

## Member Agencies



## Mission

*Make a positive contribution to the scientific understanding of linkages among human activities, natural events, and the health of the southern California coastal environment, communicate this understanding to decision makers and stakeholders, and help develop strategies to protect the environment for this and future generations.*

*To learn more about SCCWRP research, download publications, or access data please visit our website:  
[www.sccwrp.org](http://www.sccwrp.org)*

# Southern California Coastal Water Research Project



**Southern California Coastal Water Research Project**  
*A Public Agency for Environmental Research*

3535 Harbor Blvd., Suite 110  
Costa Mesa, CA 92626

Phone: (714) 755-3200

Fax: (714) 755-3299

*A Public Agency  
for Environmental  
Research*

# Southern California Coastal Water Research Project:

## *Science to Inform Environmental Management*

### History

The concept of a regional authority for marine research was conceived in the late 1960's by leaders of several southern California sanitation agencies. Originally intended as a three-year project, SCCWRP was created in 1969 through a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA).



**Joint Powers Authority** - A public agency that is formed when several government agencies have a common mission that can be better achieved by pooling resources and knowledge.

### Strategic Goals

SCCWRP aims to:

- ◆ Answer questions relevant to coastal environmental management, such as:
  - ◇ Is it safe to eat fish?
  - ◇ Is it safe to swim?
  - ◇ Are natural resources protected?
  - ◇ Is the ecosystem healthy?
- ◆ Develop, participate in, and coordinate programs that will improve understanding of coastal ecology
- ◆ Effectively communicate the research findings to decision-makers and stakeholders
- ◆ Serve as a catalyst to form partnerships and alliances

### Research Activities

#### Regional Monitoring

SCCWRP organizes collaborative programs that assess the cumulative effectiveness of environmental management in southern California. These serve to standardize methodologies regionally, provide context for interpreting local results, and foster collaborative development of data interpretation tools.



#### Stormwater

SCCWRP investigates processes that affect sources and fates of watershed derived pollutants in both wet and dry weather runoff. These data are used to generate models and other tools that assist managers in controlling the adverse effects of stormwater.



#### Wetlands

SCCWRP produces scientific data and diagnostic tools that improve regional capabilities for the assessment, conservation, restoration, and management of wetland and riparian resources.

#### Contaminants

SCCWRP develops methods that allow environmental managers to assess the ecological effects of both legacy and emerging contaminants (e.g., endocrine disruptors and current use pesticides).

#### Nutrients

SCCWRP works to ascertain the extent and magnitude of nutrient related impacts to California streams, estuaries, and coastal waters. SCCWRP also studies factors that stimulate ecosystem responses to nutrient loading, such as harmful algal blooms.

#### Beach Water Quality

SCCWRP is developing new, molecular methods to improve beach monitoring. These are potentially much faster and better correlated with health risk. Molecular identification of fecal bacteria will allow managers to better mitigate contamination sources.

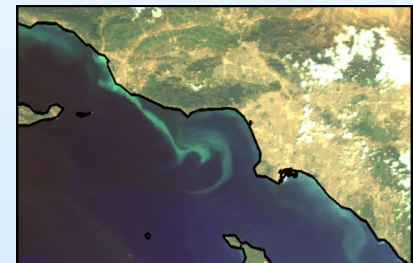


#### Marine Debris

SCCWRP assesses human impact on the marine environment by conducting studies to quantitatively characterize the type and amount of debris found on beaches and in marine ecosystems.

#### Other SCCWRP Research

SCCWRP is active in emerging fields of interest to the



environmental management community, such as satellite oceanography and the atmospheric deposition of pollutants.