

About Valley Water

Valley Water manages an integrated water resources system that includes the supply of clean, safe water, flood protection and stewardship of streams on behalf of Santa Clara County's 2 million residents. As the flood protection authority for Santa Clara County, Valley Water annually prepares creeks for winter rains through levee maintenance, sediment removal, bank repair and vegetation management.

Valley Water has invested more than \$1 billion in flood protection efforts to protect nearly 100,000 parcels with many more projects planned. Under its Stream Maintenance Program, Valley Water also repairs damages to creeks to reduce the risk of flooding and to keep our communities safe.



Envíe un correo electrónico a translations@valleywater.org si tiene preguntas sobre este documento.

Vui lòng liên hệ với translations@valleywater.org nếu bạn có thắc mắc về tài liệu này.

如果您对此文件有任何疑问，请联系 translations@valleywater.org.

PRSRT STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
SAN JOSE CA
PERMIT NO. 1231

© 2022 Santa Clara Valley Water District • 10/2022 • SL/RG



About The San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority

The San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority was formed in 1999 to lead projects that mitigate the risk of flooding along the San Francisquito Creek and the Bay. It was formed by the cities of East Palo Alto, Palo Alto, Menlo Park, the San Mateo County Flooding and Sea Level Resiliency District and Valley Water.

Are You Flood Safe?

Preparing for potential flooding during the wet season is highly encouraged despite current drought conditions. Flooding can still happen in times of drought so taking proper precautions prior to major storm events is important. Flooding can occur when it has rained heavily and the ground can't absorb any more water. Heavy rain on dry soil can run off faster than the ground can absorb, resulting in a flash flood. In both situations, creek levels can rise quickly and overbank, potentially causing dangerously fast-moving floodwater to flow through neighborhoods, within minutes.

You can be flood safe by being prepared and aware. Learn if your home or business is in a Special Flood Hazard Area by visiting floodsmart.gov.

Protect Your Home From Flood Threats

- Winter storms can bring flooding, even in a drought. Be prepared!
- Gather building materials: plywood, plastic sheeting, and sandbags.
- Use your plastic sheeting, plywood, and sandbags to seal doors in the event of rising waters.
- Seal cracks in your home's foundation, home exterior walls and small openings around pipes.
- Learn how to turn off house utilities: electrical, gas and water.
- Keep your drains and gutters free of debris.

San Francisquito Creek

Flood Protection | Ecosystem Restoration | Recreation

Providing flood protection to more than 5,700 homes and businesses in Palo Alto, Menlo Park and East Palo Alto.

Flooding Can Happen—WHAT TO DO:

BEFORE

- Subscribe to San Mateo and Santa Clara counties' emergency alert systems:
 - » San Mateo County SMCALERT at hsd.smcsheriff.com/smcalert.
 - » Santa Clara County AlertSCC at emergencymanagement.sccgov.org/AlertSCC.
- Designate a meeting spot for everyone. Prepare a household disaster plan and emergency kit for your home and vehicle.
- Report creek blockage by visiting Access Valley Water at access.valleywater.org or by calling the SFCJPA at **650-643-1450** or by visiting our website at sfcjpa.org and scrolling to the "Report a Problem" form at the bottom of the landing page.

DURING

- Tune your radio to 740 AM, 90.1 FM and 106.9 FM for emergency information.
- If advised to evacuate, do so immediately. Turn off utilities at main switches or valves. Do not touch electrical lines or equipment if you are wet or standing in water.
- If a flood is imminent, avoid low-lying areas. Seek shelter in the highest area possible.
- Moving water is dangerous. Six inches of moving water can make you fall.
- Do not drive in flooded areas. If floodwaters rise around your vehicle, abandon the vehicle, and move to higher ground.

AFTER

- Return home only when authorities indicate it is safe to do so. Listen for news reports on water and road safety conditions.
- Never walk, swim, drive or play in floodwater, which could be contaminated.
- Stay away from downed power lines. Report them to your power company.
- Clean and disinfect everything wet.

