



Basin Monitoring Program Task Force Contract Approval | Surface Monitoring

Ian Achimore, Senior Watershed Manager
Commission I September 5, 2023
Item No. 6.A



Major Task Force Deliverables to Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board

Deliverable	Description/Purpose	Timeline for Completion
Ambient Water Quality Update	Analysis of salt* and nutrients** in Santa Ana River Watershed's 35 groundwater management zones.	Performed every three years (going forward it will be done every five years).
Annual Report of SAR Water Quality	Preparation of Santa Ana River surface water quality report.	Performed annually and submitted by August 1.
Wasteload Allocation Model	Development of a surface discharge allocation to confirm compliance of surface water discharges with ground water quality regulatory requirements.	Performed every ten years.

*Salt is more specifically regulated as the broader pollutant category of total dissolved solids (TDS).

**Nutrients are regulated as Total Inorganic Nitrogen (TIN).

Task Force Members

Beaumont Cherry Valley Water District*	Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District
Chino Basin Watermaster	Inland Empire Utilities Agency
City of Banning*	Irvine Ranch Water District
City of Beaumont	Jurupa Community Services District
City of Corona	Orange County Water District
City of Redlands	San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District*
City of Rialto	San Geronimo Pass Water Agency*
City of Riverside	Temescal Valley Water District
Colton/San Bernardino Regional Tertiary Treatment and Wastewater Reclamation	Western Riverside Co Regional Wastewater Authority/Western Municipal Water District
Eastern Municipal Water District	Yucaipa Valley Water District

- Four new agencies added in 2015 (noted with *)
- Santa Ana Regional Board also a non-funding task force agency

Scope of Work: Surface Water Monitoring and Reporting

- 1) Assisting SAWPA with **executing access agreements** with property owners, and/or related parties, when necessary,
- 2) Ensuring **proper workflow** for field sampling, lab testing, and reporting is established in advance of monitoring,
- 3) Identifying and **contracting with a lab** and other potential subcontractors,
- 4) **Developing a quality assurance project plan (QAPP)** for the monitoring associated with the scope,
- 5) **Conducting quarterly monitoring** at various sites along the Santa Ana River and documenting results by implementing the QAPP, and
- 6) **Uploading the data** collected to a State-certified database.

Legend:

