US Army Corps
of Engineers

Matilija Dam
Ecosystem Restoration Project

Giant Reed Removal

Ojai Community Outreach Meeting

July 1, 2008

www.matilijadam.org

Good Evening!

Welcome to the
Chaparral Auditorium

Introductions

- **Ventura County Supervisor Steve Bennett**
- **Ventura County Watershed Protection District (VCWPD)**
  - Director: Jeff Pratt
  - Project Manager: Tom Lagier
  - Watershed Ecologist: Pam Lindsey
- **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)**
  - Project Manager: Darrell Buxton
  - Project Environmental Coordinator: Tiffany Kayama
- **Consultants**
  - Wildscape Restoration
  - Hunt Associates
  - Nature's Image

Matilija Dam Ecosystem Restoration Project

Tonight's Meeting Agenda

- **Provide an update on the progress of the Giant Reed Removal Project**
- **Answer questions from comment cards**

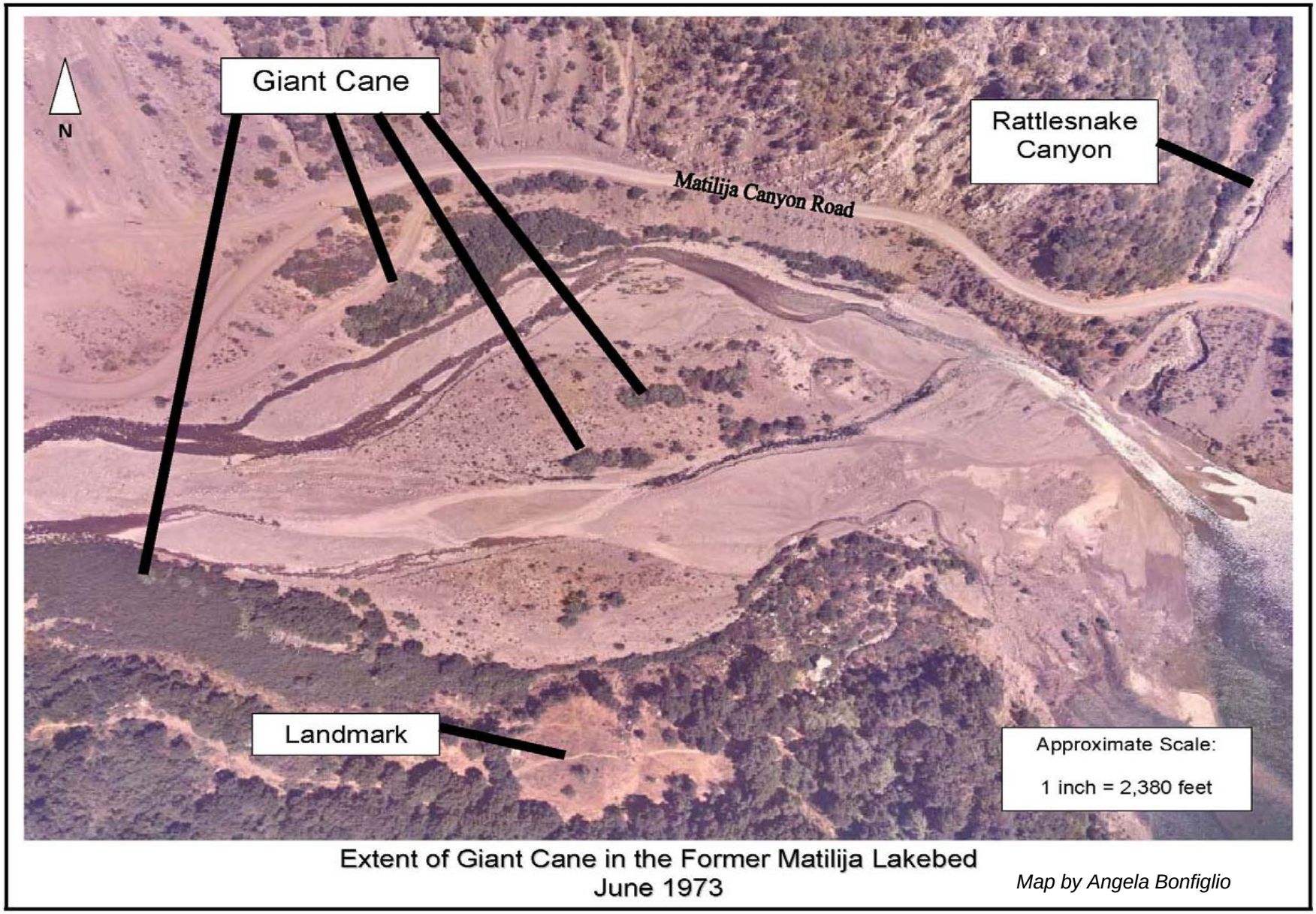
What is Giant Reed *(Arundo donax)*?

