

South Coast Habitat Restoration Fall 2015 Newsletter



ARROYO HONDO CREEK



EL CAPITAN CREEK



REFUGIO CREEK MOUTH



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South Coast Habitat Restoration Newsletter

Fall 2015

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The mission of **South Coast Habitat Restoration** is to protect, conserve, and restore the various habitats and native biodiversity of Santa Barbara and Ventura.

For more information please visit us at:
schabitatrestoration.org

Support SCHR
Click here to support our ongoing efforts.
your contribution is tax deductible

First project to use Assembly Bill 2193 in Carpinteria

Last September, Governor Brown approved State Assembly Bill, 2193, also known as the Habitat Restoration and Enhancement Act, which established a simplified permitting process with California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) for restoration and enhancement projects. A non-profit partner of our's Sustainable Conservation worked over the last several years with CDFW and Assembly member Richard Gordon to draft and introduce the legislation. The program is designed for landowners, state and local government agencies, and conservation organizations wanting to implement small-scale, voluntary habitat

restoration projects across California. Restoration and Enhancement projects approved by CDFW, pursuant to the Act, receive expedited review and approval to the traditional Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement /1600 permit (LSAA) process.

In addition to SCHR being supportive of this legislation and effort to stream line environmental permits for beneficial projects in California, SCHR is also coordinating the first restoration project to be approved under the new program. The Carpinteria Creek Fish Passage Restoration Project which is

continued on page 2



BEFORE PHOTO OF THE UNDERSIZED BRIDGE AND
CONCRETED STREAM CHANNEL



DEMOLITION OF THE CONCRETED STREAM CHANNEL
AND STREAM BANKS

Santa Barbara Creek Week

The 16th Annual Creek Week will take place Saturday, September 19th through Sunday, September 27th, 2015. Creek Week is an annual community event celebrating our local creeks. Many local groups sponsor events to help build awareness and stewardship of the natural resources of Santa Barbara. This year's events get started with Coastal Clean Up day on Saturday the 19th.



The Carpinteria Creek Watershed Coalition will be hosting an evening of creek related presentations at Island Brewing Company in Carpinteria on Wednesday September 23, at 7:00pm. Numerous other creek related talks, volunteer events and celebrations will be held throughout Santa Barbara County. For a full schedule of events sbcreekweek.com.

CREATURE FEATURE: COAST LIVE OAK (*Quercus agrifolia*)



Over half of all Californian oak species can be found in Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties. The Coast Live Oak is perhaps the most common, thriving in our mild climate and coastal fog. Coast Live Oaks are located along the coast from north of Sonoma County to Baja. They are usually between 10 and 25 meters tall with widely spread branches and dense foliage. The cupped leaves are oblong or oval shaped with sharp edges, and the bark is rough and grey. Acorns are a one seeded fruit. They can range in size and shape, but are generally oblong and smooth. Coast Live Oaks provide food and habitat for wildlife such as birds, small mammals, and deer, and also help protect slopes from erosion. A major threat to Coast Live Oaks is Sudden Oak Death, a disease that spreads through fungus-like pathogens. Sudden Oak Death can kill a healthy, mature tree within weeks, and has caused the death of millions of oak species since the 1920s, primarily north of the central coast.

Upcoming Events

Santa Barbara Creek Week

The 16th annual, Santa Barbara Creek Week will take place September 19th-27th, 2015! Creek Week is an annual community event celebrating our local creeks. Many local groups sponsoring events to help build awareness and stewardship for the natural treasures of Santa Barbara. For a full schedule of events and more details to come check out sb creekweek.com.

CCWC Creek Week Presentations

Will feature two informative creek themed presentations at Carpinteria's Island Brewing Company, 5049 6th Street, in Carpinteria, on Wednesday September 23 at 7:00pm. For more info carpinteriacreek.org.

SB Steelhead Recovery Meeting

A local steelhead group that SCHR is helping to coordinate will meet again on Tuesday November 10th at 10:00am. Contact us if you'd like additional info. info@schabitatrestoration.org

SB Axxess Cards on Sale

Support SCHR with your purchase of a Santa Barbara Axxess card. Purchase your SB Axxess card from SCHR and \$10 of your purchase will go directly to supporting SCHR's restoration efforts! The Axxess card is a community savings guide that features discounts to over 500 local restaurants and merchants. 2016 cards go on sale soon. [Contact us](#) if you are interested in purchasing one.

Water Wise Landscaping

The Santa Barbara Water Agency will be hosting a free water wise landscaping workshop in Carpinteria at the Veterans Memorial Building, 941 Walnut Ave, on Saturday September 19th, from 1:00pm-4:00pm. The event is free but pre-registration is required, sign up here www.waterwisesb.org/workshops.

UCSB Coastal Fund Student Assistants

The UCSB Associated Students Coastal Fund has once again chosen SCHR to be a recipient of funding that allows us to work with and mentor UCSB students while completing on the ground restoration efforts. We would like to thank Alex Ehrens for all of his hard work with SCHR over the last two quarters. He is currently in his fourth year at UCSB perusing a degree in Hydrology with a Physical and Chemical emphasis. He looks forward to learning his native and non-native plants while working with us. Alex is originally from the Chicago area. In his free time he enjoys being outdoors hiking and exploring our local mountains.



