



Mapping of the Distribution of Colorado River Basin Region's Perennial and Intermittent

What is it?

Working in collaboration with the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project (SCCWRP) and California State University, Northridge, the Colorado River Basin Region SWAMP program is developing a regional geographic information system (GIS) mapping database to plot the extent and locations of all natural perennial and non-perennial waterways, and constructed waterways within the region. This mapping began in 2012 and will continue through 2014.

Why is it important?

Basic inventories of the location, extent and distribution of both natural and constructed waterways within the region are necessary to support a regional monitoring program. Currently, the region lacks such inventories and mapping. As new protection policies and programs are developed at the state and regional levels, more complete information on the extent and condition of all aquatic resources in the region will be required. The objective, therefore, is to create a mapping database of the region's natural perennial and non-perennial waters, wetlands, and other aquatic resources.

How will this information be used?

The information generated by this mapping effort will be used by all Regional Board programs as the cornerstone for all future projects within the region. It will assist staff by providing them a comprehensive and current reference source for all water bodies within the region. From the data, the region will create a rule-based system for identifying a physical signature of where potential perennial stream sites may occur.