

## **Del Dios Gorge Riparian Restoration Project**

### **-- Fact Sheet --**

#### Scope of Project

The project area encompasses approximately 1.1 miles of the San Dieguito River corridor below the Lake Hodges dam, from Artesian Creek to Camino de Estrellas along Del Dios Highway. Approximately 21 acres of extremely dense eucalyptus will be removed. Native riparian vegetation is expected to re-establish from existing cover; the grant provides funding to plant additional native trees and shrubs.

#### Purpose & Benefits of Project

The project area is heavily impacted by extremely dense eucalyptus forest and other invasive species. Eucalyptus trees effectively displace native vegetation, eliminating critical wildlife habitat and biodiversity. The restoration work will benefit at least four special status migratory bird species, re-establish native riparian forest, decrease the risk of catastrophic fire in the narrow gorge, and significantly enhance the scenic value of the area for trail users.

#### Source of Funding

The project is being funded through a \$1,049,368 grant from the California Natural Resources Agency River Parkways program to the San Dieguito River Park Joint Powers Authority in 2010. \$873,000 of the grant funding is allocated to the riparian restoration element of the project and the remaining \$176,368 to various trail enhancements.

#### Methods

All work will be carried out by licensed professional contractors. Trees will be cut and removed by hand or with appropriate equipment. Downed trees will be processed into firewood or chipped. Tree stumps will be treated with herbicide to prevent regrowth. A watersafe herbicide formulation will be used where necessary.

#### Schedule of Work

The project period is from September 15, 2011, to January 10, 2014. Tree removal and revegetation will occur during the following times:

September 15, 2011 – March 15, 2012  
September 15, 2012 – March 15, 2013  
September 15, 2013 – January 10, 2014

#### Project Contacts

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