



## Memorandum

**TO:** RULES AND OPEN  
GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

**FROM:** Mayor Sam Liccardo  
Councilmember Sergio Jimenez

**SUBJECT:** COYOTE VALLEY WATER  
RESOURCE INVESTMENT  
STRATEGY

**DATE:** November 9, 2017

Approved

Date

11-9-17

### RECOMMENDATION

Direct the City Manager to support efforts of the Santa Clara Valley Water District and the Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority on the Coyote Valley Water Resource Investment Strategy, and to return to Council with an update regarding the Strategy findings.

### BACKGROUND

Last week's discussion with the Water District provided sobering information about the extent to which our residents must continue to live in peril due to the risk of flooding along the Coyote Creek corridor. Repairs to the Anderson Dam may take a decade or more, given severe funding shortfalls. Flood-related capital improvements within the more populated part of the Coyote watershed remain similarly unstudied, unfunded, and in the near term, unlikely.

The Water District and Open Space Authority have jointly initiated work to assess the feasibility of large-scale green infrastructure project opportunities, such as how to better leverage open space areas to detain storm water for downstream flood protection, improve water quality in the Coyote Creek and Fisher Creek, provide for aquifer recharge, and restore wetlands and riparian areas to increase ecological resiliency.

The Council and our residents should know more about what options may be available to improve San José's resilience to flood risks, and we should fully support efforts by the Water District and Open Space Authority to do so, in partnership with landowners, local experts and other key stakeholders.