COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT MEETING

Upper Guadalupe River Flood Risk Management General Reevaluation Study

Email ***UpperGuadalupe@usace.army.mil***
or visit ***https://delivr.com/2zhgu***

December 8, 2022

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), San Francisco District
Valley Water (Santa Clara Valley Water District)

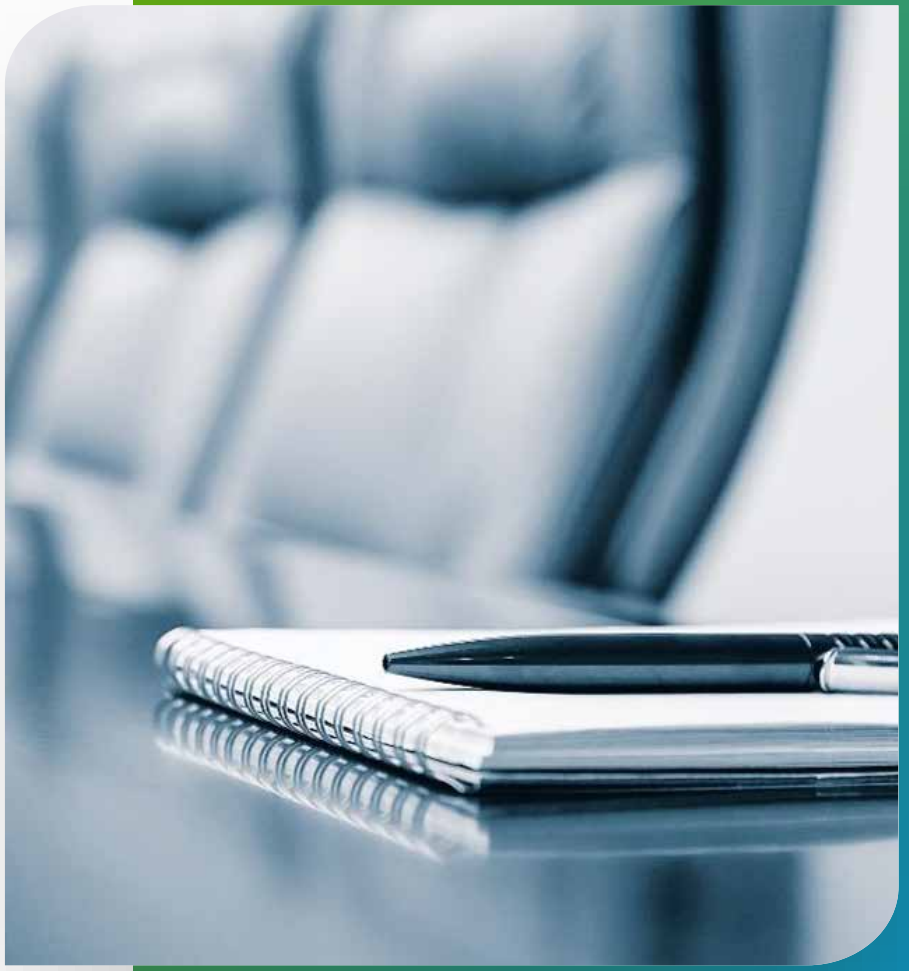
Valley Water

U.S.ARMY

US Army Corps of Engineers ®

AGENDA

- Opening Remarks
- Background and Project History
- Problems and Opportunities
- Alternative Plans
- Evaluation and Comparisons
- Next Steps
- Questions and Answers / Comments



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TRIBAL LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

"USACE acknowledges that the study takes place on the unceded ancestral lands of the Indigenous **Tamien-**speaking people, who are still connected to their homeland of the Santa Clara Valley and the Upper Guadalupe River today.

We pay our respects by acknowledging Bay Area tribes continue to have a vibrant language, culture, and relationship with the lands and waters of the Upper Guadalupe: one of deep respect, agreement, and reciprocity.

We honor the ancestral grounds that we occupy and are committed to meaningful partnerships with tribes. By doing so, we can redress the legacy of colonialism and include tribal perspectives while planning the future of the Upper Guadalupe River."

We encourage everyone to visit the website below to learn more about the indigenous territories that they are currently occupying: **https://native-land.ca/**

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HOW DID WE GET HERE?

- Risk of flooding in Upper Guadalupe River, Ross Creek and Canoas Creek
- Completed study and initiated Project
- Plantings to improve river conditions for fish
- Final design determinations
- Project cost and how we're moving forward

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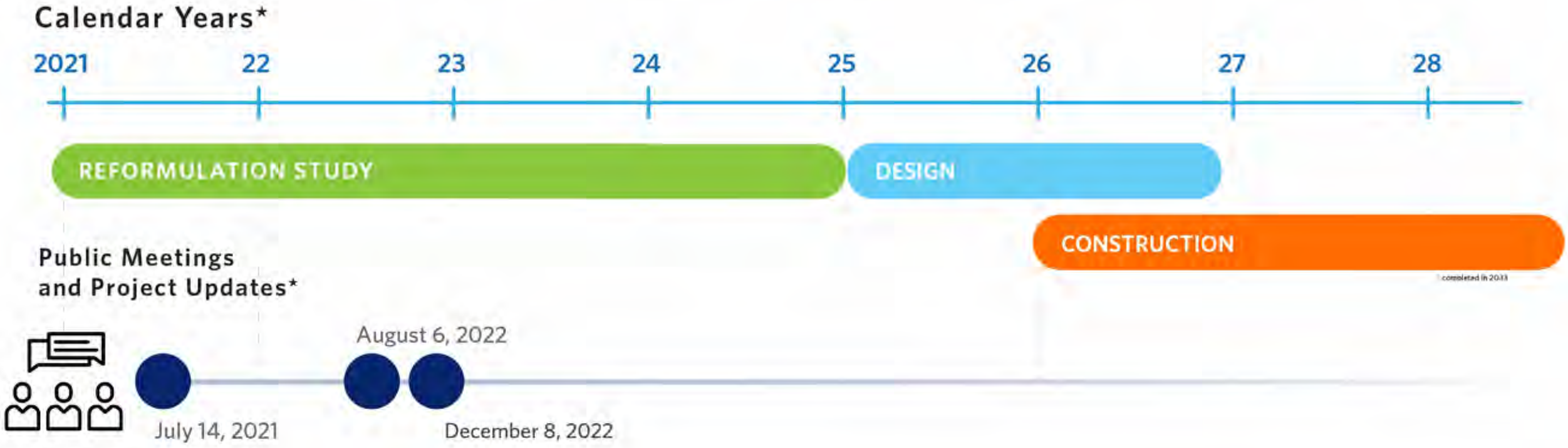
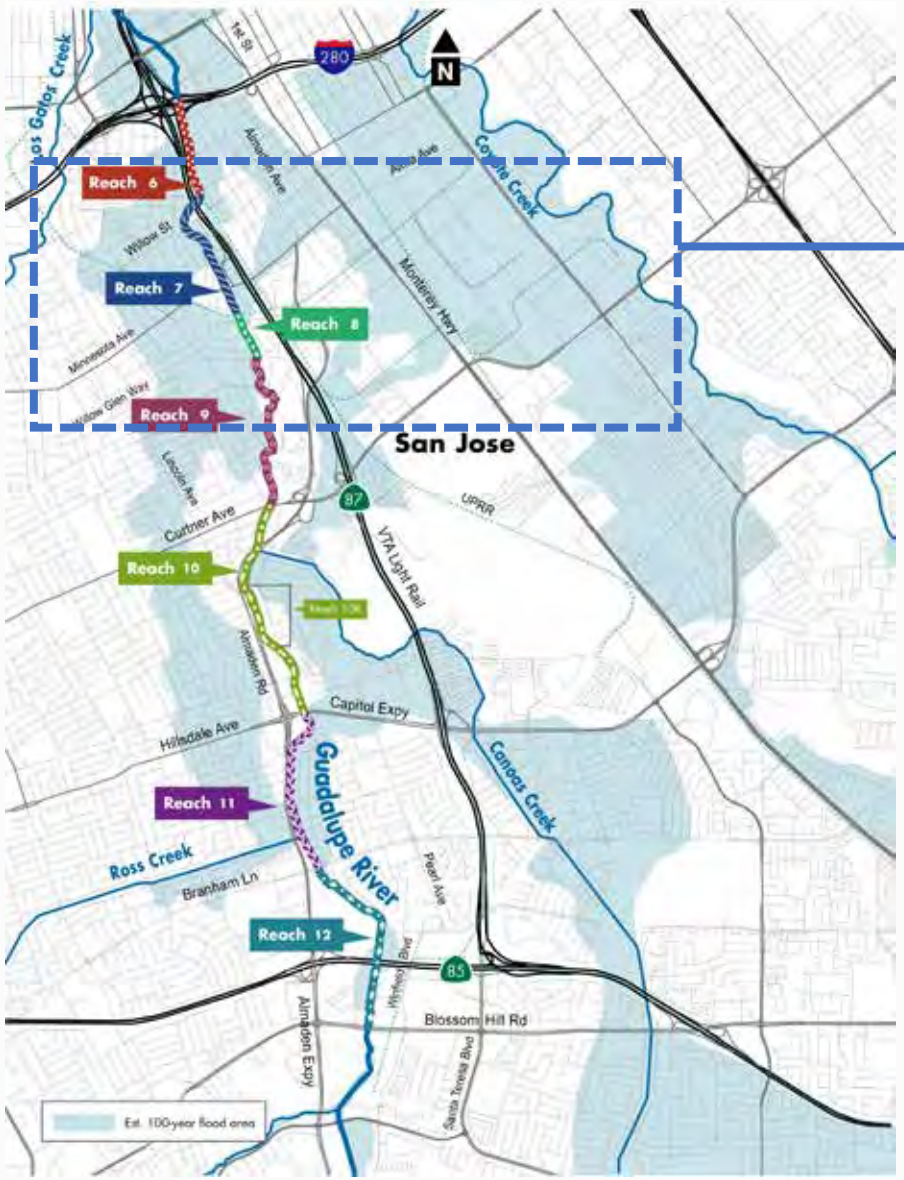
PROJECTED TIMELINE



**Estimated timeline subject to change based on conditions permitting.*

PROJECT LOCATION



Reaches 7 & 8

- Upper Guadalupe River is divided into 7 reaches.
- 3 reaches have been completed.
- Current project focuses on **reaches 7 & 8** as well as **Canoas and Ross Creeks.**
- Reaches 7 & 8 are located from Willow Street to Willow Glen Way in San José.

