

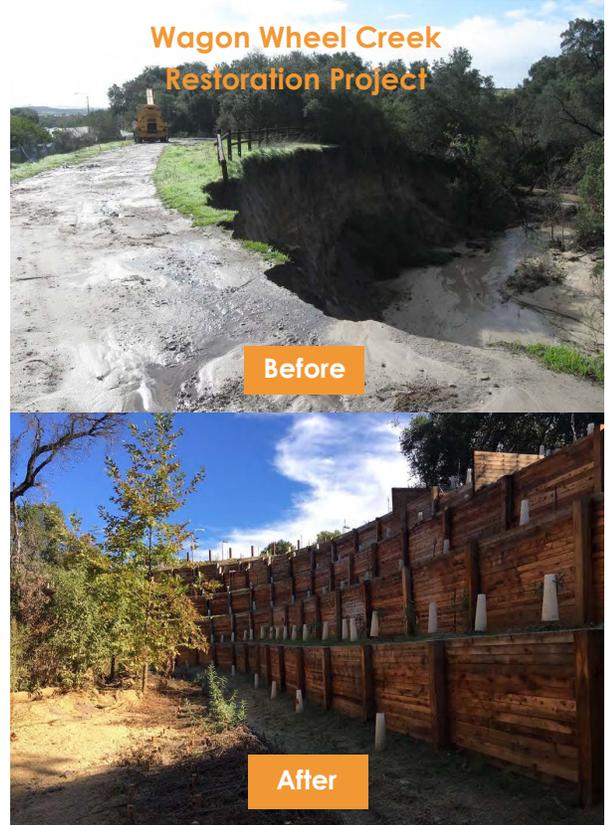
South OC Water Quality Improvement Plan: Channel Erosion

WHAT: A Water Quality Improvement Plan (WQIP) for the South Orange County Watershed Management Area (South OC WMA), has been accepted by the San Diego Regional Water Board. The South OC WMA WQIP identifies high priority water quality conditions (HPWQC) and sets goals, strategies and schedules for addressing them.

Channel erosion is one of the HPWQCs identified in the WQIP. Channel erosion is the erosion of bank and beds of streams. This can occur as a result of urbanization as the tributary land area changes from natural landscape to impervious surfaces, altering the hydrology of the watershed. Urbanization decreases the amount of water that infiltrated into the ground, and increases that volume and velocity of stormwater runoff discharges to streams during rain events. Channel erosion influences physical habitat and hydraulic flow regimes of streams. Efforts focused on these elements are the first step toward restoration of these streams' biological and recreational beneficial uses.

HOW: The WQIP proposes 23,000 lineal feet of streams rehabilitate and restoration along with abatement measures in tributary areas to prevent further erosion. Proposed strategies also include development of a geomorphically-referenced basis of design (GRBoD) approach.

The recently completed Wagon Wheel Creek Restoration Project is an example of this approach. The restoration will protect riparian vegetation and ensure the recreational resources within Riley Wilderness Park are safe from flooding and erosion hazards.



WHEN: Goals and the associated schedule to address channel erosion are shown below.

Develop intent, process, and qualities of the GRBoD projects	Complete channel rehabilitation alternatives and feasibility studies
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INFO: The WQIP in its entirety is available to view in the OC Watershed [website](#). For more information about the South OC WMA WQIP, contact South OC Stormwater at Cindy.Rivers@ocpw.ocgov.com.



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