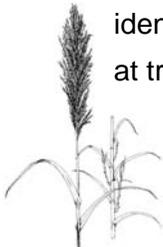


EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Santa Clara River is regarded as the largest natural river system in southern California. The Santa Clara River flows approximately 84 miles from its headwaters near Acton, in the San Gabriel Mountains, westward through Los Angeles and Ventura counties to its delta between the cities of Ventura and Oxnard. The 45-mile-long portion of the Santa Clara River and its tributaries within Los Angeles County is referred to as the “upper Santa Clara River watershed” while the portion in Ventura County is referred to as the “lower Santa Clara River watershed.” The upper Santa Clara River watershed, where the project is located, consists of approximately 680 square miles of mostly rugged topography and natural land. Urban development is concentrated in the City of Santa Clarita and the town of Acton. Native habitats including chaparral, coastal sage scrub, and oak woodlands, occupy the upland portions of this watershed. The floodplains of the Santa Clara River and its tributaries support a mix of cover including open channel, a variety of native habitats, and developed areas. The most significant habitats are cottonwood woodlands, willow woodlands, and riparian scrub. Multiple threats to the health of the watershed exist. One threat is the establishment of invasive non-native plant species, particularly arundo (*Arundo donax*) and tamarisk (*Tamarix* spp.), which are out-competing native plant species, degrading habitat, impairing water, decreasing water availability and causing both wildfire and flooding hazards.

Implementation of the proposed Upper Santa Clara River Watershed Arundo/Tamarisk Removal Plan (SCARP) would provide guidance to stakeholders for implementing future invasive, non-native plant removal projects. The goal of the SCARP is to facilitate future arundo or tamarisk removal projects of any size by any agency, organization, or individual landowner within, but not limited to, the 500-year floodplain, or primary, secondary, or tertiary tributaries of the Santa Clara River in its upper watershed. The timing, size, location, removal method, and sponsors of such projects are currently unknown. This programmatic Environmental Impact Report (EIR) analyzes the potential environmental impacts that may result from the implementation of the SCARP, which encompasses implementing removal and treatment methods for a regional program, rather than the impacts of future, individual projects. This programmatic EIR also identifies mitigation measures that would be applied to reduce or eliminate impacts of projects at treatment locations.



This document describes the range of techniques typically employed for removal of arundo and tamarisk infestations, analyzes the impacts resulting from the range of techniques, and identifies appropriate mitigation measures. This analysis will facilitate the potential selection of a wide variety of techniques by future project proponents; however, state and federal resource agencies may consider this impact analysis when issuing programmatic permits to facilitate future projects and encourage a more limited range of techniques, particularly on sensitive river reaches or tributaries. Project proponents wishing to use techniques not covered by these programmatic permits would need to apply for individual permits for such future removal projects.

2.0 PROPOSED PROJECT AND ALTERNATIVES

2.1 Alternative 1 – Long-Term Implementation Plan Proposing Regional Eradication Using All Available Methods

Alternative 1 would permit the use of all available removal methods. This action constitutes the implementation of the SCARP, which would arrest and reverse the spread of invasive plant species such as arundo and tamarisk in the upper Santa Clara River watershed. The goal of the plan is to allow any agency, organization, or individual landowner to perform invasive plant species removal projects such as arundo and/or tamarisk of any size within, but not limited to, the 16,400 acres within the 500-year floodplain, or primary, secondary, or tertiary tributaries of the Santa Clara River in its upper watershed. The plan provides a list of available methods for implementation of future projects and identifies corresponding permit processes. Best management practices (BMPs) have been integrated into the project. BMPs are practices that implement or employ policies and standards, which help to reduce environmental impacts. A complete list of BMPs can be found in Table 2-4 of this document. Appropriate mitigation measures were identified where significant impacts remained in each resource area.

