

# WESTERN WATERS CANOE CLUB

Affiliate Member of the American Canoe Association, Est. 1880

## CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER

MAY 15 2001

40 Redding Road  
Campbell, CA 95008

QUALITY CONTROL BOARD      May 12, 2001

Mr. Steve Moore  
San Francisco Regional Water Quality Control Board  
1515 Clay Street #1400  
Oakland, CA 94612

Subject: Public Solicitation of Water Quality Information Notice

Dear Steve:

We received the subject notice at a Santa Clara Basin Watershed Management Initiative (WMI) meeting several months ago. We would like to inform you that the Guadalupe Coyote Resource Conservation District (GCRCD) has hourly temperature data taken at approximately 16 locations in the Guadalupe River sub-watershed from 1995 through December 2000. They also have very limited hourly temperature data from about 15 locations on Coyote creek from the early 1995 time frame. Sites in the Guadalupe system included up to 4 locations on lower Guadalupe Creek, one site on lower Alamitos Creek and 2 sites on Los Gatos Creek. Unfortunately, most of our data are still in the raw format, as uploaded from the Onset computer controlled temperature loggers using Onset software. Larry Johmann has started to review and verify the data and export them to the Excel format but has not made much progress due to other commitments. Larry Johmann and Roger Castillo also have hundreds of photographs and hours of videotape, taken mostly in the Guadalupe System, and a limited amount from other sub-watersheds, such as Coyote, Calabazas, San Tomas Aquino Creeks taken from 1993 to the present day. These photographs and videotapes document conditions along the waterways and include numerous photos and lots of videotape footage of migrating salmon and steelhead and spawning Chinook salmon. Larry eventually hopes to place many of the photographs and perhaps his videotape on his web site, Ref. <http://members.tripod.com/southbaycreeks>. It should be possible for Larry/Roger to provide the Regional Board copies of the photos or videotape if there is an interest in them if they can receive reimbursement for their reproduction costs.

The Western Waters Canoe Club (WWCC) believes that one of the first tasks that the RWQCB needs to undertake in addressing water quality information is to correct the Basin Plan since this Plan lists the various water bodies and identifies their beneficial uses. It presently contains numerous major errors and omissions with respect to many of

the water bodies and their location as well as with their actual and potential beneficial uses.

Following are the WWCC's inputs regarding the Basin Plan and some of the Santa Clara Basin water bodies we are most familiar with. We understand the Basin Plan is, or will soon be, up for revision so we hope our input will be of benefit:

We are attaching copies of pages 7-179 thru 7-185 from Chapter 7 of the Watershed Management Initiative (WMI) Characteristics Report. These pages identify some errors, omissions and desirable additions to Table 2-5 of the Basin Plan (WMI Table 7-9, page 7-180). The WWCC/GCRCD provided all of the inputs to the WMI on page 7-181 and most of the input on page 7-182.

Please note the WWCC disagrees with Para 7.4 of the Characteristics Report contained on pages 7-182 and 7-183, as we do not feel there is a need to redefine a stream channel. We strongly disagree with any move to define "conveyance function" as a "Beneficial Use." "Conveyance function" is not a use of water, it is really a combination of water flow, channel form and capacity. Channel/flood plain capacity is a land use issue and channel flows are a function of nature or man. In a stream channel, flows vary from zero to flood flow and channels vary from concrete troughs to natural channels. All of the identified beneficial uses in the Basin Plan correctly deal with water use, not land form/use and water supply. We do agree that watershed management planning needs to address stream channel form and capacity as these functions are critical to the proper functioning of the stream and will thus impact beneficial uses.

Pages 7-183 to 7-185 from the WMI Report contains suggested inputs to Table 2-5 provided by the Santa Clara Valley Water District.

Also attached are Tables 7-5 and 7-7 from the WMI Characteristics Report. These tables identify most of the water bodies in the watershed as well as their order in the watershed and are far more accurate and detailed than Table 2-5 contained in the present Basin Plan. Please note, all of the WMI information referenced above is available on-line in the Characteristics Report, Ref. the WMI web site at <http://www.scbwmi.org>.

We are also attaching proposed beneficial use revision sheets for the Guadalupe sub-watershed, which we are most familiar with in the Excel format. The following notes apply to this information:

- Beneficial uses identified in the current Basin Plan are shown in regular type.
- Beneficial uses identified by reliable sources, such as the SCVWD or GCRCD Board Members that are not identified in the Current Basin Plan are shown in italic type.
- Beneficial uses identified by Larry Johmann are shown in bold, italic type. Data or photographic evidence is available to support all uses identified in this category.
- Beneficial uses identified by italic, bold, underline type are proposed uses due to the importance of the wildlife resources that inhabit the identified areas. For example

Alviso Slough, the Guadalupe River and Lower Los Gatos Creek are known to support several of the following special status species, steelhead trout, Chinook salmon, red legged frog, southwestern pond turtle, clapper rail, burrowing owl and snowy plover.\*

