A REGIONAL MONITORING PROGRAM
FOR THE SACRAMENTO RIVER WATERSHED:
Objectives, Benefits and Challenges

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Sacramento River Watershed Program (SRWP)

Mission:
To ensure that current and potential uses of the watershed's resources are sustained, restored, and where possible, enhanced, while promoting the long-term social and economic vitality of the region.
Core Functions of the SRWP

- Public Outreach and Education
- Local Watershed Support
- Watershed Monitoring
Regional Monitoring Programs (RMPs)

• Why have an RMP?
• What are the benefits?
• What are the challenges?
Sacramento River Watershed
Regional Monitoring Program

2008-2009

- Feasibility Study
- Stakeholder Meeting
- Investigation Report
- RMP Fact Sheet
RMP Stakeholders

- Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District
- Sacramento Area Coordinated Monitoring Program
- Sacramento County
- Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalition
- Central Valley Clean Water Association
- State & Regional Boards
- US EPA
- Department of Water Resources
- SFCWA
- The Nature Conservancy
- USGS
- US Fish and Wildlife Service

Dischargers

- Scientists
- Researchers

Regulators

- Water Managers
- Habitat Managers
- Scientists/Researchers
Key Questions:

- What are your current monitoring activities?
- Where are your data stored and how are those data made available to others?
- What types of assistance do you (or would you like to) receive to enhance your monitoring?
- What are the major water quality issues of concern to you?
- Are there critical information gaps that prevent us from better addressing these issues?
- How do you think monitoring in the Sacramento River watershed could be improved?
- What types of regional monitoring functions (e.g. communication, coordination, assessment and reporting) might benefit your monitoring activities?
- What would be possible incentives for you and others to participate in an RMP?
- How would you suggest an RMP could be supported and organized?
MEMO: RMP Interview Summary

- Interview Responses
- Discussion and Synthesis:
  - Coordination Leaders
  - Indicators of Interest
  - Funding Needs and Options
- Recommendations
Recommendations

- What would an effective RMP in the watershed be tasked to do?
- What role should the SRWP play in developing and implementing that RMP?
- What are the next steps to implementing an RMP?
Level 1 RMP Tasks:

- Communicate with regional monitoring stakeholders through timely updates to the SRWP Monitoring Committee web page and periodic messages via the web-based listserv.

- Host approximately quarterly Monitoring Committee meetings in relatively central locations, open to anyone and accessible online.

- Present updates at SRWP’s annual stakeholder meeting and annual watershed forum.

- Serve as a clearinghouse for linking monitoring funding needs with funding opportunities; support funding proposals by soliciting technical reviews and letters of support.

- Encourage and support monitoring entities to contribute relevant information to the Central Valley Monitoring Directory and to the CEDEN regional data center.

- Coordinate with other regional initiatives: CV-SALTS, Central Valley Drinking Water Policy Workgroup.

- Share updates on monitoring stations (e.g., status, monitored conditions and constituents) in committee meetings (and in the Central Valley Monitoring Directory).

- Provide or support tours on watershed themes to interested guests.
Level 2 RMP Tasks:

- Facilitate technical training for BMP selection, design, and implementation
- Identify monitoring priorities and conduct a monitoring gap analysis.
- Develop a coordinated monitoring plan that integrates all ongoing monitoring programs.
- Facilitate technical training for monitoring program designers, field crews, analytical labs, and program managers.
- Support in producing and uploading SWAMP-comparable data into CEDEN.
- Provide input for and review the bi-annual 305(b) report for water bodies in the watershed.
- Support special studies conducted by others by providing access to regional experts and implementers, reviewing or participating in the development of study designs and implementation.
Level 3 RMP Tasks:

- Synoptic toxicity testing of water and sediments
- Synoptic biological indicator monitoring for regional benchmarking and comparison
- Climate change effects
- Simulation modeling of the sources, transport, and transformations of a condition or constituent of concern (e.g., SPARROW, WARMF, WEAP)
- Integrated watershed assessment
- Contaminant source tracking
- Project-level effectiveness monitoring (pre- and post-implementation)
Sacramento River Watershed
Regional Monitoring Program

- Encompasses the entire Sacramento River watershed
- Communicate and coordinate with other RMPs
- SRWP lead RMP effort
  - Board of Trustees
  - Nonprofit status
  - Shared mission
  - Monitoring
  - Stakeholder coordination
  - Monitoring Committee
Recommended RMP Organizational Structure for the SRWP:

**Sacramento River Watershed RMP**

- **Steering Committee**
  - Meet regularly to receive updates and provide input into the management of the RMP.
  - Give input into the annual monitoring plan, budget, contracts, and monitoring report.
  - Representatives from RMP funders
  - SRWP Board representative
  - Active monitoring collaborators (e.g., USGS, DWR, SWAMP)
  - Technical Advisory Committee representatives

- **RMP Manager**
  - Manage the RMP on a daily basis.
  - Report to the Steering Committee and ensures the Committee’s direction is followed.

- **Technical Advisory Committee**
  - Provide assistance as needed to the Steering Committee and RMP Manager.

- **SRWP Board of Trustees**
  - RMP funders and partners should be represented on Board

- **SRWP Executive Director**
  - Manage all SRWP activities, coordinate among SRWP committees

- **RMP Monitoring Team**
  - Conduct sampling and analyses for the RMP.
  - Provide assistance as needed to Committees and RMP Manager.
  - Consisting of:
    - Monitoring Team Leader
    - Field sampling personnel
    - Analytical laboratories
    - Database manager
    - Data analyst

- **Ad Hoc Workgroups**
  - Address specific issues such as:
    - Priority constituents (e.g., mercury, pesticides)
    - Regulatory drivers (e.g., TMDLs, permits)
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Funding $$$:

- SWAMP
- IRWM
- USEPA
- Stakeholders
For more information:

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