



Santa Barbara County Agricultural Commissioner's Office Santa Ynez River Arundo Removal Project

Prop 50 Funding

In a competitive grant for Integrated Regional Water Management monies under Proposition 50, the County of Santa Barbara Agricultural Commissioner's Office was awarded \$100,000 from the State Water Resources Control Board for the Santa Ynez River Arundo Removal project. The project will also utilize funds from the California Department of Fish and Game, Coastal Impact Assistance Program, California Department of Food and Agriculture and County of Santa Barbara.

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The project surveys and defines the extent of *Arundo donax* and *Tamarix spp.* within the riparian system of the Santa Ynez River from Gibraltar Reservoir to the eastern border of VVAFB. The project includes a field crew survey for the main streambed of the Santa Ynez River using primarily visual identification and population size and density estimates via helicopter and vantage point mapping. Documentation of data points with a global position system (GPS) of the non-native species populations and exporting the data points into a geodatabase for analysis. *Arundo donax* eradication will use rapid response. Rapid response involves the selected manual removal and application of herbicides to stop the spread and eradicate *Arundo donax* from the riparian corridor. The project uses both manual and chemical methods to remove the non-native species, *Arundo donax*, from the riparian corridor.

Need for the Project

The increasing spread of invasive weeds is a pressing concern throughout Santa Barbara County. The methods employed in the project eradicate species in sensitive riparian habitats. *Arundo donax* is detrimental to habitat and water conservation and increase the risk of flooding and erosion in riparian systems. *Arundo donax* displaces native plants thus degrading habitat and reducing biodiversity. *Arundo donax* uses more water than native plants and increases the risk of fire, flooding, and erosion along riparian areas. The Santa Ynez River has regional significance as one of the major rivers in the county, serving as a source of water, recreation, and habitat for a number of listed fish and bird species. The Santa Ynez River is designated as a Critical Coastal Area (CCA).

Project Benefits

Control of arundo benefits water quality, water use/groundwater, flood control, farming, recreation, and resource management.