LIVING ARROYOS

2025-2026 Annual Report

Prepared by Alameda County RCD & Living Arroyos Staff

Executive Summary

Living Arroyos is a multi-agency partnership in the Livermore-Amador Valley that includes the Zone 7 Water Agency (Zone 7), City of Dublin, City of Livermore, the City of Pleasanton, and the Alameda County Resource Conservation District (ACRCD). Initiated in 2013 by the Livermore Area Recreation and Parks District (LARPD), the Living Arroyos Program (Program) is a unique community engagement opportunity that seeks to provide education on restoring and enhancing urban stream and riparian habitats as they relate to the watershed. The Program provides volunteer opportunities, and an internship program designed to help develop local stewardship leaders. In addition to the Program's outreach and educational elements, Living Arroyos manages and monitors riparian mitigation sites for program partners.

Major Changes and Milestones in 2025-26

- In March 2026, the long-time program coordinator, Margaret Moody, left the program to pursue her master's degree.
- In March 2026, Austin Armstrong was promoted from an intern to Project Assistant to continue supporting Living Arroyos and additional RCD projects as a Field Lead.

Summary of Program Accomplishments

Statistics on Living Arroyos workload and activities in 2025-26 are presented below as a comparison with previous years (Table ES-1).

Table ES-1. Summary of Living Arroyos stats for the past 7 years.

Activities	Program Year						
	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
Number of Workdays	161	191	138	153	170	158	151
Project Hours	4,509	4,301	3,460	2,592	1,717	1,630	2,252
Volunteer Events	14	0	6	11	8	11	12
Total stakes installed	247	143	26	100	97	52	26
Total Plants installed (excluding stakes)	869	985	225	9	20	17	11
Acorn sites planted (3 acorns per site)	360	649	723	369	0	99	250
Mulch used (gallons)	N/A	500	100	100	50	25	50
Invasive species removed (gallons)	5,620	4,002	1,508	1,364	975	1,660	2,072

Trash removed (gallons)	4,315	253	997	3,025	2,296	5,000	7026
Water used for irrigation (gallons)	209,825	266,931	256,442	82,173[1]	25,846[1]	14,155[1]	14,520[1]

Internship Program

Two interns continued from the 2024-25 program year, and 4 new interns were hired during the 2025-26 fiscal year. Interns were currently enrolled or recent college graduates from local colleges or had connections to the Tri-Valley area as past or present residents of the surrounding area.

Program Hours and Field Work

Hours used per project for each partner are shown below in Table ES-2. Staff utilized program administrator hours outside supervising field work to administer the program. The administration cost is shared by all partners based upon their share of cost.

Table ES-2. Program Hours.

Program Partner	Project Hours*	Share of Project Work
Zone 7	1451.5	65%
City of Livermore	665.75	30%
City of Pleasanton	35.25	2%
City of Dublin	96.75	4%
Total Project Hours	**2,249.25**	
Admin Hours Breakdown		
Training/Professional Development	438.5	
Community Outreach and Engagement	523	
General Administration	616.50	
Total Program Admin Hours**	**1,578**	
TOTAL PROGRAM HOURS	**3,827.25**	

**Project Hours are based on actual staff time dedicated to a specific Partner's program. See Section 6: 2025-26 Projects for hours spent per project.*
***Program administration hours are assumed to be proportional to the hours dedicated to each Partner's projects.*

[1] Gallons of water used from 2022-2026 decreased significantly from previous years due to heavy rainfall during 2022-23 and 2023-24 water years, as well as fewer project sites in the workplan, fewer plantings at mature sites requiring water, and more accurate data tracking for water usage.

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Olivia watering at Brushy Peak July 11, 2025

1. INTRODUCTION

The Living Arroyos Program (Program) is a multi-agency partnership amongst the Zone 7 Water Agency (Zone 7) [2], City of Dublin[3], City of Livermore[4], City of Pleasanton[5], and the Alameda County Resource Conservation District (ACRCD)[6]. The Program is a unique community engagement opportunity that renews and enhances urban stream and riparian (streamside) habitats in the Livermore-Amador Valley (Valley) and re-establishes the connection between people and their local arroyos. In addition, the Program provides training opportunities through internships and helps to develop local stewardship leaders.

Urban streams provide many benefits to the people who live in the area. They are an integral part of the community's water management system by helping to protect neighborhoods from flooding, helping to counteract pollution, and recharging the groundwater basin. Living Arroyos hopes to involve the community in learning about and caring for urban streams, which provide habitat for an abundance of native plants and wildlife. The Program seeks to connect people with their local arroyos, their natural settings, and introduce the public to all the beneficial water-related and ecological benefits provided by the arroyos for the watershed.