PROJECT LOCATION

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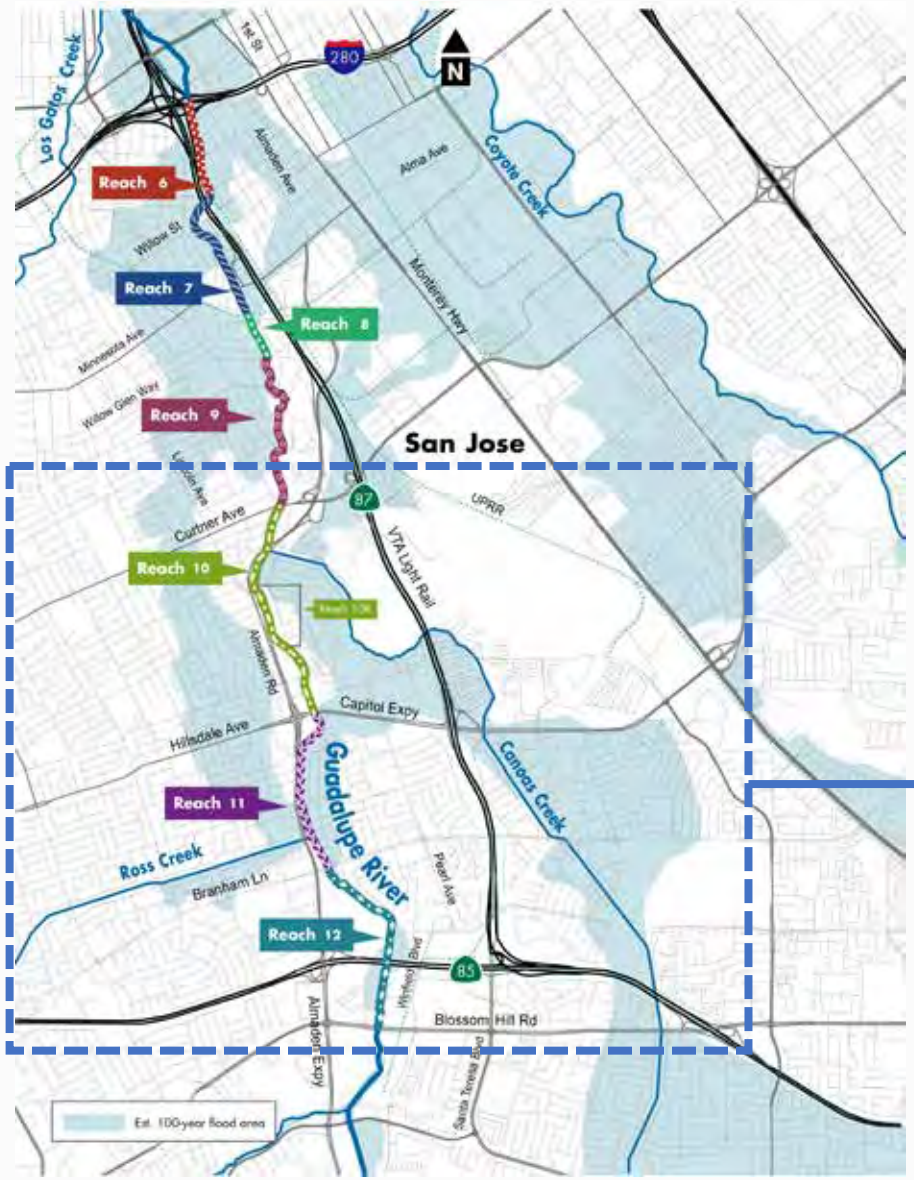
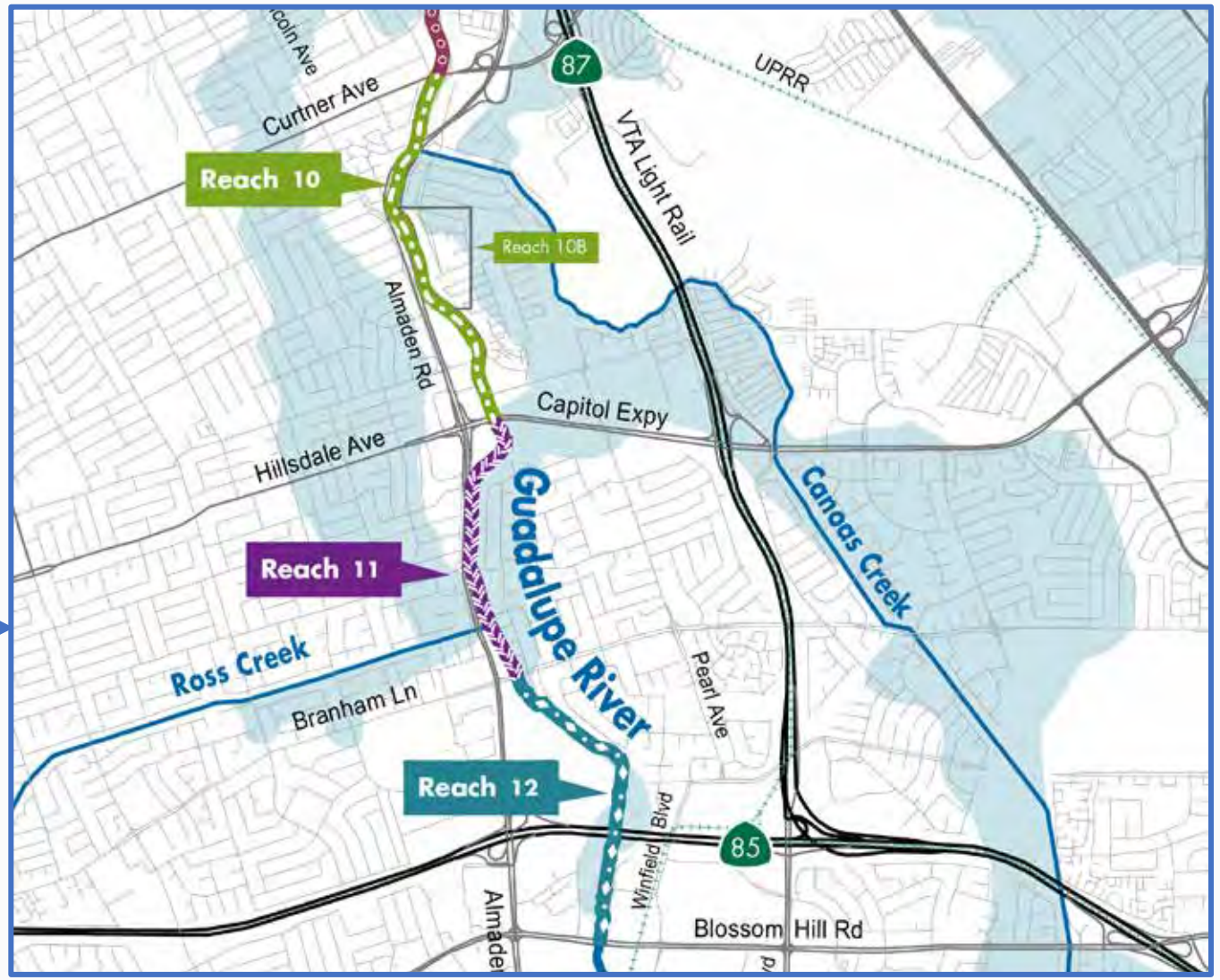


