

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

**RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_**

IN THE MATTER OF PROCESSING A MINOR AMENDMENT TO SANTA BARBARA COUNTY'S COMPONENT OF THE CALIFORNIA COASTAL IMPACT ASSISTANCE PLAN, REVISING THE SCOPE OF THE SANTA YNEZ RIVER RESTORATION PROJECT
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WITH REFERENCE TO THE FOLLOWING:

- A. The Federal government enacted the U.S. Energy Policy Act of 2005 (hereinafter referred to as "Act").
- B. Section 384 of the Act established the Coastal Impact Assistance Program (hereinafter referred to as "CIAP").
- C. The CIAP disburses approximately \$250 million annually, for a period of four year commencing in 2008, to six coastal states situated adjacent to producing oil and gas leases in Federal waters on the Outer Continental Shelf.
- D. Thirty-five percent of each coastal state's share is disbursed directly to coastal political subdivisions via a grant program administered by the U.S. Department of the Interior.
- E. In order to receive these funds, the State of California has coordinated with eligible coastal political subdivisions to submit a Coastal Impact Assistance Plan, which identifies proposed uses of the funds and describes how those proposed uses meet the authorized uses of the CIAP.
- F. On July 13, 2010, the Minerals Management Service certified California's Coastal Impact Assistance Plan as being consistent with the authorized uses of the CIAP.
- G. The County wishes to make a minor revision to the *Santa Ynez River Restoration* project, which appears on its list of Tier 1 projects in the certified California Coastal Impact Assistance Program.

It is now deemed in the interest of the County of Santa Barbara and important to its residents to submit the following list of projects (included as Exhibit A) for inclusion in the California Coastal Impact Assistance Plan as eligible for receipt of grants from the U.S. Department of the Interior.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED as follows:

- 1. Pursuant to the provisions of Section 384 of the U.S. Energy Policy Act, this Board requests the California Natural Resources Agency and the Minerals Management Service to

process a minor amendment to Santa Barbara County's *Santa Ynez Restoration* project in the California Coastal Impact Assistance Plan, revising the scope of the project description as follows:

The Santa Ynez River Project originally proposed to assess and eradicate an infestation of the invasive weeds, *Tamarix ramosissima* and *Arundo donax*, along the riparian corridor of the Santa Ynez River. Phase 1 of the project, which has been completed, involved a survey and mapping of the infestation. The survey and mapping revealed that there is more *Tamarix ramosissima* and *Arundo donax* than can be treated with the grant funds that have been allocated. Therefore the project has been revised to target the eradication of only *Arundo donax*. Specific revisions to the project description appear in Exhibit A.

2. A copy of this Resolution shall be transmitted to the California Natural Resources Agency.

**PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED** this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of March, 2010, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTENTIONS:

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Janet Wolf, Chair  
Board of Supervisors  
County of Santa Barbara

ATTEST:

MICHAEL F. BROWN  
County Clerk of the Board

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy Clerk of the Board

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

DENNIS A. MARSHALL  
County Counsel

By  \_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy County Counsel

# Exhibit A

## Santa Ynez River Restoration

### STATE OF CALIFORNIA COASTAL IMPACT ASSISTANCE PLAN

#### SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

**PROJECT TITLE:** Santa Ynez River Arundo Project (Tier 1)

**PROJECT CONTACT INFORMATION:**

Name of Primary Staff Contact: David Chang  
Address: Santa Barbara County Agricultural Commissioner  
County of Santa Barbara  
263 Camino del Remedio  
Santa Barbara CA 93110  
Phone: (805) 681-5600  
Fax: (805) 681-5603  
E-mail: [dchang@co.santa-barbara.ca.us](mailto:dchang@co.santa-barbara.ca.us)

**PROJECT SUMMARY:**

Location: Santa Ynez River  
Duration: Current to December 31, 2016  
Total Estimated Project Cost: \$203,300  
Total CIAP Funds Requested: \$100,000  
Amount/Source of Remaining Funds: \$3,300; local mitigation funds via California Dept of Fish and Game  
\$100,000; a component of the Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (funded by Proposition 50 through the California Dept of Water Resources and the Water Resources Control Board)  
Estimated CIAP Spending per Year: 2009 - \$25,000  
2010 - \$40,000  
2011 - \$20,000  
2012 - \$15,000

**Project Summary and Description:**

This project aims to eradicate the noxious<sup>1</sup> weed arundo (*Arundo donax*) from the bed, banks, and overbanks of the Santa Ynez River. Arundo is a fast growing invasive and noxious weed

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<sup>1</sup> "Noxious" as used in this document refers to the specific regulatory definition of the term. *Arundo donax* is a weed specifically listed in the California Code of Regulations, as being non-native to California, particularly detrimental to agriculture or natural habits, and subject to regulatory restrictions or control.

that can dominate a riparian corridor thereby increasing the fire risk from the increased biomass and flood risk from errant stalks that can pile up behind bridges and obstructions. Arundo can exclude native vegetation and reduce biodiversity and habitat quality. Arundo use more water than native plants, thus reducing the water available for native habitat. Intervention, now, will prevent further establishment of arundo and protect wildlife habitat and human resources.

