RHEEM CREEK RESTORATION PROJECT – TREE SELECTIONS

Trees play an important role in creek restoration. They provide food and shelter for wildlife, shade to keep the creek cool for fish and amphibians, tree roots stabilize and hold the creek banks in place and even help reduce flooding. Thick brush and vines like Himalayan Blackberry can block water from flowing freely and make flooding worse. Overhead shade from the trees can help prevent these types of brushy plants from growing near the creek, keeping it open and free to move floodwaters downstream rather than into the streets.

Small Trees/Shrubs

**Western Redbud**
*Cercis occidentalis*
- Winter deciduous (loses leaves)
- Up to 20 ft tall x 15 ft wide
- Moderate growth rate
- Bright pink flowers on bare branches in early spring – very showy!

**Blue Elderberry**
*Sambucus nigra ssp.caerulea*
- Winter deciduous (loses leaves)
- Up to 30 ft tall x 20 ft wide
- Fast growth rate
- Creamy white flowers developing into blue clusters of berries. A very important food source for birds!

Medium Trees

**Box elder**
*Acer negundo*
- Winter deciduous (loses leaves)
- Up to 66 ft tall x 40 ft wide
- Fast growth rate
- Attracts beneficial insects
- Fall color

**Northern California Black Walnut---četet (chet-tet) in Chochenyo**
*Juglans hindsii*
- Winter deciduous (loses leaves)
- Up to 60 ft tall x 60 ft wide
- Fast growth rate
- Yellow fall color
- Nuts are edible and an important food source for wildlife
**Large Trees**

**California Buckeye**  
*Aesculus californica*  
- Winter deciduous (loses leaves)  
- Up to 40 ft tall x 40 ft wide  
- Moderate growth rate  
- Fragrant spikes of white flowers in early spring. Large horse chestnuts or “buckeyes” are borne on bare branches in the fall. Note these nuts should not be consumed!

**Big Leaf Maple**  
*Acer macrophyllum*  
- Winter deciduous (loses leaves)  
- Up to 115 ft tall x 65 ft wide  
- Fast growth rate  
- Yellow fall color

**White Alder--Maarah (maa-rah) in Chochenyo**  
*Alnus rhombifolia*  
- Winter deciduous (loses leaves)  
- Up to 82 ft tall x 35 ft wide  
- Fast growth up to 20 feet, then somewhat slower  
- Produces large quantities of pollen in the spring.

**Fremont Cottonwood**  
*Populus fremontii*  
- Winter deciduous (loses leaves)  
- Up to 115 ft tall x 35 ft wide  
- Fast growth, beautiful heart-shaped leaves that shimmer in the wind and turn yellow in fall  
- The seeds are dispersed by wind in cottony tufts, thus the name “cottonwood”

**Coast Live Oak--Yu (you) in Chochenyo**  
*Quercus agrifolia*  
- Evergreen  
- Up to 82 ft tall x 35 ft wide  
- Moderate growth  
- The iconic oak of coastal California  
- One of the most important wildlife plants, these trees provide habitat and food for a great many birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians and invertebrates