● OCWD Sites

■ USGS Sites

Santa Ana River REACH

— 2

— 3

— 4

— 5

Map of Santa Ana River Reaches

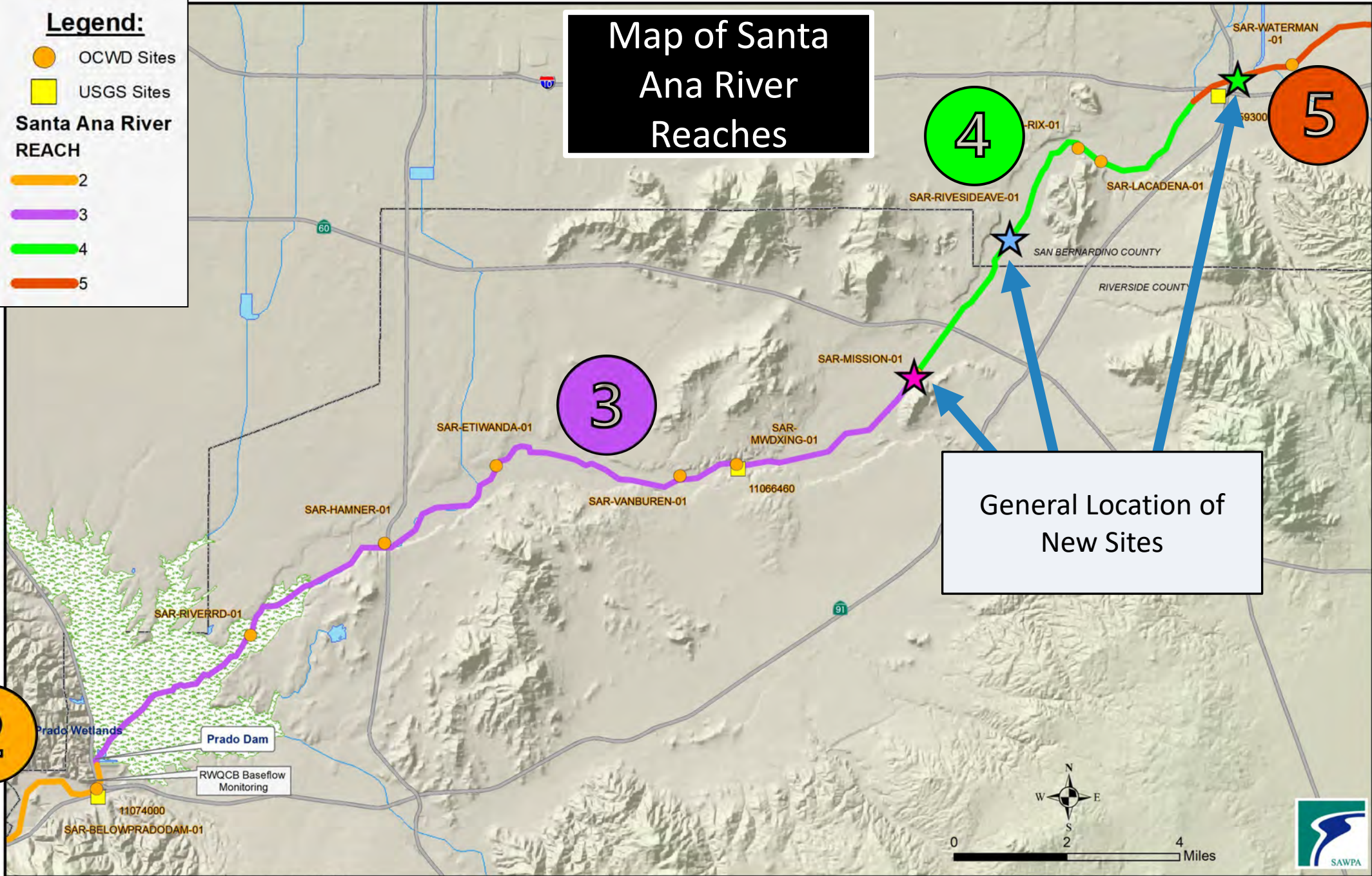
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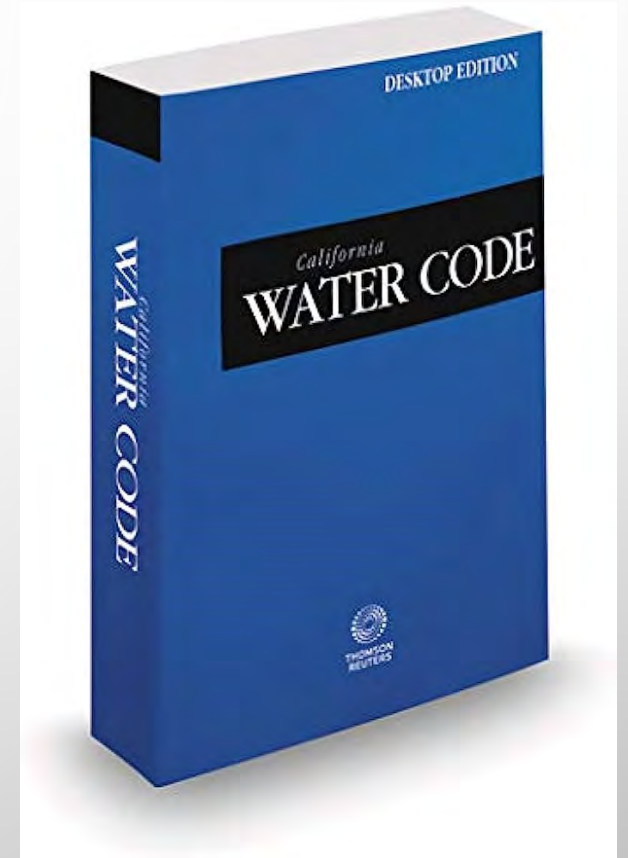
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General Location of New Sites



Purpose of Monitoring

- The Santa Ana River Watershed’s surface water and groundwater quality regulatory document, the “Santa Ana River Basin Plan”, contains provisions for TDS and TIN management.
- California Water Code requires that Basin Plan implementation plans must contain a description of the monitoring (i.e. work plan).
- In response to the updated monitoring program revisions, the Task Force prepared a 2022 Water Quality Work Plan that was submitted it to the Regional Board.
- To implement the new surface water quality work plan, SAWPA and the Task Force issued the RFP on June 20, 2023.



RFP Results

- Three firms responded:
 - CWE
 - West Yost & Associates, Inc.
 - ECORP Consulting, Inc.
- SAWPA worked with the Task Force scoping committee to review and rate the proposals.

