

Riparian Habitat Restoration at Santa Clara River

Organization: University of California – Santa Barbara

Project Period: July 2023 – January 2027

Amount: \$168,738

Location: Santa Clara River, Santa Paula, CA

Project Description: This project will consist of active and passive revegetation within a 30-acre area at the northwest corner of The Nature Conservancy's (TNC's) Taylor Property (40 acres total) on the south bank of the Santa Clara River which was recently dominated by invasive Arundo (giant reed; *Arundo donax*). Revegetation using native tree pole cuttings will occur in areas where current plant cover is low and natural recruitment is not expected to provide sufficient, rapid cover. Cuttings will be collected from riparian tree species common in this river reach, including red willow (*Salix laevigata*), arroyo willow (*S. lasiolepis*), Fremont's cottonwood (*Populus fremontii*) and black cottonwood (*P. trichocarpa*). Treatment of nonnative weeds will occur as needed throughout the project period using a combination of mechanical and herbicide treatment techniques. Monitoring will occur throughout the course of the project period to assess success of revegetation and invasive plant control.

Project Progress: Restoration activities began 1 July 2023 when project funding was initiated. This interim report summarizes restoration activities completed during the project period 7/2/2023-9/31/2023. During the project period, University of California Santa Barbara (UCSB) staff conducted pre-construction biological surveys, established access routes, delineated planting areas, scouted potential planting propagules and treated weed species including giant reed (*Arundo donax*).