



Chorro Creek Ecological Reserve

Floodplain Restoration Project Implementation

Aerial footage of pre- & post-restoration project site.



Post Project

The Estuary Program is tracking success of this project by monitoring plant survival, floodplain activation, geomorphic change (e.g., erosion and sedimentation), and overall stream health.

Pre-project eroded creek bank (left) that was re-sloped to expand the floodplain. Native plantings have begun to be established (right).



Pre-project



November 2019



April 2020



May 2021

The Floodplain Project in Action



The restored Chorro Creek floodplain had its first major test in January 2021 during a 10-year storm event (a storm that happens on average once in ten years, measured according to rainfall.) Water overflowed into the new floodplain and created new deep pools, gravel bars, and areas of erosion and sediment deposition. Some of the native plantings were lost but overall, the project held up during the large storm.

The Estuary Program and partners will continue to track the evolution of the side channels and growth of the native plantings. These types of restoration projects are many years in the making and it is encouraging to see the project site taking form and beginning to show ecological benefits.



Sediment deposited during storm events along the floodplain of Chorro Creek.

Thank you, project partners!

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