

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES**

**Department of  
Agricultural Commissioner/  
Weights and Measures**

*12300 Lower Azusa Road  
Arcadia, California 91006-5872  
<http://acwm.co.la.ca.us>*

**Robert G. Atkins**  
Chief Deputy

**Cato R. Fiksdal**  
Agricultural Commissioner/  
Director of Weights and Measures

September 18, 2003

The Honorable Board of Supervisors  
County of Los Angeles  
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
500 West Temple Street  
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors,

**AGREEMENT WITH THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE -  
FOREST SERVICE (FOREST SERVICE) TO PROVIDE CONTROL OF THE  
INVASIVE WEED, ARUNDO (*Arundo donax*) IN THE ANGELES  
NATIONAL FOREST  
(3 - Votes)**

**IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD**

1. Approve the attached Wyden Amendment Agreement (Agreement) with the Forest Service for \$178,672 to control the invasive weed, Arundo, from the Santa Clara River on Forest Service controlled lands within the County.
2. Instruct the Chair to sign.
3. Authorize the Director of Agricultural Commissioner/Weights and Measures

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Department (ACWMD) to amend the agreement in an amount not to exceed 10% of the original contract amount.

**PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION**

The Forest Service has requested the ACWMD to remove and treat the invasive weed Arundo (*Arundo donax*) in the upper Santa Clara River in San Francisquito and Soledad Canyons.

Arundo, also known as “Giant Reed”, is a highly invasive weed known for degrading sensitive habitat, and the Forest Service has requested the expertise of the Department to remove and treat this infestation due in part to the presence of several federally listed endangered species.

**Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals**

This agreement supports the County’s Strategic Plan Goal of *Service Excellence* and *Fiscal Responsibility*. Service is enhanced to Los Angeles County residents by a locally administered program and a seamless melding of invasive weed control programs.

Our Pest Management staff brings expertise and equipment to safely and effectively control invasive weeds for the protection of biodiversity in our natural areas.

### **FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING**

Reimbursement for invasive weed control services will be made to the Department by the Forest Service.

This contract is 100% revenue offset. There is no change to the Department's net County cost.

### **FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS**

One mission of this Department is to help prevent the establishment and reduce the spread of harmful or invasive weeds.

The terms of the Agreement shall be for the period commencing October 1, 2003, through March 31, 2004.

The Agreement has been approved as to form by County Counsel.

### **CONTRACTING PROCESS**

It is anticipated that the invasive weed control services will be performed by County employees only. In the event that specialized equipment is needed, the Department will meet the specific equipment requirements through competitive bid solicitation (low bidder) of private contractors.

### **IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)**

The Agreement will allow the Department to use its expertise in the area of vegetation management to help a federal resource agency with a difficult invasive weed that is significantly impacting a sensitive riparian habitat. This activity will not negatively affect any current Departmental projects.

### **CONCLUSION**

Approval of the recommended action would allow the Department to start a relationship with a federal resource agency that administers lands which affect many cities within the

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County. The Department has become a recognized authority on the control and management of harmful vegetation and is being asked to help with the control of an invasive weed that will benefit the residents of the County and the quality of the environment.

Request that the three (3) copies of the Agreement submitted to your Board for signature be returned to the Agricultural Commissioner/Weights and Measures Department.

Respectfully submitted,

CATO R. FIKSDAL  
Agricultural Commissioner/  
Director of Weights and Measures

CRF:RBS:JMH:rms

Attachments

c: Chief Administrative Officer  
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors  
Auditor-Controller  
County Counsel