



Council Meeting: April 27, 2010

SUBJECT: Consent to Consider a Santa Clara Valley Water District Plan to Provide Flood Detention at Braly Park

REPORT IN BRIEF

The Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD) has been studying options to improve flood protection in Sunnyvale. They have developed several options that have significant improvements which would result in reducing designated flood zones areas that affect many Sunnyvale parcels.

One of the options being considered is creating a flood-water detention area within City property at Braly Park and School District property at Braly School. The SCVWD seeks consent from the City of Sunnyvale to proceed with this idea as they progress to environmental review and design. The City would have input into the design and have control over executing a future agreement that would allow the use of the City property subject to certain conditions, to be negotiated.

The SCVWD personnel will make a brief presentation to the City Council providing background on their project and illustrating the Braly Park flood detention option.

EXISTING POLICY

Goal 3.4A. Assure the reasonable protection of beneficial uses of creeks and South San Francisco Bay, established in the Regional Board's Basin Plan, and protect environmentally sensitive areas.

Maintain Storm Drain System

Goal 3.4B Maintain storm drain system to prevent flooding.

Policy 3.4B.1 Maintain and operate the storm drain system so that storm waters are drained from 95% of the streets within one hour after a storm stops.

Goal 3.4C. Ensure that flood hazards are recognized.

Policy 3.4C.2 Prevent flooding to protect life and property.

3.4C.3d. Budget for and construct additional storm drainage detention and pumping facilities as needed to assure continued ability to discharge surface runoff into the various SCVWD facilities and San Francisco Bay.

DISCUSSION

The SCVWD study indicates that providing flood detention at Braly Park/School would be a cost-effective way of reducing the potential for flooding during storm events. This option would be used in addition to other improvements along the Sunnyvale East and West channels for a comprehensive flood protection system.

The design of flood detention at Braly Park would involve lowering the elevation of a large portion of the park and adjacent school yard by about 5 feet. Mild slopes (of approximately 3 feet horizontal to 1 foot vertical) would transition from the existing sidewalk elevation down to the basin floor. The basin floor would be sloped to drain back to the channel. Culverts would convey water from the channel into the basin during storm events when the water in the channel raises several feet. The SCVWD's study indicates this may occur once every 7 to 8 years.

The slopes and the basin would be restored with park landscaping and surfacing and improvements. The specific improvements would be part of the design process, which would be reviewed by City staff, with community input, and Parks and Recreation Commission review. New improvements could either replace the existing features or be revised to reflect the current needs of the community.

The SCVWD presented this concept to the Santa Clara School District, since a portion of the area is on School District property and the City and School District have an agreement for use and maintenance of the land. The School District provided support for the concept of providing flood detention at Braly Park/School. The School District also provided several caveats, including the requirement for design approval, consideration for fencing for security, and good access and sightlines to the fields.

City staff would recommend the following comments if the Council chooses to consent to the SCVWD to proceed with design and environmental review:

1. The SCVWD should not rely upon the City for any costs or reimbursements, other than normal City staff time for review and coordination.
2. Implementation and use of the land would be subject to an agreement which includes design approval, and makes the SCVWD responsible for clean up of the property soon after storm inundation, and other provisions required by City staff.

3. The design process should include community outreach and input coordinated with the Community Services Department.
4. The design must meet accessibility guidelines under the Americans with Disabilities Act.
5. The design must be done by qualified licensed professionals working within their area of expertise, and complying with City policies and standards.

The advantages to the City are that the SCVWD project should result in reduction of flood damage and removing over 1600 parcels from FEMA flood map zones of potential flooding, which requires additional flood insurance. A specific advantage of using Braly Park/School is the opportunity to provide new updated park improvements that better serve the community at no cost to the City and the School District.

Alternatives to the flood detention option include use of more or higher flood walls along the channel. This option is more costly and many may consider higher walls along channels to be a less attractive option.

FISCAL IMPACT

Although no fiscal impact is associated with granting consent to consider the option for the SCVWD to provide flood detention at Braly Park, there is the potential for savings in Park Dedication Fund monies if the agreement for use is implemented. Specifically, the agreement would require the SCVWD to pay all capital costs for improvements at Braly Park, including replenishing new park improvements. SCVWD also would be required to clean up any debris or damage caused by storm inundation.

