

**SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY
GRANT APPLICATION**

Project Name:
Santa Clara River Watershed Project Planning and Design

Amount of Request: \$ 400,000
Total Project Cost: \$ 400,000

Applicant Name:
Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority

Matching Funds: \$ 0
Lat/Long: N/A

Applicant Address:
570 West Avenue 26, Suite 100
Los Angeles, CA 90065

Project Address: N/A

County	Senate District	Assembly District
Los Angeles & Ventura	19, 21, 25, 27	36, 37, 38, 39

Phone: 310-589-3230, ext. 121
Email: chad.christensen@mrca.ca.gov

Tax ID: 77-0112367

Grantee's Authorized Representative:

Cara Meyer, Deputy Executive Officer
Name and Title

323-221-9944, Ext. 117
Phone

Overhead Allocation Notice:

- Any overhead costs will be identified as a separate line item in the budget and invoices.
- The Conservancy encourages grantees to reduce overhead costs including vehicle and phone expenses.
- The overhead allocation policy has been submitted prior to, or with, the grant application.

Outreach and Advertising Requirement:

- Applicant has read the staff report and board resolution regarding contract policies.
- Applicant has adopted contract policies for the purpose of increasing outreach and advertising to disadvantaged businesses and individuals.

All check boxes must be checked

Brief Project Description:

The MRCA requests Proposition 68 funding for Project Planning and Design (PP&D) work within three of 15 most critical regional habitat linkages defined in the South Coast Wildlands' Missing Linkage Report. These three habitat linkages are within the Santa Clara River watershed wholly within the Rim of the Valley Trail Corridor Zone. This project would lead to the direct protection of key water resources, riparian habitat, habitat buffer areas, wildlife corridors, and public recreation opportunities within the Santa Monica-Sierra Madre, Sierra Madre-Castaic, and San Gabriel-Castaic Linkages. CDFW has approved large scale Conceptual Area Protection Plans for all but the Sierra Madre-Castaic Linkage. This PP&D grant would be used to prepare projects for Wildlife Conservation Board funding, donations, and entitlement dedications, and other funding sources.

**attach additional pages with project detail*

Tasks / Milestones:

Project Planning and Design

Appraisal, Title Reports, and Appraisal Review

Budget:
\$ 315,000.00

\$ 85,000.00

Completion Date
December 2022

December 2022

For Acquisition Projects: APN(s): To Be Determined
Acreage: To Be Determined

I certify that the information contained in this Grant Application form, including required attachments, is accurate.


Signature of Authorized Representative

11-29-2018
Date

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NARRATIVE

The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) requests grant funding from the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access for All Act of 2018 (Proposition 68) through the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy's (Conservancy) Proposition 68 Grant Program for the Santa Clara River Watershed Project Planning and Design (Project) to protect lands within three of the 15 most critical regional habitat linkages identified by the South Coast Wildlands' Missing Linkages Report. The Project Area, defined in detail below, includes portions of the Santa Monica-Sierra Madre Linkage, Sierra Madre-Castaic Linkage, and San Gabriel-Castaic Linkage wholly within the Rim of the Valley Trail Corridor Zone.

The Santa Clara River (SCR) is the largest river system in Southern California remaining in a relatively natural state. The SCR corridor acts as a landscape linkage providing for east-west wildlife movement from the Pacific Ocean to the San Gabriel Mountains and north-south wildlife movement from the coastal Santa Monica Mountains to the inland Sierra Madre Mountains. The upper SCR watershed also forms an intermountain linkage between the Castaic Ranges and San Gabriel Mountains. Habitat loss and fragmentation are the leading threats to biodiversity in Southern California's South Coast Ecoregion. Strategically conserving and restoring functional connections between remaining habitat areas is a primary countermeasure to the adverse effects of habitat loss and fragmentation as well as an essential mitigation measure for climate change.

According to California's Fourth Climate Change Assessment (Fourth Assessment, 2018), climate change is projected to increase annual average maximum temperatures over 2°F by 2039. The Fourth Assessment also projects extended droughts punctuated by extreme precipitation events and increased burn areas associated with regional wildfires. This Project will help MRCA staff identify the climate change related risks to lands within the Project Area in order to inform future interactions with landowners and other public agencies.

The intent of the proposed Project Planning and Design (PP&D) grant is to prepare projects for Wildlife Conservation Board funding, private donations, entitlement dedications, and other funding sources to preserve strategic properties from development and protect key open space lands in the watershed that will buffer the SCR mainstem as well as its United States Geologic Survey (USGS) blue line tributaries. Key water sources are riparian refuges for mammals of all sizes, birds and raptors, amphibians, and reptiles—especially in times of drought when specific reaches of these watersheds and sub-watersheds are dry. Public acquisition will fulfill multiple objectives that incorporate natural stormwater infiltration, habitat conservation, and carbon sequestration. Land preservation limits further encroachments at the interface between wildland and development. An additional benefit of this Project is the potential for increased public access in this relatively natural watershed with ecologically rich streams and riparian habitats of high interpretive value. This Project is eligible for the

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Conservancy’s Proposition 68 Grant Program as a Resource Protection and Restoration Project.

Monitoring and reporting on the progress and effectiveness of the project will occur via written project status reports.

Description of Project Area

The Project Area consists of lower (West Project Area) and upper (East Project Area) portions of the SCR watershed and adjoining sub-watersheds listed below in Table 1. These are all large, ecologically-important areas in close proximity to development near Santa Paula and Fillmore in the lower portion of the watershed and between Santa Clarita and Acton in the upper portion of the watershed. The Project Area is topographically diverse and supports a multitude of soils and microclimates that maintain regional biodiversity of species that must shift their ranges in response to climate change. Riparian systems, because they provide connectivity between habitats and across elevation zones, will be especially important to allow species to respond and adapt to exigent threats posed by climate change.

The East Project Area and West Project Area include the following SCR watershed reaches and sub-watersheds in both Ventura and Los Angeles Counties:

Project Area	Acreage	SCR Reach or Sub-watershed	County
East Area	12,498	SCR Reach 13	Los Angeles
		Bobcat Creek	Los Angeles
		Long Creek	Los Angeles
		Nellus Creek	Los Angeles
		Agua Dulce Creek	Los Angeles
West Area A	33,905	SCR Reaches 4-8	Ventura
		Sespe Creek	Ventura
		Shiells Creek	Ventura
		Calumat Creek	Ventura
		Frey Creek	Ventura
		Wiley Creek	Ventura
		Pole Creek	Ventura
		Haines Creek	Ventura
		Fairview Creek	Ventura
		West Area B	
Tapo Creek	Ventura		
Salt Creek	Ventura and Los Angeles		
Total	46,403	Project Area	

The Project Area, described in further detail below and in the attached exhibits, is focused around strategic open spaces that are in close proximity to a water source. Throughout the greater SCR watershed, increased development within, or near, the floodplain threatens these water sources and their associated riparian habitat. Developments in the upper reaches of sub-watersheds also increases the threat to seasonal water sources that are more susceptible to adverse impacts related to climate change. In anticipation of extended, climate-fueled droughts throughout Southern

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California, it is imperative to protect the remaining natural water resources that sustain the region's habitat and wildlife.

The headwaters of the SCR is at Pacifico Mountain in the San Gabriel Mountains of Los Angeles County. Approximately 40-percent of the SCR is located in Los Angeles County and represents the upper watershed. The remaining 60-percent of the SCR is located in Ventura County and represents the lower watershed. In total, the SCR flows westward for approximately 84 miles and drains a total area of roughly 1,634 square miles (1,045,760 acres).

East Project Area – Upper Santa Clara River

The East Project Area contains 12,498 acres and is bordered on the south by the Angeles National Forest. State Route 14 (SR-14, a.k.a. Antelope Valley Freeway) forms the northern and northwestern border of the East Project Area. Bobcat Canyon forms the northeastern border of the East Project Area. The western extent of the East Project Area is comprised of the SCR floodplain and southerly adjacent hillside approximately 1.5 miles east of Sand Canyon Road.

Sub-watersheds of the East Project Area include Bobcat Canyon, Long Canyon, Nellus Canyon, and Agua Dulce Canyon south of SR-14.

West Project Area – Lower Santa Clara River

The West Project Area contains 33,905 acres and is divided into two sub-areas: West Area A and West Area B.

West Area A consists of the SCR mainstem channel from approximately 0.85 miles east of Los Angeles Avenue (SR-118) to Hopper Canyon east of. Near Fillmore, West Area A includes Sespe Creek and the western portion of Sespe Creek's floodplain. Sespe Creek is designated as a National Wild and Scenic River and a National Scenic Waterway.

In addition, West Area A includes an approximate 3.5 mile wide north-south corridor of Shiells Canyon, Calumat Canyon, Frey Canyon, and Wiley Canyon south of the SCR mainstem connecting to Pole Canyon, Haines Canyon, Fairview Canyon, and Hopper Canyon north of the SCR mainstem. These northern canyons drain the area south of Hopper Mountain encompassed within the Sierra Madre-Castaic Linkage.

West Area B consists of the hillsides between Tapo Canyon (Ventura County) and Salt Canyon (Los Angeles County) and the southerly floodplain of the SCR mainstem between Tapo Canyon Road (Ventura County) and Pico Canyon Road (Los Angeles County). These areas are all within the Santa Monica-Sierra Madre Linkage.

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BUDGET

The proposed grant request to the Conservancy's Proposition 68 Grant Program is for a total of \$400,000. All work will be performed by MRCA staff with the exception of real estate appraisals and title reports.

TIMELINE

The proposed grant expenditure for PP&D work to prepare projects for Wildlife Conservation Board funding, private donations, and entitlement dedications (among other funding sources) will continue through December 2022.

RESPONSE TO EVALUATION CRITERIA

The Project achieves multiple purposes of Proposition 68 per Public Resource Code Section 80001(b) and several Strategic Goals and Common Ground principles of the Conservancy.

Prioritization Value

Project achieves 80001(b)(4) by providing urban recreation and protecting or restoring natural resources.

