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SCCWRP Director's Report



SUMMER 2026 ISSUE

Intertidal bioblitz completed to expand DNA libraries

SCCWRP and its partners have completed the first large-scale field sampling event supporting an ongoing effort to build a comprehensive library of genetic identifying information for thousands of species in California's coastal intertidal areas – a major statewide investment that will pave the way for robust, ongoing DNA-based monitoring in these ecologically diverse habitats.

The two-week "bioblitz" sampling event, which wrapped up in early July, spanned Oceanside to Imperial Beach in San Diego County, bringing together more than 45 taxonomists and other researchers to collect, identify, voucher, process and archive more than 7,000 specimens representing about 1,600 fish, invertebrates and algae species.

Among the species identified by taxonomists were hundreds of species that either have not been previously observed in California or appear to be new to science. Once the collected samples are identified using DNA-based methods, researchers expect the number of known intertidal species in California – currently

estimated at around 4,000 – could jump by hundreds, if not thousands.

The [California Intertidal Biodiversity DNA Barcode Library project](#), a SCCWRP-facilitated project supported by the California Ocean Protection Council, is the first large-scale, coordinated effort within California to generate comprehensive genetic identifying information for thousands of species across a single aquatic habitat type.

Researchers expect the project to serve as a template for how to coordinate and build comprehensive DNA reference libraries for other habitat types in the future.

As traditional, manual identification of aquatic organisms by trained taxonomists is increasingly replaced by – or performed in tandem with – rapid, DNA-based identification methods, environmental managers rely on DNA reference libraries to identify the species they are monitoring.

Although this information has already been published for some species, and

Contents

- 6 | Updates by Thematic Area
- 10 | New SCCWRP Publications
- 11 | Quarter in Review
- 13 | SCCWRP Personnel Notes
- 14 | SCCWRP Spotlights

Cover photo: A field crew collects intertidal samples in La Jolla during a large-scale field sampling event in San Diego County in July, part of an ongoing effort to build a comprehensive library of genetic identifying information for thousands of species in California's coastal intertidal areas. The effort will pave the way for robust, ongoing DNA-based monitoring.

To subscribe: The SCCWRP Director's Report is published quarterly by the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project. To receive this newsletter by email, contact pubrequest@sccwrp.org.

Calendar

Thursday, August 6
CTAG quarterly meeting
(In-person meeting)

Friday, September 4
Commission meeting
(In-person meeting)

although these libraries are continually expanding, DNA reference libraries remain incomplete and uneven across species and habitats, limiting managers' ability to use DNA-based methods to monitor all species of interest.

The limitation is particularly constraining when managers are monitoring organisms via the DNA they shed into their environment, known as environmental DNA (eDNA). eDNA monitoring makes it possible to cast a wide net, but in the absence of DNA reference libraries for every species of interest, many other organisms go routinely undetected.

Intertidal habitats are the narrow area of the coastline that alternates between being submerged at high tide and exposed at low tide. These areas are among the most vulnerable coastal habitats to the intensifying effects of climate change, including rising water temperatures and sea levels.

During the bioblitz, participants used standardized workflows and methods to collect and process specimens across 23 intertidal sites, including sandy beaches, estuaries, rocky shores, harbors and marinas.



A “bioblitz” team works to identify, voucher, process and archive samples collected from intertidal habitats in San Diego County, part of an ongoing effort to build a comprehensive library of genetic identifying information for thousands of species in California’s coastal intertidal areas. During the two-week bioblitz, more than 7,000 specimens representing about 1,600 fish, invertebrates and algae species were identified across 23 sites.

Most of the collected specimens will undergo DNA barcoding to generate a species-specific genetic identifier, with further in-depth genome sequencing planned on a representative subset. Meanwhile, specimens already have been photographed, preserved and archived at multiple repositories for future use.

Over the next two years, researchers plan to hold about five more bioblitzes along the California coast; the next one is planned for mid-August in Eureka.

For more information, contact Dr. [Susanna Theroux](#).

Bight '23 Sediment Quality element reflects modernized, expanded regional monitoring

The Southern California Bight 2023 Regional Monitoring Program’s Sediment Quality study element has completed its seventh assessment of how sediment contamination has affected the health of Southern California’s coastal marine ecosystems – generating comprehensive, comparable sediment quality data sets that now span three decades, while simultaneously expanding and modernizing the program’s assessment tools and approach.

The Bight '23 Sediment Quality assessment, published in June as a [web-based StoryMap synthesis report](#) instead of a traditional printed document, represents the most integrated, interactive Sediment Quality assessment that the SCCWRP-facilitated Bight program has

completed to date. High-level, region-wide data syntheses have been seamlessly linked to underlying raw and analyzed data sets that encompass multiple lines of evidence, enabling custom data querying and deep dives into specific sites of interest.

The Sediment Quality study element draws from five lines of evidence – [sediment toxicity](#), [sediment chemistry](#), [benthic infauna](#), [bottom-dwelling fish and invertebrate communities](#) and [shellfish contaminant bioaccumulation](#) – to generate an overall assessment narrative of sediment health. The first three lines of evidence also are synthesized to generate a quantitative assessment of Bight sediment quality.

Meanwhile, the Bight program has grown far beyond the original Sediment Quality study element, to also encompass six additional Bight '23 study elements probing other aspects of coastal ecosystem health, including ongoing studies assessing microplastics contamination in shellfish and the health of eelgrass beds. Meanwhile, the Bight program also leverages the sediment sampling effort to collect samples supporting analyses of [how trash is spreading](#) across the coastal seafloor.

Significantly, the Bight program’s expansion and modernization efforts have not compromised its ability to continue generating high-quality, comparable data sets on sediment quality – data sets that

can be used to probe regional trends across space and time.

The Bight '23 Sediment Quality study element's overall conclusion is that contamination levels remain low across the vast majority of Southern California's coastal sediment seafloor, with 99% of these areas considered unimpacted by sediment contamination. However, Bight '23 also found that coastal embayments, especially estuaries and marinas, continue to be disproportionately impacted by sediment contamination, with little regional improvement over the past 15 years.

Based on the Bight '23 findings for embayments, SCCWRP member agencies already have begun discussing how to pursue regional causal assessment investigations in embayments; the goal would be to understand if embayment sediment quality is being affected by a common set of regional stressors or if the stressors are water body-specific.

The Bight '23 Sediment Quality study element reflects significant investments in data management to improve the accessibility of both current and historic Bight data. New web-based Bight data analysis and visualization tools enable users to interact with data sets of their choosing, including reviewing data from Bight monitoring cycles dating back to 1994. Finally, Bight '23 converted a suite of legacy, spreadsheet-based tools to a single, integrated R package to calculate individual and integrated assessment scores.



Photo courtesy of Chris Stransky, San Diego Regional Harbor Monitoring Program

A field crew for the Southern California Bight 2023 Regional Monitoring Program uses a sampling device to collect sediment from the seafloor. The Bight '23 Sediment Quality study element reflects the most integrated, interactive Sediment Quality assessment that the SCCWRP-facilitated Bight program has completed since the program's inception three decades ago.

