

A Notice of Availability of a Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Fish and Aquatic Habitat Collaborative Effort (FAHCE) was distributed on June 30, 2021, which started a 45-day public review and comment period. This notice is to announce that the comment period, which was initially set to end on August 16, 2021, has been extended to conclude at 5:00 pm on October 15, 2021.

- Topic:** Fish and Aquatic Habitat Collaborative Effort (FAHCE)
Environmental Impact Report (EIR)
- Who:** Valley Water (Santa Clara Valley Water District)
- What:** Notice of Availability of Draft EIR; notice of public meeting to solicit comments on the Draft Program Environmental Impact Report
- When:** June 30, 2021 to 5:00 pm on October 15, 2021

Valley Water has released a Draft EIR on the FAHCE project, which is located in Santa Clara County, for public review and comment. The proposed project implements a Fish Habitat Restoration Plan, and includes restoration measures specified in a 2003 FAHCE Settlement Agreement intended to resolve a water rights complaint filed with the State Water Resources Control Board. It includes both flow measures (reservoir re-operations rule curves) and non-flow measures such as fish barrier remediation, and measures to increase spawning and rearing habitat.

Project Objectives:

- Restore and maintain a healthy steelhead population in the Stevens Creek watershed through measures specified the Settlement Agreement.
- Restore and maintain healthy steelhead and Chinook salmon populations in the Guadalupe River watershed through measures specified the Settlement Agreement.
- Maintain flexible and reliable groundwater recharge to support current and future water supply and water deliveries for municipalities, industries, agriculture, and the environment in a practical, cost-effective, and environmentally sensitive manner so that sufficient water is available for any present or future beneficial use.

The Draft EIR identified significant environmental impacts related to terrestrial biological resources, cultural resources, tribal cultural resources, paleontological resources, and noise. Significant impacts of non-flow measures on special-status species, and on riparian and other sensitive natural communities, and paleontological resources would be reduced to less than significant levels with the implementation of mitigation measures. The proposed project non-flow measure impacts on cultural resources, tribal cultural resources, and noise would remain significant and unavoidable. None of the non-flow measures are proposed on hazardous waste sites listed under Government Code § 65962.5.

The Draft EIR may be viewed at <https://www.valleywater.org/project-updates/public-review-documents>. The Draft EIR is also available for in-person review at:

- Valley Water, 5750 Almaden Expressway, San Jose, CA 95118
- Evergreen Branch Library, 2635 Aborn Road, San Jose, CA 95121
- Los Gatos Library, 100 Villa Avenue, Los Gatos, CA 95030
- Cupertino Library, 10800 Torre Avenue, Cupertino, CA 95014
- Milpitas Library, 60 North Main Street, Milpitas, CA 95035
- Morgan Hill Library, 660 West Main Ave, Morgan Hill, CA 95037

Written comments on the Draft EIR should be received by close of business day on 5:00 pm, October 15, 2021 and sent to: **Ryan Heacock** at fhace@valleywater.org. For additional information or a CD copy of the Draft EIR, please contact Mr. Heacock at **(408) 265-2600**.