

# SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER

## "Guadalupe Watershed"

The 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 six million people living in the south bay.

In Santa Clara County there are many watersheds.  
The mighty Guadalupe is a well-known one, it's said.  
It stretches from the mountains, down through the valley floor  
San Jose and Los Gatos are its towns, there are no more.

Five reservoirs are found within this watershed.  
The Guadalupe flows into a creek and riverbed.  
Almaden and Calero spill in Alamitos Creek  
Lexington and Vasona are the last that you might seek.

The Guadalupe River's in a large watershed.  
You've got to climb Mt. Umunhum to see the river's head  
Lots of creeks together make up the water flow.  
Canoas and Los Gatos are just two that you might know.

It flows near twenty miles and often changed its bed,  
Creating special places within the watershed.  
Its area for drainage is very big to see,  
One hundred seventy square miles in reality.

Ohlone natives used the river as a water source,  
Hunting, swimming, fishing, all along its course.  
They lived throughout this valley for five thousand years,  
Making tule boats and eating shell fish and deer.

Anza named the river for his patron saint.  
In seventeen seventy six, there wasn't one complaint.  
And then the Eastern settlers all began to come.  
Looking for a chance to raise a handsome sum.

San Jose was settled along the Guadalupe banks.  
California's first capitol, the oldest town, it ranks!  
Highway Eighty-Seven is in the river's flood plain.  
That's why the highway's flooded when we get a lot of rain!

This river's now polluted. The miners didn't know.  
New Almaden Quicksilver Mine adds mercury to the flow.  
Can't eat the fish! Don't swim in there! It's very sad to see.  
The river once so rich with life, no good for you and me.

The water in the river bed flows to Alviso slough.  
Some water is diverted to a perc pond or two.  
In all, the water percolates down into the ground.  
The aquifer is waiting for any water that is found.

An aquifer is pebbles, mostly gravel, rocks and sand.  
It takes a hold of water, and keeps it in its hand.  
The aquifer that's centered throughout our valley floor  
Is formed in three sub basins, don't you try to count to four.

Santa Clara and Coyote, and Llagas, that makes three.  
It's not a lake or river or anything you see.  
The water is just held there, until we pump it up.  
It's pure and fit for drinking. Go ahead and fill your cup! CHORUS

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