In summer 2027, Bight '23 is expected to complete an integrated human health risk assessment based on consumption of contaminated shellfish. Researchers are examining the relative risk levels posed by three different classes of contaminants – human pathogens, HAB (harmful algal bloom) toxins and chemical pollutants – with a goal to understand how multiple stressors may be combining to magnify overall risk.

SCCWRP and its member agencies already are beginning conversations about Bight '28, which will be the program's eighth five-year cycle; Bight '28 will officially kick off with a fall 2027 planning workshop at SCCWRP. One of the key focuses will be exploring how to better integrate the Bight program with other marine monitoring programs and inland Southern California monitoring programs.

For more information, contact Dr. [Alvina Mehinto](#).

Bight '23 Ocean Acidification partnerships enhance West Coast biological monitoring

The Southern California Bight 2023 Regional Monitoring Program's Ocean Acidification study element has begun working to assess the effects of ocean acidification (OA) on shell-forming organisms in close coordination with two other West Coast ocean monitoring programs – a collaboration intended to promote standardization of OA biological monitoring across the West Coast and ensure OA's effects on Southern California

marine organisms can be placed into a broader regional context.

The California Cooperative Oceanic Fisheries Investigations (CalCOFI) and NOAA West Coast Ocean Acidification (WCOA) program began OA biological sampling in Southern California coastal waters farther offshore in July, the same time period that Bight '23 is conducting OA biological sampling in nearshore

waters. The biological sampling is being complemented by ocean chemistry measures of OA.

A key priority for the SCCWRP-facilitated Bight '23 OA study element will be identifying a shell-forming species that can serve as an indicator of OA's biological effects in Southern California coastal waters. During the first coordinated sampling effort in 2021 and 2022, the

species that all three West Coast OA monitoring programs tracked – a tiny sea snail known as *Limacina helicina* – could not be found in sufficient abundance in Southern California nearshore waters to generate a reliable assessment of OA's biological effects.

As a result, researchers have not yet been able to compare how marine organisms in nearshore Southern California waters are being affected by OA relative to what is happening West Coast-wide. Researchers' goal is to stitch together biological data from multiple West Coast monitoring programs to create a unified, comprehensive picture of OA status and trends.

The coordinated, summer-long OA field sampling event follows years of collaborative work by the trio of monitoring programs and other partners to develop repeatable, standardized methods for tracking OA-triggered shell dissolution in shelled marine gastropods.

This method development work culminated with a one-year intercalibration exercise facilitated by SCCWRP and CalCOFI, completed in June, that standardized the process by which gastropod shell dissolution is analyzed under a scanning electron microscope. This new protocol can now be used on the samples collected by all three programs during this summer's field sampling.

Shelled gastropods are sensitive to OA's corrosive effects, enabling them to serve as sentinel biological indicators of the pace and intensity with which OA is unfolding across the West Coast.

To address the *Limacina* data gap in Southern California, all three programs have agreed to sample alternate swimming marine snail species this summer that could potentially complement *Limacina* monitoring. Researchers are focusing initially on *Clio pyramidata* – a type of sea snail known as a pteropod – and *Atlanta californiensis* – a heteropod species. Both are commonly found in the warmer waters of Southern California; the other two monitoring programs are examining whether these species can be found in abundance farther north as well.

Researchers envision developing a suite of shell-forming organisms to serve as sentinel biological indicators for tracking West Coast OA. Data from different biological indicators across different parts of the West Coast would enable researchers to take a multiple-lines-of-evidence approach to tracking OA's biological effects, with a goal to enhance management understanding and confidence in OA monitoring data.

Researchers hypothesize that Southern California coastal waters may be too warm for *Limacina* – or at least they were during the years Southern California OA biological sampling was previously conducted. CalCOFI, which samples further offshore, successfully sampled *Limacina* at some offshore sites in Southern California, while the Bight program identified *Limacina* during the wintertime in mostly cooler, upwelling-dominated waters in the Santa Barbara Channel.

If promising alternate indicators can be identified this summer, Bight '23 may follow up with subsequent rounds of

sampling to investigate seasonal patterns in shell dissolution.

In addition to monitoring ocean chemistry and shell dissolution, the trio of programs are piloting the use of [environmental DNA \(eDNA\)-based methods](#) for tracking OA's biological effects on marine life.

Biology is one of two approaches that researchers are taking to track OA in coastal waters. The other approach – tracking ocean chemistry – already has been implemented by West Coast OA monitoring programs, including the Bight program.

This summer's coordinated OA sampling effort highlights all three monitoring programs' shared commitment to building a comprehensive picture of West Coast OA. While the Bight program monitors OA in Southern California nearshore coastal waters, the CalCOFI and WCOA surveys are focused on monitoring OA farther offshore and northward.

For more information, contact Dr. [Christina Frieder](#) and Dr. [Martha Sutula](#).

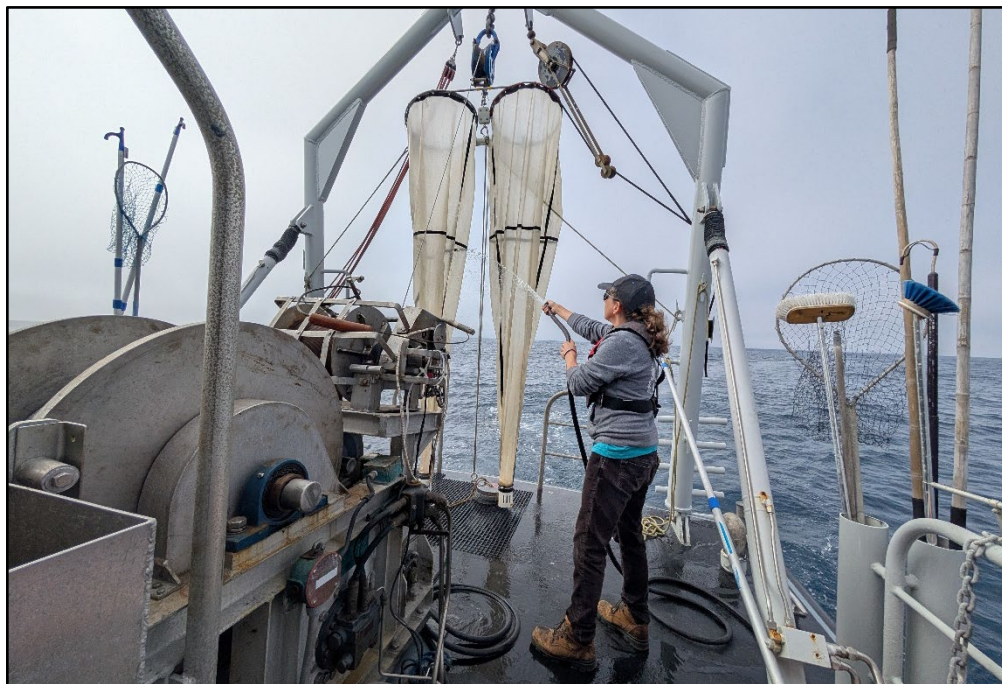


Photo courtesy of Ami Latker, City of San Diego Public Utilities Department

A field crew for the Southern California Bight Regional Monitoring Program lowers a pair of plankton nets into coastal waters to collect shelled marine gastropods that could serve as an indicator of ocean acidification's biological effects. The Bight '23 Ocean Acidification study element kicked off OA biological sampling in July in close coordination with two West Coast monitoring counterparts, paving the way for researchers to build a unified, comprehensive picture of OA status and trends.