<u>Section Criteria</u>	<u>Firm A*</u>	<u>Firm B*</u>	<u>CWE</u>
Qualifications and Experience	66	78	79
Exceptions Taken to RFP	65	60	67
Quality of overall Submittal	74	76	76
Point Sums	205	214	222
Point Averages	68	71	74

- SAWPA also called the references for each of the three firms.

*Note: The specific ratings of ECORP and West Yost are kept confidential and coded as the two other firms in the table.

About CWE



- 52 total employees and three office locations in Fullerton, San Diego, and Roseville.
- CWE's team have sampling and monitoring protocol development experience through work for the following clients:
 - SAWPA Middle Santa Ana River Total Maximum Daily Loads Task Force,
 - Gateway Watershed Management Authority,
 - LA River Upper Reach 2 Watershed Management Area,
 - Rio Hondo/San Gabriel River Water Quality Group, and
 - San Bernardino County Mojave River Watershed Group.



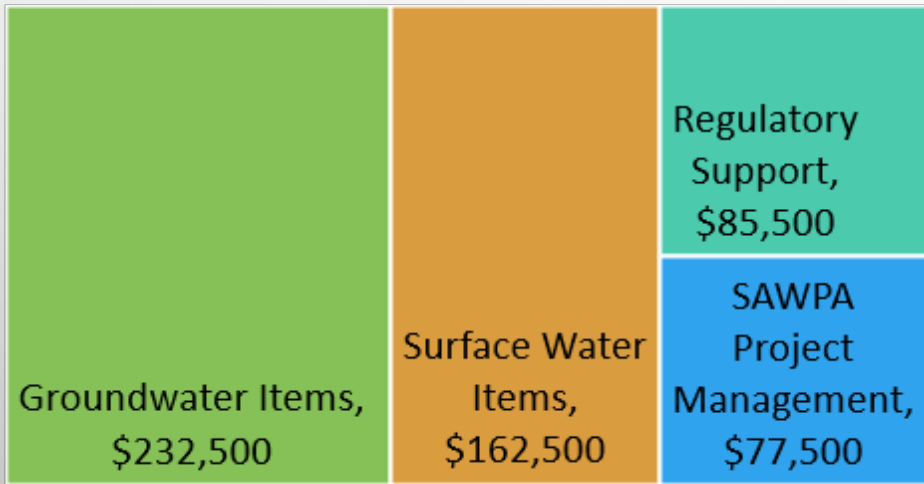
CWE Scope and Budget

Task No.	Task Name	Total Budget	CWE Hours	CWE Costs	Subcontractor Costs
1	Gaining Property Access for Monitoring	\$3,650	20	\$3,650	NA
2	Establishing Workflow for Monitoring	\$2,594	9	\$2,594	NA
3	Developing Quality Assurance Project Plan	\$19,896	102	\$19,896	NA
4	Quarterly Monitoring and Implementing QAPP	\$53,789	243	\$48,107	\$5,682
5	Upload Data to CEDEN	\$13,782	75	\$13,782	NA
Totals		\$93,711	449	\$88,029	\$5,682

Fiscal Impact

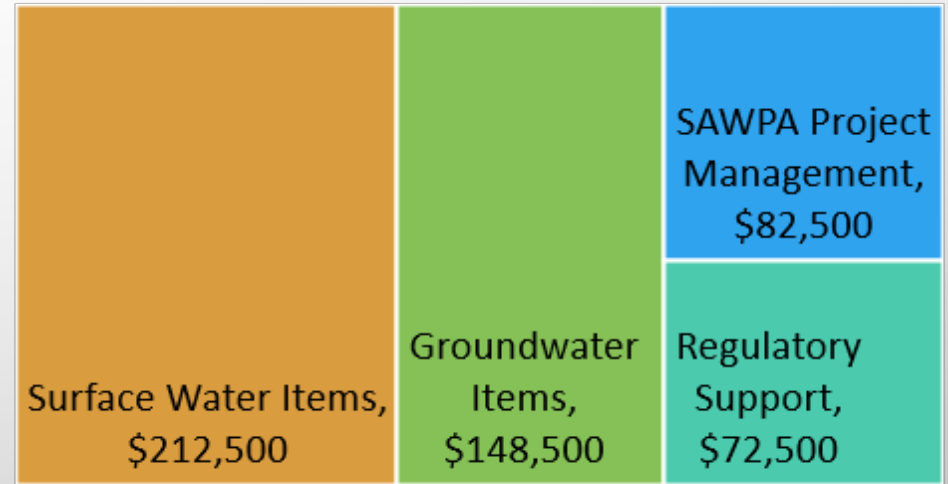
- Sufficient funding has been budgeted by the Basin Monitoring Program Task Force for the execution of the scope through a task order. This work is included in the Task Force's current budget.

