

## **SWAMP Monitoring Strategy San Diego Regional Board, July 2009**

The SWAMP program in the San Diego region is designed to support and expand water quality assessments in the regions' waterbodies. From 2000-2005, the San Diego Regional Board has been monitoring the Region's 11 hydrologic units on a rotational basis. Water chemistry, water and sediment toxicity, benthic macroinvertebrate community, physical habitat, and on occasion tissue contamination, were assessed at multiple targeted sites twice during dry and wet season. The monitoring was focused on main stem of the rivers and streams, and major tributaries within the hydrologic units. With SWAMP regional allocations from 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 (available on the R9 SWAMP website). In addition, a synthesis report was produced for an assessment of all 11 hydrologic units and for an evaluation of the current SWAMP program of the San Diego region. The synthesis report gives four main recommendations for the SWAMP program of the San Diego region: (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. All four recommendations are addressed in the SWAMP monitoring design since 2008. In the next five years, SWAMP monitoring strategy will include a long-term trend monitoring program (SMC study), special studies, and the coordination of regional monitoring.

In 2007, the San Diego regions' 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. 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 R9 SWAMP website.

Starting in 2007, the SWAMP coordinator of the Region 9 participated in the development of a probability based study (SMC study) in Southern California through the Stormwater Monitoring Coalition. Starting in spring 2009, the SWAMP program of the San Diego region began participating in the SMC study by devoting regional SWAMP allocations towards the study to support eleven monitoring sites, which was 50% of the FY 2008/09. For five years, SWAMP regional allocations will support the SMC study. 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. The data portal was developed by funds from the Cleanup and Abatement fund account. Monitoring data from dischargers, non profit organization, 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 in a post-fire study in the San Diego region with the CA Department of Fish and Game and Chico State University. Additionally, the SWAMP program collaborates with the Bight '08 Program among several dischargers, other agencies, universities, and several non-profit organizations.