Workshop helps shape stormwater management resources for U.S. Southwest

Stormwater managers, practitioners and stakeholders from across four Southwestern states provided feedback on how to expeditiously transfer regionally relevant, best-practices stormwater solutions and provide technical support to end users during an inaugural, two-day workshop for the regional [Southwest Stormwater Center](#), established by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and co-led by SCCWRP.

The workshop, held June 9-10, 2026 at SCCWRP, brought together about 125 stormwater representatives from Southern California, Nevada, Arizona and New Mexico to identify and help shape technical tools, information and products that arid and semi-arid Southwestern states could use to more effectively respond to the region's unique stormwater management challenges. The SWSC is one of four U.S. regional Centers of Excellence for Stormwater Control Infrastructure Technologies.

Many stormwater management solutions that have been developed for wetter regions of the United States are not directly applicable to the arid and semi-arid Southwest, where rainfall events tend to be infrequent but intense. These rainfall patterns can quickly overwhelm stormwater management and drainage systems, disrupting people and ecosystems and necessitating extensive operations and maintenance regimes.

During the workshop, end users acknowledged that there is already a broad suite of models, assessment tools, decision frameworks, and cost and asset management tools. Workshop attendees encouraged the Southwest Center to build off this body of work, developing "state of the practice" documents that provide high-level overview of topics, as well as fact sheets and case studies to help them tailor solutions to local contexts.

Workshop participants also highlighted the need for region-specific pollutant and asset data, best practices for incorporating stakeholder feedback into watershed plans, and information on practical lessons

and maintenance concerns to inform the selection of stormwater BMPs (best management practices).

To enable stormwater capture and use projects – which remains an unfamiliar new frontier for many stormwater practitioners – workshop attendees emphasized the need for practical guidance on how to identify the physical infrastructure required to make capture and use a reality, based on a user's unique needs and resource availability. The guidance should include case studies documenting a diversity of approaches successfully used in the real world, enabling practitioners to identify and adapt case studies to their local context.

Workshop attendees also suggested improved guidance on watershed planning, including watershed modeling. With a plethora of watershed management strategies and planning tools to choose from, practitioners need clarity on how tools align or differ, and a decision tree to help users select from them according to their needs and resource availability.

The Southwest Stormwater Center aims to bridge gaps between isolated but regionally relevant information sources by synthesizing, harmonizing, consolidating and sharing technical knowledge, tools, and resources across five priority topic areas: BMP design and assessment, stormwater planning, stormwater capture and use, funding and financing, and stakeholder engagement.

The Center is co-led by SCCWRP and the Desert Research Institute in Nevada, along with partners at the University of California, Los Angeles, University of Arizona, Bernalillo County in New Mexico, and the WaterNow Alliance.

The two-day workshop featured a public session introducing the Center and its goals, followed by a closed working session focused on identifying stakeholder priorities. Multiple SCCWRP and Southern California Stormwater Monitoring Coalition (SMC) member agencies



Photo courtesy of Riverside County Flood Control and Water Protection District

The Southwest Stormwater Center held an inaugural, two-day workshop for stormwater managers, practitioners and stakeholders across multiple Southwestern states to identify and help shape technical tools, information and products that can help bridge knowledge gaps across five priority topic areas, including designing and assessing the performance of stormwater BMPs, such as the one, above, under construction.

attended the workshop in person and virtually.

Also surfaced during the workshop are important regional differences in stormwater priorities across the Southwest; for example, while Southern California's stormwater community emphasized water-quality treatment as a key research need, Nevada representatives said their priority is identifying BMP implementation strategies for managing flashy flows and high sediment loads.

Not only did participants reach consensus during the workshop about the what type of information would provide the greatest value to practitioners and managers, but they also agreed on best practices for how to disseminate this information – whether via state-of-the-practice reports, fact sheets, web tools and/or videos.

The Center already has begun using the workshop recommendations to refine its

planned products and resources. All final products, including guidance documents, journal manuscripts, trainings and

webinars and other resources, will be made available on the Center's [website](#).

For more information, contact Dr. [Elizabeth Fassman-Beck](#).

Updates by Thematic Area

SCCWRP Research Themes **BIOASSESSMENT** • **ECOHYDROLOGY** • **EUTROPHICATION** • **CLIMATE RESILIENCY** • **CONTAMINANTS OF EMERGING CONCERN** • **MICROBIAL WATER QUALITY** • **STORMWATER BMPs** • **REGIONAL MONITORING**

BIOASSESSMENT

Draft framework for assessing societal benefits of aquatic ecosystems unveiled

SCCWRP and its partners have unveiled a prototype scientific framework intended to help managers rapidly assess the societal benefits provided by aquatic ecosystems in various conditions, otherwise known as ecosystem services.

The ecosystem services framework, presented at a Society of Wetland Scientists conference in June, is intended to be used to evaluate the health of streams and other aquatic resources through the lens of the human services they provide, including recreation, hazard reduction, water supply and cultural uses.

Managers currently lack such a rapid evaluation framework; indeed, it has long been assumed without evidence that protecting or restoring the ecological benefits of aquatic ecosystems would also affect societal benefits.

The ecosystem services framework is intended to be customizable for specific state and regional needs. It was developed using dozens of case studies from California, Montana and Florida; from California alone, 51 streams and rivers were included.

Additional testing and refinement will continue through early 2027, with publication of the framework expected in spring 2027.



Photo courtesy of Ted Grantham, University of California, Berkeley

Researchers have begun synthesizing more than a dozen case studies chronicling how the California Environmental Flows Framework (CEFF) has been used to establish targets for stream flows that protect ecosystem health, including flow diversions to support cannabis cultivation, shown above in Northern California. The goal of the ongoing project is to expand CEFF's management utility.

ECOHYDROLOGY

Case study synthesis to expand management utility of statewide framework for setting stream flow targets

SCCWRP and its partners have begun synthesizing a series of case studies that explain how the California Environmental Flows Framework (CEFF) has been used to establish flow targets for streams that protect ecosystem health – the latest step

in an ongoing, three-year study seeking to expand the management utility of the statewide scientific framework.

