



2015 PROPOSITION 84 FINAL ROUND IMPLEMENTATION GRANT  
PROJECT INPUT FORM  
Watersheds Coalition of Ventura County

**IMPORTANT:** It is important you review the Implementation Grant Guidelines and Proposal Solicitation Package (PSP) documents before submitting a project for consideration. Pay particular attention to (1) project and applicant eligibility, (2) project benefits, and requirements for technical justification, budget, and schedule.

**PSP**

[http://www.water.ca.gov/irwm/grants/docs/p84\\_implementation/P84\\_IRWM\\_PSP\\_2015\\_Draft\\_2015\\_0312\\_Public.pdf](http://www.water.ca.gov/irwm/grants/docs/p84_implementation/P84_IRWM_PSP_2015_Draft_2015_0312_Public.pdf)

**GUIDELINES**

[http://www.water.ca.gov/irwm/grants/docs/p84\\_implementation/P84\\_IRWM\\_GL\\_Draft\\_2015\\_0312\\_Public.pdf](http://www.water.ca.gov/irwm/grants/docs/p84_implementation/P84_IRWM_GL_Draft_2015_0312_Public.pdf)

**PAST APPLICATIONS CAN BE FOUND AT**

[http://www.ventura.org/wcvc/prop84/submitted\\_implementation\\_grants.htm](http://www.ventura.org/wcvc/prop84/submitted_implementation_grants.htm)

Part 1. Lead Implementing Agency/Organizational  
Information

Please provide the following information regarding the project sponsor and proposed project.

**Implementing Agency/ Organization / Individual:**

California Trout, Inc.

**Agency / Organization / Individual Address:**

360 Pine St. 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, San Francisco, CA 94104.

**Possible Partnering Agencies:**

The Nature Conservancy, UC Santa Barbara, Friends of the Santa Clara River, Hedrick Ranch Nature Area, City of Santa Clarita, City of Santa Paula, Farmers Irrigation Company, landowners.

**Name:**

Candice Meneghin

**Title:**

Conservation Manager, Southern California & Santa Clara River Steelhead Coalition Chair.

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Part 2. Project Information

**Project Name:**

Santa Clara River Steelhead Coalition - Invasive Plant Removal, Ecosystem Restoration, and Habitat Protection in the Santa Clara River (Santa Clara River Restoration)

**Either the latitude/longitude or a location description is required. To determine the latitude/longitude, use the closest address or intersection. If the project is linear, use the furthest upstream latitude/longitude.**

**Project Latitude:**  **Project Longitude:**

<b>Location Description:</b>	Restoration will occur along the Santa Clara River floodplain, in the river reach between Sespe Creek and Santa Paula Creek (approximately 6 river miles). Flow originating in this reach provides recharge for the underlying Fillmore and Santa Paula Groundwater Basins and the Oxnard Plain. We have begun discussions, and there is interest to incorporate sites in Santa Clarita in the Upper Santa Clara River Watershed.
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**Watershed (Check all that apply):**

Calleguas  
Creek

Santa  
Clara  
River

Ventura  
River

Countywide

**Project Cooperating Agency(ies)/Organization(s)/Individual(s):**

- |  |
|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Nature Conservancy</li> </ul>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>University of California, Santa Barbara – Marine Science Institute’s Riparian Invasion Research Laboratory</li> </ul>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Friends of the Santa Clara River</li> </ul>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hedrick Ranch Nature Area</li> </ul>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>City of Santa Clarita ( Speaking with Heather Merenda)</li> </ul>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>City of Santa Paula</li> </ul>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Farmers Irrigation Company</li> </ul>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Private Landowners: Mike Levy, Ralph and Ann Winn, Harvey, Vintage Petroleum LLC., David and Valery Lagesse Trust, Rio Vista Citrus Co., Ventura County Transport, Linda Espanosa.</li> </ul> |

**Project Status (e.g., new, ongoing, expansion, new phase):**

Expansion of 2013 Prop 84 Round 2 UC Santa Barbara Invasive Plant Removal, Ecosystem Restoration, and Habitat Protection in the Santa Clara River (Santa Clara River Restoration)



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## Project Description

**A general description of the proposed project is needed. This section will provide information associated with the project concept, general project information, and readiness to proceed.**

**Please provide a 1-2 paragraph description of the project including the general project concept, what will be constructed/implemented, how the constructed project will function, and treatment methods, as appropriate.**

### Overview

California Trout is the Chair of the Santa Clara River Steelhead Coalition, which is an active member of the Santa Clara River Watershed Committee. The Coalition is a collaboration of non-profit organizations, government resource agencies, and interested stakeholders - that's mission is to protect and restore wild Southern California steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykss*) and its habitat in the Santa Clara River watershed. To that end the Coalition has drafted a Strategic Plan, Work Plan and Outreach, Education and Community Engagement Plan which prioritizes the group's steelhead recovery efforts.