UCSB ASSISTANTS ALEX AND RACHEL HELPING TO REMOVE NON-NATIVE PLANTS AT THE REFUGIO CREEK MOUTH



In addition Rachel Wright, a fourth year student at UCSB joined us this quarter. She is studying Hydrology with a Biology and Ecology emphasis. She hopes to go into riparian restoration work, focusing on endangered species. In her free time, she enjoys SCUBA diving, reading, hiking and swimming.

Over Summer quarter Alex and Rachel have participated in restoration site maintenance including non-native vegetation removal and irrigation line maintenance. Alex and Rachel were also exposed to construction monitoring and oversight when our restoration project in Carpinteria creek began in August. We thank Alex and Rachel for all their work with us this quarter and wish them the best of luck in their future environmental careers. SCHR is currently looking for two UCSB student assistants to work with us over fall quarter. Please contact us if you are interested. info@schabitatresoration.org.

Santa Barbara Steelhead Meetings

SCHR is working to coordinate quarterly meetings of the Santa Barbara Steelhead Recovery Group. A small working group of local non-profit and agency representatives working to plan and coordinate



fisheries monitoring and restoration actions in Santa Barbara County. The group had their second meeting of 2015 last month in Santa Barbara and had a lengthy discussion about the drought and its impacts to local streams and steelhead populations. In addition updates were given about upcoming restoration projects and future restoration needs. The Recovery Group's next Meeting will be Tuesday November 10th at 10:00am, at the Watershed Resource Center in Sana Barbara. If you are interested in participating in these meetings or learning more about the group, please contact us at info@schabitatresoration.org

First project to use Assembly Bill 2193 ...continued from page 1

currently under construction in the Carpinteria Creek Watershed was the first project to be approved by the CDFW Director under AB2193 and Fish and Game code 1652. SCHR is excited to be the first project taking advantage of this program and hopes that it will lead to future streamlined permits and environmental review for voluntary restoration projects.

The project removes the last major barrier from the Carpinteria Creek Watershed. The project removes an under sized bridge and 98 feet of concreted stream channel and banks. The channel will be reconstructed using natural stream bed material; a new wider spanning bridge will be installed. endangered southern steelhead trout will now be able to migrate through Carpinteria Creek and up into the spawning habitat in the perennial headwaters of the watershed. SCHR working with other partners of the Carpinteria Creek Watershed Coalition (CCWC) have completed

barrier removal efforts in the watershed for nearly 10 years. The Coalition which was founded in 2001, spearheaded efforts to create a watershed management plan which helped to secure funding for and initiate barrier removal projects. Over the last several years 9 barriers to steelhead migration have been removed from the watershed. The Coalition members look forward to seeing returning adult steelhead this winter.

For more information about the CCWC visit their website at carpinteriacreek.org. For more information AB 2193 visit www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Environmental-Review/HRE-Act



DEMOLITION OF THE UNDERSIZED BRIDGE



CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW STREAM CHANNEL



FINISHED REBUILT STREAM CHANNEL

Free Water Wise Landscaping Workshop



The Santa Barbara Water Agency will be hosting a FREE water wise landscaping workshop in Carpinteria at then Veterans Memorial Building, 941 Walnut Ave, on Saturday September 19th, from 1:00pm-4:00pm. The event is free and open to the public but pre-registration is required. To sign up and get free online resources about what you can do to make your landscaping more sustainable checkout www.waterwisesb.org/workshops.

The Mission of South Coast Habitat Restoration is to protect, conserve, and restore the various habitats and native biodiversity of Santa Barbara and Ventura. For more information please visit us at: schabitatrestoration.org

Support SCHR Visit www.earthisland.org/schr/donate to support our ongoing efforts, your contribution is tax deductible

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California Drought Dashboard

The Nature Conservancy's has an interesting online tool called the California Salmon Snapshot. As part of the interactive online tool which allows users to look at historic and recent salmonid population monitoring, they have created a Drought Dashboard. In light of the severity of the recent years of drought in California the tool highlights the need for real change to meet the water needs of both our natural systems and our water users across the state. Today, rivers are running dry, and in some cases water is being taken from the ground faster than it is replenished. The tool uses existing stream gages to track the current flow levels in creeks and rivers across the state. Their data currently shows that 66% of rivers across the state are flowing below normal. Check out their work at casalmon.org.

CCWC Creek Week Presentations



As part of the Santa Barbara Creek Week activities this month's evening presentation will two talks on recently completed creek monitoring efforts and restoration efforts

across the south coast. Jeff Brinkman, of Ecology Consultants will give a talk about the results of his macro-invertebrate monitoring efforts in a number of south coast streams. Aquatic macro-invertebrates are a useful indicator of stream health and water quality. Come learn about these little creatures and what they can tell us about the relative health of our local streams. In addition Mauricio Gomez, SCHR's director will give a talk about restoration efforts that are completed and underway in the Carpinteria creek Watershed to improve the heath of the stream and provide fish passage for federally endangered steelhead trout. The talk will be hosted at Island Brewing, 5049 6th Street, in Carpinteria, on Wednesday September 23 at 7:00pm. For more info carpinteriacreek.org.