

Water Year 2025 ◦ JULY 2026

FINAL Mitigation Monitoring Report for the Downtown and Upper Guadalupe River Flood and Aquatic Habitat Improvement Projects, San Jose and Santa Clara, California



PREPARED FOR

Guadalupe River Projects
Adaptive Management Team (AMT)

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Cover photos: Photographs of WY 2025 conditions in the Guadalupe River Downtown Project's mitigation areas (Segment 1 and Guadalupe Creek).

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

ES.1 Background

This mitigation monitoring report (MMR) presents water year (WY) 2025 (October 1, 2024 to September 30, 2025) data and analysis of mitigation performance for two flood control projects on the Guadalupe River in Santa Clara County, California: the Guadalupe River Project in downtown San Jose (Downtown Project) and Upper Guadalupe River Flood Control Project (UGRP). The projects extend along the Guadalupe River from the Mineta San Jose International Airport to Blossom Hill Road in the City of San Jose, California. The Downtown Project consists of Reach A and Segments 1, 2, 3A, 3B, Woz Way to Park Avenue, and 3C in the Guadalupe River (from downstream to upstream), while UGRP includes Reaches 6–12 (from downstream to upstream). In addition, Guadalupe Creek from Almaden Expressway to Masson Dam is a restoration mitigation reach for the Downtown Project. The Downtown Project's river features were constructed between 1994 and 2007, and UGRP Reaches 6, 10B, and 12 were constructed between 2012 and 2017, including establishing mitigation. The Guadalupe Creek mitigation was installed in spring of 2002.

Monitoring results for the UGRP Reach 6 Aquatic Habitat Improvement Project (AHIP) gravel augmentation are also presented in this MMR. Gravel augmentation was completed at two sites at the beginning of WY 2022, in October–November 2021. The AHIP monitoring is being conducted to determine the effectiveness of adding gravels to the river channel in Phase 1 (Virginia Street to Union Pacific Railroad) and to guide implementation of Phase 2 (Interstate 280 to Virginia Street). The two sites—the upstream augmentation site near the UPRR (Augmentation Site 1), and the downstream augmentation site near West Virginia Street (Augmentation Site 2)—were established following the Gravel Augmentation Program (GAP) study for the UGRP (USACE et al. 2013) and guidance from the Guadalupe Watershed Integrated Working Group (GWIWG) and its consultant. Monitoring is scheduled to occur for five years through WY 2026.

The flood control projects were constructed by the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and Valley Water, depending on the reach. The mitigation program is adaptively managed by Valley Water, federal and state resource agencies, City of San Jose, environmental groups, and their representatives through the Guadalupe River Projects' Adaptive Management Team (AMT). The WY 2025 MMR was prepared for the AMT to report progress and condition of mitigation for the flood projects according to requirements in the Guadalupe River Project Mitigation and Monitoring Plan (Downtown Project MMP) (USACE 2001), Mitigation and Monitoring Plan (Habitat, Soils, and Aesthetics) in Volume VIII of the Final Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (FEIR/EIS) for the Upper Guadalupe River Flood Control Project (UGRP MMP) (Valley Water and USACE 1999), and the Upper Guadalupe River Project Reach 6 Aquatic Habitat Improvement Project Monitoring Plan for Phases 1 and 2 (AHIP Monitoring Plan) (Valley Water 2021). This MMR fulfills the reporting requirements for WY 2025 including presenting results and comparing them to Downtown Project MMP measurable objectives (MOs), or UGRP performance/success criteria (collectively referred to as MOs).

Valley Water continues to monitor and manage mitigation for the entire Downtown Project, Guadalupe Creek, UGRP Reaches 6, 10B, and 12, and AHIP gravel augmentation. Mitigation was successfully established, and monitoring completed, for the Lower Guadalupe River Flood Protection Project (LGRP) per AMT-approved recommendation 139 in WY 2014, and resource agency acceptance of the wetland mitigation at the Island Ponds (Ponds A19 through 21 in South

San Francisco Bay) in WY 2016. Valley Water's Watershed Operations and Maintenance Division has maintained mitigation at the Downtown Project for more than 30 years and more than 10 years at the UGRP.

