

Invasive Species Management in the Santa Clara River Watershed

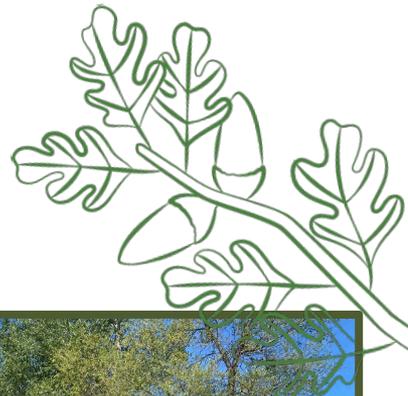
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Santa Clara River Watershed Area Steering Committee
February 19th, 2026



Comprehensive Approach

- **Regional Coalition**
 - Santa Clara River Invasive Management Program
 - WWAM - Watershed Wide Arundo Mgmt
- **Research**
 - Arundo Water Use in the Upper Watershed
- **Public engagement**
 - Regional meetings and outreach
- **Arundo removal pilot projects**
 - 30+ acres or high priority area in Santa Clarita
- **Restoration**
 - Active restoration through volunteer events





Funding Overview



- **CA Prop 1 IRWM Round 1 - \$350K+**
 - DWR
 - Santa Clara River Conservancy, UCSB
- **CA Urban Multibenefit and Drought Relief Program (UMBDR) - \$900K+**
 - DWR/DPW
 - TreePeople
- **State of CA general funds budget - \$1M**
 - SCV Water
- **Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) Cooperative Watershed Management Program - \$300K+**
 - TreePeople





Arundo site visit, June 2025

Urban Multibenefit and Drought Relief Program

CA DWR - \$900K

- **Builds off of previous IRWM work with SCRC**
- **Originally \$500K expanded to \$900K**
- **35 acres removed**
- **Up to 5 retreatments**

The work will now be taken over by SCRC, with same contractor





Arundo stand NI_11 during pre-treatment surveys.



Arundo stand NI_11 after initial treatment by Natures Image on 9/4/25.





Arundo stand NI_03 during pre-treatment surveys.





SCVW Arundo removal



- State funding
- Junction of Newhall Ranch Road & Bouquet Canyon
- Implementation started January 2026



SCR Arundo Management Program

Led by Southern CA Coastal Water Research Project (SCCWRP), funded by SCVW through State General Funds

Develop mechanisms to support long-term maintenance and management of invasive weed control in the entire Santa Clara River

- Removal efforts are more readily fundable via existing sources
- Ongoing efforts are required to maintain benefit of removal efforts
- Long-term management requires ongoing coordination, cooperation, and sustained funding

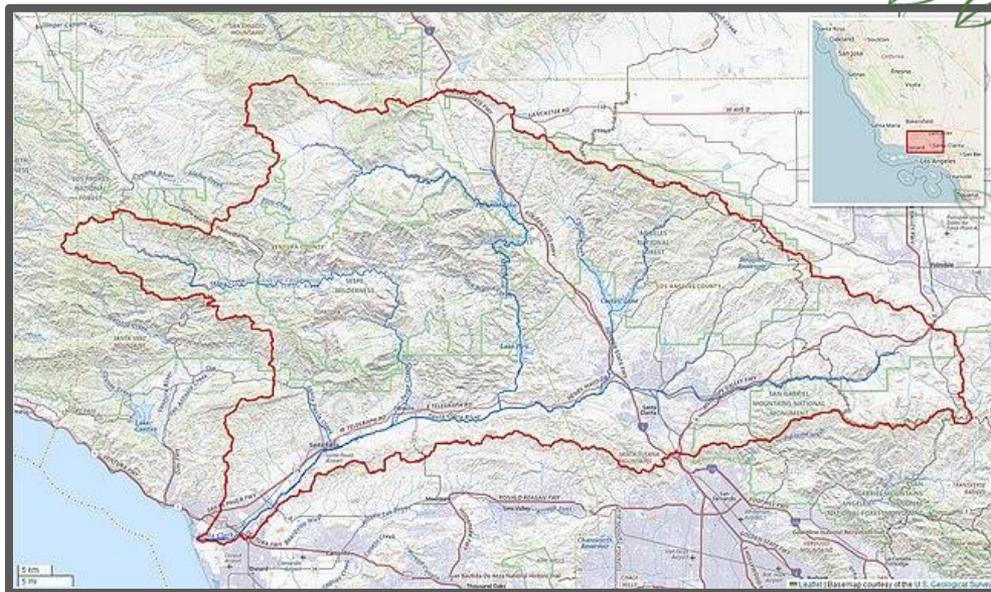


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Coordinating Workgroup

Led by Southern CA Coastal Water Research Project (SCCWRP), funded by SCVW State General Funds

- Los Angeles County Public Works
- The Nature Conservancy
- Council for Watershed Health
- County of Ventura
- Santa Clara River Conservancy
- City of Santa Clarita
- Ventura County RCD
- United Water Conservation District
- SCV Water



Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) Cooperative Watershed Management Program

Led by [TreePeople](#)



Purpose: to develop the SCR Watershed Collaborative

This group will create a strategic watershed restoration plan to focus on addressing issues of invasive riparian plants, drought, flooding, and repeat wildfires.

Watershed Group Development

- Host and/or facilitate regular meetings of partners and new stakeholders.
- Collaborate with watershed group members for authentic engagement of disadvantaged and Tribal communities.

Watershed Restoration Planning

- Completion of a Watershed Restoration Plan for SCR WA
- Procurement of technical analysis services for watershed restoration planning.



Determining Water Use by Arundo in the Upper SCR Study



Objectives:

- Quantify the seasonal and annual ET rates of Arundo stands in the USCR,
- Compare ET rates with native vegetation (e.g., willow, cottonwood).
- Develop spatial models of Arundo ET using remote sensing and field data.
- Provide data to support resource management and potential water savings from Arundo removal.





Determining Water Use by Arundo in the Upper SCR Study

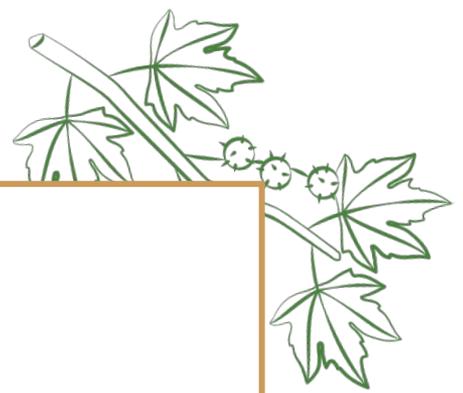


Funding: SCVW/State

Partners:

- University of CA, Santa Barbara
- Stillwater Sciences
- Occidental College
- Restoration Science, LLC
- TreePeople





QUESTIONS?

Thank You!

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