



What does the water district do?

The Santa Clara Valley Water District manages an integrated water resources system that includes the supply of **clean, safe water**; **flood protection**; and **stewardship of streams** for Santa Clara County's 1.9 million residents. The district manages 10 dams and surface water reservoirs, three water treatment plants, an advanced recycled water purification center, a water quality laboratory, nearly 400 acres of groundwater percolation ponds and more than 275 miles of streams. The Santa Clara Valley Water District was formed in 1929 to safeguard our groundwater basins, and that remains one of our priorities today.

Clean, reliable water: To provide a more reliable water supply, we're developing and expanding water sources for our already-diverse portfolio. In a normal year, 55 percent of our water is imported from other parts of California. In a drought year, that proportion can increase significantly. This year, however, imported water is more difficult to secure, so we have turned our attention inward, toward purifying recycled water.

Some of the actions we are taking now to ensure future water supply reliability include investing \$16.5 million dollars to pursue an accelerated expansion of purified and recycled water for the county. The water district board of directors has also authorized, and staff has prepared plans for, an additional \$3 million to pursue further recycled water development partnerships in North County, which stretches from South San José to the northern county line. **Read more about purified water inside.**

We also continue to partner with several Bay Area water agencies on examining **desalination**. We have studied the process for years and even built a pilot plant. We must weigh concerns of energy use, the environment and the economy when considering desalination, and a thorough vetting of how it would work in the Bay Area will help us determine if this is a viable water source for Santa Clara County.

Flood protection: Flood protection is an important part of what we do. The Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program, a parcel tax passed by voters in 2012, includes projects to protect homes and businesses. As intense weather is a possibility if severe El Niño conditions develop, here are tips and resources to help residents and businesses protect themselves:

- **Understand shallow flooding risks** – It only takes 2 feet of moving water to carry away a vehicle. Don't drive through standing water.
- **Know your flood hazard** – Are you in a Special Hazard Flood Area? **Call (408) 630-2650** for help in finding out.
- **Insure your property for your flood hazard** – Flood Insurance will cover damage from flooding that most homeowner's policies don't cover, and it's also available for renters and commercial properties.
- **Protect people and property from flood hazards** – Visit our website to learn how you can protect your family and property during floods. <http://www.valleywater.org/Services/FloodProtection.aspx>
 - **Develop a Family Emergency Plan** using a Family Disaster Plan template, available at <http://www.redcross.org/prepare/location/home-family/plan>
 - **Get information quickly during an emergency** – Get the info you need with the following alert systems:
 - **American Red Cross free Flood App** - <http://www.redcross.org/prepare/mobile-apps/flood>
 - **Santa Clara County emergency alert system** for flood warnings - www.alertscc.com
 - **Check for real-time data on stream reservoir and precipitation gauges** at www.valleywater.org/services/alert.aspx



- **Build responsibly** – Thinking about building in a floodplain? Special requirements may apply. Contact your local planning department to find out.
- **Protect natural floodplains** – Do not dump. Keep debris and trash out of our streams to ensure water flows down them. You can report a spill or illegal dumping in creeks or storm drains by calling the water district's 24-hour **Hazmat Pollution Prevention Hotline at 1-888- 510-5151** or visit www.valleywater.org and click on "Access Valley Water"

Stream stewardship: Healthy watersheds help keep our water clean. One way the water district maintains watershed habitat and ecosystems is through the Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program, which makes grant

money available to partners working toward these goals. Recent partnerships include a grant to West Valley College for Vasona Creek stream stabilization and habitat enhancement, and one to the California Product Stewardship Council to expand the number of collection bins for pharmaceuticals so they don't end up in our waterways.

Over the 15-year life of the program, the water district expects to distribute nearly \$35 million in grants, partnerships and rebate programs. Learn more at www.valleywater.org/SafeCleanWater.aspx

Clean, reliable water; flood protection; healthy creeks and ecosystems: these are just some of the ways we fulfill our mission to provide Silicon Valley with safe, clean water for a healthy life, environment and economy.

Education and Cooperation: Managing demand for water

The drought is visible in low reservoir levels, empty percolation ponds and brown lawns. It is also unpredictable, so we must prepare for a dry period that could last many more years.

Based on our local conditions, our board has called for a 30 percent reduction in countywide water usage over 2013 levels. To protect our groundwater basins, we need

to achieve a higher conservation level than that set by the state.

Let's thank those who have done their part and celebrate Water Saving Heroes. Our Water Saving Heroes Program recognizes those who have gone above and beyond to do their part to fight the drought. If you know one, nominate that person at <http://svy.mk/1GpfAXI>.



Tips to hit 30 percent



WATER ORNAMENTAL LANDSCAPES NO MORE THAN **two days per week.**



REPLACE YOUR WATER-GUZZLING LANDSCAPE WITH A WATER-SIPPING ONE. YOU MAY BE ELIGIBLE FOR A REBATE OF **\$2 per square foot.**



REPLACE OLD TOILETS AND WASHING MACHINES WITH HIGH-EFFICIENCY ONES. **You could get a rebate.**

We'll send out a Water Waste Inspector to educate residents and business owners about water use restrictions, leaks or violations. If necessary, we'll report it to the local water provider who can take more stringent actions.*

*Report water waste on our website at valleywater.org, using our Access Valley Water app, by phone at (408) 630-2000 or via e-mail at drought@valleywater.org.