

What is the South Bay Shoreline Study?

The South San Francisco Bay Shoreline Study is a congressionally authorized study being performed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers together with Santa Clara Valley Water District and the State Coastal Conservancy to identify and recommend flood protection projects in Santa Clara County for Federal funding. The Corps is considering projects that will reduce flood risk, restore ecosystems and provide related benefits like recreation and public access.

Why is this Study being conducted?

Santa Clara County's shoreline is at great risk from flooding now due to extreme storm events combined with high tides, and in the future due to sea level rise. *In their recently released "Flood Futures" Report, the State Department of Water Resources identified **Santa Clara County**, along with Los Angeles and Orange Counties, as having the highest potential damages from flooding in the state.* Portions of Santa Clara County nearest the Bay are below sea level, and many high-tech companies are located along the shoreline, along with residents and the largest Water Pollution Control Plant in the Bay Area, which serves over 1 million people.

Sea Level Rise and the South Bay

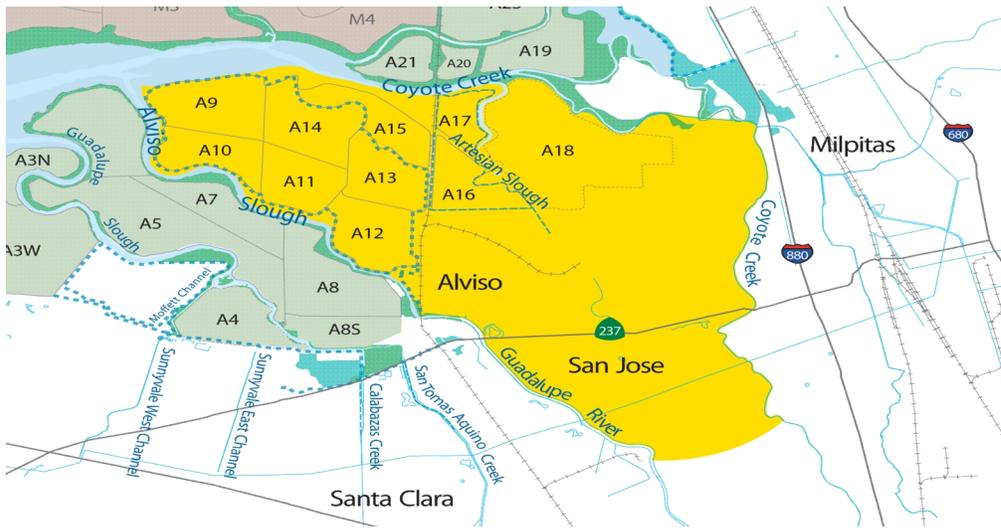
Global climate change has the potential to impact the South Bay because one of the expected results of climate change is sea level rise. *The Shoreline Study is the first study of its kind in the Bay area to develop a concrete plan to provide flood protection in light of sea level rise in the Bay.*

The science dealing with sea level rise has been rapidly developing over the past few years as numerous studies have addressed the issue. The Shoreline Study team is using a range of projections from the historic rate of sea level rise to over 2 feet of sea level rise by the year 2067 in assessing South Bay flood risk.

What geographic area does the Shoreline Study cover?

The study assessed flood risk damages for all Santa Clara County Baylands, from Palo Alto to Southern Alameda County, in addition to the restoration of former salt-production ponds within the Alviso Pond complex and adjacent properties such as areas around Moffett Field.

The study is being conducted in phases. The scope of the current phase of the Shoreline Study focuses on the most flood-prone section of the Santa Clara County shoreline: the [north San Jose shoreline area between Alviso Slough and Coyote Creek, which includes the Alviso community and the San Jose/Santa Clara Water Pollution Control Plant \(see map\)](#). Known as Economic Impact Area 11, or EIA 11, it includes homes, commercial and industrial facilities generally located below sea level and protected by salt pond levees. Planning for EIA 11 would enhance flood protection for an area with high flood damage and allow breaching of salt pond levees for wetland restoration. The proposed levees would also protect several high tech businesses and the new Silicon Valley Advanced Water Purification Center.



Current Shoreline Study Description & Goals

In a phased approach, the portions of Santa Clara County's shoreline with the highest potential damages from flooding will be protected using a combination of flood protection levees and wetlands. This multi-objective approach using natural infrastructure provides for increased flood protection, restored bay habitats, and a flood protection system that can

evolve in the future. The study will identify and recommend flood protection projects that meet the following goals:

- Protect from flooding from a 1% event (100 year high-tide event) for low-lying areas of San Jose and Alviso.
- Protect the area from just over 2 feet of sea level rise.
- Protect urban areas next to north San Jose and Alviso from tidal flooding, including the City and County wastewater treatment plant.
- Restore up to 3.5 square miles of wetland habitat.
- Contribute to creation of the west coast's largest restored wetland with extensive habitat for endangered species, fish, & migratory birds.
- Provide enhanced public access trails & recreation.

When is the project going to be built?

The draft Feasibility Study is due for completion at the end of 2013. If the feasibility study recommends and Congress approves a project, detailed design of project features will begin in 2015. Construction will begin as soon as Congress authorizes the project and appropriates funds, which would happen in 2017 at the earliest. The Santa Clara Valley Water District's Safe Clean Water measure, passed in 2012, includes \$15 million to cost share construction of the project.

How does the Shoreline Study relate to the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project?

The study shares geographic area and common goals with the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project (www.southbayrestoration.org), such as tidal flood protection, wetland habitat restoration and wildlife oriented public access, education and recreation. The projects are being coordinated and complement each other.

Future Shoreline Study Areas in Santa Clara County

The Santa Clara Valley Water District's Safe Clean Water measure, passed in 2012, includes \$5 million to cost share studies with the Corps of Engineers to study additional Economic Impact Areas in the overall Shoreline Study starting potentially in 2015.

The other shoreline areas with high economic impacts include portions of Palo Alto (Matadero Creek to Adobe Creek) and Sunnyvale (Stevens Creek to Sunnyvale West Creek).