

From: [Gus Yates](#)
To: [Maureen Reilly](#)
Subject: FW: Temescal Creek
Date: Thursday, September 2, 2021 3:36:57 PM

Maureen,

Here is e-mail #1 from Russell Kerwin (Riverside RCD)

Gus

Gus Yates, PG, CHG
Senior Hydrologist



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From: Kerwin Russell <russell@rcrcd.org>
Sent: Saturday, August 1, 2020 1:38 PM
To: Gus Yates <GYates@toddgroundwater.com>
Subject: Temescal Creek

Gus

Thank you for contacting the RCRCd. Let me know if Shani has gotten back to you as our staff has been split between home and the office due to covid and they are taking on additional work in the field that cant get done at home.

You asked about vegetation conditions due to drought effects and many areas along Temescal were hit with the multi year drought. In some locations we lost 80% of the trees and associated canopy. There was surface flow in the creek year round when there were regular discharges from Lee Lake Water District, the City of Corona, Elsinore Valley and other urban runoff sources. As the drought went on, and urban sources dried up, trees began to defoliate in July. By 2016, most of the willows in the Dos Lagos Golf course area of the creek were

dead. Surface flows were gone except for a few ponded areas that remained. Our Lee lake pond went dry for the first time in 30 years.

Then in winter of 2018-19, we had over 35 inches of rain in the mountains and all the dead trees were washed out. In 2019-20 we had another good rain year with over 25 inches in the Santa Ana range and Temescal Creek had surface flows again. Today, there is still surface water and trees are recovering. The creek had a population of trout in the winter months before flood control projects were installed. There is a resident population of trout in the Coldwater drainage that is a remnant of an historic steelhead run in the 1930's.

In the lower part of Temescal, there are currently no native fish, but a robust population of bass, bullhead, sunfish, carp and some slider turtles exist in ponds and sections of the creek that have water year-round.

Let me know if there is anything specific you need and we can see if that information can be provided.

Thanks,

Kerwin Russell
Natural Resources Manager
RCRCD