



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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Friends of Maple Canyon



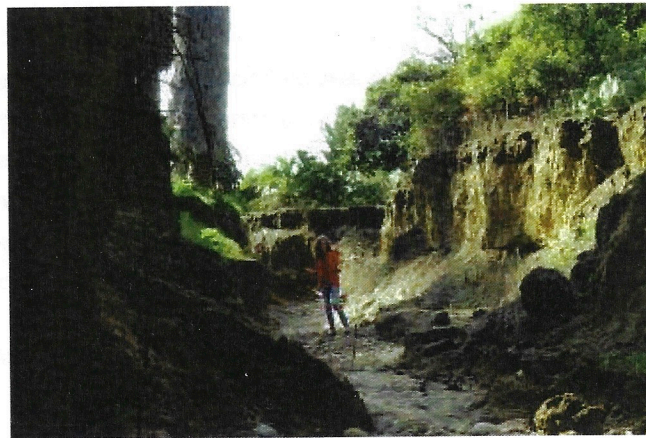
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**Resources Legacy Fund to Help Stop Catastrophic Soil Loss in Maple Canyon**

*Bankers Hill, San Diego – Resources Legacy Fund’s Land-to-Sea Connection Program*, with strong support from the State Coastal Conservancy, recently awarded \$53,000 to **San Diego Canyonlands**. This generous grant boosts the Friends of Maple Canyon and San Diego Canyonlands’s rescue mission – a pilot project for restoring severely impacted urban canyons. With it, the emerging team will initiate permitting for the critically needed “Maple Canyon Stream Restoration and Rehabilitation.”

Neighborhoods throughout San Diego County may be wasting their most affordable means of bettering ecological resilience of California’s coastal and marine ecosystems, as well as atmospheric conditions and climate. Our coastal canyons can improve water and air quality, reduce pollution, cool our neighborhoods, and foster wildlife while providing urban retreats. Unfortunately, erosion, inadequate stewardship, and the cost of repairs often prevent canyons from manifesting these benefits.



*Eroded stream channel in Maple Canyon. Soil gone! Washed down to the bay.*

San Diego Canyonlands and the Friends of Maple Canyon mobilized to correct these problems. With financial assistance from the State Coastal Conservancy, they worked with Apex Contracting & Consulting and Tory R. Walker Engineering to plan a dramatic turnaround in canyon stream rehabilitation. Their solution is a scalable, repeatable grade-control approach that will work in most regional coastal canyons where stream erosion is acute. It is engineered to accommodate multiple permitting requirements, all soil types, and intense storm flows.

Maple Canyon provides a high-profile, first-case restoration site due to its engaged neighborhood, catastrophically destabilized stream channel, and problems that silty stormwater from the canyon causes downstream. Resources Legacy Fund funding supports planning and the initiating of permitting, activities refined to build efficiency and affordability.



*Silty stormwater from Maple Canyon contributes to flooding on Pacific Coast Highway*

Permitting is required from state and federal regulatory agencies, fierce defenders of wetlands and natural stream channels. The novel approach that the Friends and Canyonlands have put forward is designed to build efficiency into the permitting process. The team will work with the agencies, as well as the City of San Diego, in order to create a new model that will catalyze rehabilitation in additional canyons and restore our City's watersheds canyon by canyon.

Once implemented, the model will lessen flooding, prevent soil loss, add numerous acres of thriving habitat around a trail overarched by shade trees, and restore a functioning stream. Maple Canyon stakeholders, including the new partner, Resource Legacy Fund, look forward to these next steps down the path to restoring a positive land-to-sea connection!

**Additional Information:**

*We all look forward to rain, so how does storm water do damage?* San Diego's neighborhoods, Bankers Hill included, are getting more populous. With added residents come more impermeable surfaces, like roofs, sidewalks, driveways, parking lots and streets. Urban infill also eliminates gardens that might otherwise absorb storm water. Over time, the canyons have lost trees and shrubs, so plant roots no longer hold down the soil. When rain washes the soil out of canyons, silt fills the streets and the storm drains, reducing their capacity to convey runoff. Flooding occurs. As the silt reaches tidal areas it suffocates marine habitats that should be healthy feeding areas for fish and other marine animals.

*Where is Maple Canyon?* Maple Canyon meanders down from Hillcrest to Little Italy west of Balboa Park, under the Quince Street pedestrian bridge and First Avenue.

*Why do we need a new restoration approach to traditional stream restoration?* Because each storm accelerates erosive canyon degradation, the grading plans used in conventional construction projects soon become inaccurate representations of easily mutable canyon landscapes. Costly, slow, repetitive plan revisions result. Multiple revisions to please regulators prolong the process.

*Who are Maple Canyon stakeholders?* In addition to the Friends of Maple Canyon and San Diego Canyonlands, the State Coastal Conservancy and Resources Legacy Fund, numerous partners are behind the Maple Canyon Stream Rehabilitation and Restoration initiative: Bankers Hill Community Group, City of San Diego departments, Uptown Planners, San Diego Coastkeeper, Solar Turbines, the City of San Diego's Wetlands Advisory Board, and our city, county and state legislators.