We're In A Drought

It's important to remember we are still in a drought emergency and conserving water continues to be a shared goal. While some of our region may see high rainfall totals at times, we are unlikely to get enough rainfall in one season to end the drought. Our region will need several major storms within the same season to fill our local reservoirs and produce enough snowpack in the Sierra Nevada to fill state and federal reservoirs.

Learn more by visiting valleywater.org/drought. For conservation tips, tools, and rebates in Santa Clara County, visit watersavings.org.

Sign up for emergency alerts:

San Mateo County SMCALERT at hsd.smcsheriff.com/smcalert

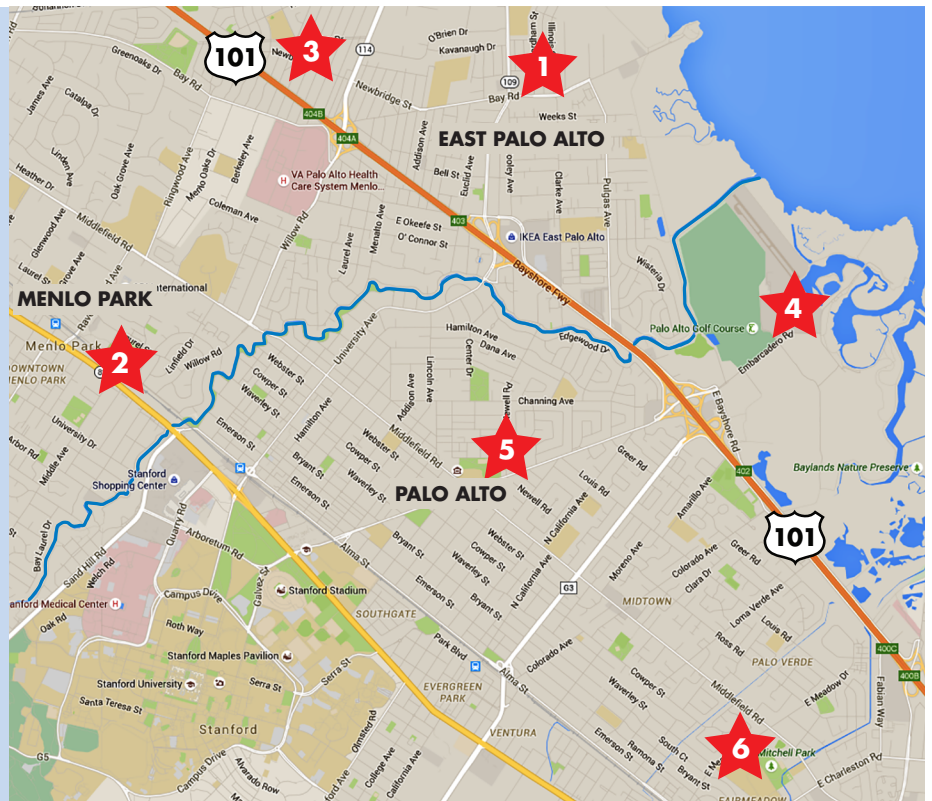
Santa Clara County AlertSCC at emergencymanagement.sccgov.org/AlertSCC



Sandbag Stations

1. **East Palo Alto:** City maintenance yard, 150 Tara Rd.
2. **Menlo Park:** Burgess Park parking lot at Alma St. and Burgess Dr.
3. **Menlo Park:** Fire station No. 77, 1467 Chilco St.
4. **Palo Alto:** Palo Alto Airport, 1925 Embarcadero Rd.
5. **Palo Alto:** Rinconada Park, Hopkins Ave at Newell Rd.
6. **Palo Alto:** Mitchell Park, 600 E. Meadow Dr.

The above-listed locations offer filled and unfilled sandbags.



Be Flood Ready!

