



## Partners in Progress with



Community Services & Employment Training (CSET) is one of 17 organizations statewide selected to receive funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act which is being administered by California ReLeaf. CSET’s mission is to strengthen youth, families, and communities and reduce the causes of poverty by envisioning healthy, prosperous, and safe communities - communities where children want to live when they grow up.



The \$200,000 grant for CSET’s Visalia/Porterville Tree Planting Project provides for a multi-faceted project in which members of the Sequoia Community Corps will be working to build a better urban forest in these two Tulare County cities.

In Visalia, corps members are assisting the City in its efforts to restore a native Valley Oak riparian forest along a creek that is currently devoid of vegetation.

In Porterville, corps members are also planting Valley Oaks, installing irrigation along Porter Slough, resurfacing about 2,500 feet of the slough trail, planting Southern Live Oak trees and installing irrigation for them in order to provide shade and screening at the new Porterville Sports Complex.



### Fast Facts for the CSET ARRA Grant

**Jobs Created/Retained: 10**

**Trees Planted: 350**

**Trees Maintained: 1000**

**Job Hours Contributed to 2010 Work Force: 3824**

**Lasting legacy: Once completed, this project will have restored several elements of Tulare’s Valley Oak riparian forests while also providing job training and educational opportunities for economically disadvantaged young people aged 18 to 24.**

*“We are taking youth that are on the fringe of being employable, at-risk youth, and giving them training while at the same time they are required to complete their diploma, which makes them competitive in the job market.” -- Nathan Higgins, CSET Project Manager.*