There are approximately 120 miles of major creeks, streams, and arroyos within the Livermore-Amador Valley. Program activities focus on approximately 45 miles of streams managed by the Program Partners (see Figure 1 below). Natural stream corridors and their

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[2] Zone 7 Water Agency, a Dependent Special District, is responsible for providing flood control and water resource management to the Livermore-Amador Valley. Zone 7 has a service area of approximately 425 square miles of land including the Cities of Dublin, Pleasanton and Livermore, and a portion of San Ramon, and serves approximately 275,000 residents. Within the service area, Zone 7 owns or maintains approximately 37 miles of channels and streams. Zone 7 has been a Program Partner since the Program began in 2013.

[3] The City of Dublin is the local planning authority that encompasses over 15 square miles of land and is home to more than 61,000 residents. Dublin joined as a Program Partner in March 2021.

[4] The City of Livermore is the local planning authority that encompasses over 26 square miles of land, home to more than 89,000 residents. City of Livermore owns and maintains roughly 12 miles of channels and streams within city limits. Livermore has been a Program Partner since the Program began in 2013.

[5] The City of Pleasanton is the local planning authority that encompasses over 24 square miles of land and serves more than 80,000 residents. Pleasanton joined as a Program Partner in 2016.

[6]The Alameda County Resource Conservation District (ACRCD) has assumed the responsibilities of the "Managing Partner" since June 2022.

associated riparian ecosystems do not conform to political boundaries, which makes collaboration among various entities an essential component of effective watershed management. Living Arroyos partners benefit by sharing costs and leveraging unique resources, aligning community vision of the watershed, avoiding redundancy, and achieving long-term management goals. The key to making the Program a success is partnering with people in the communities that, in turn, benefit from the work. When it was initiated, the Living Arroyos Program started off with four goals:

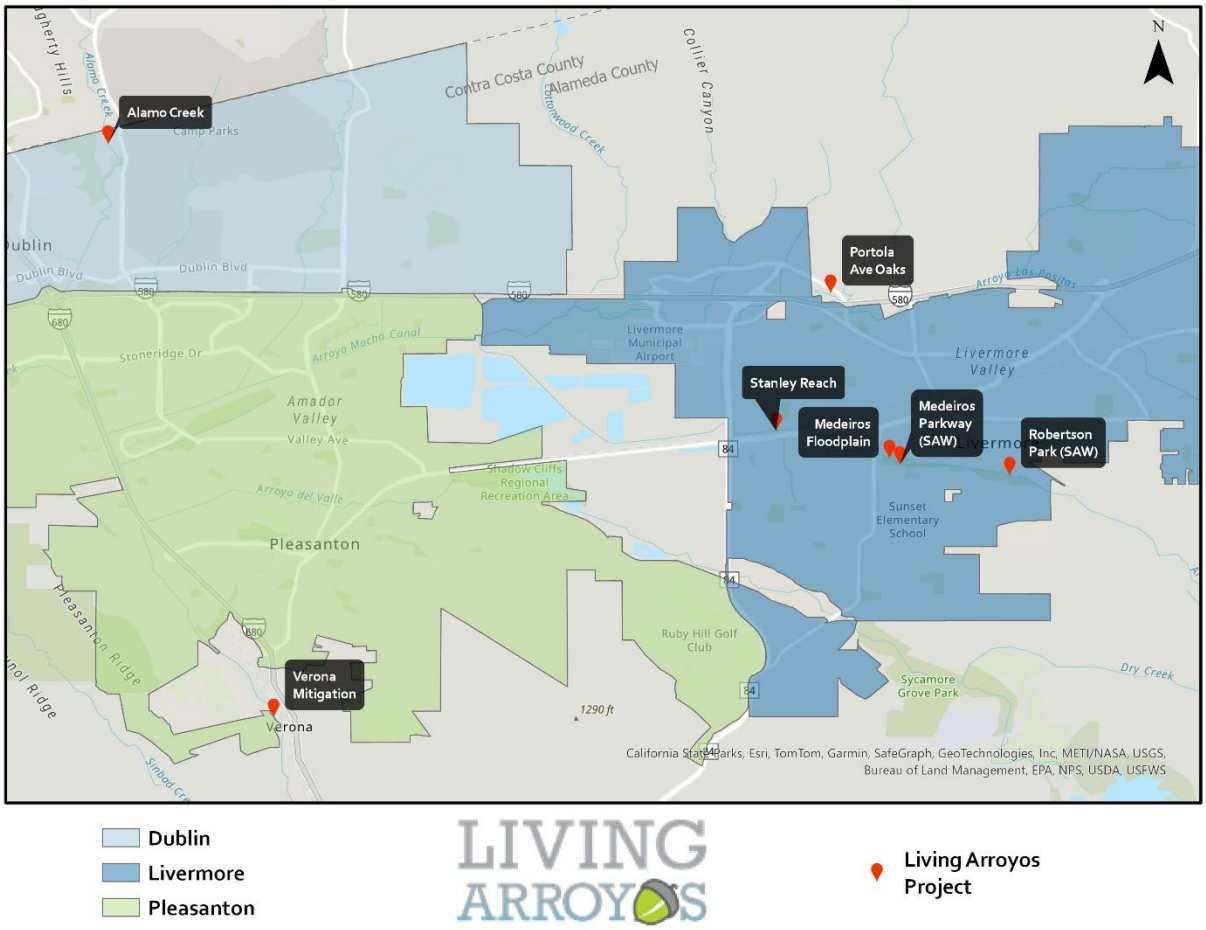
(1) Engage residents in hands-on stewardship of natural resources while they experience nature close to home
(2) Increase public awareness of important watershed issues
(3) Improve habitat and water quality of local streams while maintaining and enhancing both public safety and regional flood protection
(4) Strengthen public/private partnerships within the community

