

# Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) Update

San Lorenzo Valley Water District's ambitious effort to replace aging infrastructure throughout the District—including pipes, tanks and pumps—is well underway.

San Lorenzo Valley Water District (SLVWD) is dedicated to communicating about your publicly-owned water system to ensure transparency and encourage public engagement.

The District supplies water to the communities of Boulder Creek, Brookdale, Ben Lomond, Lompico, Zayante, Scotts Valley, Mañana Woods and Felton. Water is supplied through 185 miles of distribution lines, 32 pump stations and 50 tanks. SLVWD serves approximately 7,900 connections through the steep terrain of our mountain community.



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## **Understanding Your Water System**

Operating a water system in the mountains is complex and challenging.

#### **Aging Infrastructure**

Degrading redwood water tanks and deteriorating, leaking pipelines are examples of infrastructure that has reached the end of its life expectancy or is expected to over the next 25 years. Through a public process and with community input, the District has prioritized the most important projects and begun replacing infrastructure.

#### **Financing**

Infrastructure projects are expensive. A rate increase in 2017 enables the District to fund this much-needed work, as well as qualify for loans and build reserves for future projects. The District has also completed a state-mandated Urban Water Management Plan, making SLVWD eligible for state and federal grants.

#### **Water Sources**

SLVWD is a closed water system, receiving water only from local rainfall. The District owns and manages thousands of acres of land that is protected for surface water and groundwater resources.

#### Mountainous, Fire-Prone Terrain

Our region features challenging topography, remote locations and narrow roadways, which create logistical challenges for pumping water, pressure availability and water system maintenance. Much of the system needs better fire flow. Increasing the size of pipelines and expanding water storage will meet fire flow needs and help improve emergency preparedness and response.

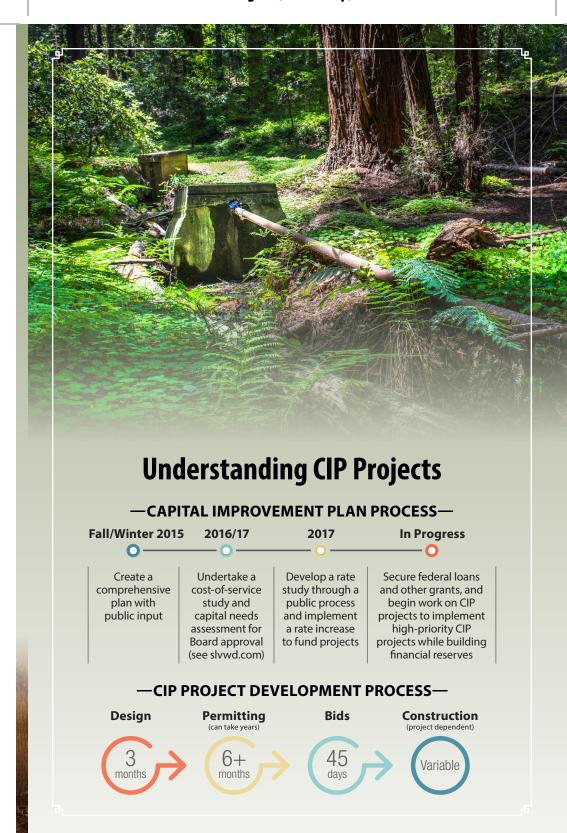
#### **Climate Change**

Extreme weather patterns of extended drought punctuated by catastrophic flooding can result in costly damage to infrastructure and water management challenges. The SLVWD Board passed a resolution in support of the Paris Climate Agreement, committing the District to establish a zero GHG emissions goal, as well as adopt policies and programs to adapt to a changing climate.

#### **Sensitive Habitats**

The Santa Cruz Mountains are a biodiversity hot spot. Diverse habitats and wildlife species, many of which are endangered, present challenges and opportunities for public agencies, such as SLVWD, that are striving to protect our environment.





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### **Finding Innovative Solutions**

SLVWD strives to be responsive and find creative solutions to key challenges.

#### **Probation Tank Replacement**

Replacement of the leaking Probation Water Storage Tank began in Spring 2018 with the installation of three smaller, temporary tanks to provide water storage while the old 100,000 redwood tank is decommissioned and a 527,000-gallon permanent steel water storage tank is constructed. The increased water storage will improve fire protection for neighborhoods in the southern part of the District.

#### **Conjunctive Use**

SLVWD uses surface water from rivers and streams during wet periods and groundwater from aquifers during dry periods. Using water conjunctively ensures that groundwater sources are managed sustainably and surface water sources are maintained at a level that supports fish habitat. After operating the north system conjunctively since the 1970s, the District is looking to expand conjunctive use into the south system in the future.

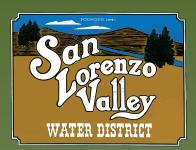
#### **Sustainable Groundwater Management Planning**

The District is working with neighboring water agencies, including Scotts Valley Water District and private well owners to sustainably manage our shared groundwater sources via membership in the new Santa Margarita Groundwater Agency. For more information, visit smgwa.com.



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## **Your Water Rates At Work**

Current and upcoming capital projects to replace and upgrade pipes, pumps and tanks, as well as improve fire protection capacity and build financial reserve funds needed for the ongoing Capital Improvement Plan

