California Department of Fish and Wildlife Fisheries Restoration Grant Program Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2025-2026



Bridge replacement on Quiota Creek, a tributary to the Santa Ynez River

Photo Credit: Fisheries Division, Cachuma Operations and Maintenacnce Board

Watershed Restoration Grant Branch

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Executive Summary

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife's (CDFW) Fisheries Restoration Grant Program (FRGP) was established in 1981. The objective of FRGP is to restore anadromous salmonid habitat through restoration activities that reestablish natural ecosystem functions and processes with the goal of ensuring the recovery and conservation of salmon and steelhead. FRGP accomplishes this by funding:

- Restoration projects that address factors limiting the productivity of Endangered Species Act (ESA)-listed salmonids, as specified in approved, interim, or proposed Recovery Plans.
- Projects and activities that provide demonstrable and measurable benefits to ESA-listed salmonids and their habitat(s).
- Effectiveness monitoring of habitat restoration actions at the watershed or larger scales for ESA-listed salmonids, or status monitoring projects that directly contribute to population viability assessments.
- Other projects consistent with but not included in the above, such as outreach, coordination, research, monitoring, and assessment projects that directly support the program objective.

FRGP welcomes feedback to help understand and evaluate the usefulness of this document for improving the program, particularly regarding fisheries restoration. Comments are encouraged and should be directed to:

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Part I: Introduction

This report highlights FRGP-funded projects completed during the State Fiscal Year (FY) 2025/2026. A project must have an actual end date between July 1, 2025, and June 30, 2026, to be considered complete in FY25/26. Detailed listings of restoration projects and project outcomes (performance measures), as well as a description of notable projects completed during FY24/25, are included.

A brief discussion of FRGP history, a description of the grant process, funding, a description of the state/federal permits secured by FRGP, legal authority and related statutes, and a description of FRGP project types can be found on FRGP's website.

Volume of Proposals Received and Funded

Each year, FRGP solicits proposals for projects which address the goals of the program through its Proposal Solicitation Notice (PSN). For FRGP to accomplish its goals, applicants must submit proposals that address a task in one of the State or Federal Recovery Plans available to the public.

The annual competitive selection process has evolved over the past 40 years and FRGP receives more proposals than it can fund. Over the last five years (between FY21/22 and FY25/26), FRGP has received 247 proposals and has funded 126 projects (Table 1).

Table 1: FRGP Proposals and Funded Projects by FY (WebGrants data, 2026)

Fiscal Year	21/22	22/23	23/24	24/25	25/26	5 Yr Total
Proposals Received	61	50	35	48	53	247
Proposals Funded	23	34	26	23	20	126
% Funded	38%	68%	74%	48%	38%	51%

Part II: Summary of Fiscal Year 25/26

A total of 27 FRGP-funded projects were completed in FY25/26.

Geographic Coverage

There are five CDFW Geographic Regions eligible for FRGP funding. The 27 completed projects ranged geographically and were located in four of the five regions, in addition to statewide projects that spanned multiple regions (Table 2). A regional breakdown of completed projects can be found in Part III.

Table 2: FY25/26 Completed Projects by CDFW Region

CDFW Region	Projects Completed
Region 1 - Northern Region	19
Region 3 - Bay Delta Region	2
Region 4 - Central Region	1
Region 5 - South Central Region	2
Statewide	3

Project Types

The 27 completed projects fell under four different FRGP Project Types (Table 3). Descriptions of each FRGP Project Type can be found in the FRGP Project Overview.

Table 3: FY25/26 Completed Projects by Project Type

Project Type	Projects Completed
FP - Fish Passage at Stream Crossing	4
HI - Instream Habitat Restoration	10
PD - Project Design	8
PI - Public Involvement and Capacity Building	5

Project Costs

FRGP costs for the 27 completed projects in FY25/26 totaled $18,265,074. Specific breakdowns of the costs between CDFW Region (Figure 1) and FRGP Project Type (Figure 2) show the spread of funds.

