



**Ventura County  
Watershed Protection District  
Water and Environmental Resources Division**

**MATILIJA DAM ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION PROJECT**

**COMMUNITY MEETING - JULY 1, 2008**

---

A Community Meeting was held July 1, 2008 at the Chaparral Auditorium in Ojai to present the progress of the Giant Reed Removal Project portion of the Matilija Dam Ecosystem Restoration Project. The property owners in and near the work area, regulatory agencies, interested parties, and others were invited via mailed notice. A total of 29 members of the public and interested agencies signed in.

The Giant Reed Removal Project began field treatment in Matilija Creek and the Ventura River in September 2007. Initial treatment of all giant reed and several other noxious weed species is complete and quarterly retreatment will occur for the next four years, avoiding the winter rainy season.

After the presentation of the project progress and status, questions from the attendees were received on comment cards (Attachment) and answered by District staff. We indicated all comment cards would be scanned and posted at the [matilijadam.org](http://matilijadam.org) website with answers shortly after the meeting. This document completes that task. The Power Point presentation is also available at the [matilijadam.org](http://matilijadam.org) website.

The comment cards are organized alphabetically by last name, or first name if last not given. Phone numbers, if given, were covered in the scanned copies to protect privacy. In the table below, the comments are paraphrased and our response is provided.

COMMENT CARD	ANSWER
<p>1. BJ Adams:  a. How is the shredded donax eradicated?  b. What method is used to destroy the foliage entirely?</p>	<p>a. &amp; b. Tom Lagier explained the methods for treatment, including shredding. The contractor conducted cut &amp; daub within 200 feet of structures, 50 feet of orchards, 15 feet of water, and 10 feet of roads. Foliar spray was used on all other patches of target plants. In dense areas, the treated giant reed was shredded about 30 days following foliar treatment to decrease fire danger. These methods are also described in the Matilija Dam Giant Reed Removal Plan, dated April 6, 2007 on the website.</p>
<p>2. Lou Adams  a. When will the removal begin immediately upstream of Baldwin Road?  b. What methods will be used?  c. Is dam removal scheduled?  d. Were helicopters used?</p>	<p>a. The District has been notified River Parkways grant funding has been awarded to treat giant reed and other target plants in Reach 5c upstream of Baldwin Road. About 20-25 acres of plants will be treated in the 175-acre area.  b. Same as described in 1.a.&amp;b. above.  c. Yes, as funding becomes available.  d. No helicopters were used for giant reed removal. Sherriff and other helicopters have travelled recently in the canyons for various purposes.</p>
<p>3. Lou Adams  a. If giant reed is statewide, green-recycle it?</p>	<p>a. Yes. Untreated, cut cane is being transported to local green waste recycling facilities.</p>
<p>4. Morgan Alexander  a. When will dead standing giant reed and scotchbroom be removed from along the road, it's a fire hazard.</p>	<p>a. Project manager will meet with you to note areas of concern, additional shredding money is available in the budget, and the work will be scheduled shortly.</p>
<p>5. Robin Bernhoft, MD  a. Glyphosate is associated with non-Hodgkin lymphoma (1), can migrate to groundwater (2), and is a bad idea for human health.</p>	<p>a. Studies referred to are as follows, but there may be others.  1. <b>Author:</b> Hardell L, Eriksson M (Dept of Oncology, Orebro Medical Center, University Hospital, Sweden), <b>Date:</b> 15 Mar 1999  <b>Publication:</b> Cancer v.85 n.6 <b>Title:</b> <i>A case control study of non-Hodgkin lymphoma and exposure to pesticides</i>  2. <b>Author:</b> Kjaer J, Olsen P, Ullum M, Grant R (Geological Survey of Denmark/Greenland, Danish Institute of Ag Sciences, National Environmental Research Institute Denmark) <b>Date:</b> 2005  <b>Publication:</b> Journal of Environmental Quality, 34:608-620 <b>Title:</b> <i>Leaching of Glyphosate and Amino-Methylphosphonic Acid from Danish Agricultural Field Sites.</i></p>