*Status of the infestations:* Comprehensive mapping of arundo and tamarisk is incomplete on 80% of the river. However based on a preliminary survey, the per cent coverage along the Santa Ynez River by arundo and tamarisk has historically been low, but is increasing. Baseline observations and mapping, in 2002, indicated that arundo was uncommon on the banks of the River. More recent mapping, by SRS Technologies for Vandenberg Air Force Base (VAFB) and the Agricultural Commissioner, indicates that arundo occurrence has increased, but known individual patch sizes have not yet exceeded 400 square meters. The Los Padres National Forest Service has found scattered infestations of tamarisk east of Lake Cachuma.

The County of Santa Barbara Agricultural Commissioner's Office will coordinate the survey, control, and monitoring of arundo and tamarisk, and restoration of project sites, through the following five components:

### **Component 1 – Mapping**

Some mapping of arundo and tamarisk on the Santa Ynez River has been conducted by VAFB, the Agricultural Commissioner, and the Los Padres National Forest. More complete mapping is needed to define the distribution of arundo and tamarisk to allow for control and monitoring of weed populations. The Agricultural Commissioner will consolidate available maps and coordinate the production of additional data.

### **Component 2 – Management Plan**

The Agricultural Commissioner will consult with regulatory agencies to determine permit requirements. The project is anticipated to be exempt from CEQA/NEPA, but will likely require 1601 permits. The Agricultural Commissioner will identify landowners and obtain their permission to conduct work.

### **Component 3 – Arundo Control**

Arundo is controlled by the application of glyphosate herbicides to the cut-stump or foliage. Foliar spraying with 6 – 8% glyphosate solution will be used, where feasible.

Contract labor will be used to cut, treat, and/or dispose of arundo. The cut stump method of control involves cutting the arundo plant close to the base of the plant, and applying undiluted glyphosate or triclopyr<sup>2</sup> directly to the cut stumps, within five minutes of cutting. Cut arundo culms will be chipped and hauled out of the creek bed for disposal in a transitional or upland zone area.

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<sup>2</sup> Toxicity and environmental effects data of pesticides intended for use are available on request.

Monitoring and retreatment of control sites will need to be repeated annually for a number of years.

#### **Component 4 – Site Restoration**

Some, but not all, areas will need to be replanted with native vegetation to prevent erosion or restore native habitat. The Agricultural Commissioner will coordinate the revegetation of project sites.

#### **Component 5 – Monitoring and Evaluation**

The Agricultural Commissioner's Office will coordinate the survey for regrowth and missed arundo patches for ten years subsequent from the beginning of this project or until the declaration of successful control, whichever comes first. Successful control of arundo from the project areas will be declared upon not finding individual or regrown arundo plants within the project areas for three consecutive years.

A CEQA category 6 exemption was filed, on June 13, 2008, with the County of Santa Barbara Clerk of the Board for the survey and mapping (Task 1) portion of the project. Section 15306, Information Collection, exempts information gathering activities that will not result in disturbance to an environmental resource.

The survey will help serve as a preliminary analysis of CEQA permitting requirements.

#### **Measurable Goals and Objectives:**

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|------|---|
| 2009 | Survey and Mapping is complete.<br>Environmental permitting needs are determined.<br>Permits are completed<br>Landowner permissions are obtained<br>1st year treatments are started |
| 2010 | 2nd year treatments conducted   |
| 2011 | 3rd year treatments conducted   |
| 2012 | 4th year treatments conducted   |
| 2013 | 5th year monitoring and retreat if necessary  |
| 2014 | 6th year monitoring   |
| 2015 | 7th year monitoring and retreat if necessary  |

#### **COORDINATION WITH OTHER FEDERAL RESOURCES AND PROGRAMS:**

Coordination is occurring with the U.S. Air Force on Vandenberg Air Force Base and with the U.S. Forest Service in Los Padres National Forest, the two largest landowners within the project's footprint. Both agencies are conducting invasive weed removal projects on their properties and would benefit from the assistance provided by this project. VAFB needs clearly defined plans for security purposes and habitat and wildlife protection coordination. The USFS needs coordination for habitat and wildlife protection. The project will be operating under the USFS's Environmental Assessment for the use of glyphosate in the Los Padres National Forest.

Both agencies have responded and are ready to cooperate.

## **CALIFORNIA OCEAN PROTECTION COUNCIL:**

This project furthers the objective of restoring and maintaining valuable ocean and coastal habitats and resources, and meets the intent of objective 3 – control invasive species.

### **AUTHORIZED USES:**

This project conserves, protects, and restores coastal areas, including wetlands (authorized use #1), and it mitigates damage to fish, wildlife, and natural resources (authorized use #2). Arundo can form dense massive stands that displace native plants, reduce navigability, reduce biodiversity, reduce wildlife food and forage, reduce habitat quality, reduce groundwater resources, increase erosion, increase flood hazard, increase fire hazard, increase beach maintenance, threaten infrastructure and alter stream hydrology.

Consistent with authorized use # 2, this project intends to control arundo before they become widespread on the river, thus making the project more feasible, and less expensive, than if we waited

Consistent with authorized use # 1, this project's nexus to coastal areas is that the Santa Ynez River flows to the coast at Vandenberg Air Force Base. VAFB is actively mapping and controlling Arundo and other invasive weeds on their property.