Canoas and Ross Creeks, which flow into Guadalupe River



REFORMULATION STUDY AND GENERAL REEVALUATION

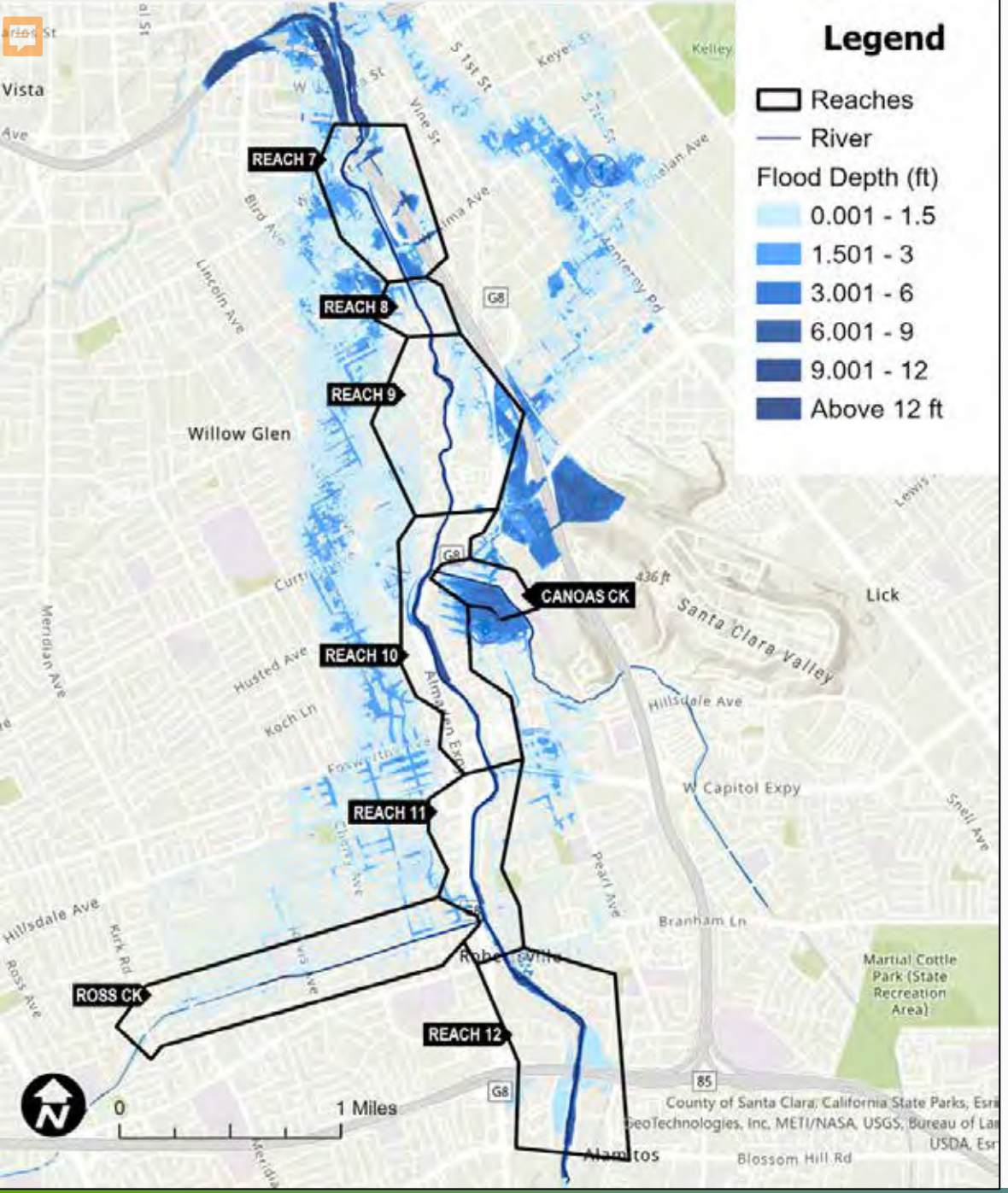

Willow Street railroad underpass


Highway 87

1995 Flooding in Downtown San José area.

- Primary purpose is **flood risk management**
- **Recreation** features to be added next
- **General Reevaluation Study** to re-analyze benefits of:
  - Alternatives to manage flood risk
  - Environmental quality
  - Social impacts

EXISTING FLOOD HAZARD



- Estimated flooding for the probability of a 1% annual chance event
- Flood modeling shows:
  - Ø Flows may spill over the banks of Guadalupe River, Reaches 7-8, Canoas Creek and Ross Creek, where they flow into Guadalupe River
  - Ø Flood depths range
    - § From 0-3 feet, shown in light blue
    - § Up to 30 feet, shown in dark blue

This map is for display reference only.

IMPACTS of NO PROJECT

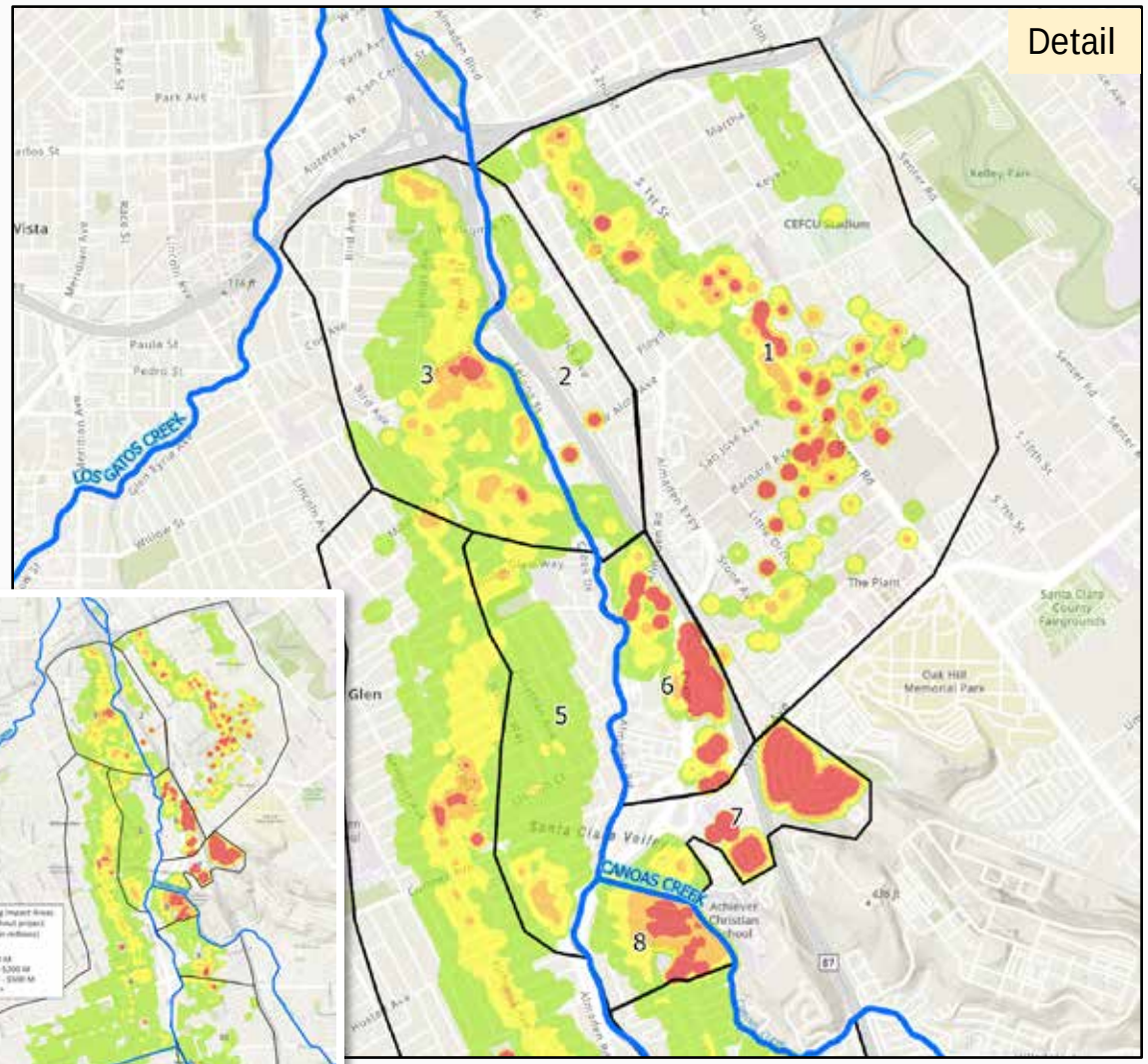
Flood risk will remain for people living near the river.

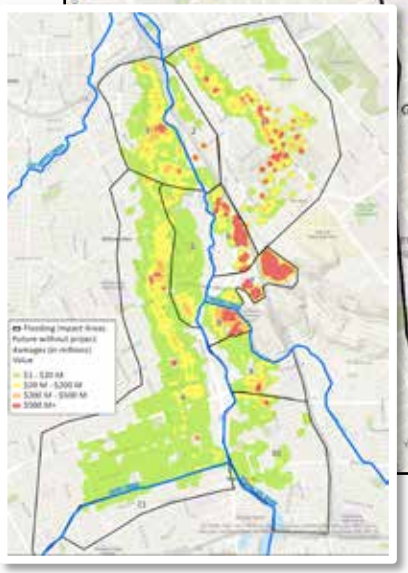
Steelhead fish populations may continue to decline due to poor river conditions.

Recreation opportunities along the river would be from local municipalities.