The age (ranging from monitoring year [MY] 4 to 31 in WY 2025), monitoring schedule, and status of mitigation for the Downtown Project and UGRP varies depending on type and location, where some monitoring indicators successfully met MOs and were completed, and other indicators continue to follow their individual monitoring schedules or any applicable AMT-approved monitoring changes. Short-term and fisheries indicators are monitored annually, although monitoring of some fisheries indicators depends on flow conditions. Long-term indicators are monitored on a schedule specific to the indicator.

ES.2 Water Year 2025 Monitoring Overview

Indicators of ecological functions and habitat values associated with the projects' impacts and mitigation are required to be monitored and annually reported to the AMT, as specified in the MMPs. Downtown Project and AHIP were the focus in WY 2025, where a total of nine indicators were monitored according to the MMPs' monitoring schedule and mitigation area (i.e., mitigation site) conditions. Mitigation scheduled to be monitored in WY 2025 ranged from the youngest MY 4 (AHIP) to oldest MY 31 (Segment 1) in the two flood protection projects.

Mitigation monitoring in WY 2025 included the following indicators and locations, the results of which are reported on in Section 3. Indicators that have been completed or were not scheduled for WY 2025 are not included in this MMR.

- The Downtown Project riparian mitigation was monitored for all long-term indicators in Segments 1 and 2, and at reference plots in Segments 1, 2, and 3 according to the five-year monitoring schedule (WYs divisible by 5).
- SRA Cover mitigation was monitored for long-term indicators nonnative vegetative cover and shaded stream surface in Downtown Project Guadalupe Creek according to the three-year monitoring schedule (WYs divisible by 3).
- Depth, velocity, and vertical barriers (two indicators) to anadromous fish passage were assessed in the Downtown Project segments with concrete cellular mattress (ccm). This includes the ccm portions of Reach A/Segment 1 and Segments 2, 3A, 3B, and 3C.
- Although the Downtown Project MMP-required monitoring was completed, anadromous salmonid juvenile rearing continues to be monitored annually throughout the Guadalupe River watershed under the Fish and Aquatic Habitat Collaborative Effort (FAHCE).
- UGRP Reach 6 AHIP monitoring consisted of topographic surveys (MY 4).

Tables ES-1, -2, and -3: (1) lists the mitigation programs' monitoring indicators, (2) notes indicators required to be monitored in WY 2025, (3) confirms the indicator MOs required to be met in WY 2025, (4) identifies whether MOs were met; and (5) indicates whether any remedial actions and/or monitoring method changes are recommended this year.

Table ES-1. Summary of Downtown Project WY 2025 monitoring indicators and measurable objective (MO) status.

Monitoring Component	Indicator ¹	Monitored?	MO Required to be Met?	MO Met?	WY 2025	
					Remedial Action(s)	Method and/or MO Change
Riparian vegetation	Survival	Completed in WYs 2009–2012		NA	NA	NA
	Health and vigor	Completed in WY 2012		NA	NA	NA
	Natural recruitment	Completed in WY 2011		NA	NA	NA
	Native vegetative cover	Yes	No	No	Yes ²	Yes ³
	Nonnative vegetative cover	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes ²	Yes ³
	Tree height	Yes	No	No	No	No
	Tree basal area	Yes	No	No	No	No
Shaded Riverine Aquatic (SRA) Cover	Survival	Completed in WY 2012		NA	NA	NA
	Health and vigor	Completed in WY 2012		NA	NA	NA
	Natural recruitment	Completed in WY 2024		NA	NA	NA
	Nonnative vegetative cover ⁴	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
	Shaded stream surface and streambank ⁴	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
	Instream cover ⁵	Completed in WY 2012		NA	NA	NA
Channel morphology	Channel bottom stability ⁶	No	No	NA	NA	NA
Anadromous fish passage and rearing habitat	Depth and velocity barrier	Yes	Yes	No	Yes ⁷	No
	Vertical barrier	Yes	Yes	No	Yes ⁷	No

NA = Not Applicable: Per the MMPs or AMT approved change, the MO was not required to be met, or the indicator was not scheduled to be monitored. If a “Yes”, “No”, or “Partial” is provided as a parenthetical, then this indicator is either projected to meet the MO, projected to not meet the MO, or a portion of the MO is projected to be met, respectively (see Section 3).

