



Memorandum

TO: JOINT CITY COUNCIL/VALLEY
WATER DISTRICT BOARD

FROM: Raymond Riordan

**SUBJECT: EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS
AND RESPONSE – JOINT
EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN**

DATE: November 10, 2023

Approved

Date

11/13/2023

RECOMMENDATION

Santa Clara Valley Water District Board and the City of San José Mayor and City Council receive an update on the continued coordination to support our communities in the case of flooding.

BACKGROUND

The City of San José (City) and the Santa Clara Valley Water District (Valley Water) have established an ongoing partnership for emergency preparedness and response. Both government agencies have legislatively adopted and continue to maintain the Joint Emergency Action Plan for Severe Storm and Flood Response in San José (JEAP), which establishes the structure and response expectations for potential and actual flooding emergencies. The JEAP identifies flooding hotspots, agency roles and responsibilities, triggers for response, and public communication guidelines between City and Valley Water. Since the JEAP was initially adopted in 2017, three updates have been accomplished where additional flood hotspots have been added, or existing plan content has been revised. A fourth update to the JEAP is being finalized to add Berryessa Creek, which includes flood hotspots at Cropley Avenue and Berryessa Park.

ANALYSIS

The City and Valley Water have conducted numerous trainings and exercises for the JEAP, but most recently during the winter storms of 2022-2023, the JEAP was activated to guide emergency response. During the inclement weather period, Valley Water provided intelligence and flood projections to the City that involved creek and reservoir behavior. The City deployed resources from Public Works, Transportation, Police, Parks, Recreation, and Neighborhood Services, Housing, and other departments for emergency response actions, including the use of both in person teams and long range acoustical devices to warn residents along the waterways;

and established shelters for 283 unhoused residents and 94 took advantage of the evacuation transition facilities.

Valley Water produced and delivered sandbag resources to the City, and deployed field operations staff to safely clear debris and maintain stream channels. Both agencies had Field Information Teams that were deployed to monitor real-time status in the creeks and impacted City areas. Public communications were coordinated between the Emergency Operations Centers and Public Information Officers from both agencies. These actions between both agencies resulted in a coordinated and effective response during the storm events.

In anticipation of the upcoming winter, the City and Valley Water continue to prepare for potential flooding that the season may bring. Both agencies are scheduled to perform a joint walk-through of the JEAP in December 2023, to maintain alignment and expectations for emergency response. Both agencies regularly seek areas of improvement in regard to their roles and responsibilities during flood monitoring and response, and the JEAP is the binding document that captures these enhancements. The strong partnership between the City and Valley Water demonstrates that collaboration and coordination provide a more effective and efficient response to the public during times of emergency.

COORDINATION

This memorandum has been coordinated with the Department of Public Works, Department of Transportation, and Valley Water.

/s/

RAYMOND RIORDAN

Director, Office of Emergency Management

For questions, please contact Alvin Galang, Assistant to the City Manager, at alvin.galang@sanjoseca.gov or (408) 794-7055.