FYE 2024 Expenses



Total Expenses = \$558,000
Total Revenues = \$558,000

FYE 2025 Expenses



Total Expenses = \$516,000
Total Revenues = \$516,000



Next Steps

September 14 – Kick Off Meeting

Rest of 2023 – Prepare for monitoring and develop QAPP

2024 – First Year of Actual Monitoring

2025 – Second Year of Actual Monitoring


2026 – Third Year of Actual Monitoring





Recommendation

Authorize the General Manager to execute the General Services Agreement and Task Order CWE374-01 with CWE in the amount not to exceed \$93,711.00 for the Consulting Services of Surface Water Quality Monitoring.





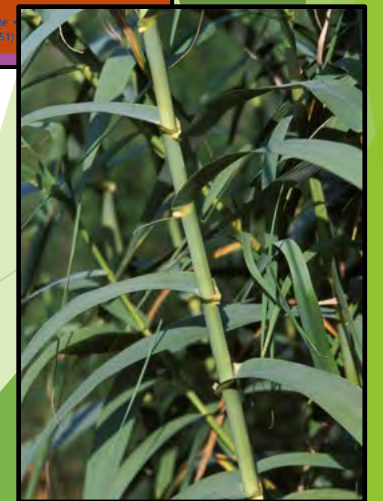
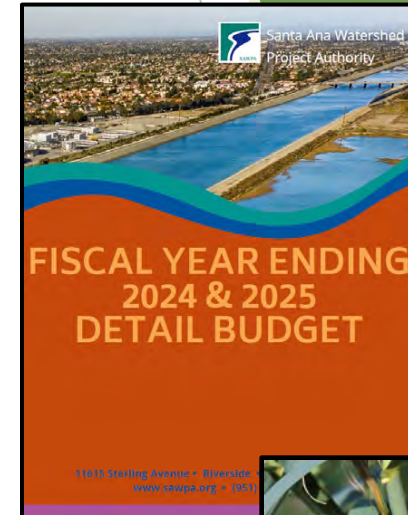
Headwaters Arundo Removal Update

Ian Achimore | Senior Watershed Manager
September 5, 2023 | Commission Meeting
Item 6.B



Quick Stats on the Arundo Roundtable

- Arundo Management & Habitat Restoration Fund (Fund) in SAWPA Budget,
- Fund in Budget gains revenue from Santa Ana River Mitigation Bank credit sales, and
- Per SAWPA Resolution No. 427, use of the Fund (like a task order) needs to be approved by Commission.



What is Arundo donax?

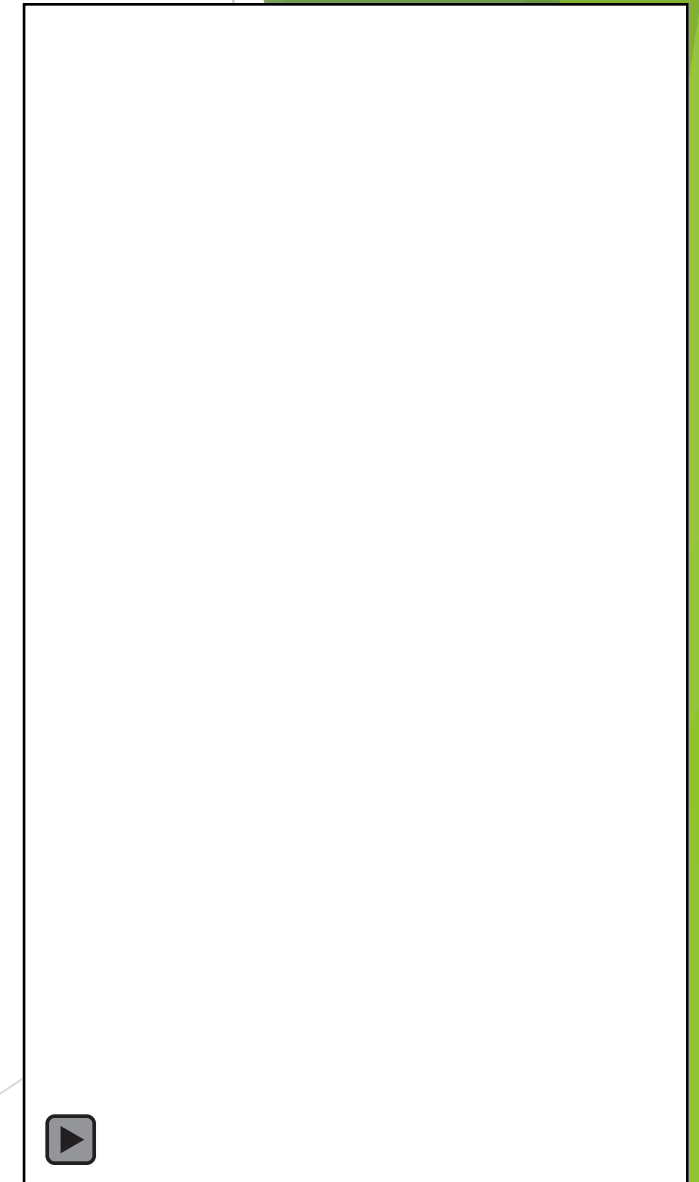
- ▶ Invasive Plant (High Rating),
- ▶ Noxious Weed,
- ▶ Uses approx. 528 gallons of water per meter annually,
- ▶ Growth rate is 1.5 to 4 inches per day under optimal conditions,
- ▶ Highly combustible,
- ▶ Survives fire and thrives,
- ▶ Causes flooding by altering flow regimes, and
- ▶ No known habitat benefit.