The proposed Project will result in public benefits arising from the planning and design of land acquisition and protection projects and subsequent habitat restoration projects located in the SCR watershed's Project Areas. These Project Areas include three of the 15 most critical regional habitat linkages defined in the South Coast Wildlands' Missing Linkage Report: Santa Monica-Sierra Madre Linkage, Sierra Madre-Castaic Linkage, and San Gabriel-Castaic Linkage.

Project achieves 80001(b)(6) by having already obtained all required permits and entitlements.

No permitting is required for the proposed Project.

Project achieves three or more actions listed in 80001(b)(8)(A through G).

Public relations are an integral part of any public park, recreation, and/or open space preservation agency. As part of regular employee duties, the MRCA has dedicated staff to promoting agency activities including the preservation and protection of natural lands and open spaces through social media and multilingual material. Identifying willing sellers and working in coordination with local stakeholders is integral for the preservation and protection of high-priority wildlife corridor parcels within the Santa Clara River Enhancement and Management Plan (SCREMP) area, Santa Monica-Sierra Madre Linkage, Sierra Madre-Castaic Linkage, and San Gabriel-Castaic Linkage.

Project achieves more than one of the Conservancy's Strategic Objectives.

The proposed Project will fund MRCA staff time and related expenses (appraisals, title reports, etc.) to facilitate land acquisitions and conservation easements for habitat protection/enhancement, open space recreational opportunities, and greenbelt preservation within the Project Areas shown in Table 1 and attached maps. The Project Areas is wholly within the Rim of the Valley Trails Corridor Master Plan and the Santa Clara River watershed.

Project achieves more than one of the Conservancy's Common Ground guiding principles.

The proposed Project Area incorporates two sections of the SCR watershed residing in Ventura and Los Angeles Counties. Building on the multi-agency prepared SCREMP as well as the South Coast Wildlands' Missing Linkages Report, this Project will facilitate

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land acquisitions and conservation easements for habitat protection/enhancement, open space recreational opportunities, and greenbelt preservation within the Project Area.

Category Value

The project will provide benefits to multiple values including water, recreation, habitat, and interpretation of natural resources.

This Project will develop plans to preserve and protect riparian and riparian-connected upland habitat areas within the Project Area. Riparian systems, because they provide connectivity between habitat areas and across elevation zones, are especially important to allow species to respond and adapt to climate change. Riverine systems will also benefit from preservation and buffering from development. Additional opportunities for public recreation, including opportunities near Disadvantaged Communities in the West Project Area, will also be made possible through these PP&D efforts.

The site lies wholly within a large block of undisturbed core habitat.

The Project Area consists of lands within the SCR watershed, and sub-watersheds, identified in Table 1 and attached maps. These lands represent predominantly undisturbed core habitat of the Santa Monica-Sierra Madre Linkage, Sierra Madre-Castaic Linkage, and San Gabriel-Castaic Linkage.

At least one-fourth of the site is located within a designated ecologically sensitive watershed or significant ecological area.

The Project Area is within the Santa Monica-Sierra Madre Linkage, Sierra Madre-Castaic Linkage, and San Gabriel-Castaic Linkage. In Los Angeles County, significant portion of the East Project Area are within the County designated Santa Clara River SEA and drain entirely into the Santa Clara River SEA. In Ventura County, the Project area is entirely within the County recognized Santa Monica-Sierra Madre Regional Wildlife Corridor and Sierra Madre-Castaic Regional Wildlife Corridor.

The site contains largely undisturbed communities with moderate to high species diversity.

Western portions of the SCR floodplain parcels within the Project Area are dominated by Southern Riparian Scrub and Southern Willow Scrub. Sub-watersheds of the western Project Area also contain Southern Mixed Riparian Forest, Southern Coast Live Oak Riparian Forest, California Walnut Woodland, Southern Sycamore Alder Riparian Woodland, and Valley Oak Woodland.

Eastern portions of the SCR floodplain parcels within the Project Area are dominated by Southern Riparian Scrub and Alluvial Fan Sage Scrub. Sub-watersheds of the eastern Project Area also contain Southern Cottonwood Willow Riparian Forest, Alluvial Fan Sage Scrub, and Southern Sycamore Alder Riparian Woodland.

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The Project Area supports a vast array of species ranging from unarmored threespine stickleback (UTS) to least Bell's vireo to mountain lion, among other species, within the many habitat types identified herein.

Project will benefit specially protected species pursuant to the California Wildlife Act of 1990.

Mountain lion mortality, inbreeding and declining health are all well documented effects of habitat fragmentation. This Project will identify key properties of natural habitat and open spaces in order to preserve those properties and protect regional wildlife corridors. The western Project Area represents combined overlay of the Santa Monica-Sierra Madre Linkage and Sierra Madre-Castaic Linkage within the SCR watershed. Acquisition of properties in the western Project Area will have direct benefit to the local mountain lion populations in the Santa Monica Mountains, Sierra Madre Mountains, and Castaic Range Mountains. The eastern Project Area represents the San Gabriel-Castaic Linkage within the SCR watershed. Acquisition of properties in the eastern Project Area will have direct benefit to the local mountain lion populations in the San Gabriel Mountains and Castaic Range Mountains. Preservation of high quality habitat in the West and East Project Areas will promote mountain lion genetic diversity throughout Southern California's South Coast Ecoregion.

The site has documented use by State or Federally-listed animal species.

As stated above, the Santa Clara River is the largest river system in Southern California remaining in a relatively natural state. The below Table 2 is based on a summary of the SCREMP findings published in 2005 in addition to documented CNDDDB information.

Species	Listed Status	Habitat Requirements	Habitat within Watershed
Fish			
Southern steelhead trout <i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i>	Federal: Endangered State: none Other: AFS ¹ Endangered	Saltwater; spawning occurs in fall/winter in the headwaters of freshwater coastal streams with gravel bottoms.	Active channel from mouth of SCR to Piru Creek including Sespe Creek and Santa Paula Creek
Arroyo chub <i>Gila orcutti</i>	Federal: none State: none Other: USFS ² Sensitive, CDFW ³ Species of Concern, AFS Endangered	Sand- and mud-bottomed flowing pools and runs of headwaters, creeks and small to medium rivers. Occasionally found in intermittent streams.	Active channel from mouth of river to Los Angeles County aqueduct crossing
Unarmored threespine stickleback <i>Gasterosteus aculeatus williamsoni</i>	Federal: Endangered State: Endangered Other: CDFW Fully Protected, AFS Endangered	Weedy pools and backwaters or among emergent plants along edges of streams where water stays below 23-24°C; prefer bottoms of sand or mud.	Active channel from the confluence of Piru Creek east to Acton
Santa Ana sucker <i>Catostomus santaanae</i>	Federal: Threatened State: none Species of Concern Other: AFS Threatened	Clear, cool, rocky and gravelly streams.	Active channel from Santa Paula east to Acton
Amphibians and Reptiles			
Arroyo toad <i>Bufo californicus</i>	Federal: Endangered State: none Other: CDFW Species of Concern, IUCN ⁴ Endangered	Restricted to rivers with shallow, gravelly pools adjacent to sandy terraces	Active channel in Sespe & Piru Creeks; active channel and riparian woodlands and forests from LA County line to Acton

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Species	Listed Status	Habitat Requirements	Habitat within Watershed
California red-legged frog <i>Rana aurora draytonii</i>	Federal: Threatened State: none Other: CDFW Species of Concern, IUCN Vulnerable	Intermittent cold water streams, especially those with dense cover of cattails, rushes, and willows shading water surface; water at least 0.7m deep must be available.	Freshwater marshes; active channel and riparian scrubs, woodlands, and forests from mouth of Soledad Canyon east to Acton
Foothill yellow-legged frog <i>Rana boylei</i>	Federal: none State: Candidate Threatened Other: BLM ⁵ Sensitive, USFS Sensitive, CDFW Species of Concern, IUCN Near Threatened	Streams or river with rocky substrate and sunny banks	Active channel in Sespe & Piru Creeks
Western pond turtle <i>Emys marmorata</i>	Federal: none State: none Other: BLM Sensitive, CDFW Species of Concern, IUCN Vulnerable, USFS Sensitive	Ponds, small lakes, reservoirs, and slow-moving streams	Active channel, freshwater marsh, and in man-made ponds (e.g. water cress ponds, duck ponds, etc.) within the floodplain of the SCR
Silvery legless lizard <i>Anniella pulchra pulchra</i>	Federal: none State: none Other: CDFW Species of Concern, USFS Sensitive	Herbaceous layers with loose soil in coastal scrub, chaparral, and open riparian habitats; sand of washes and beach dunes are preferred for burrowing and logs and leaf litter are used for cover and feeding	Southern foredune, alluvial scrub, cottonwood/willow forest
Coast horned lizard <i>Phrynosoma coronatum blainvillei</i>	Federal: none State: none Other: BLM Sensitive, CDFW Species of Concern	Associated with coastal sage scrub and riparian woodlands, especially areas of level to gently-sloping ground with well-drained, loose, or sandy soils	Alluvial scrub, coastal sage scrub, riparian woodlands, and forests
Two-striped garter snake <i>Thamnophis hammondi</i>	Federal: none State: none Other: BLM Sensitive, CDFW Species of Concern, USFS Sensitive	Highly aquatic; most commonly found in or near permanent water; occasionally found in small and intermittent streams with rocky beds	Riparian scrubs, woodlands, forests, and freshwater marsh
Coast patch-nosed snake <i>Salvadora hexalepis virgulata</i>	Federal: none State: none Other: CDFW Species of Concern	Inhabits grasslands, chaparral, sage scrub, and sandy and rocky areas on the lower slopes of mountains	Alluvial scrub and coastal sage scrub from Santa Paula Creek east to Acton
Riparian birds			
Least Bell's vireo <i>Vireo bellii pusillus</i>	Federal: Endangered State: Endangered Other: IUCN Near Threatened, NACBI ⁶ Yellow Watch List	Riparian habitat, usually in dense willow-dominated thickets	Mule fat scrub, willow scrub, willow riparian woodlands from near river mouth to Acton
Coastal California gnatcatcher <i>Poliophtila californica californica</i>	Federal: Threatened State: Species of concern Other: NACBI Yellow watch list	Scrub sage and grassland interface; gullies and drainages utilized for nest sites	Semi-open sage scrub co-dominated by California sagebrush
Southwestern willow flycatcher <i>Empidonax traillii extimus</i>	Federal: Endangered State: Endangered Other: NACBI Red Watch List	Riparian habitats along rivers, streams, or other wetlands where stands of willows, mule fat, arrow weed, or other riparian plants are present; often with an overstory of cottonwood.	Willow riparian woodland, cottonwood/willow riparian forest
Western yellow-billed cuckoo <i>Coccyzus americanus occidentalis</i>	Federal: Threatened State: Endangered Other: BLM Sensitive, NACBI Red Watch List, USFS Sensitive, USFWS ⁷ Birds of Concern	Restricted to dense riparian woodland during breeding	Willow riparian woodland, cottonwood/willow riparian forest

