

# Techniques to Eradicate Giant Reed from Trabuco Creek, Orange County, CA

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IRVINE RANCH  
CONSERVANCY

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Restoration & Enhancement Program



# Acknowledgements



# Topics

- Removal of arundo stalks: mechanical and manual
- Treatment of re-growth
- Removal of arundo rootballs

# Project Site

- O'Neill Regional Park, Orange County Parks
- 51-acre long-term management area, 34 acres of Arundo
- Perennial segment of creek with numerous secondary channels
- Arundo mixed with sycamore - red alder - willow riparian forest
- Heavy recreational use
- Scrutiny of herbicide use



# Grinding of Dense Monoculture Stands

- Barko 930 Masticator – directly cuts, grinds Arundo into small fragments, left in place to decompose

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# Selective Manual Removal

- ACOE jurisdictional areas (main and secondary channels)
  - Areas intermixed with native riparian vegetation
- Stalks manually cut, hauled, piled, and masticated



Mini-excavator to Break Clumps



Hand Crews Cut and Haul



Piles of Cut Stalks



# Before/ After





# Before/ After





# Before/ After Drone Footage



OCWR Trabuco Creek Restoration Site  
Comparison

0 20 Meters  
Map created by IRC 12/1/2021  
Aerial Source: Drone Image



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# Mulch Management





# Rootball Removal for Hydrologic Restoration





# Managing giant reed re-growth





# Manual Arundo Removal