¹ Indicators that have been completed include bank stability; monthly thermal suitability; short-term thermal suitability; and anadromous fish spawning habitat abundance and quality, suitable rearing habitat area, and occurrence of adult migration and spawning, juvenile rearing, and fry emergence (see WY 2022 MMR).

² Proposed remedial actions include implementation of nonnative tree and shrub removal under AMT-approved recommendation 160 and native tree and shrub cover rehabilitation and planting under AMT-approved recommendation 167.

³ Per AMT-approved recommendation 165, northern California black walnut was considered a native species.

⁴ Per AMT-approved recommendation 163, Downtown SRA Cover monitoring in Reach A, Segments 1, 2, and 3, and Woz Way to Park Avenue was completed in WY 2024.

⁵ See Appendix F, AMT-approved recommendation 132.

⁶ See Appendix F, AMT-approved recommendation 153.

⁷ Physical obstructions that presented depth barriers in Segments 3A, 3B, and 3C were removed per the Downtown MMP and following project-specific protocols (i.e., Fish Barrier Removal Protocol, see Appendix E).

Table ES-2. Summary of Upper Guadalupe River Project WY 2025 monitoring indicators and measurable objective (MO) status.

Monitoring Component	Indicator	Monitored?	MO Required to be Met?	MO Met?	WY 2025	
					Remedial Action(s)	Method and/or MO Change
Riparian vegetation	Survival	Completed in WY 2021		NA	NA	NA
	Health and vigor ^{1, 2}	No	No	NA	Yes ³	NA
	Natural recruitment ²	No	No	NA	NA	NA ⁴
	Native vegetative cover ²	No	No	NA	Yes ³	NA
	Nonnative vegetative cover ²	No	No	NA	Yes ³	NA
	Wildlife ⁴	Suspended in WY 2013		NA	NA	NA
Shaded Riverine Aquatic (SRA) Cover	Survival	Completed in WYs 2012–2018		NA	NA	NA
	Health and vigor	Completed in WYs 2012–2018		NA	NA	NA
	Natural recruitment ²	No	No	NA	NA	NA ³
	Nonnative vegetative cover ²	No	No	NA	NA	NA
	Shaded stream surface and streambank ²	No	No	NA	NA	NA
	Wildlife ⁴	Suspended in WY 2013		NA	NA	NA
Channel morphology	Channel bottom stability ⁵	No	No	NA	NA	NA
	Undercut banks	Completed in WY 2024 ⁶		NA	NA	NA
Water temperature	Empirical data ⁷	No	No	NA	NA	NA

NA = Not Applicable: Per the MMPs or AMT approved change, the MO was not required to be met, or the indicator was not scheduled to be monitored. If a “Yes”, “No”, or “Partial” is provided as a parenthetical, then this indicator is either projected to meet the MO, projected to not meet the MO, or a portion of the MO is projected to be met, respectively (see Section 3).

¹ Per AMT-approved recommendation 157, monitoring of Health and Vigor was extended for all Reach 12 mitigation areas.

² Per AMT-approved recommendation 162, riparian vegetation and SRA Cover monitoring in Reach 6 and Reach 10B were completed in WY 2024.

³ Proposed remedial actions associated with the Reach 12 rehabilitation plan, (AMT-proposed recommendation 168) are expected to improve health and vigor and native and nonnative cover.

⁴ In response to partial completion of natural recruitment in Reach 12 (MY 9), monitoring of this indicator will be extended into WY 2027 (MY 12).

⁵ See Appendix F, AMT-approved recommendation 135.

⁶ See Appendix F, AMT-approved recommendation 153.

⁷ See Appendix F, AMT-approved recommendation 164.

⁸ Per the UGRP MMP, water temperature monitoring will resume prior to any new construction within the UGRP.