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Table 2			
Summary of Sensitive Species and Habitat Types Occurring within Project Area on the Santa Clara River			
Species	Listed Status	Habitat Requirements	Habitat within Watershed
Burrowing owl <i>Athene cunicularia</i>	Federal: none State: none Other: BLM Sensitive, CDFW Species of Concern, USFWS Birds of Concern	Ground squirrel burrows in fields or bare ground; floodplain scrub and riparian scrub	Floodplain and riparian scrub
Yellow warbler <i>Dendronica petechia brewsteri</i>	Federal: none State: none Other: CDFW Species of Concern, USFWS Birds of Concern	Requires riparian woodland for breeding, but may utilize a wide variety of trees during migration	Riparian scrubs, woodlands, and forests
Loggerhead shrike <i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>	Federal: none State: none Other: CDFW Species of Concern, USFWS Birds of Concern	Inhabits grasslands, agriculture, chaparral, and desert scrub	Riparian scrubs, woodlands, and forests
Yellow-breasted chat <i>Icteria virens</i>	Federal: none State: none Other: CDFW Species of Concern	Dense riparian woodlands in the coastal lowlands	Riparian scrubs, woodlands, and forests
Birds of Prey			
Sharp-shinned hawk <i>Accipiter striatus</i>	Federal: none State: none Other: CDFW Watch List	Woodlands, parks, and residential areas	Riparian scrubs, woodlands, and forests
Cooper's hawk <i>Accipiter cooperi</i>	Federal: none State: none Other: CDFW Watch List	Breeds in oak woodland habitats and southern cottonwood/willow riparian woodlands	Riparian scrubs, woodlands, and forests
Northern harrier <i>Circus cyaneus</i>	Federal: none State: none Other: CDFW Species of Concern	Prairie, slough, wet meadow, and marsh habitats; hunts over grassland, agriculture fields, and coastal and freshwater marshes	Riparian scrubs, woodlands, and forests up to mouth of Soledad Canyon
White-tailed kite <i>Elanus leucurus</i>	Federal: none State: none Other: BLM Sensitive, CDFW Fully Protected	Nests in riparian woodlands, particularly those comprised of coast live oak and sycamore, and forages over open areas and grasslands	Riparian scrubs, woodlands, and forests
Prairie falcon <i>Falco mexicanus</i>	Federal: none State: none Other: CDFW Watch List, USFWS Birds of Concern	Nests on cliff ledges; forages in open terrain	Cliffs, large trees, and rock outcrops from Agua Dulce to Acton
California condor <i>Gymnogyps californianus</i>	Federal: Endangered State: Endangered Other: CDF Sensitive, CDFW Fully Protected, NABCI Red Watch List	Rocky brushland, coniferous forests, and oak savannas	Cliffs, large trees, and rock outcrops from Sespe Creek to Piru Creek
Mammals			
Townsend's big-eared bat <i>Corynorhynchus townsendii townsendii</i>	Federal: none State: none Other: BLM Sensitive, CDFW Species of Concern, USFWS Sensitive, WBWG ⁸ High Priority	Mesic habitats; roosts in caves, mines, tunnels and buildings	May forage in riparian woodlands and scrubs along entire river
Western mastiff bat <i>Eumops perotis</i>	Federal: none State: none Other: BLM Sensitive, CDFW Species of Concern, WBWG High Priority	Riparian and brushland habitats; roosts in crevices in cliff faces, high buildings, trees and tunnels	May forage in riparian woodlands and scrubs along entire river
American badger <i>Taxidea taxus</i>	Federal: none State: none Other: CDFW Species of Concern	Grasslands and oak woodlands with friable soil	Woodlands and meadows

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Table 2
Summary of Sensitive Species and Habitat Types Occurring within Project Area on the Santa Clara River

Species	Listed Status	Habitat Requirements	Habitat within Watershed
Mountain lion <i>Puma concolor browni</i>	Federal: none State: none Other: CDFW Species of Concern	Riparian and brushland habitats	Riverwide, except areas of high urban development

- ¹ American Fisheries Society
- ² United States Forest Service
- ³ California Department of Fish and Wildlife
- ⁴ International Union for Conservation of Nature
- ⁵ Bureau of Land Management
- ⁶ North American Bird Conservation Initiative
- ⁷ United States Fish and Wildlife Service
- ⁸ Western Bat Working Group

The site contains a State or Federally-listed plant species.

As stated above, the Santa Clara River is the largest river system in Southern California remaining in a relatively natural state. The below Table 3 is based on a summary of the Santa Clara River Enhancement and Management Plan (SCREMP) findings published in 2005 in addition to documented CNDDDB information.

Table 3
Summary of Sensitive Species and Habitat Types Occurring within Project Area on the Santa Clara River

Species	Listed Status	Habitat Requirements	Habitat within Watershed
Plants			
Greata's aster <i>Symphyotrichum greatae</i>	Federal: none State: none Other: CNPS ¹ 1B.3	Mesic soils in broadleaf upland forest, chaparral, cismontane woodlands, and riparian woodland	Creek banks and seepages with open shade in Hopper Canyon and headwaters near Pacifico Mountain
Nevin's barberry <i>Berberis nevinii</i>	Federal: Endangered State: Endangered Other: CNPS 1B.1	Sandy or gravelly soils in chaparral, cismontane woodlands, coastal sage scrub, and riparian scrub	Alluvial scrub from Santa Paula east to Bouquet Canyon Road
Ojai fritillary <i>Fritillaria ojaiensis</i>	Federal: none State: none Other: CNPS 1B.2	Rocky slopes and river basins at elevations ranging from 900 feet to 1,500 feet	Uplands adjacent to the SCR in Ventura County
Payne's bush lupine <i>Lupinus paynei</i>	Federal: none State: none Other: CNPS 1B.1	Sandy soils of coastal scrub, riparian scrub, and valley and foothill grassland	Piru Creek and Tapo Creek in Ventura County
Peirson's morning-glory <i>Calystegia peirsonii</i>	Federal: none State: none Other: CNPS 4.2	Chaparral, chenopod scrub, cismontane woodland, coastal sage scrub, and lower coniferous forest	Uplands adjacent to the SCR
Plummer's mariposa-lily <i>Calochortus plummerae</i>	Federal: none State: none Other: CNPS 4.2	Granitic, rocky soils of chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub, and valley an foothill grassland	Ridges and slopes in coastal sage scrub and grasslands
San Fernando Valley spineflower <i>Chorizanthe parryi</i> var. <i>fernandina</i>	Federal: Candidate threatened State: Endangered Other: CNPS 1B.1	Sandy alluvium in coastal sage scrub and chaparral	Alluvial scrub from Santa Paula east to Soledad Canyon
Short-jointed beavertail <i>Opuntia basilaris</i> var. <i>brachyclada</i>	Federal: none State: none Other: CNPS 1B.2	Chaparral, pinyon-juniper woodland, and desert plant communities	Uplands adjacent to the upper reaches of the SCR in Los Angeles County
Slender-horned spineflower <i>Dodecahema leptoceras</i>	Federal: Endangered State: Endangered Other: CNPS 1B.1	Sandy alluvium in coastal sage scrub, cismontane woodland, and chaparral	Alluvial scrub from Santa Paula east to Soledad Canyon
Slender mariposa-lily <i>Calochortus clavatus</i> var. <i>gracilis</i>	Federal: none State: none Other: CNPS 1B.2	Chaparral, coastal scrub, and valley and foothill grassland	Uplands adjacent to SCR near Castaic and Soledad Canyon

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Species	Listed Status	Habitat Requirements	Habitat within Watershed
White rabbit-tobacco <i>Pseudognaphalium leucocephalum</i>	Federal: none State: none Other: CNPS 2B.2	Sandy, gravelly soils in chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub, and riparian woodland	River wash, floodplain scrub with open canopy in middle and lower reaches of SCR

¹ California Native Plant Society

The site has documented use by an animal species that is a candidate for State or Federal listing.

The above Table 2 documents three birds of prey occurring and one frog species within the Project Area as candidate species for State listing: sharp-shinned hawk (*Accipiter striatus*), Cooper’s hawk (*Accipiter cooperi*), prairie falcon (*Falco mexicanus*), and foothill yellow-legged frog (*Rana boylei*).

The site contains a plant species that is a candidate for State or Federal listing.

The above Table 3 documents three plant species occurring within the Project Area as candidate species for State listing: San Fernando Valley spineflower (*Dodecahema leptoceras*), short-jointed beavertail (*Opuntia basilaris* var. *brachyclada*), and Ojai fritillary (*Fritillaria ojaiensis*).

The site contains a plant species that is rare or unusual in the region.

The California Native Plant Society (CNPS) *Inventory* identifies ten rare or unusual plant species documented to occur within the Project Area: white rabbit-tobacco (*Pseudognaphalium leucocephalum*), slender mariposa-lily (*Calochortus clavatus* var. *gracilis*), slender-horned spineflower (*Dodecahema leptoceras*), short-jointed beavertail (*Opuntia basilaris* var. *brachyclada*), San Fernando Valley spineflower (*Chorizanthe parryi* var. *fernandina*), Plummer’s mariposa-lily (*Calochortus plummerae*), Payne’s bush lupine (*Lupinus paynei*), Ojai fritillary (*Fritillaria ojaiensis*), Nevin’s barberry (*Berberis nevinii*) and Greata’s aster (*Symphyotrichum greatae*).

The site contains 10% greater cover of full canopy forest and/or oak woodland.

