About the project

The Santa Clara Valley Water District will remove approximately 2,000 cubic yards of sediment from Matadero Creek south of U.S. 101 to Ross Road to help restore capacity.

Work will start in early July and take 20 days to complete. * Project work hours are 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. The water district does not anticipate any work on Saturdays.

A five-person crew will use an excavator, crew trucks, a small loader and dump trucks at the site. Expect typical construction noise during work hours as trucks and crews access the creek at Greer, Louis and Ross Roads. Expect no road closures, but the water district may use traffic controls or flaggers, if needed, during work for safety.

This project will remove enough cubic yards of sediment to fill 250 dump trucks. Sediment removal is important to maintain the creek’s capacity to carry floodwaters away from nearby homes and property.

Why remove sediment?

Water flowing in a creek or river picks up and carries fine grains of soil, rock or mineral called sediment. When the flowing water slows down or reaches a wide or flat area, the sediment “drops out” and is deposited into the stream bed. This can clog the creek, reducing the amount of water it can transport. Sediment fills the underwater spaces around rocks, fallen tree trunks and branches, eliminating places where fish and other species seek food and shelter.

* Project start dates and duration may vary due to site conditions and equipment availability.
More about us

The Santa Clara Valley Water District is the county’s primary drinking water provider and 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 water retailers like the San Jose Water Company that resell it to individual homes and businesses.

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 Lower Peninsula Watershed, a 98-square-mile area whose many small-creek watersheds feed the tidal wetlands along the San Francisco Bay’s southwest shoreline. Its San Francisquito and Stevens creeks are among the last remaining viable steelhead trout runs in the county.

Your Safe, Clean Water vote at work

This project is funded by the voter-approved Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection parcel tax passed in November 2012.

The 15-year plan’s five priorities are to:

A. Ensure a safe, reliable water supply for the future
B. Reduce toxins, hazards and contaminants, such as mercury and pharmaceuticals, in our waterways
C. Protect our water supply and local dams from the impacts of earthquakes and natural disasters
D. Restore fish, bird and wildlife habitat and provide open space access
E. Provide flood protection to homes, businesses, schools, streets and highways

Detailed information on the Safe, Clean Water Program, including projects and program descriptions, finances, implementation plans, and provisions for external oversight can be found at www.valleywater.org/safecleanwater.

CONTACT US

For more information, contact Chad Grande at (408) 630-2915, or visit our website at 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 district projects or to submit questions, complaints or compliments directly to a district staff person.

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