

# Santa Clara River Conservancy

*Conserving, Restoring and Enhancing the Santa Clara River Watershed for Environment and Community*

December 20, 2018

Greetings!

Did you know that the Santa Clara River is the largest, relatively-unaltered river system in southern California? Did you know that its watershed supports thousands of acres of prime agricultural land? And did you know that the river contributes to our local water supply while supporting many sensitive animals, plants, birds, and critical habitats?

***We are the Santa Clara River Conservancy. Our mission is to conserve, restore and enhance the natural and community resources of the Santa Clara River Watershed. And we need your help!***

Our staff, dedicated Board of Directors, and volunteers from around the community are working diligently on many important projects.

We are **restoring hundreds of acres of river bottom** by removing a giant invasive reed called *Arundo*. This thick, noxious plant pushes out beneficial plants, like native willows, and inhibits local wildlife. It also sucks up water that could otherwise support river habitat, agriculture and groundwater recharge.



*The 116-mile long Santa Clara River and watershed – over 1600 square miles in Ventura and Los Angeles Counties.*



*Arundo removal in the Santa Clara River with assistance from the California Conservation Corps.*

We are **connecting our community to the river** through local schools in Santa Paula, Fillmore and Piru. Our staff is building awareness and a stewardship ethic by teaching children about the Santa Clara River's natural and cultural history, its flora and fauna, and vital connections in the watershed. We also sponsor volunteer events with our sister organization, *Friends of the Santa Clara River*, at the native interpretive garden at the Fillmore Fish Hatchery, and at the Hedrick Ranch Nature Area.

And we are **collaborating with other partners** in the watershed, including Ventura County, *the Nature Conservancy* and the agricultural community. Our shared

goal is to ensure the sustainable use of the river watershed, protect its critical floodplain and associated habitat, and expand public access and recreation to and along the river. SCRC's ultimate vision is to hold and conserve sensitive lands along the river to support these goals and the long-term interests of the community.

***We invite you to help SCRC conserve the Santa Clara River for the benefit of future generations and the communities that are so vitally connected to the river.***

Our Board of Directors is made up of long-standing community members who understand the importance of the river— scientists, farmers, resource managers, and cultural and business leaders. Our vision is big, and we are excited to reach out to you to grow our work. **We would be grateful to receive your tax-deductible donation to support SCRC's efforts to protect our Santa Clara River heritage and a sustainable future.** We would also be thrilled to talk to you about potential donations of land in the watershed, volunteer opportunities, or other in-kind donations to support our work.

Please contact me if you have questions or would like to discuss SCRC's work in more detail. Or, visit our website: [www.santaclarariver.org](http://www.santaclarariver.org)!

On behalf of the SCRC Board, thank you and happy holidays.

Sincerely,



Charles Lester  
Executive Director  
Santa Clara River Conservancy  
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The Santa Clara River Conservancy is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit public benefit corporation. Tax-deductible contributions (Federal Tax ID # 27-0595246) can be mailed to:

The Santa Clara River Conservancy  
PO Box 789  
Santa Paula, CA 93061

Or you pay with a **credit card** on our website: [www.santaclarariver.org/donate](http://www.santaclarariver.org/donate).



*SCRC Board and Advisors, from left to right: Shawn Kelly, Gene Peck, Ron Merkord, Executive Director Charles Lester, Sandy Hedrick, Adam Lambert, Tom Dudley, Ken Blaich, Nancy Settle, and Julie Tumamait.*

**Donate**