- A perennial giant grass
- Introduced to California by the 1800s
- Reaches 30 feet tall
- Grows about anywhere
- Roots from rhizome and stem pieces

Photo: Ventura County Resource Conservation District, 2005

NEGATIVE IMPACTS:
FIRE, FLOOD & EROSION, HABITAT, WATER SUPPLY

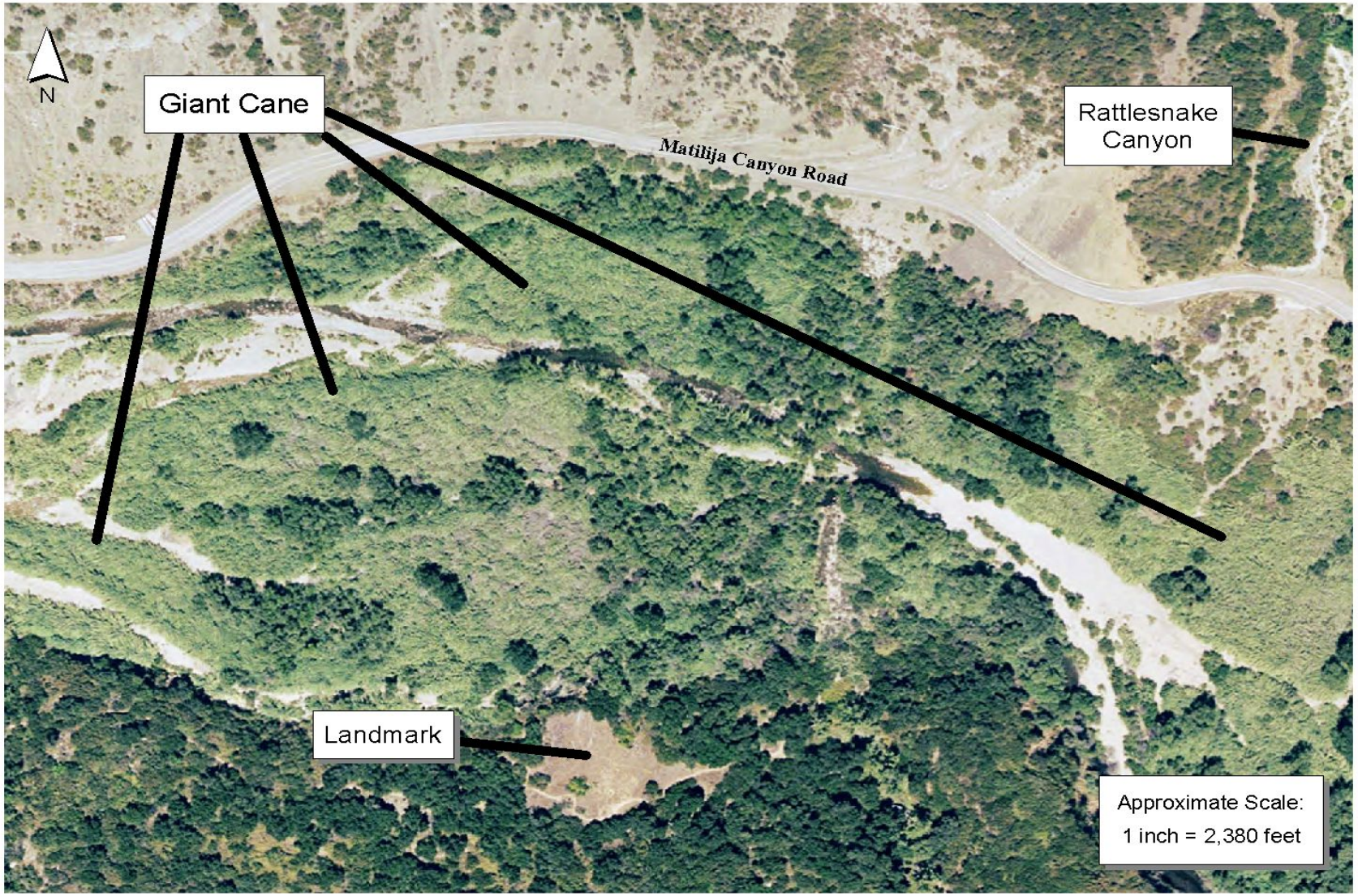
Extent of Giant Reed Behind Matilija Dam, 1973



