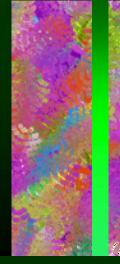


A county-level perspective of the permitting issues encountered in Arundo Removal.



Ventura County Arundo Task Force



Ventura County Resource Conservation District

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- First scoping meeting in June 1999
- Group meets monthly
- Developed MOU
- Organized an Arundo Removal Fund
- Working on a demonstration project
- Expanding to become the Ventura County Weed Management Area



Partners & Participants include...

- Ventura County Flood Control District
- USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service
- California Department of Fish & Game
- US Fish & Wildlife Service
- Ventura County Fire Department
- California Coastal Conservancy
- City of Ventura
- City of Thousand Oaks and many more...







Regulatory Issues

- Standard County, State and Federal permits, requirements and concerns...
 - County Flood Control District Encroachment Permit in channels within their jurisdiction
 - CDFG 1601 Streambed Alteration Agreement
 - CEQA
 - U.S. ACOE 404 permit, Regional General Permit (RGP) #41 Removal of Invasive, Exotic Plants
 - RWQCB 401 Water Quality Certification
 - U.S. FWS Threatened & Endangered Species
 - NEPA



- County Noise Ordinance (unincorporated areas)
 - Specifically near urban development
 - Current level is 55 decibels (equivalent to night)
 - Triggers a focused EIR to address the noise issue.
 - Modification of the ordinance is being addressed at the County level.



- Mulching and spreading on trails
- Compost trials
- Exploring cogeneration possibilities
- Recycling efforts including the use as roofing materials on historic missions



- County Flood and Fire issues with leaving dead and dying Arundo in flood plain
 - Currently, all Arundo must be removed from flood plain
 - Dead canes pose a risk to downstream drainage structures
 - If not dead, the canes could land on beaches and other areas, spreading the problem
 - Prior to decomposition, dead canes pose a fire threat



- Currently, some agencies still require revegetation, especially on mitigation projects
- In rocky riverbeds, this can be problematic
- When native vegetation and sufficient water is nearby, self-colonization can be very effective



- Threatened & Endangered Species
 - Least Bell's vireo have been found nesting in Arundo in the Santa Clara River watershed
 - This forces us to avoid the nesting season or perform thorough site investigations prior to working



Thank you for your attention.

Ventura County
Resource Conservation District
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