Table ES-3. Summary of Aquatic Habitat Improvement Project WY 2025 monitoring indicators and measurable objective (MO) status.

Monitoring Component	Indicator	Monitored?	MO Required to be Met?	MO Met?	WY 2025	
					Remedial Action(s)	Method and/or MO Change
AHIP Riparian Vegetation, SRA Cover, and Instream Monitoring Components	Survival	No	Yes	NA	No	Yes ¹
	Health and vigor	No	Yes	NA	No	Yes ¹
	Natural recruitment ¹	No	No	NA	No	No
	Native vegetative cover ¹	No	No	NA	No	No
	Nonnative vegetative cover ¹	No	No	NA	No	No
	Topographic surveys	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
	Tracer rocks	No	No	NA	No	No
	Suitable habitat area	No	No	NA	No	No
	Peak flow water surface profile	No	No	NA	NA	NA
	Spawning gravel quantity and embeddedness	No	No	NA	No	No

NA = Not Applicable: Per the MMPs or AMT approved change, the MO was not required to be met, or the indicator was not scheduled to be monitored. If a “Yes”, “No”, or “Partial” is provided as a parenthetical, then this indicator is either projected to meet the MO, projected to not meet the MO, or a portion of the MO is projected to be met, respectively (see Section 3).

¹ Due to an administrative error, riparian vegetation was not monitored in WY 2025; however, the short-term survival, health and vigor, and natural recruitment MOs were met in WY 2024 and therefore, monitoring in WY 2027 will be for long-term indicators only.

ES.3 Monitoring Method Changes

The monitoring schedule, location, and data collection methods were described in the MMPs for each project (Valley Water and USACE 1999, USACE 2001, Valley Water 2021), with additional details in the Implementation Plan (IP) (Jones & Stokes 2004a) for the Downtown Project. Any changes to these methods were documented in the final MMRs since WY 2002 (Jones & Stokes 2003, 2004b, 2005, 2006, 2008 [WYs 2006 and 2007]; Valley Water 2009, 2010; Valley Water and H. T. Harvey and Associates 2011, 2012; Valley Water and Stillwater Sciences 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025). Method changes and recommendations were approved by the AMT, and since WY 2011 summarized in Appendix F. Monitoring method changes prior to WY 2011 were described in their respective MMRs and essentially completed, resolved, or evolved into a more recent recommendation. Source documents describing the Downtown Project and UGRP (including AHIP) monitoring indicators, methods, and MOs are summarized in Table 2-1, but are not repeated in detail in this MMR.

Valley Water requested Stillwater Sciences assess the potential presence of two species of invasive shothole borer (ISHB) beetles previously documented in the vicinity of the Guadalupe River. In WY 2025, ISHB presence was assessed via visual signs observable without taking a cross-section of the tree (entry hole, staining, gumming, sugar build-up, galleries, frass, or physical beetle presence) and occurrences of potential ISHB infestations were photographed and mapped.

Per AMT-approved recommendation 165, northern California black walnut, where encountered, was considered a native species.

Due to an administrative error, topographic surveys specific to the Reach 6 AHIP were not completed in WY 2024 (MY 3) as scheduled. To address this, Valley Water conducted the AHIP topographic surveys in WY 2025 (MY 4), even though they were not originally planned for that year, in place of the missed WY 2024 surveys.

Due to an administrative error, monitoring of the temporary access route revegetation was not completed in WY 2025 (MY 4). In WY 2024, all short-term MOs for survival, health and vigor, and natural recruitment were achieved, as was the long-term MO for native cover. The MO for nonnative cover was not achieved in WY 2024, and nonnative vegetation removal was conducted in WY 2025. Monitoring of long-term indicators for native and nonnative cover will resume in WY 2027.

Valley Water requested Stillwater Sciences collect and analyze Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) data to support shaded stream surface and streambank assessment throughout the mitigation area. Imagery and LiDAR data were collected in July 2024 and analyzed following the SRA Cover methods outlined in the *LiDAR-based Vegetation Analysis Pilot Study for the Downtown Guadalupe River Flood Project* (LiDAR Pilot Study; Appendix K in WY 2020 MMR) to supplement WY 2024 and WY 2025 field monitoring.

