

Saratoga Creek Hazard Tree Removal and Restoration Project



Project Area

- 0.5 mi reach Saratoga Creek – Cox Ave. to Prospect HS ball field
- Groundwater recharge facility
- 104 eucalyptus trees, mostly along east bank
- 50% eucalyptus, 50% native canopy cover
- Limited access and staging options
- Tree removals and restoration only on Valley Water property
- Work areas



Why are we removing the eucalyptus?

- **Public Safety**

- 100+ ft tall trees adjacent to homes
- Declining health
- Wood decay fungi
- Fire hazard
- Utility lines
- Bank erosion
- Debris in creek



January 2019



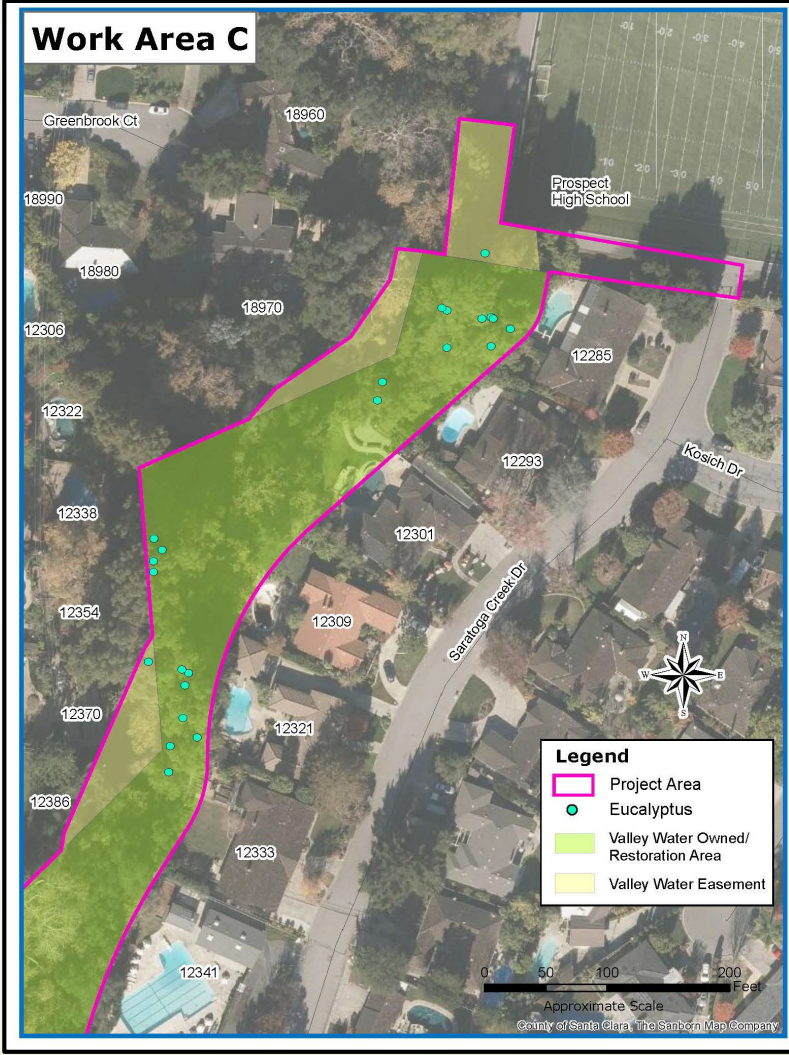
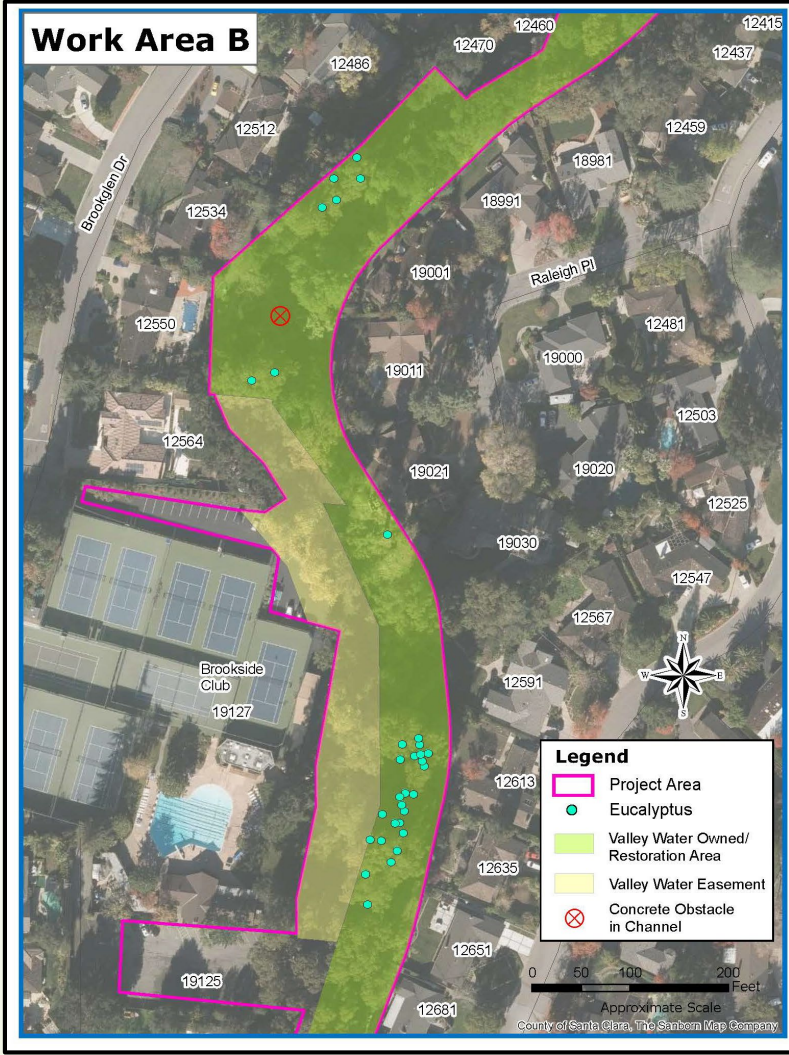
When and How?

