding caused by blocked storm drains, call your city’s public works department. Their phone numbers are listed on the back. **To report illegal dumping, call the Santa Clara Valley Water District Illegal Dumping Hotline (24 hours) 1.888.510.5151.**