Although not required in the MMP, Valley Water requested that Stillwater Sciences compare the width of riparian vegetation along the Guadalupe Creek mitigation reach prior to mitigation activities in WY 2001 to current conditions to document the expansion in riparian canopy provided by the mitigation effort and to help inform decision making by the AMT. Pre-project

imagery (Valley Water 1999) was compared to the imagery collected by Towill, Inc. on July 28, 2024 (see Section 3.3.2.1 for additional detail) and results are included in Section 3.3.3. There were no other deviations to the monitoring methods in WY 2025. The indicators and locations scheduled to be monitored in WY 2025 are listed in Table 2-2.

ES.4 Monitoring Results

Local conditions, particularly precipitation and stream flow, influence the environmental indicators monitored each year. Total precipitation in downtown San Jose in WY 2025 was 9.76 inches, or 72% of the normal annual total (i.e., 13.48 inches based on 1991–2020 mean monthly precipitation total for the San Jose, California weather station USW00023293), making WY 2025 the driest year since 2022. Although four out of twelve months had above average rainfall, October, November, January, March, April, May, June, and August fell below the mean monthly total (with the greatest deficit recorded in January 2025), resulting in an annual precipitation total that fell below the climatic normal for San Jose. Throughout WY 2025, Santa Clara County, including the Guadalupe River watershed, was designated D0, or “abnormally dry,” under drought classification criteria (National Drought Mitigation Center 2025).

Daily mean discharge in the Guadalupe River ranged from 30 to 1,550 cubic feet per second (cfs) at the USGS gage upstream of Highway 101 (USGS #11169025) in WY 2025, reaching a low in September 2025 and peaking on February 13, 2025. The instantaneous peak flow on December 14, 2024, was 2,970 cfs, equating to a 1- to 2-year flood frequency recurrence. Although WY 2024 and WY 2025 had similar peak flows (1- to 2-year return interval), flow was generally lower in WY 2025, demonstrated by the duration of time that flow was above 500 cfs. On Guadalupe Creek, flow at Hicks Road (station 5043) ranged from 1.7 to 113 cfs (Table 3-7). The Masson fish ladder gage (station 5114) was not in operation.

The results of mitigation monitoring in WY 2025 are summarized by indicator in the following paragraphs. Key findings from qualitative assessments are briefly reported here with more details in Section 3 and appendices.

Riparian Vegetation – Native Vegetative Cover across the three Downtown Project segments averaged 58% tree cover, 7% shrub cover, and 61% combined cover. Regression analysis predicts native tree cover will meet the 40-year MO but shrub cover is projected to fall short of the 45% (or 30% if tree cover exceeds 75%) shrub cover MO. Results from the qualitative assessment indicate low to moderate encampment-related disturbance within the understory of the Downtown Project mitigation areas, particularly evident in Segment 2 and the reference plots, as well as trails and trash throughout the entire Downtown Project. Encampment impacts are reduced from previous monitoring years due to abatement efforts by Valley Water, but encampment-related impacts still play a significant role in the decreased shrub cover results and predictions.

Riparian Vegetation – Nonnative Vegetative Cover MOs (i.e., <5% relative cover by giant reed, <15% relative cover by nonnative woody riparian species) were met in the Downtown Project in WY 2025, with 4% total absolute cover and 5% total relative cover. Giant reed amounted to 2% relative cover within the Downtown Project. Himalayan blackberry was observed in Segments 1A and 2 at 2% and 1%, respectively, and none was observed in Segment 1B. All other woody nonnatives totaled less than 1% cover within the Downtown Project.

Riparian Vegetation – Tree Height across all segments averaged 29 feet in WY 2025, nearly meeting the 40-year MO of 30 to 60 ft. The results of the regression analysis continue to predict average tree height is within the 95% confidence interval to achieve the MO in the Downtown Project by MY 40.