- While it is not known what criteria the RWQCB uses to define Navigation we feel that it must be as defined under California Law, not Federal Law. (Ref. California State Constitution; Public Resources Code, Section 6301; Civil Code Section 830; Public Trust Doctrine; Harbors & Navigation Code Section 100; People ex. Rel. Baker vs Mack 1971; Hitchings vs Del Rio Woods Recreation & Parks District 1976; Bess vs County of Humboldt 1992; and Troutwine Family Trust vs County of Nevada 1994).
- There are many water bodies listed under the Guadalupe sub-watershed that do not show any beneficial uses. This only means that we have no direct knowledge of these streams at this point. Most likely, all have some beneficial uses and certainly all have potential uses. The WMI and GCRCDD will make an effort to collect data on these water bodies over the course of the next year as the Guadalupe sub-watershed is in the first group of waterways the WMI is assessing and this process is now underway.

\* The WWCC believes that the RWQCB should designate the identified water bodies as ASBS because they are some of the only areas left in the South Bay these special status species can utilize and are critical areas for the survival of these species. The recently released SCVWD draft Stream Maintenance EIR documents all of these special status species, except the southwestern pond turtle along the listed water bodies. The WWCC/GCRCDD have observed the southwestern pond turtle along the Guadalupe River from Curtner Ave. to the San Jose Airport area. The WWCC believes that the Guadalupe River Chinook salmon must be considered a **very special status species**. While it is still not officially recognized as such by NMFS or CDFG, genetic studies conducted to date clearly indicate that at least some of the Guadalupe River Chinook have unique markers not found in any other CA salmon. (Ref. Federal Register 1999 Vol. 64, No. 179, Sept. 16, Rules & Regulations, Page 50401; Nielsen, J.L. 1995 Hopkins Marine Station, Stanford University, Mitochondrial DNA frequency Distributions in Chinook Salmon from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Basin and Guadalupe River, 1992-1994; Nielsen, J.L. et al, report to California Department of Fish & Game, Variation in Chinook Salmon Spawning runs in Central Valley, CA, 1992-1997).

Cordially,

  
Larry Johann PE, CQE, CRE

Cc: Steve Fry  
GCRCDD

**Table 7-5**  
**Rivers and Creeks in the Santa Clara Basin**

Watercourses Entering the South Bay	Major Rivers and Creeks	Major Tributaries and Reservoirs	Tributaries to Tributaries and Reservoirs	Additional Tributaries	Additional Tributaries
San Francisquito Creek Watershed					
San Francisquito Creek discharges into the South Bay south of the Dumbarton Bridge and north of the Palo Alto Flood Basin.	San Francisquito Creek	Los Trancos Creek	Unnamed Tributary from Felt Lake		
		Bear Creek	Bear Gulch Creek		
			West Union Creek	McGarvey Gulch	
				Squealer Gulch	
				Tripp Gulch	
			Appletree Gulch		
		Unnamed tributary			
		Searsville Lake	Alambique Creek	Sausal Creek	Bonzo Gulch
					Nells Gulch
					Bull Run Creek
					Martin Creek
			Corte Madera Creek	Coal Creek	
				Rengstorff Gulch	
Damiani Creek					
Jones Gulch					
Hamms Gulch					
Westside Creek					
Matadero and Barron Creek Watershed					
Matadero Creek discharges into the Palo Alto Flood Basin.	Matadero Creek	Stanford Channel			
		Deer Creek			
		Arastradero Creek			
	Barron Creek				
Adobe Creek Watershed					
Adobe Creek discharges into the Palo Alto Flood Basin.	Adobe Creek	Robleda Drain			
		Purissima Creek			
		Moody Creek			
		North Fork			
		West Fork			
		Middle Fork			
Permanente Creek Watershed					
Permanente Creek discharges to the South Bay via Mountain View Slough.	Permanente Creek	Hale Creek	Loyola Creek		
			Magdalena Creek		
		West Branch Permanente	Ohlone Creek		

**Table 7-5 (continued)**  
**Rivers and Creeks in the Santa Clara Basin**

Watercourses Entering the South Bay	Major Rivers and Creeks	Major Tributaries and Reservoirs	Tributaries to Tributaries and Reservoirs	Additional Tributaries	Additional Tributaries
Stevens Creek Watershed					
Stevens Creek discharges into the South Bay east of Permanente Creek and west of Guadalupe Slough.	Stevens Creek	Permanente Diversion			
		Heney Creek			
		Stevens Creek Reservoir	Swiss Creek	Montebello Creek	
				North Swiss Creek	
			Stevens Creek	Gold Mine Creek	
				Indian Cabin Creek	
				Bay Creek	
		Indian Creek			
Sunnyvale West Channel Watershed					
Sunnyvale West Channel discharges into Moffett Channel and thence into Guadalupe Slough.	Sunnyvale West Channel				
Sunnyvale East Channel Watershed					
Sunnyvale East Channel discharges into Guadalupe Slough.	Sunnyvale East Channel				
Calabazas Creek Watershed					
Calabazas Creek discharges to the South Bay via Guadalupe Slough.	Calabazas Creek	Prospect Creek			
		Rodeo Creek			
		Regnart Creek			
		Junipero Serra Channel			
		El Camino Storm Drain			
San Tomas Aquino/Saratoga Creek Watershed					
San Tomas Aquino Creek discharges to the South Bay via Guadalupe Slough.	San Tomas Aquino Creek	Smith Creek	Page Ditch		
		Wildcat Creek	Vasona Creek	Vasona Creek	
				Sobey Creek	
		Saratoga Creek	Congress Springs Canyon		
			Bonjetti Creek	San Andreas Creek	Sanborn Creek
				Todd Creek	
			McElroy Creek		
		Booker Creek			