The compilation of more than a dozen CEFF case studies began in May, following a series of focus groups held in early 2026 to solicit lessons learned and feedback from the end-user management community. The CEFF case studies span different parts of the state and different management contexts, including [dam-regulated rivers](#), [flow diversions to support cannabis cultivation](#), and [urbanized watersheds](#).

The overall goal of the ongoing “From Framework to Flows (F2F)” project is to extend CEFF’s utility by enabling managers to answer more integrated management questions about the relationships between stream flow patterns, groundwater extraction practices, and changes in water quality. CEFF was originally released in 2021.

Existing tools supporting CEFF do not adequately account for the fact that groundwater extraction can result in reductions to nearby stream flows, nor how changes in stream flows can affect key water-quality parameters, including stream temperatures and specific conductance.

EUTROPHICATION

Statewide pilot study launched to monitor benthic HABs in streams

SCCWRP and the Water Boards’ Freshwater Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) Program have launched a pilot project to test-drive newly developed protocols for monitoring toxin-producing harmful algal blooms (HABs) that form along the bottom of Wadeable streams, known as benthic HABs.

The study, which began field sampling in June, is intended to support ongoing efforts to build a statewide benthic HABs monitoring program.

Unlike planktonic HABs that grow in the water column, benthic HABs have not been as extensively monitored and studied in California. Because benthic HABs tend to form as mats, researchers believe humans and wildlife can be exposed to benthic HABs in more uneven and unpredictable ways compared to water-column HABs (i.e., when pieces of the mat suddenly break off and become suspended in the water column).

The pilot study spans seven stream sites representing different regions, stream types and environmental conditions in California. Researchers are using an expanded protocol that assesses both benthic HABs and associated environmental conditions, building upon the standardized [best-practices benthic HAB monitoring protocols](#) developed by

the Benthic HABs Subcommittee of the California Cyanobacterial and Harmful Algal Bloom (CCHAB) Network.

EMERGING CONTAMINANTS

Standardized collection method developed for measuring microplastics in ambient water

SCCWRP and its partners have developed standardized methods for collecting samples from ambient water bodies in preparation for measuring their microplastics content – the third in a series of microplastic collection methods to be standardized to facilitate generation of high-quality, microplastics data statewide.

The ambient water collection methods, completed in July and expected to be published in August, include both a net-based method and a pump sampling method; the methods incorporate quality control measures to minimize the risk of environmental contamination.

Standardized collection methods already have been developed for sampling microplastics in [sediment and aquatic life](#). The fourth and final matrix to be standardized – [stormwater](#) – is expected to be completed by the end of this year. Meanwhile, the laboratory processing and analysis methods used to measure microplastics content in environmental

samples already have been standardized via the SCCWRP-facilitated Microplastics Method Evaluation Study, summarized in a [2024 special journal issue](#).

In the absence of standardized methods, researchers have historically been forced to assign a high degree of uncertainty to microplastics data generated via various sample collection and analysis methods.

STORMWATER BMPs

Pilot study launched to evaluate biofiltration BMP effectiveness at removing fecal contamination

SCCWRP and the County of San Diego have launched a six-month pilot study to begin probing how design and operating characteristics of biofiltration systems can influence their effectiveness at removing fecal contamination in runoff.

The study, which began laboratory-scale experiments in July, represents an early effort within Southern California to identify alternatives to the design and operation of biofilter BMPs (best management practices) to improve their efficacy at removing pathogens that can sicken humans.



A field crew deploys sensors in a stream in Orange County as part of an ongoing pilot project test-driving newly developed protocols for monitoring toxin-producing benthic harmful algal blooms (HABs). The pilot study spans seven stream sites representing different regions, stream types and environmental conditions in California.

Compared to other types of common runoff pollutants, little work has been done to understand how BMP design and operating characteristics influence pathogen removal – even as fecal contamination remains one of the leading threats to runoff water quality across Southern California. Moreover, fecal contamination removal by biofiltration BMPs is often lower than expected, with effluent concentrations sometimes exceeding those measured in influent.

Researchers will use flow-through columns in a laboratory to mimic how runoff flows through a biofiltration BMP, working to evaluate specific properties of biofiltration media and treatment processes that influence the system's ability to remove fecal indicator bacteria (FIB) and DNA-based FIB markers, including HF183 and crAssphage. After the laboratory testing phase, researchers plan to scale up the study to a field testing phase.

Initial field sampling completed for study quantifying street sweeping's efficiency

SCCWRP and the Southern California Stormwater Monitoring Coalition (SMC) have completed an initial round of field

sampling for an ongoing study that will measure the efficiency of routine street sweeping in removing pollutants that would otherwise enter storm drains and contribute to runoff pollution.

The sampling, which targeted 10 sites across Southern California and was completed in June, relied on a robust, repeatable method for quantifying street sweeping's efficiency that was developed by SCCWRP and the SMC during a 2023-2024 [pilot study](#).

During the sampling, researchers used a custom-built rainfall generator developed by SCCWRP to simulate rainfall on a set of swept roadway segments and a corresponding set of unswept segments. Researchers are now looking for differences in runoff pollutant levels that were generated by the two sets of roadway segments.

Already, researchers are planning a second round of more intensive field sampling in Los Angeles County that researchers hope will enhance the statistical confidence of the initial 10-site analysis.

Street sweeping is a type of non-structural BMP (best management practice) that is a routine part of stormwater management programs in communities across Southern California, but what has historically been

unclear is what portion of stormwater pollutants – sediment, nutrients, trace organics and heavy metals, microplastics and bacteria – are removed from roadways via street sweeping.

REGIONAL MONITORING

SMC initiates planning for fourth cycle of regional stream monitoring program

The Southern California Stormwater Monitoring Coalition (SMC) has begun planning for the fourth cycle of its Regional Watershed Monitoring Program – a five-year survey that is expected to continue tracking regional stream health while adapting the program to investigate emerging stormwater management issues.

The design of the program's next five-year cycle, which SCCWRP began facilitating internal planning conversations for in July, will be shaped by the needs of the SMC's 18 member agencies. Among the investigations being considered are collecting data on baseline conditions for contaminants that commonly pollute watersheds after urban wildfires, as well as evaluating the potential benefits of physical habitat restoration in streams.

A workplan for the 2027-2032 monitoring cycle is expected to be finalized by the end of the year, with sampling expected to kick off in spring 2027.

Capacity being built in Monterey Bay to link monitoring of estuaries to dunes

SCCWRP has begun working with monitoring partners in Monterey Bay to build capacity to track the health of coastal estuaries and dunes in a coordinated, linked fashion – a pilot project that researchers hope can serve as a proof-of-concept for how to integrate dune monitoring and estuary monitoring programs statewide.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's [Climate Resilient Monterey Bay \(CRMB\) Regional Monitoring Program](#), for which SCCWRP is



A SCCWRP field crew sets up a custom-built rainfall generator on a commercial street in Los Angeles, part of an ongoing study to measure the efficiency of routine street sweeping in removing pollutants that would otherwise enter storm drains and contribute to runoff pollution.

providing advisory support over the next three years, is the first effort within California to co-monitor dunes and estuarine wetlands using rigorous, standardized methods that focus on assessing the functional linkages between them.

