
Welcome To SCCWRP's Newest Members

During the last decade, SCCWRP's research focus has migrated from the coastal ocean inland to beaches, estuaries and the urban landscape. That evolution is evident in this report, which describes research conducted in a nearly equal mix of those habitats. We have undertaken this transition because effective management of ocean outfalls, combined with increased development in the coastal zone, has resulted in watershed sources now contributing more contaminants to the ocean than do point sources. Southern California's managers have also become increasingly focused on water quality issues in the river and estuarine habitats, where there is less dilution capacity.

As we have refocused our research inland, it has become increasingly important to engage managers of land-based systems in our work. One of SCCWRP's greatest strengths is its ability to bring disparate management parties together to find a common ground in science. That goal can no longer be effectively achieved without including watershed managers in the dialog about SCCWRP's research projects.

We have tried to enhance this dialog in several ways. SCCWRP helped found and now hosts quarterly meetings of the Beach Water Quality Workgroup, which was initiated to enhance dialog among county health departments, wastewater treatment operators, stormwater managers, regulatory agencies and other interested parties about improving beach water quality management. The group has made effective use of SCCWRP research to improve beach monitoring, reporting and mitigation. The needs expressed by this group have also helped us define parts of our research agenda.

SCCWRP has also assisted in formation of the Stormwater Monitoring Coalition (SMC). The SMC is a cooperative research group comprised of southern California's lead stormwater permit agencies, its three Regional Water Quality Control Boards and SCCWRP. This group has embarked on five collaborative projects to date and two of them are detailed in this report.

Our most profound initiative to enhance dialog, though, has been the invitation by the SCCWRP Commission to the coastal County Stormwater Permittees to become members of SCCWRP. Two of those agencies, Ventura County Watershed Protection Division and the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works have accepted that invitation; a third agency, the Orange County Watershed & Coastal Resources Division, has indicated they plan to do so imminently. We applaud these agencies for their foresight and desire to participate in development of, and discussion about, SCCWRP's research.

The challenge now for SCWRP staff will be to define its research towards topics of sufficient common interest to fuel dialog among all of its members. I believe that is achievable since many of the issues facing stormwater managers, such as differentiating natural variability from anthropogenic inputs or developing better assessment tools, are broader questions faced by all of our members. We look forward to meeting the challenge of finding those common interests through research and participating in the dialog that results from our findings.



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