## CENTRAL COAST RIPARIAN MAPPING AND ASSESSMENT PROJECT









## GOALS

<u>Create a "Map" of riparian resources on the</u> <u>Central Coast</u>

<u>Develop riparian condition assessment tools for</u> <u>areas with various levels of access</u>

Develop assessment strategy to report on current condition of RB3 riparian resources

## **Riparian Areas Defined by Functions**



## Three Riparian Mapping Methods

Standard buffer from streams (200ft) - Region
RipZET Riparian Function Models - Region
Pixel Based Image Classification (trees) -Morro Bay Pilot











## Riparian Assessment

RAM Development

## Riparian Functions to Include

Based on TAC recommendations, literature review & Collins 2007

- Tree Shading (water cooling and microclimate control)
- Structural Shading in Stream
- Large Wood Input to Stream
- Leaf Litter Input to Stream
- Bank/Channel Stabilization
- General Biodiversity and Vegetation Species Complexity
- Habitat/Riparian Wildlife Support
- Stream/Wildlife Corridors and Habitat Connectivity
- Human Benefits: Recreation
- Human Benefits: Water Quality (nutrient and sediment capture)
- Human Benefits: Flood Attenuation

#### Requirements of Selected Methods:

- Rapid
- <u>Strong</u> focus on Riparian, not streams or wetlands
  Reproducible
- Address as many functions as possible

### Final List of Tested Methods

- Index of Riparian Quality (QBR)
  O-QBR (Ohio)
- Rapid Appraisal of Riparian Condition (RARC)
  Riparian Quality Index (RQI)
  Rapid Stream-Riparian Assessment (RSRA)
  Visual Assessment of Riparian Health (VARH)

+ CRAM & CCAMP Water Quality

## Riparian Assessment Locations



### Procedure Followed

- Use RB<sub>3</sub> Sample locations (at bridge crossings)
- Run 6 riparian assessments and CRAM at each site
- Complete each Protocol on Bridge (limited access) and in situ (full access)
- Establish Standard assessment length (100 m)

## Santa Rita Creek

Urban Agriculture upstream







## Pajaro River

## Agriculture Urban and Ag upstream





## Aptos Creek

Open space/rural Open space upstream







### Distribution of Scores Among Methods



Bridge vs. Wet Survey Results



## Develop a Monitoring/ Assessment Strategy

• Map Resource

Define metrics for use in assessing resource condition
 RRAM

Land-use information

Presence of riparian services within mapped area

Integrate data into condition "score"

 Establish methods to extrapolate information into unassessed areas (up stream)

# Integrating habitat and land use indicators to estimate upstream condition





#### Riparian Tree cover



#### Adjacent Land Use stress



#### Rapid Riparian Condition

Reach Level Riparian Condition Assessment



CCAMP Water Quality Datasets









## Next: Extrapolation of Site Specific Data



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## Watershed / Habitat Report

C.GOV Home	Central Coast Ambient Monitoring Program CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY CENTRAL COAST REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD About this web site Watershed Report Cards	<u>Library</u>	
<b>↓ + • 1</b>	Image: space of the space of		
Google	View Report Cards		
Grades: 💿 = 🗚	+ Outstanding $\bullet$ = <b>A</b> Excellent $\bullet$ = <b>B</b> Good $\bullet$ = <b>C</b> Fair $\bullet$ = <b>D</b> Impacted $\bullet$ = <b>F</b> Severely Impacted $\bullet$ = <b>F</b> Severely Impact = <b>F</b> Severely	npacted	
Central Coast Regionwide Watershed Report			
Aquatic Life Gr			
Proper Land Management – By 2025, 80 percent of lands within a watershed will be managed to maintain proper watershed functions, and the remaining 20 percent will exhibit positive trends in log matershed parameters.			
-	ction Grades		
Clean Drinking Water - By 2025, 80 percent or groundwater will be clean, and the remaining 20 percent will exhibit positive trends in key parameters.			
Human Health G	Grades		