Coastal dunes and estuaries are highly coupled systems; dunes help physically protect estuaries from ocean waves and storm surges, while estuaries provide critical habitat for birds and marine life that forage in dunes.

Although dune monitoring in California remains in the early stages of development, dune restoration already is increasingly being incorporated into coastal resiliency management strategies statewide, underscoring the need to develop standardized methods for measuring the ecological connections between the two habitats.

Researchers envision the Monterey Bay monitoring pilot serving as a statewide template for how to couple dune monitoring with the [California Estuary](#)



Photo courtesy of California State Parks

Researchers have begun building capacity to integrate dune monitoring and estuary monitoring programs statewide, starting with a pilot project in Monterey Bay that will assess the functional linkages between the two highly coupled habitats. Above, Zmudowski State Beach in Monterey is the site of a dune restoration project intended to bolster coastal resiliency.

[Monitoring Program \(CalEMP\)](#), the statewide umbrella program established earlier this year that encompasses both the [Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project \(WRP\) Estuary](#)

[Monitoring Program](#) and the [California Estuarine Marine Protected Areas \(EMPA\) Monitoring Program](#).

New SCCWRP Publications

Journal Articles

Coleman, R.A., J. Bonneau, D.G. Bos, M.J. Burns, F. Cherqui, T.D. Fletcher, S. Garvey, K. Horndeski, [R.D. Mazor](#), B. Murphy, C. Purma III, K.L. Russell, S. Stojkovic, M. Scoggins. 2026. [Insights from long-term collaborative research in waterway management](#). *Freshwater Science* DOI:10.1086/742702.

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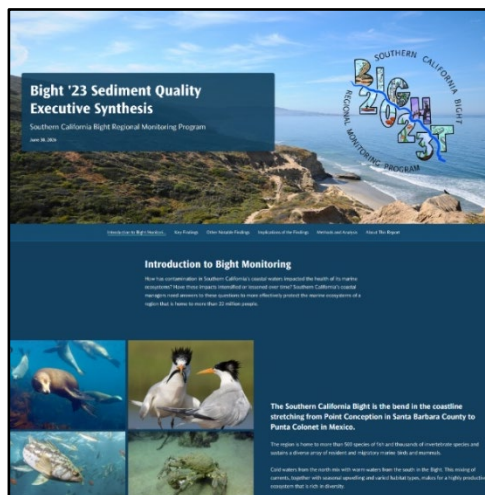
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Irving, K., [E.D. Stein](#), S. Crawford, M. Crowley, M. Huffman, P. Horsley, Z. El Jack. 2026. [The role of modeling in interpreting monitoring data and refining adaptive management plans in regulated rivers](#). *Frontiers in Environmental Science* 14:1814673.

Irving, K., R. Mathwin, C.J. Kotalik, J.A. Webb, D.M. Walters, S. Lovett, S.K. McKay, C.L. Torrens, J.R. Olson, Z.A. El Jack. 2026. [Adaptive Modeling to Inform Environmental Management](#). *Environmental Management* 76:233

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Savoca, M.S., E.L. Murphy, A.M. Brandon, [L.M. Thornton Hampton](#), L. Roman, M. Kong, M.E. Fernandes, S. Abrokwha, C. Darter, F. Galgani, J.F. Provencher, C. Alimba, R.G. Santos, B.D. Hardesty. 2026. [The effects of plastic pollution on biodiversity](#). *Nature Reviews Biodiversity* 2:425440.



The Southern California Bight 2023 Regional Monitoring Program has published its [final assessment report](#) summarizing how sediment contamination in Southern California has impacted the overall health of coastal marine ecosystems. Bight '23 marks the first time the Sediment Quality assessment report has been published as an interactive StoryMap, instead of a traditional printed document.

Scoggins, M., M.J. Burns, Y.E. Chee, R.A. Coleman, [R.D. Mazor](#), S.K. McKay, B.M. Murphy AA Porras, K.L. Russell. 2026. [Decision support tools for waterway managers: Spatially explicit data, models, engagement, and monitoring](#). *Freshwater Science* DOI:10.1086/742680.

[Stein, E.D.](#), R.K. Mohan, E. Herbert. 2026. [Overcoming Barriers to Beneficial Use of Dredged Materials in US Army Corps of Engineers and Other Agency Programs](#). *Journal of Dredging* 23:1.

[Xin, D., S. Savers, D. Nguyen, E. Fassman-Beck](#). 2026. [Field Monitoring of Microplastics in Urban Runoff: Treatment Efficiency of Biofilters](#). *Environmental Science & Technology* DOI:10.1021/acs.est.5c18706.

[Xin, D., S. Savers, D. Nguyen, J. Gray, E. Fassman-Beck](#). 2026. [Field monitoring of microplastics in biofilter media: insights into media characteristics and design](#). *Blue-Green Systems* DOI:10.2166/bgs.2026.008.

Journal Articles (Accepted)

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Technical Reports

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Quarter in Review

Conference Presentations

Fassman-Beck, E. Three years of Biofilter Monitoring from the SoCal Stormwater Monitoring Coalition Regional BMP Monitoring Network. EWRI Water and Environmental Resources Congress. April 26-29, 2026. Mobile, AL.

Fassman-Beck, E., A. Jong-Levinger. Quantifying Dry & Wet Weather Runoff from Non-structural BMPs. Center for Watershed Protection Conference. April 14-16, 2026. Charlotte, NC.

Jansen, L.S., R. Mazor, K.T. Taniguchi-Quan, A. Santana, A. Chaudhry, W. Kleindl, R. Tanner, E. Stein. Developing an assessment framework for nature-based recreation, an overlooked ecosystem service in urban settings that depends on ecological health. International Association for Society and Natural Resources Annual Meeting. June 22, 2026. Corvallis, OR.

Jansen, L.S., K.T. Taniguchi-Quan, R.D. Mazor, A. Chaudhry, W. Kleindl, R. Tanner. International Association for Society and Natural Resources Annual Meeting. June, 24, 2026. Corvallis, OR.

Mazor, R.D., K. Taniguchi-Quan, L. Jansen, A. Santana. Developing an assessment framework for nature-based recreation, an overlooked ecosystem service in urban settings that depends on ecological health. Society for Freshwater Science Annual Meeting. May 19, 2026. Spokane, WA.

Stein, E.D. Bringing Ecosystem Services into the Light: The Next Evolution of Wetland Assessment. Society of Wetland Scientists Annual Meeting. June 17, 2026. New Orleans, LA.

Stein, E.D., W. Kleindl, M. Rains, K. Rains. Evaluation of Ecosystem Services Provided

by Compensatory Mitigation. Society of Wetland Scientists Annual Meeting. June 17, 2026. New Orleans, LA.

