

AttF\_Schedule\_1of2

■ See attached schedule chart for the overall Project. Giant reed removal is scheduled to occur in the initial years of the Project, and will begin no later than January 2007 or following encumbrance of funds, whichever comes first. Similarly, well installation at Foster Park is scheduled to occur in the first two years of the Project. Because giant reed removal does not require engineering design, it was not included on the attached schedule chart. Early removal of giant reed from the upstream portions of the Project area will facilitate implementation of future Project components by controlling it within the Project areas and reducing its spread or establishment in areas disturbed by construction.

■ The Project schedule is consistent with the work plan components described in Attachment G. While the Project EIS/EIR (attached) scheduled giant reed removal in the last phase of the Project, this Project component has been accelerated to the first phase because giant reed has the potential to continue spreading throughout the Project area and thus will become more difficult and expensive to remove in the future. The VCWPD will develop the Giant Reed Control and Monitoring Plan and will prepare plans and specifications for this component in advance of encumbrance of funds so as to minimize delays in the Project implementation. Similarly, the USACE is preparing the design plans and specifications for the wells at Foster Park in coordination with the City of Ventura, and will prepare the bid package in advance of encumbrance of funds to minimize delays in construction initiation. Potential obstacles to Project implementation may be completion of the final Biological Opinion (BO) from National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) for the overall project. Informal consultation has been completed and the plans prepared for these Project components will be forwarded to NMFS for inclusion in their final BO. Parallel consultation will be pursued independently for both grant project components prior to project implementation to assure Project readiness.

■ The EIS/EIR describes 12 Project components, including giant reed removal and well installation at Foster Park. The remaining giant reed control and 10 other related Project components will be completed at a later date, in the sequence shown on the attached schedule, and with separate federal, state and local funding. Currently, the USACE is preparing design plans and specifications for the Project components that require engineering plans, including the wells at Foster Park. Since these wells are a standard design, new engineering plan formulation is not required. It is important to install the wells initially because increased turbidity associated with future Project components may adversely affect water supply reliability in the City of Ventura. As funding opportunities arise (e.g., the federal appropriations process, state and federal grants, local revenue sources) the VCWPD and USACE will complete the final engineering plans and specifications and solicit bids for the remaining 10 Project components.