Available removal methods include:

- Hand Removal
- Mechanical Removal and Biomass Reduction
- Tarping
- Herbicide Application
- Controlled Burning
- Combined Methods



- Cut and Foliar Spray Herbicide
- Cut and Paint Herbicide
- Cut/Mow, Resprout, and Spray Herbicide
- Foliar Spray Herbicide and Cut/Mow
- Supplemental methods
 - Biological Control
 - Grazing

2.2 Alternative 2 – Long-Term Implementation Plan Proposing Regional Eradication Using Non-Chemical Control Methods

This alternative is identical to Alternative 1, with the important exception that herbicide treatment methods would not be utilized. Without the use of herbicides, it would be necessary to rely primarily on mechanical and manual methods.

Ultimately, under this alternative, economic considerations for cost-effective removal may necessitate that substantially larger areas be treated with mechanical methods compared to Alternative 1. In some locations of moderate to heavy infestation, the use of mechanical equipment would be infeasible, such as in areas of soft substrate, or inappropriate, such as in areas that support special status species. In addition, because combined treatment with mechanical and chemical methods would not be possible, it would be far more difficult to assure the eradication of individual plants, resulting in the need for repeated mechanical treatment of areas as plants regenerate from roots and rhizomes. It is unlikely that this alternative would meet all of the goals of the project.

2.3 Alternative 3 – No Project Alternative

Under this alternative, the Ventura County Resource Conservation District (VCRCD) would not implement the SCARP for the regional removal of invasive plant species such as arundo and tamarisk in the upper Santa Clara River watershed. Local agencies and landowners would implement control measures for these species on their properties without any regional guidance or coordinated effort to eradicate the invasive plants at a watershed-wide scale. All treatment methods described in Alternative 1 are included under this alternative.

Alternative 3 is the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) “No Project Alternative.” It is a reasonable scenario of the continuation of the existing practice extended into the future. As



such, it forms the basis for comparison of the impacts of approving the proposed project with the impacts of not approving the project. This alternative would not implement the SCARP for any coordinated treatment of arundo and tamarisk species at any scale. Local agencies and landowners may continue to implement control measures on their properties; however, the scope, extent, and persistence of these efforts are unknown.

3.0 ANTICIPATED ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

Water Resources. Future removal projects could create both adverse and beneficial impacts to surface water. Removal projects in the channel bed of the upper Santa Clara River and its tributaries have a high potential to occur just before or during the rainy season, exposing active projects or recently cleared areas to rainfall-related runoff and erosion. Such projects could create significant and mitigable short- (one to three years) to mid-term impacts (three to 10 years) to surface water primarily through increased erosion and sedimentation from hand or mechanical removal of vegetation, driving heavy equipment in river and stream channels, or cutting of access ramps. Potential water pollution could also occur from the application of chemicals, accidental chemical spills, accidental fuel/oil spills, or from the deposition of urine and feces from grazing animals.

In spite of these short- to mid-term adverse impacts, the project is expected to create substantial long-term beneficial effects on surface water as the extent and quality of native riparian vegetation expands. Both surface water quality and quantity would improve over the long-term through removal of these high water demand invasive species. Impacts to water quality, including groundwater are potentially significant from the application of triclopyr and imazapyr even with the implementation of mitigation measures. Less than significant impacts are expected to occur to groundwater supply with the implementation of mitigation measures.

Biological Resources. Impacts to biological resources are anticipated to be significant and adverse over the short- to mid-term within some project areas. Impacts to native riparian habitat are expected from all removal methods in areas where a high degree of intermixing between arundo, tamarisk, and native vegetation occurs. The most severe impacts to riparian vegetation would result from mechanical removal, particularly for below-ground removal. Direct impacts to native wildlife and plant species, particularly sensitive species, are anticipated from a range of removal techniques. Potential impacts may include crushing of amphibians by motorized equipment, unknown potential impacts to reptiles and amphibians from the application of



triclopyr and imazapyr, and impacts to native habitat and wildlife from escaped controlled burns. Given the relatively high occurrence of native habitat within areas of high arundo and tamarisk infestation in the project area, potential impacts are considered significant and adverse. Use of mitigation measures may reduce the impacts to native habitat; however, within individual project areas such impacts could remain substantial for the short- (one to three years) to mid-term (three to 10 years) until native vegetation reestablishes. Such impacts are expected to be offset by beneficial impacts over the long-term, including a substantial increase in riparian habitat, expanded and improved habitat for sensitive plants and wildlife, improved water flow and quality, and a reduction of soil salinity allowing for successful propagation of native riparian and upland vegetation.