Riparian Vegetation – Tree Basal Area measurements at riparian sampling plots monitored in Segments 1A, 1B, and 2 in WY 2025 had a combined basal area of 67.1 ft²/acre, which is an increase from WY 2021 but does not meet either the combined riparian reference plot basal area of 139.1 ft²/acre documented in WY 2025, or fall within range of riparian reference plot tree basal area measurements from WY 2025 of 70.9 to 359.2 ft²/acre. The higher species diversity and lower number of mature Fremont cottonwood and red willow trees in the mitigation plots, when compared to reference plots, appears to be limiting tree basal area. A regression analysis indicated the Downtown Project may meet the 40-year MO based on the current riparian reference plot result (139.1 ft²/acre) and the range of riparian reference plot measurements, as the 95% confidence interval for predicted tree basal area overlaps with the range of riparian reference plot measurements.

Riparian Vegetation – Qualitative Assessment of the Downtown Project found low to moderate levels of overstory canopy dieback in Segments 1A, 1B, and 2. Although this dieback was generally observed in the same planted species (i.e., Fremont cottonwood, red willow, and arroyo willow), these same species in addition to several others (i.e., coast live oak and northern California black walnut) were consistently observed recruiting in the segments. While some dieback observed likely occurred prior to the previous monitoring period (e.g., sun-bleached tree snags), other dieback appeared more recent, including dieback associated with potential ISHB infestation and effects from the recent wildfire in Segment 2. Potential symptoms of ISHB infestation or fungal pathogen (i.e., staining, gumming, and entry holes) were observed in Segments 1B and 2, primarily in arroyo willow. Nonnative species were documented in all Downtown Project segments, predominantly in the understory and most frequently as herbaceous species, with Segment 1A having lower and Segment 2 having higher respective levels of nonnatives including multiple patches of Himalayan blackberry, English ivy, harding grass, smilo grass, and fennel as well as a variety of nonnative trees (i.e., holly oak, Canary Island palm, Japanese privet, English elm, black locust and Mexican fan palm). Woody nonnative species, while noted throughout all segments, were generally observed with lower frequency and at low cover where they were present compared to natives. Trails, trash, and encampments were present in all three segments; overall, impacts were relatively minor in Segment 1A, moderate in Segment 1B, and moderate to high in both Segment 2 and the reference plots. While encampment impacts were light or absent in several sampling plots across all segments, trails and trash were often light to moderate within the segments. In general, Segment 1A mitigation areas had a higher frequency of no impacts. All encampments have been cleared from Downtown Project mitigation areas, and the City of San Jose has designated the Guadalupe River Parkway—where many of the Downtown Project mitigation areas are located—as a priority location for encampment prevention and removal.

SRA Cover Vegetation – Nonnative Vegetative Cover MOs (i.e., <5% relative cover by giant reed and tamarisk, <20% relative cover by nonnative woody species) were met in the Guadalupe Creek mitigation reach in WY 2025; no giant reed or tamarisk was observed. Average nonnative woody vegetation cover totaled 8% across all species within the reach. Himalayan blackberry (4% relative cover) and English ivy (3%) were the most commonly observed species.

SRA Cover Vegetation – Shaded Stream Surface and Streambank. The MO for shaded stream surface in Guadalupe Creek (58%) was met in WY 2025 (70%). In addition, Guadalupe Creek mitigation is predicted to far exceed shaded stream surface 40-year MOs based upon regression analysis. Based on WY 2025 field measurements, Guadalupe Creek did not meet its shaded streambank MO (85%), with an average of 69% shaded streambank and trend analyses predict that the 40-year average will fall slightly below the MO, with 76% cover predicted in MY 40.

Using less subjective WY 2024 LiDAR analyses, however, the MO for shaded streambank is already being met. On average across sampling plots, LiDAR showed 96% shaded streambank, and 91% across the entire Guadalupe Creek mitigation reach. Given how close field measurements and predictions are to meeting the MO, the influence of variability in field measurements over the monitoring program on trend analyses, and LiDAR analysis results indicating achievement of MOs, it is recommended that shaded stream surface and streambank monitoring for the Guadalupe Creek mitigation be considered complete.