COMMENT CARD	ANSWER
<p>6. Robin Bernhoft, MD a. 0.02 ppm is biologically toxic.</p>	<p>a. The laboratory minimum detection level for glyphosate is 0.02 mg/L (0.02 ppm). The Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment set the Public Health Goal for glyphosate in drinking water at 0.9ppm considering children, pregnant women, and others at risk in 2007. The California Department of Health Services set the Maximum Contaminant Level for glyphosate in drinking water at 0.7 ppm. Toxicity test results (96 hrs/LC50) for rainbow trout range from 22 ppm to 240 ppm depending on pH in various studies. The European Drinking Water directive limits any pesticide in drinking water to less than 0.0001ppm (0.1 ppb).</p>
<p>7. Ingrid Boulting a. More poison to control the environment is not the answer, people and animals become victims, study Rachel Carson.</p>	<p>a. Comment noted.</p>
<p>8. Brian Brennan a. So. Cal Wetlands Recovery Project hosting Santa Ana River Watershed Arundo removal talk July 10<sup>th</sup>.</p>	<p>a. Comment noted.</p>
<p>9. Allison Leete a. Standing dead giant reed is a fire hazard.</p>	<p>a. More shredding will occur to reduce fire hazards.</p>
<p>10. Lynn &amp; George Malone a. Inquired about silt disposal on church property.</p>	<p>a. Will be addressed at a different meeting.</p>
<p>11. Lynn Malone a. Will shredded giant reed be a problem and resprout on site? b. Will quarterly retreatments kill roots?</p>	<p>a. Not likely, shredded material was treated with herbicide and should not resprout. b. Yes, eventually.</p>
<p>12. Nahoko a. Workers spray during high wind. b. Workers have gotten sick from spraying.</p>	<p>a. Spraying is restricted to conditions with winds below 10 mph, but if you see hazardous conditions call the Project Manager right away to report it. b. No workers have become ill from the spray. Physical injuries from falls have occurred.</p>
<p>13. Chi Pagaling a. Homeless due to glyphosate fear.</p>	<p>a. Comment noted. File a complaint with the County.</p>

COMMENT CARD	ANSWER
<p>14. Patty Pagaling</p> <p>a. NIOSH states glyphosate is toxic to aquatic organisms.</p> <p>b. Bullfrogs have been found dead due to spraying, native species must be affected, too.</p>	<p>a. NIOSH posted the International Chemical Safety Card at:  <a href="http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/ipcsneng/neng0160.html">http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/ipcsneng/neng0160.html</a>            “The substance is toxic to aquatic organisms. This substance does enter the environment under normal use. Great care, however, should be given to avoid any additional release, e.g. through inappropriate disposal.”</p> <p>b. We are not aware of bullfrog or any other wildlife mortality due to spraying. Our biological monitors are out every day with the crews and have observed dead bullfrogs, but death was not attributed to the herbicide. Bullfrogs observed by biological monitors died during metamorphosis and from desiccation. Please report details so we can investigate it.</p>
<p>15. Andrew Renhart</p> <p>a. What is the final estimation of chemical that will have been used to complete the removal?</p>	<p>a. We have used a total of about 1,200 pounds of glyphosate for the 1,100 acre project through the end of May 2008. This is the equivalent of 2,030 gallons of Aquamaster. Retreatments will use less and less chemical as the next four years progress.</p>
<p>16. Andrea Ralston and Pirooz Khebreh</p> <p>a. What plans to treat missed clumps to prevent reinfestation?</p> <p>b. Observed foliar spraying within 25 feet of an orchard.</p> <p>c. Is cut and daub not working?</p> <p>d. Potential creek diversion jeopardizes homes, who is liable?</p>	<p>a. Retreatments will occur over the next four years. We appreciate any assistance in locating “missed” clumps so we can treat them.</p> <p>b. Notify Project Manager if you observe breaking of protocols by contractor. Every effort is made to ensure compliance with specifications, but we can’t promise perfection.</p> <p>c. Cut and daub is effective in our experience.</p> <p>d. Project Manager will coordinate with you to investigate creek diversion issue.</p>
<p>17. Camille Sears</p> <p>a. Please monitor and report glyphosate use by time and location.</p> <p>b. Please sample all drinking water sources on the Ventura River for glyphosate.</p>	<p>a. A summary report for water quality testing to date is available at <a href="http://www.matilijadam.org">www.matilijadam.org</a>. The amount of glyphosate and area treated were tracked daily using GPS and GIS technology, producing large amounts of data. Summaries other than percent of project completed and monthly product use have not been generated and are cost prohibitive to develop. Monthly product use is posted as part of this document (see last page).</p> <p>b. The District is coordinating with the drinking water purveyors to test for glyphosate, with tests beginning July 10, 2008. Results will be posted at the web site as they come in.</p>

COMMENT CARD	ANSWER
18. Robert Sorel a. When is the scotch broom removal scheduled?	a. Broom treatment occurred with the giant reed treatment. If we missed treating some or it needs to be shredded near a home, we will meet with you to schedule needed treatment.
19. Theresa Stevens a. Explain difference between the amount of glyphosate used in this project compared to the studies in Denmark. Is the difference orders of magnitude?	a. The Danish study (See 5.a.2. above) found the average concentration of glyphosate in drainage water was 0.54 micrograms per liter, which is well below the U.S. drinking water standard of 700 micrograms per liter. No glyphosate has been detected in any surface water samples to date for the Matilija project. Danish field application rate of 4 liters per hectare in study similar to application rate for Matilija Giant Reed Removal project.

### Monthly Glyphosate Use for Project

Product Name: Aqua Master			
Date	No. of days product mixed	Total product used per month (gallons)	Isopropylamine salt used per month (lbs)
Sep-07	12	427	2,306
Oct-07	16	583	3,148
Nov-07	13	305	1,647
Dec-07	4	78	421
Jan-08	3	25	135
Feb-08	6	66	356
Mar-08	7	89	481
Apr-08	14	169	913
May-08	17	288	1,555