



## **Santa Barbara County Flood Control District Lower Mission Creek Flood Control and Restoration Project**

### **Prop 50 Funding**

In a competitive grant for Integrated Regional Water Management monies under Proposition 50, the City of Santa Barbara and the County of Santa Barbara were awarded \$1 million from the State Water Resources Control Board for the Lower Mission Creek Flood Control and Restoration project.

### **Lower Mission Creek Flood Control and Restoration Project**

The project reconstructs the portion of lower Mission Creek that runs from State Street to just upstream of the pedestrian bridge, approximately 200 linear feet. This project is part of the overall approximately one and three tenths (1.3) mile Lower Mission Creek Flood Control Project that enhances and expands the natural streambed features of lower Mission Creek. The improvements consist of removing old and various forms of bank revetment and widening the creek channel. Where feasible, natural channel banks are being constructed and stabilized.

### **Need for the Project**

Lower Mission Creek is a deteriorated urban creek and has the potential to provide habitat and passage for endangered species, migratory birds, and aquatic life. The project improves and ultimately protects habitat and passage for the endangered steelhead trout and tidewater goby. Both of these endangered species have been documented and tracked in lower Mission Creek, and the opportunity to provide fish passage up the watershed has been a County and City goal for numerous years. The project significantly reduces flood risks for the lower urban area of Santa Barbara, improves water quality, and improves ground water percolation.

### **Project Benefits**

In addition to restoring the creek channel, improving habitat, and providing fish passage up the watershed, the project removes invasive and non-native plants and trees and replaces native plants and trees. The restored stream channel reduces stream velocities and increases the wetland area. This not only improves water quality and habitat for aquatic life and birds, but also improves urban runoff filtration and natural treatment of pollutants.