

Ongoing Updates

**TO: Zone 9 Advisory Committee**  
**FROM: Brian Nelson, City Engineer, City of San Luis Obispo**  
**Kate Shea, Principal Environmental Specialist, County Public Works**  
**DATE: February 11, 2026**  
**SUBJECT: Mid-Higuera Bypass Project Updates**

Since December, Souza Construction has completed the majority of the remaining construction activities onsite, including invasive species removal, container stock plantings, and site fencing. Remaining work includes the project's commemorative plaque installation and final site irrigation for all installed container stock plants.

As most of the work is substantially completed, staff are beginning to plan a ribbon cutting to commemorate the completion of the project. The ribbon cutting is tentatively being planned for the first or second week in April, but a final date will be forthcoming.

**TO: Zone 9 Advisory Committee**  
**FROM: Freddy Otte, Biologist, City of San Luis Obispo**  
**DATE: February 11, 2026**  
**SUBJECT: Creek Maintenance Updates**

Creek Inspections have been ongoing with the recent storms but no debris jams or significant issues have been encountered. The two rain events in December were approximately 3.5 inches for each storm but again, no significant issues have been observed. We are getting contracts established for vegetation management permits to be developed with the assistance of Althouse and Meade and this effort will kick-off in February and continue through the end of the year. We are fortunate to have some background information already developed so this process will dovetail with the forementioned previous studies and with current studies so there is value added to this effort. One of the key locations where work is proposed to occur under these permits is on East Fork SLO Creek where we get frequent calls from the tenant along the creek there who is concerned about flooding.

**TO: Zone 9 Advisory Committee**  
**FROM: Jon Hall, Land Conservancy**  
**DATE: February 11, 2026**  
**SUBJECT: Arundo Removal Updates**

The 2025 season has wrapped up for *Arundo donax* in the SLO Creek Watershed. Annual reports for the Aquatic Pesticide Application Plan (NPDES Permits) required for any herbicide use in waterways are being prepared. These annual reports are due March 1.