Why Headwaters Are An Important Focus-Area for Arundo Removal

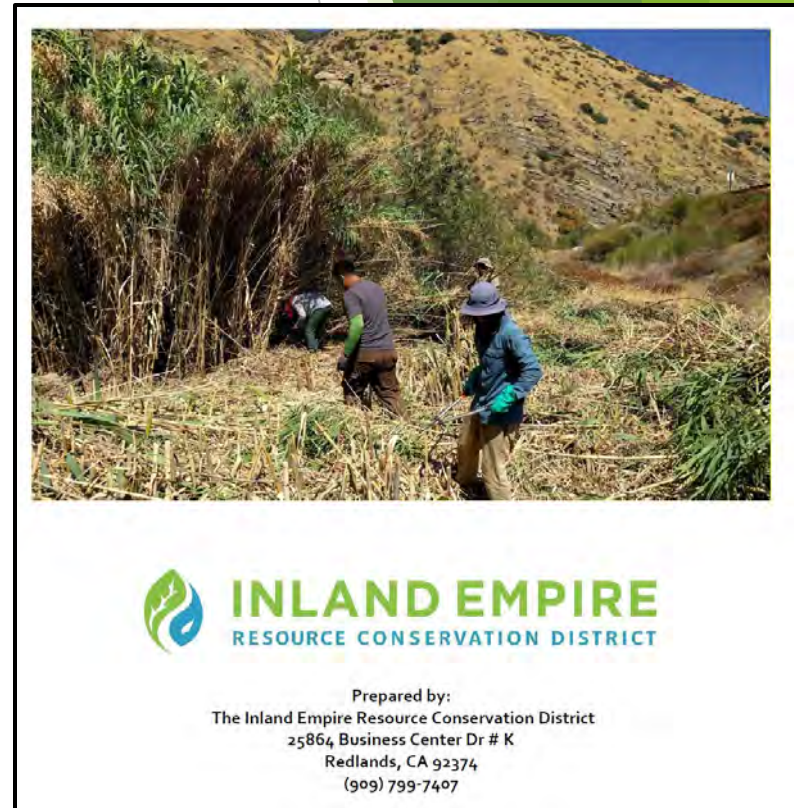
- ▶ Arundo rhizomes (underground stems) can wash down waterways during rain events,
- ▶ Starting at top of watershed and working down is economical.

Arundo Rhizome
Flowing Downstream
(Video)



About Inland Empire Resource Conservation District (IERCD)

- ▶ One of four RCDs in the Santa Ana River Watershed (SARW),
 - ▶ Their service area covers the upper SARW,
- ▶ Similar projects IERCD has implemented include:
 - ▶ Mill Creek Spanish Broom Control Project, and
 - ▶ Cajon Pass Invasive Species Control Project.
- ▶ IERCD has a detailed invasive species removal plan for their field staff.
- ▶ Staff are certified by State Department of Pesticide Regulation for herbicide application.
- ▶ SAWPA Commission approved a five-year IERCD Task Order on July 19, 2022.