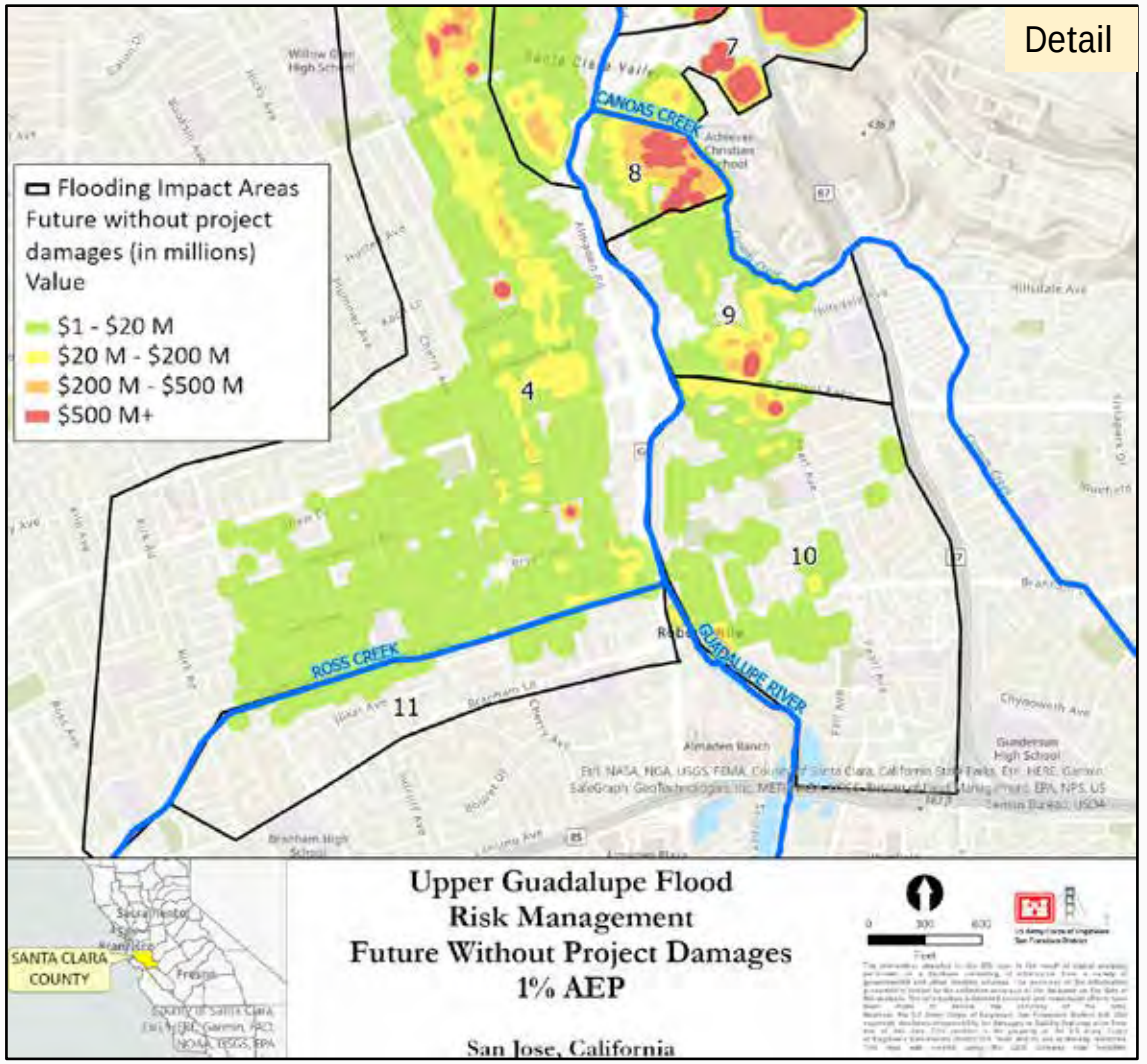
River banks will continue to **erode and may not be safe** to walk along sections of the river.

IMPACTS of NO PROJECT





Key map



OVERALL REVIEW

OBJECTIVES

- Reduce flood risk
- Reduce life safety risks from flooding
- Increase access to recreational opportunities
- Reduce maintenance
- Obtain community feedback on proposed projects

PROBLEMS

- Significant flood damages and continued risks to community
- Erosion/incision damages impact nearby infrastructure and steelhead habitat
- Safety concerns
- Lack of public access/recreation

OPPORTUNITIES

- Realize environmental quality benefits
- Increase access to river corridor and recreation opportunities
- Reduce channel maintenance requirements and cost

CONSTRAINTS

- Impacts on threatened or endangered species
- Obtaining regulatory permits

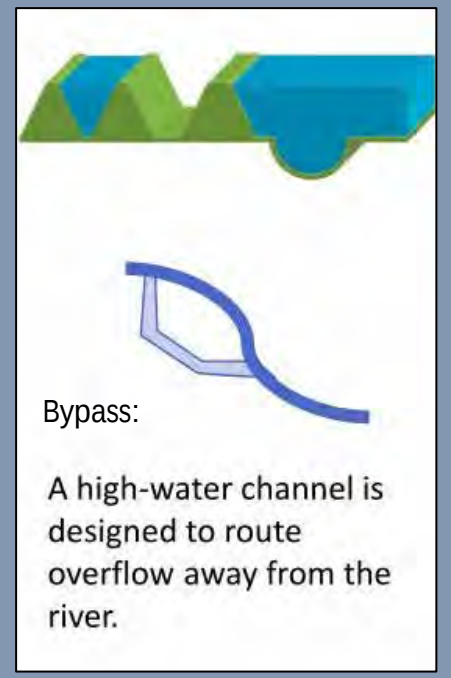
CONSIDERATIONS

- Unhoused encampments along river
- Erosion issues in channel/banks
- Mercury contaminated soils
- Heavy clay soils & revegetation
- High speed rail
- Maintenance Issues
- Discovery of unanticipated archaeological sites

FLOOD PROTECTION STRUCTURES


Floodwall


Crib wall



OPTIONS

- Floodwalls
- Levees
- Crib walls
- Bypass channels
- Detention ponds

BENEFITS

- Lowered flood risk
- Takes less space

IMPACTS

- Less improvements for fish and wildlife
- Less space for recreation improvements
- Fixed height and location

NATURAL AND NATURE-BASED FEATURES

OPTIONS

- Bank setbacks
- Floodplain benches
- Floodplain reconnection
- Replanting vegetation along stream bank

BENEFITS

- Improved fish habitat
- Slower flowing water
- Long term health of vegetation near river
- Improved access to river

IMPACTS

- Short term loss of vegetation near river
- Takes more space
- Can cost more

Current Condition:
Concrete rubble (bank protection) in channel, steep banks.

Bank setback and floodplain bench:
Willows are staked at base of failure, root wads from fallen trees are anchored to bed, vegetation is planted on banks.

Revegetation, and habitat complexity:
Bank is revegetated, riparian trees are mature, channel is widened and complex.

NON-STRUCTURAL MEASURES

OPTIONS

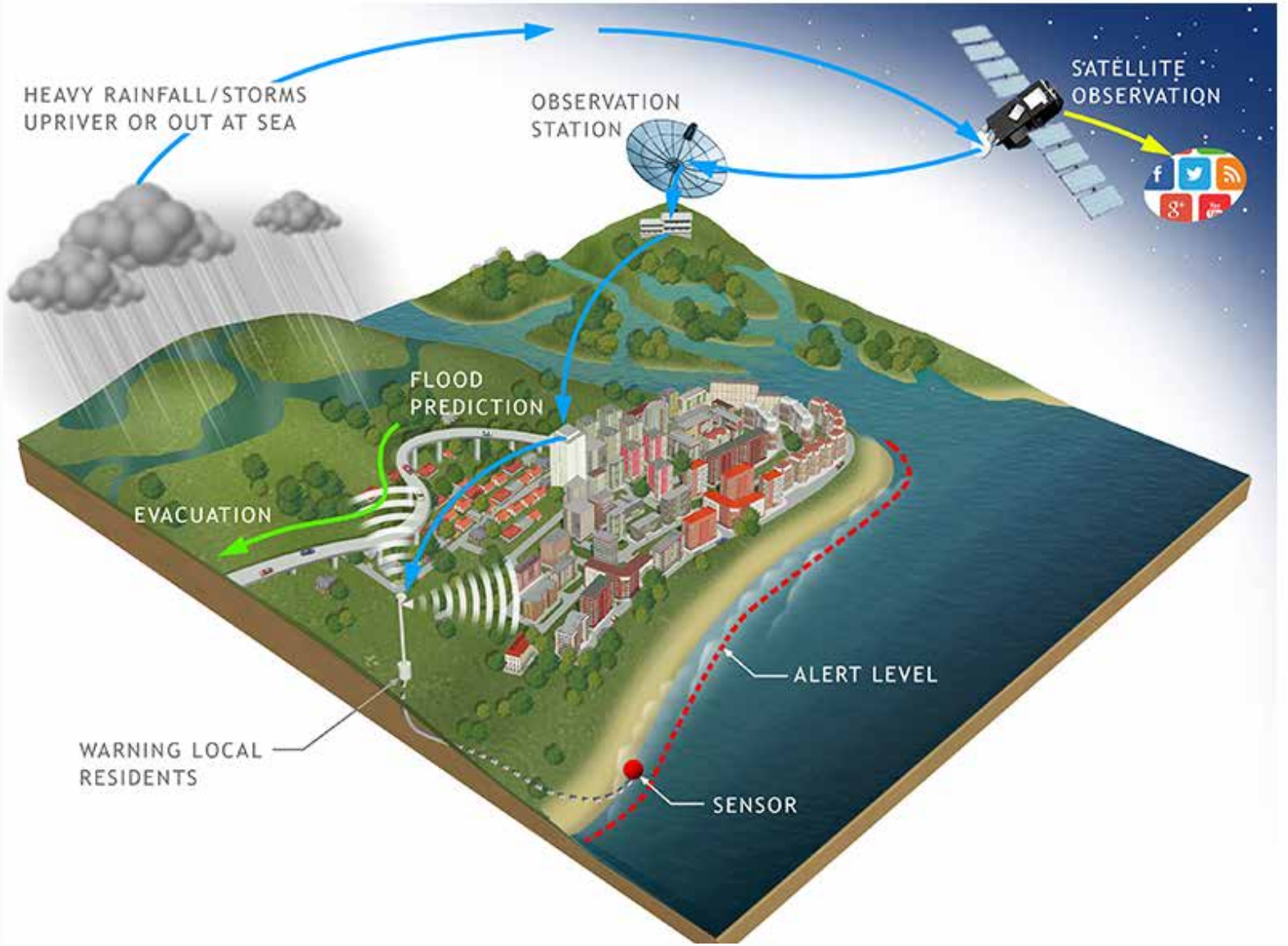
- Flood warning systems
  - Ø Emergency preparedness plans
  - Ø Evacuation plans
  - Ø Risk communication
- Retrofits to buildings
  - Ø Flood proofing
  - Ø Elevating
- Land use
  - Ø Zoning
  - Ø Buyouts/acquisition

