C-11-III.1 PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

Passage of an amendment to the Clean Water Act in 1987, the Water Quality Act, brought stormwater discharges into the NPDES Program and subsequent EPA regulations required municipal NPDES Permit applicants to develop a management program to effectively address the requirements of the Act.

In response to these regulations, the County of Orange (the Principal Permittee), the Orange County Flood Control District and incorporated cities (all three collectively referred to as Permittees) obtained NPDES Stormwater Permits No. CA 8000180 and No. CA 0108740 (subsequently referred to as the First Term Permits) from the Santa Ana and San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Boards. In 1996, the First Term Permits were replaced by Permits Nos. CAS0108740 and CAS618030 (subsequently referred to as the Second Term Permits). These were subsequently replaced by the Third Term Permits in 2002 and by the Fourth Term Permits in 2009.

The monitoring programs developed and implemented to address the requirements of these permits were fairly consistent between regions (with respect to sampling methods and analytes) for the First and Second Term Permits. For the Third Term Permits the monitoring programs for each region began to diverge with each program containing elements to address specific issues such as Selenium and organochlorine pesticides in the Newport Bay watershed, or impacts of urban runoff on the ecologically sensitive coastal receiving waters in southern Orange County.

The evolution of the monitoring conducted for the NPDES Municipal Stormwater Permits issued by Region 8 is illustrated in the diagram below.

First Term Permit

- Track compliance
- Estimate stormwater pollutant loads
- Identify pollutant sources with wet/dry weather field screening
- Address areas of special concern

Second Term Permit

- Continue First Term Permit monitoring
- Track compliance
- Re-evaluate priority issues
- Develop 99-04 Plan

Second Term 99-04 Plan

- Track compliance
- Document environmental quality trends at "Warm" Spots
- Assess conditions at Critical Aquatic Resources (CARs)
- Evaluate stormwater's contribution to beneficial use impairment

Third Term Permit

- Track compliance
- Continue trends monitoring
- Enhanced monitoring of bay, estuary, marsh receiving waters
  - ♦Expanded chemical analyses of water and benthic sediments
  - ♦Benthic infaunal analyses
  - ♦Sediment toxicity
- Stream bioassessment and physical habitat assessment
- Toxicity testing of dry weather and stormwater runoff
- Pathogen indicators in coastal stormdrains and regional channels
- Impacts from changing landuses in the San Diego Creek watershed
- Enhanced dry weather reconnaissance of MS4 connections
- TMDL monitoring
- Participation in regional monitoring programs

Fourth Term Permit

- Track compliance
- Continue trends monitoring
- Continue bay, estuary, marsh receiving water monitoring
- Continue pathogen monitoring of coastal stormdrains/regional channels
- Continue bioassessment monitoring through participation in SCCWRP regional program
- Address expanded set of issues
  - ♦Enhancement of source investigation methods
  - ♦Stormwater load characterization of specific landuse types
  - ♦Stormwater load characterization from reference areas
  - ♦More comprehensive pollutant source characterizations

C-11-III.2 Pre-NPDES Water Quality Monitoring

From 1973 to 1990, the Principal Permittee conducted routine water quality monitoring on drainage facilities which are tributary to water bodies identified as waters of the state by the Regional Boards. Beginning in 1978, the receiving waters (Newport Bay, Huntington Harbour, Bolsa Bay, and Dana Point Harbor) were also monitored routinely to assess impacts from discharges of stormdrain runoff on the beneficial uses of those receiving waters.

When the monitoring program was initiated in 1973, monthly nutrient and trace element sampling was performed at several flood control channels, creeks and streams. Sediment samples were collected semiannually to assess the impact of contaminant deposition and adsorption. Additional constituents such as mercury, selenium, organochlorine pesticides, PCBs and radioactivity were also evaluated on a semiannual basis to address public concerns regarding the pollution threat from these constituents. In 1978, the monitoring expanded to the receiving waters of the County's stormdrain system. Several locations in the Upper and Lower Newport Bay, Huntington Harbour, and Dana Point Harbor were monitored to assess the impacts of urban runoff.

C-11-IIIII-1.3 First Term Permit Water Quality Monitoring

In order to bring the pre-NPDES water quality monitoring program into conformance with the 1990 federal NPDES regulations and the First Term Permit objectives, a field screening element was added and the spatial extent of monitoring was expanded (more flood control channels and receiving water sites) .

The First Term Permit water quality monitoring program consisted of field screening for illegal discharges and illicit connections (channels only); dry-weather and stormwater runoff monitoring in regional flood control channels to assess aquatic chemistry relative to applicable water quality criteria, and to calculate pollutant loads: and receiving water monitoring in harbors and estuaries to evaluate the impacts of urban runoff during dry weather and stormwater runoff conditions.

C-11-III.4 Second Term Permit Water Quality Monitoring

While the First Term Permit monitoring program produced useful information, the Permittees recognized (as did many others across the Country) the high degree of uncertainty regarding the link between urban stormwater runoff and actual impairment of beneficial uses within the aquatic resources of Orange County.

Therefore, in response to the Second Term Permit objectives, the Permittees conducted a systematic re-evaluation of the water quality monitoring program which led to a re-statement of the monitoring program's primary goals. The primary and parallel goals of the monitoring program were re-stated as:

- To determine the role, if any, of urban stormwater discharges in the impairment of beneficial uses; and
- To provide technical information to support effective urban stormwater management program actions to reduce the beneficial use impairment determined to be associated with urban stormwater.

In order to organize the monitoring activities needed to carry out the objectives and goals, the Permittees identified three separate key elements within the Final Monitoring Program (May 1999). These three key elements are:

- A focus on known sites (or Warm Spots) where constituents were substantially above system-wide averages;
- A parallel (and somewhat overlapping) focus on areas of critical aquatic concern (CARs); and
- A countywide reconnaissance program to identify specific sources of contamination from sub-watershed areas as well as specific land use investigations in order to evaluate the effectiveness of a variety of Best Management Practices (BMPs).

The monitoring program included an underlying rationale for each monitoring element, a discussion of how monitoring data would be used in decision-making, identification of potential links to other relevant monitoring programs being carried out by other agencies, a description of the basic monitoring design, identification of additional study design steps, and a description of anticipated monitoring activities.

These monitoring elements include many locations from the pre-NPDES and First Term Permit water quality monitoring programs that were of value because of the length of their historical record. Each key element of the second term monitoring program contained a description of the monitoring activities proposed to accomplish the objectives described above, as well as a description of the process for making decisions about how the monitoring program would respond to incoming data over time. This process was intended be used at any time throughout the life of the monitoring program to re-evaluate the direction of the program, or to reassess the appropriate allocation of resources within the program.