Figure 1: FY25/26 Completed Project Cost Breakdown by CDFW Region

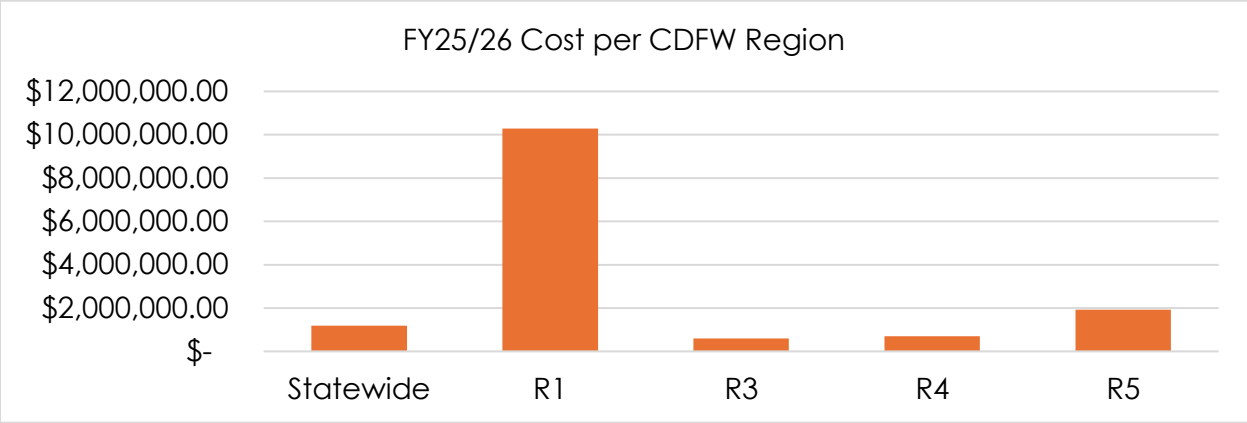
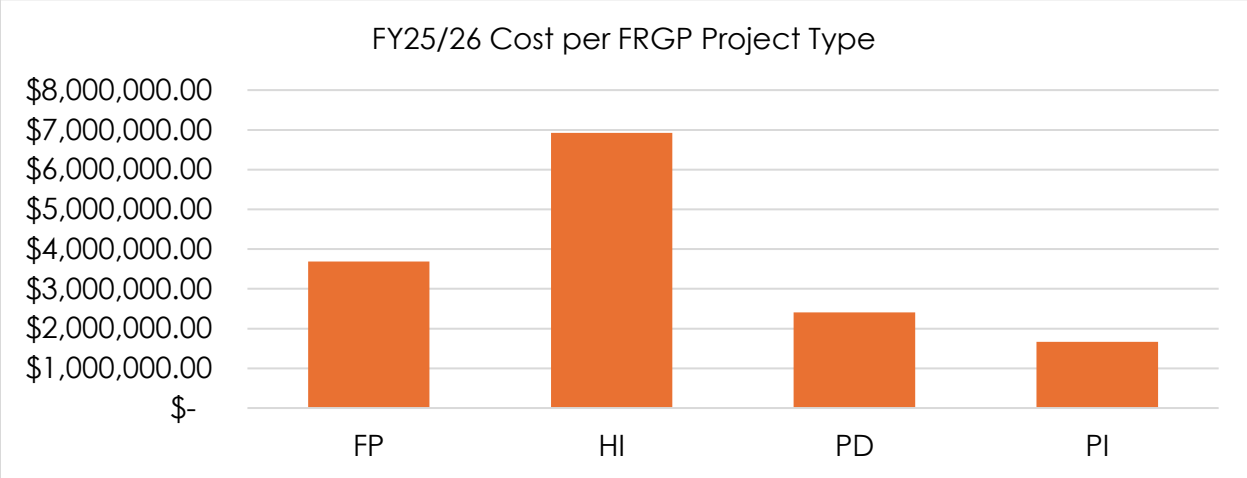


