

Prop 50 Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Proposal Form

SECTION A – PROJECT INFORMATION

1. Project Title	Northern San Diego County Invasive Species Control Program
2. Contact Information	
? Agency/organization	Mission Resource Conservation District (Mission RCD) in cooperation with the Carlsbad Watershed Network (CWN/CHU), and the San Dieguito Joint Powers Authority (JPA)
? Address	Santa Margarita and San Luis Rey Weed Management Area (SMSLRWMA) Program PO Box 1777 Fallbrook CA 92028
? Phone	760-728-1332
? E-mail	judy-mitchell@ca.nacdnet.org
? Submitted by (name & title)	Judy Mitchell, District Manager
3. Project Location (City/Community)	All of Northern San Diego County (Figure 1).
4. Watershed (if multiple or regional, please indicate)	Santa Margarita and San Luis Rey Watersheds, Carlsbad Hydrologic Unit (CHU), and the San Dieguito Watershed (Fig. 1).
5. Amount Requested	\$4.9 million for all North San Diego County Watersheds
6. Match Information (a minimum 10% match is required for all projects):	
? Estimated match amount	\$500,000 for North San Diego County
? Has a match been identified (y/n)?	Yes
? If so, please identify the source(s)	ACOE In-Lieu-Fee Program and other Federal mitigation and grant programs (no state funds used as match)
7. Status of Project (conceptual, designed & ready to build, CEQA completed, etc.)	Project continues ongoing implementation of Weed Management Area programs that have been in operation since 2000. All permits are in place (FWS BO, CEQA, DFG, 404 and 401). The SMSLRWMA program operates under ACOE RGP 41. Carlsbad Watersheds also have all permits plus an approved QAPP, PAEP, and Habitat Monitoring Plans.
8. Project Description:	
<p>The focus of the project is the continued eradication of targeted invasive non-native plant species, with an emphasis on <i>Arundo donax</i>, that are degrading native riparian habitat and posing serious flood and fire hazards. Control and native re-vegetation of riparian habitat benefits many federally endangered species: least Bells’ vireo, southwestern willow flycatcher, arroyo toad, California Least Tern, and the California Light-footed clapper rail to name a few. <i>Arundo</i> also causes accelerated erosion rates by clogging streams and rivers which diverts water and speeds flows. Faster flows reduce ground water recharge and accelerate erosion. <i>Arundo</i> uses significantly more water than native habitat, and it fills areas that would otherwise be open</p>	

habitat with little water transpiration /consumption. Controlling an acre of *Arundo* saves about 1.8 acre feet of water each year. *Arundo* is treated in the fall, biomass is reduced in February and then immediately re-planted with natives. Over 97% control of *Arundo* is achieved in the first year on treated stands. The program area is a mix of public and private ownership. The San Luis Rey program has a 98% success rate in obtaining permission to carryout *Arundo* treatments, and permission from most of the area to be treated under Prop 50 funding has already been obtained. The CHU has a similar track record. Permission for most of San Dieguito is also granted through the Joint Powers Authority. On the ground work would begin immediately once contracting has been completed. Our programs are used by many agencies as a model for successful and cost efficient projects. The requested \$4.9 million will treat most of the remaining untreated areas within the three project areas, as well as provide inexpensive but critical re-treatments and fill in native planting to assure that previously funded treatment areas achieve long-term control and ecological recovery (Fig. 1).

The Mission RCD *Arundo* control program (SMSLRWMA) began implementation of watershed based eradication program in 2000 on the San Luis Rey (Fig. 1). Initially 538 acres of *Arundo* were present on the watershed. Our program has treated 174 acres to date and has funding for another 71 acres. An additional 140 acres will be treated under an ACOE program on the lower river. At least 113 acres of the remaining 153 acres plus re-treatments of 245 acres would occur under this Prop 50 grant.

The CWN/CHU project has mapped out 270 acres and has treated 140 acres in year 1 of its project (Fig. 1). The original proposal for the CHU was reduced by \$1 million during the Prop 13 process. This unfunded portion of the project plus re-treatments will assure long term success of the project.

The San Dieguito Watershed has initiated control of the largest *Lepidium latifolium* (pepperweed) infestation in San Diego County, (over 230 acres) under a Prop 12 grant (Fig. 1). *Arundo* control has been initiated on the upper watershed with 12 acres being controlled in last three years. The watershed's remaining 70 acres of *Arundo* and tamarisk, plus continued treatments of pepperweed, would occur under this grant.