- Phased removal over 3 years starting this summer/fall (2019)
- August - October
- Earthen ramps, in channel work with small equipment and tree climbers
- Large crane from opposite bank



April 2018

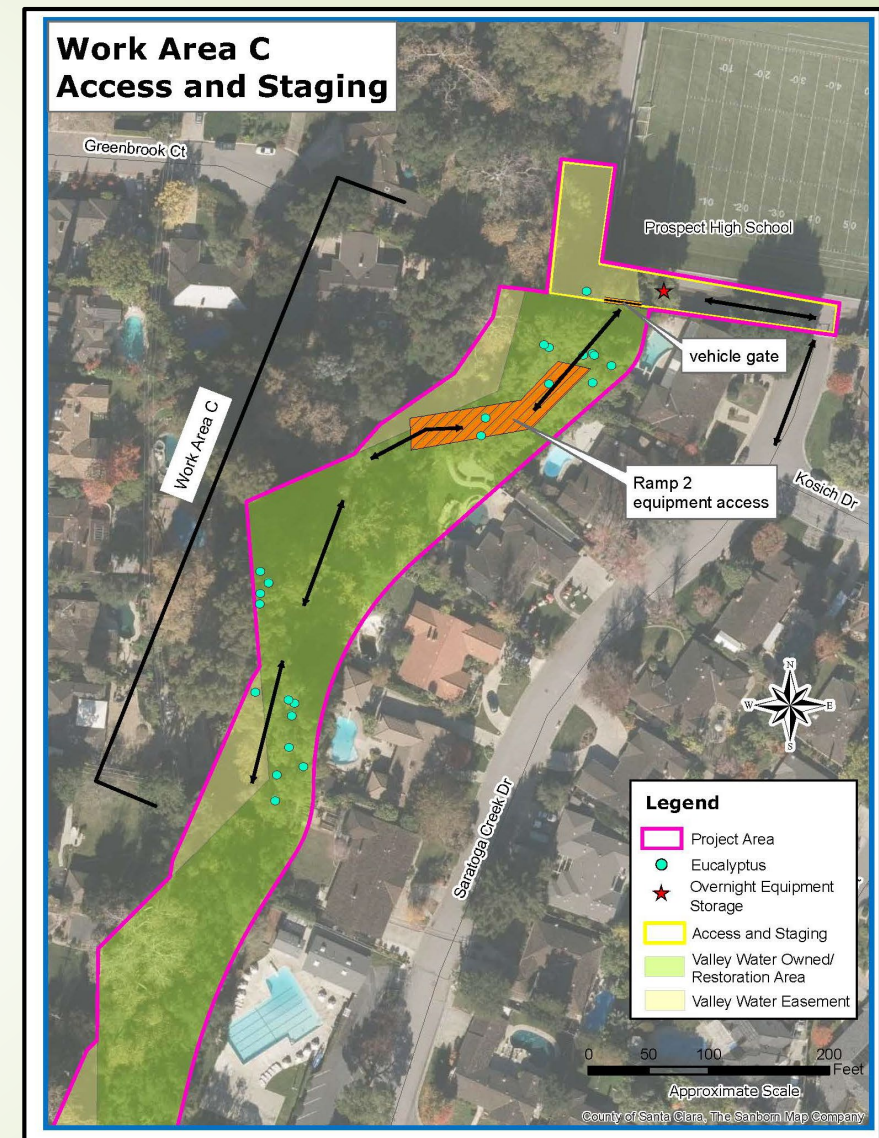
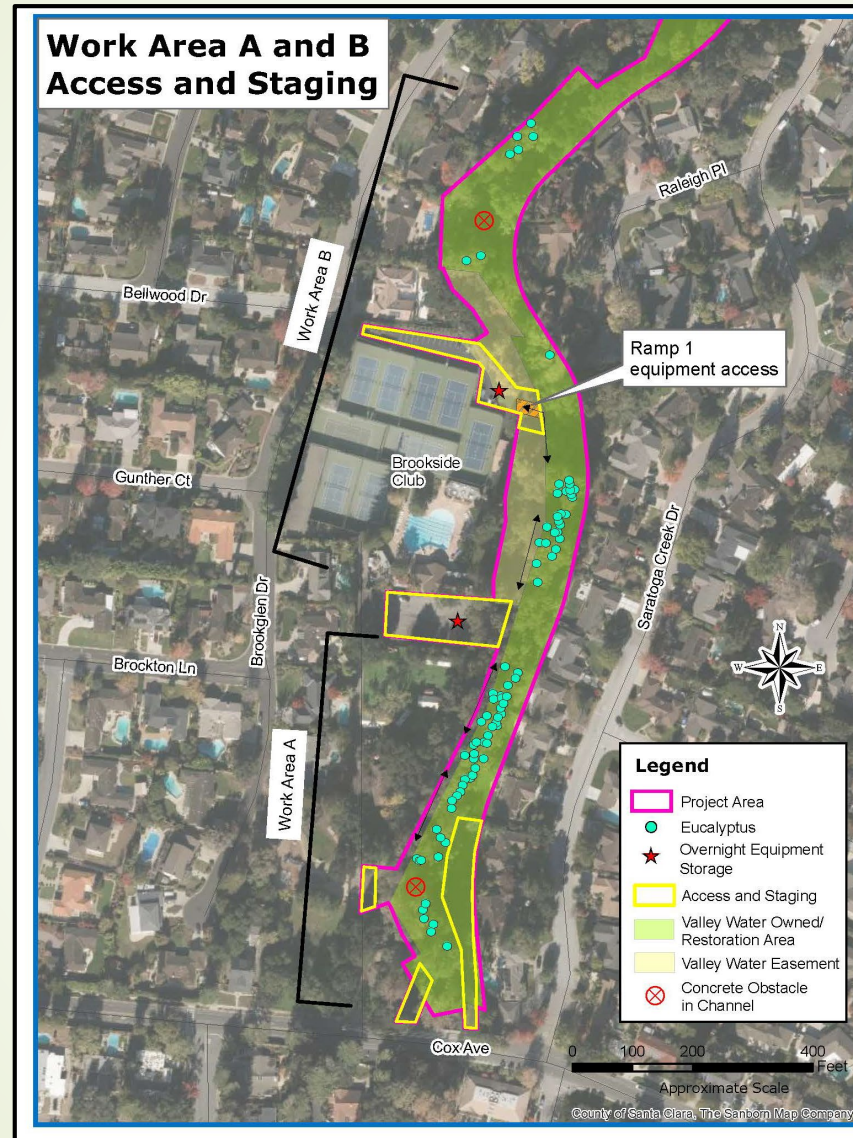
Work Areas



GIS themes are for illustration and general analysis purposes only and are not accurate to surveying or engineering standards. Information is not guaranteed to be accurate, current, or complete and use of this information is your responsibility.