Figure 2: FY25/26 Completed Project Cost Breakdown by FRGP Project Type



Project with the Lowest Cost:

- Fish Passage Barrier Removal Support in Goleta and the Gaviota Coast ($115,570)

Project with the Highest Cost:

- Maria Ygnacio Creek Fish Passage Project Implementation - Patterson Ave Bridge ($1,808,232)

Performance Measures

Each FRGP Project Type requires grantees to track a specific, extensive set of measurable restoration metrics associated with funded projects. Summary performance measures are provided for the 27 completed projects (Table 4).

Table 4: Cumulative Performance Measures for all FY25/26 Completed Projects

Performance Measure	Value
Overall stream length treated (miles)	9.57
Stream length made accessible by removing blockages (miles)	12.01
Number of blockages/impediments/barriers removed or altered	7
Number of fish screens installed	1
Number of instream structures placed	343
Number of pools created	103
Amount of riparian area treated (acres)	6.72
Road length treated (miles)	2.3
Number of workshops, training, and outreach events held	74

Part III: Completed Project Listing for Fiscal Year 25/26

The following tables contain a comprehensive listing of FRGP-funded grant projects completed during FY25/26. The tables are sorted by CDFW region and project type to facilitate comparisons of projects across the state.

Region 1 Project Listing

19 projects in the Northern Region were completed during FY25/26 totaling $10,284,737.

Table 5: FY25/26 Completed Project Listing in CDFW Region 1 by Project Type (WebGrants data, 2026)

FRGP Grant Number	Project Name	Project Type	FY Approved	Actual End Date	Stream(s)	County(ies)	Total Project Cost
Q2210524	Little Case Two Barrier Removal Project	FP	FY22/23	07/03/25	Little Case Creek	Mendocino	$551,702
Q2210526	Lindsay Creek Coho Barrier Removal Project	FP	FY22/23	04/14/26	Lindsay Creek	Humboldt	$630,143
Q2110506	Brandon Gulch Coho Stream Habitat Enhancement Project	HI	FY21/22	04/28/26	North Fork South Fork Noyo River	Mendocino	$233,375
Q2110508	Albion River and Tom Bell Creek Instream Habitat Enhancement Project	HI	FY21/22	03/27/26	Albion River	Mendocino	$335,493
Q2110511	Red Bank Off-Channel Fisheries and Riparian Habitat Enhancement Project	HI	FY21/22	04/22/26	North Fork Salmon River	Siskiyou	$1,799,382

FRGP Grant Number	Project Name	Project Type	FY Approved	Actual End Date	Stream(s)	County(ies)	Total Project Cost
Q2110512	Dry Dock Gulch Alcove Habitat Enhancement and Fish Passage Project	HI	FY21/22	03/04/26	Dry Creek	Mendocino	$1,449,836
Q2110514	Ryan Creek Off-Channel Coho Habitat Implementation Project	HI	FY21/22	04/09/26	Ryan Creek	Humboldt	$695,620
Q2210504	East Branch North Fork Big River Coho Habitat Enhancement Project - Large Wood (Phase III)	HI	FY21/22	04/01/26	East Branch North Fork Big River	Mendocino	$319,643
Q2210509	Chimney Rock Creek Upslope Watershed and Instream Habitat Restoration Project	HI	FY22/23	01/13/26	Chimney Rock Creek	Mendocino	$730,962
Q2210510	SF Cottaneva Watershed Habitat Enhancement	HI	FY22/23	12/08/25	South Fork Cottaneva Creek	Mendocino	$529,760
Q2210520	Willits Creek Instream Restoration Project	HI	FY22/23	04/03/26	Willits Creek	Mendocino	$538,621
Q2210505	Update Scott River Strategic Action Plan, Engage the Public, and Plan and Undertake Restoration Actions.	PI	FY21/22	04/28/26	Scott River	Siskiyou	$372,302
Q2210508	Durphy Creek Fish Passage Design Project	PD	FY22/23	04/06/26	Durphy Creek	Humboldt	$269,080

