

Repaired Damaged Streambanks and Property Along the River

District staff serve as stewards of the Carmel River, working to establish a stable river channel flanked by lush vegetation that will provide protective habitat for wildlife and a barrier against erosion. In 1998, activities were focused on repairing damage caused by high flows that occurred in February of that year.

◆District Staff Assist Property Owners with Riverbank Repairs

Carmel River flows peaked at near flood stage between February 3 and 7, 1998. The high flows caused extensive bank damage in several reaches of the river between Rancho Cañada and Camp Steffani. The District's Red Rock project that had been completed just prior to the high flows sustained only minor damage. Irrigation systems were damaged at several District restoration sites and were replaced with funding provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Private property along the river was also heavily impacted by the high flows.

During the high flow event, the District's Carmel River Erosion Potential Hotline (831-649-1993) was busy with callers phoning in to receive pre-recorded updates on changing conditions along the river and short term weather forecasts. In the days immediately following

storm events, District staff were mobilized to remove fallen trees and other debris from the Carmel River channel that threatened to aggravate bank erosion.

District staff assessed erosion damage to property along the river and advised property owners how to apply for permits and complete repairs on their property. Staff also worked with local, state and federal officials to streamline the process of applying for permits to complete emergency streambank repairs. In addition, the District mailed an application packet to all riverfront property owners in the affected area, and staff coordinated processing of completed applications.

By August 1998, staff had coordinated the initial environmental assessment of 19 repair projects along the Carmel River. During the Fall of 1998, staff inspected repair work, provided technical assistance during construction, and monitored repair projects for compliance with permit conditions.

◆Repairs Completed at District Restoration Sites

By June 1998, flood-damaged irrigation lines and valves had been replaced with new materials at all District irrigation sites. Crews from the California Conservation Corps (CCC) assisted staff with the removal of damaged irrigation lines and debris at the Schulte and Valley Hills Restoration sites. The CCC crews also worked with District staff to

Following high winter flows, District staff assessed erosion damage to property along the river and advised property owners how to apply for permits and complete repairs on their property. Staff worked with government agencies to streamline the process of applying for permits to complete emergency repairs. Larry Hampson (on the right), an engineer for the District, gives agency representatives a tour of damaged riverbanks.