A Protection and Revitalization Plan for Las Virgenes Creek

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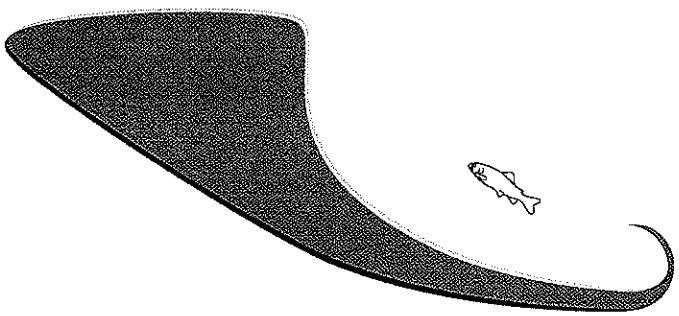
June 6th, 2001



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COLOPHON

This document was created using a PC and a Macintosh. The PC was used for the analytical programs WMS and ArcView GIS. Data was then transferred to the Mac (using NT Servers' Appleshare) and maps were created in Illustrator EPS format. Charts and graphs were created in Excel, images were tuned in Photoshop, and the entire document was published in Pagemaker.

Fonts used are the Postscript faces Bergamo, Chantilly, and Walbaum as suggested by Sean Cavanaugh's *Digital Type Design Guide*.

The entire document, excluding covers, was printed on a Hewlett Packard Color Laserjet 4500N.

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Information is also available online at *http://www.lasvirgenescreek.org* or *http://sites.netscape.com/riverrestore*.

Print No. **540**

PREFACE

This project was undertaken in January, 1999, and due to a variety of reasons it was not completed until now. For this reason, some of the data may be different than the currently existing conditions. For example, the Malibu Terrace development began earthwork one year ago, however, the Ahmanson Ranch development is still being contested. Also, some of the landuse data has changed as industrial park development adjacent to the freeway fills in.

The 606 Studio at Cal Poly presents an opportunity for graduate students to perform a planning process as the culminating work for a Masters degree in Landscape Architecture. The closer the process is to "real world" conditions, the better, and often funding is sought from the public or private sector. The projects are usually undertaken by groups of three or four students in lieu of an individual thesis, although some students do create individual projects.

The Las Virgenes Creek Revitalization and Creek Protection Plan was originally envisioned as a group project in order to address watershed-scale issues; the City of Calabasas approved funding for this endeavor. Although all parties were enthusiastic about the project, the student pool was not great enough that particular year to form a group; as such, the initial project scale and timeline could not be met.

The project was then performed by one student, and was scaled down to focus more directly on the creek, although this was still done within the context of the watershed. Also, instead of funding from Calabasas, the project was partially funded by the Graduate Landscape Architecture Department (GLAD) fund.

This document is meant to be very readable—enough data to make it sound, but not so much as to turn away readers; graphics are presented as closely to the accompanying text as possible. The audience is desired to be broad, and the study introduces ideas that may not be conceived from detailed work that is often presented in watershed studies. Also, as an endeavor in Landscape Architecture, it is important to keep in mind that physical form is the final product, and this is what the document concentrates on in the section "Opportunities and Recommendations."

I hope that this document will be used by the community as a reference and inspiration for stewardship, and to create plans that include "big ideas" that positively influence the area for many generations.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This document is the culmination of a long sequence of events that was nudged along by many people; I would like to thank them all. In particular, Professors Joan Woodward and Jeff Olson for being patient, Heather Merenda and the City of Calabasas for having the courage to initially support this project, and my parents— Cecile and Richard— for believing me (I think!) when I said that I would, indeed, ultimately finish. Although not a person, I'd like to acknowledge Ernie, my pooch, who showed up during a particularly trying time and became a patient, albeit exuberant, companion (and now I know that dog parks are for people, too).

Especially inspirational were Prof. Matt Kondolf of UC Berkeley (Dept. of Landscape Architecture) who showed me the strong connection between Geomorphology, river restoration, and Landscape Architecture; Dr. David Morafka of Cal St. Dominguez Hills (Dept. of Biology) for introducing— to me— the earthly systems that humans depend on, and not quelling my barrage of questions during (and after) his evening course; Dr. Larry Herber of Cal Poly, Pomona (Dept. of Geology) for taking extra time with me in his Geomorphology course even though I didn't have the prerequisites; and Prof. Joan Safford of Cal Poly, Pomona (Department of Landscape Architecture) for being very engaged in her teachings of ecology and Landscape Architecture. Each of these fine people took extra time to spend with me, and they are to be commended as a fine example for the profession of teaching.

Lastly, I'd like to thank Sam Afshar and the Xerox Corporation for accommodating my erratic work schedule, even as I openly pursued studies in what will ultimately become a different career. This was an excellent example of being flexible and finding win-win solutions.

Table of Contents