



In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (California Public Resources Code Sections 21000 et seq.) and CEQA Guidelines (Title 14, California Code of Regulations, Sections 15000 et seq.), an Initial Study of the Saratoga Creek Hazard Tree Removal and Restoration Project was prepared to evaluate environmental impacts. Based on the Initial Study, it has been determined that a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) is the appropriate level of review. This is a Notice of Intent to adopt an MND for this project in accordance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15072.

Project Title: Saratoga Creek Hazard Tree Removal and Restoration Project.

Project Description: Santa Clara Valley Water District (Valley Water) is proposing a phased removal of the diseased hazard eucalyptus trees within the 7.87-acre Project area over three years (2019–2021) in a series of Work Areas. An additional year may be required that would extend the work to the end of 2022. Nearly half of the eucalyptus may be accessible by mobile crane staged on the top of bank opposite the eucalyptus groves. The remaining eucalyptus would be removed using traditional climbing techniques coupled with hand-based or equipment-based transport of debris out of the creek area. No more than 50 eucalyptus trees would be removed in any season. Following tree removal, the site would be restored with native riparian trees and shrubs.

Project Location: The project is located in Santa Clara County along the reach of Saratoga Creek between Cox Avenue and Prospect High School within the City of Saratoga.

Public Review: The Draft MND will be available for public review from **8 a.m. to 5 p.m.** weekdays at the Valley Water Headquarters Building (5700 Almaden Expressway, San Jose, CA 95118) starting August 16, 2019. A copy of the Draft MND will also be available at the Saratoga Public Library reference desk (13650 Saratoga Avenue, Saratoga, CA 95070). The Draft MND can also be accessed online at: **<http://www.valleywater.org/PublicReviewDocuments.aspx>**. The public comment period on the Draft MND closes at 5 p.m. on September 16, 2019.

Contact: Comments on the Draft MND should be submitted via mail or electronically, by **5 p.m. on September 16, 2019**, to:

Santa Clara Valley Water District
Attention: Todd Sexauer
5750 Almaden Expressway, San José, CA 95118

For further information please contact **Todd Sexauer** at **(408) 630-3149**, or by email at **tsexauer@valleywater.org**.