

Public Notice

Notice of Exemption



To: County of Santa Clara
Clerk-Recorder's Office
110 West Tasman Dr, 1st Floor
San Jose CA 95134

From: Santa Clara Valley Water District (Valley Water)
5750 Almaden Expressway
San Jose CA 95118-3686
Telephone (408) 265-2600

Project Title: Coyote Canal Emergency Drainage Restoration Project

Project Location - Specific: The Project is located on upper Coyote Canal (between canal stations 283+25 to 310+00) along Highway 101, between Coyote Creek Visitor Center at Anderson Lake and Coyote Creek Golf Club.

Downstream coordinates: 37.178020, -121.679706

Upstream coordinates: 37.173706, -121.672851

Project Location - City: N/A – unincorporated

Project Location - County: Santa Clara

Project Purpose: To restore positive drainage in the upper Coyote Canal and prevent flooding of Highway 101 in unincorporated Santa Clara County during the upcoming El Nino winter weather season.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Santa Clara Valley Water District (Valley Water)

Name of Agency or Person Carrying Out Project: Santa Clara Valley Water District (Valley Water)

Exempt Status: (check one)

- ☐ Ministerial [Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268]
- ☐ Declared Emergency [Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a)]
- ☐ Categorical Exemption
- ☒ Statutory Exemption [**Emergency Projects**, Sec. 15269(b) and (c)].

Reasons Why Project is Exempt: The Project is necessary to prevent flooding of the northbound Highway 101 travel lanes during the upcoming El Nino winter weather season. The Project involves emergency repairs to publicly owned canals to maintain stormwater conveyance and protect public health, safety, and welfare.

Description of Project: The Project would recontour an earthen mound currently preventing flow from Coyote Creek Branch A from entering a Highway 101 culvert (canal station 310+00) using a small excavator, repair a 50-foot-long section of earthen levee where it failed in 2017 (canal station 293+60) with 100 to 150 CY of clean levee fill, and clear an estimated 300 CY of sediment from a 480-foot-long, 8-foot-wide, 5-foot-tall concrete box culvert that conveys the canal beneath Highway 101 (canal stations 288+05 to 283+25) using a remote-controlled tracked machine and, if needed, a hydrovac tank truck. Valley Water Standard BMPs have been incorporated into the Project and would prevent sedimentation and degradation of water quality in downgradient waterbodies. The Project is scheduled for October/November 2026 and would take approximately 2 weeks to complete.

Lead Agency: Santa Clara Valley Water District
Contact Person: Kelly White
Title: Environmental Planner

Area Code/Telephone/Extension
(408) 630-2840

Signature: Kelly C White

Date: 10/19/26

Title: Kelly White
Associate Environmental Planner
Utility Planning and FAHCE Support Unit

cc: California State Clearinghouse (CEQAnet)
CEQA Administrative Record