Prepare and be flood aware with the following tips:

- Create an emergency plan with your household.
- Get flood insurance.
- Assemble a 3-day emergency kit.
- Know two or more evacuation routes.
- Check if your home or business is in a Special Flood Hazard Area and know your flood risk.
- Protect your property from flood threats. For locations for sand bags to protect your home, visit valleywater.org/floodready or call **408-630-2650**.
- Avoid floodwaters—turn around, don't drown.
- Download disaster emergency apps. You can register for Santa Clara County's emergency alerts by downloading the free preparedness app "ReadySCC" or Red Cross Flood app on your smart phone.
- Keep creeks clean. Report blockages and illegal dumping in creeks to Valley Water watershed hotline at **408-630-2378**. If you see a substance polluting a creek, pond or reservoir, call **1-888-510-5151**.

- Build responsibly in floodplains. Follow your city government guidelines for construction within Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA).

Working to Lower Your Rates

In addition to flood protection projects designed to remove properties from flood zones, educating local municipalities and other flood-risk reduction efforts can help lower your insurance premiums through our participation in FEMA's Community Rating System.

This is a voluntary incentive program that recognizes communities for taking actions that exceed federal requirements. In exchange for a community's proactive efforts, policyholders may benefit from reduced flood insurance premiums. Contact your city to learn how your flood insurance rates are being reduced.

Important Numbers

For any emergency call **9-1-1**.

To report street flooding or blocked storm drains:

Menlo Park
650-330-6300

East Palo Alto
650-368-1421

Palo Alto
650-329-2413
www.cityofpaloalto.org/storms

San Francisquito Creek Flood Protection Updates



San Francisquito Creek floodwall, August 2019.



Rendering of Pope Chaucer Bridge, connecting the cities of Palo Alto and Menlo Park.

Project Progress

Flood protection improvements from U.S. Highway 101 to San Francisco Bay were completed in December 2018. They provide protection against a 1% or 100-year creek flow event during high tide.

The improvements included:

- A widened creek channel into the Palo Alto golf course.
- A new connection between the creek and adjacent marsh to the north.
- New levees and floodwalls.
- Improved access to creek side trails.

As part of this project, Caltrans replaced the U.S. Highway 101 bridge over San Francisquito Creek, which was a major constriction to creek flow, and PG&E relocated and upgraded its gas transmission pipeline and electrical transmission line.

This project is the cornerstone of the San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority's (SFCJPA) overall plan to protect East Palo Alto, Palo Alto, and Menlo Park residents and property from creek and bay flooding. In addition to continuing improvements upstream along the creek, we are beginning the design of the first phase of our Strategy to Advance Flood protection, Ecosystems and Recreation along the Bay (SAFER Bay) in East Palo Alto and Menlo Park. For more information, please visit www.sfcjpa.org/SAFER.

Upcoming Efforts

The project will protect flood prone areas of East Palo Alto, Palo Alto and Menlo Park along San Francisquito Creek upstream of U.S. Highway 101 from flooding during an event up to the 1998 flood of record (an approximately 70-year event). It will also reduce flooding during larger events.

In late 2019, the SFCJPA completed its environmental review of the project. Design work, funding frameworks, and regulatory permits are all underway. Project elements include replacing the Pope-Chaucer Street Bridge and widening and stabilizing narrow areas of channel and creek bank downstream of that bridge to U.S. Highway 101. Replacement of aging top of bank structures is being evaluated and may be incorporated into the project. While this work is underway, the City of Palo Alto also plans to replace the Newell Road Bridge in 2023. Pope-Chaucer Bridge replacement, channel and bank work will follow over the next two or three years.

A future project phase may include new facilities upstream, west of Interstate-280 that can detain peak storm water during events like the 1998 flood of record. If determined to be feasible and cost-effective, the objective of this phase is to provide additional protection to areas downstream.



FEMA Flood Insurance is changing. Learn more about Risk Rating 2.0, FEMA flood insurance, changes to the federal program, and find a local agent by visiting floodsmart.gov or valleywater.org/floodready.

You can also call the National Flood Insurance Program at **1-800-427-4661**.