Air Quality. Under implementation of the proposed project, a variety of short-term air quality impacts are expected to occur primarily from the generation of dust and particulates (PM_{10}), and combustion emissions during the operation of heavy equipment. Emissions are also expected to occur as a result of any controlled burning that may be implemented. The projected estimate of PM_{10} generated in a three-month period from a conceptual major removal project is 360 tons, without the implementation of mitigation measures. According to the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) Threshold Criteria, impacts from mechanical removal are considered short-term and less than significant with the implementation of project BMPs. Combustion emissions associated with land clearing, and hauling material away from the site would be short-term and less than significant. Emissions from controlled burning would be dependent upon site conditions, but are expected to be short-term and significant.

Noise. Future removal projects utilizing equipment such as tractors, flail mowers, drum chippers, chainsaws, and/or similar equipment would create potentially significant short-term noise impacts to adjacent sensitive receptors. Noise levels would be elevated in close proximity to the project site for the several hours or days necessary to treat the arundo and tamarisk infestations. These elevated noise levels would be short-term and would not be expected to create either sleep disturbance or other adverse health effects. Sensitive noise receptors occur within Reaches 2, 3, 5, and 6 and in certain reaches of almost every tributary, which are less than 500 feet from potential project sites. Project BMPs employed to ensure compliance with local noise ordinance restrictions include locating staging areas and chipping activities at least 500 feet from sensitive receptors. If it is not feasible to locate chipping activities 500 feet from a

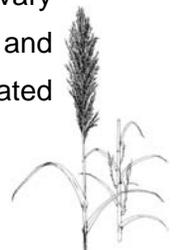
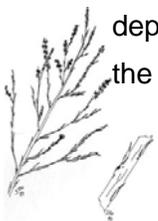


sensitive receptor, there would be significant and unavoidable short-term impacts. There would be no long-term impacts to the noise environment resulting from the proposed action.

Land Use. The proposed project is designed to implement goals presented in the policies of the Los Angeles County and City of Santa Clarita general plans regarding protection and restoration of riparian habitats and significant ecological areas. No permanent land use changes would occur as a result of the implementation of the project, and no agricultural land would be converted to urban uses. With employment of project BMPs and additional mitigation measures, short-term land use impacts (e.g., potential noise ordinance conflicts) resulting from mechanical and chemical treatment methods would be less than significant.

Cultural Resources. Prior to the preparation of this EIR, the California Historical Resources Information System was searched for records of cultural and archaeological resources within the vicinity of the project area. The records search focused particularly along the 500-year floodplain of the Santa Clara River in Reaches 3, 4, 5, and 6 and the lower, highly infested segments of the tributaries draining into these reaches. This records search identified cultural resource sites at multiple locations within this area, which are identified in the Confidential Cultural Resources Technical Report in Appendix G. Since the project area is located within the 500-year floodplain of the Santa Clara River, the potential for buried resources is considered moderate. The use of manual and mechanical excavation has a moderate-to-high likelihood of significantly impacting unknown archaeological resources, as the potential remains for unknown resources to be uncovered during ground-disturbing activities. If such resources were uncovered, activities would be suspended until a qualified archaeologist could determine the significance of the resource. Further, prior to determining a staging area for equipment, a preliminary assessment and records search would be conducted (if the area is not already covered in Appendix G) and areas with known resources would be avoided. Areas not previously surveyed would be required to prepare a Phase I survey. Short-term impacts are considered significant and mitigable. There are no anticipated significant long-term impacts to cultural resources.