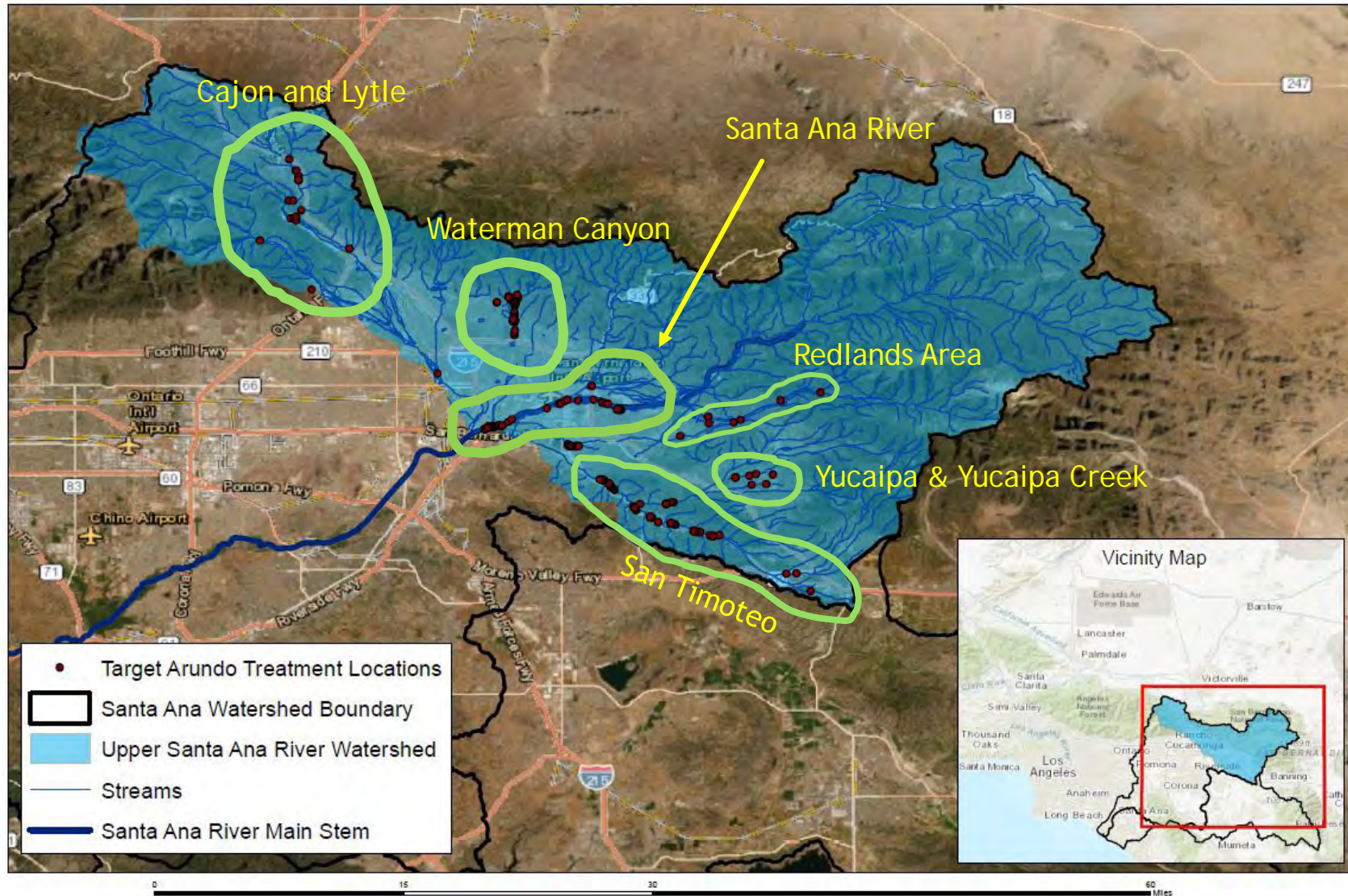
Task Order Budget

Time Period	Task Description	Amount
Task 1	Access Agreements, Right of Entry, Encroachment	\$10,775
Task 2	Surveying and Mapping	\$16,357
Task 3	Invasive Species Removal, Herbicide Application, Retreatment, and Restoration	\$107,097
Task 4	Admin - Environmental Review, Project Management, Administration, and Reporting	\$13,547
Total		\$147,777

Schedule and Budget Status

Item	Amount Incurred	% of Schedule/Budget Incurred
Schedule Implemented	1 of 5 years	20%
Budget Utilized	\$30,986 of \$147,777	21%

