



# **Southern California Stormwater Monitoring Coalition: Five-Year Research Agenda**



Marina del Ray Bioswale  
Photo courtesy of LA County Public Works



# **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

Example SMC Project	Management Outcome
Peak flow impacts	Hydromodification criteria in permits and watershed plans
Bacterial reference watershed study	Helped create TMDL targets
Microbial source tracking method comparison	Methods adopted into State Microbial Source Tracking Manual
Model MS4 monitoring program	Written into NPDES permit monitoring requirements



# 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