

Project Title:
Project Contact (name and organization/agency):

**Proposition 50 Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM)
 Project Proposal Form**

Detailed guidance on the Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Grant Program can be found on the State Water Resources Control Board’s Prop 50 Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) grant program web page at: <http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/funding/irwmgp/index.html>. Please familiarize yourself with the general requirements of this program before preparing and submitting a project proposal.

Completed forms should be submitted no later than December 1, 2004, either via email to jon.vanrhyn@sdcountry.ca.gov or mailed to the following location:

Jon Van Rhyn
 County of San Diego
 Watershed Protection Program
 9325 Hazard Way
 San Diego CA 92123 PHONE: 858-495-5133 FAX: 858-495-5263

SECTION A – PROJECT INFORMATION

1. Project Title	Tijuana River Valley Invasive Plant Control Program
2. Contact Information	
? Agency/organization	Southwest Wetlands Interpretive Association (SWIA)
? Address	708-A Seacoast Drive Imperial Beach, CA 91932
? Phone	(619) 575-0550
? E-mail	swiaprojects@aol.com
? Submitted by (name & title)	Mayda Winter, Project Director
3. Project Location (City/Community)	Tijuana River Valley, City of San Diego
4. Watershed (if multiple or regional, please indicate)	Tijuana River Watershed
5. Amount Requested	\$3.9 million
6. Match Information (a minimum 10% match is required for all projects):	
? Estimated match amount	\$1.1 million
? Has a match been identified (y/n)?	yes
? If so, please identify the source(s)	Proposition 13 Watershed Protection Grant Program
7. Status of Project (conceptual, designed & ready to build,	In implementation phase. All permits have already been obtained (CEQA, NEPA and

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CEQA completed, etc.)	Streambed Alteration)
<p>8. Project Description (less than 100 words)</p> <p>The project will control exotic plants on 1,684 acres of prime estuarine and riparian habitats in the Tijuana River Valley. The project will be within a county park, a state park, a national wildlife refuge and a national estuarine research reserve. The purpose of the project is to protect these valuable habitats and control the spread of invasive plants, particularly giant reed (<i>Arundo donax</i>) and castor bean (<i>Ricinus communis</i>). The project will include treatment, re-vegetation, and monitoring. It will implement a stakeholder-developed management plan, has the support of resource agencies, addresses funding priorities, is fully permitted and ready to proceed.</p>	
<p>9. Additional information (include photo, regional map, text as needed. Please limit entire document to 3 pages or less):</p> <p>HISTORY OF PROGRAM</p> <p>The Tijuana River Valley Invasive Plant Control Program was started by SWIA in 2002 with funding from the California State Coastal Conservancy and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (\$560,000). The distributions of the target species were mapped, a control plan was developed, all the necessary environmental permits were obtained, and experimental treatments in small demonstration sites were conducted.</p> <p>In 2004 further funding from the Proposition 13 Watershed Protection Grant Program (\$1.1 million) has allowed expansion of the treatments of the target species into some of the prime riparian and salt marsh habitats in the valley. Up to 627 acres are expected to be enhanced during the three years of treatments (2004 – 2007).</p> <p>PROPOSED PROJECT</p> <p>The present proposal will build on the existing work and seeks funding to remove non-native, invasive plants from within 1,684 acres of prime estuarine and riparian habitats in the Tijuana River Valley.</p> <p>The majority of the grant funding will go to the fieldwork: treatment, removal and disposal of the invasive plants, and the re-vegetation of selected treatment sites with native species. This is the task that is most important to the project and will require the most effort. The other tasks require less funding but are essential to the success of the project as a whole. Monitoring of the removal sites, both pre- and post-treatment, will provide valuable information on the success and effectiveness of the program. In addition, a Technical Advisory Group that</p>	

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includes members from the resource agencies, Tijuana River Valley land owning agencies, and experts in the field of invasive plant control will be maintained in order to guide and advise the project.

Taken together, the tasks supplement one another and create an overall project that is feasible, worthwhile, and likely to produce long-term beneficial use and watershed benefits. The project has firm stakeholder support, has all the appropriate environmental permits, and fits well with the priorities of the Integrated Regional Water Management Grant Program.