Taniguchi-Quan, K.T., T. Grantham, S. Yarnell, E. Stein. Translating River Science to Environmental Flow Management in California. Society for Freshwater Science Annual Meeting. May 19, 2026. Spokane, WA.

Taniguchi-Quan, K.T., B. Lane, J. Morgan, A. Lee, K. Irving, E. Stein, L. Jansen, T. Grantham, G. Rossi. Ecological risk assessment of flow alteration: A regional, multi-species framework for flow management. Society for Freshwater Science Annual Meeting. May 21, 2026. Spokane, WA.

Taniguchi-Quan, K.T., S. Yi, T. Grantham. Advancing environmental flow management: Holistic approaches for sustaining aquatic ecosystems. Society for Freshwater Science Annual Meeting. May 21, 2026. Spokane, WA.

Conference Posters

Jansen, L., K. Taniguchi-Quan, E. Stein, G. Rossi, A. Santana, C. Guidice, K. Collier. Modeling the interactions of flow and temperature to refine environmental flows in Mediterranean streams. Association for the Sciences of Limnology and Oceanography – International Society of Limnology Joint Meeting. May 15, 2026. Montreal, Quebec, Canada.

Mehinto, A., K. Schiff. Southern California Bight Regional Monitoring: A long-term monitoring program to assess evolving environmental challenges. CalCOFI Conference. May 27-28, 2026. La Jolla, CA.

Smith, J., A. Deming, S. Fire, C. Gible, M. Miller, M. Moriarty, C. Parker-Graham, S. Pease. A OneHealth regional response

plan for wildlife stranding events associated with harmful algal blooms: A California Pilot. CalCOFI Conference. May 27-28, 2026. La Jolla, CA

Other Presentations

Fassman-Beck, E. Southwest Stormwater Center of Excellence. Clark County (NV) Flood Control District. May 12, 2026. Via webinar.

Fassman-Beck, E. SoCal Stormwater Monitoring Coalition Regional BMP Monitoring Network – Biofilter Performance & Southwest Stormwater Center of Excellence. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9. May 18, 2026. Via webinar.

Fassman-Beck, E. SoCal Stormwater Monitoring Coalition Regional BMP Monitoring Network – Biofilter Performance. State Water Resources Control Board Stormwater Roundtable. June 11, 2026. Via webinar.

Jansen, L.S. Getting into the flows: Translating ecohydrology science into environmental flow management in CA. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Office of Water – Ecological Research & Development Branch Seminar. June 22, 2026. Corvallis, OR.

Mehinto, A. Lessons learned from the Los Angeles Post-Fire Monitoring Network. Panel discussion. Los Angeles Extreme Weather and Coastal Forum. June 11, 2026. Los Angeles, CA.

McNight, D., J. Clary, A. McDaniel, E. Fassman-Beck. National Academies' Report, Managing Highway Stormwater Quality: Driving Progress. Congressional briefing. May 19, 2026. Via webinar.

McNight, D., J. Clary, A. McDaniel, E. Fassman-Beck. National Academies'

Report, Managing Highway Stormwater Quality: Driving Progress. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency briefing. May 18, 2026. Via webinar.

McNight, D., J. Clary, A. McDaniel, E. Fassman-Beck. National Academies' Report. Managing Highway Stormwater Quality: Driving Progress. Federal Highway Administration briefing. May 14, 2026. Via webinar.

Schiff, K. Current research at SCCWRP. U.S Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9. June 14, 2026. San Francisco, CA.

Schiff, K. Webcam research initiatives at SCCWRP. National Ocean Observing System Webcam Workshop. July 21, 2026. La Jolla, CA.

Taniguchi-Quan, K.T. Ecological Risk Assessment of Flow Alteration: Lessons Learned and Considerations for Regional Application. U.S. Geological Survey briefing. July 2, 2026. Via webinar.

Taniguchi-Quan, K.T., J. Wiener, B. Gibbons, J. Ayers, A. Le Compte-Santiago. Operationalizing the California Environmental Flows Framework to Inform and Evaluate Flood-MAR Diversion Approaches. California Interagency Recharge Meeting. May 14, 2026. Via webinar.

Taniguchi-Quan, K.T., J. Wiener, B. Gibbons, J. Ayers, A. Le Compte-Santiago. Operationalizing the California Environmental Flows Framework to Inform and Evaluate Flood-MAR Diversion Approaches: Preliminary Results and Next

Steps. California Interagency Recharge Meeting. July 9, 2026. Via webinar.

Taniguchi-Quan, K.T., B. Lane, J. Morgan, A. Lee, K. Irving, E. Stein, L. Jansen, T. Grantham, G. Rossi. Ecological risk assessment of flow alteration: A regional, multi-species framework for flow management. Coastal Stream Flow and Salmon Group Meeting. July 20, 2026. Via webinar.

Thornton Hampton, L.M., K. Kelly, A. Mehinto. Building California's Microplastics Strategy: Milestones and Next Steps. Great Lakes Commission Ad Hoc Committee on Plastic Pollution. July 22, 2026. Via webinar.

SCCWRP Personnel Notes

Commission



Sarai Bhaga, the newly appointed Interim Director and General Manager for the City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation, was named a SCCWRP Commissioner in May, replacing Traci Minamide.

CTAG



Hannah Dewey, Assistant Deputy Director of Stormwater Quality for the Los Angeles County Flood Control District, was appointed a CTAG Representative in May, filling a vacancy. Dewey also will continue to serve as an Alternate Commissioner.



Stefani Daryanto, Senior Environmental Scientist for the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board, was appointed a CTAG Representative in July,

replacing Dr. Emily Duncan, who served on CTAG for nearly seven years.



Nicole Wilson, Coastal Resilience Program Manager for the California Ocean Protection Council, was appointed a CTAG Alternate Representative in July, filling a vacancy.

Scientific Leadership

Dr. **Raphael Mazor** has been re-appointed Chapter Liaison for the Society for Freshwater Science.

Dr. **Alvina Mehinto** has been appointed to the editorial board of *ACS ES&T Toxicology*.

Dr. **Eric Stein** has been appointed as a technical advisor for the California Department of Water Resources' technical working group for the California Water Plan.

Dr. **Eric Stein** has received the 2026 Society of Wetland Scientists Fellows Award.

Dr. **Eric Stein** has received the President's Service Award from the Society of Wetland Scientists.

Dr. **Kris Taniguchi-Quan** has been appointed a technical advisor for the California Department of Water Resources' technical working group for the California Water Plan.

Dr. **Kris Taniguchi-Quan** has been appointed as a technical advisor for The Nature Conservancy's Flow Science Technical Advisory Committee for TNC's Well Ordinance Decision Support Tool.

Dr. **Stephen Weisberg** has been appointed Chair of the NOAA Science Advisory Board.

Dr. **Danhui Xin** has been appointed an Associate Editor for the Springer Nature journal *Aquatic Sciences*.

