

San Tomas Watershed



Santa Clara Valley was called the "Heart's Delight."
Vegetation and wildlife were everywhere in sight.
The valley's changed a lot in the past two hundred years.
Running out of water is just one of our fears.
The Silicon Valley is what it's called today.
One point seven million people living in the South Bay.

There are two west valley watersheds inside our county.
San Tomas is one of these defined by its boundary,
Home of the red-legged frog and burrowing owl,
Two endangered species since the government cried foul!

Saint Thomas Aquinas would be proud for the fame
Brought by a river that was given his name.
San Tomas Aquino is the name of the creek.
In Santa Clara County, it's the watershed we seek.

This watershed is sixty-four square miles of terrain,
A "J" like strip of land from the Bay to Santa Cruz Mountain
San Tomas Aquino Creek here is the leader
Saratoga, Wildcat and Smith Creeks are its feeders.

Redwood and oak trees grow almost everywhere.
Travel in this watershed; see five cities there,
Parts of San Jose, Los Gatos, and Santa Clara
Monte Sereno and the city of Saratoga

Sanborn County Park is at the foot of the "J."
Wade in five minor creeks in the park in a day.
Booker and Bonjetti and McElroy are three,
Sanborn and Todd, all fresh water, all flow free.

These flow to Saratoga Creek and out towards the bay.
Into San Tomas Aquino Creek, it is the only way.
Guadalupe Slough is the end of the line.
To the San Francisco Bay, fish and birds think it's fine!

Walden West Science Camp is also in the park.
They teach five thousand kids a year, you bet they've made their mark.
Youth Science Institute runs the park's Nature Center.
There they have year round classes that anyone can enter.

Page Ditch on Smith Creek has stories to tell,
First used for irrigation, then replenishing the wells,
It feeds eight percolation ponds putting water in the ground.
Twenty-eight acre feet per day sinks without a sound.

Rinconada Water Treatment Plant is in this watershed
It can clean eighty million gallons in a single day, it's said
Actually sometimes it's more, and sometimes it's less
Need is the factor that is used, they confess.

It's staffed twenty-four hours every day of the year.
Getting water from the delta and reservoirs that are near
Chlorinate, flocculate, remove the sedimentation.
Filtrate, and final disinfection by chloramination.

There is a lot to learn about this valley that we share,
Wildlife and creeks and streams and plants to compare.
There is no better place to live anywhere on the earth.
Try to buy a home and you will see what it's worth!

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