

Carpinteria Salt Marsh *Limonium duriusculum* Removal Project

Organization: Upper Salinas-Las Tablas Resource Conservation District

Project Period: February 2020 – October 2021

Amount: \$42,900

Location: Carpinteria Salt Marsh, Santa Barbara County

Project Description: The Carpinteria Salt Marsh *Limonium duriusculum* removal project has proposed to reduce the population of invasive European Sea Lavender (*Limonium duriusculum*) in the Carpinteria Salt Marsh within a one-acre site at the Estero St. entrance to the salt marsh. A subcontractor will treat the area by manual removal, scraping, and solarization of dense monocultures to clear habitat for the restoration of native salt marsh vegetation, specifically the endangered salt marsh bird's beak.

Project Progress: The 2021 season began with site wide *Limonium* treatment efficacy surveys and mapping of the endangered Salt Marsh Brid's Beak. The first round of treatments in the project area occurred on August 23-26 and a second round occurred on September 13-16. A total of 90,148 square feet (or 2.07 acres) of *Limonium duriusculum* were treated. They were able to exceed their original goal of 0.75 – 1.15 acres due to the increased efficiency of being able to leverage other available funds during the same treatment seasons. They have found that the most effective combination of treatments is initial solarization treatments for 6 months, followed up by flame re-treatments in following years. With years of treatments and re-treatments, hopefully the seed bank can be reduced to a level where significant re-treatment efforts are not required at such levels in every location every year.



Deployed solarization tarps weighed down with trimmed *Myoporum laetum* (left) staff applying flame re-treatments (right)



Map of sea lavender eradication locations within the Carpinteria Salt Marsh