

Stream Pollution Trends Program: Second Report on Initial Trends in Chemical Contamination, Toxicity, and Land Use in California Watersheds (*Lilian Busse*)

The Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program (SWAMP) supports long-term trend monitoring of aquatic life beneficial use attainment in water bodies throughout the State of California. The Stream Pollution Trends program (SPoT) is one of these long-term trend monitoring programs. Toxicity and a suite of pesticides, trace metals, and industrial compounds are measured annually in sediments deposited near the bases of 100 large, mixed land-use watersheds throughout the State. In April of 2012, SPoT released its first report on results from data collected in 2008. Information on the first report was summarized in the [June 2012 Executive Officers Report](#). In March of 2013, SPoT released its second report on results from data collected in 2009-2010. Attachment is the State Water Board's media release announcing the results, titled "*Pyrethroid pesticides increase in latest pollution trends monitoring study of California stream bed sediments.*"

The results from the second report show that from 2008-2010, overall toxicity remained stable with significant toxicity observed in approximately 22% of the sediment samples (with 7% of the samples being identified as highly toxic). Pyrethroid pesticides, manufactured pesticides used in many household insecticides, demonstrated an increasing trend in sediments. In the San Diego region, highly toxic sediment samples were collected in the Tijuana River. Pyrethroids were detected at all sites that were sampled in the San Diego region, and the average total concentration of pyrethroids increased almost five-fold from 2008 to 2010. The Tijuana River had one of the highest pyrethroid concentrations measured in California.

Beginning in 2013, SPoT will be collaborating with the California Department of Pesticide Regulation to evaluate the effectiveness of new label restrictions on the use of pyrethroids in urban applications. Intensive monitoring will be conducted on four sites to determine whether new regulations results in reduced environmental pyrethroid concentrations. Also, SPoT will continue to monitor the SPoT sites over the next several years.

The SPoT report, "*Initial Trends in Chemical Contamination, Toxicity and Land Use in California Watersheds*" is available on the SWAMP website at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/swamp/docs/workplans/spot9rpt.pdf

The fact sheet is available here:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/swamp/docs/workplans/spot9factsht.pdf