STATE RENEWS FUNDING FOR WEED MANAGEMENT AREAS

The state budget just signed by the Governor includes $3 million in funding for Weed Management Areas (WMAs) through the California Department of Food and Agriculture. This funding will help continue the Noxious Weed Grant Program, which awarded nearly $120,000 to projects this year to abate noxious weeds in Solano County as reported in last month's newsletter.

The 2019/20 budget builds upon last year's successful effort to appropriate $2 million in funding for WMAs, which was supported by the Willis Jepson Chapter. That appropriation represented a new initiative by the state as part of the California Biodiversity Initiative adopted by Governor Brown in 2018. The initiative contains a comprehensive set of actions for all state agencies to conserve California's biodiversity. These actions include collaborating on the challenges posed by noxious weeds and invasive species to California's biodiversity.

Arundo donax (Giant reed grass) is a noxious weed shown growing in the Cache Slough area and is the target of a Solano County Weed Management Area project.

WMAs were formed as a result of Assembly Bill 1168, signed by Governor Davis in 1999, which funded establishment of the Noxious Weed Management Account to fund research and projects that would reduce the damage to agriculture and wildlife habitats.
in this state from noxious weeds. A WMA is managed by a local organization that brings together all interested landowners, land managers, special districts and the public in a county or other geographical area for the purpose of coordinating and combining their action and expertise to deal with shared weed control problems. These organizations function under the authority of a mutually developed memorandum of understanding.

WMAs have grown to cover all counties in California, and have been an effective structure for the management of noxious weeds within an area. The entity that manages the WMA for Solano County is the Solano Resource Conservation District.