

Untitled
Abigale Bollengier

Fall 2021
American River Watershed

08







Im sitting next to the
river. My butt is cold
from the slightly wet dirt
underneath it. I listen
to the birds sing through
the constant hum of cars
passing on the highway.
I watch the sky look at
itself in the waters'
reflection. I feel peace.
But will I ever be able
to fully connect to this
place? I live in a world
placed on top of it.

How do you connect to a
complete separate plane of
existence?



The American River is within Nisenan territory and known to Nisenan people, Foothills and Southern Maidu people, Valley Miwok and Me-Wuk people as the "Mokelumne" or Condor River. It runs 30 miles from mountain landscape to an urbanized valley. Here I will focus on the part of the river that sits below Folsom Lake, where all three forks connect.

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Here is what it sounds like to sit by
the river at 3:57pm on November 22,
2021.

Take your time and listen as you flip
through the pages.



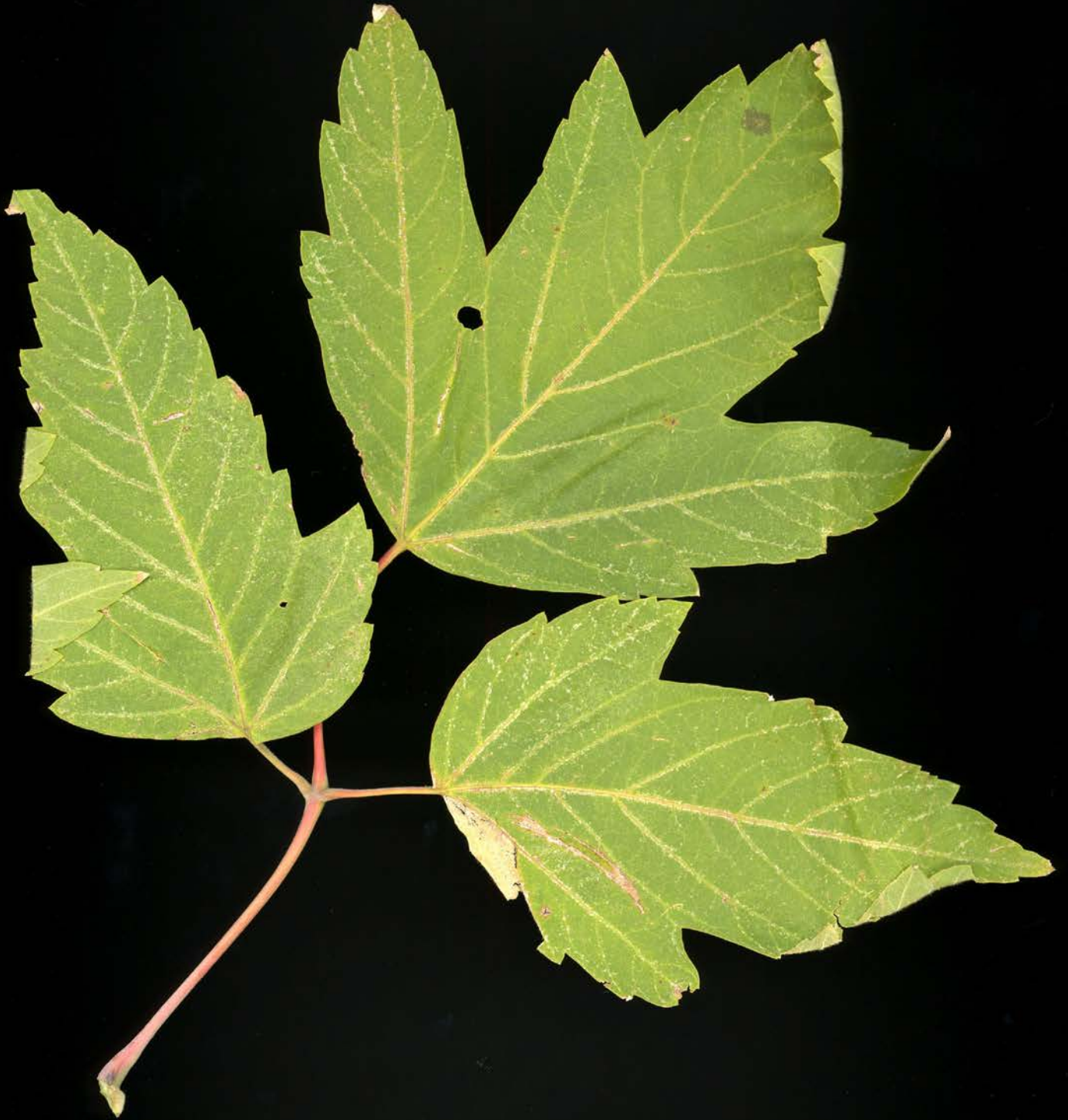
ON THE SURFACE

1





The river has an immensely
biodiverse ecosystem.
It is home to native,
introduced, and invasive
species. The Boxelder tree
is native to the region.
The inner bark can be
used to induce vomiting,
a practice used by the
Meskwaki and Objibwa
peoples.







