



Phone (760) 728-1332
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1588 South Mission Road, Suite 100
Fallbrook, California 92028

www.missionrcd.org

2014

Dear Property Owner,

This packet (introductory letter, enclosed permission slip and return envelope) has been sent to you because Mission Resource Conservation District's Weed Management Area Program either removed the invasive weed, *Arundo donax*, from your property several years ago or we have identified your property(ies) as possibly having *Arundo* located on it. We would like to be able to come out to your property this fall to retreat any stands or resprouts of this plant. There is no cost to you (the property owner) for this service.

For more information about this program and the detrimental effects of *Arundo* in the watershed, please read the enclosed permission slip.

Please sign and return the permission slip in the enclosed envelope.

We will be making every effort to treat and retreat all of the areas where *Arundo* may have resprouted this fall. In order to do so, we will need a completed permission slip from each property owner in the affected areas. We wanted to make you aware that a representative from our company may visit you at your property in the next month or two to gather unsigned permission slips.

If you have any questions, please call me.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Judith Mitchell".

Judith Mitchell
District Manager



Please send signed slip to above address.

2014

The Santa Margarita and San Luis Rey Watersheds Weed Management Area (WMA) would like your permission to control and/or remove the invasive non-native plant *Arundo donax* (giant reed) on your property. This plant does extensive damage to private property and our natural resources. The plant contributes to flood damage, is a fire risk, and degrades native habitat. *Arundo* also spreads aggressively downstream, potentially onto neighboring properties. Many landowners in your community have expressed a need for assistance in controlling this plant. Landowners have been overwhelmed by the cost and permitting issues related to removing *Arundo*. The WMA is providing this service at no cost to you. The WMA program is part of Mission Resource Conservation District, a local agency serving the community for over 65 years.

The WMA will typically treat the *Arundo* from mid summer to winter by applying an aquatic approved herbicide to the plant. Aquatic formulations of glyphosate (such as Aquamaster® and Rodeo®) are certified by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for use in and around wetlands. Professionals, who are fully licensed and insured, will carry out the application. Dead *Arundo* stems may either be left standing, be cut and chipped, or mulched by a tractor. The WMA will determine which sites are to be cut and if the dead *Arundo* is to be mulched. No biomass (dead *Arundo* cane) will be moved off site and no cut biomass will be left in the flowing creek channel. Native plants may be installed to help re-vegetate the site after *Arundo* has been treated.

The cost of initial treatments, re-treatments, biomass reduction, and replanting will be the responsibility of the WMA. The WMA has obtained all necessary permits for treatments from Department of Fish & Game, Fish & Wildlife Service, Army Corps of Engineers and Regional Water Quality Control Board, and completed CEQA.

Reasonable precautions will be exercised by the WMA and its contractors to avoid damage to persons and property. The WMA, Mission RCD, and the funding and permitting organizations (Wildlife Conservation Board, Department of Water Resources, SANDAG, NRCS, etc.) are not responsible for any erosion, flood or fire damage occurring in or around the creek either before or after the *Arundo* has been treated. Creek crossings, particularly un-permitted structures, remain the responsibility of the property owner. Assistance with these structures can be obtained by contacting the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) or private engineers.

The WMA asks your permission to carry out initial treatments, and to re-treat any resprouting *Arundo* on your property for ten years, at no cost to you, the property owner. We work closely with the property owner to cater our activities to your needs and concerns.

Thank you for your participation and cooperation on this important project.

I _____ agree to allow the Santa Margarita and San Luis Rey
(Print Property Owner or Manager's Name)

Watersheds Weed Management Area to control the invasive plant *Arundo donax* (giant reed) on my property at

(Street Address, City and/or APN of property with *Arundo*)

for ten years. The WMA, Mission RCD and the funding organizations are not responsible for any creek erosion, fire or flood damage that may occur either before or after treatment/control of the *Arundo* on my property.

Property Owner Signature

Date

Phone Number

E-mail Address

Property Owner Mailing Address, City, State, Zip

OFFICE USE ONLY

PROJECT AREA:
APN:

MAP ID#:
EXP. DATE: