

State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) 2015

Southern California Coastal Watershed California Coastal Native Fish Assemblage

About Our Region and Habitat

Southern California Coastal Watershed includes the coastal streams and lagoons from the Ventura River south and east to the San Gabriel River. The major watersheds include: Ventura River, Santa Clara River, Malibu Creek, Los Angeles River, and the San Gabriel River. Streams within the watershed vary considerable from high gradient mountain creeks to moderate gradient foothill streams and low gradient coastal plain rivers.

Streams found in this watershed are characterized as having low flows during summer and early fall months with many dry reaches. Stream flows are sustained by winter rain events and snow melt in spring with ground water upwelling in some streams. Flows typically rise fast in response to rain events and return to base flow conditions quickly after the rain subsides. Most rivers and large tributaries are damned and have flow diversions creating highly modified stream flow regimes. Stream reaches with substantial bedrock are often perennial. The lagoons are highly modified and are often artificially breached creating an unnatural condition.

What are the sensitive fish found in Southern California Coastal Watershed streams? The following five species from this region are found to be sensitive:

- ▶ Threespine stickleback
- ▶ Tidewater goby
- ▶ Santa Ana sucker
- ▶ Santa Ana speckled dace
- ▶ Arroyo chub

What do we find important for recovering and sustaining healthy stream habitat? Ecological conditions that are found to be most critical to sustain healthy riparian habitat in this region are:

- Area and extent of populations
- Biotic interactions
- Connectivity
- Channel Morphology
- Surface Water Flow Regime
- Water level fluctuations
- Community structure and composition

Degraded ecological conditions that are found to be impacting the riparian habitat in this region are:

- Changes in precipitation
- Changes in runoff and river flow
- Changes in water levels and hydro-period

- Changes in flood occurrence, frequency, intensity, and area flooded
- Changes in groundwater tables
- Changes in spatial extent of the populations
- Changes in community structure or composition
- Changes in biotic interactions (altered community dynamics)
- Changes in successional processes and ecosystem development
- Habitat fragmentation
- Changes in sediment erosion and deposition regime
- Increase in pollutant amount and concentration

Human related activities and issues that are found to be sources of potential impacts to the riparian habitats are:

- Dams & water Management and uses
- Housing & urban areas
- Recreational activities
- Invasive plant & animal species
- Mining & quarrying
- Roads & railroads
- Household sewage & urban waste water
- Avalanches & landslides
- Tourism & recreation areas
- Garbage and solid waste
- Fire & fire suppression
- Livestock farming & ranching

More questions?

1. Come talk to us and ask questions at scoping meetings!
2. Check our Website: <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/SWAP/>
3. Provide written comments

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