



NFWF

2024 Walnut Creek Watershed Arundo Removal Project

Recipient: Contra Costa Resource Conservation District

Project Period: 6/1/2024 – 12/31/2024

Award Amount: \$115,677.00

Matching Contributions: \$ 53,490.27

Project Number: #8006.24.084885

Summary of Accomplishments

The purpose of this project was to complete Arundo removal in the San Ramon Creek while expanding Arundo removal efforts to other areas within the Walnut Creek Watershed in Contra Costa County.

Project Activities & Outcomes

Activities

- Helix Environmental was contracted to remove Arundo at four sites
- The Friends of San Ramon Creek volunteer crew was utilized to remove and retreat Arundo removal sites
- Continuous retreatment and monitoring is required to completely eradicate the Arundo

Outcomes

- 23,995 sq feet of Arundo was removed at 11 sites using Helix Environmental
- 27,500 sq feet of Arundo was removed by the Friends of San Ramon Creek
- The Friends of San Ramon Creek donated 1,165 volunteer hours
- 200 hours of Arundo retreatment was conducted

Lessons Learned

Retreating regrowth works best if the regrowth is cut to about 6”–18” tall and sprayed with herbicide. This may require treatments as often as every 3 weeks in the early part of the season. It makes for a quieter working environment and less cost if we pile and chip Arundo canes after initial cutting, then return a second day to perform chipping (although this does require additional untangling of the pile and multiple handling of the same canes). This reduced the rental cost of a chipper for one day at one site. In many cases, there is room above the high water line to chip the canes onto the bank instead of into a dumpster which reduces the amount of hauling required and returns the biomass to the environment.

Dissemination

The activities covered by this grant are pretty specific so we did not engage in any dissemination of our lessons learned.

POSTING OF FINAL REPORT: *This report and attached project documents may be shared by the Foundation and any Funding Source for the Project via their respective websites. In the event that the Recipient intends to claim that its final report or project documents contains material that does not have to be posted on such websites because it is protected from disclosure by statutory or regulatory provisions, the Recipient shall clearly mark all such potentially protected materials as "PROTECTED" and provide an explanation and complete citation to the statutory or regulatory source for such protection.*

Project Photos



Image 1: Alamo Bridge HOA site showing the extensive growth of the Arundo (left) and what the area looks like after it has been removed (right)