Based on CNDDDB analysis, approximately 11-percent of the more coastal West Project Area is comprised of full canopy forest and/or oak woodland. Within the East Project Area, approximately 1-percent of the area is covered with forest or woodlands.

The site contains high quality fresh water habitat and/or a perennial natural water source.

The Project Area is designed around the core habitat of the SCR that contains an extraordinary amount of high quality fresh water habitat. Over the course of its entire length, the SCR mainstem is a braided stream system of highly permeable sandy- and gravelly-material. The upper SCR watershed exhibits more perennial flow while middle and lower stretches of the SCR are often intermittent with a high water table and significant hyporheic flow.

Hyporheic flow is the percolating flow of water through sand, gravel, sediments and other permeable soils under and beside open streambeds. The hyporheic zone is where

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much of the water purification occurs due to high surface areas of the streambed substrate which acts as a natural filter due to long retention times and the presence of bacteria, insect larvae, and other small organisms that aid in purification. Trees, such as sycamores, alders, and cottonwoods, which extend their roots into the hyporheic zone are thus able to reach additional nutrients to support additional habitat and wildlife.

Southern steelhead trout, arroyo chub, Santa Ana sucker, and UTS are found in various portions of the SCR within the Project Area. Sespe Creek is designated as a National Wild and Scenic River and a National Scenic Waterway and supports significant spawning habitat for steelhead. MRCA's Stickleback River Ranch property within the East Project Area was recently used as a UTS relocation site for a population of UTS threatened by low-flow and intolerably high water temps in a San Diego County creek.

Acquisitions in the Project Area will help preserve and buffer these fresh water habitats and resources.

The site contains 10% or greater riparian habitat.

Based on CNDDDB analysis, approximately 14-percent of the more coastal West Project Area is comprised of riparian habitat. Within the inland East Project Area, approximately 2-percent of the area is comprised of riparian habitat.

The site contains an area of riparian or wetland habitat that integrates with upland habitat.

The vast majority of lands within the Project Area are undisturbed or minimally disturbed by development. However, the development that does exist within the Project Area is concentrated in, and near, the floodplain of the SCR mainstem. Preservation of the remaining open space lands connecting upland habitat to the SCR mainstem is integral to the continued health of the regional ecosystems.

The site supports substantial upland vegetative cover in a predominantly natural watershed.

The SCR is the largest river system in Southern California remaining in a relatively natural state. The Project Area consists of topographically diverse terrain within the Santa Clara River SEA, Santa Monica-Sierra Madre Linkage, Sierra Madre-Castaic Linkage, and San Gabriel-Castaic Linkage. CDFW has approved large scale Conceptual Area Protection Plans (CAPPs) for all but the Sierra Madre-Castaic Linkage. To qualify for inclusion within each CAPP, lands must provide live-in, and move-through, habitat for multiple species.

The project results in new public access to a natural resource with high interpretive and/or educational value, or enhances existing access.

The vast majority of lands within the West Project Area are private and inaccessible to the public. Some lands in the SCR floodplain are protected by non-profit land trusts; however, these protected lands are generally not open to the public. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) acreage provides public access to upland areas below Hopper Mountain while USFW's Hopper Mountain National Wildlife Refuge provides restricted

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access to additional acreage. The West Project Area abuts the MRCA-managed Happy Camp Canyon Regional Park and the privately held Newhall Ranch Open Space. MRCA staff will seek acquisitions in the West Project Area that connect Happy Camp Canyon Regional Park to Hopper Mountain, expand land preservation adjacent to Newhall Ranch, and increase public protection and access to SCR floodplain properties.

The East Project Area has significant public ownership through the City of Santa Clarita open space lands, BLM holdings, the Angeles National Forest and existing Santa Clarita Watershed Recreation and Conservation Authority (SCWRCA) and MRCA properties. Additional acquisitions by MRCA would enhance public access to these properties and further protect these natural resources from development and/or impacts related to climate change.

The project contains a link in a local trail system.

Numerous unofficial trails exist throughout the Project Area. Acquisition of lands with unofficial trails will provide immediate benefit to local trail networks by establishing legal public access to said trails. The 2005 SCREMP also documented public parkland deficiencies in unincorporated Ventura and Los Angeles Counties and the potential for public agencies to use the SCR as an opportunity for linear trails and additional parklands. This Project will help implement the SCREMP *Riverwide Recommendations* for additional public access and recreation along the SCR.

The project provides a high-quality access point for nearby open space, parkland, regional multi-modal trails, or water-based recreation, including suitable area for parking and restrooms.

A component of the proposed work by the MRCA is to recognize properties within the Project Area are most suitable to provide high-quality access points for existing and planned open spaces and parklands. Priority will be given to future projects that link with existing parks and open spaces or would provide opportunities for new facilities near existing recreational resources that lack adequate parking, restrooms or other day-use facilities.

The project protects critical viewsheds within a major trail corridor.

In the West Project Area, SR-126 is eligible for inclusion in the State Scenic Highway System but is not a Caltrans designated Scenic Highway. Acquisitions will help preserve viewsheds bellow Hopper Mountain leading into the Sespe Condor Sanctuary. Acquisitions leading up to Oak Ridge and Happy Camp Canyon Regional Park will preserve viewsheds south of the SCR.

In the East Project Area, both State Route 14 (SR-14) and Soledad Canyon Road are designated by Los Angeles County as Scenic Drives. The entire East Project Area is within the County's Rural Outdoor Lighting District (Dark Skies). Acquisitions will help maintain the scenic and rural character of the region for sight-seers along the Scenic Drives and hikers along the Pacific Crest Trail that traverses the East Project Area.

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The project alleviates stress on other overburdened recreational resources within a 0.5-mile radius.

The Project Area abuts several existing recreational areas including Happy Camp Canyon Regional Park, Hopper Mountain National Wildlife Refuge, Newhall Ranch Open Space, the Angeles National Forest, BLM lands, and several City of Santa Clarita open spaces as well as SCWRCA and MRCA properties. Acquisitions will provide additional protected habitat for local wildlife populations and wildlife populations adapting to climate change. Acquisitions within the Project Area will also provide increased opportunity for recreational resources adjacent to these existing parks and open spaces. The project itself does not alleviate such stress but contributes to actions that do so.

Project results in additional uses for users of a wide range of ability levels.

It is the purpose of this PP&D to catalog and determine which of the many properties within the Project Area are most suitable to provide high-quality recreational opportunities for the widest range of ability levels. Priority will be given to future projects that link with existing parks and open spaces or would provide opportunities for new facilities near existing recreational resources that lack adequate parking, restrooms or other day-use facilities.

The project contains multi-modal accommodations that will benefit hikers, cyclists, and equestrians.

A component of the proposed work by the MRCA is to recognize properties within the Project Area are most suitable to provide high-quality recreational opportunities for the widest range of users including hikers, cyclists, and equestrians. Priority will be given to future projects that link with existing parks and open spaces or would provide opportunities for new facilities near existing recreational resources that lack adequate parking, restrooms or other day-use facilities.

The project is designed to accommodate the needs of users from a variety of cultural and economic backgrounds.

Land preservation via public agency acquisition ensures that all culturally and economically diverse community members have access to high quality natural resources for recreation and/or passive enjoyment via scenic viewsheds. The Project also proposes land acquisitions that would support expanding local trail networks and day use facilities for residents and visiting tourists regardless of cultural background or economic status.

The site contains unique scenic elements: e.g. waterfalls; spectacular wildflower displays; geologic formations; vistas of scenic grandeur.

Numerous scenic vistas exist throughout the entire Project Area. Within the West Project Area, views from Oak Ridge provide panoramic views of the SCR valley, Topa Topa Mountains and Hopper Mountain. Sections of Sespe Creek, a Federally recognized Wild and Scenic River, are within the West Project Area.

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In the East Project Area, protruding rock outcrops including the Three Sisters Rock above Nellus Canyon offer striking views. While Vasquez Rocks Natural Area Park is north of SR-14 and the Project Area, similar rock formations within the East Project Area provide views of Vasquez Rocks and other area peaks.

The project provides a new vista point or overlook for a significant scenic viewsheds.

Numerous scenic vistas exist throughout the entire Project Area. Within the West Project Area, views from Oak Ridge provide panoramic views of the SCR valley, Topa Topa Mountains and Hopper Mountain. Sections of Sespe Creek, a Federally recognized Wild and Scenic River, are within the West Project Area.

In the East Project Area, protruding rock outcrops including the Three Sisters Rock above Nellus Canyon offer striking views. While Vasquez Rocks Natural Area Park is north of SR-14 and the Project Area, similar rock formations within the East Project Area provide views of Vasquez Rocks and other area peaks.

The site contains a suitable area for a planned major recreational facility—campground, picnic area, or interpretive center; with existing road access.

A component of the proposed work by the MRCA is to recognize properties within the Project Area that are most suitable to provide recreational and interpretive opportunities. Priority will be given to future projects that link with existing parks and open spaces or would provide opportunities for new facilities near existing recreational resources that lack adequate parking, restrooms or other day-use facilities.

Because the West Project Area contains California Department of Water Resources (DWR) identified disadvantaged communities, public acquisition of lands within the Project Area will allow disadvantaged community members the opportunity to have open space and natural lands preserved within their communities and greater access to recreational opportunities on public lands.

The site is easily accessible from urban communities and contains suitable areas for parking and restrooms.

SR-126 parallels the SCR within Ventura County and provides easy east-west transportation for urban communities to access, or approach, much of the West Project Area. Various existing public and private roads offer deeper access into each of the Project's West Area A and West Area B.

SR-14 and Soledad Canyon Road bound much of the East Project Area and provide easy transportation for urban communities to access, or approach, much of the East Project Area. Various existing public and private roads offer deeper access into the East Project Area.

PP&D activities will include analysis suitable areas for parking, restrooms and other day-use facilities.

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The site contributes to an existing or proposed corridor or greenway.

The Project Area consists of lands within the SCR watershed, and sub-watersheds, identified in Table 1 and attached maps. These lands represent predominantly undisturbed core habitat of the Santa Monica-Sierra Madre Linkage, Sierra Madre-Castaic Linkage and Gabriel-Castaic Linkage, and Santa Clara River SEA. Acquisitions will directly contribute to these regional habitat corridors of Ventura and Los Angeles Counties.

