

# Chowchilla - Fresno Watersheds - Upper

Creating a collaborative approach to solving issues in the Chowchilla and Fresno River Systems

Madera and Mariposa Counties; State Senate District 14, State Assembly District 25

## CHOWCHILLA RED TOP RCD



The Chowchilla Red Top Resource Conservation District (RCD) Watershed Coordinator worked with several organizations and stakeholders to complete the Upper Fresno River Watershed Assessment. In partnership with California State University, Fresno, California Water Institute, Madera County, and private consultants, the Watershed Coordinator assessed the overall health of the watershed through field surveys, on-site measurements, laboratory tests, and data analysis. Studies included: a dissolved oxygen study of aquatic system health and a fecal indicator bacteria study which looked at human health issues and watershed activity. Three community workshops were held during this process to keep the watershed stakeholders informed of the procedures and findings.

Invasive weeds, such as *Arundo donax*, pose a risk to the health of the Chowchilla and Fresno River Systems waterways. The Watershed Coordinator worked with private landowners to survey their properties and complete a map of *Arundo donax* populations in the Chowchilla waterways. The Coordinator provided residents with information about the harmful effects of the weed and effective management strategies to remove it.

For more information visit the Chowchilla Red Top RCD at <http://cfwatershed.org>



- Mapped 85% of the invasive *Arundo donax* weed infestations in the Chowchilla waterways
- Sampled water quality in 29 locations on the Upper Fresno River, Coarsegold Creek, and tributaries of the Upper Fresno River
- Set up water quality monitoring sites in 4 sediment traps and 9 septic systems within the watershed
- Formed the Regional Water Management Group
- Organized 14 watershed clean-up days
- Gave 24 presentations to community organizations and school classes on watershed related subjects
- Created 10 educational brochures/flyers to hand out to stakeholders.

***“The RCD Watershed Coordinator is an integral part of the local watershed improvement and conservation outreach efforts”***  
**- Norman Kuhr, Board Chair**

**PARTNERS INCLUDED:** Madera County • City of Chowchilla • Chowchilla Water District • Root Creek Water District • Madera Irrigation District • Coarsegold RCD • Central Sierra Watershed Committee • Gravelly Ford Water District • Madera Valley Water Company • Yosemite/Sequoia Resource Conservation & Development Council • North Fork Mono Rancheria