The Second Term monitoring program and subsequent elements utilized a five-year timeline (1998 - 2003) for addressing the goals/objectives associated with each task.

C-11-III.1.5 Third Term Permit Water Quality Monitoring Under Order R8-2002-0010

In the fall of 2005, the Permittees implemented the Third Term Permit monitoring program in the Santa Ana Region. The design of the monitoring program was based on “The Model Monitoring Program for Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems in Southern California” developed by the Southern California Monitoring Coalition (SMC). The SMC is a multi-agency group of southern California municipal stormwater agencies, Regional Water Boards, Region 9 of the USEPA, and the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project (SCCWRP). Orange County played a major role in the development of that model program.

The Third Term Permit monitoring program continued and expanded the previous monitoring program’s emphasis on assessing impacts on aquatic resources, documenting long-term trends in water quality, targeting problematic discharge sites for more focused investigations, and added additional monitoring elements. This program extended stormwater monitoring to a broader range of locations and to a wider array of methods for measuring impacts. For example, the Third Term Permit monitoring plan more completely examined storm drains that discharge directly to the coast and pose a potential health risk to swimmers and bathers. In the Upper and Lower Newport Bays, Huntington

Harbour, Bolsa Bay and Talbert Marsh, sediments were analyzed for chemistry, benthic infaunal assemblage, and toxicity. Inland, the monitoring plan included bioassessment and physical habitat assessment of creeks, along with aquatic toxicity testing. These assessments using multiple lines of evidence were intended to describe impacts more fully; more accurately identify their sources, and target follow-up studies and BMPs more effectively.

The overall monitoring approach and methods are summarized in the following sections.

C-11-III.6 Fourth Term Permit Water Quality Monitoring Under Order R-2009-0030 (NPDES CAS618030)

Section III. 1. of the Monitoring and Reporting Program in Order R-2009-0030 states that the permittees shall continue to implement the 2003 Monitoring Program, review it on an annual basis, and determine the need for any modifications.

The objectives of the Fourth Term Permit included the objectives of the Third Term Permit with three additional items. These objectives from the Fourth Term Permit with the three additions (8-10) are:

1. To develop and support an effective municipal urban runoff pollutant source control program.
2. To define water quality status, trends, and pollutants of concern associated with urban runoff and their impact on the beneficial uses of the receiving waters.
3. To characterize pollutants associated with urban runoff and to assess the influence of urban land uses on water quality and the beneficial uses of receiving waters.
4. To identify significant water quality problems related to urban runoff.
5. To identify other sources of pollutants in urban runoff to the maximum extent possible (e.g., atmospheric deposition, contaminated sediments, other non-point sources, etc.)
6. To identify and prohibit illicit discharges.
7. To identify those waters, which without additional action to control pollution from urban storm water discharges, cannot reasonably be expected to attain or maintain applicable water quality standards required to sustain the beneficial uses in the Basin Plan (TMDL monitoring).
8. To determine unit loading rates from different urban land use categories.
9. To determine reference loads and concentrations from un-impacted areas of Orange County including sediment loads from open spaces at the foothills.
10. To determine runoff concentrations and loads as close as possible to the source (e.g., golf courses, restaurants, etc.)
11. To evaluate the effectiveness of existing urban runoff water quality management programs, including an estimate of pollutant reductions achieved by the structural and nonstructural BMPs implemented by the permittees. This should also include a determination of concentrations and unit loads that are achievable upon BMP implementation.
12. To evaluate costs and benefits of proposed municipal storm water quality control programs to the stakeholders, including the public.

C-11-III.1.7 Additional Local Water Quality Monitoring

Any additional water quality monitoring conducted individually by the Permittees is described and summarized within the Program Effectiveness Assessment (PEA) of the respective Permittee.

C-11-III.2 Monitoring Approach

The Monitoring Program developed and implemented under the Third Term Permit and continued under the Fourth Term Permit is intended to address the objectives of those permits (with the proviso that evaluating the overall effectiveness and cost-benefit relationships of municipal stormwater programs, including specific BMPs, requires further effort beyond the scope of the water quality monitoring program outlined in the permit).

Each of the following eight Monitoring Program elements directly addresses specific Third Term Permit objectives:

Mass emissions monitoring:	Using measurements of a range of urban contaminants, loads, as well as exceedances of relevant water quality criteria, evaluate trends over time.
Estuary / wetlands monitoring:	Using measurements of key pollutants, loads, and biological community parameters, describe impacts on estuarine and wetlands ecosystems and the relationship of any impacts to runoff, based on theoretical and empirical expectations about the structure and function of healthy communities.
Bacteriological / pathogen monitoring:	Using measurements of a suite of bacterial indicators, identify spatial and temporal patterns of elevated level in order to prioritize problem areas.
Bioassessment:	Using multiple lines of evidence (bioassessment, physical habitat, chemistry, toxicity), describe impacts on stream communities and the relationship of any impacts to runoff, based on comparisons with reference locations and a regional Index of Biotic Integrity (IBI) on a year-to-year timeframe.
Dry Weather Reconnaissance:	Using measurements of key pollutants, identify potential illegal discharges and illicit connections, based on comparison with historical data and available estimates of background levels.
TMDL/303(d) listed water body monitoring – nutrient TMDL	Using measurements of nutrients, track progress of nutrient control measures over time, based on comparison with TMDL targets.
TMDL/303(d) listed water body monitoring - toxics TMDL	Using measurements of key pollutants, identify potential sources and pathways of toxic compounds and track progress of control measures over time, based on comparison with TMDL targets.

The monitoring for the land use correlation study was completed during the 2008-09 reporting year. Program elements to address objectives 8-10 from the Fourth Term Permit will be phased in during the next two monitoring years. A program to better assess the character of discharges from specific problem sources (objective 10) will evolve from the Reconnaissance program element.

The continuing evolution of the Monitoring Program has enhanced the Permittee's ability to better identify problem areas in the MS4, more clearly define sources of pollution, and assess impacts from urban runoff on receiving waters. For example, the reconnaissance program (focused on identifying illegal discharges and illicit connections) will make use of the growing databases of chemicals used at commercial and industrial facilities resulting from the cities' ongoing inventories of such facilities. A web-based database with real-time reporting features has been added to the reconnaissance program to allow the Permittees to view the results of investigations (photographs and field laboratory analyses) as soon as they can be uploaded by the field reconnaissance teams. The database also contains a GIS library of drainage facilities to aid the reconnaissance team and the Permittees in source tracking. The permittees are also evaluating the use of more human-specific markers to differentiate between human and animal sources of fecal indicator bacteria in the MS4.