The majority of the site is part of a watershed draining directly into an ecologically sensitive protected area.

The Project Area consists of lands within the SCR watershed, and sub-watersheds, identified in Table 1 and attached maps. These lands represent predominantly undisturbed core habitat of the Santa Monica-Sierra Madre Linkage, Sierra Madre-Castaic Linkage, San Gabriel-Castaic Linkage, and Santa Clara River SEA.

The site directly abuts and increases the ecosystem function of a protected habitat area.

The Project Area consists of lands within the SCR watershed, and sub-watersheds, identified in Table 1 and attached maps. These lands represent predominantly undisturbed core habitat of the Santa Monica-Sierra Madre Linkage, Sierra Madre-Castaic Linkage, San Gabriel-Castaic Linkage, and Santa Clara River SEA. CDFW has approved large scale Conceptual Area Protection Plans (CAPPs) for all but the Sierra Madre-Castaic Linkage. To qualify for inclusion within each CAPP, lands must provide live-in, and move-through, habitat for multiple species.

The site directly contributes to the connection of two core habitat areas by serving as a habitat linkage or movement corridor for wildlife.

The South Coast Missing Linkages Project identified two primary north-south wildlife corridors through the Santa Susana Mountains that connect the Santa Monica Mountains to the Sierra Madre Mountains. The Project Area was designed to utilize the Santa Monica-Sierra Madre Linkage boundary within the SCR watershed to target key wildlife corridor and linkage parcels. East-west linkage was designed to include the Santa Clara River floodplain as a central corridor. Additional north-south linkage is provided by areas within the Sierra Madre-Castaic Linkage and San Gabriel-Castaic Linkage boundaries.

The site provides a location for an environmentally-significant riparian or wetland restoration project.

The Project Area consists of lands within the SCR watershed, and sub-watersheds, identified in Table 1 and attached maps. Numerous properties within the Project Area would provide significant opportunities for riparian and/or wetland restoration projects. A component of the proposed work by the MRCA is to recognize properties within the Project Area are most suitable to provide opportunities for habitat preservation through acquisition and to plan future restoration projects.

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The site contains substantial potential for restoration of natural vegetation.

The Project Area consists of lands within the SCR watershed, and sub-watersheds, identified in Table 1 and attached maps. Numerous properties within the Project Area would provide significant opportunities for restoration of natural vegetation. A component of the proposed work by the MRCA is to recognize properties within the Project Area are most suitable to provide opportunities for habitat preservation through acquisition and to plan future restoration projects.

The habitat is partially degraded but conditions are suitable for natural regeneration or restoration.

The Project Area consists of lands within the SCR watershed, and sub-watersheds, identified in Table 1 and attached maps. Numerous properties within the Project Area would provide significant opportunities for restoration of natural vegetation. A component of the proposed work by the MRCA is to recognize properties within the Project Area are most suitable to provide opportunities for habitat preservation through acquisition and to plan future restoration projects.

Implementation Value

Applicant has proven that implementation of the project is feasible.

The MRCA has acquired fee title to over 100,000 acres for natural resources conservation and manages over 75,000 acres of parkland. This PP&D grant will allow MRCA staff to continue the time intensive process of identifying and consummating the protection of key parcels within the Project Area.

Applicant has financial and technical capacity to perform project.

Existing MRCA staff has the expertise and capacity to undertake the necessary tasks to evaluate and negotiate on target properties, close acquisitions in a timely manner, and has decades of experience doing so.

Applicant, or active project partner, has successfully completed multiple projects of similar size and scope.

MRCA staff has utilized multiple PP&D grants to develop, fund, and close on scores of land interests including conservation easements over a broad area of Los Angeles and Ventura Counties. The MRCA has acquired fee title to over 100,000 acres for natural resources conservation and manages over 75,000 acres of parkland.

The project is a partnership between two or more organizations and each organization has committed to contributing toward project implementation.

This Project is based on the findings and implementation recommendations from the South Coast Missing Linkages Project and the Santa Clara River Enhancement and Management Plan that included participants from nearly 40 different agencies, organizations and academic institutions. In addition, MRCA and the Ventura County Watershed Protection District entered into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) in 2013 to coordinate efforts on habitat restoration projects and land acquisitions throughout

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each agency's overlapping jurisdiction—this MOA covers significant portions of the West Project Area.

Applicant has conducted outreach to the affected communities.

MRCA staff continues to participate in the South Coast Missing Linkages Project which supported the development of the Santa Monica-Sierra Madre, Sierra Madre-Castaic, and San Gabriel-Castaic Linkages. CDFW has approved large scale Conceptual Area Protection Plans (CAPP) for all but the Sierra Madre-Castaic Linkage. Inclusion of lands within a designated CAPP increases acquisition partnership opportunities through public, private, and philanthropic investments and provides opportunities for Federal and State matching funds.

Applicant, or project partner, has 1+ years of experience operating projects of similar size and scope.

The MRCA, founded in 1985, is a local public agency exercising joint powers of the Conservancy, the Conejo Recreation and Park District, and the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District. The agency's mission is to complement the work of these and other agencies in protecting land and public access in Los Angeles County and Ventura County mountains.

Applicant has identified maintenance funding for at least 2 years after completion.

The MRCA has a maintenance budget in excess of \$9.5 million. The sum resources of the agency are great enough to ensure long-term maintenance of agency property.

Climate Change Value

The project acquires, preserves, or restores natural areas at risk of development and quantifiably avoids emissions associated with development.

The Project Area covers approximately 46,403 acres of core habitat within the Santa Monica-Sierra Madre Linkage, Sierra Madre-Castaic Linkage, San Gabriel-Castaic Linkage, and Santa Clara River SEA. The SCR valley is undergoing enormous development pressures as the regional population continues to grow. Development proposals near the Ventura-Los Angeles County line and along the SR-14 corridor from Santa Clarita to Acton will continue habitat fragmentation and edge effects along the wildlands-development interface. Recent studies have also indicated that population growth in rural areas that experienced suburban development was associated with increasing emissions while population growth in the developed urban core was associated with stable emissions. Thus, preserving rural lands as open space is crucial to maintaining existing habitat and mitigating the effects of climate change.

The project contributes to tree canopy cover and/or greenways in urban areas to mitigate heat island effects and promote public health and recreation.

Project-related acquisitions will contribute to four of the Greater Los Angeles County Integrated Regional Water Management Plan's five objectives:

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- *Improve Water Supply* – through capturing stormwater via infiltration and groundwater recharge over the long term.
- *Improve Water Quality* – the prevention of development onsite would allow the generally unpolluted onsite surface water runoff to dilute any downstream concentrations of pollutants that may be found in the SCR¹.
- *Enhance Habitat* – by preventing development and protecting natural resources in perpetuity, allowing for habitat conservation and water quality enhancement opportunities.
- *Enhance Open Space and Recreation* – by converting properties to public ownership, which will allow for enhanced public access and recreation opportunities.

The project acquires and/or maintains wildlife corridors and linkages to provide connections between areas of undeveloped lands, particularly significant public lands and key habitat ecosystems.

The South Coast Missing Linkages Project identified two primary north-south wildlife corridors through the Santa Susana Mountains that connect the Santa Monica Mountains to the Sierra Madre Mountains. The Project Area was designed to utilize the Santa Monica-Sierra Madre Linkage boundary within the SCR watershed to target key wildlife corridor and linkage parcels. East-west linkage was designed to include the Santa Clara River floodplain as a central corridor. Additional north-south habitat connectivity is provided by areas within the Sierra Madre-Castaic Linkage and San Gabriel-Castaic Linkage boundaries.

The project engages local communities through outreach, education, and interpretation regarding long-term stewardship and climate change awareness.

Public relations are an integral part of any public park, recreation, and/or open space preservation agency. As part of regular employee duties, the MRCA has dedicated staff to promoting agency activities including the preservation and protection of natural lands and open spaces through social media and multilingual material. Identifying willing sellers and working in coordination with local stakeholders is integral for the preservation and protection of high-priority wildlife corridor parcels within the Santa Clara River SEA, Santa Monica-Sierra Madre Linkage, Sierra Madre-Castaic Linkage, San Gabriel-Castaic Linkage, and SCREMP area.

The project implements water saving technologies and techniques to yield quantifiable water and energy savings. Such techniques may include the use of drought-efficient landscaping, stormwater filtration, impervious surfaces, green roofs and other forms of water capture and storage.

Because the SCR valley region is one of the fastest growing areas in the State and is dependent on imported water to supplement limited groundwater resources, the SCREMP developed seven Riverwide Policies to preserve, enhance, and sustain water supply, water quality, water rights and groundwater recharge within the 500-year floodplain of the SCR. This Project will support five of the seven Riverwide Policies:

¹ The California Regional Water Quality Control Board designated various reaches of the SCR watershed as impaired, 303(d)-listed, for: nutrients (and related effects), bacteria, salts (chloride, total dissolved solids, and sulfate), trash, and legacy pesticides.

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- RP(1): Promote the acquisition of property from willing sellers in an effort to preserve and enhance beneficial uses of water within the SCR 500-year floodplain, improve quality of groundwater, and restore the diminished groundwater supplies.
- RP(4): Promote activities that will preserve and enhance the beneficial uses and discourage activities that lead to the degradation of water quality and alterations of the river that will significantly adversely impact the natural recharge of underlying aquifers from the river channel.
- RP(5): Support the regulation of groundwater pumping and continuation of water conservation and recharge activities as the feasible and appropriate means to address the saltwater intrusion problems on the Oxnard Plain.
- RP(6): Promote efficient use of water resources and maximize use of existing water supplies through water conservation.
- RP(7): Support enforcement of State Uniform Building Code, Chapter 70 (Excavation and Grading), to ensure that any proposed grading in a waterway or wetland is adequately investigated and that any development incorporates appropriate design provisions to protect waterways and wetlands.

Acquisition of Project Area properties will prevent future suburban development and related impacts to water quality and water quantity within the SCR valley. Properties acquired through this Project will retain native, drought-resistant vegetation and maintain stormwater infiltration on open space lands. Future habitat restoration, enhancement, or (re)creation projects would further enhance the SCR valley's aquifers regeneration via natural processes.

