

Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for Collection of Macroinvertebrates, Benthic Algae, and Associated Physical Habitat Data in California Depressional Wetlands

A. Elizabeth Fetscher¹, Kevin Lunde², Eric D. Stein¹, and Jeffrey S. Brown¹

¹*Southern California Coastal Water Research Project 3535 Harbor Blvd., Suite 110 Costa Mesa, CA 92626*

²*San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board 1515 Clay St., Suite 1400 Oakland, CA 94612*

ABSTRACT

This standard operating procedure (SOP) document is intended to provide standard data collection procedures that will ensure the highest possible data quality, minimize variability due to differences in data collection methods, and maximize data comparability to allow coordination and compilation of data from individual studies and sampling efforts. The California Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program (SWAMP) Quality Assurance Program Plan (QAPrP) allows flexibility in sampling methods so that the most appropriate method(s) may be used in hypothesis testing and for project-specific objectives that differ from program objectives. Such situations may include, but are not necessarily limited to, special studies (e.g., evaluation of point-source discharges, before/after comparisons where statistical replication is needed), stressor-identification investigations, and long-term monitoring projects where consistent data comparability is desired and an alternative method is needed to achieve that comparability. In addition, in some rare cases where funding limitations would make it cost-prohibitive to complete a project in compliance with the protocols listed in this SOP, the project proponent may request a variance. Deviations from the protocols specified in this SOP may be granted by the Regional SWAMP Coordinator for non-SWAMP projects or the State Board SWAMP Coordinator for SWAMP-funded projects. Such deviations should be noted in the data records when submitted to SWAMP or the California Environmental Data Exchange Network (CEDEN).

SWAMP participants collecting water or sediment samples may reference the Marine Pollution Studies Laboratory SOP: *Collections of Water and Bed Sediment Samples with Associated Field Measurements and Physical Habitat in California. Version 1.1 updated March-2014*. This procedure may be used to collect samples for a number of analyses covered by the SWAMP QA program. Use of this procedure is a recommendation and not a requirement for SWAMP projects. Prior to sample collection, participants using this procedure shall check its requirements against the latest SWAMP *Quality Control and Sample Handling Guidelines*.

Full Text: [Dep Wetlands Sampling SOP](#)

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