

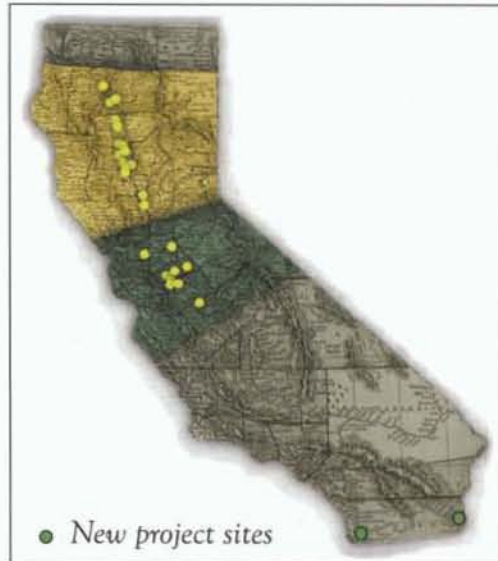
# RIVER PARTNERS JOURNAL

## River Partners Expands to Southern CA & Arizona:

### Restoration planning underway on the Otay River Watershed and Lower Colorado River

Throughout the Southwest's desert, chaparral, and coastal sage scrub landscape, narrow riparian corridors spring up along various streams and rivers and support high concentrations of wildlife and plant species.

Recently, though, wildfires have decimated large swaths of riparian areas in San Diego County and the California-Arizona border. In these areas, invasive weeds, like arundo and salt cedar (tamarisk), have supplanted native plant communities. Through two restoration planning studies for the Otay River Watershed and the Lower Colorado River, respectively, River Partners' hopes to make a big difference for wildlife and the regions' fire recovery efforts.



### Our work in the Otay Valley, San Diego County

San Diego County has the greatest number of threatened and endangered species of any county in the continental U.S, which makes it an ideal place for River Partners' restoration work. These species need help, and River Partners has the expertise to bring back riparian zones and improve this critical biodiversity hotspot.

River Partners has received funding from the Resources Legacy Fund Foundation (RLFF) to develop a pre-restoration plan for the Otay watershed with particular focus on the Otay Valley Regional Park (OVRP).

Like most watersheds in California, the Otay River has been heavily impacted by human use. Increasing wildfire frequency is causing a type change in the rural portion of the

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Cover photo: Western sycamore along the Sacramento River. Photo by Joe Silveira, USFWS.



Southwestern willow flycatcher.  
Photo © S&D Maslowski

2008: Celebrating 10  
Years of Protecting the  
Integrity of Rivers

ATTACHMENTS AVAILABLE  
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