



Volunteers Needed!

Invasive Plant Removal in Martinez Sat. Dec. 12th (9 am-noon)

We need your help! Do you want to protect our local environment and help the native plants and animals? Do you like to see quick dramatic results for a couple hours of work? Do you enjoy getting out with a pair of loppers and hacking away at unwanted vegetation? Well, we have an opportunity for you!

We need about a dozen volunteers to help cut down a patch of Giant Reed (*Arundo donax*) from the tributary of Alhambra Creek that runs along Alhambra Avenue. **COMMUNITY SERVICE CREDIT AVAILABLE!**
Please RSVP TO Mary Grim at mary.grim@ca.nacdn.net or 672-6522 x113.

See the details on next page for where to meet, what to wear or bring, and waiver form.



This workday is organized by members of the Alhambra Watershed Council and the "Friends of Alhambra Creek." Both are watershed groups that seek to protect and restore the creek and its surrounding watershed lands. We'll be working in cooperation with the City of Martinez public works staff.



What Is Arundo Donax?

Commonly known as Giant Reed, or Giant Cane, this extremely fast growing plant resembles bamboo. It grows up to 4 inches per day, and reaches 30 feet tall. It often colonizes stream banks and damp areas, but can grow in any of our local conditions. It was brought here by Spanish missionaries to use as a building material. It has escaped into wildland areas but it has little or no value for wildlife.

WHY Remove this Plant?

- **Arundo is aggressively invasive plant.** It spreads quickly and forms thick stands. It chokes stream banks. Small pieces that break off can readily establish new colonies further downstream.
- **Arundo is a fire hazard.** This plant is very flammable. It burns even when green. Its height and dry leaves and stalks makes it a fire-ladder that enables flames to reach up into nearby trees. This is a dangerous plant to have near roadways where lighted cigarettes may be carelessly thrown. It can turn stream channels, which are usually damp, fire-resistant barriers into pathways for fire to travel.
- **Arundo can exacerbate flooding.** During storms clumps may break away from banks and clog up swelling streams because the shallow roots don't hold to the bank.
- **Arundo displaces useful native plants and ruins habitat.** This fast growing reed crowds out native plants that provide food, shelter and nesting sites for our local birds and wildlife. It can quickly turn a richly diverse stream ecosystem into a wasteland devoid of any habitat value except for non-native rats.
- **Arundo wastes water.** Its root system sucks up water at a much more rapid rate than native vegetation. It deprives the soil and other plants of water, thus changing and drying out the ecosystem.



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We need about 15-20 volunteers to help cut down a two patches of Giant Reed (*Arundo donax*) from the tributary of Alhambra Creek that runs along Alhambra Avenue. **COMMUNITY SERVICE CREDIT AVAILABLE! Please contact Mary Grim at mary.grim@ca.nacdn.net or 672-6522 x113 if you can help.**

What to Wear and Bring:

- **If you're under 18- bring the waiver form below signed by a parent or guardian.**
- **Bring work gloves and safety goggles if you have them. (Otherwise they will be provided.)**
- **Wear sunscreen, close toed OLD shoes or boots with non-slip tread.**
- **Long sleeves & long pants are advisable**

(There are scratchy weeds on the bank and a trickle of slimy water on the slippery bottom of the creek's cement channel. We hope to stay out of the channel, but you never know!)

Meeting Place

Corner of Likens Ave. and Degnan Dr. in the Forest Hills housing development. *(see map on next page)*

Liability Waiver:

I release the following from any liability due to accidents or injury while participating in the Arundo Removal Project on September 27, 2009: Friends of Alhambra Creek, City of Martinez, Resource Conservation District and Martinez Unified School District.

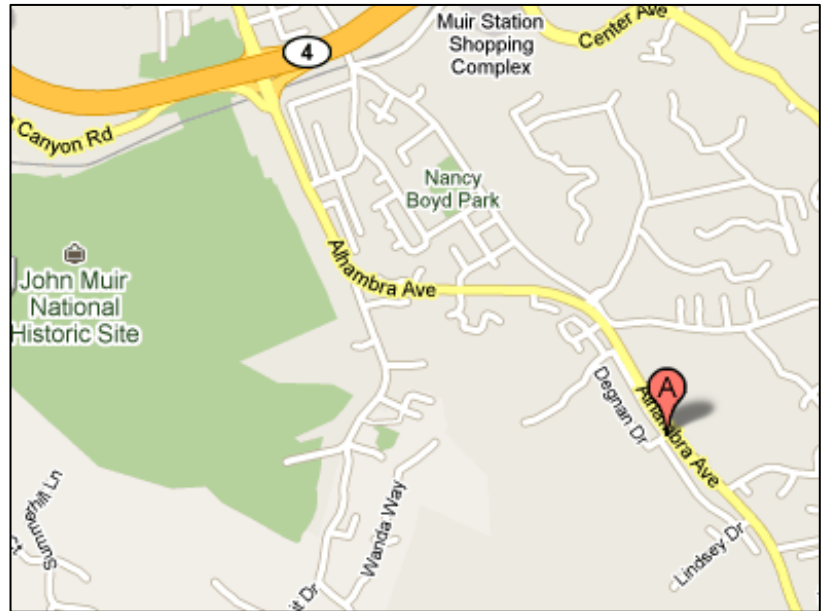
Students name (print): _____ Date: _____, 2009

Parents Signature _____ Date: _____, 2009

Parents name (Printed) _____ # _____
Emergency contact phone # _____

We will meet at the corner of Likens Ave. and Degnan Dr. in Martinez at 9:00 a.m.

- From Highway 4, take the Alhambra Avenue Exit.
- Turn south (away from Martinez) at the bottom of the exit and proceed toward Pleasant Hill.
- You will pass a burned hillside on your left, and pass Alhambra Hills Drive. Slow down and watch for Lindsey Drive on the right.



- Turn Right at Lindsey Drive – into a housing tract.
- Turn Right again Immediately onto Likens Drive. – Go one long block to Degnan.
- Turn Right again onto Degnan and look for parking.
- We'll meet where the road jogs toward the creek. Enter the work area through a gate in the cyclone fence.

