

Irvine Ranch Water District Upper Newport Bay and Stream Augmentation Program

¹Southern California Coastal Water Research Project, Long Beach, CA

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. Water and sediment leachate toxicity studies were conducted during wet periods (March and April 1980) and dry period (August 1980) to determine if IRWD stream augmentation increased toxic response in sensitive invertebrate larvae.
2. Toxicity observed during the wet weather survey was not related to IRWD release because toxicity measurements in the Sand Canyon discharge was lower than that observed in San Diego Creek.
3. Dry weather water toxicity in Newport Bay was highest at Shellmaker Island and lower at the Narrows. Now IRWD discharge was in progress during this period.
4. Sediment leachate toxicity was low during the wet weather survey.
5. Sediment leachate toxicity during the dry weather survey was greater, lowering fertilization success at the four stations and affecting development. No IRWD discharge was occurring at this time.
6. The data suggest IRWD stream augmentation into Upper Newport did not adversely affect the beneficial uses of the Newport Bay receiving waters.

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