

## District to conduct geotechnical work at lake site in August

The water district will extract soil samples this month from below the surface of Almaden Lake as part of a geotechnical investigation that will inform the work of a project aimed at reducing methylmercury production and improving conditions for steelhead.

This work will also take place at locations where a new levee would tie into the lake's shoreline. The investigation will characterize the earth material in and under the lake and evaluate the stability of the proposed improvements, which seek to separate Alamos Creek from the lake as part of the district's two preferred alternatives.

The project team will go before the district's board of directors with a recommended alternative to request project approval sometime next year after completing the environmental work.

A barge will drill six borings, two of them in the water. Work will begin after Aug. 11 to avoid disturbing summer camps and public events at the park and will last about a week and take place during weekdays. The park and trail will remain open during this time.

Boring samples will go to a soil testing laboratory for analysis, with the results documented in a subsurface exploratory and laboratory report. The results will be documented in a planning study report later this fall.

For more information on the boring, contact the project manager, Rechelle Blank, at 408-630-2615. Also, keep up to date on the upcoming work by going to the district web page at [www.valleywater.org](http://www.valleywater.org) or the project blog at [www.almadenlakeproject.wordpress.com](http://www.almadenlakeproject.wordpress.com)



*The district will use for staging areas five spaces in the parking lot on each of the west and east sides of the lake.*

## Drought leads to lower water levels at Almaden Lake

The countywide drought is impacting Almaden Lake, resulting in dropping water levels as the district curtails releases from reservoirs to the creeks.

To ensure adequate drinking water supplies, the district is storing imported and local water only in the Anderson, Coyote and Calero reservoirs. The remaining reservoirs and creeks are experiencing significant dryback, which means no water is flowing into or out of the lake.

Creek water is the only water supply that exists for the district to replenish the lake, which will not dry completely because its bottom allows for no percolation. Water loss at the lake comes as the result of evaporation.

The water district has an abundance of information related to the drought. To learn more, please visit [www.valleywater.org/drought2014](http://www.valleywater.org/drought2014)



The project team went to the public in April to present its preferred alternatives.

## Project status

On April 9, the water district introduced to the public two new options as the preferred alternatives for addressing the issues at Almaden Lake.

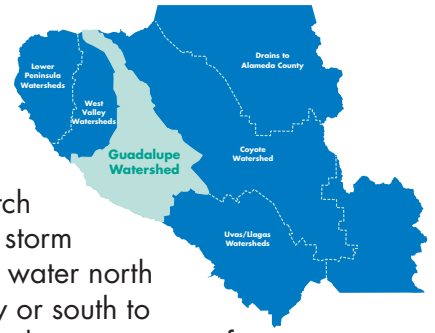
Both, known as Alternatives 6 and 7, maximize water at the park and addresses the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board's concerns with the production and release of methylmercury from the lake.

These alternatives are moving into the next stage of study: The environmental analysis phase. The work and preparation of the draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) begins later this year once the engineering requirements of the alternatives are finalized.

A consultant will conduct the legally required environmental review and prepare the draft EIR that will document the findings. The public will have the chance to review and comment on the report once the draft is complete and released.

## You're in a watershed

A watershed is the area of land that drains to a common waterway. In Santa Clara County, our creeks and rivers catch rain and runoff from storm drains and carry the water north to San Francisco Bay or south to Monterey Bay. Along the way, some of the water is used to fill reservoirs for drinking water, replenish the underground aquifer and create better habitat for fish and wildlife. This project is in the **Guadalupe Watershed**.



## Contact us

For more information, contact **Rechelle Blank** at **(408) 630-2615**, or visit our website at [www.valleywater.org](http://www.valleywater.org) and use our **Access Valley Water** customer request and information system. With three easy steps, you can use this service to find out the latest information on the project or to submit questions, complaints or compliments directly to a district staff person.