

# Vegetation Study of Santa Clara (Utom) River Watershed

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The Santa Clara (Utom) River is the last remaining wild and free flowing river located in Southern California. The headwaters of its 83-mile reach are located throughout the upper basin in Acton in Los Angeles County and moving westward through the Angeles and Los Padres National Forests. Its terminus is the Pacific Ocean between Oxnard and Ventura.

This two-million acre area provides life-giving water to farmers, groundwater basins, and communities. It is an important by-way and habitat for local and migratory wildlife. CE-Ventura staff research and conduct outreach in agriculture and natural resources throughout the area.

A consortium of agencies and groups are conducting the first comprehensive study of the plant life throughout the watershed, with California Native Plant Society (CNPS) leading the effort. Historic vegetation maps and existing flora databases were compiled to inform study leaders and participants. Field teams comprised of rare plant botanists and vegetation experts have been working throughout the area to map and identify plants.

CNPS Rare Plant Botanist Jordan Collins presented an overview and update of the study during the October 10 joint session of the Channel Islands (Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties) and Los Angeles/Santa Monica Mountains Chapters of CNPS. The presentation can be viewed at:

**Project timeline and people**

- Surveys conducted 2013-2024
- Funded through 2024
- Areas with few records photo
- 11 botanists
- 7+ volunteers

[Botanical Resources of the Santa Clara \(Utom\) River Watershed, by Jordan Collins](#)

This study is intended to provide a detailed summary of the botanical resources (both vascular and non-vascular plants) of the Santa Clara

[https://youtu.be/PQRh\\_OIVQ1g?si=wwy6\\_qDmt0MdHr-l](https://youtu.be/PQRh_OIVQ1g?si=wwy6_qDmt0MdHr-l)

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