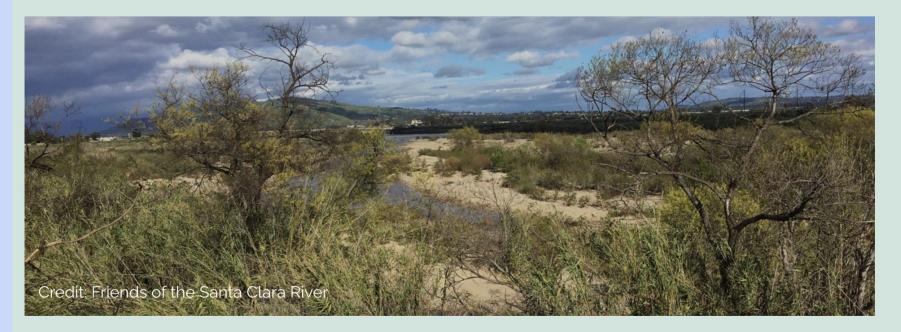
# Invasive Species in the Santa Clara River Watershed: Watershed-Wide Arundo Management (WWAM) Group



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

### https://restorethescr.com/



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 <u>Watershed Wide Arundo Management Program</u> and feel free to <u>reach out</u> 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