The year 2020 saw an important milestone to advance the Malibu Creek Ecosystem Restoration Project (MCERP). The U.S. Congress listed the Malibu Creek Ecosystem Restoration Project as an approved Project in the Federal Water Resources Development Act of 2020 (S.1811).

This completed a 20-year long process under the US Army Corps of Engineers and California Department of Parks and Recreation (CDPR), along with an array of partners, to study the feasibility of restoring Malibu Creek watershed and removing the long-obsolete Rindge Dam.

Throughout this process public input has been sought in order to ensure that community voices and stakeholder perspectives are both heard and accounted for in project planning.

This process has included integrating community organizations and stakeholder groups into the planning project through the Technical Advisory Committee, convening public meetings and workshops, as well as releasing the draft report for two-months to solicit public comment.

Public Input is Vital to the Success of this Critical Public Project

• The next phase of the Malibu Creek Ecosystem Restoration Project was secured when the 2021-22 California State Budget allocated $12.5 million for CDPR to advance the planning, engineering and design (PED) for the removal of Rindge Dam.

Beginning in late 2022/early 2023 the PED phase will mark the launch of a renewed and concerted effort to ensure public stakeholders, community groups, and individuals will have the opportunity to be informed about the project and to have their voices heard.
Why Support Malibu Creek Restoration?

Reconnect Critical Habitat

• Since the construction of the 100-ft Rindge Dam over 90 years ago, Southern California steelhead along with a range of aquatic species have been blocked from reaching high quality spawning grounds and habitat in upper Malibu Creek.

• In addition to totally blocking aquatic species movement, Rindge Dam has degraded downstream habitat conditions by disrupting the natural flow of sediment and water.

• These impacts extend all the way from the foot of the dam into the Malibu Lagoon, Santa Monica Bay, and local beaches.

• The project will restore approximately 525 acres of habitat in the Malibu Creek ecosystem and 18 miles of aquatic habitat and re-establish connectivity from the Pacific Ocean to the interior of the Malibu Creek watershed.

Summit-to-Seabed Restoration

• Building on decades of critical work by conservation partners across the region to revitalize and restore Santa Monica Bay, and the recent vital restoration of Malibu Lagoon at the mouth of Malibu Creek, the Malibu Creek Ecosystem Restoration Project represents the final link in a chain of restored and revitalized habitat that would reach from the upper watershed of Malibu Creek among the summits of the Santa Monica Mountains, through Malibu Creek and its tributaries into the recently restored Malibu Lagoon, and onward into Santa Monica Bay, where natural sediment flows and beneficial reuse of sediment currently trapped behind Rindge Dam will further support the ongoing and longstanding efforts to protect this treasure of Southern California.

• In highly developed Southern California, few opportunities persist to conduct landscape-scale restoration work over such a vast region and across so many ecosystems for the benefit of nature and the millions of human residents who enjoy these natural spaces every year.

How to Get Involved

• Scan the QR Code below, or:

• Visit the Malibu Creek Ecosystem Restoration Project website for more information and to sign up for the project outreach list to receive news updates, event invitations, and announcements: www.restoremalibucreek.org

• Follow us on Instagram at @restoremalibucreek

• Contact Project Public Engagement Specialist Derek Berlin at dberlin@caltrout.org

Additional Resources

Final Integrated Feasibility Report: spl.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Projects-Studies/Malbu-Creek-Study/

California Trout’s Rindge Dam webpage: caltrout.org/campaigns/rindge-dam