

# Upper Santa Clara River Watershed Arundo/ Tamarisk Removal Program (SCARP)

California Invasive Plant Council  
15<sup>th</sup> Annual Symposium  
October 5, 2006



Ventura County  
Resource Conservation District

*Wildscape*  
RESTORATION



# Upper Santa Clara River



Photo provided courtesy of  
Friends of the Santa  
Clara River

- Los Angeles County (40%) - 680 square miles
- Major Tributaries include Castaic Creek, San Francisquito Canyon, Bouquet Canyon, Sand Canyon, Mint Canyon, and the Santa Clara River South Fork



# Native Riparian Plants

western  
sycamore



mule fat



arroyo willow



cottonwood



# Threatened and Endangered Wildlife



Southwestern  
willow  
flycatcher



least Bell's vireo



unarmored  
threespine  
stickleback



arroyo toad



California red-  
legged frog



# Giant Reed or Arundo (*Arundo donax*)

- Increased fire fuel loads
- Increased flooding hazards
- Increased bank erosion
- Reduction in surface water quality & shading
- Reduction in groundwater availability
- Displacement of riparian habitat
- Reduction in food supply of riparian-dependant wildlife



# Salt Cedar or Tamarisk (*Tamarix* spp.)

- Crowding of native vegetation
- Increased salinity of surface soil
- Lower wildlife values
- Increased water consumption
- Widened floodplains and increased deposition of sediment



# Goals of the Project

- First, develop a long-term plan.
- Then, figure out how to comply with CEQA/NEPA and a variety of permits.
- Help individuals and organizations identify which permits they will need to obtain.
- Simplify and streamline the permit process (programmatic permits).