The San Luis Rey WMA program aided in developing and implementing both of the current efforts in Carlsbad and San Dieguito watersheds. Working with the Carlsbad Watershed Network, and the San Dieguito Joint Powers Authority through one combined project will add strength and consistency to an already successful project.

In addition to the removal and re-vegetation of invasive species, the scientific monitoring developed for the CHU will be transposed to the San Luis Rey and the San Dieguito River. By collecting water quality (continuous), bioassessment, stream flow, and vegetation data, we will be better able to describe the quantifiable water quality improvements associated with removal of invasive species. With the Santa Margarita and the CWN both having approved QAPP in hand, the protocols for monitoring are already in place.

Through this new collaborative effort, we will also create a program to reduce the use of impervious surfaces based on a multitude of existing programs such as, NEMO, CH2Mhill's Life Model, and the State Water Board's LID training book. Through our outreach component we will work with the partner municipalities to look at ways to store and hold runoff and help reduce urban runoff. Training and guidelines for city planners, developers and contractors would be completed.

Northern San Diego County Invasive Species Control Program.

Project Contact: Judy Mitchell, Mission Resource Conservation District (MRCDD)

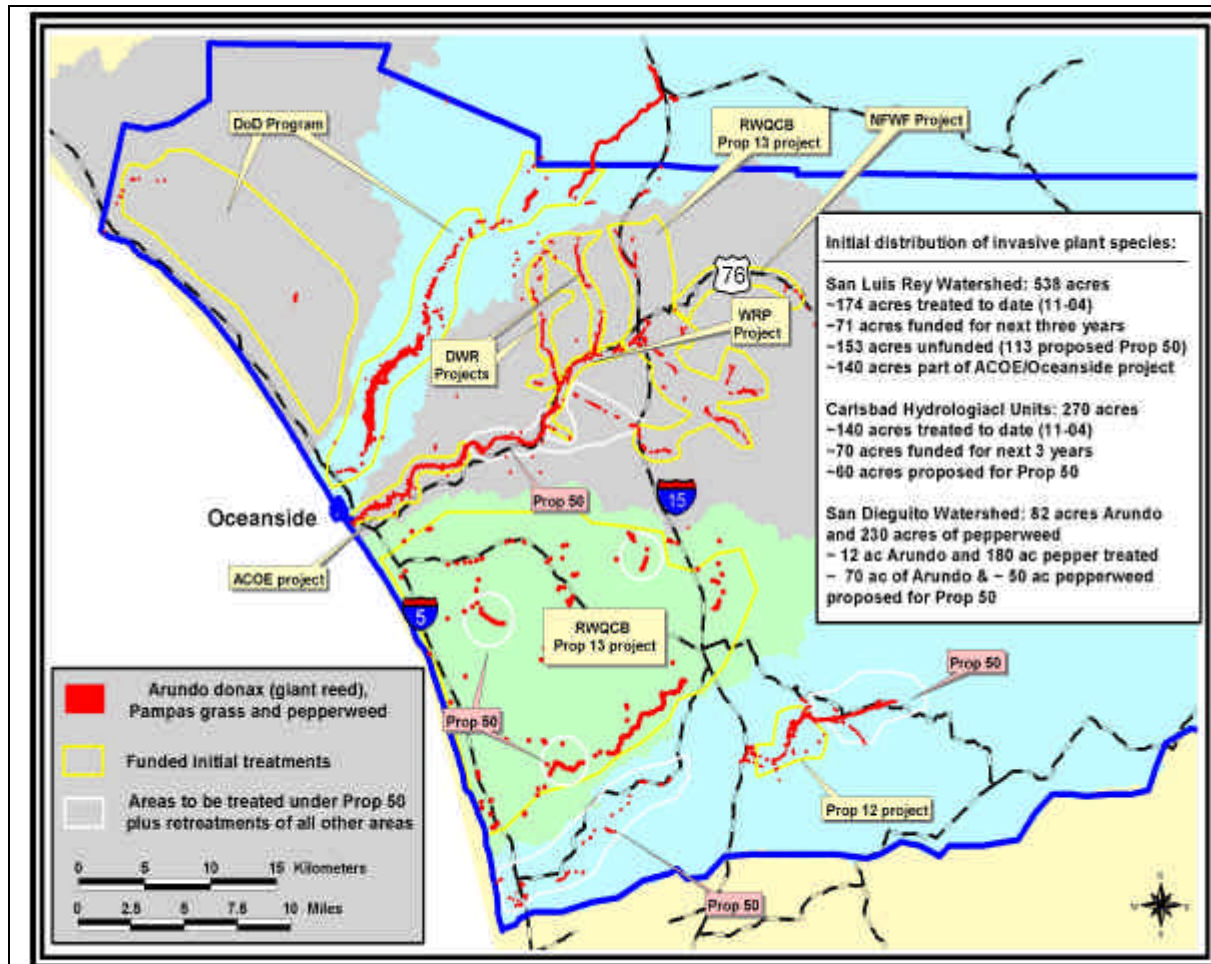


Figure 1. Distribution of target invasive non-native plants in program area for San Luis Rey, Santa Margarita, Carlsbad Hydrologic Unit and San Dieguito Watersheds. Funded programs and Prop 50 project areas are indicated.