**Table 7-5 (continued)**  
**Rivers and Creeks in the Santa Clara Basin**

Watercourses Entering the South Bay	Major Rivers and Creeks	Major Tributaries and Reservoirs	Tributaries to Tributaries and Reservoirs	Additional Tributaries	Additional Tributaries
<b>Guadalupe River Watershed</b>					
Guadalupe River discharges to the South Bay via Alviso Slough.	Guadalupe River	Los Gatos Creek	Daves Creek		
			Vasona Reservoir	Los Gatos Creek	Almedra Creek
					Trout Creek
					Dry Creek
			Lexington Reservoir	Limekiln Canyon Creek	
				Lydon Canyon Creek	Lake Ranch Reservoir
				Soda Springs Creek	
				Aldercroft Creek	
				Black Creek	
				Briggs Creek	Dyer Canyon Creek
				Hendrys Creek	
				Los Gatos Creek	Moody Gulch
					Hooker Gulch Creek
					Lake Elsmann
					Austrian Gulch
					Williams Reservoir
					Los Gatos Creek
		Canoas Creek			
		Ross Creek	Short Creek		
			Lone Hill Creek		
			East Ross Creek		
		Guadalupe Creek	Shannon Creek		
			Pheasant Creek		
			Hicks Creek		
			Guadalupe Reservoir	Los Capitancillos Creek	
		Lake Almaden		Upper Guadalupe Creek	Rincon Creek
			Alamitos Creek	Golf Creek	McAbee Creek
				Greystone Creek	
				Randol Creek	West Branch Randol Ck.
				Arroyo Calero Creek	Santa Teresa Creek
					Calero Reservoir
					Cherry Canyon Creek
					Pine Tree Canyon Creek
				Chilanian Gulch	
				Deep Gulch	
				Almaden Reservoir	Larabee Gulch
					Jacques Gulch
					Alamitos Creek
					Barrett Canyon Creek
					Herbert Creek

**Table 7-5 (continued)**  
**Rivers and Creeks in the Santa Clara Basin**

Watercourses Entering the South Bay	Major Rivers and Creeks	Major Tributaries and Reservoirs	Tributaries to Tributaries and Reservoirs	Additional Tributaries	Additional Tributaries
<b>Coyote Creek Watershed</b> Coyote Creek discharges to South Bay via Lower Coyote Creek.	Coyote Creek	Upper Penitencia Creek	Arroyo Aquague Creek	Papa Saca Creek	
			Dutard Creek		
			Cherry Flat Reservoir	Upper Penitencia Creek	
		Lower Silver Creek	Miguelita Creek		
			North Babb Creek		
			South Babb Creek		
			Flint Creek	Ruby Creek	
			Norwood Creek		
			Thompson Creek	Quimby Creek	
				Fowler Creek	
				Evergreen Creek	
				Yerba Buena Creek	
				Cribari Creek	
				Misery Creek	
				Hawk Creek	
				Dry Creek	
		Upper Silver Creek			
		Coyote Canal			
		Fisher Creek	Willow Springs Creek		
		Anderson Reservoir	San Felipe Creek	Shingle Valley Creek	
				Las Animas Creek	
				Carlin Canyon Creek	Brushy Creek
				Cow Creek	
			Packwood Creek	Hoover Creek	Star Canyon Creek
			Coyote Creek	Otis Canyon Creek	South Fork
					North Fork
				Coyote Reservoir	Larios Canyon Creek
					Coyote Creek
					Bear Creek
					Canada de los Osos
					Hunting Hollow Creek
					Big Canyon Creek
					Soda Springs Canyon
					Middle Fk Coyote Creek
					Little Coyote Creek
					Sulpher Creek
					East Fk Coyote Creek
					Kelly Cabin Canyon
					Water Gulch
					Grizzly Creek