The estuary/wetlands program element has added additional sediment chemistry analyses and toxicity testing to allow evaluation of a site relative the Phase I Sediment Quality Objectives (SQO) from the State Water Resources Control Board. Overall, the Monitoring Program described in the following sections has expanded its focus to identifying the sources of problems, while continuing important historical data collection on trends at key sites.

C-11-III.3 Description of Monitoring Procedures

C-11-III.3.1 Mass Emissions Monitoring

Time-composite sampling and continuously recording streamgauges are used as the primary methods of monitoring the concentrations and loads of constituents at their Mass Emissions sites. The sampling is conducted with automatic samplers that consist of programmable pumps (peristaltic) that transport water from the channel to a collection reservoir in the sampler base. The collection reservoir can be a single large composite bottle or a series of up to 24 bottles. The sampler program can be modified to vary sample volumes and frequency of collection. Two automatic samplers are used at each Mass Emissions site. One sampler is used for monitoring water chemistry and the other is used for monitoring aqueous toxicity.

To collect samples for the analysis of water chemistry, 8, 1.8-liter glass bottles are used in the sampler base. The water chemistry sampler is programmed to collect three discrete samples per 1.8-liter bottle. To collect samples for toxicity testing, a single 5-gallon glass bottle is used in the second sampler base. The two samplers are programmed to collect at the same frequency to maintain the consistency between the composite samples produced by each.

The Program attempts to monitor three storms at each Mass Emissions site during the year. For each storm the water chemistry is monitored with a series of 3 to 5 composite samples collectively spanning approximately 96-hours. The sampling for toxicity testing is coincident with just one of these composite samples. The Permittees following temporal segments of storms are monitored for toxicity.

- Storm 1 – first flush (first hour of storm);
- Storms 2 – 24-hour period beginning three hours after the initiation of the first flush sampling by the water chemistry sampler.

For dry weather discharge evaluations, the automatic samplers are programmed to collect a discrete sample once an hour for a 24-hour period. During each monitored storm the automatic sampling programs are initiated when the water level in the channel rise above a triggering device (level actuator or flow meter) connected to the respective sampler. When possible, a single triggering device is used to trigger both samplers simultaneously. For the water chemistry sampler (and the toxicity sampler during the first storm) the frequency of collection during the first hour of a storm is set at 1 sample per 12 minutes. After the sixth sample is collected at the one-hour mark, the collection frequency is decreased to once every 2 hours. Sampling of water chemistry spans approximately 96 hours to allow comparison of the data to 4-day (96-hour) guidance criteria for chronic aquatic toxicity from the California Toxics Rule (CTR). The concentrations of dissolved heavy metals in each of the composite samples collected during a storm can be compared to acute toxicity criteria from the CTR. The concentrations of organophosphate pesticides can be compared to literature values of LC_{50}s for the pesticide-sensitive toxicity testing organisms used.

Sampler maintenance is performed periodically throughout a storm to change sample bottles, icepacks, and power supplies.

The first six samples collected during the first hour of each storm are composited and represent the "first flush". The remaining bi-hourly storm samples are used to prepare composite samples that are representative of the subsequent parts of the storm. Unless a 24-hour composite sample is prepared for comparison to toxicity testing results, the samples beyond the first flush are composited using the water level hydrograph for the channel, or by evaluating the specific conductance of the samples in each bottle. Using water level hydrographs from the Principal Permittee's Automated Local Evaluation in Real Time (ALERT) system as a guide, samples collected beyond the first flush and representing the storm peak and recession are composited into a single sample. Storms spanning multiple days are broken up into two or more composite samples.

Water chemistry samples are analyzed for pH, specific conductance, turbidity, nitrate + nitrite, ammonia, total Kjehldahl Nitrogen (TKN), total phosphate, orthophosphate, dissolved and total organic carbon, total suspended and settleable solids, volatile suspended solids, chloride, sulfate, and total recoverable and dissolved cadmium, copper, chromium, lead, nickel, selenium, silver, and zinc. Priority pollutant scans (except asbestos and Dioxin) are performed on the first flush of the first monitored storm of the year at each site. Grab samples are collected at the time of sampler servicing and submitted for bacteriological analyses.

An aliquot of each sample collected for total recoverable metals analyses are filtered with a 0.45 micron groundwater filter. The filtered and the unfiltered fractions are then preserved with ultra-pure grade nitric acid prior to submittal for analysis.

Toxicity of stormwater runoff samples are evaluated using three toxicity tests with marine organisms. Aliquots from each stormwater sample are salinity-adjusted by the laboratory to the proper range for the respective testing organism. The toxicity due to pesticides is measured using the mysid (*Mysidopsis bahia* a.k.a. *Americamysis bahia*) survival and growth test. The toxicity due to dissolved metals is measured using the sea urchin (*Stronglyocentrotus purpuratus*) fertilization test. In the Newport Bay watershed stormwater toxicity tests also include testing with freshwater organisms. These tests include *Ceriodaphnia dubia* survival and reproduction.

During dry-weather monitoring the toxicity tests are conducted only with freshwater organisms. The tests include *Ceriodaphnia* survival and reproduction, *Selenastrum* growth, and *Hyalella azteca* survival. At a few sites in the Newport Watershed sediment toxicity is evaluated by a 10-day survival test with *Hyalella azteca*.

Time-composite monitoring is supported by the Principal Permittee's precipitation and streamgaging network which consists of recording and/or transmitting Automated Local Evaluation in Real Time (ALERT) gauges. The ALERT precipitation gauges are tipping bucket type with data loggers. Data are recorded and transmitted in digital format. The sensitivity of the ALERT transmitting gauges is 1 mm (0.04 inches) of accumulated rainfall. The recording non-transmitting gauges have a sensitivity of 0.01 inch of rainfall.

Several types of streamgauges are used to monitor changes in water level. The oldest design is the stilling well with water level float; the newer types are manometer gages or pressure transducers. Data (water level versus time) are recorded in analog form on strip charts and/or in digital form on dataloggers. The ALERT interface to these gages consists of a connection from the recorder chart drive to an ALERT shaft encoder. ALERT information is recorded on a data logger and transmitted in digital format to the Principal Permittee's base station in Orange. Sensitivity of the transmitted and recorded ALERT record is user-variable with the greatest sensitivity being a change in water level of 0.01 feet. The sensitivity of these water level gauges however is generally set to a higher increment (e.g. 0.1 foot) to prevent excessive radio transmissions during a storm.

