

## **Fisher Creek Riparian Habitat Restoration Project – Phase II**

Organization: Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority

Project Period: July 2022 – December 2028

Amount: \$247,360

Location: Fisher Creek, Santa Clara County

### **Project Description**

The Fisher Creek Riparian Habitat Restoration Project – Phase II proposes to restore riparian habitat along the Fisher Creek riparian corridor. This area provides nesting, roosting, and foraging habitat for numerous bird species, including special-status species such as the Yellow Warbler and White-tailed Kite. It is also an important component of the wildlife movement pathway within and through Coyote Valley, a critical landscape linkage, connecting patches of habitat between the Santa Cruz Mountains and the Diablo Range, linking over one million acres of core wildlife habitat. The Authority, in partnership with Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST), Point Blue Conservation Science (Pt. Blue), and Go Native, has already begun this restoration work and this project (Phase II) will build upon that success and expand the restoration to two additional locations along the bank. The same project team would begin by removal of invasive plants and site preparation, followed by planting of 800 plants over two years, followed by maintenance and monitoring. If COVID-19 conditions allow, they will utilize school groups as part of the restoration through Pt. Blue's Students and Teachers Restoring A Watershed (STRAW) program. The STRAW program engages K-12 students, community members, and Conservation Corps members in climate-smart restoration. By engaging with youth, volunteers, and the Corps, this project will connect communities to the lands around them, and provides additional benefits such as carbon sequestration, water quality improvement, and wildlife habitat enhancement and connectivity. They are leveraging the work of Phase I such as irrigation installation, plant palette, weed control, browse protection, and project team expertise.

### **Project Progress**

During the Summer of 2023, Point Blue and Go Native, Inc. coordinated and trained a San Jose Conservation Corps crew in invasive species clearing, trash/tire removal, and installation of weed control fabric in the delineated planting plots. Additional site visits were conducted to go over scope of work and planning for the upcoming Winter 2023 planting season.

Approximately 6,500 square feet of invasive plants were removed from the planting plots along with trash and tires. Weed control fabric was installed over the planting plots which are fundamental to install native plants over the winter.