

## **SCCWRP Annual Report 2003-04**

### **Discharges into state water quality protection areas in southern California**

Dominic Gregorio<sup>1</sup> and Shelly L. Moore

<sup>1</sup>*California Institute of Technology, Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Pasadena, CA*

#### **ABSTRACT**

Thirty-four areas on the coast of California are classified as State Water Quality Protection Areas (SWQPAs), where discharges of waste are prohibited. Fourteen of these SWQPAs are located in southern California. This study was the first to survey the types and numbers of discharges into each of these areas. Surveys conducted by foot or boat between March 2001 and February 2003 recorded the location, the width of the discharge, and the source of the discharge. Discharges were classified as anthropogenic discharges or outlets (natural gullies, perennial streams, and ephemeral streams). Anthropogenic discharges were classified as: (1) wastewater point sources, (2) municipal/industrial storm water point sources, (3) small storm drain point sources, and (4) nonpoint sources. Almost 1,200 discharges were identified, the majority of them anthropogenic discharges consisting of small storm drains. The source of many of the discharges was not one single large entity or group but developers and local homeowners in highly populated areas, attempting to drain their properties. The findings of this study indicate the need to assess existing monitoring data on water quality and benthic communities to identify and resolve problem discharges.

#### **Full Text**

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