**Table 7-5 (concluded)**  
**Rivers and Creeks in the Santa Clara Basin**

Watercourses Entering the South Bay	Major Rivers and Creeks	Major Tributaries and Reservoirs	Tributaries to Tributaries and Reservoirs	Additional Tributaries	Additional Tributaries
<b>Lower Penitencia Creek Watershed</b>					
Lower Penitencia Creek Discharges to the South Bay via the tidal portion of Lower Coyote Creek. Lower Penitencia Creek flows to lower Coyote Creek on the west side of Interstate 880 at Dixon Landing Road.	Lower Penitencia Creek	Berryessa Creek	Calera Creek		
			Tularcitos Creek	South Branch	
			Arroyo de los Coches		
			Piedmont Creek	North Branch	
			Sierra Creek		
			Crosley Creek		
			Sweigert Creek		
			Los Buellis Creek		
		East Penitencia Channel			
<b>Arroyo la Laguna</b>					
Line A discharges into the tidally influenced section of Lower Coyote Creek, north of the old Fremont Airport.	Lower Coyote Creek	Line A	Scott Creek (Line A)		
			Unnamed Line B	Unnamed Line B-1	
				Line C	Toroges Creek (Line C)
					Agua Fria Creek (Line D)
Mud Slough discharges into lower Coyote Creek within the Baylands.	Mud Slough	Laguna Creek (Line E)			Agua Caliente Creek (Line F)
			Unnamed (Line G)		
			Unnamed (Line H)		
			Canada del Aliso (Line J)		
			Unnamed (Line I)		
			Sabercat Creek (Line K)	Unnamed (Line K-1)	
			Mission Creek (Line L)	Lake Elizabeth	
Mowry Slough discharges into the lower South Bay south of Newark Slough and north of Coyote Creek.	Mowry Slough			Stivers Lagoon	
			Morrison Creek (Line M)		
Plummer Creek and Newark Slough discharge into the lower South Bay just southeast of Dumbarton Point.	Plummer Creek				
	Newark Slough				

**Table 7-6**  
**Drainage Area and Channel Length of Rivers**  
**and Creeks in the Santa Clara Basin<sup>1</sup>**

<b>River or Creek</b>	<b>Drainage Area (Square Miles)</b>	<b>Channel Length (Miles)</b>
<b>San Francisquito Creek Watershed</b>		
Alambique Creek	n/a	n/a
Appletree Gulch	n/a	n/a
Bear Creek	n/a	n/a
Bear Gulch Creek	n/a	n/a
Bonzo Gulch	n/a	n/a
Bull Run Creek	n/a	n/a
Coal Creek	n/a	n/a
Corte Madera Creek	n/a	n/a
Damiani Creek	n/a	n/a
Hamms Gulch	n/a	n/a
Jones Gulch	n/a	n/a
Los Trancos Creek	7.25	6.58
Martin Creek	n/a	n/a
McGarvey Gulch	n/a	n/a
Nells Gulch	n/a	n/a
Rengstorff Gulch	n/a	n/a
San Francisquito Creek	42.04	8.77
Sausal Creek	n/a	n/a
Squealer Gulch	n/a	n/a
Tripp Gulch	n/a	n/a
West Union Creek	n/a	n/a
Westside Creek	n/a	n/a
<b>Matadero/Barron Creeks Watershed</b>		
Arastradero Creek	1.13	0.95
Barron Creek	3.09	4.92
Deer Creek	1.60	2.46
Matadero Creek	13.57	7.97
Stanford Channel	1.08	1.60
<b>Adobe Creek Watershed</b>		
Adobe Creek	10.84	14.01
Middle Fork	n/a	n/a
Moody Creek	n/a	n/a
North Fork	n/a	n/a
Purissima Creek	1.25	0.37
Robleda Drain	n/a	n/a
West Fork	n/a	n/a
<b>Permanente Creek Watershed</b>		
Hale Creek	4.80	3.16
Loyola Creek	n/a	0.74