Map of Project Sites in Task Order

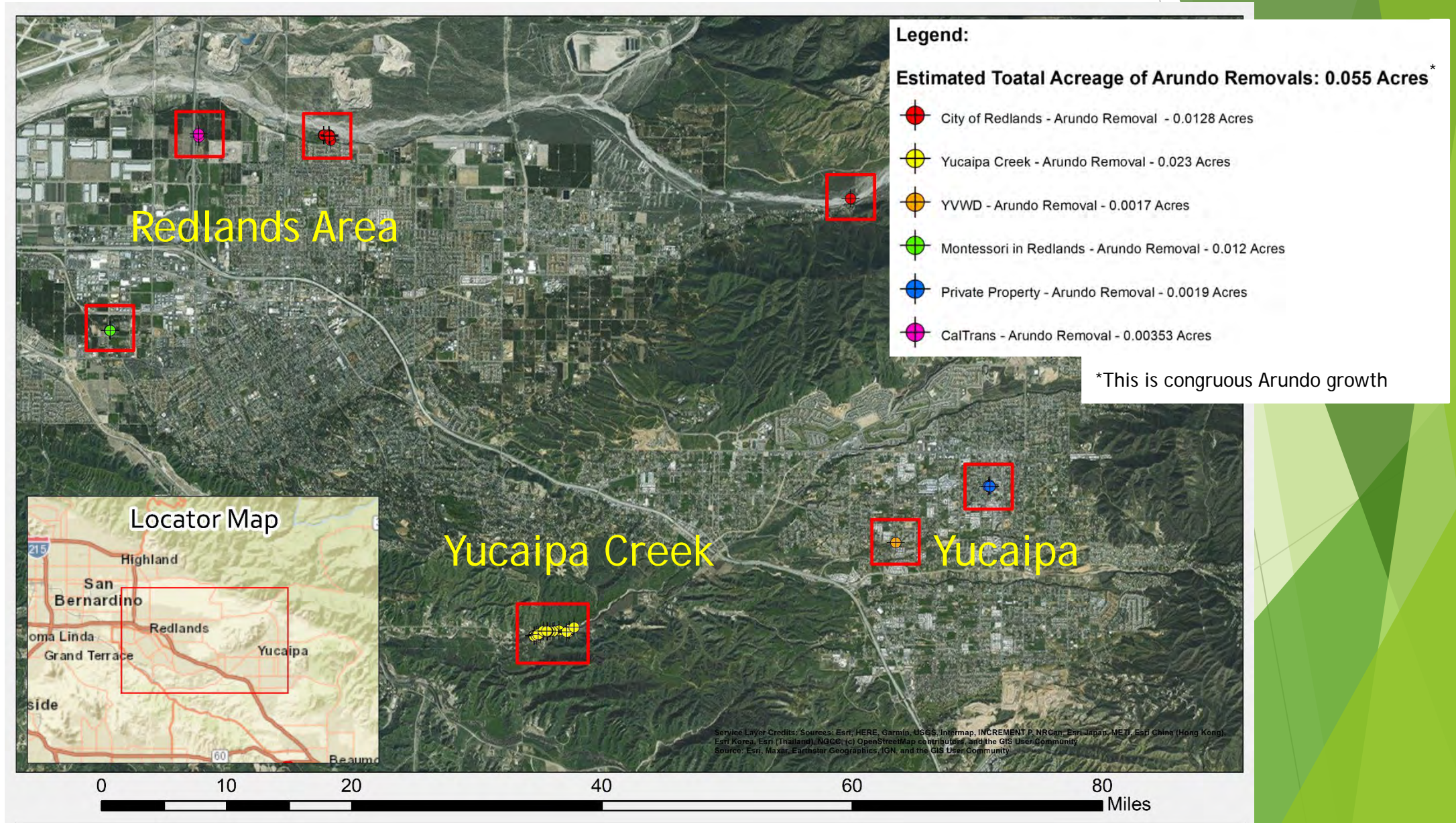


Arundo Surveying in FYE 2023

Item	Total Acres
Acres Surveyed Via Ground	1,348
Acres Surveyed Via Aerial Imagery	8,820
Total	10,168

*This is the total area surveyed, not the amount of total area covered with congruous Arundo growth.

Arundo Treated in FYE 2023



Outreach

Copy of IERCD Letter

INLAND EMPIRE RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Phone | (909) 799-7407
Fax | (909) 478-5501
25864-K Business Center Drive, Redlands, CA 92374
www.iercd.org

August 10, 2023
To: Inland Empire Resident

From: Inland Empire Resource Conservation District
25864-K Business Center Drive
Redlands, CA 92374

RE: URGENT Permission to Enter Your Property for Removal of Noxious Weeds (No Cost to You):

Noxious weeds have been identified on your property and are causing harm to the local and surrounding environment. The Inland Empire Resource Conservation District (IERCD) is requesting permission to remove noxious weeds from your property to reduce environmental and social damage at **no cost to you**; please read the details below to learn how you can help improve natural landscapes and reduce catastrophic risks to the environment.

