Steam, Solarization, and Tons of Prevention: The San Francisco Public Utilities Commission’s Fight to Contain Phytophthoras in San Francisco Bay Area Restoration Sites

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Abstract

To compensate for unavoidable impacts associated with critical water infrastructure capital improvement projects, the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) restored over 2,050 acres of riparian, wetland, and upland habitat on watershed lands in Alameda, Santa Clara, and San Mateo Counties. Despite strict bio-sanitation protocols, plant pathogens (Phytophthora spp.) were detected at multiple restoration sites on SFPUC lands. SFPUC staff will provide an overview of various treatments employed to contain and treat the pathogens using multiple in-situ treatment techniques including soil solarization, steam injection, and microbial antagonism.

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