



SANTA CLARA RIVER WATERSHED MONITORING PROGRAM

What is it?

The Santa Clara River Watershed Monitoring Program (SCRWMP) uses a multi-level monitoring framework that combines probabilistic (random) and targeted sampling to measure water quality, toxicity, biological and habitat condition. The SCRWMP is patterned after the San Gabriel River Regional Monitoring Program ([SGRRMP](#)) and will be implemented through a collaborative effort between the Los Angeles Water Board Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program (SWAMP) and local stakeholders. Program objectives are to increase awareness of the importance of issues at the watershed scale and to improve coordination and integration of monitoring efforts for both compliance and ambient conditions. The framework for the comprehensive monitoring program was completed by local stakeholders and submitted to the Los Angeles Water Board in 2011. Implementation of this new monitoring program is expected to begin in 2012. The Los Angeles Water Board is an active member of the stakeholder group and will coordinate its SWAMP monitoring efforts with the SCRWMP.

Why is it important?

Currently, the regional health of Southern California's rivers and streams cannot be determined, largely because so little of the region's streams and rivers are adequately monitored. The SCRWMP is a cost effective way to conduct needed water quality monitoring in the Santa Clara River Watershed and to produce data that can be used to assess ambient water quality, evaluate compliance with discharge permits, and prioritize areas for further study. This project supports SWAMP's mission to provide resource managers, decision makers, and the public with information to evaluate the condition of surface waters, leverage resources and supply data that will provide answers to current management questions.

How will this information be used?

In addition to providing information about the overall health of the Santa Clara River watershed, the SCRWMP is designed to answer questions of concern to local residents including whether a particular stream is safe to swim in or if fish caught from it are safe to eat. This project follows SWAMPs guiding principles to prioritize monitoring designed to support a network of information users that include state, federal, and local agencies, the regulated community, the interested public, and their elected representatives.

For more information: A report outlining the proposed watershed monitoring framework can be obtained by contacting Michael Lyons at mlyons@waterboards.ca.gov.