

SCCWRP #0785

Using regional stormwater monitoring programs to provide reference data for wetland mitigation performance evaluation

Eric Stein

Southern California Coastal Water Research Project, Costa Mesa, California 92626, United States

ABSTRACT

Reasonable, defensible, and enforceable performance standards are a linchpin for improving the success of wetland compensatory mitigation. Well-crafted performance standards establish agreed-upon targets that can be used to objectively evaluate progress and, ultimately, success at compensating for permitted wetland losses. Targets should be crafted to guarantee that desired wetland functions are recovered yet be practical given the constraints and uncertainty inherent in reestablishing natural systems. This balance can be particularly challenging in urban or agricultural settings where ecological processes may be altered by past or present land use practices. For example performance standards should account for changes in hydrology and sediment yield, introduction of invasive species, limitations on propagule recruitment, and/or general encroachment and increased edge effects that may affect the ultimate function of mitigation sites.

Due to distribution restrictions, the full-text version of this article is available by request only.

Please contact pubrequest@sccwrp.org to request a copy.