Additional Consideration

The site is subject to an imminent threat that would preclude future implementation value.

The long-proposed Newhall Ranch development directly threatens the Project's West Area B that straddles the Ventura-Los Angeles County line. Successful build-out of the Newhall Ranch community would over-burden SCR groundwater reserves and irreparably fragment a portion of the eastern Santa Monica-Sierra Madre Linkage wildlife corridor.

Development threats in the Project's East Area include the 180-acre Mancara Residential Project that abuts the western extent of the Project's East Area and would further degrade the SCR groundwater reserves and result in edge effect impacts. There are also several developed RV parks and campgrounds, mining operations, and other industrial uses within the Project's East Area. These uses disturb the natural flow of the SCR and disrupt important native habitat.

Additional development of single-family residences or small "ranchettes" on private lots throughout the Project Area would have similar negative effects on groundwater and habitat fragmentation. While it is important to keep wildlife and livestock and pets

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separate, the fencing associated with private development creates barriers for larger wildlife migration.

This Project will help prioritize which parcels are most susceptible for imminent development and prioritize which parcels with existing development would provide the most habitat benefit upon acquisition and restoration.

Project serves a disadvantaged community.

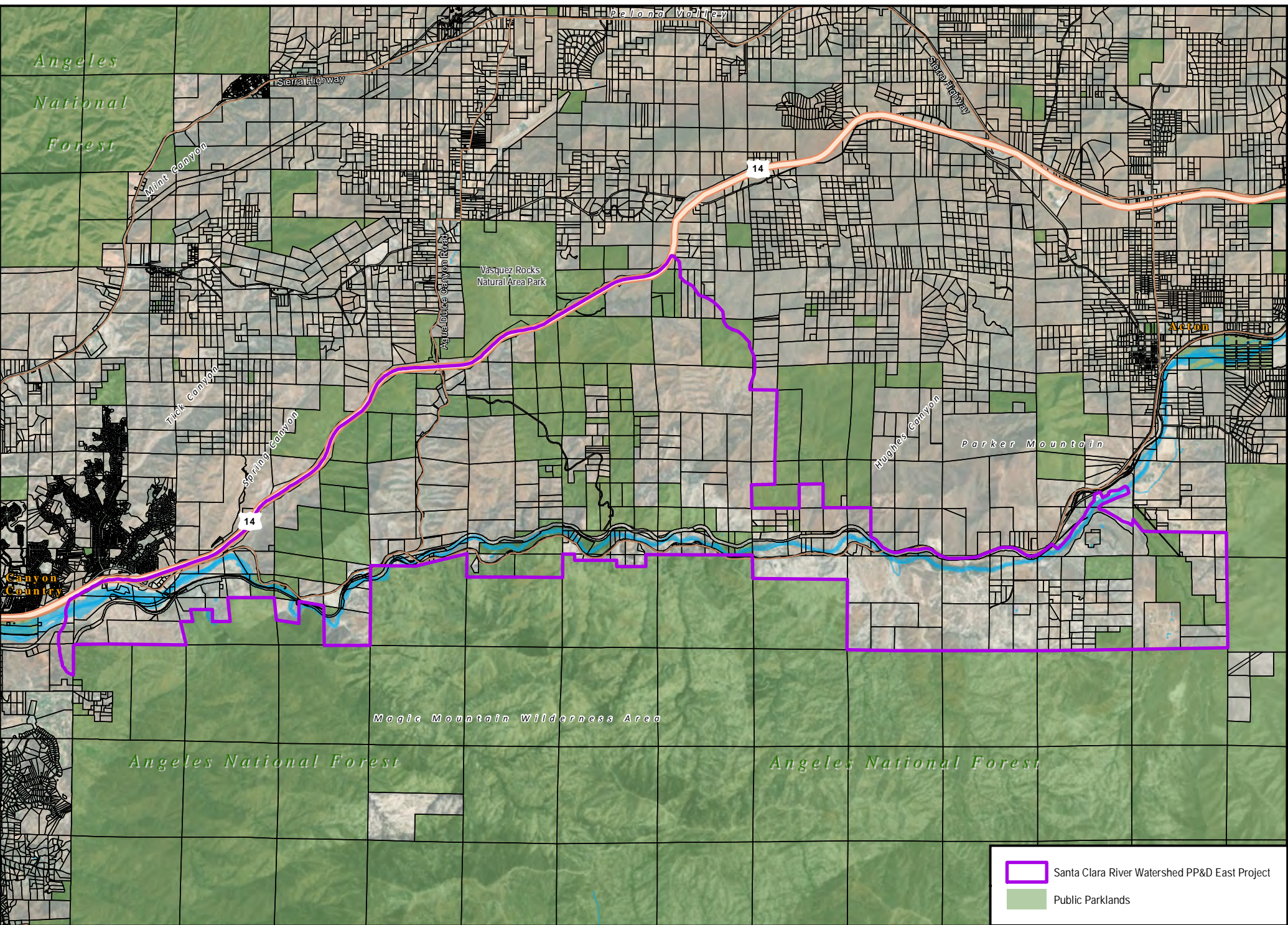
The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) operates an online disadvantaged community mapping tool (<https://gis.water.ca.gov/app/dacs/>) that shows the Project's West Area A and West Area B contain census block groups where the median household income (MHI) is below \$51,026 and therefore qualifies as a Disadvantaged Community. The portion of West Area B within Ventura County contains a census block group with MHI less than \$38,270 and therefore qualifies as a Severely Disadvantaged Community.

The Project will serve disadvantaged community members by targeting parcels within, and near, the associated census block(s) for public acquisition that will allow disadvantaged community members the opportunity to have open space and natural lands preserved within their communities and greater access to recreational opportunities on public lands.

Project serves a severely disadvantaged community.

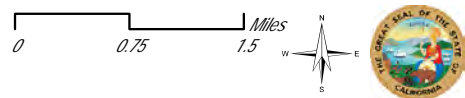
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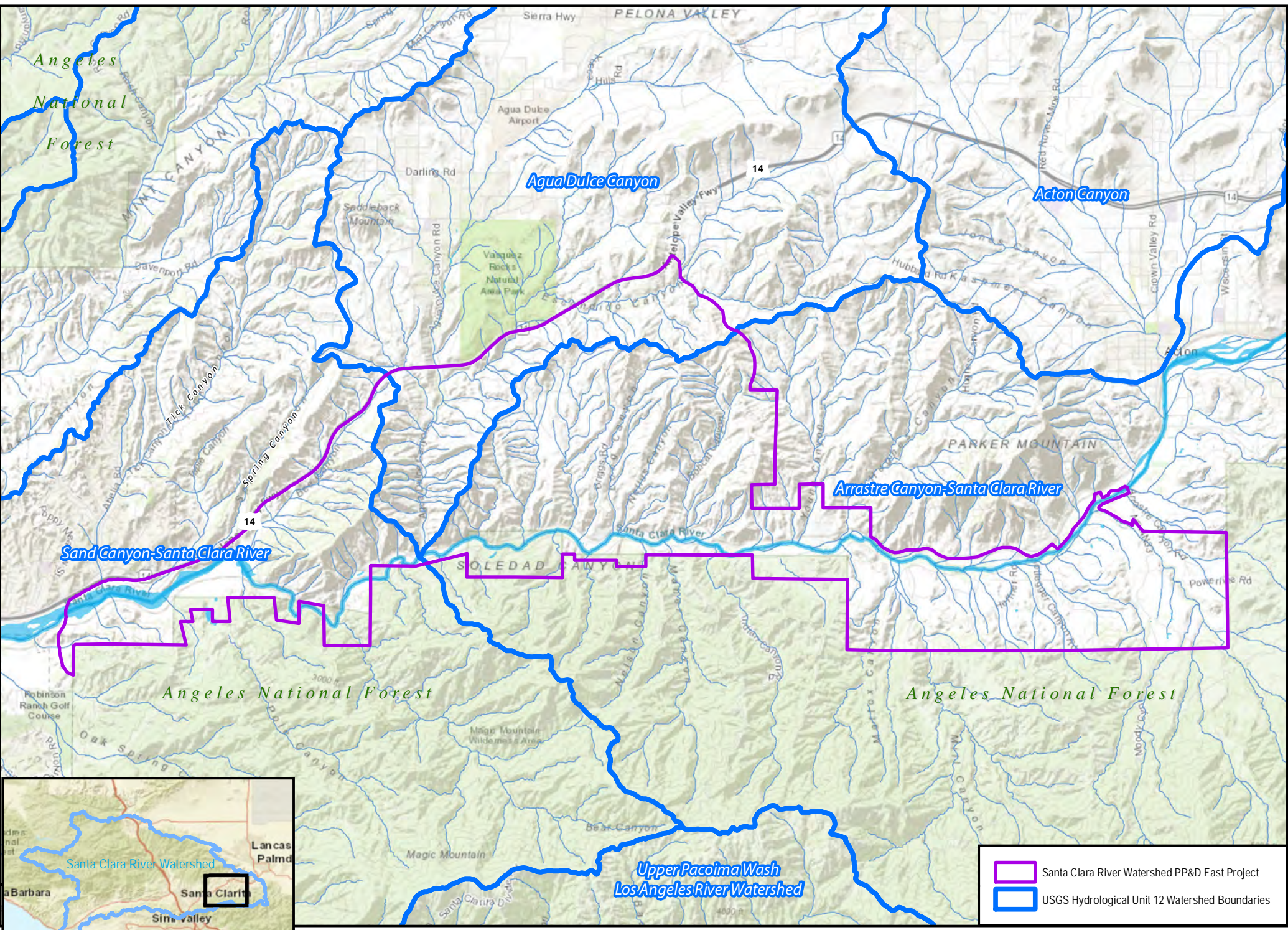
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Santa Clara River Watershed PP&D East Project
 Public Parklands

Santa Clara River Watershed Project Planning and Design- East Project Area Parcel Map