The potential savings for capital costs would result because Braly Park improvements are contained in two capital projects that were approved as part of the FY 2009/2010 adopted budget. These projects, which are scheduled in the next five years, are shown below:

	<u>Project Number</u>	<u>Approved Budget</u>	<u>Description</u>
FY 2011/2012	826680	\$150,000	Braly Park – Repair/Renovate waterplay feature
FY 2014/2015	820270	230,863	Braly Park – Replace playground equipment
Total		\$380,863	

PUBLIC CONTACT

Public contact was made by posting the Council agenda on the City's official-notice bulletin board outside City Hall, in the Council Chambers lobby, in the Office of the City Clerk, at the Library, Senior Center, Community Center, and Department of Public Safety; posting the agenda and report on the City's Web site; and making the report available at the Library and the Office of the City Clerk. The SCVWD also met with the Santa Clara School District on February 11, 2010.

ALTERNATIVES

1. Consent to the concept of providing a storm-water detention area at Braly Park subject to the staff comments above.
2. Do not consent to the concept of providing storm-water detention area at Braly Park.
3. Other action as identified by Council.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends Alternative No. 1: Consent to the concept of providing a storm-water detention area at Braly Park subject to the staff comments above.

This would allow the SCVWD to continue with design and environmental review leading to an agreement for use of Braly Park, subject to City approval. If the Council does not wish to consider Braly Park for storm-water detention, the SCVWD would need to eliminate this as an option reducing the potential for the most effective option.

Reviewed by:

Marvin Rose, Director, Public Works
Prepared by: Mark Rogge, Assistant Director of Public Works

Reviewed by:

Mary Bradley, Director of Finance

Reviewed by:

David Lewis, Director of Community Services

Approved by:

Gary M. Luebbbers
City Manager

Attachments:

A. SCVWD Presentation slides



Proposed Braly Park and School Flood Detention Area

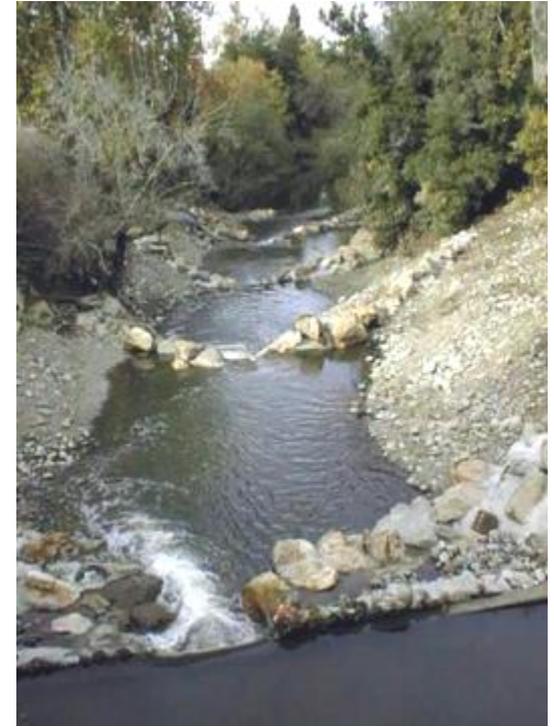
Sunnyvale East and West Channels
Flood Protection Project

