

CITY OF VENTURA
NEWS RELEASE

501 Poli Street
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For Immediate Release

June 18, 2018

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Vans Warped Tour Bands and Crew Volunteer Day of Service in Ventura

On June 25, 2018, from approximately 8 am–1pm, the City of Ventura Volunteer Ventura! Program, in partnership with the Ventura Land Trust (VLT), will host 300-350 Vans Warped Tour band members, road crew and family members in a service project to remove trash and invasive *Arundo donax* in, and around the Ventura River Estuary.

The City of Ventura is partnering with the Ventura Land Trust (VLT) on this Vans Warped Tour Day of Service project. VLT is a community based nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving open space, providing public access, and restoring native habitat by building trails, planting trees, removing trash and arundo from the Ventura River Estuary. Previous collaborations between the City and VLT (formerly the Ventura Hillside Conservancy) resulted in more than 36 tons of trash being removed from the Ventura riverbed between 2008-2011.

“This Day of Service is important for both protecting and improving our environment,” said Deputy Mayor Matt LaVere. “I want to thank the Vans Warped Tour volunteers and the Ventura Land Trust for giving back and making sure Ventura looks its best.”

Removing arundo increases water flow, improves wildlife habitat and allows the public to view and appreciate the river's natural beauty. The fast-growing non-native *Arundo donax* (commonly referred to as Giant Reed) invades wetlands, chokes out native plants, increases fire risk and reduces sight lines into areas leading to the potential for increased illegal activity.

The Vans Warped Tour has committed to a day of service by choosing one city during the tour to perform community service. The City of Ventura was chosen as the 2018 Day of Service location. The first city to benefit from the Day of Service was New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina devastated the community. Additional service days have included working with Journey through Hallowed Ground to plant trees in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania and cleaning up areas affected by flooding in Nashville, Tennessee and improving parks in Western Maryland.

This release is available on the City of Ventura website at www.cityofventura.ca.gov. ###