



## Lower American River Conservancy Program Project Updates

Project Name: *American River Ranch Habitat Restoration Program*

Grantee: *Soil Born Farm Urban Agriculture Project*

WCB Grant Amount: *\$297,949*

Planning or Implementation Grant: *Implementation*

Grant Term: *11/18/2021 to 11/30/2024*

*Brief Project Summary: The goal of this habitat restoration project is to restore 3 acres of oak woodland forest adjacent to the restored Cordova Creek riparian area modeling an interdisciplinary approach to conservation (Project). Blue elderberry, valley oak, and interior live oak will be the focal species because of their ecological significance, with complementary native understory species. Project outcomes will serve multiple purposes including creating important wildlife habitat, providing community education, enhanced public access, and producing nutritious food and medicinal crops.*

*Objective #1: : Habitat - A diverse 3-acre native planting of oak, elderberries and understory native species are established and maintained.*

*Objective #2: Education - Urban youth and adults are provided with education and skill-building on land stewardship and native plant uses, through classes, tours, youth programs and volunteer days*

*Objective #3: Cultural – Dialog is held with Native American tribes to explore shared development/ maintenance/ harvest/ cultural use of the Edible Forest*

*Objective #4: Production - Harvesting, processing, and marketing plans are developed for acorn and elderberry native food crops*

Deliverables Status:

*- Habitat Restoration and Management Plan: 75% complete. Expected completion August 31, 2022.*

*- Secure regulatory permits: 50%. CEQA completed. CVFCB permit date unknown. Estimated January 2023.*

*- Install Two interpretive Signs: 0% complete.*

*- Develop educational curriculum: 0% complete. Anticipate completion May 2023.*

*- Summary of conversations/MOU development with local tribes: 25% complete. On-going.*

*- 3 acres of restored oak woodland habitat: 0% complete. Estimated planting now in February or March 2023.*

*- Annual monitoring logs in accordance with final HRMP, submitted by October 31 for the current growing season: 0% Will begin once planting is completed. Estimate March 2023.*

- *Pre- and post-photos of restored habitat from fixed locations within the project site, submitted with annual monitoring logs. 25%. Pre-photos and drone image being conducted. On-going.*
- *Summary of trial products developed, included in invoice progress reports. 0%. Expected completion 11/30/2024*

Upcoming Work:

- *Complete the Habitat Restoration and management plan. Informed by feedback from local tribes, USFWS, and other project partners.*
- *Submit Encroachment Permit application with CVFCB.*
- *Complete weed and fertility management activities at planting site.*
- *Install irrigation system at planting site in readiness for planting.*
- *Begin development of interpretive materials (signs and curriculum) in partnership with United Auburn Indian Community.*

*Is the project on track for completing by end of grant term? Yes. An upcoming pre-application meeting with CVFCB will determine if delays will be incurred to the planting date originally slated for November 2022. Likely will need to push back planting date until March 2023.*

*Describe any significant delays, oversights, or shortfalls with the project: The CVFCB permit process was not planned. A previously completed project funded by WCB located at the American River Ranch was determined to be exempt by CVFCB. However, CVFCB is now requiring additional flood analysis in this project area and subsequent permit submission. SBF is doing the flood analysis now, preparing its permit application, and is requesting an expedited review and approval in order to avoid significant delays.*

Will a time extension request be needed? *No*

Will a funding augmentation be needed? *No*