**Table 7-7**  
**Lakes and Reservoirs in the Santa Clara Basin by Watershed**

Lake/Reservoir	Stream Location	Year Constructed <sup>1</sup>	Drainage Area (Sq Mi)	Surface Area (Acres)	Storage Capacity (Ac-ft)	Spillway Crest Elevation (Feet)	Reservoir Length (Miles)	Ownership <sup>2</sup>
<b>San Francisquito Creek Watershed</b>								
Searsville Lake	Corte Madera Creek	1892		23	307	340	0.45	SU
Felt Lake	Diversion from Los Trancos Creek	DU				360	0.4	SU
Lake Lagunita	Water pumped from San Francisquito	1880s						SU
<b>Stevens Creek Watershed</b>								
Stevens Creek Reservoir	Stevens Creek	1935	17.3	92	3,465	535	1.1	SCVWD
<b>Guadalupe River Watershed</b>								
Almaden Lake	Alamitos Creek	DU						
Almaden Reservoir	Alamitos Creek	1935	12.0	59	1,780	607	1.1	SCVWD
Calero Reservoir	Arroyo Calero Creek	1935	6.9	347	10,050	484	2.2	SCVWD
Guadalupe Reservoir	Guadalupe Creek	1935	5.9	79	3,723	617	1.1	SCVWD
Lake Couzzens		DU			153	1,387		SJWC
Lake Elsmen (Austrian Dam)	Los Gatos Creek	1951			6,153	1,110		SJWC
Lake Kittredge		DU			244	1,412		SJWC
Lake Ranch Reservoir (McKenzie)	Beardsley Creek	DU			215	1,816		SJWC
Lexington Reservoir (James J. Lenihan Dam)	Los Gatos Creek	1952	37.5	475	19,834	650	2.5	SCVWD
Vasona Lake/Reservoir	Los Gatos Creek	1935	43.9	57	400	295	0.8	SCVWD
Williams Reservoir	Los Gatos Creek	DU			157			SJWC
<b>Coyote Creek Watershed</b>								
Anderson Reservoir	Coyote Creek	1950	192.7	1,245	89,073	625	7.8	SCVWD
Bass Lake	San Felipe Creek	DU	80.0	2.0			<.1	SCCPRD
Coyote Reservoir	Coyote Creek	1936	121.0	648	22,925	777	4.8	SCVWD
Cherry Flat Reservoir	Upper Penitencia Creek	1932			100	1,680		SJCAED
Eagle Lake	San Felipe Creek	DU	20.0	1.5			<.1	SCCPRD
Grant Lake	San Felipe Creek	DU		40				SCCPRD
Hellyer Pond	Off-Channel Coyote	DU						
Lake Cunningham		DU						
McCreery Lake	Arroyo Aguague	DU		1.5			<.1	SCCPRD
Pig Lake	San Felipe Creek	DU	20.0	.75			<.1	SCCPRD
Standish Dam	Lower Coyote Creek	1994			74			SCVWD

**Table 7-7 (concluded)**  
**Lakes and Reservoirs in the Santa Clara Basin by Watershed**

Lake/Reservoir	Stream Location	Year Constructed <sup>1</sup>	Drainage Area (Sq Mi)	Surface Area (Acres)	Storage Capacity (Ac-ft)	Spillway Crest Elevation (Feet)	Reservoir Length (Miles)	Ownership <sup>2</sup>
<b>Lower Penitencia Creek Watershed</b>								
Sandy Wool Lake	Tularcitos Creek	DU						
Spring Valley Golf Club Lake		DU						
Spring Valley Lake	Arroyo Coches	DU						
<b>Arroyo la Laguna Watershed</b>								
Lake Elizabeth	Mission Creek	1968/1986		82	931	56		ACFCWCD
Mission Reservoir	Mission Creek	DU						
Stivers Lagoon	Mission Creek	Natural		40				
Tule Pond (Tyson's Lagoon)		Natural						

Sources: Santa Clara Valley Water District 1997  
 Brad Howald, pers. comm., 1998  
 City of Fremont 1999  
 Brady & Associates, Inc. 1995  
 Wels, Susan et al. Undated. Jasper Ridge, A Stanford Sanctuary.

<sup>1</sup> DU = date unknown

<sup>2</sup> Key: ACFCWCD = Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (Alameda County Public Works Agency)  
 SCCPRD = Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation District  
 SCVWD = Santa Clara Valley Water District  
 SJCAED = City of San Jose, Conventions, Arts, & Entertainment Department  
 SJWC = San Jose Water Company  
 SJWW = San Jose Water Works  
 SU = Stanford University

## ***Chapter 7 Natural Setting***

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The Regional Board is in the process of developing a Regional Wetlands Management Plan that will “identify and specify the beneficial uses and/or functions and values of existing wetlands and establish wetland habitat goals for the region” (Regional Board 1995). Potential beneficial uses of wetlands include wildlife habitat (WILD); preservation of rare and endangered species (RARE); shellfish harvesting (SHELL); water contact recreation (REC 1); noncontact water recreation (REC 2); ocean, commercial, and sport fishing (COMM); marine habitat (MAR); fish migration (MIGR); fish spawning (SPWN); and estuarine habitat (EST). Wetlands improve water quality.

### **7.3.2 Designated Beneficial Uses for the Santa Clara Basin**

#### ***7.3.2.1 1995 Basin Plan Designations***

The latest Basin Plan (Regional Board 1995) designates specific beneficial uses to surface waterbodies in the Basin. These are listed in Table 7-9. The beneficial uses of a waterbody generally apply to all its tributaries (This is known as the “Tributary Rule”). In some cases, a beneficial use may not be applicable to the entire body of water.

Within the Santa Clara Basin, the Regional Board has designated the following as existing beneficial uses of groundwater: municipal and domestic water supply (MUN); industrial process water supply (PROC); industrial service water supply (IND); and agricultural water supply (AGR).

The South Bay, currently the only wetland area designated by the Regional Board within Santa Clara Basin, has the following beneficial uses associated with it: estuarine habitat (EST); fish migration (MIGR); ocean, commercial, and sport fishing (COMM); preservation of rare and endangered species (RARE); water contact recreation (REC1); noncontact water recreation (REC2); fish spawning (SPWN); and wildlife habitat (WILD).

