

# RAPID TRASH ASSESSMENT WORKSHEET

Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program, San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board

WATERSHED/STREAM: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE/TIME: \_\_\_\_\_  
 MONITORING GROUP, STAFF: \_\_\_\_\_ SAMPLE ID NO. \_\_\_\_\_  
 SITE DESCRIPTION (Station Name, No., etc.): \_\_\_\_\_

Trash Assessment Parameter	CONDITION CATEGORY			
	Optimal	Sub optimal	Marginal	Poor
<b>1. Level of Trash</b>	On first glance, no trash visible; little or no trash evident when streambed and streambanks are closely examined for litter and debris, for instance by looking under leaves.	On first glance, little or no trash visible; after close inspection small levels of trash evident in streambank and streambed.	Trash is evident in low to medium levels on first glance. Streambank surfaces and immediate riparian zone contain litter and debris. Evidence of site being used by people: scattered cans, bottles, blankets, and/or clothing.	Trash distracts the eye on first glance. Streambank surfaces and immediate riparian zone contain substantial levels of litter and debris. Evidence of site being used frequently by people: many cans & bottles, food wrappers, manmade shelters, blankets, and/or piles of clothing.
SCORE	20 19 18 17 16	15 14 13 12 11	10 9 8 7 6	5 4 3 2 1 0
<b>2. Actual Number of Trash Items Found</b>	0 to 5 trash items based on a rapid survey of a 100-foot stream reach.	6 to 25 trash items based on a rapid survey of a 100-foot stream reach.	26 to 50 trash items based on a rapid survey of a 100-foot stream reach.	Over 50 trash items based on a rapid survey of a 100-foot stream reach.
SCORE	20 19 18 17 16	15 14 13 12 11	10 9 8 7 6	5 4 3 2 1 0
<b>3. Threat to Aquatic Life</b>	Trash, if any, is mostly paper or wood products or other biodegradable materials.  Note: A large amount of rapidly biodegradable material like food waste creates high oxygen demand, and should not be scored as optimal.	Little or no persistent, buoyant, and small litter or debris. Presence of settleable, degradable, and non-toxic debris such as wood, glass, metal, and degradable plastics such as foamed plastics.	Medium prevalence of persistent (plastic, synthetic rubber or cloth), toxic, buoyant, and small litter such as: plastic bags; pellets; cigarette butts; large deposits of settleable debris such as glass or metal; and any evidence of small clumps of deposited yard waste or leaf litter.	Large amount of persistent (plastic, synthetic rubber or cloth), toxic, buoyant, and small (transportable) trash such as: cigarette butts; plastic bags; plastic pellets; batteries or other toxic substances; and large clumps of yard waste or dumped leaf litter.
SCORE	20 19 18 17 16	15 14 13 12 11	10 9 8 7 6	5 4 3 2 1 0
<b>4. Threat to Human Health</b>	Observable trash contains no evidence of bacteria or virus hazards such as medical waste, diapers, pet or human waste, no evidence of toxic substances such as pesticides or batteries, no ponded water for mosquito production & no evidence of puncture or laceration hazards associated with the observed litter or debris.	No medical waste or sources of toxic substances, but any presence of puncture or laceration hazards such as broken glass and metal debris. Or presence of ponded water in trash items such as tires or containers that could facilitate mosquito production.	Presence of <b>one</b> of the following: hypodermic needles, pipettes, or other medical waste ; any used diapers or pet waste within the stream channel or where runoff could carry materials to waterbody; any toxic substance such as pesticides, batteries, or fluorescent light bulbs (mercury).	Presence of <b>more than one</b> of the following: any hypodermic needles, pipettes, or other medical waste; used diapers or pet waste within the stream channel or where runoff could carry materials to waterbody; any toxic substances such as pesticides, batteries, or fluorescent light bulbs (mercury); ponded water in trash items.
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### TRASH ITEM TALLY (Tally with ( ) if found below high water line, and (•) if above)

<b>PLASTIC</b>	<b>METAL</b>
Plastic Bags	Aluminum Foil
Plastic Bottles	Aluminum or Steel Cans
Plastic Bottle Caps	Bottle Caps
Plastic Cup Lid/Straw	Metal Pipe Segments
Plastic Pipe Segments	Auto Parts (specify below)
Plastic Six-Pack Rings	Wire (barb, chicken wire etc.)
Plastic Wrapper	Metal Object
Soft Plastic Pieces	<b>LARGE (specify below)</b>
Hard Plastic Pieces	Appliances
Styrofoam cups pieces	Furniture
Styrofoam Pellets	Garbage Bags of Trash
Fishing Line	Tires
Tarp	Shopping Carts
Other (write-in)	Other (write-in)
<b>BIOHAZARD</b>	<b>TOXIC</b>
Human Waste/Diapers	Chemical Containers
Pet Waste	Oil/Surfactant on Water
Syringes or Pipettes	Spray Paint Cans
Dead Animals	Lighters
Other (write-in)	Small Batteries
<b>CONSTRUCTION DEBRIS</b>	Vehicle Batteries      Cigarette Butts
Concrete (not placed)	Other (write-in)
Rebar	<b>BIODEGRADABLE</b>
Bricks	Paper
Wood Debris	Cardboard
Other (write-in)	Food Waste
<b>MISCELLANEOUS</b>	Yard Waste (incl. trees)
Synthetic Rubber	Leaf Litter Piles
Foam Rubber	Other (write-in)
Balloons	<b>GLASS</b>
Ceramic pots/shards	Glass bottles
Hose Pieces	Glass pieces
Golf Balls	<b>FABRIC AND CLOTH</b>
Tennis Balls	Synthetic Fabric
Other (write-in)	Natural Fabric (cotton, wool)
Other (write-in)	Other (write-in)

**SPECIFIC DESCRIPTION OF ITEMS FOUND (if any):**

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