Visual Resources. Removal of arundo and tamarisk would result in a change in visual character, which could include a temporary loss of scenic quality. Impacts would vary depending on the size of the individual project area, its visibility from public viewing areas, and the treatment method used. Some projects may be located within one-half mile of a designated

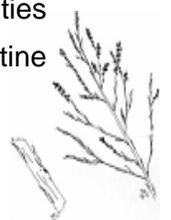


or eligible scenic highway or along scenic sections of Highway 126 and Soledad Canyon Road. However, impacts to visual resources from public viewing areas are expected to be less than significant and mostly short-term (one to three years) as the areas revegetate during the following seasons. In addition, viewing opportunities for most members of the public would be limited by high roadway travel speeds, the distance between most roads segments and major infestations, and limited view corridors. Further, a mosaic of various types and heights of in-stream vegetation would remain both within and adjacent to project areas. Projects utilizing the tarping method would also have an impact on visual resources as tarps may increase glare experienced by drivers on roads adjacent to the project area. Mitigation measures to reduce glare, such as placing a visual barrier between the tarp and the road or choosing a tarp color to minimize reflection from the sun would reduce the impact to less than significant. Beneficial long-term impacts would result from the establishment of native vegetation.

Transportation and Circulation. Implementation of the proposed project would require delivery of materials to, and removal of debris from, individual project sites. Project-related traffic would make up only a small portion of the total existing traffic volume in the project area and many of the vehicles would be driven to and kept on site at the staging area for the duration of individual projects. However, trucks entering or leaving project sites along high-speed rural roads may create safety impacts. In addition, bike paths and multiple use trails would likely be crossed by workers with tools and heavy equipment to gain access to infestation areas. Project BMPs, such as the posting of warning signs on area roads and bike paths, and mitigation measures to restrict access to the project area, would reduce any impacts to less than significant levels.

Population and Housing. Economic activity associated with implementation of the proposed project, such as hiring temporary laborers and purchasing materials, would provide small short-term economic benefits to local economies in the area. Employment would vary depending upon the treatment method used and the size of individual project sites. It is anticipated that workers already residing in the project area would occupy project-related jobs. Potential impacts would be short-term and beneficial. There would be no long-term adverse impacts.

Hazard/Health and Safety. Implementation of manual or mechanical methods to remove arundo and tamarisk stands may result in unintended injuries to workers. Burning activities have the potential to increase the risk and strength of urban and wildland fires. Routine



application of herbicides and surfactants may also result in minor health effects to the public through inhalation of chemical spray droplets or windblown soil particles, and incidental ingestion of herbicide. Storage and use of large amounts of herbicide also present significant risk of spill. Public notification and proper management of equipment and herbicide application as outlined in project BMPs would reduce most potential impacts to less than significant levels. There would be no long-term adverse impacts. Long-term beneficial impacts include reduction of wildfire and flooding hazards.

4.0 PUBLIC NOTICE

In compliance with CEQA, a Notice of Preparation was published in regional newspapers and provided to various agencies, organizations, and interested citizens. This was the first step in the environmental scoping process that took place to elicit public input regarding the range of the issues to be addressed in this EIR. Two formal scoping meetings, designed to solicit public comment on the proposed scope and content of this EIR, were held. The first scoping meeting was held on 19 January 2005 at 6:30 pm in the Century Room at Santa Clarita City Hall in Santa Clarita, California. The second scoping meeting was held on 31 January 2005 at 6:30 pm in the Agua Dulce Women's Club in Agua Dulce, California. Two formal public hearings were held on 20 October 2005 at 6:30 pm in the Century room at Santa Clarita City Hall and on 27 October 2005 at 6:30 pm in the Agua Dulce Women's Club on the draft document. Other public involvement included a public review period of the Draft EIR, and two public meetings to present the Draft EIR and accept verbal comments. A Notice of Availability of the Draft EIR that included dates and times of the public hearing was published on 19 September 2005 in regional newspapers and provided to various agencies, organizations, and interested citizens. The formal public review period began on 10 September 2005 and ended on 2 November 2005.



