



San Diego River Watershed Monitoring and Assessment Program and Watershed Report Cards

What is it?

The San Diego River Watershed Monitoring and Assessment Program was developed to improve the coordination and usefulness of various monitoring and assessment efforts in the San Diego River watershed. The program is an integrated monitoring program created by a broad stakeholder workgroup of representatives from federal, State, and local agencies; water districts; non-profit organizations; universities; research institutes; and a facilitator. The program design was supported by SWAMP funds allocated to the San Diego Water Board and was drafted in accordance with the San Diego Water Board’s Framework for Monitoring and Assessment.

San Diego River Watershed Assessment							
Group Number 5							
Group Number	Group Name	Year	GroupID	Biological Indicators	Biological Stressors	Habitat Stressors	Water Quality Stressors
5	HA	2001					Poor
		2002	Lower San Diego				Poor
			El Capitan				Poor
		2003	Lower San Diego				Poor
		2004	Lower San Diego				Poor
			El Capitan	Poor			Poor
			Lower San Diego	Poor			Poor
			San Vicente	Poor			Poor
		2005	Boulder Creek	Poor			Poor
			El Capitan	Poor			Poor
			Lower San Diego				Poor
			San Vicente	Poor			Poor
		2006	Lower San Diego	Poor			Poor
		2007	Boulder Creek	Poor			Poor
			El Capitan	Poor			Poor
			Lower San Diego		Excellent		Fair
			San Vicente	Poor			Poor
		2008	Boulder Creek	Poor	Good		Excellent
			El Capitan	Poor			Poor
			Lower San Diego	Poor	Good	Fair	Poor
			NA		Excellent	Excellent	
			San Vicente	Poor	Fair		
		2009	Boulder Creek	Poor	Good	Excellent	Excellent
			El Capitan	Fair			Excellent
			Lower San Diego		Good	Poor	Poor
			NA		Excellent	Excellent	
			San Vicente	Poor	Poor		
		2010	Boulder Creek	Poor	Fair	Good	Fair
			El Capitan	Poor		Good	Fair

Draft Watershed Report Cards, San Diego River Watershed

The purpose of the program is to provide a structure for periodic and comprehensive assessments of watershed conditions, expand monitoring of ambient conditions related to key beneficial uses, and improve coordination and cost-effectiveness of disparate regulatory and non-regulatory monitoring efforts already taking place in the watershed. The program design is based on the four core beneficial use questions: (1) Are aquatic ecosystems healthy? (2) Is water quality safe for swimming? (3) Are fish and shellfish safe to eat? (4) Is water safe to drink?

In order to communicate results of the monitoring program in a meaningful manner, the workgroup developed a Watershed Report Card approach to evaluate the design of existing monitoring programs

and the information they produce. This exercise highlighted data gaps associated with poor spatial and temporal coverage, a lack of effective indicators for some beneficial uses, the absence of appropriate thresholds for evaluating monitoring data, and weak mechanisms for coordinating data and findings across multiple programs.

Since completion of the technical report in January 2014 describing the design of the San Diego River Monitoring and Assessment Program and draft report cards, the workgroup has made substantial progress on coordinating sampling efforts and collecting data. The workgroup recently created a Watershed Science Institute at the San Diego State University that will establish a formal link between the University's academic and degree programs and the water resource management and assessment programs in the watershed.

Why is it important?

The San Diego River Watershed Monitoring and Assessment Program is important because it will ensure that useful data is collected and made accessible to decision makers. After implementation of the monitoring program, the report cards will show the status and trends of water quality and ecosystem health, which can guide multiple decision-making processes, and offer a transparent means of informing the stakeholders about ecosystem health. Also, the project focuses on coordination among different Water Board programs, which will improve consistency and efficiency among the programs and result in resource savings.

How will this information be used?

The data produced by this project will be used in water body assessments under the Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 305(b). It may also inform future monitoring and regulatory actions. The data will be available to the public through the California Environmental Data Exchange Network (CEDEN). A fact sheet on this study will be shared and communicated to stakeholders and other interested parties. The final Watershed Report Cards will be made available to the stakeholders groups in the San Diego region.

For more information:

- Download the final report of the San Diego River Watershed Monitoring and Assessment Program on the [San Diego Water Board](http://www.sandiegowaterboard.com) website.