

Arundo Removal Project

Carpinteria, California

PROJECT

Arundo Removal Project
Carpinteria Creek
Carpinteria, CA 93013

CONTACT

Mr. David Chang
Ag. Commissioner's Office
dchang@co.santa-barbara.ca.us

TIMING

Project Began:
2005

FUNDING

County of Santa Barbara
CA Dept. of Fish and Game
Wildlife Conservation Board
N. American Wetlands Conservation Act
CA Dept. of Food and Agriculture
Coastal Resource Enhancement Fund

HIGHLIGHTS

Remove Invasive Non-Native
Native Riparian Plantings
Environmental Restoration
Improved Creek/Bank Habitat



Map of project area and scope of work

Project Info:

Arundo donax previously infested approximately 2 miles of the lower reach of Carpinteria Creek from the confluence of Gobernador Creek to the mouth at Carpinteria Beach State Park. The primary removal of arundo started in 2005 and was finished in 2007. Arundo is treated by foliar and cut-stump applications of herbicide. Cut-stump treatments involve cutting the arundo and applying herbicide directly to the stump. This treatment method produced 42 tons of clippings in 2005/06. Follow-up treatments will be conducted as arundo resprouts from rhizomes that escape the initial treatment. This project is led by the County of Santa Barbara's Agricultural Commissioner's Office with the assistance of the youthful vigor of the California Conservation Corps, supervision and herbicide application by Channel Islands Restoration, and native plant restoration and design by Darlene Chirman. The team will continue to battle resprouts for the next 10 years, watching them become fewer and fewer each year.

Arundo donax Info:

Arundo donax is an extremely fast-growing plant resembling bamboo, or a tall corn plant. It can grow four inches a day, and up to 30 feet tall. It prefers moist conditions, and usually grows along streams and ditches. Today arundo is aggressively invading our streams. It spreads quickly, even into thickly vegetated areas, and crowds out native plants. When sections of the plant break off, they float downstream to start new colonies. Arundo provides little food or habitat for our insects, birds and other wildlife. A waterside plant community dominated by arundo also suffers reduced canopy shading of in-stream habitat, which can lead to increased water temperatures. Increased temperature, which couples with decreased dissolved oxygen concentrations, is detrimental to steelhead trout. Flooding and erosion risks are increased. The arundo root mass is large, but shallow and brittle. It is easily undercut and contributes to bank erosion by pulling chunks of earth with it when the plant is washed downstream in high-flow events.

PHOTOS

Top to Bottom; Left to Right
All photos by David Chang

Creek bank of Arundo
CA Conservation Corps team
Channel Islands Restoration team
Disposal of Arundo canes
Native plantings in the first month
An uninfested portion of the creek