BENEFITS

- Less maintenance
- Resilient/adaptable to changing conditions
- Less risk of flooding after project completed

IMPACTS

- Change the neighborhood and to buildings
- Change to community fabric
- Cost to local partners, property owners



OVERVIEW OF THE TENTATIVELY SELECTED PLAN (PLAN)

Valley Water | U.S.ARMY | US Army Corps of Engineers

Estimated total project cost:
$152.8 million

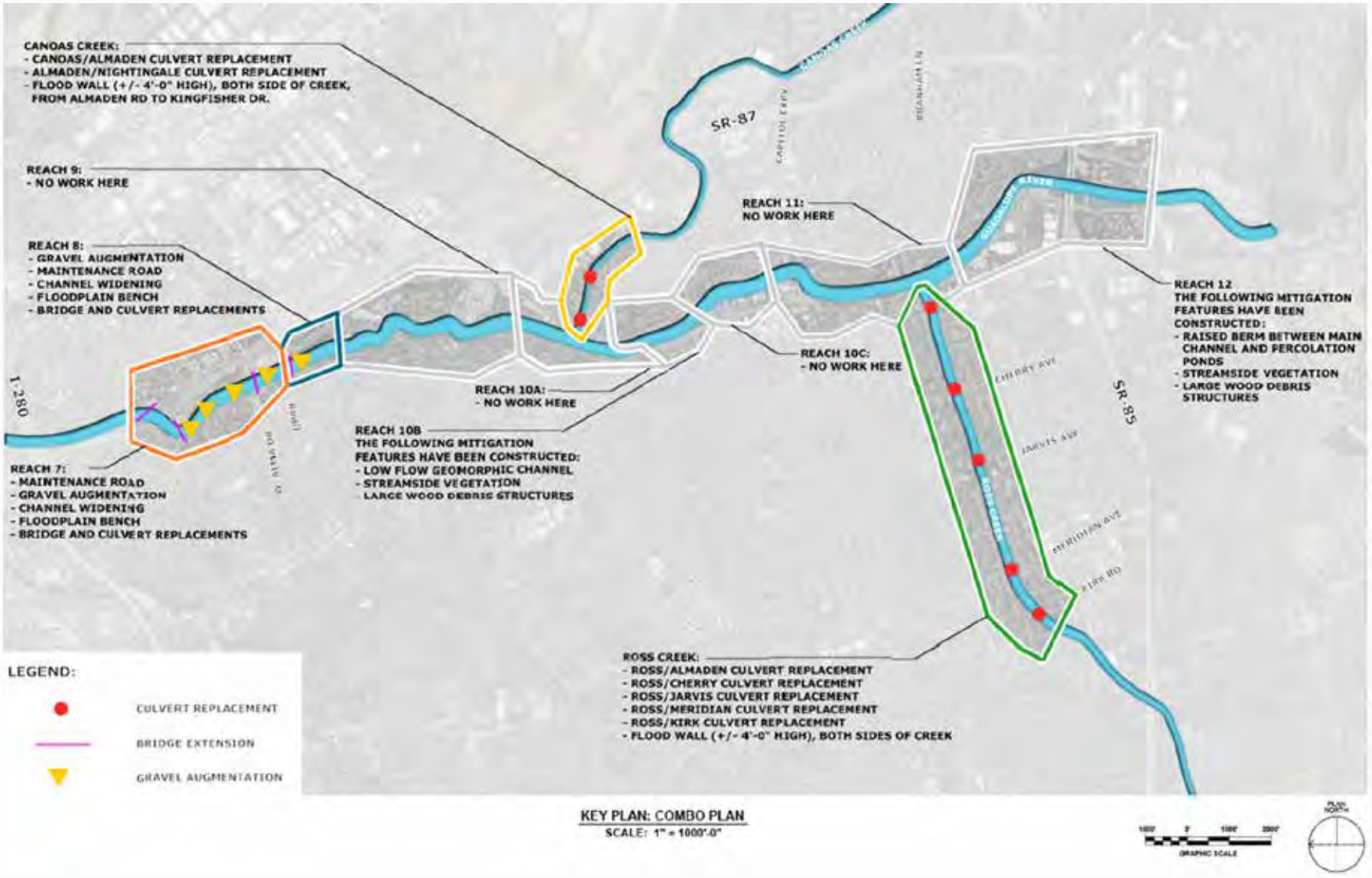
All 11 critical infrastructure locations no longer at risk. Reduces risk to life safety very well.

Average annual benefits to the national economy from damages avoided:
$21.6 million

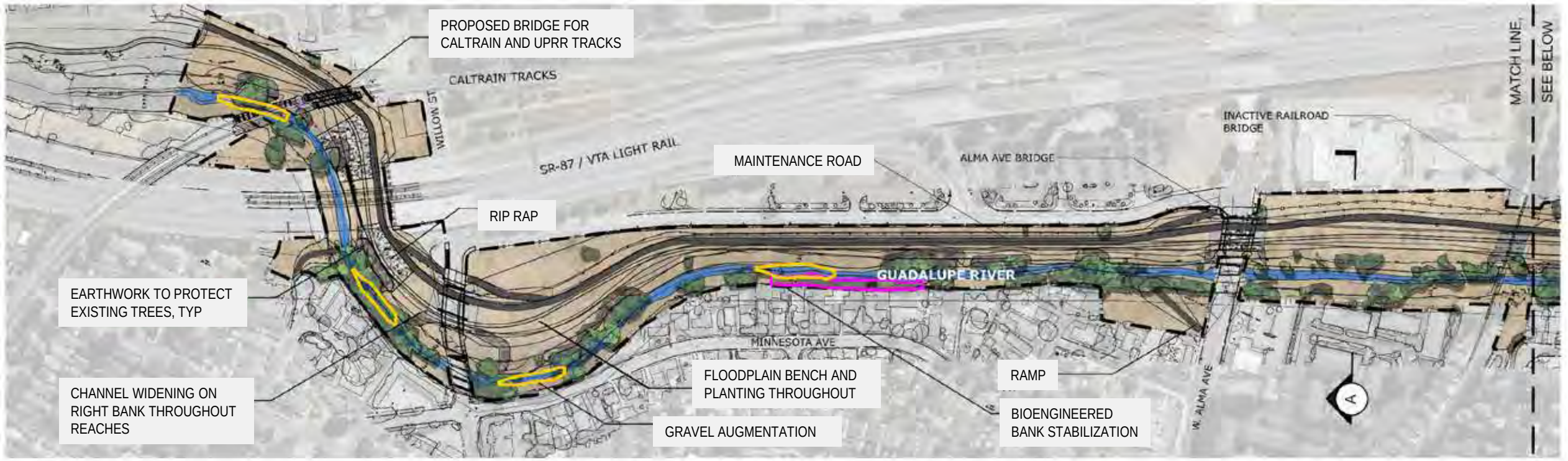
Increases riparian habitat significantly by 30 habitat units, plus increases in aquatic rearing and spawning habitat.

Creates **555 jobs** with **$59 million** in gross regional product

Serves environmental justice very well.



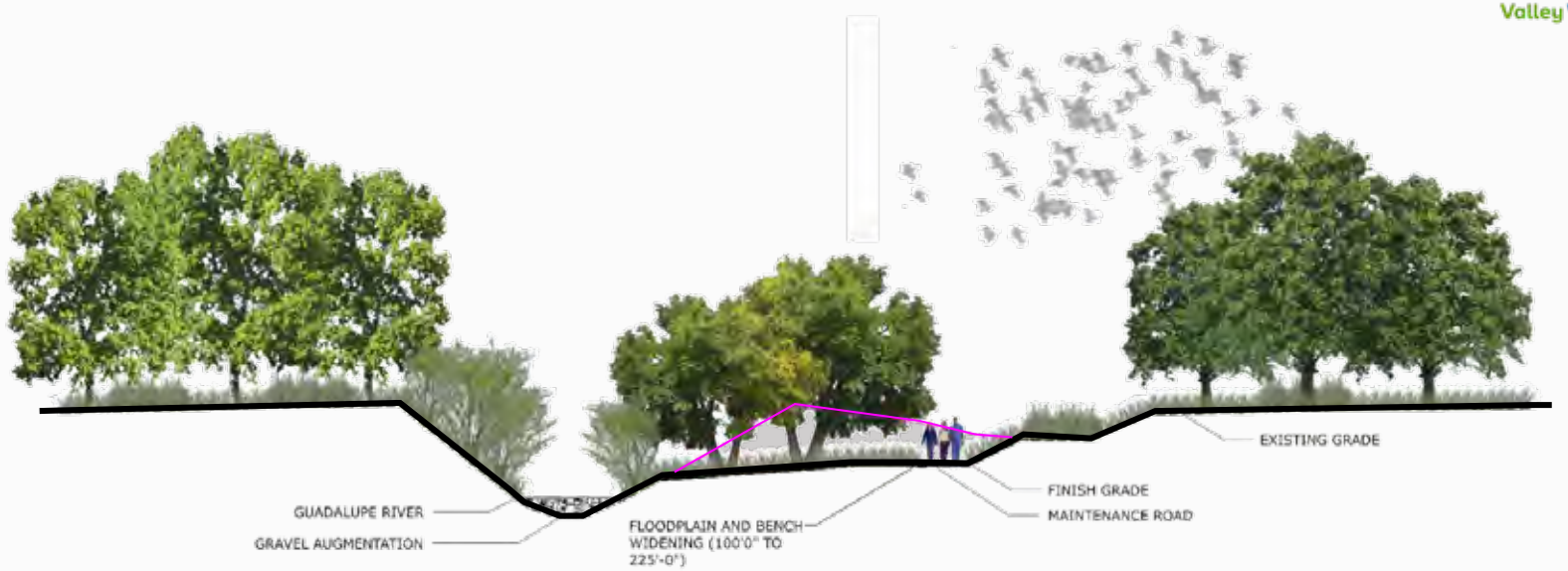
DETAILS OF PLAN WITHIN REACH 7



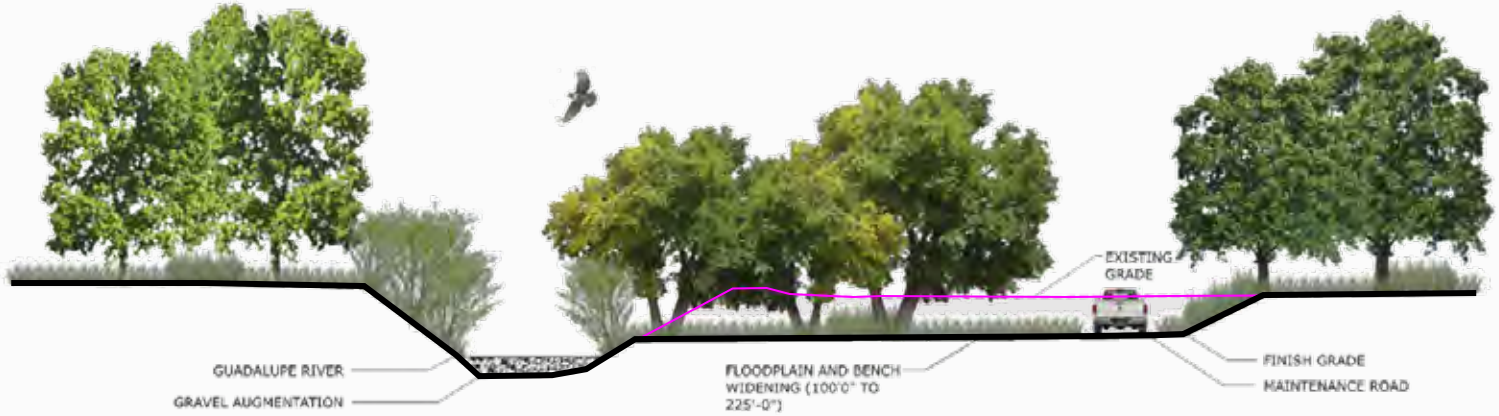
PLAN - REACH 7

DETAILS OF PLAN WITHIN REACH 8

PROFILE VIEW OF THE PLAN WITHIN REACHES 7 AND 8



A TYPICAL SECTION 777+00
SCALE: 1/16" = 1-0"



B TYPICAL SECTION 784+50
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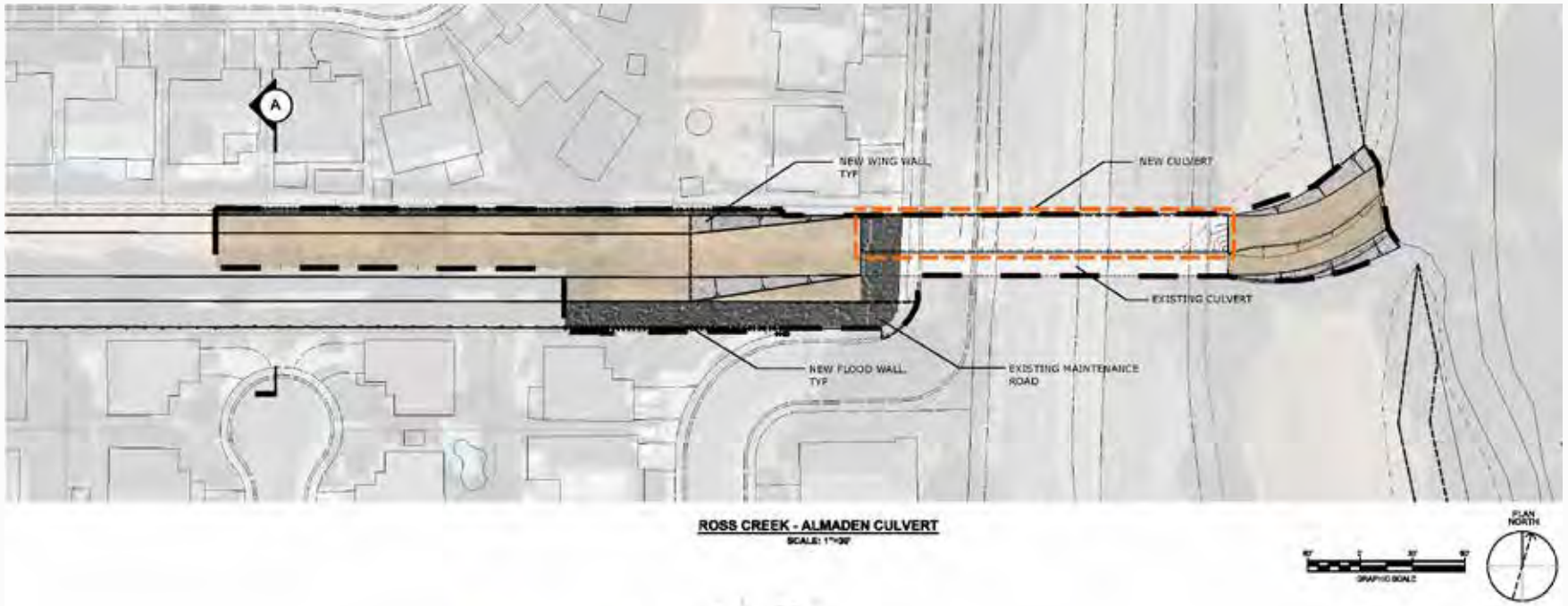
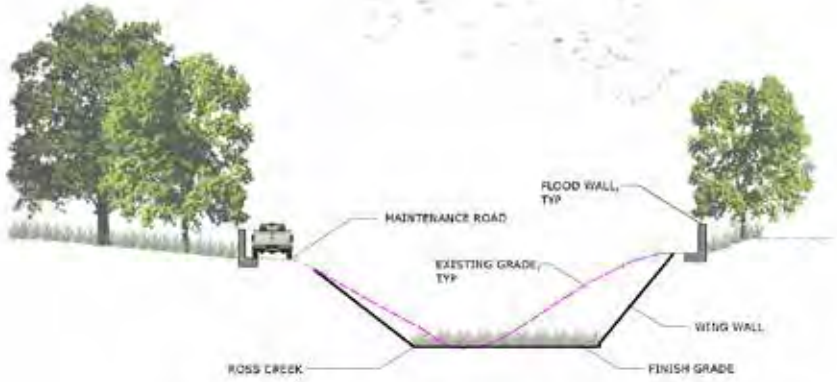
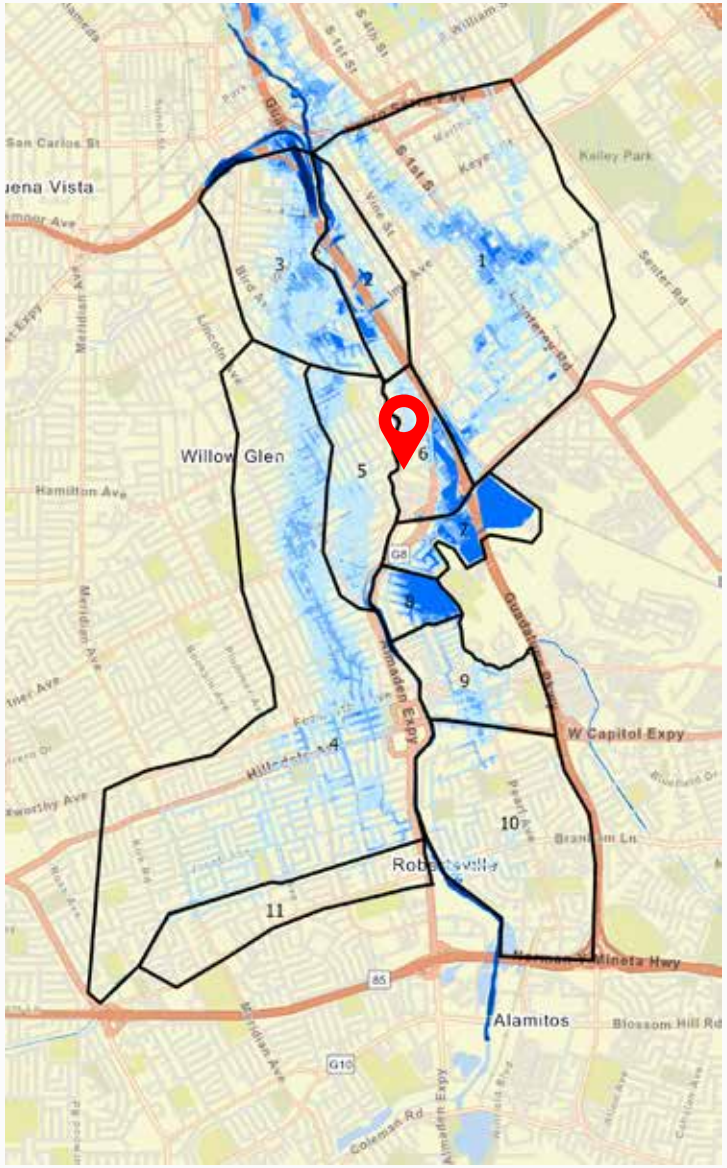
DETAILS OF THE PLAN WITHIN ROSS CREEK REACH





