By doing your part to protect the water in Bethany Reservoir and Lake Del Valle, you help to ensure high quality, low-cost drinking water for you and future generations.

Water traveling through open portions of the South Bay Aqueduct may pick up additional contaminants on its journey to your home. These contaminants make the water more difficult to treat and increase treatment costs.

The less contaminated the water supply is, the less expensive it is to treat. When you help keep the water in Bethany Reservoir and Lake Del Valle clean, you help keep your tap water as pure and inexpensive as possible.

The South Bay Aqueduct transports water from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta to Zone 7 Water Agency, Alameda County Water District, and Santa Clara Valley Water District. Along the way, the water passes through Bethany Reservoir, and in some cases, Lake Del Valle as well. Both Bethany Reservoir and Lake Del Valle also collect rainwater from surrounding areas.

Water is pumped into the South Bay Aqueduct from Bethany Reservoir, where the aqueduct begins.

During certain times of the year, water can be pumped into Lake Del Valle from the South Bay Aqueduct.

By the time South Bay Aqueduct water reaches your home, it meets all federal and state drinking water standards.

Water from the South Bay Aqueduct is purified at water treatment plants.

Water is released from Lake Del Valle to prevent flooding during the winter and spring and to provide water supply.

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Did you know that the water in Bethany Reservoir and Lake Del Valle travels through the South Bay Aqueduct and may eventually flow from the taps in your home? If you live in the Tri-Valley area, southern Alameda County, or Santa Clara County, the water you swim in today may be your drinking water next week!

It’s easy to help keep your water supply pure. Here are a few simple things you can do to protect your drinking water here at its source.

- **Prevent erosion by staying on trails.** Erosion contributes sediment to reservoirs, which makes the water cloudy, more difficult to treat, and raises treatment costs.
- **Help prevent fires,** which increase runoff and erosion. Have campfires and barbecues in designated areas only.
- **Keep diapers (and children wearing them) out of the lake.** Dirty diapers and drinking water don’t mix!
- **Keep boats well-maintained.** Leaking fuel can contaminate the water.
- **Dispose of trash properly.** Litter can introduce a variety of pollutants to the water.
- **Replace lead fishing weights with non-lead alternatives.** Lead weights can poison fish and wildlife and contaminate the drinking water supply.
- **Pack out your fishing line.** Tangled fishing line can trap birds and other wildlife.
- **Do not feed wild animals.** Encouraging wildlife to gather near the lake can contribute to bacteria in the water supply.
- **Clean up after your horses and pets.** Disposing of their waste properly helps to keep bacteria out of the water.
- **When swimming, take restroom breaks.** That means getting out of the water and walking to the restroom. Need we say more?

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