The South San Francisco Bay Shoreline Study
Alviso Ponds & Santa Clara County Interim Feasibility Study

The first phase: Economic Impact Area 11

The South San Francisco Bay Shoreline Study will safeguard hundreds of homes, schools and businesses along Santa Clara County’s shoreline from the risk of tidal flooding. The study will also restore and enhance tidal marsh and related habitat that was lost due to former salt production activities and provide opportunities for continued recreational and public access along the bay shoreline.

The Shoreline Study is being conducted in phases. The first phase of the study is called Economic Impact Area 11 (EIA 11), shown in yellow on the map below. Located in north San José between the Alviso Slough/Guadalupe River and Coyote Creek, this area is at considerable risk to tidal flooding due to being below sea level (as a result of historic land subsidence) and is only protected by remnant salt pond berms that were not designed for flood protection.

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Economic Impact Area 11 is home to:
• The Alviso community of 2,000 residents, 500 structures and 3,000 commuters who work and travel through the area each day.
• The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge, which includes 3,000 acres for migratory birds and endangered species.
• The San Jose-Santa Clara Regional Wastewater Facility, which serves 1.4 million people and Silicon Valley businesses.
• The Silicon Valley Advanced Water Purification Center, which receives water from the Regional Wastewater Facility and produces up to 8 million gallons a day of highly purified water.

Current study area EIA 11 (in yellow) located between the Alviso Slough/Guadalupe River and Coyote Creek.

Project Highlights

**Features**
- Multi-purpose project to restore a vibrant, safe South Bay
- Considers safeguarding against future sea level rise
- Partners with state, local and federal governments

**Benefits**
- Provides integrated flood protection for Silicon Valley’s residents, businesses and infrastructure
- Protects approximately 2.5 feet of future sea level rise projected by year 2067
- Restores up to 3,000 acres of habitat for endangered species and migratory birds
- Provides opportunities for recreation and public trails

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Flood risk management levee

A 3.5-mile levee (red line on Figure A) will be constructed to connect the existing Alviso Slough levee near the Alviso Marina and the existing Coyote Creek levee east of the Regional Wastewater Facility. Two closure devices will be included within the levee system at the railroad tracks and across the Artesian Slough.

Habitat restoration

Over time, the San Francisco Bay has lost 90 percent of coastal wetlands and tidal marsh due to conversion of bay land to salt production, agriculture and development. The new flood protection levee creates the opportunity to connect the old salt ponds with bay waters to create vital ecosystems for a variety of threatened and endangered species, such as Ridgway’s rails, black rails and the salt marsh harvest mouse, as well as providing habitat for a unique suite of wetland plant species. Adding a sufficient habitat buffer area (see Figure B) will benefit the recovery of listed species by serving as refuge area during high tide events and providing additional levee protection by lessening the impact of wave damage during large storms.

Recreation and public access

The Shoreline Study encompasses recreational opportunities that are compatible with the flood protection levees and ecosystem restoration. American with Disabilities Act compliant trails will be built on top of the new proposed flood risk management levee along with viewing platforms and benches. The trail will connect the Alviso Marina to the Coyote Creek corridor at the McCarthy Boulevard bridge with connection to the regional Bay Trail network, shown in yellow on Figure C. Parallel trails will be constructed to serve bicyclists. Additionally, pedestrian bridges will be built over the Artesian Slough and railroad tracks.

For more information, visit southbayshoreline.org
Para obtener información en español, por favor comuníquese con José Villarreal al (408) 630-2879.

CONTACT US

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