

Biological Objective for Perennial and Seasonal Streams

Perennial and seasonal streams¹ shall support biological conditions consistent with unaltered reference streams. Compliance with this objective is determined using the California Stream Condition Index (CSCI). CSCI scores less than the 10th percentile of the reference calibration sites do not meet the biological objective. However, where the cause of a low CSCI score is natural in origin, compliance with the biological objective may be determined using an alternate analytical method approved by the San Diego Water Board. Alternative analytical methods include, but are not limited to: “Algal Index of Biotic Integrity for Southern California Streams” scores, “California Rapid Assessment Method” (CRAM) scores, and sediment or water chemistry.

*Table TBD. CSCI Score Threshold
for Perennial and Seasonal Streams*

<u>Threshold</u>	<u>CSCI Score</u>
10 th Percentile or Greater	≥ 0.79

^{FN 1} For the purpose of this objective, “seasonal streams” means freshwater streams that are expected to be inundated with flowing water for at least four weeks between the months of February and October, except during periods of atypical or extreme drought. Seasonal streams have sufficient flows to conduct bioassessment sampling for stream aquatic benthic macroinvertebrates in most years. Seasonal streams do not include those streams that only exhibit ephemeral flow, which is flow that occurs only during or immediately following (e.g. 24-48 hours) rainfall events.