#### ***7.3.2.2 Comments on Basin Plan Designations***

WMI Stakeholders have identified errors and omissions in the 1995 Basin Plan’s designations. There is also disagreement over some of the designations. One objective of the WMI process is to work with the Regional Board to improve the Basin Plan throughout the stakeholder process. Stakeholders’ increased understanding of the Basin’s resources leads to suggested changes to the Regional Board’s designations. For example, the Water District’s recent fieldwork could be used to improve Table 7-9 in the area of existing Basin fisheries. Designations for beneficial uses for some of the listed waterbodies in the table are also controversial, based on stakeholders’ first-hand knowledge of specific waterbodies.

This section presents some of the problems that have been identified with the Basin Plan’s Table 2-5 (Table 7-9). These problems have been categorized as errors, omissions, or redesignation considerations. There may be other corrections, but this list identifies some general problems associated with Table 7-9. The Regional Board should evaluate the need to update the Basin Plan table and establish a process to work with the WMI on this effort.

**Table 7-9**  
**Beneficial Uses of Waterbodies in the Santa Clara Basin<sup>1</sup>**

BENEFICIAL USE (see Section 7.3 text for description)

WATERBODY	AGR	COLD	COMM	EST	FRSH	GWR	IND	MAR	MIGR	MUN	NAV	PROC	RARE	REC-1	REC-2	SHELL	SPWN	WARM	WILD
San Francisco Bay South			E	E			E		E		E		E	E	E	E	P		E
Matadero Creek		E							E					E	E		E	E	E
Permanente Creek		E												E	E		E		E
Saratoga Creek	E	E			E	E								E	E			E	E
Calabazas Creek	E	E				E					E			E	E			E	E
San Francisquito Creek		E							E					P	P		E	E	E
Los Trancos Creek																			
West Union Creek																			
Felt Lake	E													E	E		E	E	E
Stevens Creek		E			E				E					E	E		P	E	E
Stevens Creek Reservoir		E				E			E	E					E		E	E	E
Searsville Lake	E	E												E	E		E	E	E
Coyote Creek		E							E				E	P	E		E	E	E
Elizabeth Lake		E													E		E	E	E
Fremont Lagoon																			
Sandy Wool Lake			E											E			E	E	
Cottonwood Lake		E							E					E	E		E	E	E
Guadalupe Reservoir		E				E				E				E	E		E	E	E
Coyote Lake	E	E								E				E	E		E	E	E
Upper Penitencia Creek																			
Cherry Flat Reservoir	E									E				L	E		E	E	E
Penitencia Creek																			
Silver Creek																			
Soda Springs Canyon Creek																			
Otis Canyon Creek																			
San Felipe Creek		P												P	P		P	E	E
Halls Valley Reservoir														E	E			E	E
Arroyo Aquague Creek																			
Berryessa Creek																			
Guadalupe River									P					P	E		P	E	E
Campbell Percolation Pond																			
Lexington Reservoir		E								E				E	E		E	E	E
Los Gatos Creek		E			E	E			P	E					P		P	E	E
Vasona Lake		E												E	E		E	E	E
Los Gatos Creek																			
Alamitos Creek																			
Guadalupe Creek																			
Herbert Creek																			
Calero Reservoir						E				E				E	E		E	E	E
Almaden Reservoir		E				E				E				E	E		E	E	E
Lake Elsman		E								E							E	E	E
Anderson Lake		E				E				E				L	E		E	E	E
Barrett Canyon Creek																			

Source: San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board. 1995. San Francisco Regional Water Quality Control Plan, Table 2-5.

Legend: E = Existing Beneficial Use; P = Potential Beneficial Use; L = Limited Beneficial Use

<sup>1</sup> WMI stakeholders have identified errors and omissions both in the use designations and the waterbodies as listed in this table.

### **Errors in Basin Plan Table 2-5**

- The Guadalupe Reservoir is incorrectly listed under Coyote Creek and should be listed under Guadalupe River.
- Coyote *Reservoir* appears to be identified as Coyote *Lake*.
- Anderson Lake is incorrectly listed under the Guadalupe River and Anderson *Lake* should be changed to Anderson *Reservoir*.
- Anderson *Reservoir* should be listed under Coyote Creek.
- Vasona Reservoir seems to be identified as Vasona Lake.
- Stivers Lagoon appears to be identified as Fremont Lagoon and should be in the Arroyo La Laguna watershed.
- Lake Elizabeth (not Elizabeth Lake) is in the Arroyo La Laguna watershed, not Coyote.
- Penitencia Creek should be *Lower* Penitencia Creek.
- Herbert Creek is listed twice under Guadalupe River.
- Los Gatos Creek is listed twice; once with a number of beneficial uses, and the other with no beneficial uses.
- The Campbell Percolation Pond (listed under the Guadalupe River) is a percolation pond and should not be listed as a waterbody.
- Searsville Lake is in the San Francisquito Creek watershed.

