

Trees

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## Tree Planting Begins Along SL River Banks

Trees are coming back to the San Lorenzo river.

Santa Cruz city crews Friday began planting of about 8500 seedling trees on the so-called levee bench and in other spots between the river mouth and city limits where roots will not present a hazard to the levee walls.

The full effect will not be seen for three or four years.

Then redwood groves and individual California peppers, laurels, southern magnolias and shrubs should soothe even the most vocal critics of the sterile rip-rap levees, according to Levitt McQuesten.

McQuesten, retired professor of horticulture at the University of California at Davis campus, has propagated the trees at the DeLaveaga park nursery on a volunteer basis.

He, Parks and Recreation Chairman Ralph Castro, and Director Carl Bengston, planted a lacy pepper tree into the bank above the "bench" to set the beautification program off.

Castro said members of Boy Scout troop 82 will assist with the planting and will water the trees during the first year.

"I'll be trying to interest other Scout units and Cubs, too," he said. "The trees will have to be taken care of."

Once established, the redwoods will grow six to 10 feet a year McQuesten said.

"They're small now," Bengston added, "but putting them in at this size they will take much faster."

"It appears we have about 8500 trees ready to set out, not only on the benchland park but in odd locations outside the levees.

"There are probably 150 different places that will receive trees," Bengston said.

These are "scraps" of land acquired for the flood control project. Trees cannot be planted on the levee slopes where roots would disrupt the rip-rap lining or weaken the earthen walls.

## Beautification Of River Banks Begins



Work on tree planting along the levees of the San Lorenzo river began Friday as, left to right, Levitt McQuesten, Recreation Director Carl Bengston and Recreation Chairman Ralph Castro went to work.