SRA Cover Vegetation – Qualitative Assessment of Guadalupe Creek found woody plantings were healthy and vigorous with high abundance of Fremont cottonwood and red willow as well as frequent natural recruitment. Recruiting species included California sycamore, California buckeye, California rose, oaks, and willow species. Dieback was noted in Fremont cottonwood, red willow, arroyo willow, and coyote brush. Some of this dieback, particularly in Fremont cottonwood and arroyo willow, likely occurred prior to the previous monitoring period and is still present. Signs of ISHB or fungal pathogen were not observed during monitoring in the Guadalupe Creek mitigation reach. Human impacts were evident at minor levels, most often as bank modification, but one site (SRA PA-41) had high levels of trash, trails, and encampments. Guadalupe Creek mitigation areas are designated as a Watershed Protection Zone where Valley Water's no-camping ordinance is enforced.

Anadromous Fish Passage and Rearing Habitat – Depth, Velocity and Vertical Barriers were documented in the Downtown Project in WY 2025. Sediment accumulations in the Downtown Project ccm that presented barriers to fish passage were removed or excavated. Results from the fish passage assessment conducted at the series of notched weirs downstream of Coleman Avenue indicate that the MO for passage is not being met during flows from 100 to 3,320 cfs, primarily due to unsuitable water velocity conditions, and at flows less than 13 cfs due to unsuitable water depth conditions, but that passage is available during normal baseflow conditions that are present for most of the year (WY 2019 MMR Appendix L and WY 2018 MMR Appendix M).

AHIP – Topographic Surveys specific to the Reach 6 AHIP were conducted for WY 2025 between May and June 2025. Approximately 40 cross-sections were taken in the Reach 6 area from the upstream end near the Caltrain bridge to the downstream end where the concrete apron begins near I-280. A 2D surface was produced from the cross-section survey as well to help assess performance. Neither Augmentation Site 1 or 2 experienced much change since MY 2, which may be due to a lack of large flows. Monitoring should continue in accordance with the AHIP Monitoring Plan (Valley Water 2021) before determining if or how the AHIP should be re-evaluated for Phase 2.

ES.5 Recommendations

Any member of the AMT may propose recommendations or remedial actions as guided by the MMPs and conditions reported in the MMR. Remedial actions and recommendations proposed by Valley Water in the draft MMR, received as comments to the draft MMR, or proposed at the annual AMT meeting are discussed and considered with voting to determine consensus at the annual AMT meeting (see Table ES-4). Recommendations and remedial actions along with AMT consensus gauge votes are summarized in the relevant meeting minutes, 60-day memorandum, and tabulated in Appendix F of the final WY 2025 MMR.

Recommendations and remedial actions approved by the AMT since WY 2011 are listed in Appendix F. Those made prior to WY 2010 were not included in this MMR as they were either completed, updated in more recent water years, or may not have reached consensus. Valley Water implements remedial actions and recommendations that achieve AMT consensus, except those delegated to another AMT member, as described in the MMRs.

Table ES-4. WY 2025 recommendations.

