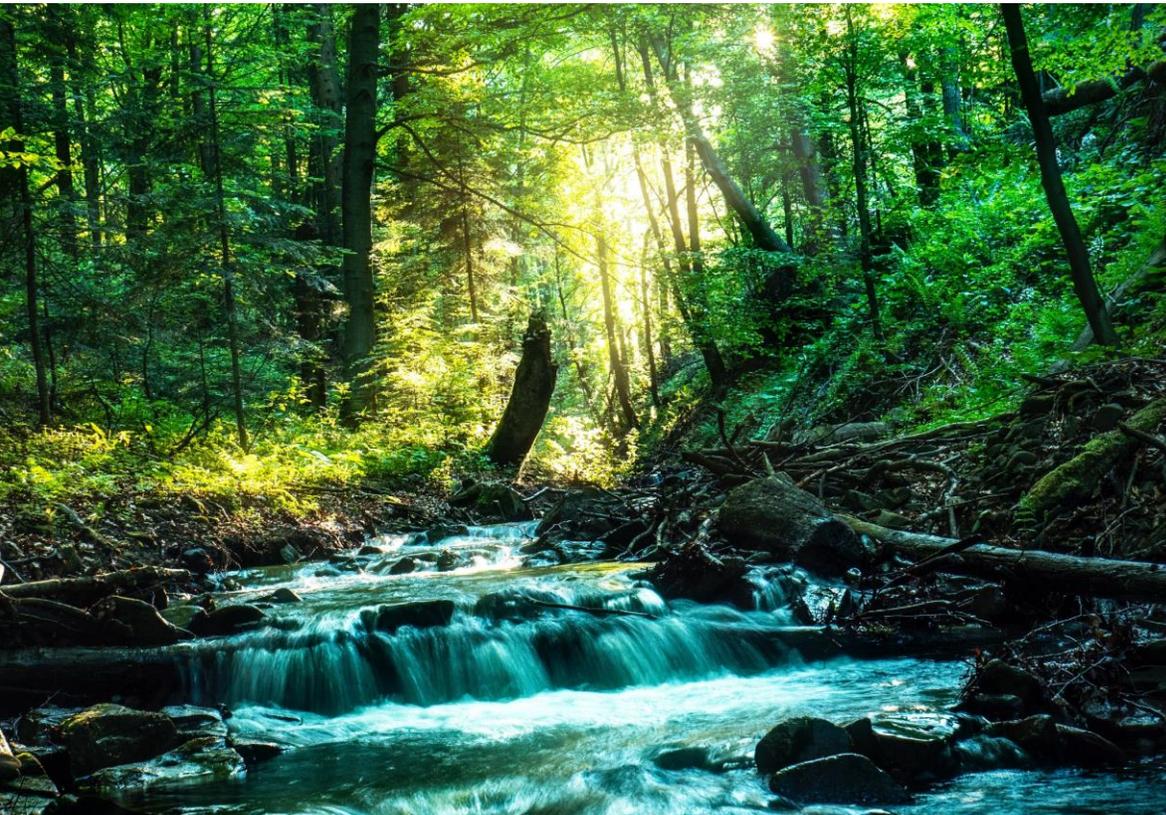


# SOBOBA BAND OF LUISEÑO INDIANS EPA RIPARIAN AREAS



## WHAT ARE RIPARIAN AREAS?

Riparian areas are lands that occur along watercourses and water bodies. Typical examples include flood plains and streambanks. They are distinctly different from surrounding lands because of unique soil and vegetation characteristics that are strongly influenced by the presence of water.

## General Indicators

- **Vegetation**  
The type of vegetation differ from adjacent upland vegetation because more water is supplied to plants from the associated watercourse or water body.
- **Soil**  
Soil in natural riparian areas consists of stratified sediments of varying textures that are subject to intermittent flooding or fluctuating water tables that may reach the surface. The duration of soil wetness depends on the water levels of the adjacent water body.
- **Water**  
Riparian areas are directly influenced by water from a watercourse or water body. They occur along natural watercourses or next to natural lakes and constructed water bodies such as ditches, canals, ponds, and reservoirs.

## DID YOU KNOW?

In the western United States, riparian areas comprise less than 1 percent of the land area, but they are among the most productive and valuable natural resources.