C-11-III.3.2 Estuary / Wetlands Monitoring

Estuary / wetlands monitoring focuses on three receiving waters and their major tributaries. These receiving waters are the Newport Bay, Huntington Harbour / Bolsa Bay, and the Talbert Marsh. Monitoring is conducted at 12 locations in these receiving waters during dry-weather and storm runoff conditions. Because there are significant equipment and manpower demands for monitoring receiving waters and their respective tributaries for a dry-weather or stormwater event, each receiving water system is monitored separately. Dry-weather monitoring consists of 24-hour composite sampling of the tributaries and monitoring the respective receiving waters on the subsequent day. Stormwater monitoring of the tributaries is conducted according to the Mass Emissions monitoring protocol. Sampling of the receiving waters during a storm is conducted over a 4-day period with three samplings, with each sampling separated from the prior sampling by two days.

All the tributary channel sites, with the exception of Talbert Channel, are also mass emissions sites. The mass emissions data for these channels assist in identifying potential relationships between patterns and trends in the estuaries/wetlands and the inputs of key pollutants.

Some sites in receiving waters are situated near the mouths of channels that represent major inputs of runoff, and there is a minimum of one site in each estuary that is free of direct runoff influences from the channels. Comparisons between these two types of sites may help identify differences between the impacts from localized effects (e.g. marina operation) and urban runoff. During an average rainfall year an attempt is made to sample the estuary / wetland sites in Huntington Harbour, Bolsa Bay, and Talbert Marsh during two storm events per year and twice during the dry season.

The following table is a list of the monitoring sites, their respective waterbodies, and tributary channels.

Site	Waterbody	Near Channel Outlet	TMDL Program
UNBJAM	Upper Newport Bay	San Diego Creek	Y
UNBSDC	Upper Newport Bay	Santa Ana Delhi	Y
UNBNSB	Upper Newport Bay		Y
UNBCHB	Upper Newport Bay		Y
LNBTUB	Lower Newport Bay		Y
LNBHIR	Lower Newport Bay		Y
LNBRIN	Lower Newport Bay		only
HUNBCC	Huntington Harbour	Bolsa Chica Channel	
HUNCRB	Huntington Harbour	Sunset Channel	
HUNWAR	Huntington Harbour		
BBOLR	Bolsa Bay		
TGDC05	Bolsa Bay	E.G.G Wintersburg	
TBTMAR	Talbert Marsh	Talbert Channel	

Routine dry-weather monitoring at every site is conducted once prior to the beginning of the storm season (October) and once after the end (May). Dry-weather monitoring is also conducted quarterly at the sites that are part of the Toxics TMDL. Sites in Upper Newport Bay have a somewhat different sampling regime because they are also part of the nutrient TMDL Regional Monitoring Program (RMP) which has a separate set of monitoring requirements. These four sites are monitored monthly throughout the year.

The constituents measured in the tributary input channels are the same as those sampled in the mass emissions element. The constituents measured in the estuaries / wetlands themselves depend on the season, on whether the sample is an aqueous or a sediment sample, and on the location of the monitoring site.

During stormwater events, the monitoring in the receiving waters includes chemical analyses for nutrients, total and dissolved metals, total and dissolved organic carbon, and organophosphate pesticides. In-situ measurements of physical properties are made in the water column from the surface to the bottom at 1-meter increments. These measurements include specific conductance, pH, temperature, and dissolved oxygen. Samples are evaluated for aqueous toxicity using the sea urchin fertilization test and the mysid survival / growth tests. The nutrients samples are collected at the surface to evaluate impacts on plant growth in the photic zone. The other samples (trace metals, pesticides, TOC, DOC, and toxicity) are collected using a depth-integrating, composite technique to determine the average concentrations in the water column.

Quarterly dry-weather monitoring in the receiving waters includes the aqueous analyses described above and a benthic sediment component to evaluate sediment chemistry and sediment toxicity. The sediment chemistry analytes include total organic carbon, particle size distribution, metals, organochlorine pesticides and Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs), Polynuclear Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs), organophosphate pesticides, and pyrethroid pesticides. Sediment toxicity is evaluated using the 10-day amphipod (*Eohaustorius estuarius)* survival test in solid-phase sediment and the 48-hour bivalve (*Mytilus galloprovincialis*) embryo development test at the sediment water interface (SWI).

Once a year, usually during the summer, the benthic sediment sampling also includes monitoring of the benthic invertebrate community for taxonomy.

The Nutrient TMDL program includes monthly dry-weather sampling of the Newport Bay to evaluate the effects from nutrients in the discharge from the San Diego Creek. Samples are collected from the surface, mid-depth, and bottom at four locations in the Upper Bay and one location in the Lower Bay. Monthly monitoring of total nitrogen and phosphorus in the sediments of the Upper Newport Bay was added in the 1999-2000 reporting period to assist with the CARs evaluation.

C-11-III.3.3 Bacteriological / Pathogen Monitoring

The Permittees selected nine coastal stormdrains to monitor the effects of urban runoff on the coastal zone. The following selection criteria were used:

- The stormdrain has an equivalent circular diameter greater than 39-inches or a daily dry-weather discharge volume exceeding 100,000 gallons;
- Outlet of the stormdrain is posted with a warning sign by the Orange County Health Care Agency; and
- The stormdrain and the surfzone are accessible by monitoring staff.

Monitoring is conducted on both the discharge from the stormdrain and the surfzone 25 yards up-coast and 25 yards down-coast of the stormdrain-ocean interface. Grab samples are collected weekly for the analysis of total coliform, fecal coliform, and *Enterococcus* bacteria. At the time of sample collection an estimate of the flow rate from the stormdrain is made and the temperatures of the stormdrain discharge and the surfzone down-coast are measured.

In addition to these nine coastal stormdrains, seven inland channels and/or creeks that are currently impaired for pathogens are also monitored.

The following criteria were established for monitoring:

- Samples are not collected on the day of rainfall;
- Samples are not collected from a stormdrain during the period when its discharge is diverted to a sanitation district; and
- During stormdrain diversion or if the stormdrain is not flowing to the ocean only a sample from the surfzone (down-coast of the stormdrain-ocean interface) is collected.

C-11-III.3.4 Bioassessment

When the Third Term Permit Monitoring Program was first implemented, the Permittees monitored nine urban channels and three reference sites using the California Stream Bioassessment Procedure

(CSBP) established by the California Department of Fish and Game (DF&G). A contract laboratory conducted the bioassessment sampling and taxonomic analyses on behalf of the Permittees. A description of the CSBP can be found at http://www.dfg.ca.gov/cabw/Field/csbpwforms.html.

In order to more thoroughly assess the habitat quality of each bioassessment site, monitoring is conducted using a multiple lines of evidence (MLE) approach. At the time of bioassessment monitoring the Permittees collect grab samples for water chemistry and aqueous toxicity analysis. The suite of chemical constituents is the same as analyzed in the Mass Emissions Program. The aqueous toxicity was evaluated using *Ceriodaphnia dubia* survival and reproduction tests.

The Permittees are currently participating in a multi-year regional bioassessment monitoring program with the Stormwater Monitoring Coalition (SMC), a group of Southern California stormwater agencies, the Regional Boards, and the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project (SCCWRP). Each year, a set of monitoring locations in Southern California watersheds are selected by the SMC to be monitored by the participants. The site assessments are made using Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program (SWAMP-2007) protocols which were authorized for statewide use by SWAMP. These protocols can be found at: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/swamp/

Part of the intent of the regional monitoring program is to refine the characterization of reference quality streams so that benchmarks for baseline conditions can be made.

C-11-III.3.5 Dry Weather Reconnaissance

The Dry Weather Reconnaissance element focuses on over 50 stormdrains in the Santa Ana Region. Most of these drains were identified or "targeted" by the Permittees as potential conduits for illegal discharges and illicit connections. Included in the group of monitored stormdrains is a subset of 16 randomly selected drains from which monitoring data are used to compute regional statistics to establish triggers for source investigations. Monitoring of the "targeted" drains involves five separate visits to each site during the dry season (May 1 – September 30). The random sites are monitored three times during the dry season. Each site visit consisted of a visual reconnaissance, in-situ measurements of physical characteristics (flow rate, specific conductance, pH, temperature, turbidity and dissolved oxygen), and field analysis of nitrate + nitrite, ammonia, reactive orthophosphate, total chlorine, surfactants, dissolved copper and hexavalent chromium, and water hardness. Samples are collected and submitted for laboratory analysis of total suspended solids, dissolved metals, oil and grease, pathogen indicator bacteria and organophosphate pesticides.

Unusual observations or measurements in the field are reported immediately to the respective Permittee representative. Field observations (photographs, in-situ measurements, field laboratory analyses, and comments) are uploaded wirelessly into the Program's CBI database which allows real time interrogation by the Permittees. The field and laboratory results are also entered into a statistical database, which is used to determine if those results warrant additional reconnaissance by the respective Permittee. The "average" condition is determined from analysis of results from randomly selected stormdrains in the region. There are two triggers for upstream watershed reconnaissance. The first is exceedance of the tolerance interval bound based on the average condition established by the random sites. The second is exceedance of the site-specific control chart bound, which has been tentatively established as 3.9 standard deviations above the average (mean) value for any monitored parameter at that site. If two consecutive measurements exceed either trigger level, reconnaissance for the source will be initiated by the Permittee.

C-11-III.3.6 TMDL / 303(d) Listed Waterbody Monitoring (Nutrient TMDL)

Dry Weather Monitoring

During dry weather, composite samples are collected using the methods described in the Mass Emissions section.

Stormwater Runoff Monitoring

During storm events, unless the monitoring location is part of the mass emissions program, composite surface water samples are collected at two (2) hour intervals for a 96-hour period using automatic samplers with Tygon or Teflon-lined strainer tubing. This protocol is different from the mass emissions program in that no “first flush” sample is collected.

Discharge Rate Data

The discharge rate or flow data used to calculate nutrient loadings are collected year round from nine streamgauges in the Newport Bay watershed. Of these nine gauges, seven are operated by the County of Orange and two are operated by the United States Geological Survey (USGS). The locations of these gauges are listed below:

- San Diego Creek at Campus Drive (OC)
- Santa Ana-Delhi upstream of Irvine Avenue (OC)
- Peters Canyon Wash at Barranca Parkway (OC)
- San Diego Creek at Culver Drive (OC)
- El Modena-Irvine at Michelle Drive (OC)
- Lane Channel at McCabe Way (OC)*
- Costa Mesa Channel at Westcliff Drive(OC)*
- Bonita Canyon Creek at MacArthur Boulevard (USGS)
- Agua Chinon Channel at Irvine Boulevard (USGS).

**station not equipped with real-time water level reporting capabilities*
OC – County of Orange

Five of the seven County of Orange operated streamgauges stations are equipped with a continuous water-stage recorder, precipitation gauge and ALERT transmitter/data logger which provide the ability for the County to monitor rainfall and channel water level in real-time. The USGS stations are equipped with continuous water-stage recorders and a satellite telemetry system that can be viewed (with minimal time delay) on the USGS internet home page.

C-11-III.4 Methods of Data Analysis

C-11-III.4.1 Comparison to Water Quality Criteria

California Water Code Section 13170 authorizes the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) to adopt water quality control plans for waters where standards are required by the Federal Clean Water Act (CWA). According to Section 303(c)(2)(B) of the CWA, these plans must contain water quality objectives for priority pollutants that could be reasonably expected to affect the beneficial uses of the waters of the State.

On March 2, 2000, the State adopted the United States Environmental Protection Agency's (USEPA) Rules establishing numeric water quality criteria for priority toxic pollutants (commonly referred to as the California Toxics Rule or CTR) for the State of California. The CTR sets criteria for dissolved heavy metals in freshwater that are based on water hardness, and separate criteria for saltwater. The SWRCB's 2005 *Policy for Implementation of Toxic Standard for Inland Surface Waters, Enclosed Bays, and Estuaries of California*, exempts stormwater discharges from the CTR. Despite this exemption the concentrations of dissolved metals in both dry weather and stormwater discharges are compared in this report to CTR criteria, with the stormwater comparisons made for discussion purposes only.

Acute (CMC-Criteria Maximum Concentration) and chronic (CCC-Criteria Continuous Concentration) aquatic toxicity criteria from the CTR are used to evaluate dissolved metals data collected from storm channels and harbors. Water quality criteria from the CTR and other sources are presented in **Table C-11.1** and for sediment from other sources in **Table C- 11.2**.

According to the CTR, for waters with a hardness of 400 mg/l or less as calcium carbonate, the actual ambient hardness of the surface water shall be used in those equations. For waters with a hardness of over 400 mg/l as calcium carbonate, a hardness of 400 mg/l as calcium carbonate shall be used with a default Water-Effect Ratio (WER) of 1, or the actual hardness of the ambient surface water shall be used with a WER. For hardness levels exceeding 400 mg/L, the Permittees use the former method.

In applying the CTR as guidance in evaluating freshwater monitoring program elements, if the time period to which the criteria applies is less than the length of the sampled period, a measured concentration greater than that guidance value is considered an exceedance. For example, if the acute criterion for lead (at a hardness of 100 mg/L as $CaCO_3$) is 65 μg/L, a concentration of 68 μg/L during a 24-hour period is considered an exceedance of the criterion.

When computing the time-weighted mean concentration for a sampled period with multiple composite samples, values below the detection limit are assumed to be zero. This assumption allows for a more consistent evaluation from year to year as laboratory detection limits are lowered with alternative methods of analysis or new technology. The assumption also gives greater confidence to a designation of an exceedance of a criterion as it reduces the likelihood that the exceedance was caused by an erroneous estimation of a non-detected value.

In applying the CTR as guidance in evaluating the saltwater monitoring program elements, the average concentrations of dissolved metals in depth-integrated samplings from each 4-day storm monitoring of the Harbors and Bays are compared to the 4-day guidance criteria. The dissolved metals concentrations in each grab sample are compared to the acute toxicity guidance criteria. There is no chronic guidance criterion for silver so only the acute criterion is used. Since total chromium is analyzed, only the criteria for trivalent chromium (Chromium III) are used.

C-11-III.4.2 Toxicity Testing Data

Toxicity tests span varying time periods depending on the type of organism function (survival, growth, reproduction, etc.) being evaluated. Endpoint data are used to compute statistics that can be compared against regulatory criteria. These statistics include Acute Toxicity Units (TUa) and Chronic Toxicity Units (TUc).

Each sample is analyzed by monitoring organism responses in a series of sample dilutions (e.g. 100, 50, 25, 12.5, and 6.25% sample concentration). The responses measured in each dilution are validated by a number of replicates. Responses are also monitored in laboratory control water.

The concentration that causes 50% mortality of the organisms (the median lethal concentration, or LC_{50}) is determined using a statistical calculation with the endpoint data from an acute toxicity test. The acute toxicity test spans 48 hours for *Ceriodaphnia, Americamyis*, and fathead minnow, and 96 hours for *Hyalella azteca*. The LC_{50} values are expressed as "percent sample;" the lower the LC_{50} percentage the more toxic the sample. For acute regulatory standards, the LC_{50} acute value is used.

For chronic regulatory standards, the chronic effects are estimated using the "No Observable Effects Concentration" (NOEC), for both survival and reproduction. For the *Ceriodaphnia* reproduction, *Americamysis* growth, and fathead minnow growth tests the endpoint of the test is at seven days. For the *Selenastrum* growth test the endpoint is at 96 hours. The NOEC is the highest concentration tested in which there is no statistically significant difference in the organism response relative to the control sample response. The lower the value of the NOEC, the more toxic the sample.

For purposes of assessment between sites or between samplings, the endpoints described above are transformed into toxic units (TU). Toxic units are further divided into toxic units acute (TUa) and toxic units chronic (TUc) for acute and chronic endpoints, respectively. As toxicity increases, the toxic units increase.

TUa and TUc values are calculated very differently and are not interchangeable or related. The TUa equals 100/acute LC_{50}. If the LC_{50} is greater than 100% (i.e. more than 50% survival in the undiluted sample), then the TUa is calculated by the following formula:

$$TUa = \log(100-S)/1.7$$

Where S = percentage of survival in 100% (undiluted) sample. If S > 99%, the TUa is reported as zero, which is the lowest TUa value possible. The percent survival in the 100% concentration used in this formula is expressed as a percentage of the control survival. The TUc equals 100/NOEC. The lowest TUc possible, which indicates no toxicity, is 1. TUc values are calculated separately for survival and reproduction endpoints.

For some tests, if the test data meet acceptability criteria, inhibition concentrations, an IC_{25} and an IC_{50}, are calculated. These are the concentrations that cause a 25 percent or 50 percent inhibition of an organism's function such as growth, or cell density, in the *Selanastrum* growth test.

A reference toxicant test is also run to establish whether the test organisms used fall within the normal range of sensitivity. The reference toxicant test is conducted with known concentrations of a given toxicant (e.g., copper chloride is used for *Ceriodaphnia*). The effect on the survival and reproduction of the animals is compared to historical laboratory data for the test species and reference toxicant. If the values are within two standard deviations of the historical average, the test organisms are considered to fall within the normal range of sensitivity.

A description of the methods used in each toxicity test can be found by consulting the references cited at the end of this attachment.

For toxicity tests available LC_{50} and EC_{50} data on key contaminants can be used to compare the observed toxicity (measured as toxic units) to the expected toxicity. The toxicity testing organisms used in this Program tend to be more sensitive to some categories of toxicants than others. For example, the mysid (M*ysidopsis bahia*) survival/growth (MSG) test tends to be very sensitive to OP pesticides and unionized ammonia but less sensitive to metals. The Sea Urchin Fertilization (SUF) test is sensitive to dissolved metals and unionized ammonia but not very sensitive to OP pesticides.

LC_{50} data from the *Mysidopsis bahia* (a.k.a. *Americamysis bahia*) survival tests with ammonia, Chlorpyrifos, Diazinon, Dimethoate and Malathion were obtained from the PAN Exotoxicity database http://www.pesticideinfo.org/Search_Ecotoxicity.jsp which contains the results of over 220,000 toxicity tests. Results can be sorted by species, chemical or effect. Additional data are available from SCCWRP research studies. EC_{50} data for the sea urchin 40-minute fertilization test for unionized ammonia, copper, and zinc can be obtained from the same sources. The observed concentration of each chemical constituent (from the aquatic chemistry samples collected at the same time) can be divided by the appropriate LC_{50} or EC_{50} value to produce an estimated TU_a from each constituent. These estimated TU_as are then summed and compared to the observed TU_a from the toxicity test, as in the following equations:

$$\frac{\text{Concentration of toxicant}}{\text{Average literature value of } LC_{50} \text{ or } IC_{50} \text{ of toxicant}}$$

The total predicted toxicity from n toxicants is $\sum_{i}^{n} \frac{[toxicant_i]}{[LC_{50} or IC_{50}]_i}$

The calculated TUa from the toxicity test can be compared to this predicted toxicity.

This approach to comparing observed and predicted toxicity has potential shortcomings, including:

- The lack of availability of relevant LC_{50} and EC_{50} data for the full range of chemical constituents of concern,
- Lack of available data for the same life stages (e.g. larval vs. juvenile, or adult) of the organisms evaluated in our program,
- Lack of available data for the same test evaluation periods used in our program (e.g. 48-hr LC_{50} for mysids and *Ceriodaphnia* and 96-hr LC_{50}s for *Hyalella azteca*),
- Ranges of responses from multiple studies in the literature,

- The implicit assumption of simple additivity of toxic effects. While probably not true, there is no clear guidance on how to accurately represent synergistic effects, which could very well vary from site to site and over time.
- The fact that the predicted toxicity in several instances is larger than the observed toxicity, which serves to weaken confidence in the reliability of the LC_{50} and EC_{50} data.