As the Program grows and evolves, the goals will be revisited to reflect new members and responsibilities. This report outlines the Living Arroyos Program progress, accomplishments, and lessons learned during the 2025-26 Program Year.

Ivan watering a Western sycamore at SAW Robertson Park

Aryana weeding a coast live oak at Portola Avenue

Figure 1: Living Arroyos Program Area (Livermore-Amador Valley) and Maintenance Project Map, 2025-26



Living Arroyos filling up the water trailer at Zone 7

2. INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Living Arroyos interns are recruited from colleges and universities within 25 miles of the Program Area or have connections to the Tri-Valley as a past or present resident of the area. Every year, a handful of current and former college students from the local community are selected as paid interns for the Living Arroyos Program. As Program interns, they learn stream management techniques that complement their in-class learning. Interns are given hands-on responsibility for implementing environmental improvement projects for Program Partners. Interns also interact with and guide volunteers, gaining leadership skills and reinforcing their own knowledge by teaching others. Interns work under the supervision of the Program Coordinator 1–5 days per week, depending upon projects needs and intern availability.

Two new interns joined the Program in the Fall of 2025 (Ali Powers and Gracie Ackerman) and two in the Spring of 2026 (Aryana Fakouri and Ivan Ko). Existing intern Olivia Jensen, continued working with Living Arroyos through summer 2025 before returning to school in the fall, and Austin Armstrong continued through spring 2026 before being promoted to Project Assistant. Julia Gaudio continued to coordinate the program through 2025-26, with the support of Margaret Moody, Sukhnoor Sahota, and Austin Armstrong.

The 2025-26 interns have local connections to:

- Livermore
- Fremont
- San Mateo
- San Jose

The 2025-26 Interns have degrees from, or were attending classes at the following schools:

- San Jose State University
- University of California, Santa Cruz
- University of California, Davis
- Colorado State University, Fort Collins
- Scripps College, Claremont

Intern responsibilities this year included:

- harvesting native acorns

- planting native acorns and buckeyes
- installing native container plantings and live stakes
- installing and maintaining plant protection cages
- hand-watering plantings
- installing and repairing drip irrigation systems
- removing invasive plant species from project sites
- assisting with annual vegetation monitoring
- leading volunteer events including clean-ups and planting
- maintaining program tools and equipment
- creating informational pamphlets on project sites

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Living Arroyos encourages staff to participate in training activities that promote safety and health among employees, as well as opportunities for career development and personal growth based upon their interests.

The program incorporates regular training days with professionals in natural resource management, biological monitoring, GPS mapping, and natural history. These trainings provide interns with opportunities to learn about and participate in projects being implemented by the ACRCD and the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS). Examples of educational opportunities for interns during the 2025-26 Program Year include and are listed below:

- ACRCD Resource Conservationist, Margaret Moody, led interns in annual Residual Dry Matter (RDM) sampling at the StopWaste sites.
- ACRCD staff included interns in planting days at Brushy Peak with Point Blue STRAW (Students and Teachers Restoring a Watershed).
- ACRCD Resource Conservationist, Jennifer Trevis, led interns in learning how to teach guided field trips at the Sunol AgPark.
- ACRCD Soils Specialist, Owen Sowerwine, led interns in annual soil sampling at the StopWaste site.
- ACRCD Vegetation Specialist, Aimee Erlich, led interns in annual vegetation sampling at StopWaste, Verona, and Audubon Bird Friendly Ranching sites.
- ACRCD Resource Conservationist, Courtney Coon, guided interns with wildlife camera trap setup and camera monitoring for wildlife crossings project.