TECHNICAL ADVISORY GROUP

The Technical Advisory Group that guides the Tijuana River Valley Invasive Plant Control Program has been meeting annually since 2002. The group includes representatives from the following agencies and organizations:

- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Refuges);**
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Ecological Services);**
- U.S. Navy;**
- U.S. Geological Survey;**
- U.S. International Boundary and Water Commission;**
- California Department of Fish and Game;**
- California Regional Water Quality Control Board;**
- California State Parks;**
- California Coastal Commission;**
- San Diego County Parks and Recreation;**
- San Diego County Department of Agriculture;**
- City of San Diego; and**
- City of Imperial Beach.**

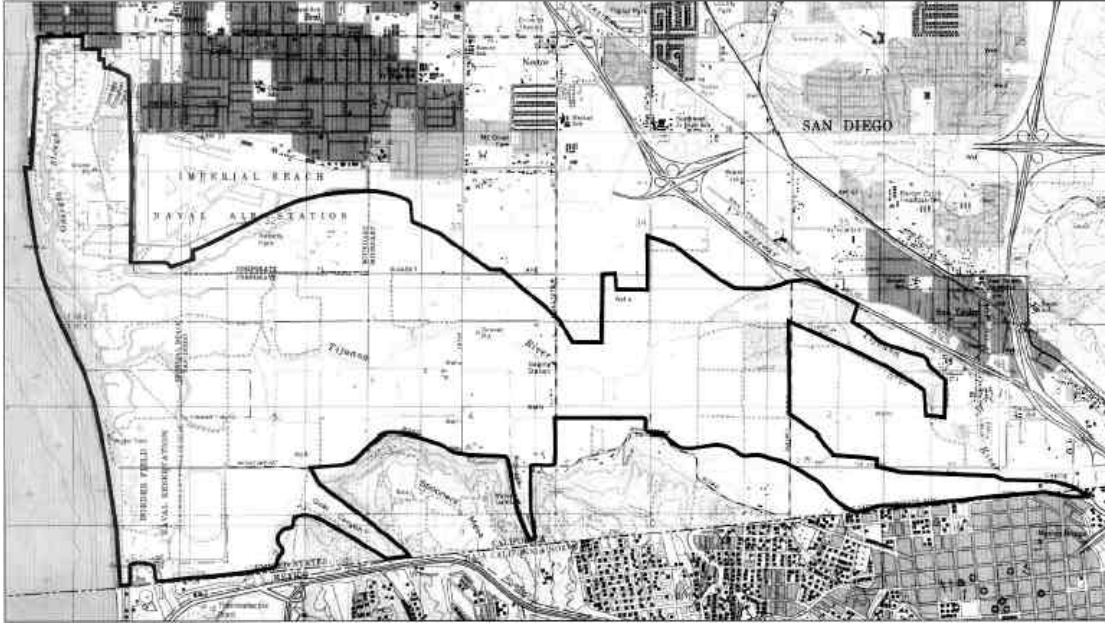
GIANT REED (*Arundo donax*)

Giant reed is the most important target species in the Tijuana River Valley. It grows as tall, thick stands within, or on the edge of, the willow forests that line the main river channels. These giant reed stands crowd out native plants, increase fire hazard, reduce ground water, alter channel morphology, increase flood hazard and lower insect food supply for riparian birds.

Treatment of the giant reed involves cutting the stems at ground level and removing the above-ground biomass, and then spraying the cut-stumps with an appropriate herbicide, e.g., Rodeo. The sites from which giant reed have been removed are then revegetated by planting willow or mulefat cuttings.

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PROJECT LOCATION MAP



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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

NOTE: The eligibility requirements and statewide priorities listed above should be considered minimum screening criteria for project selection. Additional prioritization criteria will be identified once regional goals have been established for the draft IRWM Plan. In general, applicants should assume that preference will be

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given to projects that are regional, multi-functional, and able to demonstrate multiple benefits.

NOTE: Proposals that include on-stream or off stream surface water storage facilities are not eligible.