Environmental Protection



Cleared River Channel of Debris

Each year staff identifies areas along the river that should be cleared of debris and excess vegetation during annual channel clearing operations. In 1999, approximately seven miles of the river were surveyed and fallen trees and debris were cut up into pieces and left in the river for fish habitat.

Avian Monitoring Program

In July 1999, the District retained the Ventana Wilderness Society to continue the District's avian monitoring program on the Carmel River. The information collected demonstrates how wildlife is benefiting from the District's restoration projects.

Monitor Water Levels and Water Quality

Maintained Eleven Streamflow Monitoring Sites

District staff maintained three streamflow monitoring stations on the Carmel River and nine stations on the major tributary streams that flow into it.

Monitored Carmel River Lagoon

The District has monitored surface water levels in the Carmel River Lagoon since 1987. In addition, water quality at the Lagoon is assessed twice a month.

Measured Water Storage in Carmel Valley Aquifer

During 1999, monitoring data indicated

that storage in the Carmel Valley aquifer remained relatively full for most of the year.

Monitored Wells in Seaside Basin

The District's monitoring well network in the Seaside Basin increased to 30 wells in 1999 with the addition of the Ord Terrace monitor well. These wells provide monthly and quarterly readings of water levels.

Ground Water Quality Monitored in Carmel Valley Aquifer

The District has maintained a Carmel Valley Aquifer water quality monitoring program since 1981. Results from the 1999 samplings indicate that water quality in the aquifer continues to be well within the State drinking water standard for nitrate. No indications of seawater intrusion were found at the coastal monitor well network.

Tested Water Quality in Seaside Ground Water Basin

Since 1990, the District has been collecting water quality samples from monitor wells in the coastal area of the Seaside Ground Water Basin. The 1999 samples indicate that no seawater intrusion has occurred in the two principal aquifer zones within the basin.

Monitor Surface Water Quality in the Carmel River

In 1999, District staff maintained nine water temperature recording stations and measured water quality parameters at three sites along the Carmel River. This information is used for assessing the suitability of habitats for steelhead and other aquatic organisms.