- ACRCD Biologist, Farley Connelly, led interns in eDNA sampling livestock ponds at Pleasanton Ridge.
- Interns shadowed H. T. Harvey ecologists for annual vegetation monitoring and mapping at the Living Arroyos sycamore alluvial woodland (SAW) Pilot Study sites.
- Interns assisted the Tri Valley Conservancy in building artificial burrowing owl nests.

Gracie assisting with vegetation monitoring at StopWaste HSP Demo

Austin, Gracie, and Sukhnoor next to a Western burrowing owl home they built

Sukhnoor, Gracie, and Austin participating in the Christmas Bird Count At Sycamore Grove Park

Austin and Gracie harvesting California milkweed seeds

Austin, Gracie, and Sukhnoor participating in a Monarch Butterfly count

Gracie and Sukhnoor collecting eDNA at Pleasanton Ridge

Gracie doing soil infiltration at StopWaste HSP Demo

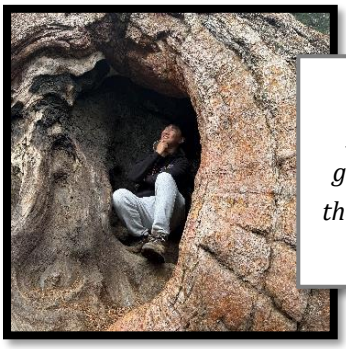
Aryana collecting a soil sample at StopWaste Parcel 4

FEEDBACK FROM LIVING ARROYOS INTERNS

"What drew you to being an intern with Living Arroyos and what do you like about it?"

"I was drawn to the Living Arroyos program because I wanted to gain experience implementing environmental restoration practices. I am so grateful to have had the opportunity to learn new flora and fauna surveying techniques, host creek cleanup and outreach events, and gain a new understanding of some of my favorite childhood hiking spots." – Gracie

"I enjoy spending my days outdoors, helping native habitats thrive, and working alongside a team dedicated to conservation. My favorite plant is Ashwagandha because of its medicinal properties and its potential to improve human health through plant-based compounds." – Aryana



"Conservation and restoration work matters to me because we only have a finite amount of time on this Earth to try and make it a little better for the generations ahead of us. I want to live in and work for a world that preserves the natural beauty of our ecosystems and its inhabitants as much as possible at all costs." – Ivan

3. VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

Volunteers are the heart of the program. Living Arroyos invites the local community to engage and connect with creeks and arroyos by hosting workdays in which volunteers participate in hands-on activities that protect and enhance the waterways in their area. Events provide volunteers with a tangible sense of the value of watersheds, and a stronger understanding of their role in preserving the quality of watersheds. Volunteer days are generally held on the first and third Saturdays of the month between October and April.

VOLUNTEER WORKDAYS

Living Arroyos held twelve volunteer days during the volunteer season (October 2025 – May 2026). A total of 262 unique volunteers (Table 1) participated in volunteer activities this season, with many volunteers repeating participation across events. The majority of events involved trash clean-up at sites throughout the Program Area: Arroyo Mocho at Stanley Reach (Zone 7), Tassajara Creek near Creekside Park (Pleasanton), Arroyo Las Positas at Heather Lane (Livermore), Arroyo Las Positas near Portola Avenue (Livermore), Arroyo Las Positas near Airway Blvd (Livermore/Zone 7), and Robertson Park (Livermore). The table also includes data from Coastal Cleanup Day with 12 sites participating across Livermore, Pleasanton, and Dublin. One event involved an alternate maintenance activity: planting oak acorns and buckeyes at Stanley Reach (Zone 7).

Table 1: Volunteer data by Program Year

Volunteer Data	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
Total volunteer days (9–11:30 am)	19	16	14	0	6	11	8	11	12
Total unique volunteers engaged	389	524	350	0	104	288	310	270	262
Total volunteer hours	1,440	1,590	1,386	0	372	1,008	1,218	945	1,089
Average number of volunteers per event	25	40	33	0	23	33	41	29	33

Volunteers after a cleanup event along Arroyo Mocho near Robertson Park (Livermore, CA) on March 21, 2026

Volunteers planting acorns and buckeyes at Stanley Reach (Livermore, CA) on January 17, 2026

Volunteers after a cleanup event at Heather Lane (Livermore, CA) on February 2, 2026

Volunteers after trash cleanup along Arroyo Mocho at Stanley Reach (Livermore, CA) on April 4, 2026

WHO ARE OUR VOLUNTEERS?

Families

There is no minimum age requirement for volunteers, so community members can bring their children and teens to teach them the value of giving back. We continue to hear feedback about how glad people are to be able to volunteer as a family.

