VENTURA RIVER WATERSHED

A Local, Collaborative Solution

What does the proposed **physical solution** mean for the endangered **Steelhead population** that is native to the Ventura River?

THE GOAL

To return the fishery to "Good Condition", which means the Steelhead are sustainable and healthy on an individual and population level and that the ecosystem is healthy.

THE HOW

This solution proposes that the remedy is to address barriers to access and improve the habitat which has been impacted by human behavior.

THE PLAN

The City and negotiating parties worked with a committee comprised of experts on the Steelhead population and hydrology to identify the following components of the solution

→ **Removing Steelhead access barrier**s in the Watershed, including at Foster Park and in San Antonio Creek

→ **Improving habitat** throughout the Watershed, thereby creating places for the Steelhead to spawn, rear and develop before they leave for the ocean

→ **Creating safe harbors** for the Steelhead population — which would include the strategic placement of boulders, etc., to provide safe pooling areas that the population can safely congregate in

→ **Creating programs** that reduce non-native species and fish populations that are preying upon the Steelhead population or harming their habitat

→ **Developing ongoing monitoring** of the Steelhead, hydrology and water quality as it relates to the Steelhead population

CITY OF VENTURA

IMPLEMENTATION

A court-monitored oversight committee will be created to develop a Management Plan to ensure compliance with the proposed physical solution. Specifically, the long-term management will account for the specific needs of the fishery, variable hydrology of the region, periods of low and very low precipitation, and the condition and quality of the habitat during the life cycle of the fishery, including the specific habitat requirements pertinent to that life cycle. In this way, the solution ensures the viability of the fishery through a series of coordinated management actions.

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