This project will remove arundo (*Arundo donax*; giant reed) and restore habitat in the Santa Clara River floodplain in an identified critical wildlife zone. The project is part of a large-scale effort by the California Coastal Conservancy to eliminate arundo from the watershed to improve water resources in the Region. The goal of the overall effort is to create a large, contiguous native riparian zone through a series of related, but stand-alone, restoration projects, and building on an existing IRWM Prop 84 Round 2 Implementation Santa Clara River Restoration project. Furthermore, this Project meets the Coalition's Strategic Objectives: 1: To conserve, restore, protect, and sustain the endangered Southern California steelhead and its habitat in the Santa Clara River watershed; including adult and juvenile migration, spawning, incubation and rearing habitats; 4: To control and manage invasive, non-native species, which negatively impact the Southern California steelhead's survival; and 2. To promote water conservation necessary for adequate flows to support steelhead and other species.

This project will restore between 150 and 200 acres of riparian habitat over a period of four years, by removing arundo and other invasive plant species. Passive and active revegetation strategies will be used to re-establish riparian forests and a wetlands buffer to improve water quality of agricultural run-off entering the Santa Clara River and to provide wildlife habitat for riparian and wetland species. The parcels selected are important to recovery of the endangered southern steelhead and 45 other special status species on the lower Santa Clara River. Improving over summer rearing habitat and sustaining in-stream flows that connect and provide fish passage from the mainstem (migration corridor) to Santa Paula and Sespe Creek tributaries (rearing and spawning habitat) is integral to recovering steelhead in the watershed. While Sespe Creek has the most diverse habitat, Santa Paula Creek has the most productive habitat, as for



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these reasons these subbasins as well as fish passage to these subbasins are high Coalition priorities.

Removal of water-intensive invasive species will conserve approximately 3,500 AFY of water. Water previously consumed in excess by invasive species will instead provide much needed recharge to the overdrafted groundwater basins along the Santa Clara River, including the Santa Paula and Oxnard Basins (DWR Basins 4-4.02 and 4-4.04, respectively). Groundwater is the largest single source of water for the cities of Fillmore and Santa Paula and is the primary source of water for agriculture in the Santa Clara River. Additional recharge helps resolve conflicts between groundwater users in the local basins. Improved streamflow and recharge is necessary to resolve conflicts between urban, agricultural, and environmental water (endangered southern steelhead) demands.

Our Project partner, the University of California at Santa Barbara (UCSB) is involved in ongoing research to determine the effects of arundo on native biota and ecosystem properties and develop the most effective control and restoration strategies for reducing impacts to native ecosystems. Guided by science-based information, this project provides valuable hands-on application in restoration ecology practices for UCSB and other regional college students and researchers. CalTrout has teamed with Coalition members: USCB, The Nature Conservancy (TNC), and Friends of the Santa Clara River to access prioritized lands for restoration.

The project area is within a larger 1,000 acre floodplain area comprised of a mix of degraded properties targeted for restoration. The California Coastal Conservancy's strategic plan for arundo treatment and post-treatment re-vegetation for the lower watershed will guide project implementation.

**Project Description** This project is an arundo control and habitat restoration program in the Santa Clara River floodplain for the river reach between Sespe Creek and Santa Paula Creek (six river miles) near the City of Santa Paula. The Santa Clara River watershed drains an extensive and biologically rich region and contains a strong representation of the biodiversity of the South and Central Coast Bioregions. The Santa Clara River is one of the few major river systems in the State which retains much of its natural hydrology and provides ecosystem functions necessary to sustain more than 17 federally listed species. The river basin also supports valuable agricultural resources and diverse recreational resources. Arundo is the most problematic invasive plant in southern California coastal rivers where it causes extensive flood damage, increases fire risk, and uses substantially more water than native vegetation. The project is part of a large-scale effort by the Coastal Conservancy to eliminate arundo from the watershed to improve water resources and habitat. Furthermore, invasive non-native species have been identified as a limiting factor to steelhead recovery and removal is a key recovery action identified in the Southern California steelhead Recovery Plan (2012.)