Students

Many Living Arroyos volunteers are high school students located throughout the Livermore-Amador Valley looking to fulfill their community service requirements. The Program exposes students to the importance of environmental stewardship, initiating interest in long-lasting involvement and conservation. There were several student groups that repeatedly volunteered at Living Arroyos Volunteer Days including but not limited to: Dublin Valley High School, Foothill High School, Granada High School, Amador Valley High School, San Ramon Valley High School, and Livermore High School.

Local Businesses and Community-Based Organizations

Local community-based groups participated in our public volunteer events including the Global Leadership Initiative for Youth (GLIFY), the Pleasanton Rotary Club, Tri Valley Fly Fishers (TVFF), and SEWA International. Local Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops also participated in volunteer days.

INDICATORS OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND INTEREST

- Volunteers return for multiple volunteer days throughout the volunteer season, often bringing friends and family members.
- Living Arroyos staff received several inquiries from local groups looking for volunteer opportunities during the 2025-26 program year.
- Staff received multiple emails asking for spots to adopt, scouting projects, or about internship opportunities.

Volunteers during a private cleanup event at Portola Avenue (Livermore, CA) March 25, 2026

4. COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH

OUTREACH EVENTS

During the 2025-26 fiscal year, Living Arroyos staff were invited to host informational tables on the program at multiple school and volunteer events, including:

- Zone 7 Flood Awareness Open House
- Livermore High School Volunteer and Career Fair
- Las Positas College Earth Day Fair

The Living Arroyos team also assisted RCD staff with outreach at the following events:

- Alameda County Fair
- California Rangeland Conservation Coalition summit 2026
- Livermore High School Ag Adventure Day
- Coyote Hills Bird and Butterfly Festival

Living Arroyos at Las Positas Earth Day April 23, 2026

SOCIAL MEDIA OUTLETS

Living Arroyos continued to utilize social media outlets to engage and inform the community of project work and volunteer opportunities. Staff focused on the following outreach methods:

- Updated and maintained Living Arroyos website at www.livingarroyos.org. This website contains information about the program as well as upcoming workday information and blog posts about events and progress.
- Used Facebook and Instagram to educate, share photos, and provide event updates with volunteers and community members.
- Revamped weekly newsletter emails with updates on site maintenance and other RCD projects along with highlighting local plants and wildlife.

5. ADOPT-A-CREEK SPOT

Living Arroyos continued to coordinate cleanups for the Adopt-A-Creek Spot (AACS) – a sub-program that promotes healthy creeks through community participation and education. Dublin, Livermore, and Pleasanton partner with Living Arroyos to carry out AACS coordination tasks for major cleanups in the fall and spring, as well as smaller cleanups throughout the fiscal year. Many AACS sites are also project planting sites maintained by Living Arroyos year-round.

In 2025-26 Living Arroyos staff continued coordinating creek cleanups for Program Partners through the AACS (Table 2) by:

- Onboarding new site captains to host volunteer-led events
- Scheduling and coordinating monthly/bi-annual creek cleanup events
- Resolving specific issues at AACS spots (e.g., graffiti, illegally dumped items, homeless camps, etc.)
- Managing disposal of trash/debris/recyclables collected from cleanup events.

Volunteers after trash collection at Airway Blvd. (Livermore, CA) on March 7, 2026

Two-three large cleanups are generally scheduled during the Program Year:

- Coastal Cleanup Day (also known as Creeks to Bay Day) in September
- Livermore Community Service Day (historically held in spring but recently moved to coincide with Coastal Cleanup Day in fall)
- Dublin Pride in April/May

Table 2. AACS Program Data, 2018-2026

	Program Year						
	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
Volunteers	452	223	145	139	275	233	352
Gallons removed	4,915	6,259	160	216	1,354	3,291	7,285

6. 2025-26 PROJECTS

The Living Arroyos 2025-26 Workplan included 18 projects within the Livermore-Amador Valley and the Adopt-a-Creek-Spot sub-program. Additional project background is provided in the 2025-26 Workplan and Amendments documents. Over the course of 151 field days, Living Arroyos field staff completed project tasks for 11 of the proposed projects, and added one new project not listed in the 2025-26 Workplan. All projects and hours are listed by partner below.

