

SWAMP Monitoring Strategy

San Diego Regional Water Board

The SWAMP program in the San Diego region is designed to support and expand water quality assessments of the regions' waterbodies. From 2000-2005, the San Diego Regional Water Board monitored the Region's 11 hydrologic units on a rotating basis. Water chemistry, water and sediment toxicity, benthic macroinvertebrate community, physical habitat, and occasionally tissue contamination, were assessed at multiple targeted sites twice during the dry and wet season. The monitoring was focused on main stem rivers and streams and major tributaries within the hydrologic units. In 2006 and 2007, data from the rotational watershed monitoring were analyzed and [watershed reports](#) were produced for each hydrologic unit by the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project. In addition, data from all 11 hydrologic units were assessed to produce a [synthesis report](#), which was used to evaluate the program. The synthesis report gives four main recommendations for the San Diego Region SWAMP program: (1) Improve integrative and coordinated regional monitoring to increase cost-efficiency; (2) Design a probability based study to address the ecological health of wadeable streams; (3) Use appropriate indicators, and (4) Build an information management system. Beginning in 2008, the SWAMP monitoring design was revised to address all four recommendations. In the next five years, our SWAMP monitoring strategy will include a long-term trend monitoring program, special studies, and the coordination of regional monitoring.

In 2007, the San Diego Regional Water Board's SWAMP focused its efforts on bioassessment studies on reference sites to protect high quality waters and produce information for the development of biological objectives. Sampling for reference sites will continue in



2011. In 2008, targeted sites within all 11 hydrologic units were sampled to compare past data with current conditions and to include algae as additional indicators. Bioassessment data from 2007 and 2008 will be summarized in a report by December 2009, and will be available on the [San Diego Region's SWAMP website](#).

Starting in 2007, the San Diego Region SWAMP coordinator participated in the development of a probability based study in Southern California through the Stormwater Monitoring Coalition (SMC). Starting in spring 2009, we devoted 50% our SWAMP funding to the SMC study to fund monitoring at 11 sites. We plan to continue this support for five years. In addition, SWAMP funds will support the coordination of regional monitoring in the San Diego region to improve regional monitoring and to increase cost-efficiency.

Data from the San Diego Region's SWAMP are disseminated to the public through a Regional Data Portal. Monitoring data from dischargers, non profit organization, and other agencies in the San Diego region also will be included into the data portal. The San Diego Region's SWAMP website will link to the regional data portal.

The San Diego Region's SWAMP has leveraged their funds considerably through collaboration with other agencies and entities conducting monitoring and assessment. We collaborated in a post-fire study in the San Diego region with the CA Department of Fish and Game and CA State University, Chico. Additionally, the SWAMP program collaborates with the Bight '08 Program among several dischargers, other agencies, universities, and several non-profit organizations.