Arundo and invasive plants will be removed consistent with methods described in the California Coastal Conservancy's Santa Clara River Parkway Strategic Plan for Arundo Treatment and Post-Treatment Revegetation. The methods employed will vary depending on density of arundo, season, and presence of sensitive plants and wildlife.



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Revegetation will follow arundo removal. Passive revegetation is anticipated for areas that receive periodic flood flows. Where passive recovery is unlikely, active planting will occur, using plants propagated from local seeds and cuttings, and when necessary, container plants.

All plants will be monitored for 3-4 years from the beginning of the project to track mortality and evaluate whether additional planting will be necessary. Maintenance activities, including controlling invasive plants and arundo resprouts, and watering plants that show signs of desiccation, will be performed regularly during this period. If survival of cuttings is below 80 percent after each of the first two years, new cuttings will be planted. Observational methods will be used to determine potential causes of plant mortality, including inspecting plants for signs of herbivory or pathogen growth, and evaluating soil moisture at base of plantings. Retreatment of arundo regrowth will occur once or twice annually for at least three years to ensure that all arundo plants have been killed.

### **Project Timing and Phasing**

The overall restoration area covers over 1,000 acres within the floodplain. The goal is to create a large, contiguous riparian zone through a series of related, but stand-alone, restoration projects.

This project will restore between 150 and 200 acres of riparian habitat by removing arundo and other invasive plant species, and using passive and active revegetation strategies to re-establish riparian forests. Priority will be given to properties with the largest arundo populations, with high habitat value, and where invasive plants pose the greatest risk to public safety (through floods and fires).

Work will occur in locations where arundo removal and restoration have not yet occurred. This includes:

- 20 acres TNC's Taylor property.
- 40 acres Friends of the Santa Clara River's Hedrick Ranch Nature Area property.
- Friends of the Santa Clara River's Hedrick Property.
- 60 acres on TNC's Peto/McConica property.
- 79 acres Ralph and Anne Winn Family Trust
- Harvey
- Vintage Petroleum, LLC.
- 33 Acres David and Valery Lagesse Trust
- 19 Acres Rio Vista Citrus Co.
- 24 Acres Farmers Irrigation
- Ventura County Transport
- Mike Levy
- Linda Espanosa

(We have initiated landowner willingness to participate in the project, of which 120 acres are secured and 80 acres in negotiation.)



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**Goals and Objectives** The overall project goal is to use scientifically based methods to restore water and biological resources to the floodplain for the benefit of human and natural systems. Specific objectives include:

- 1) Control arundo populations and other non-native, invasive plant species to reduce impacts to native ecosystems and allow native species to reestablish.
- 2) Restore native plant communities using a scientifically and ecologically-based approach to promote long-term ecosystem stability and conservation benefits.
- 3) Design a long-term biological monitoring program to facilitate a scientific evaluation of outcomes and successes.
- 4) Increase groundwater recharge to overdrafted basins by replacing high water use non-native plants with native plants.
- 5) Create a riparian forest and wetland buffer to provide wildlife habitat and water quality benefits.
- 6) Reduce flood and fire threats.
- 7) Provide outreach, access, and natural resource information regarding local and watershed restoration.

**Purpose and Need** The Santa Clara River Parkway Project (funded by the State Coastal Conservancy) has identified this river reach as a critical wildlife zone due to its size, natural resources, and potential wildlife habitat. However, man-made alterations have led to habitat degradation and invasion by non-native species. Arundo is the primary invasive species of concern and forms large, monotypic stands throughout the project area. A recent study by the California Invasive Plant Council (Arundo donax Distribution and Impact Report, March 2011, provided with this Work Plan) shows that arundo can use up to six times as much water as native vegetation.

**Please describe how the project does or could integrate with other projects in the Region.**

**Integrated Elements of Projects**

This project, as well as the 2014 IRWM Drought Solicitation Ventura River Restoration Project, and the existing 2013 Round 2 Prop 84 Santa Clara River Restoration Project work toward the common goals of: (1) improved habitat and (2) provision of water-related public access, recreation and educational opportunities. This project, the Santa Clara River Restoration project, and the Ventura River Restoration project improve habitat by supporting native vegetation that improve the biological and chemical properties of the floodplain. This project, the Ventura River Restoration Project, and the existing Santa Clara River Restoration Project each contribute to the preservation of hiking opportunities, enhancement of plant and wildlife viewing, and creation of outdoor classrooms.

