

## Damaging Activities to Watch Out For

- "Dumping" creates flood hazards, impacts vegetation, causes habitat loss, and disrupts the ecology of riparian vegetation.
- Off-road vehicle use and grazing in the riparian zone causes bank erosion, soil disturbance, and vegetation loss.
- Hardening or creating concrete banks prevents natural channel movement and increases down stream erosion.
- Building (or paving), walls/fences, and roads in riparian areas disturbs vegetation and reduces the positive values these ecosystems can provide.

### Soil disturbance and vegetation loss due to off-road vehicles



Riparian Area  
A stream's natural zone



Streams Need Their Riparian Areas!  
maintain a buffer zone between the stream and  
development or agriculture



Learn, Act, and  
Make a Difference



### Contact Us

For more information contact the  
Environmental Department



@pechanga\_environmental



## Riparian Areas

Providing Benefits for People  
and Wildlife



## What is "Riparian"?

Riparian refers to vegetation, habitats, and ecosystems associated with water bodies like rivers, streams, washes, springs, or lakes.

Riparian areas are dependent on the existence of year round, intermittent, or temporary surface water or groundwater.



## Actions You Can Take to Have a Healthy Riparian Ecosystem

- Remove invasive non-native plants.
- Plant native vegetation, especially ground cover plants and native trees.
- Conserve your oaks forests.
- Be conservative with your groundwater use.
- If you must fence, use wildlife friendly fencing (a raised bottom strand, 24 inches from ground, and no barbs on either the bottom or top strands).

## Remove Invasive Non-Native Plant Species

Invasive non-native plants out compete our native plants for water and other resources, create fire hazards, and reduce food and habitat for native wildlife. Removing invasive non-native plants helps our native species thrive and preserves our riparian ecosystems.

### Pampas grass (*Cortaderia selloana*)



### Saltcedar (*Tamarix spp.*)



## Conserve your Riparian Vegetation

Riparian areas contain high tree diversity, density, size, and complexity. Cutting branches, whole trees, and clearing land all negatively affect the integrity of riparian areas. Conserving riparian areas protects the unique riparian ecosystem's functions and the many wildlife species that rely on these areas.



## Allow Animals to Move Freely within the Riparian Zone

Provide freedom of movement for wildlife, particularly close to washes by avoiding fencing/walls along riparian corridors. Create "wildlife travel corridors" by establishing a set-back within your property boundary or by choosing wildlife friendly fencing designs. Avoid barb wire as it can severely reduce the value of riparian zones to function as wildlife corridors.