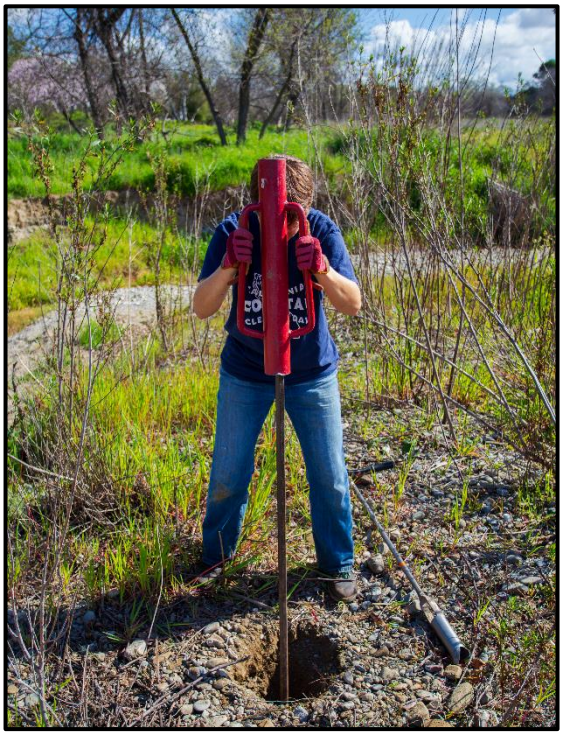
ZONE 7 WATER AGENCY (ZONE 7)

Living Arroyos was tasked with 8 projects specific to the Zone 7 Water Agency and completed work at 7 of them.

Table 3. Zone 7 Hours and Activities by Project

Zone 7 Project	Activities	Hours
Arroyo Mocho at Stanley Reach	Weeding, watering, applying straw mulch, annual vegetation monitoring	264
SAW Pilot Study	Weeding, watering, applying straw mulch, maintaining plant protection cages	426.75
Medeiros Parkway Floodplain Connection Project	Weeding, watering, annual vegetation monitoring	29
Alamo Creek Mitigation Planting Project	Weeding, watering, annual vegetation monitoring	334.5
Arroyo de la Laguna at Verona Mitigation[1]	Annual vegetation monitoring and reporting	39.25
Minor Biotechnical Bank Stabilization and/or Site Watering[2]	Install willow stakes and/or water mitigation sites, as-needed	0
Vegetation and Trash Management	As-needed maintenance assistance	37.75
Watershed Signage	Drafting signs and scoping locations for installation	56
Zone 7 general support	Additional partner support and coordination not specific to listed projects	264.25
	TOTAL HOURS	**1,451.5**

[1]Project that was added to Living Arroyos workload mid-year
[2]Project that did not have work for Living Arroyos to complete this year



Gracie planting a sycamore at SAW Mederios

Aryana installing irrigation at Alamo Creek

Ivan assisting with vegetation monitoring at Verona Mitigation site

Ali, Austin, Gracie, Sukhnoor, and Margaret collecting acorns to be planted at Portola Avenue Oaks and Stanley Reach

CITY OF DUBLIN (DUBLIN)

The Program was tasked with only one project specific to the City of Dublin during the 2025-26 program year – managing the Dublin AACS sites.

Table 4. City of Dublin Hours

Dublin Project	Activities	Hours
AACS	Trash cleanup, volunteer event cleanup	87
City of Dublin general support	Additional partner support and coordination not specific to listed projects	9.75
	TOTAL HOURS	**96.75**

Volunteers at California Coastal Cleanup Day
(Dublin, CA) September 20, 2025

CITY OF LIVERMORE (LIVERMORE)

Living Arroyos included 7 projects for City of Livermore in the workplan, including management of Livermore AACS sites, and were asked to complete work at two of them in 2025-26.

Table 5. City of Livermore Hours

Livermore Project	Activities	Hours
Arroyo Mocho Site 8 Restoration Area (Rockrose)[2]	Weeding, watering, annual vegetation monitoring	0
Arroyo Mocho Site 9 Restoration Area (Summertree)[2]	Weeding, watering, annual vegetation monitoring	0

Arroyo Road Mitigation Trees[2]	Weeding, annual vegetation monitoring	0
Vegetation and Trash Management[2]	As-needed maintenance assistance	0
Concannon Avenue Oaks[2]	Planting, weeding, watering	0
Portola Avenue Oaks	Planting, weeding, watering	212.75
AACS	Trash cleanup, volunteer event cleanup	426.75
City of Livermore general support	Additional partner support and coordination not specific to listed projects	26.25
	TOTAL HOURS	**665.75**

[2]Project that did not have work for Living Arroyos to complete this year

Volunteers after a cleanup event at Airway Blvd (Livermore, CA) on December 6, 2025

Sukhnoor, Austin, Gracie, and Julia planting acorns at Portola Ave Oaks

Volunteers after a cleanup event at Portola Avenue (Livermore, CA) on November 15, 2025

Volunteers after a cleanup event at Heather Lane (Livermore, CA) October 4, 2025

CITY OF PLEASANTON (PLEASANTON)

Living Arroyos included two projects specific to the City of Pleasanton, including management of Pleasanton AACS sites. Due to funding constraints, Living Arroyos was not able to facilitate cleanups outside of AACS for Pleasanton in 2025-26.