The Santa Clara River Restoration and Ventura River Restoration projects create a framework whereby public agencies, non-profit organizations, and academic institutions act in concert to benefit the Region. These projects create a synergy where such coordination becomes the



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norm rather than the exception.

Some of the parcels identified for Arundo removal are on Farmers Irrigation property, and lie adjacent to the City of Santa Paula's settling ponds. There may be an opportunity to partner with the Farmers Irrigation on their proposed Santa Paula Basin Groundwater Sustainability Project.

**If applicable, list surface water bodies and groundwater basins associated with the proposed project:**

- Santa Clara River
- Santa Paula Creek
- Santa Paula Basin 4-4.02
- Oxnard Basin 4-4.04

**Please identify up to three available documents which contain information specific to the proposed project:**

Lambert, A.M. and T.L. Dudley. 2011. Taylor Property Habitat Restoration Plan. Submitted to California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) and Santa Clara River Trustee Council.

This document provides specifics on techniques and methods and locations for habitat restoration on the Taylor property (one of the properties in this project). This document along with the Santa Clara River Parkway Strategic Plan constitute all the design documents needed for the project. This plan has been adapted to the remaining properties.

Beller, E.E., R.M. Grossinger, et al, 2011. Historical Ecology of the Lower Santa Clara River, Ventura River, and Oxnard Plain: An Analysis of Terrestrial, Riverine, and Coastal Habitats. Prepared for the State Coastal Conservancy.

This document provides information on the various invasive species communities, vegetation density, native plant coverage, and flood frequency/water availability for restoration activities.

Stillwater Sciences. 2011. Santa Clara River Parkway Strategic Plan for Arundo Treatment And Post-Treatment Revegetation. Prepared for the California State Coastal Conservancy. Oakland, CA.

This document provides a comprehensive look at the arundo problem in the Santa Clara River Parkway, describes effective and appropriate arundo treatment and restoration approaches, identifies permits associated with the different restoration methods, and pinpoints specific areas for the application of treatment methods and priorities for treatment based on watershed scale processes and ecological conditions. Unit costs and strategies for reducing costs are provided. The document also provides best management practices for invasive species removal and habitat restoration.

**Is the proposed project an element or**



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<b>phase of a regional or larger program? Yes.</b>
<b>If yes, please identify the program</b> The State Coastal Conservancy's Strategic Arundo Treatment and Post Treatment Revegetation.

Required IRWM Project Elements – Please select at least one

x	Water supply reliability, water conservation, and water use efficiency
	Stormwater capture, storage, clean-up, treatment and management
x	Removal of invasive non-native species, the creation and enhancement of wetlands, and the acquisition, protection, and restoration of open space and watershed lands
	Non-point source pollution reduction, management and monitoring
x	Groundwater recharge and management projects
	Contaminant and salt removal through reclamation, desalting, and other treatment technologies and conveyance of reclaimed water for distribution to users
	Water banking, exchange, reclamation, and improvement of water quality
	Planning and implementation of multipurpose flood management programs
x	Watershed protection and management
	Drinking water treatment and distribution
x	Ecosystem and fisheries restoration and protection

Part 3. Project Need

**Please provide a 1-2 paragraph description of the need(s) or problem(s) that the project will address. As applicable, discuss the water supply need, water quality need, or resource stewardship need (e.g. ecosystem restoration, floodplain management) need. Discuss critical impacts that will occur if the proposal is not implemented.**



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The Santa Clara River Parkway Project (funded by the State Coastal Conservancy) and Santa Clara River Steelhead Coalition have identified this river reach as a critical wildlife zone due to its size, natural resources, and potential wildlife habitat. However, man-made alterations have led to habitat degradation and invasion by non-native species. *Arundo* is the primary invasive species of concern and forms large, monotypic stands throughout the project area.

A recent study by the California Invasive Plant Council (*Arundo donax Distribution and Impact Report*, March 2011, provided with this Work Plan) shows that *arundo* can use up to six times as much water as native vegetation.