FLOODPLAIN COMPARISON

Existing Conditions



Proposed Plan

We are here.

Flood Depth (feet)

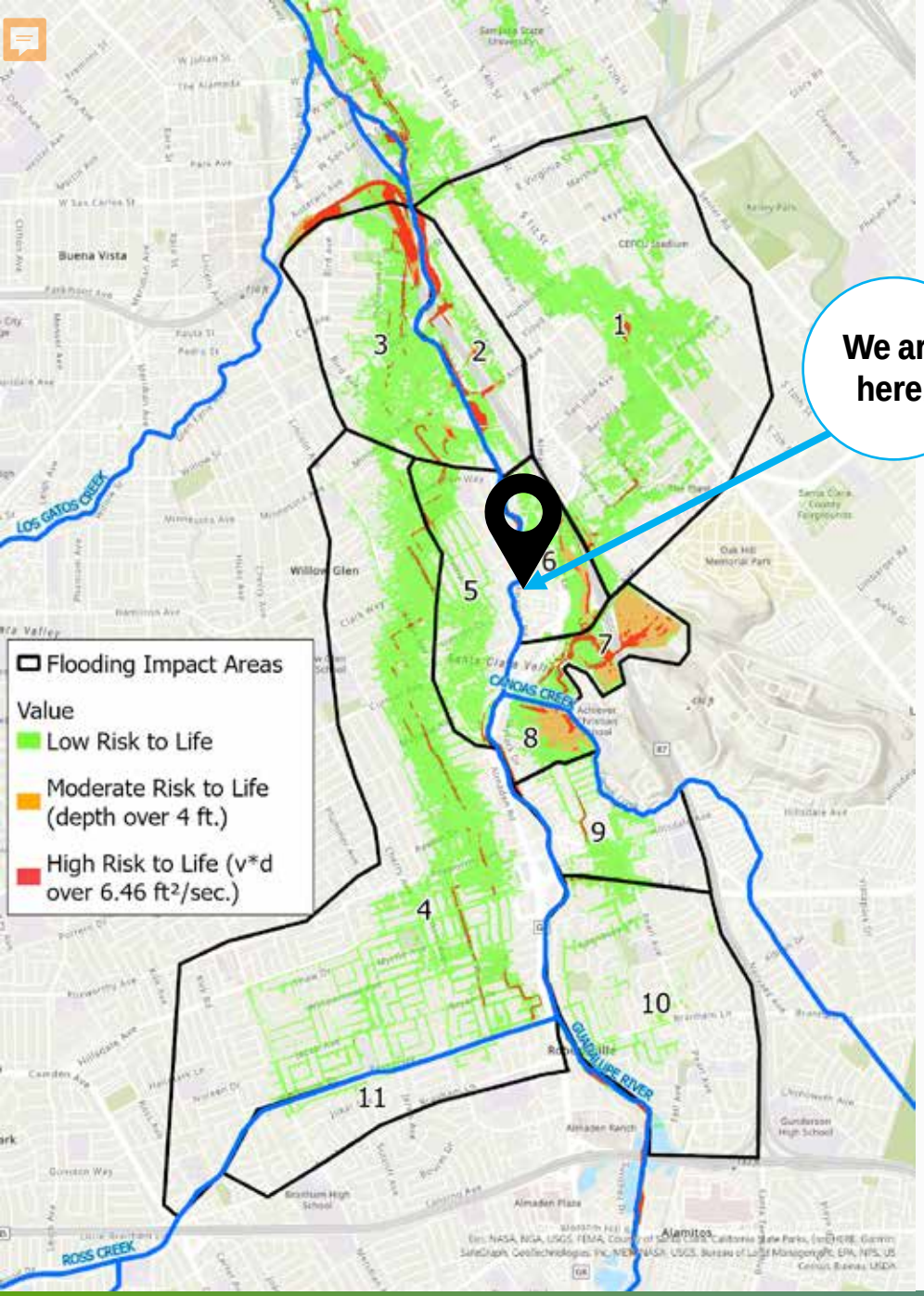
- 0.1 - 1.5
- 1.6 - 3
- 3.1 - 9
- 9.1 - 15
- 15.1 - 29.5

Water equity occurs when all communities...

...are **resilient** in the face of floods;
have a **role in decision-making** processes related to water management in their communities; and,
share in the economic, social, and environmental **benefits of water systems**.

- U.S. Water Alliance (shortened)

LIFE SAFETY



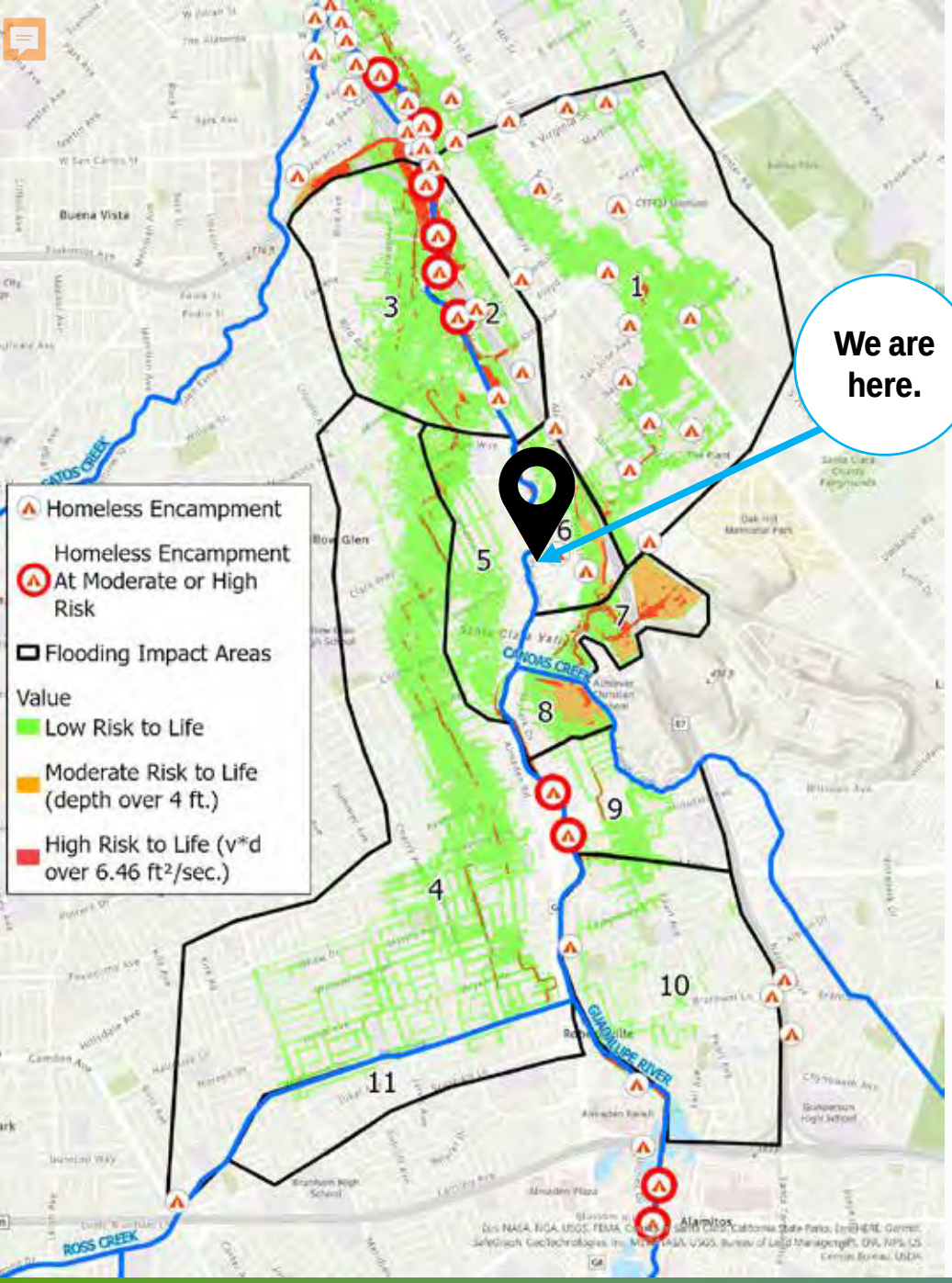
- Pedestrians caught in flood water
- Housing damaged by flood water
- Vehicles caught in flood water

Areas of concern: flooding impact areas 2, 3, 6, 7, and 8

Objective is to **reduce risk to life loss**. Communicating risk is part of managing flood risk, so that people at risk know to evacuate during a flood. Do not attempt to drive through flooded underpasses and streets.

Map of risk to life during a flood if no project was implemented.

LIFE SAFETY



Existing Conditions, Flood Hazard, and Encampments

- 10 encampments in high life loss risk area.
- 134 people at risk.
- High number of encampments within the San José area, makes it difficult for emergency responders to get to them all.

There is a large population of unhoused people living in encampments in and along the channel where flood flows move fast and water is deep.

TRIBAL AND CULTURAL CONSIDERATIONS

- USACE and Valley Water have completed literature research on recorded cultural and historic resources within the project area.
- Cultural resources include Native American cultural sites or historic buildings and structures along the Upper Guadalupe River.
- The team is also coordinating with Bay Area Native American tribes identified through the Native American Heritage Commission.

Fernando Marti, *On Indigenous Land*, 2018. Image courtesy of Sogorea Te' Land Trust.

TRIBAL AND CULTURAL CONSIDERATIONS

- The following Bay Area Native American tribes **have responded** to USACE's request to consult:
  - Tamien Nation
  - The Ohlone Indian Tribe
  - Indian Canyon Mutsun Band of Costanoan
  - The Confederated Villages of Lisjan
- USACE have invited the following Bay Area Native American tribes to consult but **have not received a response**:
  - The Amah Mutsun Tribal Band
  - Amah Mutsun Tribal Band of Mission San Juan Bautista
  - Muwekma Ohlone Indian Tribe of the San Francisco Bay Area
  - North Valley Yokuts Tribe
  - Wuksache Indian Tribe/Eshom Valley Band

Fernando Marti, *On Indigenous Land*, 2018. Image courtesy of Sogorea Te' Land Trust.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

Ecological Environment

- Threatened and Endangered Species
- Vegetation
- Water Quality
- Wildlife

Existing vegetation in Reach 7 of the Upper Guadalupe River

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

- Guadalupe River is critical for steelhead fish recovery in San Francisco Bay
- Shade from vegetative cover is limited and dominated by non-native vegetation, which ***increases*** the value of the existing vegetation due to scarcity.
- Vegetative cover regulates **water temperature** and **provides food** for fish species.
- Any vegetation loss must be replaced as part of project implementation

Steelhead Trout
Photo Credit: National Marine Fisheries Service

RECREATION

Potential Trail Additions:

Trails on maintenance roads

Improve connectivity to other trails and bikeways

Provide loops for community members

Observation/access points to the river

RECREATION

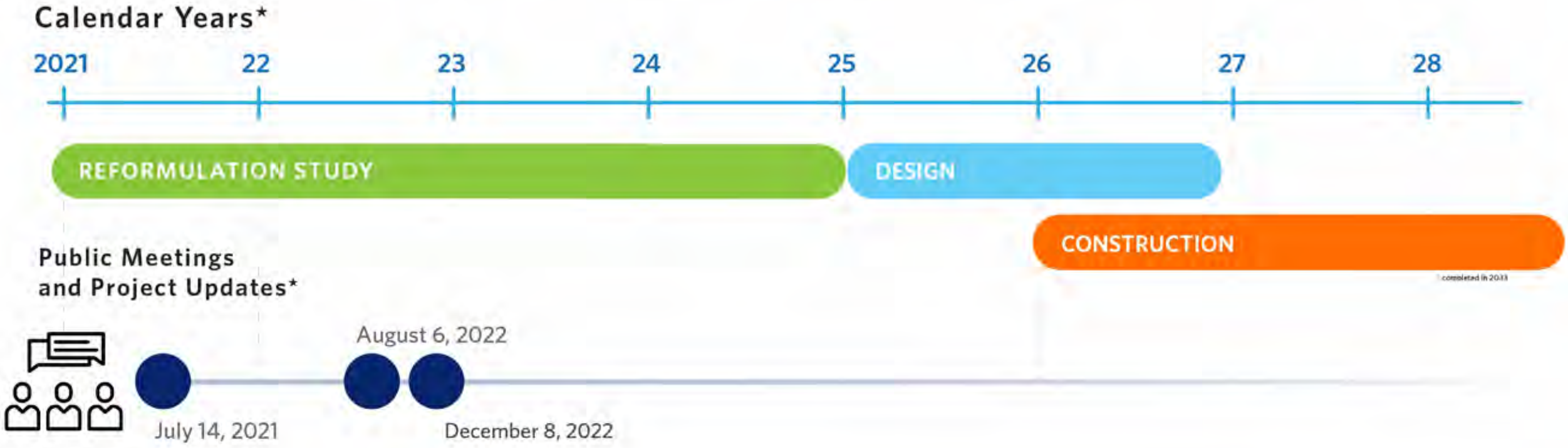
Guadalupe River Trail will connect trail users to the corridors natural setting.

Opportunities for passive use and enjoyment will be incorporated into the trail elements along Guadalupe River.

Current passive space located between Virginia St. and Willow Ave.

Opportunities to work with the City of San José to work on rails to trails conversion.

PROJECTED TIMELINE & NEXT STEPS



**Estimated timeline subject to change based on conditions permitting.*

COMMENT PERIOD OPEN - DRAFT REPORT

- The Draft General Reevaluation Report / Supplemental Environmental Assessment is available at: https://www.spn.usace.army.mil/Missions/Projects-and-Programs/Current-Projects/Upper-Guadalupe-River/
- It summarizes the reformulation process, the evaluation and comparison of alternative plans, and the selection and benefits of the Tentatively Selected Plan.
- Written comments may be mailed to *UpperGuadalupe@usace.army.mil* or mailed to: Mr. Jeneya Fertel, 450 Golden Gate Ave, 4th Floor, San Francisco, CA 94102.
- The comment period is scheduled to end on **Friday, Dec. 16, 2022.**

COMMENTS RECEIVED AT LAST MEETING IN AUGUST

Q: Who is responsible for encampment-generated trash and debris?
A: Encampment trash and debris are the responsibility of the landowner. Valley Water may not be the landowner of all areas along the creeks.

Q: What is the policy on fallen trees?
A: Fallen trees are also a landowner responsibility and may be considered habitat for salmonids based on creek location and size. In cases where Valley Water is not the landowner but has easement and fallen tree may be obstructing flows within a flood protection project than Valley Water may choose to take action.

Q: Is there a concern about groundwater contamination?
A: Groundwater contamination from this project is considered to be extremely unlikely, because all known contamination sites are well outside the project grading footprint.

USACE and Valley Water staff met with the community on August 6, 2022 at the Alma Community Center and on Facebook Live

COMMENTS RECEIVED AT LAST MEETING IN AUGUST

Q: Which local tribes are you consulting with?
A: Nine tribes were invited to consult and Tamien Nation, the Ohlone Indian Tribe, Indian Canyon Mutsun Band of Costanoan, and the Confederated Villages of Lisjan are consulting.

Q: Would like to see recreation trail on Ross Creek.
A: The study team will investigate and evaluate this option as part of our recreation design to see if it is feasible and justified.

Q: Where is CalTrain? Concerns about safety with CalTrain.
A: Valley Water passed the concern to CalTrain and we have invited them to this meeting and will continue to coordinate with CalTrain on improvements for flood risk management at their bridge.

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS / COMMENTS

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E-mail UpperGuadalupe@usace.army.mil

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