Your Clean, Safe Creeks vote at work

Your local water resources agency

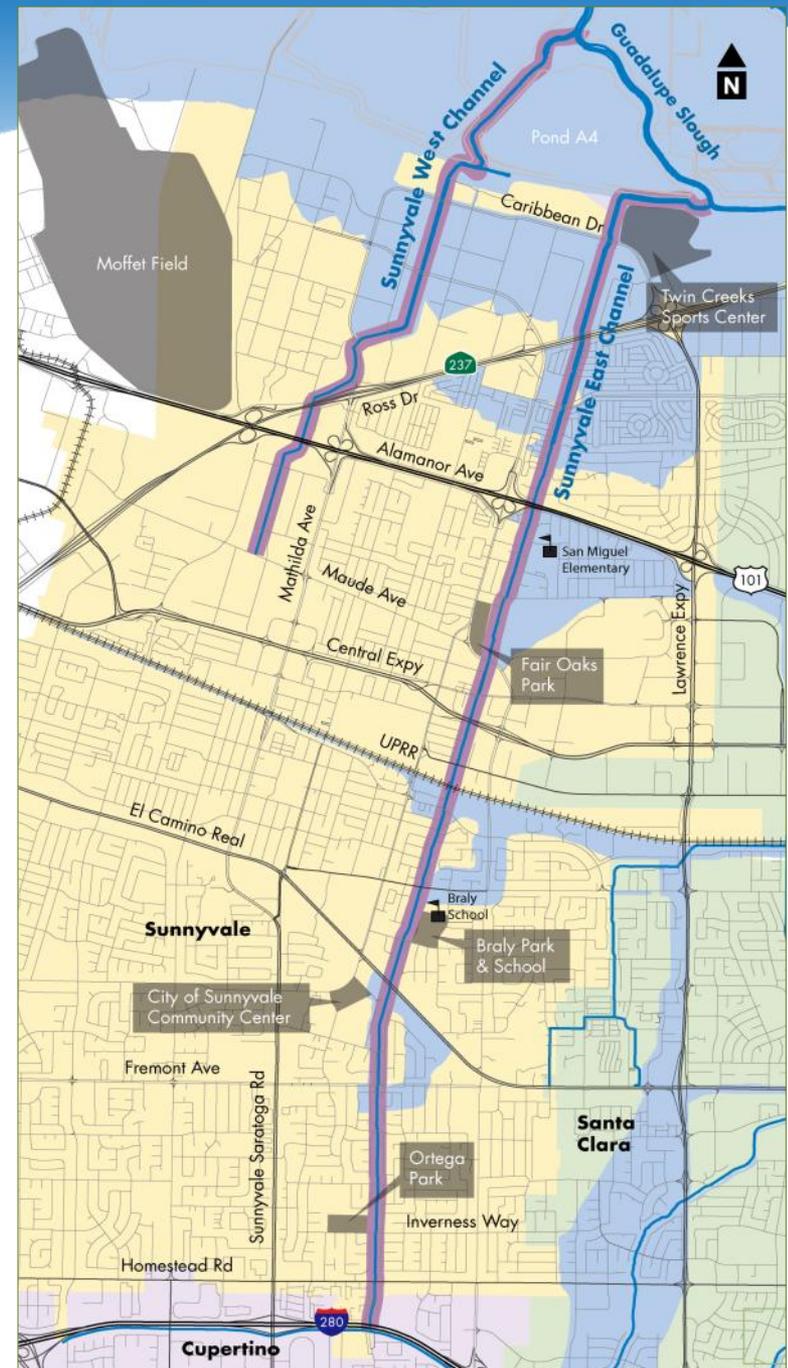
Our mission

The mission of the Santa Clara Valley Water District is a healthy, safe, and enhanced quality of living in Santa Clara County through watershed stewardship and the **comprehensive management of water resources** in a practical, cost-effective, and environmentally sensitive manner.



Sunnyvale East and West Channels

- Constructed by the water district in 1960's
- Historical flooding in 1963, 1968, 1983, 1986 and 1998.
- Clean, Safe Creeks measure approved by 69% of Sunnyvale voters



Project objectives include multiple community benefits

Provide 100-year
riverine flood
protection

Protects 1,618
parcels on Sunnyvale
East Channel

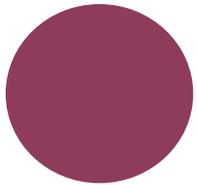
Protects 11 parcels
(47 acres) on
Sunnyvale West
Channel

Provide erosion
protection at a
minimum of 25 sites

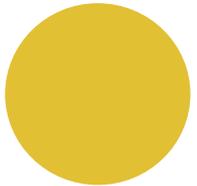
Identify
opportunities for
environmental and
recreational
enhancements

