

TAdN Arundo Eradication and Coordination Program Program Description

The purpose of this program is to coordinate and assist *Arundo donax* eradication projects in the Sacramento/San Joaquin River and Bay-Delta regions of California.

The *Arundo donax* Eradication and Coordination Program (AECPP) is a coordinated, regional effort that centralizes many aspects of Arundo control and promotes partnerships among local organizations and agencies. It was inspired by the unique collaborative achievements of [Team Arundo del Norte \(TAdN\)](#), a coalition of landowners and representatives from natural resource agencies, academic institutions, and nonprofit organizations dedicated to the eradication of *Arundo donax*.

The program provides standards, training, and quality assurance for all aspects of a successful project, including surveying, permitting, eradication, restoration, monitoring, data collection, and evaluation. It uses an adaptive management approach, so that information gained through monitoring and experimentation can be used to continually refine methodologies for increased eradication efficacy, reduced costs, reduced herbicide load to the environment, and better restoration of ecological functions at eradication sites. The program is administered for TAdN by the [Sonoma Ecology Center](#). A steering committee comprised of TAdN members provides oversight and expertise, and assists in the development of program standards.

Phase 1 (funded for three years) began in May 2001 with five partner eradication and restoration projects: Napa River, Sonoma Creek, San Francisquito Creek, Putah Creek, and Walnut Creek. In December 2003 the program received a two-year extension to allow current partners to continue eradication and monitoring work.

In August 2004 the program was awarded additional funding for three years to begin Phase 2, and selected five additional partners in high-priority watershed areas to participate, including Gray Lodge State Wildlife Area, Lindo Channel, Lower American River, San Joaquin River, and Upper Cache Creek. Included is an experimental research component that will test a number of hypotheses regarding treatment efficacy, including herbicide formulation and dosage, timing, distance of site from the stream, revegetation, and increase in stream channel capacity. The program will work to obtain programmatic permitting for all AECPP partner projects in order to save time and avoid duplication of effort. In addition, the program will develop a Bay-Delta regional map of high-priority eradication sites where Arundo threatens sensitive species and habitat, and a strategic plan that prioritizes Arundo eradication targets. To better facilitate information management of individual projects, a new database called the Weed Information Management System (WIMS) is being adopted, and a partnership with the The Nature Conservancy is underway to further develop the system and refine it for use by TAdN. Monitoring and research data from this coordinated data management effort will be available to the public via a map server on the TAdN website. The map server will enable users to locate eradication partners and their data by geographical area.

As a requirement for receiving funding, each partner is assisted in developing a site-specific eradication plan that includes initial site surveys, descriptions of treatment

methods, revegetation plans, and monitoring plans. Eradication partners work independently using standardized mapping, monitoring, and reporting protocols, and database programs developed by program staff. Data is then entered into a desktop database and submitted to a central database using the export function in the database application. Program coordinators provide partners with instruction in the use of the field data collection protocol and tools, including hand-held computers and GPS receivers, and in the reporting and maintenance of their data.

In a partnership with the California Invasive Plant Council and the National Biological Information Infrastructure, TAdN data will be integrated with other California Arundo observations such as those from the California Department of Food and Agriculture and CalTrans through [CalFlora](#), in a comprehensive database of plant distribution information for California. This will enable these multi-source data to be mapped and analyzed together. This is a critical step toward developing a comprehensive picture of Arundo invasion in California.

To increase the effectiveness of Arundo eradication projects, both small and large, the program has developed an online Arundo information digital library. It includes a comprehensive bibliography of Arundo research, research articles, updated control methods, expert and project contact information, archived TAdN listserv conversations, and educational materials. All are easily accessible from the TAdN website.

Future partners are continually identified for inclusion in subsequent grant proposals. Being part of the program increases their likelihood of getting funded. All Arundo eradication projects around the state benefit from the materials available on the TAdN website and are welcome to use the protocols, join the [listserv](#), and share data. Ultimately the program is intended to assist and network Arundo eradication efforts in watersheds throughout northern and central California.

Phase 2 of the program is funded through a grant from the California Bay-Delta Authority (CBDA), and Phase 1 is funded through CALFED. For more information about the Arundo donax field data protocol or to browse the Arundo information library, visit the [TAdN website](#). For questions about the program, please contact the Arundo Eradication Program at: bhaas@sonomaecologycenter.org; 707-996-0764, ext. 104.