Extent of Giant Cane in the Former Matilija Lakebed
June 1973

Map by Angela Bonfiglio

Extent of Giant Reed Behind Matilija Dam, 2006



Extent of Giant Cane in the Former Matilija Lakebed

June 2006

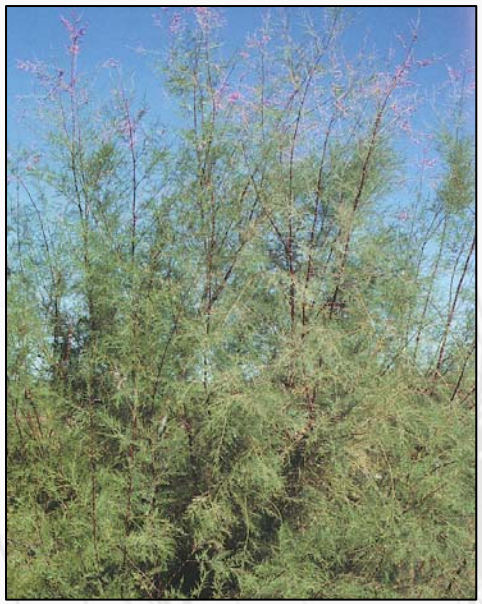
Map by Angela Bonfiglio

Statewide Need for Giant Reed Removal Projects

- Encouraged by CDFG, USFWS, NOAA Fisheries, LARWQCB, SWRCB, and many others.
- Coordinated to remove from Upstream to Downstream to prevent reinfestation.
- Public outreach by Arundo Task Force and Ventura County Resource Conservation District to discourage giant reed planting and accidental spread of roots and stems.
- Projects in progress and planned for Ventura River, Santa Clara, and Calleguas watersheds by various agencies.
- Projects statewide from the Mexico Border to north of San Francisco.

Other Target Species

Pepper Tree *(Schinus molle)*



Tamarisk
(Tamarix ramosissima

Scotch Broom
(Cytisus scoparius)

Castor Bean *(Ricinus communis)*

Benefits of the Giant Reed Removal Project

BENEFITS OF REMOVAL

- Restore native habitats.
- Reduce fire fuels.
- Reduce flood and erosion.
- Improve local water supply.

Matilija Dam Ecosystem Restoration Project History

- 1998 Steelhead listed as endangered, Matilija Dam removal identified as key to recovery

- 2000 Kickoff with Sec. of Interior Bruce Babbitt

- <u>CEQA/NEPA Process:</u>

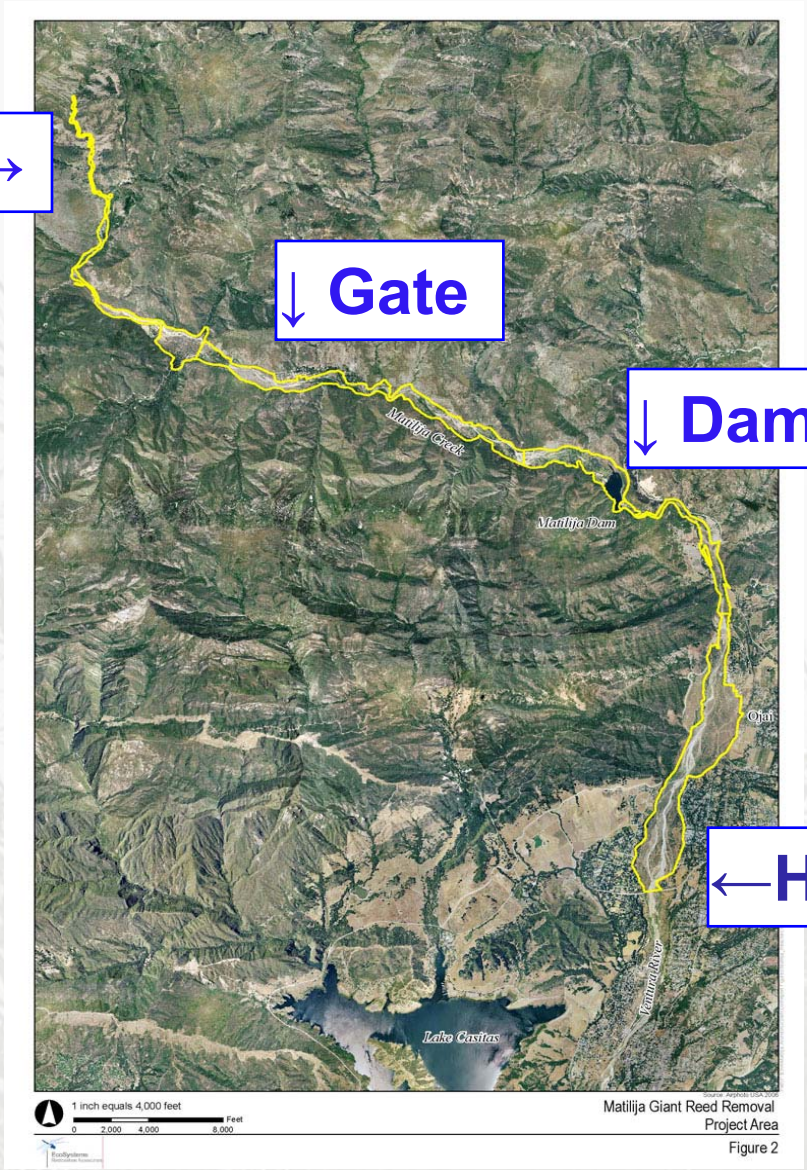
Notice of Preparation	January 16, 2002
Public Hearing	January 31, 2002
Notice of Availability	July 16, 2004
Public Meeting	July 28, 2004
ERRC Hearing	October 13, 2004
Public Hearing	December 14, 2004

- Giant Reed Public Meeting May 23, 2007

Matilija Dam Giant Reed Removal Project History

- 2006 $5 million awarded for giant reed and well projects from SWRCB
- Winter/Spring 2007 Studies and Plans
- Winter/Spring 2007 Project meetings, obtained landowner approvals
- Fall 2007 Initiated giant reed removal

Giant Reed Removal - Project Area Map



Matilija Dam Giant Reed Removal Project Statistics

- Project area: ± 1,100 acres
- Giant reed: ± 200 acres
- Treatment methods per plan with Aquamaster™ and Agri-Dex™
  - foliar spray with shredding –

