



SAN GABRIEL RIVER REGIONAL MONITORING PROGRAM STATE OF THE WATERSHED REPORT

What is it?

The San Gabriel River Regional Monitoring Program (SGRRMP) was initiated in 2005 as a collaborative effort between the Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program (SWAMP) and local stakeholders. In 2011, the Council for Watershed Health produced a five-year State of the Watershed Report. This report summarizes monitoring data collected from 2005-2010.

Why is it important?

The report assesses the condition of streams in the watershed, whether it is safe to swim and whether locally caught fish are safe to eat. Streams in the upper watershed generally were in “good” condition, while streams in the lower, urban portion of the watershed usually were in “poor” shape. Eight popular swimming locations typically met California water quality standards, although there were occasional exceedances. Largemouth bass and common carp from Puddingstone Lake and the Santa Fe Dam Recreation Lake had elevated mercury concentrations (exceeding no consumption levels), while bass, carp and striped mullet from the Upper Estuary contained PCB levels that probably would warrant limited human consumption. This project is a good example where SWAMP funds were leveraged to make use of limited resources and provide important information to the public.

How will this information be used?

The Council for Watershed Health held a symposium on July 20, 2011, on the “State of the San Gabriel River Watershed”. Speakers and panelists from state and local agencies, city managers and local scientists discussed questions related to the condition of surface waters in the watershed

including regulated discharges, National Forest Service and Department of Public Health monitoring efforts, lake management and the economics of environmental regulation. In addition to informing the public about the health of its watershed, the monitoring results are being used to identify areas where expanded monitoring or special studies are needed. The results also are being used to help managers focus limited resources on solving the most critical water quality problems in the watershed.

Additional information about the SGRRMP can be found here. Kristy Morris, Senior Scientist with the Council for Watershed Health also may be contacted with questions (kristy@watershedhealth.org).