This high water consumption is undesirable in the Santa Clara River as it limits groundwater recharge of the Fillmore, Santa Paula, and Oxnard Plain groundwater basins. The City of Fillmore's sole water supply is groundwater from the Fillmore Basin. Likewise the sole source of water for the City of Santa Paula is Santa Paula Basin groundwater. Additionally, local agriculture is heavily dependent on groundwater. A long-term decline in groundwater levels has been observed in the adjudicated Santa Paula Basin (*United Water Conservation District. 2012. Groundwater and Surface Water Conditions Report 2011*). In the Oxnard Plain, overdraft has existed for more than 50 years. It is estimated that the annual overdraft is 20,000 to 25,000 AFY (*United Water Conservation District. 2012. Groundwater and Surface Water Conditions Report 2011*).

*Arundo* is also known to be highly flammable. The California Invasive Plant Council estimates the fuel load of *arundo* is three times greater than that of native vegetation. Despite being highly flammable, *arundo* is able to recover rapidly from fire. By contrast, cottonwoods, willows, and other native woody plants are much less tolerant of direct exposure to fire and are outcompeted by *arundo* after a fire. Recent studies suggest that *arundo* is making riparian systems fire prone. *Arundo* in the project area has caused a decline in native species by facilitating fire, but also through direct competition for resources (*California Invasive Plant Council. 2011. Arundo donax Distribution and Impact Report*). At the same time, with its large stands, *arundo* creates river flow obstruction and debris dams (as demonstrated in the photo below), thereby increasing risks of flooding and related damages (*Stillwater Sciences. 2011. Santa Clara River Parkway Strategic Plan for Arundo Treatment and PostTreatment Revegetation*).

*Arundo* also provides little to no habitat for wildlife. The California Invasive Plant Council evaluated *arundo* impacts to species listed under the federal Endangered Species Act. This evaluation found that *arundo* changed abiotic and biological functions in a way that moderately to severely impacted amphibian species such as arroyo toad, fish species such as the unarmored three spine stickleback and southern steelhead, and bird species such as the southwestern willow flycatcher and least Bell's vireo (*California Invasive Plant Council. 2011. Arundo donax Distribution and Impact Report*). Removal and restoration activities on 15 acres at the nearby Hedrick Ranch Natural Area has resulted in a significant increase in wildlife, especially the endangered least Bell's vireo (Hedrick Ranch Bird Survey conducted by the Western Foundation for Vertebrate Zoology, 2011).



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Removing arundo and restoring native riparian forests will increase groundwater recharge, enhance wildlife value of associated wetlands, reduce flooding damage caused by accumulation of arundo biomass, and diminish the risk of and impact from wildfire which have killed a substantial number of riparian dependent trees in the project area.

### Part 4. IRWMP Objectives Addressed by Project

**Describe how the project meets any of the following IRWMP objectives:**

1. Reduce dependence on imported water and protect, conserve and augment water supplies	By removing Arundo and restoring native vegetation the project will directly contribute to water conservation in the region (i.e., by limiting substantially higher evaptranspiration rates.)
2. Protect and improve water quality	Passive and active revegetation strategies will be used to re-establish riparian forests and a wetlands buffer to improve water quality of agricultural run-off entering the Santa Clara River and to provide wildlife habitat for riparian and wetland species (i.e., through natural ecosystem services.)
3. Protect people, property and the environment from adverse flooding impacts	Flooding damage will be reduced by removing the accumulation of arundo biomass in stream.
4. Protect and restore habitat and ecosystems in watersheds	By removing Arundo and restoring native riparian forests, this will not only provide a terrestrial habitat corridor, but also increase groundwater recharge and associated in-stream flow – this will provide over summer rearing habitat for steelhead, as well as adequate connectivity along its migration corridor to critical rearing and spawning habitat in both Santa Paula and Sespe Creeks.
5. Provide water-related recreational, public access, stewardship, engagement and educational opportunities	Goal 3 of the Santa Clara River Parkway Project is to provide public access and environmental education, including the creation of a continuous public trail system along the length of the parkway. TNC currently offers access and walks on their properties. Furthermore the Coalition has a grant in to American Waters to provide volunteer and training opportunities to volunteers interested in Arundo removal.