**Table ES-1
 Summary of Environmental Impacts Associated with the Proposed Action and Alternatives**

Resource	Proposed Action	No-Herbicide Alternative	No-Action Alternative
<i>Water Resources</i>	<p>Heavy equipment use in stream channels, especially in close proximity to flowing water or during the rainy season, would impact surface water quality during, and for several years after eradication, including increases in temperature and sedimentation. These impacts would be less than significant with the adoption of mitigation measures. Impacts to water quality associated with triclopyr and imazapyr application may be potentially significant. Impacts to groundwater supply are unlikely to occur. Water supply would be expected to increase beneficially as target species are removed from the watershed.</p>	<p>Heavier reliance on mechanical removal of below-ground biomass would increase erosion and sediment deposition, substantially increasing degradation of surface water quality. Risks of water quality impacts from fuel spills or leaks would increase with increased use of fuel for mechanical removal. Impacts related to herbicides would not occur. Impacts to groundwater supply or quality are unlikely to occur. Implementation would have an overall beneficial effect as water supply increases with target species removal.</p>	<p>Water quality impacts from spills and misapplication would occur frequently without training and standardization of best management practices. Impacts to groundwater supply are unlikely to occur. Arundo and tamarisk may not be eradicated and will continue to spread with associated adverse effects on surface water quality and quantity.</p>
<i>Biological Resources</i>	<p>Impacts to native riparian habitat are expected in areas with a high degree of intermixing between target species and native vegetation. Direct impacts to native wildlife and plant species, particularly sensitive species, are anticipated, with the most severe impacts resulting from mechanical removal of below-ground material. Potential impacts include crushing of reptiles and amphibians by motorized equipment, unknown potential impact to reptiles and amphibians from the application of imazapyr and triclopyr, and impacts to native habitat and wildlife from escaped controlled burns. Mitigation measures would lessen the impacts to sensitive species and native vegetation. Expected long-term beneficial impacts include increased habitat area for sensitive plants and wildlife, and reduced soil salinity allowing for successful propagation of native riparian and upland</p>	<p>Impacts to native riparian habitat and sensitive species are expected to be substantially more severe under this alternative, particularly in areas with a high degree of intermixing between target species and native vegetation. Direct impacts to native wildlife and plant species, particularly sensitive species, are expected to increase with heavier reliance on mechanical removal of below-ground material. Non-chemical control methods are highly intrusive and require a greater number of retreatments; therefore, the same area would be disturbed multiple times. Implementation would increase project costs, which may reduce the number and scope of funded projects, and require more prolonged and intensive follow up and monitoring, thus enabling the continued spread of infestations. Adoption of project mitigation measures would reduce the impacts to sensitive</p>	<p>Under this alternative, the limited or uncoordinated removal activities likely to occur would not result in eradication of arundo and tamarisk from the watershed and may even permit the continued spread of these invasive species. Thus, this alternative could result in ongoing or even increased indirect impacts to native habitats, potentially continuing the decline of these habitats and the common and sensitive species that are dependent upon these habitats.</p>

Table ES-1 (Continued)
Summary of Environmental Impacts Associated with the Proposed Action and Alternatives