Promotions



Dr. **Jayme Smith**, a Senior Scientist in the Biogeochemistry Department who has worked at SCCWRP since 2018, was promoted in July to Principal Scientist.



Dr. **Kris Taniguchi-Quan**, a Senior Scientist in the Biology Department who has worked at SCCWRP since 2018, was promoted in July to Principal Scientist.



Adriana Le Compte Santiago, who has worked as a Research Technician in the Biology Department since 2022, was promoted in July to Senior Research

Technician.



Addison Grant, who has worked as a part-time IT assistant since 2025, was promoted in May to a full-time Programmer. He received his B.S. in mathematics from

California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo.

SCCWRP COMMISSIONER SPOTLIGHT

Assistant Director driven by service to community

For Christiana Gauger, the opportunity to engage directly with the community through public policy and operations is what first drew her to local government work.



Christiana Gauger

Before joining the City of San Diego, Gauger had initially considered pursuing a career in academia. Instead, she found her passion in public service, where she could help shape policies and support day-to-day operations that impact residents.

Over her 18-year career with the City, Gauger has held several roles across multiple departments, where she reviewed policies and budget proposals before they went to the City Council. Gauger also served as the City's Chief Compliance Officer before joining the Public Utilities Department as its Assistant Director in 2015.

"The idea of people not only working for themselves but also their community is what got me really interested in this type of work," Gauger said. "I've always been in more supporting roles, but I really enjoy critically thinking about how a policy might affect our community in the future."

Gauger became a SCCWRP Alternate Commissioner in January 2026.

In her current role, Gauger oversees the department's technical support functions, including environmental monitoring and technical services for ensuring wastewater compliance. She also manages the Engineering and Program Management branch that supports and maintains city infrastructure, as well as the real-estate planning division.



Christiana Gauger and daughters Olivia and Zoe visit the Eiffel Tower during a vacation to Paris, France.

Christiana Gauger

Job: Assistant Director, City of San Diego Public Utilities Department (since October 2025)

SCCWRP role: Alternate Commissioner (started January 2026)

Prior jobs: 18 years with the City of San Diego: Chief Compliance Officer (2021-2025); Deputy Director, Department of Purchasing and Contracting (2019-2020); Program Manager, Department of Purchasing and Contracting (2018); Fiscal and Policy Analyst, Office of Independent Budget Analyst (2014-2018); Head of Finance, Department of Information Technology (2011-2014); Municipal Budget Analyst, Department of Financial Management (2008-2011)

Education: M.A. sociology, University of Windsor (2002); B.A. sociology, University of Toronto - Victoria University (1996)

Residence: San Diego

Hometown: Vancouver, Canada

Family: Husband Stephen, an industrial designer; daughters Olivia, 16, and Zoe, 13

Hobbies: Taking yoga classes; spending time in the desert with family and friends

"There's a kind of intensity and excitement that comes with being in a position that is about connecting with the public and easing roadblocks," Gauger said. "The science behind what we do and how it influences regulations really makes me proud to be part of this work to protect the environment and public."

Gauger received her M.A. and B.A. in sociology from the University of Windsor and the University of Toronto – Victoria University, respectively. During her studies, she was drawn to sociology's theoretical perspectives on social issues and the complexities of local government and decided to pursue a career that would let her explore both.

Originally from Canada, Gauger moved to California when her husband, an industrial designer, accepted a job in the automotive industry. Soon after, she found an opportunity to work for the City of San Diego in the Department of Financial Management as a budget analyst, where she developed her expertise in financing and budgeting that continues to shape her leadership approach.

"Financing and budgeting underpin almost all of our operations, whether that's policy, programs, or services," Gauger said. "You have to really hold that top of mind to fully understand the programs you're overseeing."

In her free time, Gauger enjoys taking yoga classes and exploring desert state parks with her family and friends.

CTAG SPOTLIGHT

Engineer draws on project management experiences

In high school, Hannah Dewey spent her summers working at her uncle's engineering office – an experience that would shape her inspiration for pursuing civil engineering as a career.



**Hannah Dewey,
P.E.**

Although she mostly helped with administrative tasks, Dewey also learned the basics of drafting and AutoCAD from her uncle, who was a structural engineer.

She initially planned to follow her uncle into structural engineering as well, but realized it wasn't the right fit during her undergrad, finding little interest in memorizing building codes and doing repetitive calculations.

"Once I started learning about the water side of engineering, it became more intriguing to me," said Dewey, Assistant Deputy Director of the

Stormwater Quality Division at the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works. "With structural engineering, it can feel the same at times, but with water, there's so many different things to consider like varying topography and how water flows to/from each site."

Dewey became a SCCWRP Alternate Commissioner in February 2026, and was later named CTAG Representative in May 2026. In her role, Dewey oversees all aspects of stormwater quality MS4 permit compliance while leading regional multi-benefit projects for stormwater capture and treatment, including park enhancements and other nature-based solutions that provide both environmental and community benefits.

"We have a close relationship with our community that lets us get their feedback and input on projects," Dewey said. "Community outreach is definitely an important part for making sure we work through any challenge."

Dewey has been at L.A. County Public Works for 12 years. Before joining the Stormwater Quality Division, she worked in the Survey/Mapping & Property Management Division, where she facilitated real estate transactions for County properties and



Hannah Dewey and her husband Mark snowboard with their kids, Adam and Emily, at Mammoth Mountain.

Hannah Dewey, P.E.

Job: Assistant Deputy Director, Stormwater Quality Division, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works (since February 2026)

SCCWRP roles: Alternate Commissioner (started February 2026) and CTAG Representative (started May 2026)

Prior jobs: 12 years with Los Angeles County Department of Public Works: Principal Engineer (2022-2026), Senior Capital Projects Manager (2018-2022), Capital Projects Manager (2014-2018); Project Manager, RWBID Construction Management (2011-2014); Project Manager/Senior Project Engineer, KPFF Consulting Engineers (2007-2010); Project Manager/Project Engineer, Mollenhauer Group (2003-2007)

Education: B.S. civil engineering, University of California, Los Angeles (2003)

Residence: Sierra Madre

Hometown: Anaheim

Family: Husband Mark, a real estate investor; son Adam, 9; daughter Emily, 7;

Hobbies: Traveling; camping, snowboarding; exercising; spending time with family

addressed right-of-way issues. Prior to that, she worked in the Project Management Division, where she managed the design and construction of capital improvement projects such as flood control facilities, County parks, and County building facilities.

Dewey received her B.S. in civil engineering from the University of California, Los Angeles. While in school, she worked as a part-time engineering student for L.A. County Public Works.

After graduating, Dewey went into the private sector, working in engineering design consulting where she prepared civil engineering design plans for various types of developments including residential properties, K-12 schools, and commercial buildings.

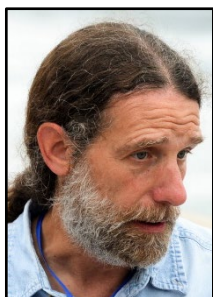
"Water is something that I always hoped I'd come back to," Dewey said. "Having worked on the project management side of delivering stormwater capture projects, I now have the opportunity to experience both the project initiation and project implementation side, which has really helped me see the full picture of how projects come together from beginning to end."