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6. Prepare for and adapt to climate change	Climate Change trends show a decrease in precipitation, an increase in extreme rainfall events resulting in floods, and an increase in fire frequency and intensity. By removing Arundo we are integrating our response to climate change by addressing a threat that exacerbates the aforementioned climate change projections, thus building the resilience of our watershed.
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Part 5. Program Preferences Addressed by the Project –  
Check all that Apply

x	Regional project or program - covers multiple watersheds Upper and Lower SCR, and complements Ventura, possible link to Los Angeles IRWM (?)
	Effectively integrates water management programs and projects with a hydrologic region identified in the California Water Plan; the Regional Quality Control Board (RWQCB) region or subdivision; or other region or sub-region specifically identified by DWR
x	Effectively resolves significant water-related conflicts within or between regions
	Contributes to attainment of one or more of the objectives of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program
x	Addresses critical water supply or water quality needs of disadvantaged communities within the region
	Effectively integrate water management with land use planning
	Are part of an IRWM Plan that helps the region reduce reliance on Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta for water supply
x	Addresses statewide priorities including climate change mitigation/adaptation (See PSP for detailed list)

Part 6. Project Readiness

Item	Status (e.g., not initiated, in process, complete)	Date
Conceptual Plans	<u>NA</u>	(mm/dd/yyyy)



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<b>Feasibility Study (or background documentation)</b>	<u>Done.</u>	(mm/dd/yyyy)
<b>Preliminary Design (i.e., 30%, 60%, 90%, 100%)</b>	All design activities have been completed and are found in the Taylor Property Habitat Restoration Plan and Santa Clara River Parkway Strategic Plan for Arundo Treatment and Post-treatment Revegetation.	(mm/dd/yyyy)
<b>CEQA/NEPA</b>	The planning and design for the project is done, but minor work related to CEQA review and permitting remains to be completed in 2015. The 2013 IRWM resulted in a CEQA Exemption. USFWS Biological Opinions.	(mm/dd/yyyy) To be initiated once project is approved.
<b>Permits</b>	VCWPD Encroachment Permit  Land Owner Access Agreements  Streambed Alteration Agreement (depending on willing landowners – some may be new, others will be amendments.)	(mm/dd/yyyy) To be initiated once project is approved.
<b>Construction Drawings</b>	<u>NA</u>	(mm/dd/yyyy)
<b>Detailed Schedule</b>		Will project go to bid by April 1, 2016? Yes_____ yes/no  Will project be completed by October 31, 2020? Yes_____ yes/no



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<b>Detailed Budget Available</b>	<u>No _____ (yes/no)</u>	If no, indicate when will be provided: May 29, 2015.
<b>Funding match of 25% or more. Please indicate</b>	<u>No (&gt;5-10%) _____ (yes/no)</u>	Source of match: NOAA Federal Funding Opportunity, Coastal Resiliency May 2015 (20%), City of Santa Clarita (5-10%), In-kind match (contribute to 20%)

**For projects that do not include construction, please briefly describe the project readiness-to proceed.**

Besides securing the match funding, a CalTrout Board Resolution, and permits – this project is shovel ready.

We will use Best Management Practices described in the Santa Clara River Parkway Strategic Plan for Arundo Treatment and Post-Treatment Revegetation and all permit documents will be followed. Best Management Practices will include pre-construction surveys, training of project personnel on safe use of pesticides, and limiting the amount of cuttings from a native plant.

Arundo and invasive plants will be removed consistent with methods described in the Santa Clara River Parkway Strategic Plan for Arundo Treatment and Post-Treatment Revegetation. 150 to 200 acres of Arundo will be removed. Revegetation will follow arundo removal. All plants will be monitored for 3-4 years from the beginning of the project to track mortality and evaluate if additional planting will be necessary. Retreatment of arundo regrowth will occur once or twice annually for at least three years to ensure that all arundo plants have been eliminated.

### Part 7. Project Physical Benefits

**Please provide a 1-2 paragraph description of the measurable physical benefits of the project. Quantify benefits to the extent possible (e.g., project will result in x acre-feet of water savings, project will benefit x acres of habitat) **IMPORTANT: Must be able to identify at least 2 quantifiable physical benefits.****

**Project Benefits:**

Invasive species removal and habitat restoration will have a number of significant benefits for the Santa Clara River ecosystem:



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- Removal of invasive species, which consume excessive water volumes compared to native vegetation, will reduce water consumption and conserve local water supplies. Assuming each acre of arundo uses approximately 20 AFY more water than an acre of native vegetation (Arundo donax Distribution and Impact Report. 2011. California Invasive Plant Council. 2011), the project will conserve 3,500 AFY.
- Water savings will help address groundwater overdraft in the Santa Paula and Oxnard Basins, thereby helping to resolve significant waterrelated conflicts within the Region.
- Invasive species control will reduce the amount of arundo biomass that could act as flood debris and exacerbate river flooding.
- Improved habitat will attract birds and other wildlife, providing enhanced recreational opportunities for wildlife viewing from existing trails. Attachment 3 - Work Plan, Santa Clara River Restoration 3-63
- Improved habitat will benefit species listed as “threatened”, “endangered”, or “special concern” under the federal and California Endangered Species Acts (“sensitive species”). The lower Santa Clara River is home to 46 sensitive species, many negatively impacted by arundo (due to lack of shading and poor foraging and nesting habitat). Sensitive species that will benefit from arundo removal include amphibians such as the arroyo toad, fish species such as the unarmored three spine stickleback and southern steelhead, and bird species such as the southwestern willow flycatcher and least Bell’s vireo.
- Invasive species control will reduce the amount of flammable biomass in the watershed and allow the river to again act as a fire break.

<b>Does the project address any known environmental justice issues?</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not Sure
<b>Is the project located within or adjacent to a disadvantaged community?</b>		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Sure
<b>Does the project include disadvantaged community participation?</b>		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Sure
<b>If yes, please identify the group or organization:</b> California Conservation Corps_____		

### Part 8. Project Cost Estimate

**Project cost information is needed to assist in comparing benefits and costs. Additionally, knowledge of the project type and cost will assist in identifying funding sources for potential projects.**

**Please indicate the estimated total capital cost for project implementation. These costs include land purchase/easement, planning/design/engineering, construction/implementation, environmental compliance, administration, and contingency.**

Lower estimated total capital cost (\$): \$1,450,000\_\_\_\_\_



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Upper estimated total capital cost (\$): \$1,950,000\_\_\_\_\_

Of the total capital cost, please indicate the estimated cost for land purchase / easement (\$):  
\_\$0\_\_\_\_\_

Annual Operation and Maintenance Cost (\$):\_\$450,000\_\_\_\_\_

Design Life of Project (years): \_\$100,000\_\_\_\_\_

PART 9. Additional Information

Please provide answers to the following questions:

<b>Have you applied for a Proposition 84 grant after January 1, 2012?</b>	No, project partners have – i.e., UCSB Santa Clara River Restoration Project.
<b>Have you adopted the 2014 IRWM Plan Update?</b>	No, but CalTrout has a board meeting on April 22, 2015 when a Board Resolution and Plan adoption can be tabled on the agenda.
<b>Is your project currently listed in the 2014 IRWM Plan?</b>	Yes.
<b>Can you provide a high-quality map of your project location?</b>	Yes.
<b>For this final round of Prop 84 funding, project costs must be incurred after January 1, 2011 and eligible costs incurred after January 1, 2015. Is this a problem?</b>	No.
<b>The Prop 84 grant is a reimbursable grant, meaning, you pay for costs up front and receive reimbursement at a later date. Is this a problem?</b>	Unsure, this needs to be endorsed at CalTrout's upcoming board meeting. However, one of our Projects Proponents is UCSB, who have received IRWM funds before.
<b>Can you provide staff to support the development of the application (eg., staff time and high level of understanding of the project)?</b>	Yes, Candice Meneghin is hired as the Santa Clara River Steelhead Coalition Chair and her salary is covered by a California Department of Fish and Wildlife Fisheries Restoration Grant Program grant.



2015 PROPOSITION 84 FINAL ROUND IMPLEMENTATION GRANT  
PROJECT INPUT FORM  
Watersheds Coalition of Ventura County

<b>Does your project assist with the current drought, and how?</b>	Yes, a primary benefit of this project is to remove Arundo that evapotranspires some six times faster than native vegetation, thus helping conserve water, recharge groundwater basins, as well as improve in stream flows.
<b>Can you provide technical analysis for your project to support claimed physical benefits?</b>	Yes.

**NOTE: Your agency must be willing to accept all of the terms of the Grant Agreement executed by the Department of Water Resources. Boilerplate language that was used in Round 2 can be found at:**  
[http://www.water.ca.gov/irwm/grants/docs/Resources/ContractTemplates/GrantAgreement\\_Template\\_P84R2\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.water.ca.gov/irwm/grants/docs/Resources/ContractTemplates/GrantAgreement_Template_P84R2_FINAL.pdf)