A Geologic Hazard Abatement District (GHAD) is a special district formed under the laws of the State of California for the purpose of preventing, mitigating, abating, and controlling geological hazards.

The City of San Ramon formed the GHAD in July 1990 and originally it included only the West Branch area, located at Crow Canyon Road and Dougherty Road. During Fiscal Year 1997/98, the City Council, acting as the Board of Directors, approved the annexation of the Dougherty Valley (Gale Ranch and Windemere) into the GHAD. Annually, the Board adopts a budget for services required to maintain the GHAD. These services include the preventing, mitigating, abating, and controlling of geologic hazards as well as routine maintenance. All property owners within the GHAD pay an equal annual assessment.

GHAD funds are also used to partially finance the maintenance and repair of open space and a few select creeks located within the GHAD boundary. These geologic features are included in the GHAD because they serve as amenities to the residents. The GHAD is beneficial to you as a resident because it provides you with: 1) a type of insurance policy against geologic hazards as described by the GHAD Plan of Control; and 2) open space management and maintenance for selected creeks.

Each fiscal year, the District Engineer prepares an Engineer’s Report which includes the budget for the GHAD for that year. The annual budget for the District consists of administrative costs, which are used to manage the District, including the contracts and any maintenance that may be needed. The budget also includes costs for regular site monitoring which consists of an annual inspection by a geotechnical engineer and geologist. Additional contract services are included in the budget for annual mitigation and repairs that may be necessary. In addition to paying for the annual expenditures of the District, funds collected through this assessment are placed into a dedicated reserve fund. The reserve fund is set aside to be used to mitigate and repair large, geologic hazards, such as landslides.
The proposed assessment for Fiscal Year 2014/15 is $141.00 per residential unit and $0.0451 per square foot of nonresidential area. Without the majority of consent of the property owners, the assessment rate cannot rise above $250.00 per residential unit and $0.10 per square foot of nonresidential structures.

The amount of the assessment is reviewed annually by the GHAD Board at a Public Hearing. Once approved, the assessment roll is sent to the County Assessor’s Office and then added to your property taxes for payment. Information regarding Geological Hazard Abatement District No. 1990-01 is available in the GHAD Engineer’s Report which is on file with the Office of the City Clerk, located at 2222 Camino Ramon, San Ramon and on the GHAD website (www.sanramon.ca.gov/engr/ghad.html).

For additional information on GHAD No. 1990-01, please contact Steven Spedowfski, City of San Ramon’s Engineering Services Department at (925)925-2653.