Resource	Proposed Action	No-Herbicide Alternative	No-Action Alternative
	vegetation.	species and native vegetation. Long-term beneficial impacts expected to occur include increased habitat area for sensitive plants and wildlife, and a reduction of soil salinity allowing for successful propagation of native riparian and upland vegetation.	
<i>Air Quality</i>	PM ₁₀ emissions from a major mechanical removal project would exceed local PM ₁₀ thresholds. Project BMPs to reduce impacts to less than significant levels include standard dust minimization practices, such as regularly watering exposed soils, and suspension of earth-movement during high wind conditions. Combustion emissions associated with land clearing, and hauling material away from the site would be short term and would not significantly impact air quality. Controlled burn and incineration emissions are unknown; however they would likely be short-term, significant, and adverse for purposes of this project.	Increased PM ₁₀ emissions would result from heavier use of mechanical removal methods. Combustion emissions associated with increased mechanical tool and vehicle use would be short term and would not significantly impact air quality. Controlled burn and incineration emissions are unknown; however they would likely be short-term, significant, and adverse for purposes of this project.	Without a coordinated eradication effort and implementation of the air quality control measures prescribed by the SCARP, potential impacts to air quality are not known. Controlled burn and incineration emissions are unknown; however they would likely be short-term, significant, and adverse for purposes of this project.
<i>Noise</i>	Minor, temporary impacts on the noise environment would occur in the vicinity of individual removal projects. Nuisance noise impacts would be most noticeable in quiet rural areas or near sensitive receptors. Noise levels would be elevated in close proximity to the project site for the several hours or days necessary to treat target species. Mitigation measures to ensure compliance with local noise ordinance restrictions include placement of staging areas and chipping activities at least 500 feet away from sensitive receptors. If it is not feasible to comply with the recommended mitigation measures,	Minor, temporary impacts on the noise environment would occur in the vicinity of individual removal projects. Increased frequency of mechanical noise and longer project duration would result from heavier reliance of mechanical removal methods. Noise levels would be elevated in close proximity to the project site for the several hours or days necessary to treat target species. Mitigation measures to ensure compliance with local noise ordinance restrictions include placement of staging areas and chipping activities at least 500 feet away from sensitive receptors. If it is not feasible to comply with the	Impacts could be significant if removal of arundo and tamarisk were to occur between the hours of 7:00 PM and 7:00 AM, if removal and staging areas were located within 500 feet of residences or sensitive receptors, or if treatment of an area lasted for a long period. However, given that target species removal would be uncoordinated and limited to local agency or landowner control, it is difficult to determine if and where impacts would occur.

Table ES-1 (Continued)
Summary of Environmental Impacts Associated with the Proposed Action and Alternatives

Resource	Proposed Action	No-Herbicide Alternative	No-Action Alternative
	noise impacts will be short-term, significant, and adverse	recommended mitigation measures, noise impacts will be short-term, significant, and adverse	
<i>Land Use</i>	No permanent land use changes would occur as a result of project implementation. The proposed project is designed to implement goals presented in the planning policies of area plans, which have jurisdiction in the project area.	No permanent land use changes would occur as a result of project implementation. The proposed project is designed to implement goals presented in the planning policies of area plans, which have jurisdiction in the project area.	Treatments that are more frequent could be required due to less coordination among landowners; therefore long-term land use conflicts could be significant.
<i>Cultural Resources</i>	The use of manual and mechanical excavation has a moderate-to-high likelihood of significantly impacting unknown archaeological resources, particularly on river bench areas, as the potential remains for unknown resources to be uncovered during ground-disturbing activities. If such resources were uncovered, activities would be suspended until a qualified archaeologist could determine the significance of the resource. Further, prior to determining a staging area for equipment a preliminary assessment and records search would be conducted and areas where resources are known would be avoided.	Since the exclusion of herbicide would require additional use of ground-disturbing eradication measures, there is an increased likelihood of directly impacting archaeological resources. Additionally, without herbicide, this alternative would require repeated ground-disturbing activities to prevent or reduce plant regeneration from roots and rhizomes. Vehicle traffic associated with vegetation removal activities also has the potential for direct impacts to surface resources. Opportunities to avoid or minimize impacts to cultural resources would be reduced, increasing the likelihood of direct impacts to these resources.	Since the total amount of arundo and tamarisk removed is likely to be smaller, it is possible that fewer cultural resources would be impacted. However, because these smaller efforts would be uncoordinated, the likelihood of cultural resources being directly impacted without mitigation measures may increase, resulting in greater direct impacts. Lack of a coordinated effort employing project BMPs also has the potential to impact cultural resources through increased erosion and potential vandalism of archaeological resources. However, because the total treatment area is likely to be smaller, erosion and accessibility impacts would potentially be reduced.