Indicator/ Environmental Condition Parameter	Measurable Objective (MO)	Need for Recommendation	Recommendation	Consensus Gauge ¹
SRA Cover – Nonnative vegetative cover, Shaded stream surface and streambank	Relative to the total cover of trees and shrubs, cover provided by giant reed will be less than 5%. Relative cover provided by nonnative woody riparian species, such as introduced walnut, locust, and tree-of-heaven, established after planting will be less than 15%. The combined relative cover of nonnative woody species will, therefore, be less than 20%. By year 40, trees and shrubs must shade at least 58% of the total stream surface in Guadalupe Creek. At least 85% of the streambank must be shaded by MY 40.	SRA Cover mitigation on Guadalupe Creek has met the MOs for shaded stream surface and nonnative cover, LiDAR analyses indicate it has met the MO for shaded streambank, and it is predicted to continue to meet all MOs in MY 40. Comparisons of pre-project and current conditions indicate SRA Cover and riparian extent have increased and are exceeding the mitigation requirements. Inspection and management of mitigation areas would continue under Valley Water's Operations and Maintenance division, and nonnative invasive vegetation would continue under Valley Water's Invasive Plant Management Program.	Use LiDAR results collected in 2024 to evaluate shaded streambank MO and consider SRA Cover monitoring complete for Guadalupe Creek.	CDFW = 1 CSJ = no vote NMFS = no vote RWQCB = 2 USACE = no vote USFWS = 2 Valley Water = 1 WPLG = 1
Riparian vegetation – Native vegetative cover	Forty years after planting, native trees and shrubs must either provide 75% and 45% cover, respectively, or, if native shrub cover is at least 30%, native tree cover in excess of 75% can be substituted for shrub cover. A total combined cover for native trees and shrubs of at least 85% must be attained by year 40.	Riparian mitigation areas in the Downtown Project continue to lack native shrub cover and are no longer projected to meet the combined tree and shrub native cover MO after understory maintenance along the Guadalupe River Parkway. To avoid such accidental damage in the future, Valley Water will collaborate with San Jose Conservation Corps (SJCC) to develop and implement a native tree and shrub rehabilitation plan.	Valley Water will collaborate with SJCC to develop and implement a native tree and shrub cover rehabilitation plan. SJCC will maintain the plantings for 10 years, or until the MOs are achieved. Survival, health and vigor, natural recruitment, and native and nonnative cover will be monitored in accordance with the Downtown MMP or AMT-approved monitoring schedule changes. This replanting will not restart the 40-year monitoring commitment.	CDFW = 1 CSJ = no vote NMFS = no vote RWQCB = 1 USACE = no vote USFWS = 1 Valley Water = 1 WPLG = 1

Indicator/ Environmental Condition Parameter	Measurable Objective (MO)	Need for Recommendation	Recommendation	Consensus Gauge ¹
Riparian vegetation and SRA Cover – Survival, Health and vigor, Natural recruitment, Native vegetative cover, Nonnative vegetative cover	Various MOs	In WY 2024, UGRP Reach 12 riparian mitigation was lacking in health and vigor and native cover. Since then, Valley Water’s no-camping ordinance has taken effect, and encampments have been removed but some mitigation planting areas continue to struggle. In response, Valley Water developed a conceptual rehabilitation plan that includes infill plantings, expansion plantings, and soil remediation and replanting in various areas.	Valley Water will implement the Reach 12 rehabilitation plan using the existing UGRP permits and authorizations. The plantings would be monitored and maintained in accordance with the UGRP MMP methods and schedule. ²	CDFW = CSJ = NMFS = RWQCB = USACE = USFWS = Valley Water = WPLG =

¹ **AMT Member:**

CDFW = California Department of Fish and Wildlife
CSJ = City of San Jose
NMFS = National Marine Fisheries Service
RWQCB = San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board

USACE = United States Army Corps of Engineers, San Francisco District
USFWS = United States Fish and Wildlife Service
Valley Water = Santa Clara Valley Water District
WPLG = Water and Power Law Group PC (representing the North Santa Clara Resource Conservation District [NSCRCD], Pacific Coast Federation of Fisherman’s Associations, and Trout Unlimited)

Consensus gauge (Kaner 1996). Consensus is reached when all participants respond with a rating of 1 to 4 or x: a dash (-) indicates no rating received.

1 = “Yes, I love it – endorsement and I can support it.”

2 = “Basically, I like it – endorsement with a minor point of contention.”

3 = “Ok, I can live with it – agreement with some reservations and I can support it.”

4 = “Willing to step aside or abstain – I have not formed an opinion because it doesn’t affect me or I don’t feel I have the level of expertise and I can support it.”

5 = “I don’t like it – I block the proposal and cannot support it (note: if someone blocks, they need to provide an alternative proposal).”

6 = “I need more information – I need more information to form an opinion (note: if someone needs more information they need to say what information they need).”

x = “I don’t like but I won’t block it – I want my disagreement noted in writing but I will support the decision.”

² Vote delayed to allow agencies time to review project permits. Vote will occur via email and will be reflected in the WY 2026 MMR.