### **Omissions in Basin Plan Table 2-5**

- There are a number of creeks, lakes, lagoons, and reservoirs listed under the Coyote Creek which cannot be located on most available maps (e.g., Fremont Lagoon, Sandy Wool Lake, Halls Valley Reservoir), while other better-known creeks that do appear on most maps are not listed (e.g., Thompson Creek, Fisher Creek, and Yerba Buena Creek).
- Anderson Reservoir, the area's largest, is not listed, although it may be incorrectly listed as Anderson Lake (see Errors above).
- There are numerous significant waterbodies not listed under the Guadalupe River. They include Alviso Slough, Lake Almaden, Canoas, Ross, Calero, and Rincon Creeks, as well as a number of other minor creeks.
- Adobe Creek is not listed in the table.
- San Tomas is not listed, with Saratoga Creek as a tributary.
- Barron Creek is not listed.

#### **7.3.2.3 Redesignation Considerations**

The following comments were made by some WMI stakeholders based on their understanding of the local waterbodies. The Regional Board should review the merits of these comments when redesignating the Basin beneficial uses.

- For clarity, waterways in the Basin that have diverse characteristics should have listings for each of the major sections, or alternatively, they should only be listed once and all beneficial uses should be included. Los Gatos Creek is an example of this type of stream. There are numerous distinct sections of Los Gatos Creek (e.g., natural, channelized, concrete channel). Each section has unique characteristics, and different beneficial uses.
- Guadalupe River is used by coldwater salmonids for migration and spawning and is used by southwestern pond turtle, but the table does not reflect this.
- The Guadalupe River is navigable under California law and is used for small watercraft navigation, and water contact recreation (swimming in Almaden Reservoir). The table does not reflect this.
- Guadalupe Creek, above the Masson Dam, is a coldwater stream and has a self-sustaining population of resident rainbow trout. It also has potential habitat for the southwestern pond turtle, the California red legged frog, and migrating salmonids. The table does not reflect this.
- Coyote Creek should be considered navigable.
- Alamitos and Calero Creeks have a population of self-sustaining fish and have the potential habitat for migrating salmonids, the red legged frog, and the southwestern pond turtle. The table does not reflect this.
- Fishery information from the Water District indicates that there are numerous waterbodies for which beneficial use designations (specifically, coldwater fisheries, migration, rare, and spawning) should be adjusted in the table. This information is included in an endnote to this chapter.
- The Regional Board staff have requested that the San Francisquito Watershed CRMP assist in groundtruthing the beneficial uses as a pilot project; however, resources for the efforts have to be identified. SCVURPPP has suggested the Coyote watershed as a demonstration site.

### **7.4 Conveyance Functions of Water Corridors in the Santa Clara Basin**

The community relies on the local stream and creek corridors to convey water within the Basin and to the Bay. This conveyance function is not a beneficial use identified and defined by the Regional Board. Watershed management planning needs to acknowledge the conveyance functions when addressing the designated beneficial uses.

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The conveyance function can be separated into three categories: (1) conveyance of stormwater, (2) conveyance of dry-weather flows, and (3) conveyance of water stored in reservoirs to groundwater recharge facilities.

- **Dry-Weather Flow Conveyance.** During dry weather, Basin streams and creeks convey natural base flows and nonstormwater discharges received from storm sewers to the Bay. Certain nonstormwater discharges are allowed to flow to stormdrains by municipal and industrial stormwater permits. Examples of these discharges include pumped uncontaminated groundwater, planned and unplanned discharges from potable water sources, water line and hydrant flushing, landscape irrigation, air conditioning condensate, and individual residential car washing. These discharges, called conditionally exempted discharges, must take steps to minimize adverse effects from their discharge on water quality.
- **Stormwater Conveyance.** During storm events, Basin streams and creeks convey runoff from land areas and urban stormwater discharges from storm drains to the Bay. Thus, local streams are an integral part of the Basin's flood control and private property flood protection system. It is important to acknowledge the flood management function of the streams, and adjacent floodplains.
- **Groundwater Recharge Supply Conveyance.** The Water District stores local runoff water and imported water in reservoirs. This water is released to recharge the groundwater basin through percolation ponds and instream recharge. The Water District relies on Basin creeks, streams and pipelines to convey recharge water from the reservoirs or pipelines to the percolation ponds.

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<sup>i</sup> Below are specific suggestions from the Santa Clara Valley Water District for redesignation based on the District's most recent experiences with these watersheds. The designation codes from Table 7-9 are used (e.g., E = existing beneficial use).

### *Coldwater Fisheries:*

- **Los Trancos Creek** = E per steelhead/rainbow trout populations
- **Upper Penitencia Creek** = E per steelhead/rainbow trout populations and some limited evidence of Chinook salmon.
- **San Felipe Creek** = E per rainbow trout populations
- **Vasona Lake** = L per significant warming during the summer months. Only intermittent trout plants would be successful except during the winter months.
- **Los Gatos Creek** = E below Camden drop structure per evidence of steelhead and Chinook spawning observations. Summer temperatures/flows may not be optimal for summer steelhead rearing.