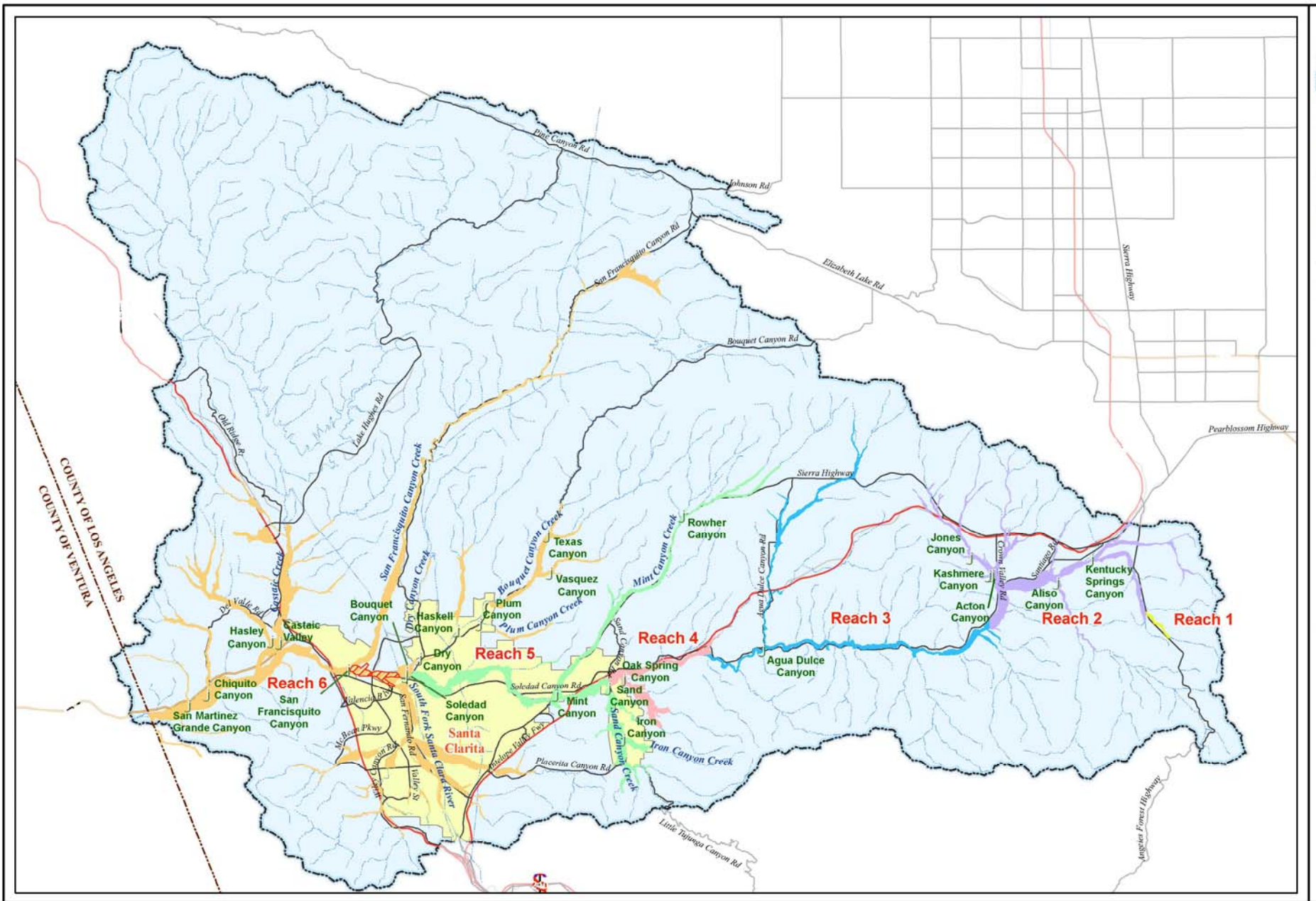


# How did we do that?

- \$1.5 Million *Planning* Grant from SWRCB Proposition 13 Bond Measure
  - Long-term Implementation Plan
    - Recommendations for feasible removal approaches
    - Guidance in obtaining proper permits and approval
  - Vegetation mapping of all known stands of Arundo and Tamarisk to date
  - CEQA Environmental Impact Report
  - Site Specific Implementation Project
- \$67,000 Grant from Santa Clara River Trustee Council
  - Programmatic Permits from ACOE, RWQCB, USFWS, and CDFG
  - Encroachment permits from LADPW and CalTrans





