



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
San Diego National Wildlife Refuge Complex
1080 Gunpowder Point
Chula Vista, California 91910



August 20, 2020

Notice of Intent to Begin Herbicide Application for 2020 - 2021 Southern Border Fuels Management Project - San Diego National Wildlife Refuge Complex Tijuana Slough NWR and San Diego NWR

This notice is to inform you that the San Diego National Wildlife Refuge Complex will begin mechanical and chemical control of non-native invasive plants within the Tijuana Slough National Wildlife Refuge (NWR, Refuge) as early as August 31, 2020 and along the Sweetwater River within the San Diego NWR in early October 2020. We anticipate the work for this season to be completed by March 2021. All work will be conducted in accordance with the project's Final Aquatic Pesticide Application Plan (APAP), dated October 23, 2019, which can be provided upon request.

The area within the Tijuana Slough NWR targeted for invasive plant control includes approximately 250 acres in the eastern portion of the Refuge along the Tijuana River and its tributaries, in San Diego County, California. Within the targeted control site, approximately 205 acres of riparian habitat and associated uplands would be treated to remove invasive plants.

Within the San Diego NWR, activities will initially focus on regrowth of *Arundo donax* that was treated last season, and then extend into other areas throughout the 242 acres of riparian habitat located along the Sweetwater River within the boundaries of the Refuge.

Mechanical and chemical treatment will be conducted by a qualified partner agency. Active ingredients for chemical treatment could involve the use of glyphosate (formulated for either upland or wetland situations depending on the treatment location), imazapyr (formulated for use in wetland areas), or triclopyr [Pathfinder II] (for basal bark and cut stump application, cannot be applied to water). The surfactants Quest and/or Agri-dex may also be mixed as appropriate with one or more of the active ingredients. All herbicides will be applied in accordance with label specifications and consistent with the requirements of our approved APAP.

If you have any questions, or would like additional information about the Southern Border Fuels Management Project, please contact Daniel O'Connor, Fire Management Officer, Southern California Zone, at daniel_s_oconnor@fws.gov. For questions related specifically to control activities on the Tijuana Slough NWR, please contact Brian Collins, Refuge Manager, at brian_collins@fws.gov and for questions specific to control activities on the San Diego NWR, please contact Dwane Binns, Refuge Manager, at dwane_binns@fws.gov.

Andrew Yuen, Project Leader
San Diego NWR Complex