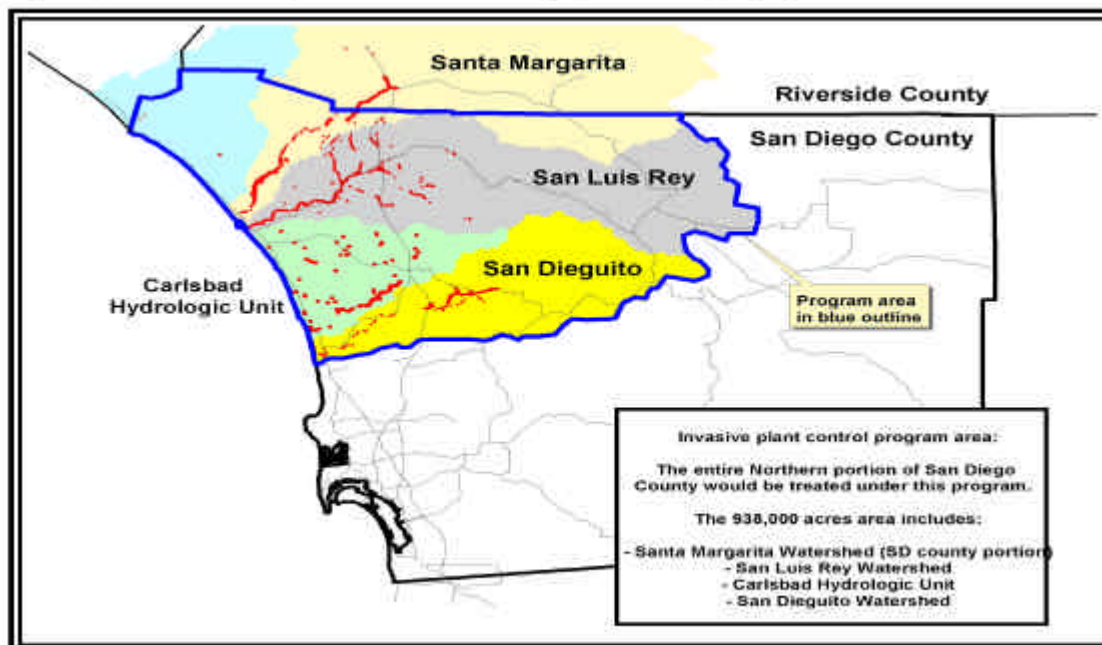


Figure 2. Northern San Diego County invasive species control program project area.

SECTION B – SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

1. CWC section 79561 states that eligible projects must include one or more of the water management elements listed below (see Guidance Section III.C.). Please check all that apply to your proposed project.

- Programs for water supply reliability, water conservation, and water use efficiency
- Storm water capture, storage, treatment, and management
- Removal of invasive non-native plants, the creation and enhancement of wetlands, and the acquisition, protection, and restoration of open space and watershed lands
- Non-point source pollution reduction, management and monitoring
- Groundwater recharge and management projects
- Contaminant and salt removal through reclamation, desalting and other treatment technologies
- Water banking, water exchange, water reclamation and improvement of water quality
- Planning and implementation of multipurpose flood control programs that protect property; and improve water quality, storm water capture and percolation; and protect or improve wildlife habitat
- Watershed management planning and implementation
- Demonstration projects to develop new drinking water treatment and distribution methods

2. The Dept. of Water Resources (DWR) and State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) have established the statewide priorities listed below for guiding the selection of projects for funding (see Guidance Section II.E.). Please check all that apply to your proposed project.

- Reduce conflict between water users or resolve water rights disputes, including interregional water rights issues
- Implementation of Total Maximum Daily Loads that are established or under development
- Implementation of Regional Water Quality Control Board Watershed Management Initiative Chapters, plans, and policies
- Meet Delta Water Quality Objectives
- Implementation of recommendations of the floodplain management task force, desalination task force, or recycling task force;
- Address environmental justice concerns
- Assist in achieving one or more goals of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program.