

**CENTRAL VALLEY FLOOD PROTECTION BOARD**

3310 El Camino Ave., Ste. 170  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95821  
(916) 574-0609 FAX: (916) 574-0682



July 16, 2020

Heather Nichols  
Executive Director  
Yolo County Resource Conservation District

Via Email to [Heather@yolorcd.org](mailto:Heather@yolorcd.org)

Re: Yolo County Resource Conservation District (YCRCD) Putah Creek, Willow Slough, and Willow Slough Bypass Arundo Removal Project (WC2020037)

Dear Ms. Nichols:

The Central Valley Flood Protection Board (Board) received your letter dated May 4, 2020, on behalf of the YCRCD, requesting permission to undertake control of two invasive non-native plants, *Arundodonax* (giant reed) and *Tamarisk spp.* (salt cedar), along the banks of Putah Creek, Willow Slough, and Willow Slough Bypass in Yolo County. You indicate that stands of these invasive non-native plants are degrading the creek causing greater flooding by blocking and diverting flows, reducing flow capacity, increasing roughness and jeopardizing bank stability. Therefore, YCRCD, in coordination with the Yolo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, is proposing treatment of target non-native plants using aquatic herbicides. Additionally, larger stands of biomass may be cut, hauled and chipped while scattered biomass will be left in place to degrade naturally. Lastly, re-vegetations will occur adjacent to and within treated Arundo stand footprint for bank stabilization and floodplain/terrace enhancement. There will be approximately 5,000 to 7,000 plantings scattered around an area of 5 acres over many small sites. Small number of the proposed re-vegetation will take place along the leveed section of Putah Creek and Willow Slough Bypass, while most of the proposed re-vegetation takes place upstream of the leveed section. YCRCD will only work in areas where Right of Entry Agreements (ROEs) or Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) have been obtained. The removal project is tentatively scheduled to begin in the September 2020, and it is expected to complete in January 2024.

Board Staff has reviewed your request and concurs that the proposed work described in your letter is maintenance. Pursuant to California Code of Regulations, Title 23, Division 1, Section 6(d), permits are not required for maintenance activities as defined in Article 2, Section 4 of this title.

Please be advised that additional authorizations may be required from other federal, State, and local agencies.

If you have any questions, please contact Nate Kibret of my staff at (916) 574-2646, or by email at [Natnael.Kibret@CVFlood.ca.gov](mailto:Natnael.Kibret@CVFlood.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael C. Wright'.

Michael C. Wright  
Chief Engineer

Attachment: Maintenance Request Letter received on May 4, 2020 with attachments.

cc: Mr. Preston Shopbell, CVFPB (via electronic copy)  
Mr. Russ Eckman, DWR (via electronic copy)