    70 acres shredded so far
  - cut/daub with chipping –

    725 tons chipped so far

Minimize Potential Water Quality Impacts

- No Aquatic Application
- Best Management Practices
- Water Quality Monitoring

Examples of Methods – Foliar Spray and Shredding

Boom sprayer reaches tall giant reed

Mower shreds reed into small pieces

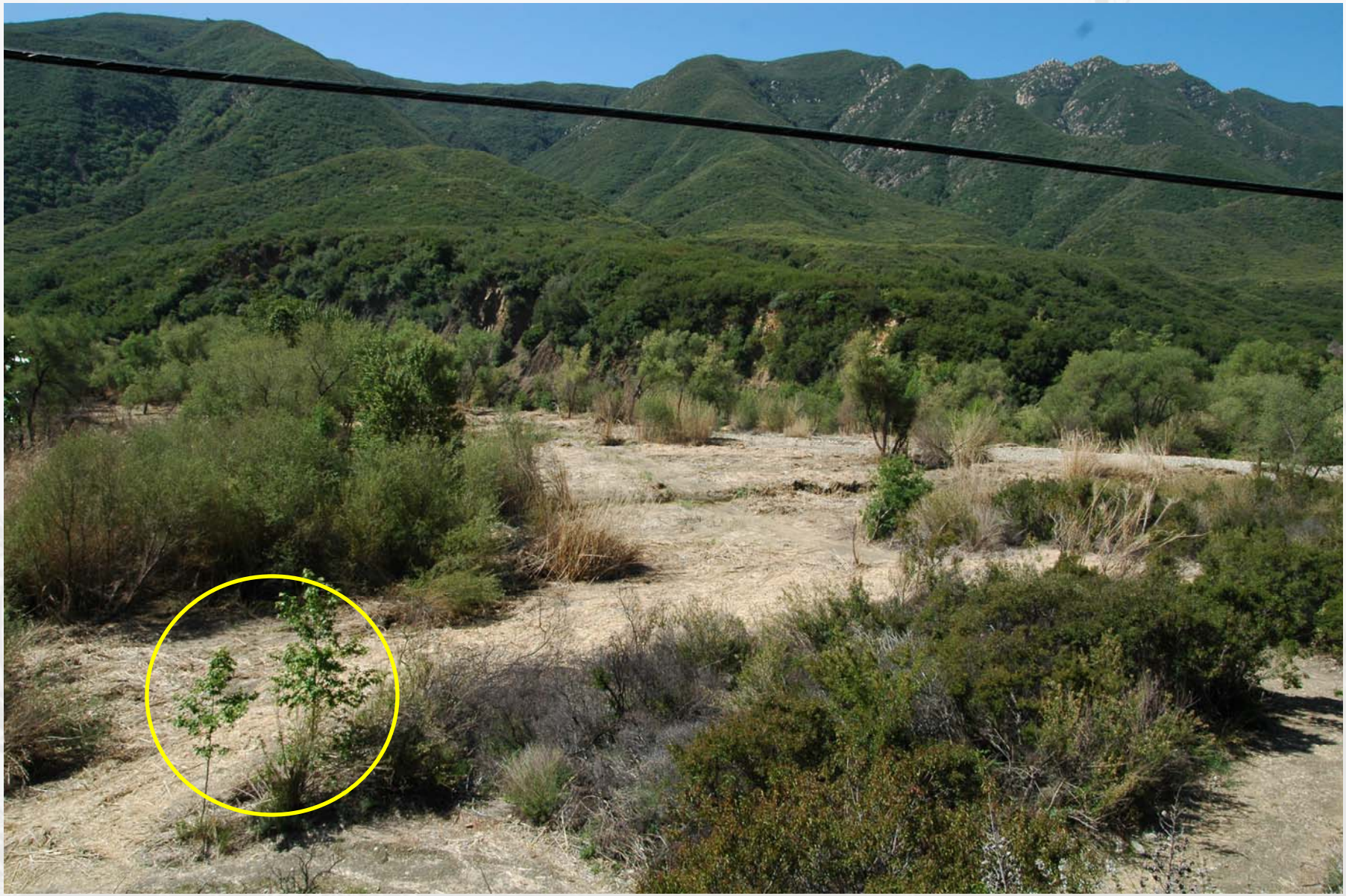
Examples of Methods – Cut/Daub and Chipping

