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to the
CALFED Program**

SSCRCD

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Chris Taylor
Resource Technician

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Board Meetings are held monthly on
the 3rd Tuesday @ 9:30 a.m.

**The Southern Sonoma County
Resource Conservation District**
1301 Redwood Way Suite 170
Petaluma, CA 94954

Sonoma Creek Currents

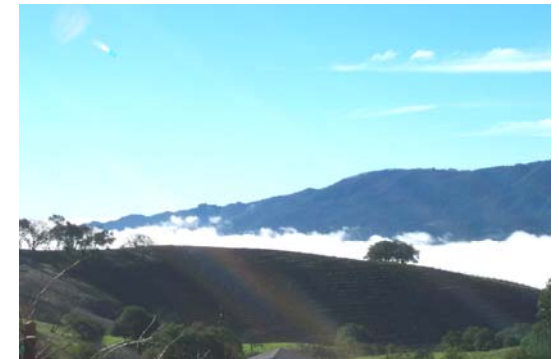
September 2004



**Over 50 Years of
Community
Service**

Our Mission

Our principle mission is to improve resource management while supporting sustainable agriculture and our urban communities. Our purpose is to provide technical assistance, education and funding sources to empower landowners to be committed stewards working to improve water quality, prevent soil erosion and improve natural habitat.



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The Southern Sonoma County
Resource Conservation District**

What's Going on in Sonoma Valley?

Sonoma Creek TMDL

The TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load) study is still in process on Sonoma Creek. The State Water Quality Control Board (SWQCB) listed the Sonoma Creek watershed as impaired for nutrients, pathogens and sediment in 1990. A draft report will be completed late this fall with data compiled by the Sonoma Ecology Center. When the draft report is completed a public meeting will be held, to review the findings. Please contact the Southern Sonoma County Resource Conservation District for more information.

Log Jam in Lower Sonoma Creek

The log jam located downstream of the Highway 121 bridge is still a major concern and priority for the Southern Sonoma County Resource Conservation District. Funding sources are still being sought to remove the obstruction. The log jam, if not removed before winter, may cause flooding and damage to neighboring properties. As seen in the picture below, these are not little logs and will require some heavy equipment. The removal may be subject to per-



Picture taken July 2003, by Paul Sheffer

Carriger Creek Restoration

In 2000, the Southern Sonoma County Resource Conservation District (SSCRCD) started working with landowner Marilyn Goode (Grove Street, Sonoma) on removing a fish barrier located on her property. Carriger Creek runs through the property and is a tributary to Sonoma Creek. Upper Carriger Creek flows continually all



Pre-construction

year and is an important source of habitat for steelhead. The fish barrier was an old concrete vehicular wet crossing. The crossing had created a plunge pool below it with an elevation difference, from the pool surface and the crossing, of about 4 feet, creating a small waterfall. The jump was possible for adult fish, but not possible for juvenile steelhead.

The SSCRCD applied for grant funding for the project starting in early 2001. The SSCRCD was successful in receiving funding from CALFED and the California Department of Fish and Game. The contractor for the project



Post-construction

was Prunuske Chatham, Inc. of Occidental. The lead engineer was Mike Jensen. Mike redesigned the creek channel

within the project reach. The new channel design was created by modeling an upper reach of Carriger Creek. The new reach consists of three step pools, two small and one large. Willow mattresses were installed on the banks for bank stability and habitat. Sonoma Valley native trees, shrubs, and grasses will be planted later this fall. All the permitting was handled by Kathie Lowrey, environmental planner, of Prunuske Chatham, Inc.

Prunuske Chatham Inc. fisheries biologist removed over four hundred fish from the project reach, where they were trapped and then relocated up stream. Most of the 400 fish were removed from the plunge pool. The new step pools have an elevation difference of six inches allowing juvenile fish to move throughout the reach. The pools were created using one to three ton boulders from local quarry sources. These boulders are designed and installed so that they will not move during high flows.



Post-construction

The landowner is purchasing a bridge to be placed later this fall. The project and plantings will be monitored for three years. The overall cost of the project will be \$333,855. Please contact project manager Chris Taylor of the SSCRCD for further details.

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