FRGP Grant Number	Project Name	Project Type	FY Approved	Actual End Date	Stream(s)	County(ies)	Total Project Cost
Q2210512	Rail Dump Gulch Fish Passage and Habitat Improvement Design Project	PD	FY22/23	04/01/26	Unnamed Tributary to Big River	Mendocino	$312,870
Q2210514	Camp Creek Coho Habitat Enhancement Design Project	PD	FY22/23	04/27/26	Camp Creek	Humboldt	$225,480
Q2210515	Coulborn Creek Salmonid Habitat Assessment and Enhancement Planning and Design Project	PD	FY22/23	04/28/26	Indian Creek	Mendocino	$370,430
Q2210516	Cider Mill Creek (Lindsay Creek tributary) Coho Barrier Removal and Habitat Enhancement Design Project	PD	FY22/23	04/17/26	Lindsay Creek	Humboldt	$297,669
Q2210519	South Fork Rowdy/Savoy Creeks Salmonid Habitat Improvement Project	PD	FY22/23	04/21/26	Rowdy Creek	Del Norte	$360,413
Q2210521	Tip Top Ridge Creek (formely known as Squaw Creek) Coho Habitat Improvement Design Project	PD	FY22/23	04/22/26	Lindsay Creek	Humboldt	$261,956

Region 2 Project Listing

No projects in the North Central Region were completed during FY25/26.

Region 3 Project Listing

2 projects in the Bay Delta Region were completed during FY25/26 totaling $600,721.

Table 6: FY25/26 Completed Project Listing in CDFW Region 3 by Project Type (WebGrants data, 2026)

FRGP Grant Number	Project Name	Project Type	FY Approved	Actual End Date	Stream(s)	County(ies)	Total Project Cost
Q2030403	Iron Horse Vineyards Fish Screen Implementation Project	HI	FY20/21	02/11/26	Green Valley Creek	Sonoma	$288,419
Q2030402	Mill Creek & Palmer Creek Instream Habitat Design	PD	FY20/21	02/05/26	Mill Creek, Palmer Creek	Sonoma	$312,302

Region 4 Project Listing

1 project in the Central Region was completed during FY25/26 totaling $694,317.

Table 7: FY25/26 Completed Project Listing in CDFW Region 4 by Project Type (WebGrants data, 2026)

FRGP Grant Number	Project Name	Project Type	FY Approved	Actual End Date	Stream(s)	County(ies)	Total Project Cost
Q2240402	Bradley (Ringer) Cachagua Creek Fish Passage Project	FP	FY22/23	11/12/25	Cachagua Creek	Monterey	$694,317

Region 5 Project Listing

2 projects in the South Coast Region were completed during FY25/26 totaling $1,923,802.

Table 8: FY25/26 Completed Project Listing in CDFW Region 5 by Project Type (WebGrants data, 2026)

FRGP Grant Number	Project Name	Project Type	FY Approved	Actual End Date	Stream(s)	County(ies)	Total Project Cost
Q2250406	Maria Ygnacio Creek Fish Passage Project Implementation - Patterson Ave Bridge	FP	FY22/23	05/19/26	Maria Ygnacio Creek	Santa Barbara	$1,808,232
Q2150902	Fish Passage Barrier Removal Support in Goleta and the Gaviota Coast	PI	FY21/22	06/02/26	Jalama Creek, San Jose Creek, San Pedro Creek	Santa Barbara	$115,570

Statewide Project Listing

3 projects that occurred in multiple areas in California were completed during FY25/26 totaling $1,180,649.