In her free time, Dewey enjoys traveling and spending time outdoors with her family. She is an avid snowboarder – a passion she shares with her whole family – and frequently goes to Big Bear and Mammoth in the winter season.

SCCWRP PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

Manager expands DNA reference libraries for state

Dean Pentcheff has spent his 25-year career at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County migrating from his earlier work in marine biomechanics to help build the research and monitoring tools California needs to track and identify marine biodiversity.



Dean Pentcheff

As the Manager for the Diversity Initiative for the Southern California Ocean (DISCO) Program, Pentcheff leads the museum's efforts to use technologies such as environmental DNA (eDNA) and to build reference barcode libraries for marine species in Southern California – a project that has since expanded into a statewide effort.

Most recently, Pentcheff has been collaborating with SCCWRP to build a comprehensive DNA reference library for thousands of species in California's coastal intertidal areas and is participating in large-scale sampling bioblitzes across the state.

eDNA monitoring makes it possible to cast a wide net, but in the absence of DNA reference libraries for every species of interest, many "dark taxa" routinely go unidentified.

"Just looking at the diversity of sequences in particular organismal groups tells you an enormous amount, but it does not give you all the information that a regulator would be interested in," Pentcheff said. "We need these reference libraries to be able to understand exactly what we are finding in these habitats."

Pentcheff received his B.S. in zoology from Duke University, where he became particularly fascinated with marine biomechanics, or the

Dean Pentcheff

Job: Program Manager, Diversity Initiative for the Southern California Ocean (DISCO), Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County (since 2016)

SCCWRP role: Research partner on environmental DNA (eDNA) and barcode reference library development

Prior jobs: Research Consultant and BioSCAN Project Coordinator, Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County (2001-2016); Visiting Assistant Professor, Loyola Marymount University (2003-2005), Research Scientist, University of South Carolina (1992-2001)

Education: B.S. zoology, Duke University (1982)

Residence: Los Angeles

Hometown: Ardsley, New York

Family: Wife Regina, Curator and Director, Marine Biodiversity Center at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County

Hobbies: Reading; traveling; camping

study of the physical and mechanical aspects that shape how an organism functions.

After graduating, Pentcheff worked at the University of Washington for a few years and completed graduate work in zoology at UC Berkeley. He then moved to South Carolina to work as a researcher at the University of South Carolina, where he met his now-wife Regina. After Regina took a postdoc position at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, she convinced Pentcheff to join her in California – and the rest is history.

Growing up, Pentcheff spent much of his childhood immersed in nature and enjoyed playing in the woods and streams near his home with his friends. He was also a big fan of the television show "The Undersea World of Jacques Cousteau" and became captivated by marine science and the ocean at an early age.

"There was this whole world of organisms out there, and I get to just watch them go on with their lives," Pentcheff said. "Learning about the organisms in the ocean was so fascinating to me, so I decided to become a marine biologist and never changed my mind."

In his free time, Pentcheff is an avid reader. He and his wife also enjoy desert camping, traveling around the world to experience the diversity of life, and experiencing the diversity of human culture in Los Angeles.



Dean Pentcheff prepares to enjoy an outdoor lunch during a camping trip in Arizona.

SCCWRP STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Programmer pursues lifelong passion for numbers

Numbers and math have been an integral part of Addison Grant's life since an early age.



Addison Grant

When he was in elementary school, his father, who worked as an architect, introduced him to the concept of variables. His older cousin would also show him what she was learning in algebra class at the time and go over her homework together.

Those early experiences sparked his curiosity for math and inspired him to learn more.

"In high school and college, I always tried to take the most challenging math classes I could," Grant said. "I'm not satisfied learning a formula without understanding how it came to be, so I naturally felt drawn to math."

Grant joined SCCWRP in 2025 as a part-time IT assistant providing programming and data processing support for various projects, including the Southern California Bight Regional Monitoring Program and a project using artificial intelligence to review underwater video to identify fish.



Addison Grant hikes a trail at Pedernales Falls State Park in Blanco County, Texas.

Addison Grant

Job: Programmer, Cross-Departmental Technical Support (started May 2026)

Prior jobs: Laboratory Assistant, SCCWRP Cross-Departmental Technical Support (2025-2026); Data Analyst, iFixit (2022-2025); Director of Special Data Projects, iFixit (2022); Software Quality Assurance Lead, iFixit (2017-2021)

Education: B.S. mathematics, California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo (2015)

Residence: Tustin

Hometown: San Luis Obispo

Family: Dad Leonard, an architect; mom Michelle, a mycologist; sister Bianca; girlfriend Alex, a nurse

Hobbies: Reading science and historical fiction; hiking; cooking

Grant was promoted to a full-time Programmer in May 2026 and continues to focus on computer vision, machine learning, and web development work.

Growing up, Grant was an avid gamer and wanted to eventually build his own video game. He went to Cal Poly San Luis Obispo to study computer science, but eventually switched his major after he found himself enjoying his math classes more.

"I was interested in the sciences and engineering, but I wanted to do something that was more general," Grant said. "After I changed my major to math, I immediately knew it the right choice."

After graduating with a B.S. in mathematics, Grant joined iFixit – an online store and community dedicated to electronic parts and repairs – where he spent eight years working in software quality assurance and data analytics.

During this time, Grant began taking graduate-level courses in applied math at Cal State Fullerton, where he heard about the opportunity to work at SCCWRP from another student working part time. She then referred him to one of her professors who helped make the connection.

"I wanted to do something more quantitative, so I felt like I needed a change," Grant said. "Here at SCCWRP, I'm using a lot of the same skills I learned as a data analyst and applying them differently, and I'm learning a lot of new skills as well."

In his spare time, Grant enjoys hiking and reading science and historical fiction. He has also been learning different Filipino recipes. Most recently, he learned how to prepare chicken adobo.

SCCWRP SCENES

Convening the Southwest stormwater community

The Southwest Stormwater Center (SWSC) brought together about 125 stormwater representatives from Southern California, Nevada, Arizona and New Mexico for a two-day workshop in June at SCCWRP to help identify and shape technical tools, information and products that arid and semi-arid Southwestern states could use to more effectively respond to the region's unique stormwater management challenges. The Southwest Stormwater Center, which is co-led by SCCWRP and the Desert Research Institute in Nevada, is one of four regional Centers of Excellence for Stormwater Control Infrastructure Technologies established by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.



Clockwise from above, SCCWRP's Dr. Elizabeth Fassman-Beck demonstrates a custom-built rainfall generator that simulates relevant, controlled rainfall patterns during the Southwest Stormwater Center's inaugural workshop at SCCWRP in June; workshop participants discuss how the Center can best support stormwater practitioners and managers; and workshop participants convene for a closed session to identify stakeholder priorities.