## What is the Importance...

all riparian areas possess some similar ecological characteristics such as energy flow, nutrient cycling, water cycling, hydrologic function, and plant and animal population. These functions give riparian areas unique values relative to the surrounding landscape.

- Riparian areas help control nonpoint source pollution by intercepting pollutants and reducing sediment before entering waterways.
- Riparian areas are often important for the recreation and scenic values. However, because riparian areas are relatively small and occur in conjunction with watercourses, they are vulnerable to severe alteration and damages caused by people.

## DID YOU KNOW?

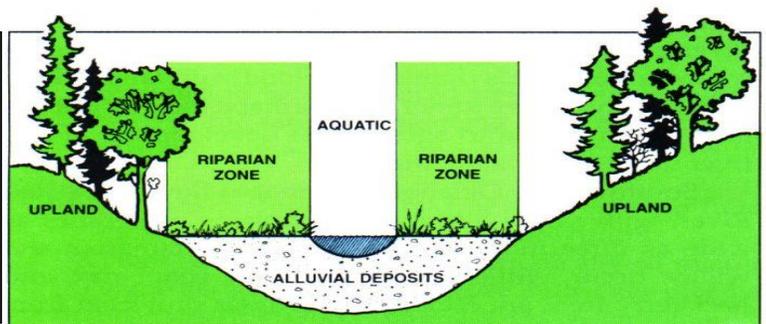
The Soboba Reservation Riparian areas include many native species only found in this general area of the United States. In fact, the Soboba Environmental Department with the help of the Soboba Canyon Crew were able to plant more than 80 native species that include Coast Live Oak (*Quercus Agrofolia*), California Scrub Oak (*Quercus Berberidifolia*), Western Sycamore (*Platanus Racemosa*), Sugar Bush (*Rhus Ovata*) and Red Willow (*Salix Laevigata*).

- Riparian areas supply food, cover, and water for a large diversity of animals and serve as migration routes and stopping points between habitats for a variety of wildlife.
- Trees and grasses in riparian areas stabilize streambanks and reduce floodwater velocity, resulting in reduced downstream flood peaks.

## What can You Do to Help Preserve These Areas?

- Educate the general public in regards to their need for protection!
  - The greatest problem associated with riparian areas is the lack of information we have on them. As a very niche portion of our waterways, its not that there is no information, it is that people neglect to learn about such a small portion of a greater system.
  - Just educating the general public can greater open up the eyes of more people, helping preserve the riparian areas in the process.

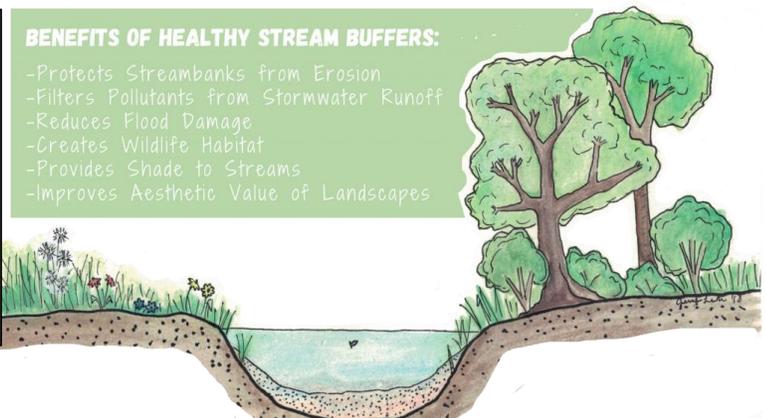
This graphic shows the general riparian area and the other surrounding parts of a stream.



This graphic shows the benefits associated with Riparian areas that most people wouldn't think twice about.

### BENEFITS OF HEALTHY STREAM BUFFERS:

- Protects Streambanks from Erosion
- Filters Pollutants from Stormwater Runoff
- Reduces Flood Damage
- Creates Wildlife Habitat
- Provides Shade to Streams
- Improves Aesthetic Value of Landscapes



# Word Search

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nutrient cycling

nonpoint source

preservation

biodiversity

vegetation

water body

pollution

riparian

wildlife

aquatic

streams

sycamore

erosion

ecology

soboba

upland

plant