Challenges in managing urban flood protection channels

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What does SCVWD do?

Mission: Provide Silicon Valley safe, clean water for a healthy life, environment, and economy.
Who does SCVWD serve?

2 million people
15 cities
4,700 well owners
13 water retailers
5 watersheds
Background

- Flood protection
  
  Before: Compromised design flow conveyance
  After: Sediment and vegetation removed

- Regulatory compliance
Goals

- Maintain flow conveyance capacity
- Maintain structural and functional integrity of District facilities
Objectives

• Remove sediment and manage vegetation for flow conveyance and safety

• Maintain habitat functions of creeks
Stream Maintenance Program

Overview

- Adopted in 2001
- Updated in 2013
- Permits issued by 7 federal and state regulatory agencies
Stream Maintenance Program

Overview

5 categories

• Sediment removal
• Vegetation management
• Bank stabilization
• Management of animal conflicts
• Minor maintenance
Challenges

- Land rights
- Improved vs. unimproved channels
- Homelessness
- Permit requirements/mitigation
Land rights

Challenges

• Fee

• Easement

• Other property owners’ responsibility
Improved vs. unimproved channels

Challenges

• Improved channels:
  • Level of service
  • Maintenance guideline

• Unimproved channels:
  • None of the above
Homelessness

Challenges

- Trash and debris cleanups
- Coordination with others
- Homeless Encampment Board Ad Hoc Committee
Permit requirements/mitigation

Challenges
Going forward