Southern California
Stormwater Monitoring
Coalition:
Five-Year Research Agenda
The SMC Exists to Support Stormwater Management

- Created in 2001 by two SCCWRP member agencies
- Has grown to 16 member agencies
- Mission is to conduct the collaborative research to enhance stormwater management
SMC Members

Dischargers
- County of Orange
- Los Angeles County Flood Control District
- County of San Diego
- Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District
- San Bernardino County Flood Control District
- Ventura County Watershed Protection District
- City of Long Beach
- City of Los Angeles
- City of San Diego
- California Department of Transportation (CALTRANS)

Regulators
- Regional Water Quality Control Board - Los Angeles Region
- Regional Water Quality Control Board - Santa Ana Region
- Regional Water Quality Control Board - San Diego Region
- State Water Resources Control Board
- US Environmental Protection Agency

Others
- SCCWRP
Have an Effectively Unique Structure

- Master Agreement formalizes the Coalition
  - Allows for simplified annual project contracting

- All project funding is voluntary
  - Better have a project that people want

- Not all projects are equal-share funded
What Kinds of Projects?

- 34 projects over 18 years
- $18+ Million
  - About 2/3 are non-SMC project funds
- Virtually every project effects management outcomes
### History of Success

Collaboration affects change

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Example SMC Project</th>
<th>Management Outcome</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Peak flow impacts</td>
<td>Hydromodification criteria in permits and watershed plans</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bacterial reference watershed study</td>
<td>Helped create TMDL targets</td>
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<tr>
<td>Microbial source tracking method comparison</td>
<td>Methods adopted into State Microbial Source Tracking Manual</td>
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<tr>
<td>Model MS4 monitoring program</td>
<td>Written into NPDES permit monitoring requirements</td>
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The Importance of the Research Agenda

- The Research Agenda is the road map of future SMC projects

- Revised every five years with the renewed Master Agreement

- Utilize a Panel of outside Experts
  - Multiple disciplines
  - National recognition
Experts for this Agenda
November 20-22, 2019

Karen Ashby
Larry Walker & Assoc.
Monitoring Specialist

Drew Kleis
City of San Diego
Regulated Community

Allen Davis
Univ. of Maryland
Civil/Enviro. Engineer

Jody Harwood
Univ. of South Florida
Microbiology/Public Health

David Senn
SFEI
Water Quality Chemist

Greg Gearheart
State WRCB
Information Specialist

Shelley Luce
Heal the Bay
Environmental Advocacy

Teri Hogue
Colorado School of Mines
Modeling

Pete Ode
CA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife
Ecology/Biology
Can the Two Different Processes Achieve the Same Outcomes?

**SMC**
- Outside experts
- SMC Steering Committee review and prioritization
- Five year vision
- Revised every 5 years
- Three-day sequestered Workshop for all thematic areas

**SCCWRP**
- Internal staff
- CTAG review and prioritization
- 5 – 10 year vision
- Revised every 3 years
- One full day per thematic area
The Newest SMC Research Agenda

- Started with 64 project concepts
- Whittled and refined to 26 project concepts
- Grouped into 6 thematic areas
- The SMC has prioritized six projects for selection in FY 2020-21
Major Project Categories

1. Microbiology & Human Health Risk
2. BMP Monitoring, Implementation & Effectiveness
3. Innovative Technology & Science Communication
4. Expanding the Utility of Biomonitoring
5. Improving Stormwater Monitoring Effectiveness
6. Emerging Challenges
SMC Prioritized Projects

- Quantifying Human Fecal Sources in Wet Weather
- Linking Indicators of Fecal Contamination to Human Health Risk
- Development of a Regional BMP Monitoring Network
- Development of a Research Work Plan for assessing the Effectiveness of Non-Structural Stormwater BMPs
- Streamline Data Collection for Stormwater Annual Reporting and Prototype Interfaces for Program Effectiveness Information
- Streamline Annual Reporting
SMC and SCCWRP Research Agendas Are Well-Aligned

- 23 of 26 projects are the same/similar projects
  - The 3 “missing” projects are not “research” focused

- Stormwater management needs are greater than just So Cal
  - Working together helps build consensus

- The alignment of the two strategies is not accidental
  - Demonstrates SCCWRP focuses its research on management needs
Where The SMC Goes Next

- Approving their Research Agenda next week
- Final project(s) selection for next Fiscal Year
- SCCWRP will likely lead the research-focused projects