

Water Quality Report Card

pH in Forester Creek

Regional Water Board:	San Diego, Region 9
Beneficial Uses Affected:	WARM, WILD
Implemented Through:	Restoration
Effective Date:	2008 (restoration construction completed)
Attainment Date:	2016 (Delisted in 2016 Integrated Report)

STATUS	Targets Achieved/Water Body Delisted
Pollutant Type:	Nonpoint Source
Pollutant Source:	Urban Stormwater Runoff Non-point Source Runoff

Water Quality Improvement Strategy

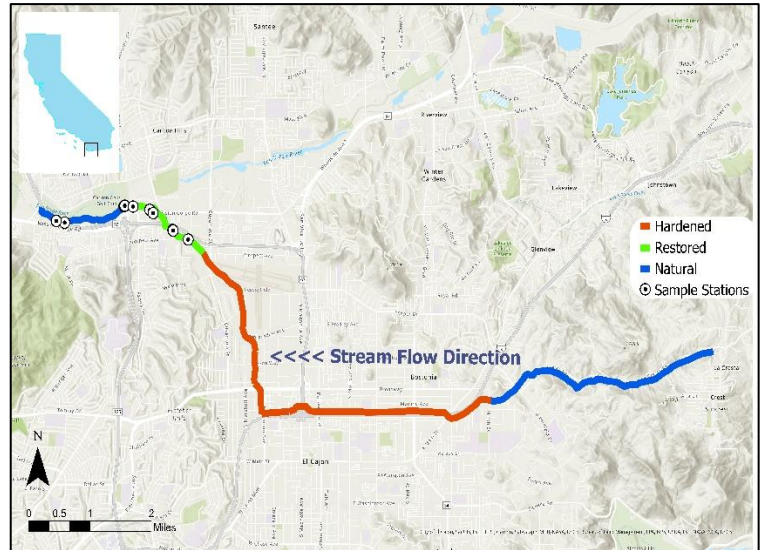
Forester Creek, located in the San Diego Hydrologic Unit, is an 11-mile tributary to the San Diego River that flows through the highly urbanized cities of El Cajon and Santee. Forester Creek is on the USEPA 303(d) List of impaired waters for pH, indicator bacteria (TMDL in place), total dissolved solids, selenium, nutrients, and benthic community effects. However, in 2016, it was removed from the 303(d) List for pH and is proposed to remain delisted.

Forester Creek's three tributaries, Washington Channel, County Ditch, and Broadway Channel, flow through El Cajon in concrete channels. Approximately half of the Forester Creek mainstem is lined with concrete. Santee had proposed lining an additional flood-prone, 1.2 miles of Forester Creek with concrete in 2002, but the permits were denied. Instead, grant money was awarded for the Forester Creek Improvement Project. Stream restoration was completed in 2008, with project goals to improve water quality, physical habitat, biodiversity, and flood control.

Water Quality Outcomes

- pH in the restored section of Forester Creek improved upon project completion and was removed from the 303(d) List for pH.

Forester Creek Watershed Map



- The average pH within and below the restored reach over the past ten years is 7.96, with 13% of the samples exceeding the upper pH water quality objective (WQO) of 8.5.
- While improvement in pH is a successful outcome of the Forester Creek Improvement Project, the creek and restoration area are impacted by stormwater runoff, and additional water quality improvements are needed.

Water Quality

