

The Mission Creek Steelhead Recovery Project will modify two existing concrete flood control channels measuring one-quarter and three-quarters of a mile long. These flat concrete creek beds will be replaced by naturalized creek beds to allow steelhead migration.

Currently in Mission Creek, steelhead cannot travel through the concrete channels because the water velocity is too high and there are no pools in which fish can rest. Thus, while steelhead have migrated from the ocean into lower Mission Creek in at least 6 of the last 7 years, the concrete channels have prevented these fish from reaching their spawning grounds in Mission Canyon and Rattlesnake Canyon.

With the funding received today, the City will be able to proceed with the next phase of the Mission Creek Steelhead Recovery Project. Specifically, the City will (1) conduct necessary physical modeling of the project to ensure successful steelhead passage and that channel modifications will not increase flood risks, (2) complete the preliminary design for the project, and (3) conduct the appropriate level of environmental review required prior to construction.

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Funding of this project comes through the **Annenberg Foundation's** Blue Planet Initiative—the organization’s response to a critical need to advance environmental stewardship. Through a competitive, invited proposal process, the initiative provides funding to address air quality, water quality and land use, with an emphasis on urban sustainability as well as species and habitat conservation, research and restoration. Established in 1989 by Walter H. Annenberg, the Annenberg Foundation provides funding and support to nonprofit organizations in the United States and globally.

As a part of the **California Department of Fish and Game’s** Habitat Conservation Division, the Native Anadromous Fish and Watershed Branch works to conserve and restore anadromous fisheries and watershed health. The branch coordinates the Fisheries Restoration Grant Program.

The mission of the nonprofit **Environmental Defense Center** is to protect and enhance the local environment through education, advocacy and legal action. For thirty years, EDC has worked to protect our coast & ocean, open space & wildlife, and human & environmental health.

The mission of the **City of Santa Barbara’s Creeks Restoration/Water Quality Improvement Program** is to improve creek and ocean water quality and restore natural creek systems with the implementation of storm water and urban runoff pollution reduction, creek restoration and community education programs.