

Figure 9: Study Reach Photographs



The above photograph was taken at Carpinteria Creek downstream of Carpinteria Avenue (Reach C-1). This creek has been heavily degraded by alterations to the creekbed and banks, clearing of native riparian and wetland vegetation and invasion by non-native vegetation such as giant reed, eucalyptus, English ivy and grasses. Pollution inputs from upstream agricultural and urban areas have degraded water quality, as evidenced by elevated conductivity and nutrient concentrations. Aquatic species diversity at this study reach is low.



The above photograph was taken at San Jose Creek between Hollister Avenue and U.S. 101 (Reach SJ-1). Similar to C-1, this creek reach has been degraded by alterations to the creekbed and banks, loss of native vegetation, invasion by non-native plants, and water pollution, as evidenced by elevated conductivity and nutrient concentrations. Extensive mats of floating algae are present in the stream. It may be that algae growth in this reach is enhanced by excess nutrients (i.e., eutrophication) and exposure of the creek bottom to direct sunlight.