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- **Alamitos Creek** = E per resident populations of rainbow trout below Almaden Reservoir. Current laddering project at the Blossom Hill drop structure may provide access to anadromous salmonids.
- **Guadalupe Creek** = E per resident populations of rainbow trout below Guadalupe Reservoir. Current laddering projects at the Blossom Hill drop structure and Masson Diversion may provide access to anadromous salmonids.
- **Herbert Creek** = E per resident populations of rainbow trout above reservoir. No good recent data on reservoir use by this population.
- **Add Tributary to Guadalupe Creek: Pheasant Creek** = P per resident populations of rainbow trout in Guadalupe Creek. Access at confluence is through a culvert and 1- to 2-foot drop. Recent accounts of occurrence are unconfirmed.
- **Add Tributary to Guadalupe Creek: Reynolds Creek** = E per resident populations of rainbow trout in Creek, recently observed.
- **Add Tributary to Guadalupe River: Arroyo Calero Creek** = E per resident populations of rainbow trout below Calero Reservoir. Current laddering project at the Blossom Hill drop structure may provide access to anadromous salmonids.

### ***Migration:***

- **Upper Penitencia Creek** = E Anadromous steelhead run in this creek. There may be some use by Chinook salmon.
- **Guadalupe River** = E Anadromous steelhead and Chinook salmon run in this river. The fish ladder at Blossom Hill, currently under construction, will permit access to the tributaries of the upper watershed.
- **Alamitos Creek** = P The fish ladder at Blossom Hill, currently under construction, will permit access to this tributary of the upper watershed of Guadalupe River for anadromous steelhead and Chinook salmon.
- **Guadalupe Creek** = P The fish ladders at Blossom Hill and Masson diversion, currently under construction, will permit access to this tributary of the upper watershed of Guadalupe River for anadromous steelhead and Chinook salmon.

*Rare (NOTE: Regional Board designations have not been updated to reflect recent listings by CDFG/USFWS/NMFS):*

- **San Francisquito Creek** = E per presence of steelhead.
- **Stevens Creek** = E per presence of steelhead.
- **Upper Penitencia Creek** = E per presence of steelhead.
- **San Felipe Creek** = P per potential presence of California red-legged frog.
- **Guadalupe River** = E per presence of steelhead.
- **Los Gatos Creek** = E per presence of steelhead.

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- **Alamitos Creek** = P per potential presence of steelhead resulting from fish ladder project at Blossom Hill.
- **Guadalupe Creek** = P per potential presence of steelhead resulting from fish ladder projects at Blossom Hill and Masson Diversion.
- **Add Tributary to Guadalupe Creek:** Pheasant Creek = P per anticipated populations of steelhead trout in Guadalupe Creek resulting from fish ladder projects at Blossom Hill and Masson Diversion. Access at confluence is through a culvert and 1- to 2-foot drop.
- **Add Tributary to Guadalupe Creek:** Reynolds Creek = P per anticipated populations of steelhead trout in Guadalupe Creek resulting from fish ladder projects at Blossom Hill and Masson Diversion.

### *Fish Spawning:*

- **Saratoga Creek** = E per various year classes of resident trout. Successful spawning/reproduction.
- **Los Trancos Creek** = E per various year classes of steelhead and resident trout. Successful spawning/reproduction.
- **Stevens Creek** = E per various year classes of resident and anadromous trout. Successful spawning/reproduction.
- **Penitencia Creek** = E per various year classes of resident and anadromous trout. Successful spawning/reproduction.
- **San Felipe Creek** = E per various year classes of resident trout. Successful spawning/reproduction.
- **Alamitos Creek** = E per various year classes of resident trout. Successful spawning/reproduction. Anticipated successful use of tributary by steelhead and Chinook due to fish laddering at Blossom Hill on Guadalupe River.
- **Guadalupe Creek** = E per various year classes of resident trout. Successful spawning/reproduction. Anticipated successful use of tributary by steelhead and Chinook due to fish laddering at Blossom Hill on Guadalupe River.
- **Arroyo Calero Creek** = E per various year classes of resident trout. Successful spawning/reproduction. Anticipated successful use of tributary by steelhead and Chinook due to fish laddering at Blossom Hill on Guadalupe River.
- **Add tributary to Guadalupe Creek:** Pheasant Creek = P per various year classes of resident trout in Guadalupe Creek. Successful spawning/reproduction. Unconfirmed for Pheasant Creek. Anticipated successful use of tributary by steelhead due to fish laddering at Blossom Hill on Guadalupe River.
- **Add tributary to Guadalupe Creek:** Reynolds Creek = P per various year classes of resident trout in Guadalupe Creek. Successful spawning/reproduction. Unconfirmed for Reynolds Creek. Anticipated successful use of tributary by steelhead due to fish laddering at Blossom Hill on Guadalupe River.

## 7.5 References and Personal Communications

### 7.5.1 References

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