

# Invasive Species in the Santa Clara River Watershed: Watershed-Wide Arundo Management (WWAM) Group



**Santa Clara River Watershed Area Steering Committee  
September 19th, 2024**



**<https://restorethescr.com/>**



Credit: Friends of the Santa Clara River

The vision is to create a framework that connects and facilitates collaboration between all stakeholders that strive to remove *Arundo donax* from, and assist in restoring, the Santa Clara River watershed. Please dive into more information below pertaining to the [Watershed Wide Arundo Management Program](#) and feel free to [reach out](#) with any comments or questions.

## **WWAM Team:**

- UC Santa Barbara (UCSB)
- Stillwater Sciences
- Santa Clara River Conservancy (SCRC)
- City of Santa Clarita
- Ventura County Resource Conservation District (VCRCD)
- Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency (SCV Water)
- TreePeople
- And other collaborators

- Create a framework to **connect stakeholders** and coordinate actions to **remove Arundo** from, and restore native biota to, the Santa Clara River watershed
- Protect, conserve and augment **local water-supply** and **increase local water sustainability**
- Protect and **improve water quality**
- Protect communities, properties, infrastructure, and the environment from **natural disasters** such as wildfires and floods
- Sustain and **restore natural ecosystem function** to support native riparian and aquatic inhabitants, particularly sensitive and special status species
- Promote convenient **recreational access to nature** for the community
- **Engage with public and educational groups** regarding the biodiversity and ecological relationships associated with the Santa Clara River
- Prepare for and adapt to **climate change**

## **CA Prop 1 IRWM Round 1**

\$365,840 awarded to Santa Clara River Conservancy (SCRC) and UC Santa Barbara (around 2018) to conduct priority mapping using LIDAR and other tools. This project included a pilot Arundo removal project in one of the top priority areas-- a stretch of the river from the I-5 to Bouquet Canyon Bridge, most all in the City of Santa Clarita.

## **State of CA General Funds Budget**

\$1M set aside in the 2023-24 state budget for “Arundo management and removal” through the DWR to SCV Water. Will likely include funds for watershed wide coordination and forming a management/governance plan, and arundo removal in priority areas including the I-5 to Bouquet Canyon Bridge stretch.

## **CA Urban Multibenefit and Drought Relief Program (UMDR):**

Assigned to DWR. A portion of this was set aside for the DACTI program statewide (what we call WaterTalks), with each funding area offered \$5M if they could identify projects quickly, at the beginning of 2022. One projects identified through WaterTalks was arundo removal in the LA County part of the watershed, at \$508K, assigned to SCRC. TreePeople will now be taking this project on as the LPS (Local Project Sponsor). Anticipated start date: Fall 2024