are 2 questions per station. answer BOTH questions; write below the matches the STATION NUMBER AND QUESTION

Station	Question A	Question B
1	A: [faded]	B: [faded]
2	A: [faded]	B: [faded]
3	A: [faded]	B: [faded]
4	A: [faded]	B: [faded]
5	A: [faded]	B: [faded]
6	A: [faded]	B: [faded]
7	A: [faded]	B: [faded]
8	A: [faded]	B: [faded]
9	A: [faded]	B: [faded]
10	A: [faded]	B: [faded]
11	A: [faded]	B: [faded]
12	A: [faded]	B: [faded]
13	A: [faded]	B: [faded]
14	A: [faded]	B: [faded]
15	A: [faded]	B: [faded]
16	A: [faded]	B: [faded]
17	A: [faded]	B: [faded]
18	A: [faded]	B: [faded]
19	A: [faded]	B: [faded]
20	A: [faded]	B: [faded]
21	A: [faded]	B: [faded]
22	A: [faded]	B: [faded]
23	A: [faded]	B: [faded]
24	A: [faded]	B: [faded]
25	A: [faded]	B: [faded]
26	A: [faded]	B: [faded]
27	A: [faded]	B: [faded]
28	A: [faded]	B: [faded]
29	A: [faded]	B: [faded]
30	A: [faded]	B: [faded]

1st name: [faded]

Lab Section: 9



Grade

points

Invasive species have no natural predators causing them to out-compete native species for sun, space, and nutrients. The Stinkwort is an extremely damaging invasive species. It contains phytotoxins that inhibit the growth of the surrounding vegetation.





The river has gone through many human modifications post colonization. Currently the Folsom Dam is the main flood control facility. The river is also used for irrigation and hydroelectric power. Prior to the Central Valley being converted to agricultural and urban areas, most of it was wetlands. The aquatic, riparian, and wetland landscape is now confined to the edges of the river.





Attempt to
Understand

2







In the river I see a
symbol of an American
perception of land. The
land belongs to someone
and can be altered in any
way believed to be right.
Only some are worthy of
cared-for land.





An institution will tend to
the land in its vicinity to
uphold the integrity of itself.
A beautification of the land to
create an attractive landscape.

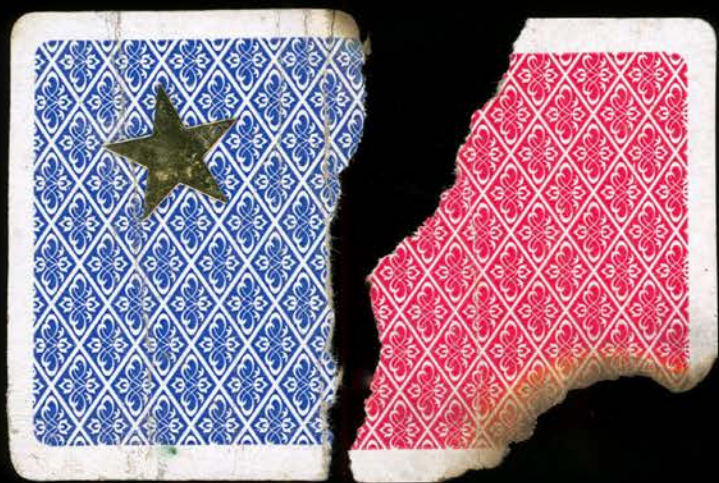
Unhoused people live a few
miles down, but never too
close.







To believe something you've brought is better
than whats always existed there.







NO DUMPING



**Drains to
American River**

Call 908-4120
for information

Questions

3

Who is worthy of caring for and belonging to healthy land and resources?



Everyone?













Will there ever be a place
in time where we care for
her the way she once was
cared for?
Because she is the land we
cannot exist without?

Are we able to love her
without taking all of her?





WORKS CITED

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SPECIES IDENTIFICATIONS

American Sycamore - *Platanus occidentalis* - Introduced.
(inside back cover)

Boxelder - *Acer negundo* - Native. (17)

California Wild Grape - *Vitis californica* - Native. (26, inside
back cover)

Chinese Pistache - *Pistacia chinensis* - Introduced. (35, inside
back cover)

Common Pauraque - *Nyctidromus albicollis* - Native. (34)

Coyote Brush - *Baccharis pilularis* - Native. (6, inside back
cover)

Oregon Ash- *Fraxinus latifolia* - Threatened Native. (inside
back cover)

Silver Maple - *Acer saccharinum* - Introduced. (52, inside back
cover)

Smilo Grass - *Stipa miliacea* - Native. (10-11, inside back
cover)

Stinkwort - *Dittrichia graveolens* - Invasive. (20)

Western Sycamore - *Platanus racemosa* - Native (23, inside
back cover)

White Alder - *Alnus rhombifolia* - Native. (inside back cover)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We understand we are on Nisenan land that was never ceded and the original tribal families have yet to recover from the near genocide of their people.

- Land Acknowledgement



This book has become a collection of my thoughts as I examined the American River. I came to Sacramento in the Fall of 2021 and found myself wanting to learn from the river. I ended up walking along it almost everyday, collecting pieces of it and documenting its interactions.