

National Water Quality Monitoring Conference in Portland, Oregon

Staff Contact: *Lilian Busse*

Dr. Lilian Busse, Staff Environmental Scientist from the San Diego Water Board, attended the 8th National Water Quality Monitoring Conference from April 30 to May 4, 2012 in Portland, Oregon and gave a presentation titled “Using an Automated Water Quality Report Card System from the East Coast on the West Coast – A Successful Implementation.” Dr. Busse is currently working on a reporting system for San Diego watersheds and coordinates this effort with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). Dr. Busse presented the preliminary outline of a report card system for the San Diego River watershed. The report card system is needed to show conditions and trends in waterbodies and watersheds, to coordinate monitoring, to communicate monitoring results to the public, and to guide management decisions. The States of Vermont and Oregon are also interested in applying this report card system for their states.

Dr. Busse attended several presentations throughout the week on water quality monitoring, assessment, research, protection, restoration, and management. As coordinator of our Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program, she is in a position to apply this information to water resources protection in the San Diego region and across California. The conference also provided a fruitful opportunity to network with national experts in the field of water quality monitoring and assessment. Dr. Busse solicited USEPA commitments for help in using USEPA’s recovery potential screening tool in the San Diego region, and she joined the taxonomic consistency group of the National Water Quality Monitoring Council. Dr. Busse’s participation in this group is important because Dr. Busse is leading California’s algae bioassessment program and is currently working on taxonomic identification tools for algae.

The theme of the conference, “Water: One Resource – Shared Effort – Common Future,” agrees with recent efforts in the San Diego region to work collaboratively with stakeholders to assess the San Diego region’s waters and watersheds accurately, effectively, and efficiently. The conference was attended by over 1,000 people from local, state, tribal, and federal water quality agencies, academic institutions, industry, and non-profit organizations. The conference was organized by the National Water Quality Monitoring Council, which provides a forum to improve the Nation’s water quality through partnerships that foster increased understanding and stewardship of water resources (<http://acwi.gov/monitoring/>). The next National Water Quality Monitoring Conference will be held in 2014.