Work Access Options

- Work access primarily from west bank
- Access/staging areas in YELLOW
- Temporary ramps in ORANGE



Regulatory Compliance

- Valley Water owns the trees but must comply with local and state regulations
- CEQA
- CA Dept of Fish and Wildlife
- Army Corps of Engineers
- Regional Water Quality Control Board
- City of Saratoga



Proposed Work Schedule

- Phase 1 = Work Area A (anticipated July–December 2019)
- Phase 2 = Work Area B (anticipated July–December 2020)
- Phase 3 = Work Area C (anticipated June – December 2021)

Activity	Month					
	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Ramp construction						
Creek dewatering (if needed)						
Eucalyptus and thatch removal						
Cut-stump/Herbicide treatment						
Ramp removal						
Seeding, winterization						
Revegetation/Restoration						

What happens after tree removal?

- Duff clearing and stump control
- Planting of native trees and vegetation in the project area
- Invasive plant management will continue throughout the reach
- Ongoing vegetation management and mitigation site monitoring



September 2018



July 2018

Restoration – Next Steps

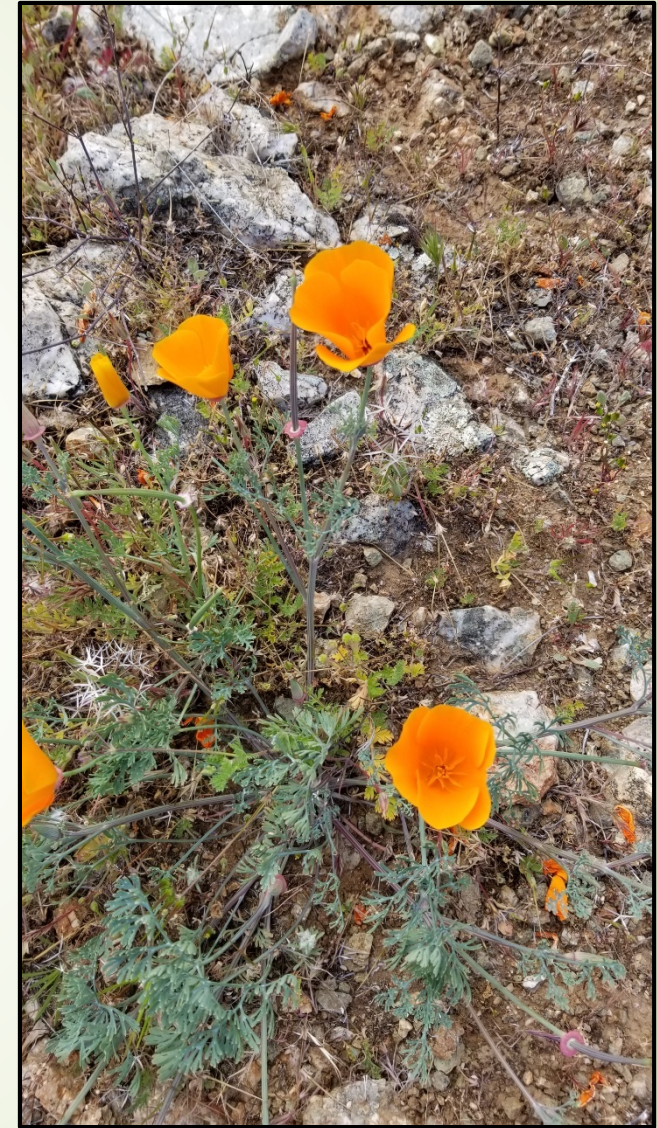
- “Restoration” rather than “tree replacement”
- CA native trees, shrubs, and vines
- Restoration must be on-site, on Valley Water property
- Maintain access path(s) for installation, irrigation, and maintenance
- Letters to be sent specifying individual parcel requirements



April 2019

Benefits of CA Native Plants

- Require less water once established
- Fewer pest problems and maintenance
- Support local ecology (birds, wildlife, pollinators)
- Increase biodiversity and structural diversity
- They're shorter!
- Contributes to overall watershed health



Natural Recovery





Restoration starts small....





California buckeye

Year 1



Year 15



Blue elderberry

Coast live oak



Project Status

- CEQA and permits pending
- Restoration design
- Site Monitoring
- Urgent/Emergency tree work?



Next steps

- Posting information to the project webpage: valleywater.org/SaratogaCreekHazardTrees
- Survey and comment card
- Staff contact for project related questions:
 - Jvillarreal@valleywater.org or (408) 630-2879
- Provide your email address and indicate if interested in staff follow up
- Neighborhood work notice to be sent once the work is scheduled