Complete projects by
2016

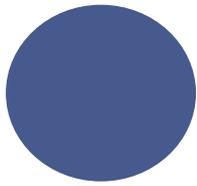
Alternative D



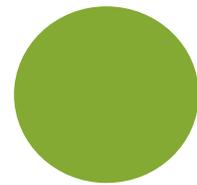
Floodwalls



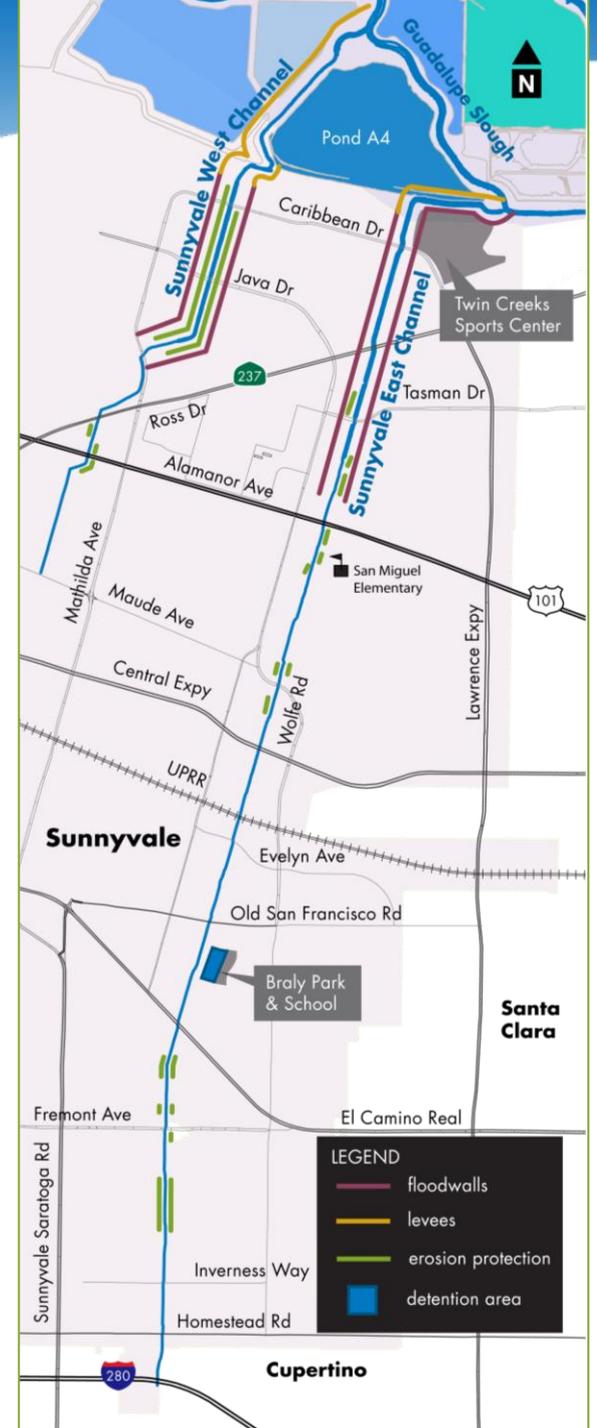
Levees



Detention Area

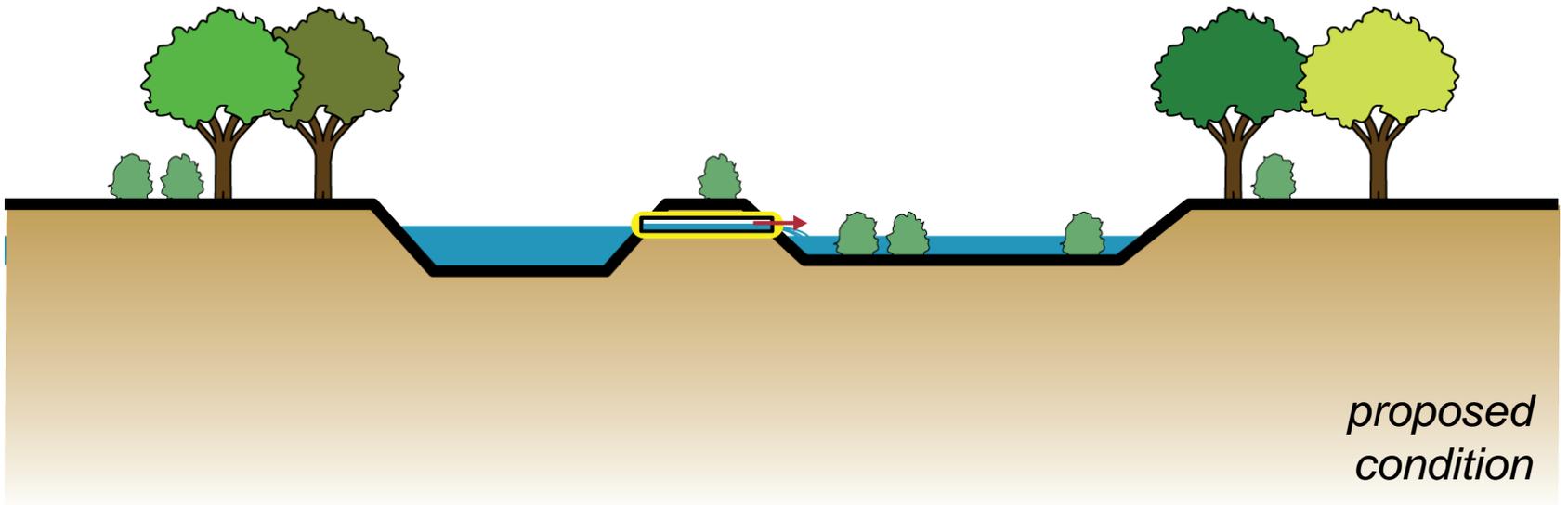
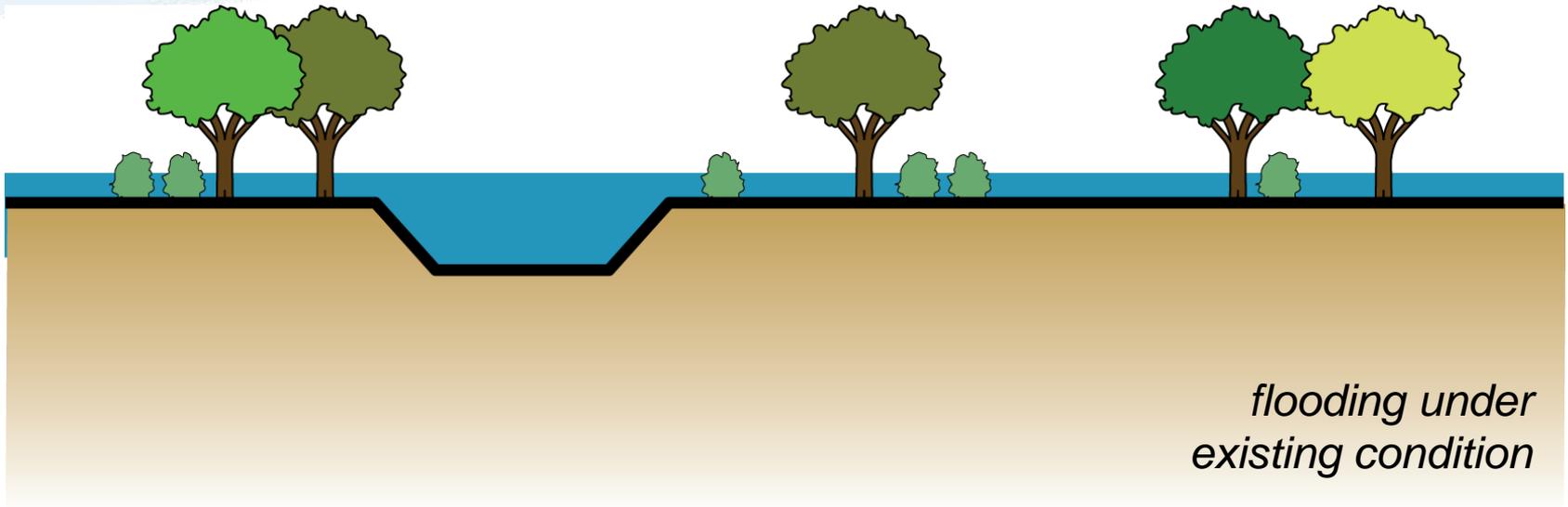


