

# Lower Penitencia Creek Bank Repair Project

## About the project

The Santa Clara Valley Water District will work in your neighborhood to repair an eroded bank site along Lower Penitencia Creek, south of San Andreas Drive and north of Redwood Avenue.

This project will restore the creek by repairing 350 feet of creek bank, which will provide protection to Curtner Elementary School. The repair work will provide bank slope stabilization and minimize erosion. Securing the creek bank protects homes and property along the creek. It also minimizes sediment build-up improving the creek's capacity to carry floodwaters, while maintaining a stable and healthy creek ecosystem.

Work is planned for July and will take approximately 20 days to complete. \* Project work hours are 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. In the unlikely event of delays, work hours may include Saturdays.

A five-person crew will work at the project site using an excavator, dump trucks, water trucks and compactors. Expect typical construction noise during work hours from operating heavy equipment. A generator, designed to operate more quietly, will continuously pump water around the project site and back into the creek farther downstream, if needed.

Trucks and crews will access the creek at San Andreas Drive and/or Redwood Avenue. Expect no road closures, but traffic control or flaggers may be needed at times during work for safety.

## What causes bank erosion?

When water flows over or against creek banks, its energy and movement can dislodge and carry away soil, rocks, trees or vegetation, causing erosion. Erosion can also damage fragile natural habitats that can negatively impact fish and other species that use these natural elements for shelter and food.



Map: Red circle indicates project area.

Inset: The existing steep, eroded bank along Lower Penitencia Creek with Curtner Elementary School in the background.



\* Project start dates and duration may vary due to site conditions and equipment availability.

## More about us

As the county's primary drinking water provider, the Santa Clara Valley Water District ensures the safety and abundance of drinking water. We operate 10 reservoirs which catch local rainfall and we import water from the Sierra Nevada snowmelt through the Delta. Some of that water replenishes the underground aquifer for later pumping from wells and some goes to one of our three drinking water treatment plants. Once we treat and test the water to meet all state and federal drinking water standards, we sell it to local water providers like the San Jose Water Company that resell it to individual homes and businesses. The water supply in some areas in northern Santa Clara County includes Sierra Nevada water imported through San Francisco's Hetch Hetchy system.

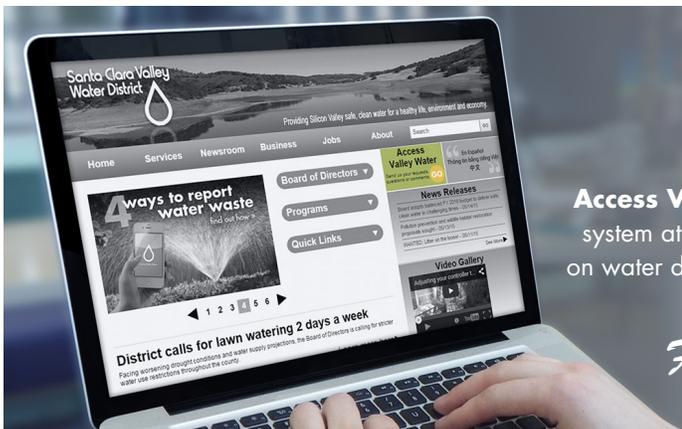
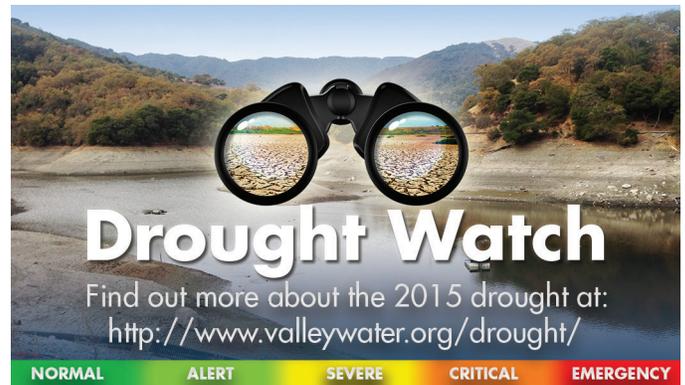
The water district also has a major role in the stewardship of local water resources. We care for hundreds of miles of streams by removing invasive vegetation, repairing creek bank erosion, planting native vegetation and removing sediment that can impact the creek's ability to carry floodwaters during rainy months. We also have many programs to reduce pollution and contamination in these waterways. Where the flood threat is significant, we undertake large construction projects such as building levees or replacing undersized bridges. Often, the water district can partner with a city or the county to open a trail or park alongside the creek, providing a recreational amenity for all to enjoy.

## You're in a watershed

A watershed is the area of land that drains a common waterway. In Santa Clara County, our creeks 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 **Coyote Watershed**. Sixteen major creeks drain this 322-square-mile area. The county's largest watershed extends from the urbanized valley floor upward to the vast natural areas of the Diablo range. Coyote Creek, its main waterway, is the longest creek in the county.



### CONTACT US

For more information, contact **Theo Hipol** at **(408) 630-2494** or by email at **thipol@valleywater.org**. Or use our **Access Valley Water** customer request and information system at [valleywater.org](http://valleywater.org) to find out the latest information on water district projects or to submit questions, complaints or compliments directly to a district staff person.



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