



VENTURA COUNTY ARUNDO TASK FORCE



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



Ventura County Arundo Task Force



Under the Oversight of the Ventura County Resource Conservation District

P.O. Box 147 3380 Somis Rd.

Somis, CA 93066

Phone: (805) 386-4685

Email: venturacorcd@aol.com or prose_vcrcd@prodigy.net

Our History...

- **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...**

Our Neighborhood



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**

Our Local Headaches...

- **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.**

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- **County mandate to reduce bio-waste in landfill motivates us to find alternatives such as...**
 - **Mulching and spreading on trails**
 - **Compost trials**
 - **Exploring cogeneration possibilities**
 - **Recycling efforts including the use as roofing materials on historic missions**

And More Headaches...

- **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**

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- **Required revegetation**
 - **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**

Add a little heartburn...

- **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
can be reached at
(805) 386-4685**