

# ***Water Resources Development Act of 2007***

The Water Resources Development Act of 2007 (WRDA) is a \$23.2 billion package of water resources projects that authorizes the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to construct various projects for improvements to rivers and harbors of the United States, and for other purposes.

The bill contains over 900 water resource development projects and studies for flood protection, navigation, and environmental restoration across the United States including five projects that benefit Santa Clara County. Contained are projects such as: Louisiana Hurricane Recovery; New locks, dams, and environmental restoration for the Upper Mississippi River and Illinois Waterway System; Florida Everglades Ecosystem Restoration; Beach nourishment projects; and other flood protection and ecosystem restoration projects.

Also contained in the bill are new programs such as: Independent Peer Review of Corps projects; a National Levee Safety Program; and various provisions to streamline the design, permitting, and construction of Corps projects.

Specifically, the projects that are in or affect Santa Clara County are:

**Upper Guadalupe River Flood Protection Project:** This project will provide flood protection for 7,500 homes and businesses with potential damages from a 1 percent flood exceeding \$280 million (1998 value) and provide long-term environmental benefits for fish and wildlife habitat. This project was originally authorized in WRDA 1999 and is in need of reauthorization based on a Corps Limited Reevaluation Report.

**South San Francisco Bay Shoreline Study:** This project will restore 15,100 acres of South San Francisco Bay salt ponds acquired by the state and federal governments in 2003 and protect south bay communities from flooding. This study is being partnered with the California Coastal Conservancy, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, private parties, the District, and other agencies. Authorization is needed for the non-federal interests to receive credit for feasibility study costs beyond the local share and to be reimbursed for the Federal share of feasibility costs incurred in advance of the project cooperation agreement.

**Llagas Creek Flood Protection Project:** This project will provide protection for 1,100 homes, 500 businesses, and over 1,300 acres of agricultural land in south Santa Clara County. The project will also protect and improve water quality and preserve the river's fish, wildlife and habitat. Although the Corps was authorized to complete the project under WRDA 1999, delays have resulted in the project's exceeding its Section 902 maximum project cost limitation, thereby requiring it to be reauthorized.

**South Bay Advanced Recycled Water Treatment Project:** This much-needed project will investigate using recycled water subject to advanced treatment for new markets, including industrial, agricultural, environmental, and groundwater recharge applications.

**Bay Area Regional Desalination Project:** This project funds a feasibility study for a critical project needed to provide water supply reliability for drought-prone and critical areas, including the East Bay, San Francisco and Santa Clara County areas.