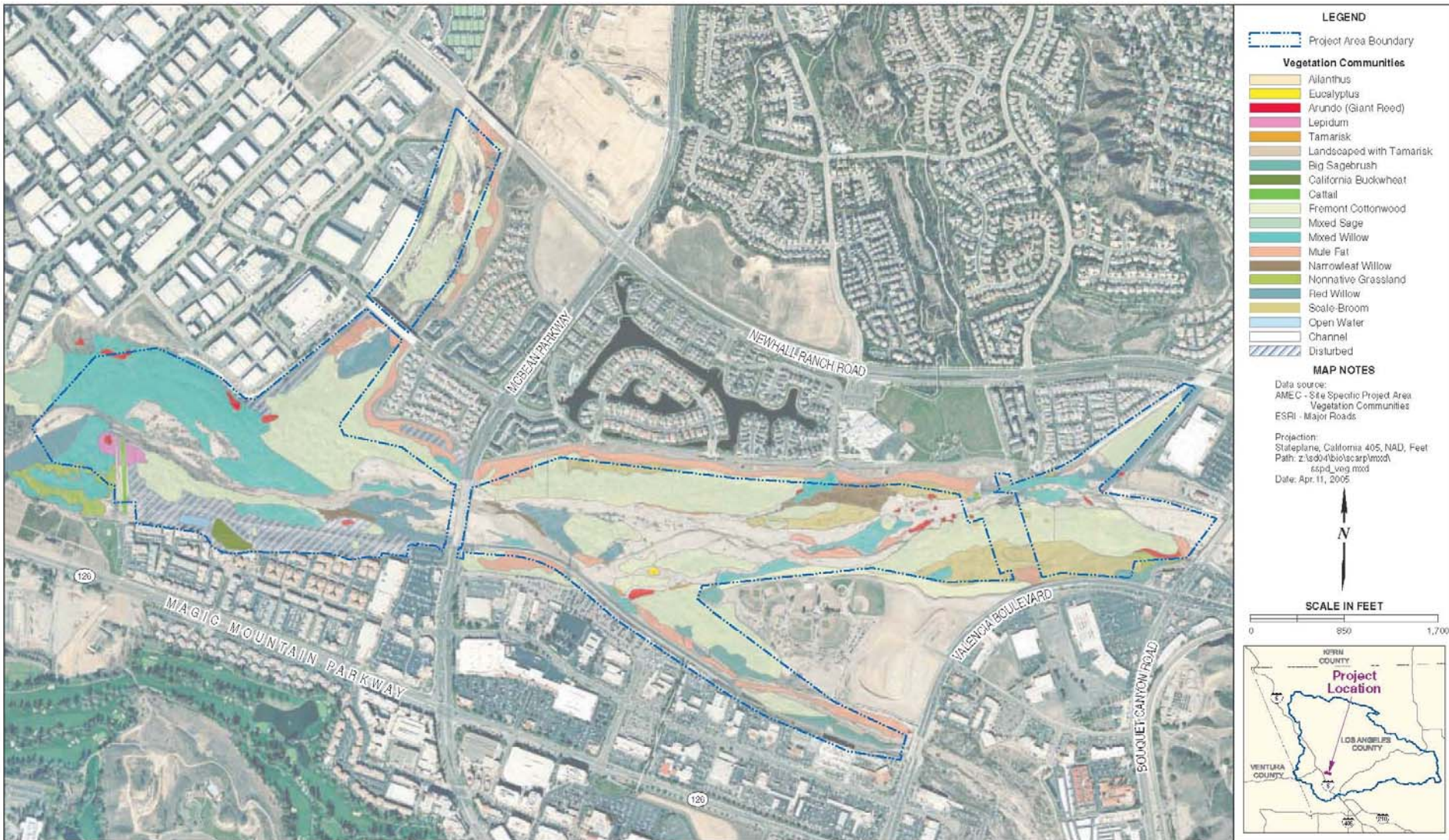


Upper Santa Clara River Arundo/Tamarisk Removal Plan Site

# SCARP Working Group

- Ventura County Resource Conservation District (VCRCD)
- Ventura County Arundo Task Force
- Army Corps of Engineers
- U.S. Forest Service
- U.S.D.A. Natural Resource Conservation District
- U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
- California Department of Fish and Game
- California Conservation Corps.
- Los Angeles County Weed Management Area
- City of Santa Clarita
- Friends of the Santa Clara River
- UC Cooperative Extension
- And many other local agencies and organizations





Santa Clarita Site Specific Implementation Project (Reach 6)  
 Vegetation Map



Santa Clarita Site Specific Implementation Project (Reach 6)  
 Target Species Map

# Removal Methods

- Hand/Mechanical Biomass Removal
- Herbicide (Glyphosate, Imazapyr, Triclopyr)
  - Foliar Application,
  - Cut & Spray/Paint/Daub,
  - Cut & Spray Resprouts
- Tarping
- Controlled Burning
- Supplemental Methods
  - Biological Control
  - Grazing



# Impact Summary

## **Short-Term Impacts (up to 10 years)**

### Significant and Adverse

- \* Water Quality Impacts from grazing animals and unknown herbicide impacts
- \* Biological Resource Impacts from mechanical removal method, unknown herbicide impacts, erosion, vehicular use, escaped burns
- \* Air Quality Impacts from burns/incinerations
- \* Noise Impacts from equipment

## **Long-Term Impacts (Over 10 years)**

- \* No Significant Adverse Impacts



# Programmatic Regulatory Permits

- Utilize CEQA analysis to obtain programmatic permits
- Funding through Santa Clara River Trustee Council
- In progress
  - ACOE 404 Individual Permit
  - RWQCB 401 Certification
  - USFWS Section 7 Biological Opinion
  - CDFG Streambed Alteration Agreement



# What's next?

## **Implementation of Upper Watershed**

- ★ Work with private landowners within the project site from upstream to downstream
- ★ Find additional funding from various sources such as USDA NRCS programs

## **Expanding to the Lower Watershed**

- ★ Work with the Santa Clara River Trustee Council to expand plan, CEQA analysis, and permits





# Contact Information

[www.vcrcd.org](http://www.vcrcd.org)

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# Question and Answer Period