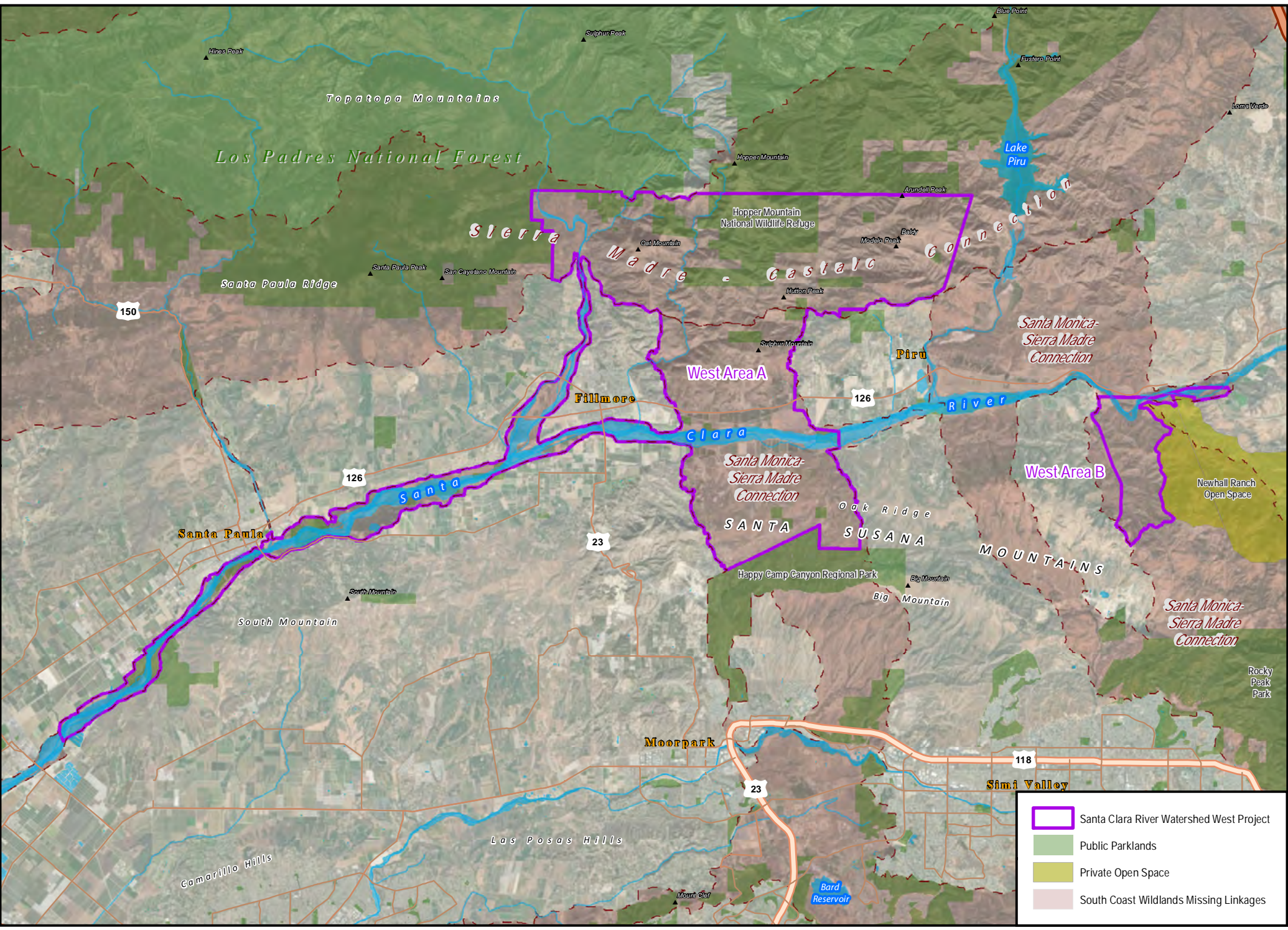







Santa Clara River Watershed PP&D East Project
 USGS Hydrological Unit 12 Watershed Boundaries

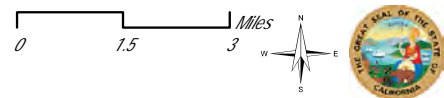
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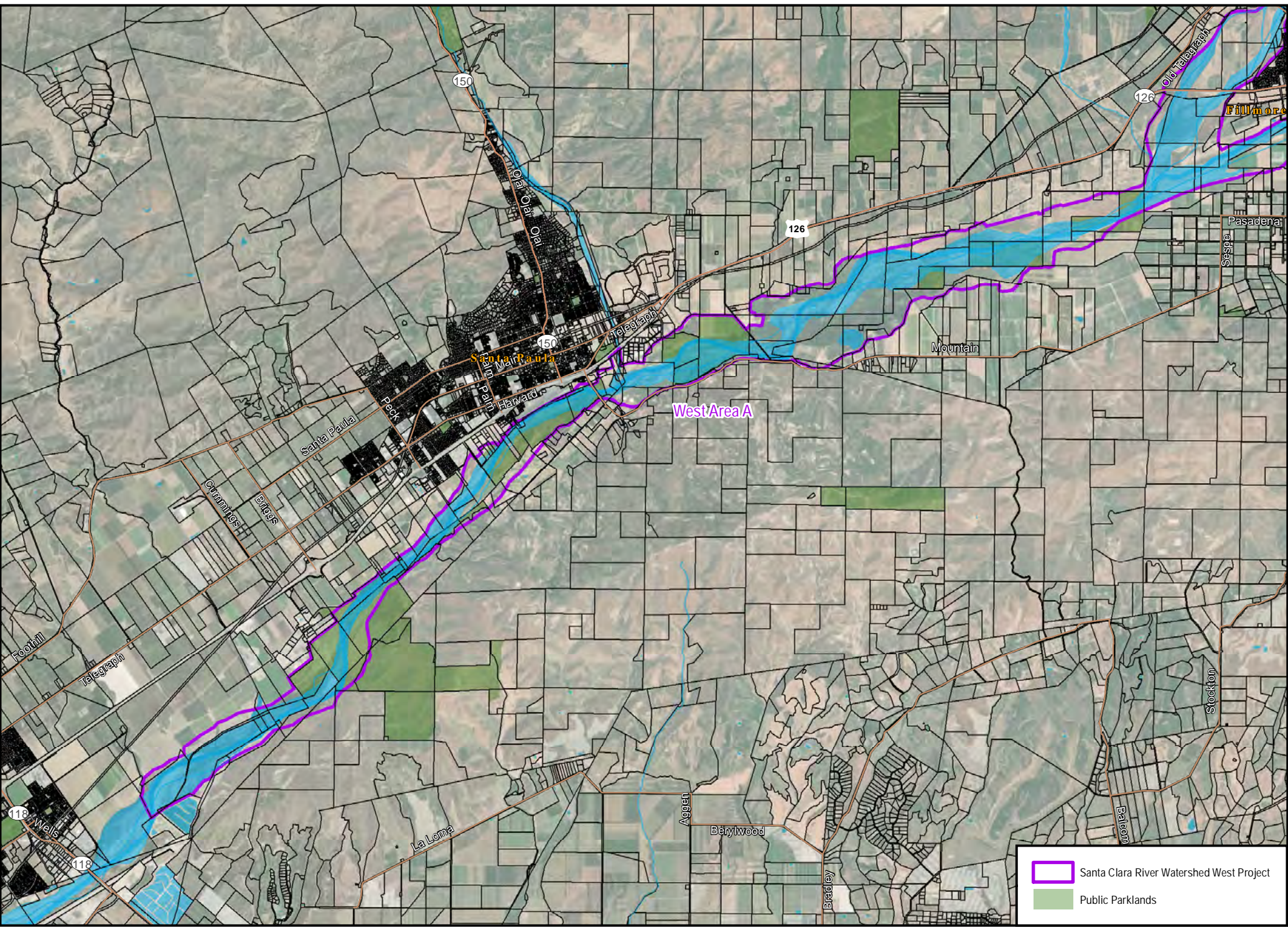
Santa Clara River Watershed Project Planning and Design- East Project Area Watershed Map



	Santa Clara River Watershed West Project
	Public Parklands
	Private Open Space
	South Coast Wildlands Missing Linkages



Santa Clara River Watershed Project Planning and Design - West Project Area Aerial Map