Cut reed stems taken to chipper

Daub Aquamaster

Giant Reed Removal Results – September 2007

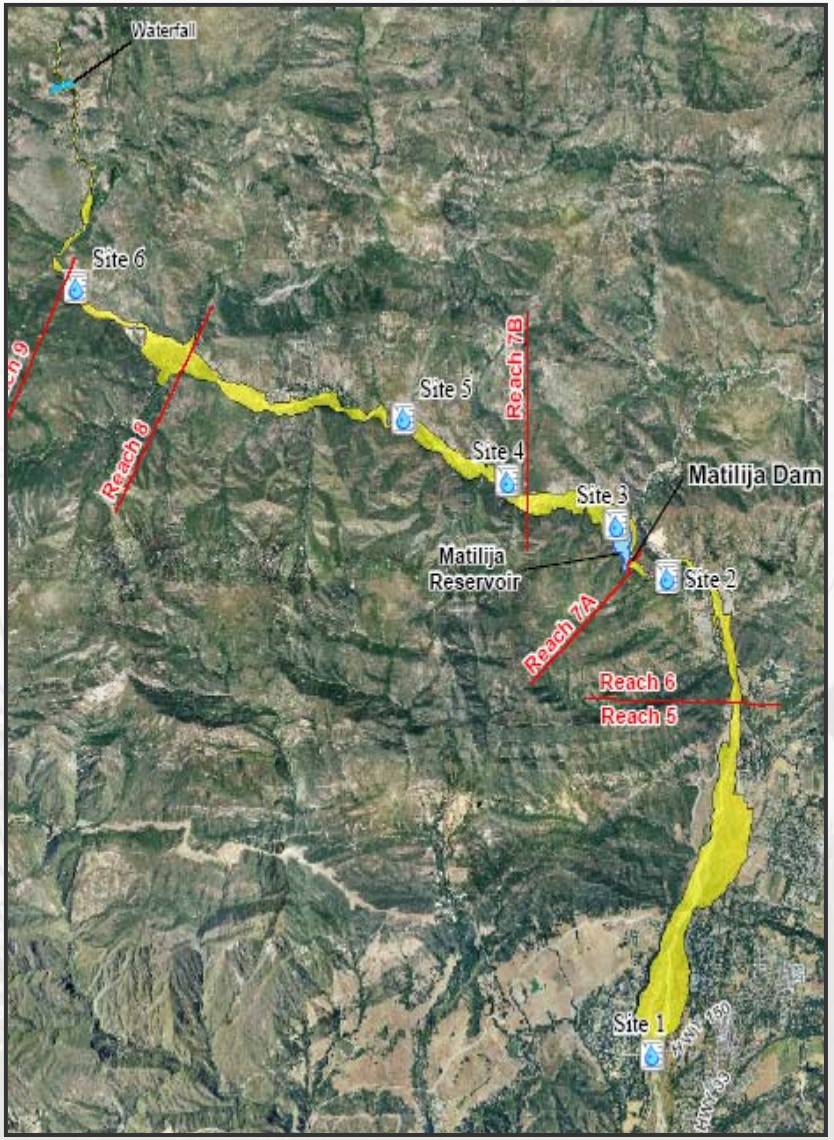
Giant Reed Removal Results – January 2008



Trash Removal

Giant Reed Removal – Water Quality Monitoring Plan

- **Water Quality Monitoring**
  - Surface water samples and field data collected and analyzed
  - Glyphosate and surfactant, temperature, pH, dissolved oxygen, turbidity, flow, conductivity
- **Six Routine Sites**
  - Sampled 9 times by District
  - Sampled 7 times by Stream Team
- **Random Sites**
  - Sampled 13 times by District



Water Quality Monitoring Results

- Contractor not notified of water quality sampling dates
- Targeted grab samples taken following rain events or adjacent to active work sites.
- **Glyphosate has not been detected in District or Stream Team samples**.

Protection of Biological Resources

- **Biological Resources Monitoring**
  - Monitors work daily and directly with work crews.
  - **No injury or mortality to sensitive species to date.**

Killdeer on Nest

King Snake

Giant Reed Removal Project – Next Steps

- Removal in Reach 5C
- Retreatment quarterly for next 4 years
- Avoid retreatment in winter wet season
- Substantial reduction in glyphosate use over time

Matilija Dam Ecosystem Restoration Project

Opportunities for Public Involvement

- NEPA/CEQA supplemental process
- Project Meetings – EWG/DOG
- Website
- Call Us

www.matilijadam.org

Questions?

- Please write your question on a card and we'll try and answer it tonight.

- If we cannot answer a question tonight, we will provide a written response and post it on the Matilija Dam Ecosystem Restoration Project web site (http://www.matilijadam.org)

VCWPD Contact Information

- Giant Reed Removal Coordinator: 672-2100
- Jeff Pratt, Director: 654-2040
- Tom Lagier, Project Manager: 672-2106
- Pam Lindsey, Watershed Ecologist: 654-2036

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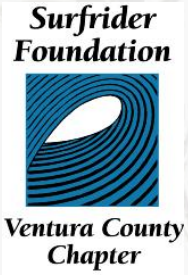
Matilija Dam Ecosystem Restoration Project Supporters



FRIENDS OF
THE RIVER