Table 9: FY24/25 Completed Project Listing for Statewide Projects by Project Type (WebGrants data, 2026)

FRGP Grant Number	Project Name	Project Type	FY Approved	Actual End Date	Stream(s)	County(ies)	Total Project Cost
Q2150901	South Coast Steelhead Coalition	PI	FY21/22	11/26/25	Statewide	Statewide	$285,550
Q2250902	Southern Steelhead Coalition	PI	FY22/23	07/28/25	Statewide	Statewide	$216,908

FRGP Grant Number	Project Name	Project Type	FY Approved	Actual End Date	Stream(s)	County(ies)	Total Project Cost
Q2410500	California Conservation Corps Watershed Stewards Program in Partnership with Americorps - Year 31	PI	FY23/24	10/30/25	Statewide	Statewide	$678,191

Part IV: Highlighted Projects Completed During Fiscal Year 2025/26

Q2030403: Iron Horse Vineyards Fish Screen Implementation Project



Project Objective(s): The project aims to prevent juvenile salmonid mortality that may result from operation of the existing unscreened agricultural diversion water intake at Iron Horse Vineyards. Continued operation of the diversion without any screen to prevent juvenile fish from being drawn into the diversion pump poses a mortality risk to juvenile fish rearing in Green Valley Creek.

Project Location(s): Iron Horse Vineyards is located in the Green Valley Creek watershed in Sonoma County, CA. The project site is on Iron Horse Vineyards property, northwest of Sebastopol. The water diversion intake is located adjacent to the vineyard irrigation pond, ~4.4 miles upstream of Green Valley Creek's confluence with the Russian River.

Project Description: The project installed a traveling belt fish screen on a previously unscreened water diversion intake at Iron Horse Vineyards along Green Valley Creek in Sonoma County, California. The project was constructed in accordance with the design,

as documented in the project's as-built report. Project implementation has resulted in an effectively screened diversion intake for licensed diversion on Green Valley Creek. The traveling belt screen protects aquatic organisms and juvenile salmonids rearing in the reach adjacent to the diversion from being pulled into the intake.





Project Performance Measures:

• Total length of stream treated by project	0.01 miles
• Number of fish screens installed	1 screen
• Volume of water screened per year	86 acre-feet

Project Funding:

• CDFW FRGP	$288,419.24
• Iron Horse Vineyards, LLC	$14,326.35
• National Fish and Wildlife Foundation	$34,897.26
Total Project Cost	$337,642.85

Q2110511: Red Bank Off-Channel Fisheries and Riparian Habitat Enhancement Project



Project Objective(s): The project intends to develop more complex, year-round, off-channel habitat along a low gradient section of the North Fork Salmon River, with high-intrinsic potential habitat for Southern Oregon/Northern California Coast Evolutionarily Significant Unit population of coho salmon, as well as for spring Chinook salmon, and other anadromous species.

Project Location(s): Red Bank is located on the North Fork of the Salmon River, 7.5 miles upstream from its confluence with the South Fork of the Salmon River, and ~26.5 miles from the mouth of the Salmon River.

Project Description: The project, constructed over 2023-2024, installed multiple features. In total, 216 logs were used to construct log features to meet design specifications. The total length of the instream habitat treated was 0.39 miles. The main bar floodplain connected 0.19 acres with 31 instream pools created through channel reconfiguration and connectivity, and 0.60 miles of streambank riparian miles were treated. Also, 4.6 acres of disturbed area were seeded, and 0.5 acres of native container plants were planted.



