



# *City of Gilroy*

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## **For Immediate Release**

**Date:** March 25, 2011

**From:** Thomas Haglund  
City Administrator

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### **Uvas Creek Status 11:30 a.m., March 25, 2011**

On Thursday, March 24, 2011, rising water levels on the Uvas Creek in Gilroy resulted in the activation of the city's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) to coordinate efforts to respond to possible flooding. Rains occurring in the Uvas Canyon and Santa Cruz Mountains caused a significant rise in water levels in the Uvas reservoir and Uvas Creek tributaries. During the late night hours the Uvas Creek reached approximately 200 feet mean sea level (MSL), with swift moving water and debris being sent downstream. A flood advisory was issued by the Gilroy EOC. Public Works Department crews made preparations for deployment of water barriers and monitored flood prone areas throughout the city.

Gilroy City Administrator and Director of Emergency Services Tom Haglund stated, "We take these water events very seriously and utilize our training and advance preparation to be able to respond rapidly to these changing conditions."

Water levels in Uvas Creek have receded below alert levels, but still remain high and will be monitored by city of Gilroy personnel. The Flood Advisory issued on March 24<sup>th</sup> ended at 12:00 a.m. today. The Gilroy EOC was deactivated at 8:00 a.m. on March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2011.

During the EOC activation period, city personnel continued to monitor creek levels at the Luchessa Avenue bridge, where water levels had risen dramatically from about 192.5 feet MSL at 5:00 p.m. to approximately 200 feet by 11:00 p.m. This illustrates that Uvas creek can be dangerous during these events as it is prone to flash flooding. Even if Gilroy proper is not experiencing heavy rain, Uvas Creek can rise rapidly if the watershed in the mountains to the west/ northwest receive rain. Haglund noted, "These rapidly changing conditions in the Uvas Creek require vigilance and a watchful eye. You can be swept away in an instant. The Uvas and other creeks demand respect, not disregard, during the rainy winter months."

Uvas Creek water levels remain high due to saturated ground that is unable to absorb significant additional rainfall, the Uvas Reservoir continuing to release flows, and

continued rain events. The forecast for the next several days calls for some additional rain. Residents are advised to stay well clear of the creek due to the danger of fast moving water.

Please tune to 1610 AM Radio, Cable Channel 17 and the City of Gilroy website at [www.cityofgilroy.org](http://www.cityofgilroy.org) for updates and advisories.

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