

■ The Ventura County Watershed Protection District (VCWPD) has a highly qualified team of engineering, contract/fiscal, hydrology, GIS, and environmental professionals on staff. To conduct the two Project components, VCWPD will cooperate with engineering, planning, and regulatory staff of the Los Angeles District U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Planning Branch and Construction-Operations Branch (USACE). In addition, the City of Ventura (City) will provide critical input and staff support for the water wells at Foster Park. All three agencies routinely plan and implement large, complex, long-term construction projects, and are well-equipped to design and implement the well installation and giant reed removal projects described in this grant application. VCWPD and the City routinely obtain grant funding and successfully execute grant contracts from a variety of state and federal agencies to conduct public works projects. VCWPD has sufficient qualified fiscal services and project management staff to manage this grant contract. The VCWPD with the Ventura County Resource Conservation District (RCD) recently completed an Environmental Impact Report for the Arundo Removal Demonstration Project on the Ventura River and implemented the project. This \$355,700 grant was awarded by the SCC. This project focused on testing the efficacy and tracking costs of giant reed removal using alternative methods, and was instrumental in determining per-acre costs of giant reed removal and maintenance.

■ In 2001, VCWPD and the USACE developed a Project Management Plan (PMP), which identified the organizational framework, technical studies, stakeholder involvement, the EIS/EIR process, and implementation approach for the Project. USACE and VCWPD co-chair the lead executive committee, which oversees both the steering committee and the Project management team. This organizational framework will remain in place throughout the Design Phase and during construction as described in a July 2005 Design Agreement between VCWPD and USACE.

The USACE is well qualified to prepare final designs for the water well Project component, with assistance from the VCWPD and the City. VCWPD will manage construction contracts. The VCWPD will prepare the plans and specifications for the giant reed removal contract, manage the contract, and develop the format and content for the biological resources protection, monitoring and reporting program. The VCWPD Project manager and central services staff will manage this grant agreement.

■ Project leaders at the VCWPD include: Jeff Pratt, Director; Peter Sheydayi, Deputy Director of Design & Construction Division; Gerhardt Hubner, Deputy Director of Water & Environmental Resources Division; Pam Lindsey and Theresa Stevens Water & Environmental Resources Division. Points of contact at the USACE include: Darrell Buxton, Programs & Project Management Division; Doug Chitwood, Engineering Division; Jim Hutchison and Tiffany Kayama Planning Division. Project leaders at the City of Ventura include: Karen Waln, Don Davis, Jim Passanisi, Joe McDermott. Each team member has been involved with the Project and will continue to participate to the Project's successful completion.

■ The percentage of time that key staff will commit to the Project components during the implementation period is estimated as follows: Jeff Pratt (2); Peter Sheydayi (5); Pam Lindsey (35); Theresa Stevens (35); Darrell Buxton (5); Doug Chitwood (5); Jim Hutchison (5); Tiffany Kayama (15); Karen Waln (15), Don Davis (10), Jim Passanisi (15), Joe McDermott (10). Resumes or qualifications are attached.

■ The VCWPD, USACE and the City routinely plan and implement large, complex, long-term construction projects. As described in the NEPA/CEQA document (attached) the Project includes several years for planning, design and construction, followed by 10 years of monitoring and adaptive management. The VCWPD, USACE and the City have committed staff and resources to ensure these first two Project components are implemented and monitored for the duration of the Project schedule, which will extend beyond the grant period.

■ The VCWPD routinely conducts giant reed removal projects in Ventura County as mitigation for construction impacts, and is an active participant in the Ventura County Arundo Task Force. As described above, the VCWPD and the RCD recently executed the grant-funded Arundo Removal Demonstration Project in the Ventura River near the community of Casitas Springs.