Table 6. City of Pleasanton Hours

Pleasanton Project	Activities	Hours
Lower Kottinger Creek and Bernal Creek Trash Management[2]	Staff cleanups or staff-led volunteer cleanups	0
AACS	Trash cleanup, volunteer event cleanup	35.25
City of Pleasanton general support	Additional partner support and coordination not specific to listed projects	0
	TOTAL HOURS	**35.25**

[2]*Project that did not have work for Living Arroyos to complete this year*

Volunteers at California Coastal Cleanup Day
(Pleasanton, CA) September 20, 2025

7. PROGRAM EXPENDITURES

BUDGET

The Living Arroyos Program budget (Table 7) is comprised of both Program Costs to run the Program as mutually agreed upon by Program Partners. Project Costs are the responsibility of the Project Proponent and not presented here.

Table 7. Living Arroyos projected and actual Program Costs for the 2025-26 year rounded

Item	Projected Budget	Actual Expenditures	Percentage Billed (%)	Budget Leftover
PERSONNEL COSTS	**$215,568**	**$202,021**	**94%**	**$13,547**
Field Equipment & Supplies	$2,500	$1,965	79%	$535
Volunteer Supplies	$2,000	$1795	90%	$205
Travel	$500	$0	0%	$0
Event Costs	$1,750	$47	3%	$1703
Marketing/Outreach	$1,500	$80	5%	$1420
Training	$500	$997	-50%	$-497
20% Contingency	$1,750	$0	0%	$1,750
TOTAL DIRECT COSTS	**$10,500**	**$4,884**	**47%**	**$5,616**
TOTAL	**$226,068**	**$206,905**	**92%**	**$19,163**

Actual expenditures for the Program were within the budgeted amount for 2025-26.

Program Costs *include the following:*

- *Program staff and intern salary*
- *Purchase or rental of equipment that can be used for multiple projects; equipment storage; and consumable supplies related to the volunteer and/or intern programs*
- *Travel, trainings, and other miscellaneous expenses causally related to the Program; and*
- *Communication activities and elements to ensure consistent messaging among Partners and to the public.*

Project Costs *include the following:*

- *Any elements that remain with the project site (e.g., irrigation systems, signage, plants, planting supplies, etc.)*
- *Contractors engaged to carry out project specific tasks (e.g., hydro seeding, installation of irrigation systems, etc.)*
- *Any other project specific costs requested by the Program Partner*

EQUIPMENT PURCHASES

The following equipment items were purchased for the Program as Program Costs:

- Hose extension, tarp, fuses, jack, and new tires for the water trailer
- Gloves, snake gaiters, and shoes for new interns
- Shelving for equipment shed
- Straw mulch and compost bags for weed control
- Drill and drill bits
- Plant tags and flags
- Trash bags, gloves and hand-sanitizer for cleanup events
- Living Arroyos t-shirts and hats for volunteer appreciation event
- Trowels and sharpening stones

PROGRAM PARTNER COST SHARE

Program partners share the cost of program administration hours and direct program costs. These percentages are agreed upon during development of the Annual Workplan and may be modified if other partners join the program in the future or upon mutual agreement of the partners.

Program Partner benefits should be roughly proportional to their contributions, e.g., a Partner contributing 25% of the budget of the program should, on average, receive 25% of the effort expended, measured in staff, intern, and volunteer person hours by the program.

Zone 7's Program Admin Cost contribution for Program Year 2025-26 was approximately 49%, City of Livermore's contribution was approximately 42%, City of Dublin's contribution was approximately 6%, and City of Pleasanton's contribution as approximately 3% of the total cost of the program. These percentages were estimated at the beginning of the current task order (2022) and differ from the final 2025-26 program hour split: Zone 7, 65%, City of Livermore, 30%; City of Dublin, 4%; City of Pleasanton, 2% (see Table ES-2). Some difference between projected and actual program partner cost split is expected due to changes in expected work and project responsibilities over the four-year task order.

8. FUTURE RECOMMENDATIONS

Increase Volunteer Outreach

Living Arroyos staff recommend that we continue our efforts in volunteer outreach with the aid of the Program Partners.

To increase volunteer outreach, staff recommend:

- Continuing to participate in outreach events hosted by the program partners and other local environmental organizations
- Presenting the Program to students at local colleges and high schools
- Working with Program Partners to integrate the Living Arroyos volunteer events into their social media presence
- Continuing to post regular updates to Living Arroyos social media pages and website
- Developing a watershed signage program to enhance the public's awareness of the watershed in which they live and to encourage stewardship
- Creating interactive informational materials to engage the public at outreach and volunteer events
- Continuing to develop new and creative pamphlets and handouts on a range of site-specific to general local restoration information
- Creating generic Living Arroyos business cards with website and social media information to be handed out during fieldwork
- Develop signage at the restoration sites with site information and Living Arroyos QR codes
- Post an "About Living Arroyos" QR code laminate on public bulletin boards in Livermore, Pleasanton, Dublin

Improve Educational and Professional Development Opportunities for Interns

Starting in fiscal year 2026-27, the title of intern will be changed to Watershed Technician (Trainee), as this more accurately reflects the maintenance-heavy focus of the position. Educational and professional development opportunities will remain a key part of the program for trainees to expand technical skills in natural resource management and conservation.