Project Performance Measures:

- Total length of stream treated by project — 0.39 miles
- Total area of riparian habitat treated by project — 0.50 acres
- Area of off-channel/floodplain connected — 0.19 acres
- Number of pools created — 31 pools

Project Funding:

- CDFW FRGP — $1,799,381.97
- Karuk Tribe — $5,760.00
- Salmon River Restoration Council — $10,328.00
- U.S. Forest Service — $61,875.00

Total Project Cost — $1,877,344.97

Q2110512: Dry Dock Gulch Alcove Habitat Enhancement and Fish Passage Project



Project Objective(s): The project's goal is to restore and enhance alcove habitat for juvenile and adult salmonids in Dry Dock Gulch. To achieve this, access to Dry Dock Gulch must be restored by replacing a stream crossing on the M-1 Haul Road that can convey flood flows and debris, minimize inspection and maintenance obligations, and pass all life stages of Coho Salmon and Steelhead Trout. The project intends to improve the geographic distribution of Coho Salmon by improving access to biological refugia, upgrading culverts for fish passage and storm flow conveyance, and increasing shelter and habitat complexity with large wood.

Project Location(s): The project is located in coastal Mendo County (confluence of Dry Dock Gulch/Big River), ~5mi upstream of Highway 1 bridge and within the tidally-influenced reach of lower Big River.

Project Description: The project provided access to and restored 0.3 acres of tidally influenced alcove habitat in Dry Dock Gulch Pond, tributary to Big River. Following State and Federal fish passage design criteria, the project replaced an undersized, perched

stream crossing that was a complete barrier to juvenile and adult salmonids. Replacement of this culvert restored access to enhanced important off channel (alcove) habitat as well as 0.76 miles of "good quality" upstream spawning and rearing habitat. Large wood cover structures were placed throughout the alcove and across the sill.



Project Performance Measures:

• Total length of stream treated by project	0.06 miles
• Length of stream made accessible	0.76 miles
• Number of blockages/barriers improved	1 culvert
• Number of structures placed in channel	6 structures

Project Funding:

• CDFW FRGP	$1,449,835.95
• CA Department of Parks and Recreation	$85,110.00
• NOAA Restoration Center	$109,240.00
Total Project Cost	$1,644,185.95

Q2150901: South Coast Steelhead Coalition



Project Objective(s): The mission of the South Coast Steelhead Coalition is to recover endangered Southern steelhead by implementing the National Marine Fisheries Service's Southern California Steelhead Recovery Plan. Our strategy is to integrate steelhead recovery efforts into regional conservation initiatives.

Project Location(s): The South Coast Steelhead Coalition focuses primarily on four high-priority watersheds designated in the Southern California Steelhead Recovery Plan: San Luis Rey River, Santa Margarita River, San Mateo Creek, and San Juan/Trabuco Creek. The Coalition extends outreach activities to cities within the Santa Catalina BPG area.

Project Description: The South Coast Steelhead Coalition was led by California Trout. The benefits to salmonids include fish passage barrier removal and restored access to historic spawning and rearing areas, improved trout habitat, CESA listing in 2024 for Southern steelhead for increased protection of this federally endangered species, enhanced public awareness of steelhead as an iconic species in Southern California streams, public engagement in environmental issues and ecological awareness, and convening more than 35 entities on a routine basis to operationalize a common platform to recover

steelhead and promote watershed health while promoting coastal community resilience. This integrated effort to develop and implement priority restoration projects and engage the public through multiple channels has built a project portfolio more than$45 million and a full calendar of public events in San Diego and Orange Counties.



Project Performance Measures:

• Estimated stream length protected by project	49 miles
• Estimated habitat area protected by project	4,594 acres
• Number of outreach events conducted by project	25 events

Project Funding:

• CDFW FRGP	$285,550.40
• California Trout, Inc.	$82,869.00
• Coalition Partners	$43,200.00
• Field Volunteers (time base equivalent)	$8,000.00
Total Project Cost	$419,619.40

Q2210519: South Fork Rowdy/Savoy Creeks Salmonid Habitat Improvement Project



Project Objective(s): The project objective is to develop fully permittable 100% design plans to improve instream habitat conditions through the introduction of large woody material (LWM) habitat structures and riparian restoration to increase the rate at which LWM recruitment will occur. LWM structure designs will be created to treat the top 10 highest priority stream reaches, as identified by the field investigation.

