

Photo Examples of San Lorenzo River Residential Sites with Riparian Trees Removed

Note: There are (at least) hundreds of possible examples that could have been included. This report is not intended to be a complete summation of the cumulative impacts that lead to stream temperature increases. Time and logic do not allow that.

These three photo examples were randomly selected. The photos themselves are often difficult to acquire and properly capture because of vantage point access limitations and the privacy rights of individuals. The intent of including these images is simply to demonstrate various forms of this extensive cumulative impact. Virtually the entire old growth river corridor of the San Lorenzo River was demolished long ago. The ability of this habitat element to re-establish itself is very limited, especially considering the lax to no-existent effort to require compliance with rules intended to protect riparian corridors in Santa Cruz County. Maintenance of existing trees in these riparian corridors appears to be in decline.



In this photo, 3 adjacent homeowners have combined to strip all vegetation extending from the River to their buildings.

The depth and width of this riparian clearing is approximately 175 ft. wide by 200 ft deep to the River bank. Photo angle is insufficient to display the entire clearing.

Photo taken from the opposite river-bank. Foreground tree in this image is on the opposite bank, not on the side of the homes.

Site: lower San Lorenzo Below Paradise Park. River is in bottom foreground.



In this image all riparian trees have been removed from the bank of the San Lorenzo adjacent to Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park. Intense sunlight is obvious upon the "mud pavement" riverbed in the foreground. The width of the clearing (almost the entire lot width) is at least 175 ft. All original redwood stumps have apparently been pulled from the earth and multiple poorly designed retaining wall sections have been poured into the slope below the "duplex" house site and extended lot. Similarly tree stripped lots that are much larger (rental cabin sites) line the River in this vicinity.

In these images is a site long Zayante Creek, a major San Lorenzo tributary. As stated in the submittal letter these situations exist all over the SLR watershed on every major and many smaller tributaries. These images are presented as examples.

In this stretch of Zayante Cr. between Graham Hill Rd. and Quail Hollow Rd. many home sites have extensively removed large riparian trees. This impact has continued and expanded in recent years even in situations where building permits were issued for rebuilding or new structures. Generally speaking considerable construction proceeds without permits as well.



These two images show the same site. The upper image demonstrates that the riparian trees have been removed from both stream banks. The house site appears to include out-buildings, second units and parking for 3 cars. Other construction likely to be within the code width riparian setback. Some of this construction is probably of recent origin.



Shade over the creek in this stretch is severely reduced for at least a 1.5 miles of stream length.