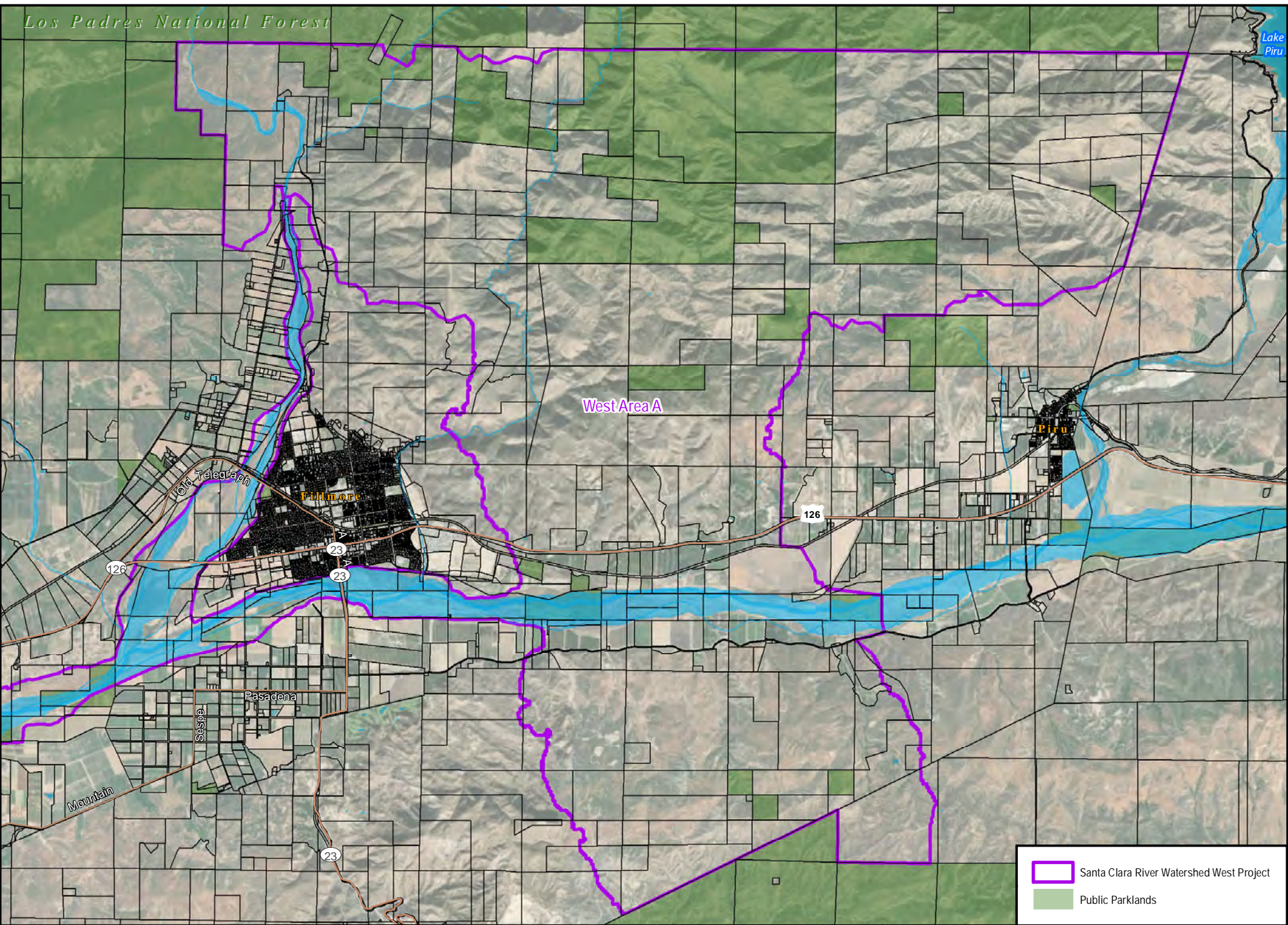




Santa Clara River Watershed West Project
 Public Parklands

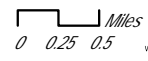
Santa Clara River Watershed Project Planning and Design - West Project Area Parcel/Aerial Map 1

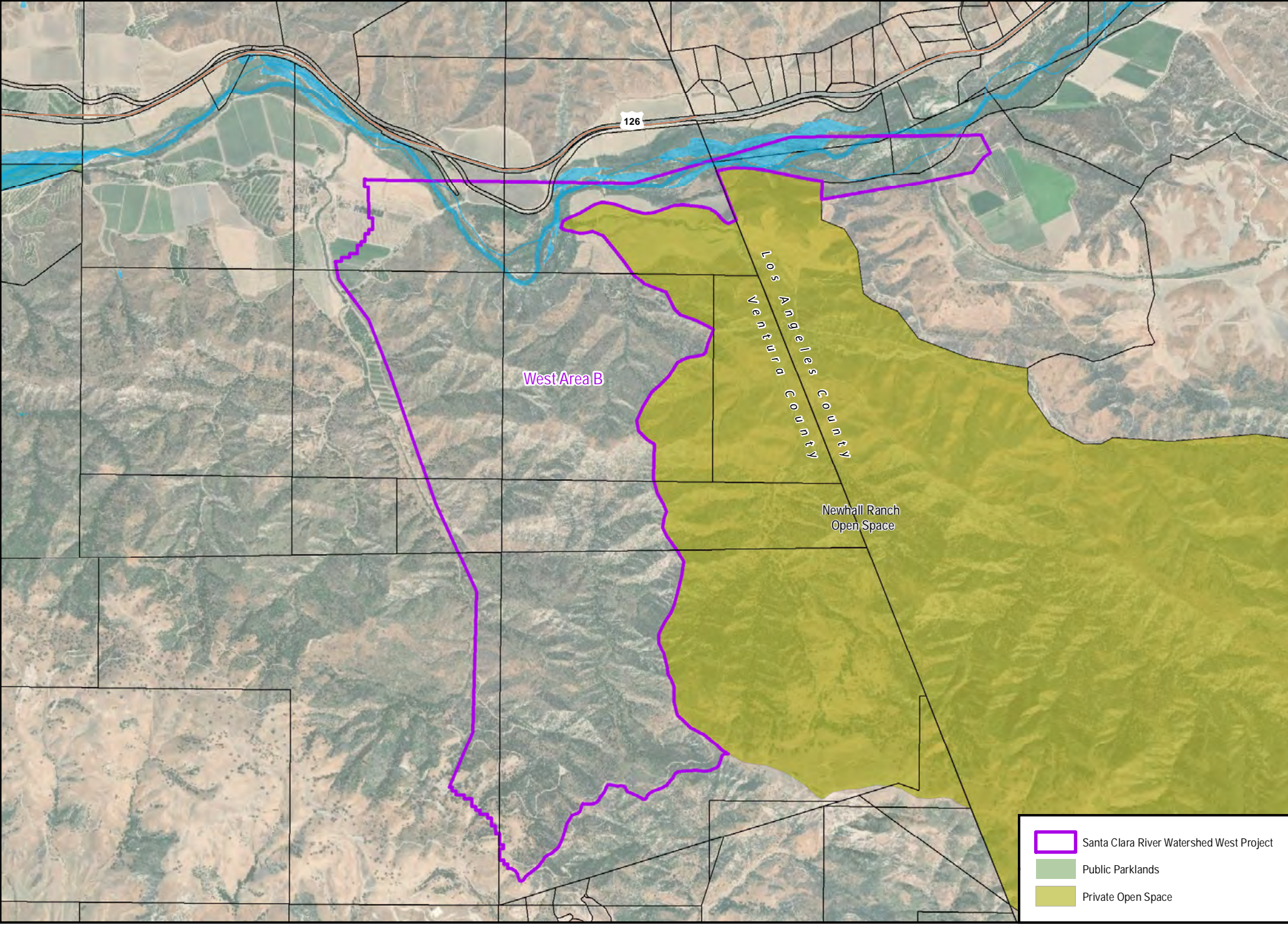
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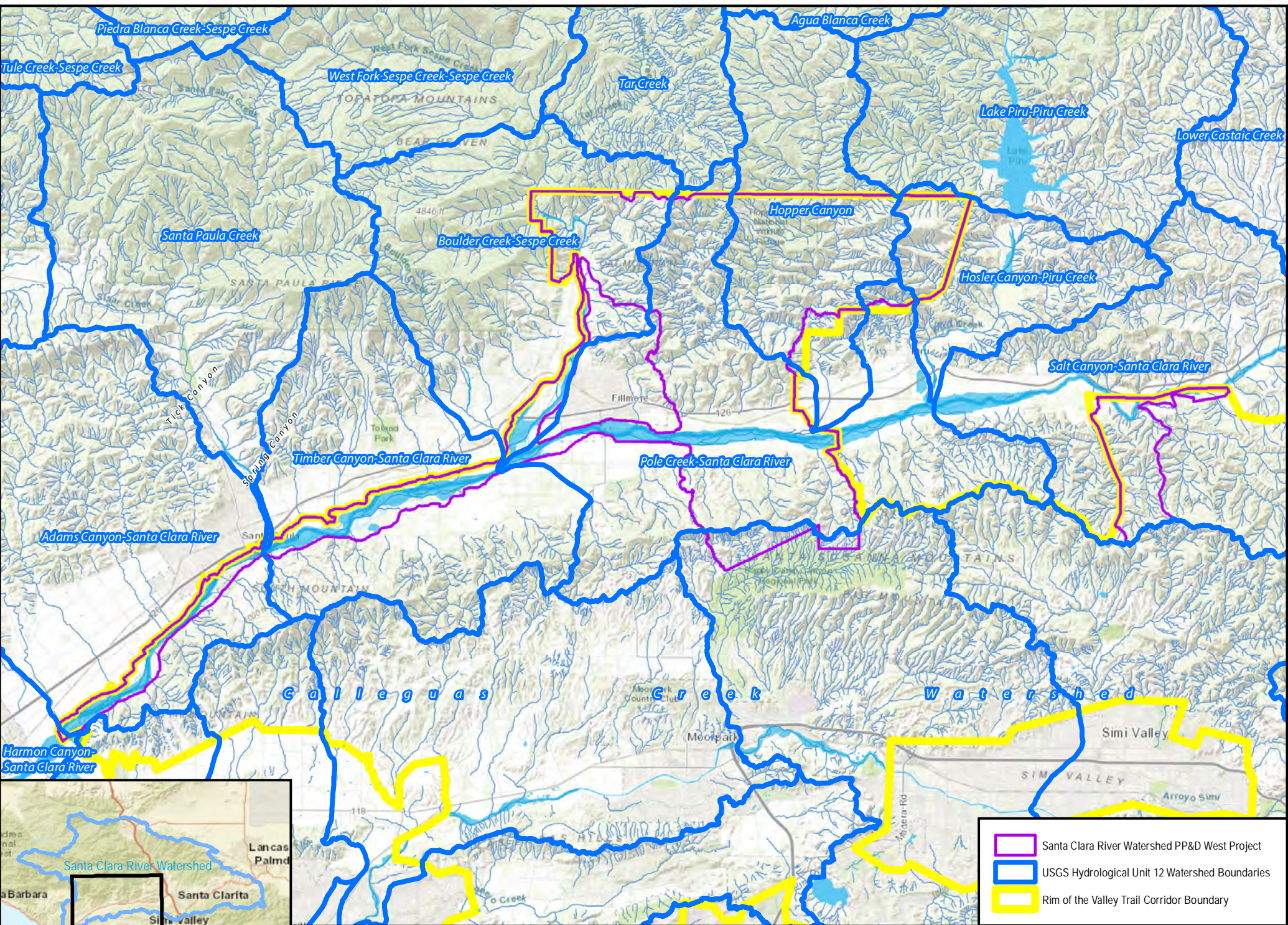
Santa Clara River Watershed West Project
 Public Parklands

Santa Clara River Watershed Project Planning and Design - West Project Area Parcel/Aerial Map 2





Santa Clara River Watershed Project Planning and Design - West Project Area Parcel/Aerial Map 3



- Santa Clara River Watershed PP&D West Project
- USGS Hydrological Unit 12 Watershed Boundaries
- Rim of the Valley Trail Corridor Boundary

Santa Clara River Watershed Project Planning and Design- West Project Area Watershed Map