Table ES-1 (Continued)
Summary of Environmental Impacts Associated with the Proposed Action and Alternatives

Resource	Proposed Action	No-Herbicide Alternative	No-Action Alternative
<i>Visual Resources</i>	Removal of arundo and tamarisk will result in a change in visual character and a temporary loss of scenic quality, although impacts will vary depending on the size of the individual project area and the treatment method used. Any visual impacts are expected to be short-term and temporary as the areas are revegetated. Eradication methods using tarping would have the greatest impact on visual resources as tarps may increase glare experienced by drivers on roads adjacent to the project area. Mitigation measures to reduce glare, such as placing a visual barrier between the tarp and the road or choosing a less reflective tarp color or material would reduce this impact.	The visual impacts associated with manual or mechanical methods would occur more frequently and over a longer duration if repeated treatment is required. Visual impacts are expected to be short-term and temporary as the areas are revegetated. Eradication methods using tarping would have the greatest impact on visual resources as tarps may increase glare experienced by drivers on roads adjacent to the project area. Mitigation measures to reduce glare, such as placing a visual barrier between the tarp and the road or choosing a less reflective tarp color or material would reduce this impact.	In the short term, visual quality would be similar to the characteristics of the baseline visual resource in areas where eradication efforts do not take place. If this eradication effort is ineffective, substantial increases in vegetative cover from new infestations and the spread of existing stands of arundo and tamarisk are likely to occur. New and spreading arundo and tamarisk may crowd out native riparian vegetation and wildlife reducing visual quality.
<i>Transportation/Circulation</i>	Worker commutes, delivery of materials to, and removal of debris from, project sites would increase traffic volume in the project area. However, project related traffic would account for a very small portion of the total existing traffic volume, which would not be expected to have adverse effects on road or intersection levels of service. Safety impacts for heavy vehicles accessing high-speed rural roads could be addressed through safety measures such as flaggers and signs. Bike paths and multiple use trails will likely be crossed by workers with tools and heavy equipment. Impacts to trail users would be reduced by posting of signs for trail closures and accessing infestation areas at times of less heavy use.	Transportation impacts would be increased with more frequent biomass removal trips, materials delivery, and longer project duration. Project-related traffic would account for a very small portion of the total existing traffic volume and many of the vehicles would be driven to and parked at the staging area for the duration of individual projects. Bike paths and multiple use trails will likely be crossed by workers with tools and heavy equipment. Impacts to trail users would be reduced by posting of signs for trail closures and accessing infestation areas at times of less heavy use.	Without a coordinated eradication effort or the congestion mitigation measures described in the SCARP, potential impacts to transportation and circulation are not known.

Table ES-1 (Continued)
Summary of Environmental Impacts Associated with the Proposed Action and Alternatives

Resource	Proposed Action	No-Herbicide Alternative	No-Action Alternative
<i>Population and Housing</i>	Employment of temporary laborers and project-related materials purchases would provide small short-term economic benefits to local economies in the area. Employment would vary depending upon the treatment method used and the size of individual project sites. It is anticipated that workers already residing in the project area would fill project-related jobs.	Increased number of temporary laborers, their employment duration, and project-related materials purchases would provide small short-term economic benefits to local economies in the area. Employment would vary depending upon the treatment method used and the size of individual project sites. It is anticipated that workers already residing in the project area would fill project-related jobs.	Without a coordinated eradication effort called for in the SCARP, potential impacts to population and housing are not known.
<i>Hazard/Health and Safety</i>	Manual and mechanical removal methods may result in unintended injuries to project workers and the public. Burning activities also have the potential to increase the risk and destructiveness of urban and wildland fires. The application of herbicides and surfactants may also result in adverse health effects to workers and the public. Public notification and proper management of chemicals would reduce these impacts. Storage and use of large amounts of herbicide also present significant risk of spill, which would be reduced with a Spill Prevention, Control, and Containment Plan.	Manual and mechanical removal methods may result in unintended injuries to project workers and the public. Increased reliance on these treatment methods would likely translate to more labor hours and repeated treatments, increasing the risk of health and safety impacts. Burning activities also have the potential to increase the risk and destructiveness of urban and wildland fires.	Depending on the methods used and the extent of eradication activity, project-related health and safety impacts to the public and workers may increase without the implementation of mitigation measures. Arundo and tamarisk would likely continue to colonize the project area, increasing the risk of urban and wildland fires as well as flooding hazards...