Erosion Protection





Detention Area



Alternative D – detention area

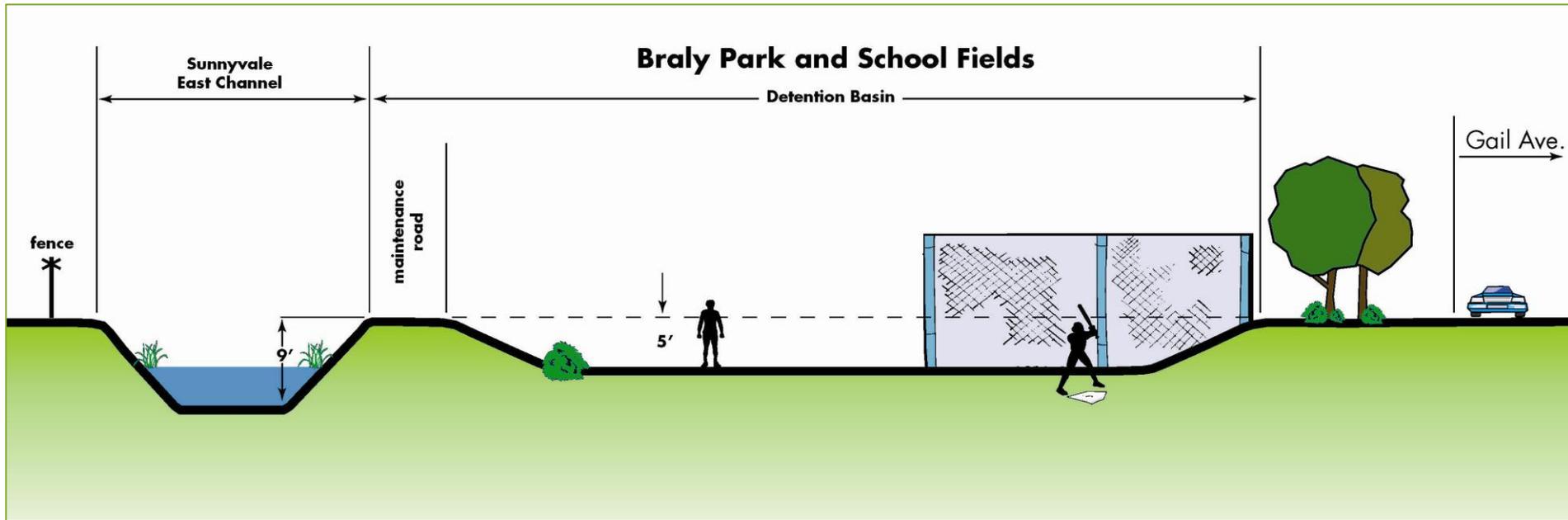
Braly Park and Braly Elementary School



Alternative D – detention area



Detention area cross section



Example detention area

Don Lorenzi Park – Riverside, CA



Example detention area

Cochrane Road – Morgan Hill, CA



Potential benefits

- Flood protection for the community
- Improvements to existing features in Braly Park
- Preserves open space

Next Steps

- Work with city staff to refine the concept and identify mutual benefits
- Prepare staff recommended alternative by May 2010

Questions?

Contact Information

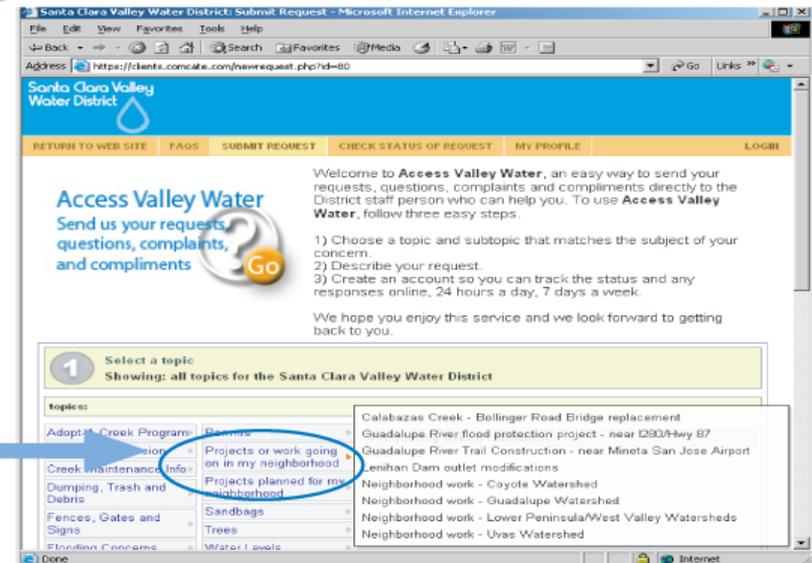
Contact for project:

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bganjoo@valleywater.org

Access Valley Water lets you reach us directly from your computer. Select *“Projects planned for my neighborhood”*.

Contact us

For more information, contact **Bal Ganjoo** at **(408) 265-2607, ext. 3117**, or visit our website at www.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 the project or to submit questions, complaints or compliments directly to a water district staff person.



**Santa Clara Valley
Water District**

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