

Watershed Operations

April 2009

Water Quality Improvement Along Lower Stemple Creek, California

Introduction

The Stemple Creek Watershed project will improve water quality in Stemple Creek and the Estero de San Antonio.



Stemple Creek flows from east to west into the Estero de San Antonio and ultimately flows into Bodega Bay and the Pacific Ocean.

Funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009, this project is part of the Obama Administrations plan to modernize the nations infrastructure, jump-start the economy, and create jobs. NRCS is using Recovery Act dollars to update aging food control structures, protect and maintain water supplies, improve water quality, reduce soil erosion, enhance fish and wildlife habitat, and restore wetlands. NRCS acquires easements and restores floodplains to safeguard lives and property in areas along streams and rivers that have experienced flooding.

Project Description

- ‡ **Location:** Marin and Sonoma Counties, 6th Congressional District
- ‡ **Federal Funding:** \$275,000
- ‡ **Sponsor Funding:** \$65,000

The project will improve management of dairy manure nutrients. Proper management will improve the quality of surface waters, protect stream banks, protect rangeland, and improve habitat for the endangered California freshwater shrimp and the California tiger salamander. Water quality protection practices will be implemented on more than 1,100 acres used for confined animal and rangeland operations.

Partners

- ‡ USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service
- ‡ Marin County Resource Conservation District
- ‡ Southern Sonoma County Resource Conservation District

Benefits

The project involves manure management on 380 acres and fencing out cattle along 8,000 feet of streambanks. Once completed, rangeland quality will improve and provide protection of threatened and endangered species. Overall health of the project area will improve, as will aesthetics for the community.

The project will also provide public health and safety improvements.



Riparian fencing and buffers help to minimize erosion and protect water quality.

