

Figure 8: Study Reach Photographs



The above photograph was taken at Atascadero Creek near Goleta Slough (Reach AT-1). This creek has been heavily affected by human development. Routine flood control maintenance activities include grading (i.e., discing) the creekbed and removing vegetation and woody debris. The result is an exposed, wide, fairly homogenous creekbed with little diversity in terms of vegetation, substrata and microhabitat (e.g., riffles, pools, snags, etc.). Pollution inputs degrade water quality, as evidenced by high conductivity. Many aquatic organisms are unable to tolerate these conditions, thus species diversity at this study reach is low.



This photograph was taken at Atascadero Creek just downstream of the confluence with Cienaguitas Creek (Reach AT-2). This creek reach has been heavily affected by human development. In the past, the creek banks and bed at this reach were graded, and largely stripped of native riparian vegetation. Riprap and revetment were placed on the banks in an effort to stabilize them. Non-native vegetation dominates the plant community. Similar to AT-1, the aquatic community has low diversity and is dominated by pollution-tolerant species.