What are noxious weeds? Noxious weeds are foreign plant species that are detrimental and destructive to important native plant species and wildland habitats and can cause negative environmental and social issues such as:

- **Increased fire danger** due to availability of flashy dry fuels.
- **Aquatic noxious weeds** contribute to increased water uptake, resulting in **decreased water availability** for plants, wildlife, and humans.
- **Personal property and foundation damage** caused by aggressive plant and root development.
- **Human health problems** including skin irritation and allergies.
- **Significant economic impact** as a result of lost agricultural yields, increased severity of wildfires and floods, loss of productive range lands, and reduced land values.
- **Damage to wildlife habitat** and food and forage material. Noxious weeds are quick to establish in wildland areas and result in loss of habitat for rare plant species and threatened/endangered wildlife.

The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) California Code of Regulations 4500 (CCR 4500) provides the state with the authority to regulate the movement of noxious weeds into or within California, and Food and Agricultural Code 5004 (Division 4) defines noxious weeds as a plant species that is found to be "troublesome, aggressive, intrusive, detrimental, or destructive to agriculture, silviculture, or important native species, and difficult to control or eradicate." Below are several examples of one or more noxious weeds found on your property that are contributing to environmental and social damage:




Figure 1. Giant Cane (*Arundo donax*).




Figure 2. This image shows the degree to which giant cane has invaded natural ecosystems along the middle Santa Ana River in the Inland Empire.

...The Quality of the Environment Determines the Quality of Life...

From Presentation to Cajon Community

Why are Invasive Species Bad?

- Ecology – invasive species displace native plants, decreasing diversity. Large invasions create “dead zones”
- Hard to control
- Reduce crop yields
- Etc.



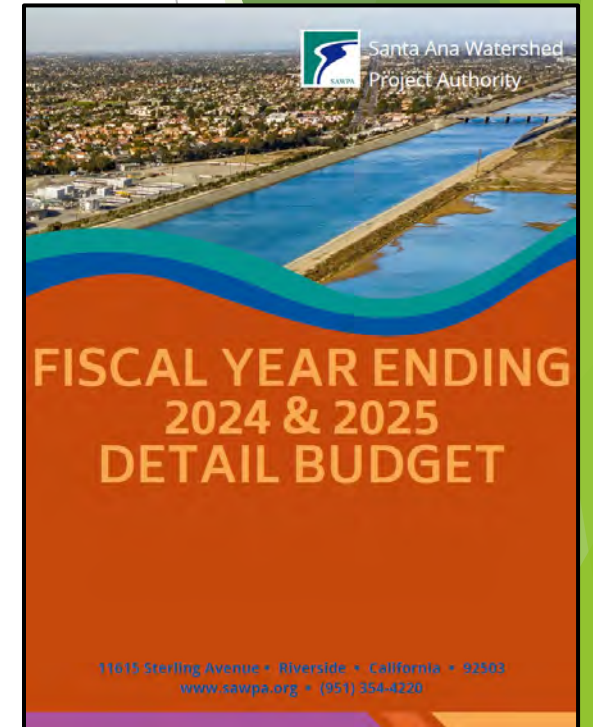
Work Planned for FYE 2024

- ▶ Further outreach in the Cajon and San Timoteo areas.
 - ▶ This involves community presentations, and two letters in the mail, and a follow up “door knocking” for individual property owners by IERCD staff to property owners.
- ▶ Outreach in the Santa Ana River mainstem, Lytle Creek and Waterman Canyon.
 - ▶ This involves individual meetings with large scale property owners like Flood Control Districts and a Native American Tribe.
- ▶ Follow-up removal in the Redlands, Yucaipa, and Yucaipa Creek areas.
- ▶ Initial removal in Cajon and possibly Lytle Creek.



Other Important Factors for this Effort

- ▶ SAWPA is not required to remove *Arundo donax* in these portions of the watershed (i.e. this is not “mitigation” for another project or activity),
- ▶ Approximately \$808,000 in funding is available in SAWPA’s *Arundo* Fund budget for this work,
- ▶ Some of the other downstream *Arundo* “hot spots” in the watershed are being treated by other entities, and
- ▶ IERCD and SAWPA coordinate with these entities through various methods such as Weed Management Area meetings.



Questions

