

FW: vegetative/Arundo removal

From [redacted]@venturacounty.gov>  
Date: Fri 3/27/2026 10:01 AM  
To: [redacted]@venturacounty.gov>

[redacted], please see responses to your follow up questions below.  
Have a great weekend,  
[redacted]

Nearly all of the major watersheds/watercourses in Ventura County are impacted by Arundo (e.g. Ventura River, Santa Clara River, Conejo Creek, Calleguas Creek, Arroyo Simi, etc.). There are approximately 752 miles of jurisdictional redline channels in the county, of which Watershed Protection has the responsibility/authority to maintain 209 miles via right-of-ways comprised of fee parcels or easements. In other words, WP does not have any mechanism for conducting maintenance (i.e. Arundo removal) on more than half of the waterways in the county that lie on private property. Any "eradication" effort would be moot unless it is attacked at a watershed-wide effort.

I've included a screenshot of Conejo Creek to illustrate this situation/dilemma. The portion of Conejo Creek adjacent to Leisure Village (~ 2 miles, circled in green) lies in WP fee parcel and easement and receives routine maintenance. Upstream of this reach is approximately 2 miles of creek lying on private property that WP has no obligation or authority to maintain (circled in yellow). This upstream portion is infested with Arundo. Any efforts to "eradicate" Arundo within the WP maintained portion would be fruitless unless those efforts are conducted at the same time (or prior to) on the upstream private properties.

Under typical O&M activities, Arundo encountered during vegetation removal is generally mulched and left on-site, unless a specific task or project scope of work requires otherwise. For example, a 2025 Arundo removal project related to SCR-3 required off-site disposal as well as treatment of the Arundo bases (cut and daube). Initially, the waste collectors in the area of this task would not accept the Arundo waste until it was demonstrated that the material was dried and chopped to an acceptable gradation. Acceptance of Arundo material from waste collectors has been challenging in previous activities as well.

Lastly, the cost and time associated with cutting/daubing and offsite disposal is magnitudes higher than mulching on-site. Based on the permissible work periods established by WP regulators, other annual workplan and compliance obligations, and the O&M budget limitations, I would consider the "eradication" related activities applied to WP right-of-ways in all zones to be cost and time prohibitive – unless outside funding and labor provided otherwise.

