



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION IX
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105-3901

August 5, 2021

Dave Guthridge, President, Thousand Oaks Neighborhood Association
Marsey Kahn, Board Member, Thousand Oaks Neighborhood Association
Jennifer Roberts, Thousand Oaks Park Conservancy Project

Re: Environmental Threat/Guadalupe River/San Jose

Dear Dave Guthridge, Marsey Kahn, and Jennifer Roberts,

Thank you for your interest in protecting local waterways and in EPA's role in improving water quality in the Bay Area's watersheds and San Francisco Bay.

As your letter notes, the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board (Water Board) regulates trash in waterways through the municipal regional stormwater permit. The provisions for municipalities, including San Jose, to control trash through a variety of means began with the Water Board's adoption of a revised municipal regional stormwater permit in 2009. When the permit was renewed in 2015 https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay/water_issues/programs/stormwater/Municipal/R2_2015_0049_amended.pdf), the Water Board established a "Direct Trash Discharge Control" program, which allows the cities' comprehensive integrated approaches to controlling trash to count towards meeting the permit's provisions. San Jose has received approval for such a program and is currently working with its various departments, including its Housing Authority, Police Department, social service organizations, Valley Water, neighborhood organizations, etc. to make progress towards improved water quality in Santa Clara County's creeks and rivers. It is a daunting challenge given the fact that the unhoused population has been surging for many years and the pandemic has exacerbated the crisis with suspension of some social service support systems.

EPA is providing a San Francisco Bay Water Quality Improvement Fund (SFBWQIF) grant of over \$1 million to the city of San Jose to support trash cleanups and other water quality protection activities in the Coyote Creek and Guadalupe River watersheds. If you would like further information on these planned activities by the city, please contact either Rajani Nair (Rajani.Nair@sanjoseca.gov) or Liz Neves (liz.neves@sanjoseca.gov). You can find more information on the water quality and habitat projects that SFBWQIF has supported at our website: <https://www.epa.gov/sfbay-delta/san-francisco-bay-water-quality-improvement-fund>. Please feel free to contact Luisa Valiela (Valiela.luisa@epa.gov) for further information about EPA's San Francisco Bay Water Quality Improvement Fund.

Again, we greatly appreciate your interest in protecting and restoring local watersheds.

Sincerely,

Gail Louis, Manager
Watersheds Section, EPA Region 9
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