

Bioassessment Survey of the Stormwater Monitoring Coalition Workplan for Years 2015 through 2019 Version 1.0

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INTRODUCTION

Southern California's coastal watersheds contain important aquatic resources that support a variety of ecological functions and environmental values, but results of the Stormwater Monitoring Coalition's (SMC's) 5-year survey ending in 2013 suggest that few perennial, wadeable streams are in good biological condition (SMC Report 2015). However, important knowledge gaps remained, such as the condition of nonperennial streams, and whether conditions were changing over time. Therefore, the SMC will continue this survey to support management decisions that may improve or protect stream condition. Key modifications to the survey will address knowledge gaps, such as the condition of nonperennial streams, the effects of stressors of interest, and changes in regional condition over time.

Comprising over 7,000 stream-kilometers, both humans and wildlife depend on southern California's coastal watersheds for habitat, drinking water, agriculture, and industrial uses. In order to assess the health of streams in these watersheds, the Stormwater Monitoring Coalition (SMC), a coalition of multiple state, federal, and local agencies, began monitoring stream condition in 2009 using multiple indicators of ecological health. This survey documented the condition of perennial wadeable streams in the region and set a baseline for monitoring regional trends. In 2015, a new five-year program will build off the initial survey to answer key management questions about the condition of streams in the region.

The SMC stream survey is a collaborative effort of leading stormwater and regulatory agencies in southern California. Through a re-allocation of permit-required monitoring efforts, this survey is intended to provide valuable data about the condition of Southern California coastal streams in a cost-effective way. Additionally, the SMC's stream survey serves as the southern California component of the statewide stream condition survey (i.e., the Perennial Stream Assessment, PSA).

The goal of this document is to describe a collaborative large-scale, regional monitoring program of southern California's coastal streams. It describes sample draw parameters, analytes that will be assessed, quality assurance requirements, standard protocols, and other information needed to ensure comparability across different programs. While the details concerning implementation (such as specific labs and contractors) will vary among participants, each agency can use this document to create sampling programs within their regions that will contribute to an assessment of the entire region.

Full Text: [SMC Workplan 2015](#)