

# Upper Carpinteria Creek *Arundo donax* Survey

October 11, 2004



Prepared for:

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## Background-

The Community Environmental Council retained Matt Stoecker, of Stoecker Ecological, to survey portions of the upper Carpinteria Creek watershed for the presence of the exotic plant *Arundo donax*. Mauricio Gomez, Watershed Restoration Project Manger for the Community Environmental Council, accompanied Matt Stoecker while surveying upper Carpinteria Creek on October the 8<sup>th</sup>. Previous surveying efforts identified the locations of *Arundo donax* downstream of Casitas Pass Road and this effort was conducted to determine if *Arundo* occurred upstream and would require removal to ensure the success of downstream *Arundo* removal efforts being planned.

## Scope of Work-

This survey extended upstream from Casitas Pass Road on Carpinteria Creek to the Sutton Creek confluence and upstream on Gobernador Creek to just downstream of the Widdoes private road crossing, which occurs downstream from the Santa Barbara County Debris Dam. Additional information about the presence of other exotic plants and limited surface flow information is also provided. Provide information to the Community Environmental Council and Santa Barbara County Weed Management Area of the Agricultural Commissioner's Office.

## Survey Results-

*October 8, 2004*

Carpinteria Creek- No *Arundo* was observed upstream of Casitas Pass Road to the confluence of Carpinteria Creek and Gobernador Creek. Several exotic plant species were observed in this stream reach including Fennel, Ivy (sp.), and Eucalyptus. This entire stream reach was dry.

Upper Carpinteria Creek- No *Arundo* was observed upstream of the Gobernador Creek confluence to the confluence of Sutton Creek and Carpinteria Creek. Several exotic plant species were observed in this stream reach including Vinca, Fennel, Ivy (sp.), and Eucalyptus. Castor Bean was observed downstream from the Arnesen private road crossing. Pampas Grass, Eucalyptus, and Ivy (sp.) were observed adjacent to the Vedder horse jumping facility and upstream past the County Debris Dam. Mature Eucalyptus was observed adjacent to the County Debris Dam. Ivy (sp.) continued upstream to the upstream extent of surveying near the Sutton Creek and Carpinteria Creek confluence. This stream reach was dry upstream to just upstream of the Pinkham private road crossing. Trickling flow and several dry reaches occurred upstream to the Sutton Creek confluence. Trickling flow occurred in Carpinteria Creek upstream of Sutton Creek. Sutton Creek was dry upstream of the Carpinteria Creek confluence.

October 9, 2004

Gobernador Creek- Only one patch of *Arundo donax* was observed on Gobernador Creek and throughout the entire project survey area. This patch occurs on the “river-left” or east side of Gobernador Creek adjacent to a private residence with a mailbox address of 654 Gobernador Road, which occurs across the road from the residence. This *Arundo* location can be seen from Gobernador Road, where the road first makes a sharp bend on the creek bank. The *Arundo* patch occurs approximately 100 feet downstream from this bend and the above residential driveway. The GPS coordinate obtained in the stream channel adjacent to the *Arundo* patch was (34-24-00.9, 119-28-57.1). The patch contains 3 clumps of *Arundo*. The height of these clumps exceeds 20 feet and encompasses approximately 100 feet of the creek bank. The landowner appears to be dumping yard clippings in the creek at this location and this practice may have led to the establishment of the *Arundo*. Images of the *Arundo* patch are shown below and on the cover page of this report.



Immediately upstream of the *Arundo* site, at the sharp Gobernador Road bend, additional clippings and large avocado stumps have been stacked against a failing Pipe/Wire revetment in apparent attempts to slow down bank erosion at this site. Moving the road further away from the creek bank and removal of these stumps and Pipe/Wire revetment combined with biotechnical bank stabilization and native planting is recommended.



Several other exotic plant species were observed in this stream reach including, Castor bean, Ivy (sp.), Fennel, and Eucalyptus. A large Eucalyptus grove occurs on the other side of the creek from the *Arundo* site. One clump of Tamarisk was observed on Gobernador Creek adjacent to Gobernador Road at GPS coordinate (34-24-1.8, 119-28-43.7). This Tamarisk clump occurs on the river-right side of the creek within the channel and within site of Gobernador Road between two fenced areas and directly across from the outlet of a culvert draining the road. This lone clump of Tamarisk (pictured below) should be removed to prevent further spread of this exotic species, which was not observed further upstream.



### Creekside Landowner Outreach Recommendation-

To reduce further exotic infestation in the creek, creekside landowners should be contacted and presented with materials that inform them about the negative impacts of exotic plant introduction, how exotic plants can spread from clippings dumped in the creek, and include an ID of common exotic plants. It would be helpful if a free service were available for creekside landowners to receive an assessment of their creekside vegetation and possible assistance removing and hauling exotics and receiving advice for landscaping with natives.