

SAN DIEGO REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

August 12, 2009

PART B **SIGNIFICANT REGIONAL WATER QUALITY ISSUES**

4. SWAMP Monitoring Strategy in the San Diego Region (*Lilian Busse*)

The Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program (SWAMP) in the San Diego Region supports and expands upon water quality assessments in the Regions' waterbodies. The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region (Regional Board) has been monitoring the Region's 11 hydrologic units on a rotational basis with regional SWAMP allocations between 2000 and 2005. The Southern California Coastal Water Research Project analyzed data from those watershed monitoring efforts and produced watershed reports for each hydrologic unit (available on the R9 SWAMP website). In addition, an assessment of all 11 hydrologic units was included in a synthesis report. Based on recommendations of the synthesis report, the SWAMP monitoring strategy for the next five years will include a long-term trend monitoring program, special studies, and the coordination of regional monitoring.

The SWAMP program focused its efforts on bioassessment studies on Reference sites to protect high quality sites, and produce information on the development of bio-objectives in 2007. Targeted sites within all 11 hydrologic units were sampled to compare past data with current conditions, and to include algae as additional indicators in 2008. Bioassessment data from 2007 and 2008 will be summarized in a report scheduled for release in December 2009, and those data will be made available on the R9 SWAMP website. Sampling for Reference sites will continue in 2011.

The SWAMP coordinator of Region 9 participates in the development of a probability based study (SMC study) in Southern California through the Stormwater Monitoring Coalition. Beginning in 2009, the SWAMP program began participating in the SMC study by allocating regional SWAMP resources to the study to support eleven monitoring sites. The SWAMP regional allocations are projected to support the SMC study for a period of five years. In addition, SWAMP funds from FY 2009/10 will support the coordination of regional monitoring in the San Diego Region to improve regional monitoring and to increase cost-efficiency.

Data from Region 9's SWAMP program are disseminated to the public by a Regional Data Portal developed by funds from the Cleanup and Abatement fund account. Monitoring data from dischargers, non-profit organizations, and other

agencies in the San Diego Region will also be included into the data portal. The R9 SWAMP website will link to the regional data portal.

The Region 9 SWAMP program has leveraged the program considerably with collaboration efforts. The SWAMP program collaborated with the CA Department of Fish and Game in a post-fire study in the San Diego Region. Additionally, the SWAMP program collaborates with the Bight '08 Program among several dischargers, other agencies, universities, and several non-profit organizations.