

BACKGROUND

- **Bight regional monitoring program started with the 1990 National Research Council assessment of monitoring in southern California**
 - Identified \$17M of monitoring (now more than \$30M), but data could not be integrated to provide a regional condition assessment
- **Impediments to a regional assessment were many**
 - Most monitoring is local; <5% of the Bight was actually monitored
 - Different parameters
 - Different methods
 - No cross-program QA
 - Inaccessible data
- **SCCWRP Commission stepped up to solve the problem**
 - Two-thirds of the ocean monitoring in southern California is done in response to NPDES permits

UNIQUE FUNDING MECHANISM

- **90% funded through in-kind services**
 - A participatory program
- **Facilitated through resource exchange**
 - Regulators have allowed exchange of some parts of routine monitoring programs for an equal level of sampling activity in the Bight program
 - Regional monitoring has subsequently been formalized in some permits
- **This approach subsequently served as the model for southern California's freshwater ambient monitoring programs**

MANY PRODUCTS OF COOPERATIVE REGIONAL MONITORING

- **Regional assessment of condition**
- **Methods standardization**
- **Method development**
- **Regional data analysis tools**
- **Information management**
- **Dialogue**
 - Relationship building and mutual trust

BIGHT'08 WAS THE FOURTH REGIONAL SURVEY

- **1994: Started with a Pilot Project**
 - Limited to SCCWRP member agencies
 - Focused on contaminant effects on sediment and fish quality
- **1998: Participation opened to all interested parties**
 - 62 organizations participated
 - Added a shoreline microbiology element
- **2003: Added a water column element**
 - Expanded academic involvement
 - Academia brings new measurement techniques
- **2008: Expanded to six elements**
 - Over 100 hundred organizations participated

SIX ELEMENTS

- **Sediment contamination**
 - What is the spatial extent of sediment and fish contamination in the Bight?
- **Estuarine eutrophication**
 - What percent of estuarine systems are eutrophic?
- **Water column**
 - Are anthropogenic nutrient inputs a meaningful contributor to algal blooms?
- **Areas of Special Biological Significance**
 - Are ASBS maintaining natural water quality?
- **Rocky subtidal**
 - What percent of rocky reefs have healthy biotic communities?
- **Shoreline microbiology**
 - What percent of contaminated beaches have a human fecal source?

SCHEDULE FOR TODAY

- **Individual presentations for each element (about 15 minutes each)**
 - Focused on findings, rather than on process to achieve those findings
- **Ten minutes on ancillary benefits**
- **Ten minutes to describe our initial thoughts on issues we may tackle for Bight'13**
- **Intended to leave you almost two hours for questions/discussion**