Project Location(s): The project is located along the South Fork Rowdy Creek and Savoy Creek, 2 miles upstream of the Rowdy Creek confluence with Smith River. The proposed planning watershed feeds directly into Smith River via Rowdy Creek.

Project Description: The design plans were completed and submitted. While focused on South Fork Rowdy Creek, the project's area of study includes 0.3 miles of anadromous stream in Savoy Creek, a nearby tributary.



Project Performance Measures:

- Total length of stream affected by planning activities — 1.75 miles
- Total land area affected by planning activities — 90 acres
- Stream length assessed for habitat conditions — 2.0 miles
- Number of fish passage barriers identified — 1 barrier

Project Funding:

- CDFW FRGP — $360,416.28
- Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation — $12,689.00

Total Project Cost — $373,105.28

Q2240402: Bradley (Ringer) Cachagua Creek Fish Passage Project



Project Objective(s): The project's goal is the removal of the existing concrete low flow crossing/ford that is a migration barrier to the federally threatened South Central California Coast Steelhead on Cachagua Creek. The Bradley (Ringer) Ford crosses Cachagua Creek. This ford is a migration barrier to all life stages of steelhead at all flows. Replacement with a free span/low deck concrete bridge will provide fish passage and landowner access across the creek consistent with approved designs developed through FRGP Grant Q1940407.

Project Location(s): The project site is located on Cachagua Creek, tributary to the Carmel River in Monterey County, in unincorporated Carmel Valley. The project area is ~2.7 river miles upstream of the confluence of Cachagua Creek and the main-stem of the Carmel River, the confluence being ~1.5 river miles downstream of Los Padres Dam on the Carmel River. Cachagua Creek lies upstream from the recent San Clemente Dam removal project.

Project Description: The project remedied a concrete ford vehicle road crossing which served as a barrier to steelhead migration, by removing the crossing and replacing it with a free-span bridge deck. The new crossing supports fish passage under all flow conditions.





Project Performance Measures:

• Total length of stream treated by project	0.05 miles
• Length of stream made accessible	8.1 miles
• Number of fish passage barriers improved	1 Ford

Project Funding:

• CDFW FRGP	$694,317.21
• CA State Coastal Conservancy	$326,295.66
Total Project Cost	$1,020,612.87

Q2250406: Maria Ygnacio Creek Fish Passage Project Implementation - Patterson Ave Bridge



Project Objective(s): The project aims to modify the existing Patterson Ave Bridge fish passage barrier to allow for fish passage at the site for juvenile and adult southern steelhead at high and low flows. This barrier was identified and classified in the Stoecker 2002 assessment. The concrete slab channel beneath the bridge is bisected by a concrete bridge support with Maria Ygnacio Creek located on the right (looking downstream) and Atascadero Creek located on the left. The structure is in fair condition, but scour is causing undercutting and bank erosion on the downstream left side. A large scour pool has formed at the downstream end of the slab, which anadromous Southern Steelhead Trout have been observed stranded in.

Project Location(s): The barrier is a concrete channel underneath the bridge with a large drop on the downstream end. The crossing is located 1.6 miles upstream of the Pacific Ocean.

Project Description: The project implemented the physical construction of instream work to provide fish passage to Steelhead at the Patterson Ave bridge along Maria Ygnacio

Creek. Steelhead passage is restored past the known barrier, allowing migration for all life stages. Riparian re-vegetation efforts were completed, providing improved habitat conditions and erosion control.



Project Performance Measures:

• Total length of stream treated by project	0.06 miles
• Total area of riparian habitat treated by project	0.01 acres
• Length of stream made accessible	0.77 miles
• Number of blockages/barriers improved	1 bridge

Project Funding:

• CDFW FRGP	$1,808,232.35
• Santa Barbara County, Public Works Department	$19,800.00
Total Project Cost	$1,828,032.35