To expand education and professional development opportunities for Watershed Technicians, staff recommend:

- Continuing to coordinate field work training and cross-project involvement with RCD and NRCS staff
- Working with Program Partners to identify job shadowing opportunities
- Identify each trainee's interests and involve them in relevant projects
- Integrate learning activities into projects, such as GIS mapping and a wider range of stewardship tool use
- Working with Program Partners to do regular (monthly or quarterly) presentations on the variety of professional pathways in the water, public sector, or environmental field

Diversifying Project Workload

Staff recommend diversifying the types of projects that the program supports to broaden intern exposure with various restoration and outreach tasks.

Ideas for potential new project types:

- Watershed signage – continue expanding signage project to enhance the public's awareness of the watershed in which they live and to encourage good stewardship of streams, wetlands, water supply and overall watershed
- Western pond turtle study – citizen science effort to examine locations of Western pond turtles (threatened species) throughout Tri-Valley Area creeks and ponds
- Tree nursery – maintained by Living Arroyos and houses plants for restoration projects for all program partners

Ivan watering a sapling at Brushy Peak

Aryana installing erosion mats at Alamo Creek

Gracie, Jennifer, and Ali monitoring for Steelhead Trout October 22, 2025

Aryana at Livermore High School Ag Adventure Day April 21, 2026

Austin and Olivia installing wildlife camera traps around Interstate 580 July 30, 2025

Austin collecting a soil bulk density sample at StopWaste HSP Demo April 16, 2026

9. MEETING PROGRAM GOALS

This section highlights the Program's accomplishments relative to the goals outlined in the 2025-26 Workplan.

Goal #1: Engage residents in hands-on stewardship of natural resources while they experience nature close to home.

During the 2025–26 program year, Living Arroyos hired four new interns from the Livermore-Amador Valley and surrounding communities, providing them with hands-on experience in natural resource management and watershed conservation. Through field-based training, interns developed practical restoration and technical skills that support their academic and professional growth in environmental careers.

The program also hosted 12 weekend volunteer events, engaging 262 unique volunteers in meaningful stewardship activities such as creek cleanups and tree planting throughout the Livermore-Amador Valley watershed. By bringing together community members and local agencies, Living Arroyos continues to demonstrate the value of collaborative partnerships in implementing stream restoration and maintenance projects while meeting resource management and permitting objectives.

Goal #2: Increase public awareness of important watershed issues.

Living Arroyos expanded its outreach strategy to increase public awareness of watershed stewardship and natural resource conservation through a growing social media presence, strengthened partnerships, and increased participation in community events. The program broadened its network of collaboration with local schools, government agencies, and community organizations, resulting in numerous invitations to participate in environmental fairs, educational events, and volunteer recruitment opportunities throughout the Livermore-Amador Valley. These expanded outreach efforts increased the program's visibility, connected new audiences with watershed conservation initiatives, and fostered stronger community engagement in local restoration efforts.

Goal #3: Improve habitat and water quality of local streams while maintaining and enhancing both public safety and regional flood protection.

Living Arroyos field staff completed restoration and maintenance activities across 11 project sites throughout the Livermore-Amador Valley. Activities improved riparian habitat quality, increased the establishment and long-term survival of native vegetation, reduced invasive species that degrade stream function, and removed pollutants and debris from local waterways. By maintaining healthy stream corridors and supporting long-term restoration goals, Living Arroyos helped improve water quality, enhance wildlife habitat, and contribute to public safety and regional flood protection through proactive watershed stewardship.

Goal #4: Strengthen public/private partnerships within the community.

Living Arroyos continued to strengthen partnerships among local agencies, educational institutions, businesses, and community organizations to advance shared watershed stewardship goals. Through collaboration with program partners, local schools, colleges, community groups, and environmental organizations, the program leveraged shared resources, expertise, and volunteer support to implement restoration projects and expand environmental education and outreach. These partnerships increased community participation in stewardship activities, created new opportunities for volunteerism and workforce development, and reinforced the value of cross-jurisdictional collaboration in achieving long-term watershed restoration, maintenance, and conservation goals.

Gracie and Aryana hosting the Volunteer Appreciation Cleanup Event (Livermore, CA) April 4, 2026