



Los Angeles River Watershed Monitoring Program

What is it?

The Los Angeles River Watershed Monitoring Program (LARWMP) was initiated in 2008 as a collaborative effort between SWAMP and local stakeholders, including the City of Los Angeles, City of Burbank, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works, Council for Watershed Health, and other interested stakeholders. The monitoring program is designed to answer five specific questions of interest to a broad range of stakeholders within the region: 1) What is the environmental health of streams in the overall watershed?; 2) Are the conditions at areas of unique importance getting better or worse?; 3) Are receiving waters near discharges meeting water quality objectives?; 4) Are local fish safe to eat?; and 5) Is body contact recreation safe?

A symposium was held on October 10, 2013, to discuss the state of the Los Angeles River Watershed. More than 150 interested stakeholders attended the conference to discuss the results of monitoring over the past five years, which define the “present condition” of the watershed. However, since numerous agents are expected to significantly alter the water quality condition and recreational opportunities over the next ten years, attendees also discussed how to adaptively manage the watershed through future decisions on such issues as Los Angeles River Revitalization efforts, total maximum daily loads for bacteria and metals, fire management in the Angeles National Forest, and implementation of new stormwater ordinances and green infrastructure projects.

Why is it important?

Annual results from the ambient assessment provide a means to evaluate the overall health of the watershed, as well as context for evaluating water quality and stream conditions below permitted

discharge locations. Results also help to identify areas where expanded monitoring or special studies should be focused.

How will this information be used?

The data will be used to assess the overall health of the Los Angeles River Watershed, and to provide information on whether it is safe for humans to eat fish from lakes in the watershed and whether it is safe to swim at popular recreational sites. The data also will be used to inform Regional Board management on appropriate actions that may be required to improve the health of the watershed. The data will be used to help identify waters that are impaired for inclusion on the Clean Water Act's 303(d) list.

Annual reports are produced for the Los Angeles River Watershed and posted on the [Council for Watershed Health's website](#). The public may access water quality data from the Los Angeles River Regional Monitoring Program Portal, also available at this website.