Despite these shortcomings, this approach is useful for:

- Assessing the overall accuracy or reliability of the toxicity results,
- Identifying specific chemicals that appear to contribute most to toxicity and that are therefore targets for further study and/or source identification and reduction efforts, and
- Identifying monitoring locations that may have consistently high levels of unexplained toxicity. In these cases, more sophisticated studies may be called for.

C-11-III.4.3 Mass Load Calculations

Mass loads are calculated using chemical and hydrographic data. Water level records from permanent streamgaging stations at or near the sampling site are processed using Hydstra hydrologic data management software. Analog records from a station's continuous strip chart recorder are digitized and converted to discharge rates using stage-discharge relationships (channel ratings). At sites which have water level gauges with digital dataloggers, the digital records are downloaded periodically and stored in Hydstra. Using the respective rating tables for each site, the water level data are converted to flow rates. The total discharge volume (in acre-feet) during each sampled period is computed. By multiplying the total water discharge per sampled period by the pollutant concentration of the composite sample from the period and applying the proper conversion factors (acre-feet to lbs. of water), a mass load in pounds or tons of contaminant is calculated. For data reported as ND (non-detected), one-half of reported laboratory detection limits are used in the calculations.

An EMC is the flow-weighted average concentration during a storm. It is calculated from composite sample concentrations and measured stormwater volumes represented by those composite samples. The annual mean EMC represents the flow-weighted mean of all storms sampled at a site during the monitoring year.

$$MeanEMC = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{n} V_i EMC_i}{\sum_{i=1}^{n} V_i}$$

where n storms are monitored and V_i is the stormwater volume of the *i*th storm. The EMC for a storm *i* is defined as

$$EMC_i = \frac{\sum_{j=1}^{m} SWL_j}{k\sum_{j=1}^{m} SWV_j}$$

where SWLj is the stormwater load from composite sample j , SWVj is the stormwater volume used to calculate SWLj, m is the total number of composite samples collected during storm i and k is a conversion factor to produce the appropriate concentration units.

Annual site-mean EMCs are used to estimate mass loads from un-sampled storms during the monitoring year for two purposes:

- To estimate total annual loads on a site-by-site basis and
- To estimate the loads on a watershed basis.

To estimate these un-sampled loads in pounds, the site mean EMC (in mg/L) for each stormwater contaminant is multiplied by the total annual volume of water (in acre-ft) discharged during un-sampled storms, and the unit conversion factors [2.718 liter • lbs/mg • ac-ft]. If the units of the EMC are ug/L the conversion factor is 2.718 X 10^{-3}. The watershed load is calculated by simply summing the total estimated annual loads from each monitoring site in the watershed. Only EMCs in which 75-120% of the total runoff volume of a storm was sampled are used to calculate the annual site EMCs.

C-11-III.4.4 Evaluation of Bacteriological / Pathogen Data

Coastal stormdrain data include water temperature and concentrations of bacterial indicators in the discharge and in the surfzone upcoast (north) and downcoast (south) of these stormdrains. Data analysis consists of:

1. Comparing indicator levels at each drain to the state's AB411 single sample standards for ocean water sports contact

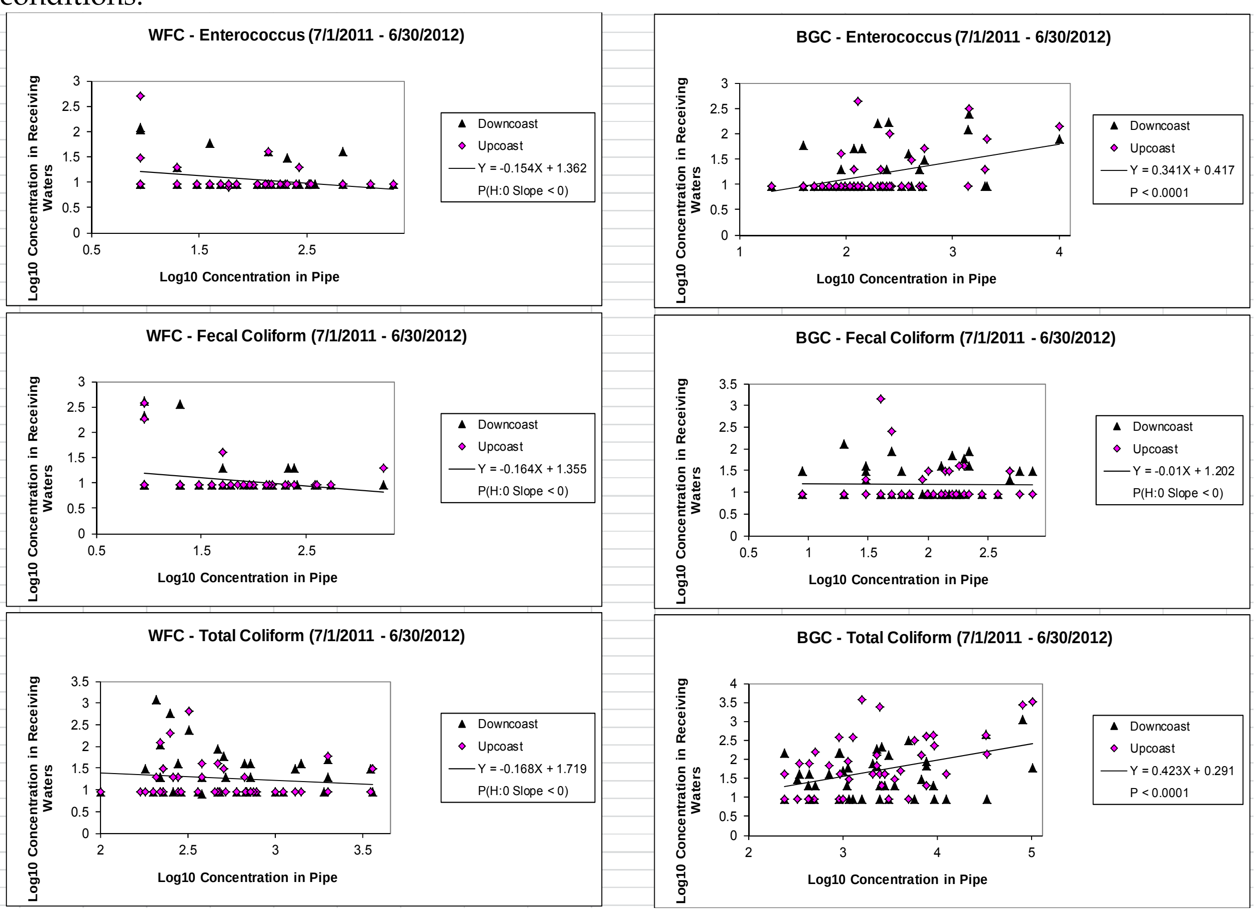
2. Ranking drains in terms of the proportion of total possible exceedances of the AB411 standards. The actual number of microbiological analyses or tests conducted on receiving water samples collected at each drain throughout the year is summed. This does not always equal 312 (i.e., 52 weeks x 3 indicators per sample x 2 locations) because it was not always possible to collect the full suite of samples at each site throughout the entire year. The total number of AB411 exceedances is then divided by the total number of sample tests, resulting in a proportion for each drain between 0 and 1.0. The exceedance proportion for each site is then indicated on a map of the sampling sites, according to the following color scheme:

Symbol Color	Proportion
Green	0 - < 0.14
Blue	0.14 - < 0.40
Yellow	0.40 - < 0.75
Red	0.75 – 1.0

It should be noted that this color scheme was developed to provide a relative ranking of the surfzone water quality at the outfalls of south Orange County stormdrains. The Heal the Bay Report card scoring methodology uses a different evaluation process which also includes analyses of total to fecal coliform ratios and 30-day geometric mean concentrations of all three indicators.

3. Plotting indicator levels in the receiving water vs. those in the drain. The surfzone concentrations for each indicator are plotted vs. the indicator concentrations in the drain during the same sampling event, with receiving water values on the y-axis and drain values on the x-axis. Separate plots are presented for each indicator at each drain, with upcoast and downcoast data displayed with distinct symbols. The plots are divided into sectors suggesting the conclusions and possible management actions that would be appropriate when a preponderance of the data points fall into one sector or another.

4. Ranking drains in terms of the slope of the linear regression of receiving water indicator levels vs. those in the drain. The concentration data are log transformed and then a standard least squares linear regression calculated for relationship between receiving water indicator concentrations and stormdrain concentrations. A separate regression is calculated for each indicator / drain combination. Sites are then ranked in terms of the "p" value for the regression for each indicator. The "p" value reflects the strength of the drain – receiving water relationship. In combination with the other analyses, this can be used to help assess each drain's likely effect on receiving water conditions.



The p-value derived from the linear regression plot demonstrates strong and weak correlations between Stormdrain and Receiving water. WFC has a weak correlation and BGC has a strong one.

5. Plotting percentages of sampled days in which at least one indicator bacteria concentration exceeded the AB411 concentration in the surfzone. Each day of surfzone sampling is evaluated with respect to the AB411 standards for the three indicators. For each drain, the percentage of sampled days in which at least one standard was exceeded in the surfzone (upcoast or downcoast) is calculated. These percentages are calculated for the entire year and the AB411 season (April 1-October 31). The results are plotted, with the drains grouped by City jurisdiction on the x-axis. This method of analysis provides a better assessment of the health risk (compared to analysis #2) associated with water contact in the surfzone near the discharges from the drains.

These analyses are performed for the entire year and for the AB411 season alone. Analyses also focus on only those instances where field notes indicate that the outflow of a drain is flowing to the surfzone.

Analysis results are then evaluated to identify consistent spatial and temporal patterns. Drains with exceedance and/or regression ranks are evaluated more carefully to identify potential explanatory factors in their drainage areas.

Data analysis for the inland channels proceeded somewhat differently because sampling consists simply of grab samples in the channel, rather than samples from a coastal stormdrain discharge and from surfzone stations up- and downcoast. Although the AB411 standards apply to ocean water sports contact, the concentrations of the indicators in each channel sample are compared to AB411 standards for discussion purposes only. As with the surfzone data the proportion of exceedances were calculated, for both the entire year and the AB411 season. The sites are then ranked in terms of their exceedance proportions. Exceedance proportions are mapped as described above.

C-11-III.4.5 Bioassessment and Index of Biotic Integrity (IBI)

Each site is evaluated in terms of a series of metrics (**Table C-11.3**), which are then scored (**Table C-11.4**) to provide a basis for determining the overall IBI score for each site. These scoring ranges are based on data from the southern California region, from southern Monterey County to the Mexican border. This southern California IBI is more representative of reference conditions throughout the whole of the southern California area than was the original IBI, which was based only on data from streams in the San Diego region. The use of the more broadly applicable IBI follows the California Department of Fish and Game protocol. In addition, the Stormwater Monitoring Coalition, in conjunction with SWAMP, is planning a number of efforts to improve the IBI's ability to monitor conditions in the urbanized coastal zone. These include developing an IBI for low-gradient urban streams, a perennial stream succession survey, and developing a regional bioassessment monitoring program for southern California. The Permittees have participated in the regional monitoring program since the spring of 2009.

C-11-III.4.6 Evaluation of triad data

Evaluation of triad data (i.e., bioassessment, water chemistry, toxicity) is based on the framework developed by the Stormwater Monitoring Coalition's Model Stormwater Monitoring committee. This approach, which is described in detail in the SMC's report to the State Water Resources Control Board ftp://ftp.sccwrp.org/pub/download/DOCUMENTS/TechnicalReports/419_smc_mm.pdf is based on a weight of evidence approach that compares each of the three legs of the triad against each other.

Table C-11.5, drawn from the SMC's report, summarizes the types of conclusions that can be drawn from various combinations of triad results. Thus, there is no routine or standard method for evaluating triad data. However, the triad data from the bioassessment stations for the most part has resulted in relatively clear interpretations of causal factors for observed conditions.

Three additional analyses are included in this year's report to more thoroughly examine the relationships among the three legs of the triad. In actuality, there are four legs if the physical habitat data collected as part of the bioassessment protocol are considered separately from the biological community data.

1. Thresholds were established for each of the four data types (IBI, physical habitat, aquatic chemistry, and toxicity) in order to divide the range of values for each data type into four categories representing conditions from excellent to poor. IBI categories were based on the SWAMP interpretation framework for these data types. The following thresholds for total physical habitat scores were used as the color scheme for the PHAB symbols on the maps showing the triad evaluation:

Color	SWAMP (0-60)
• Green:	48-60
• Blue:	36-47
• Yellow:	24-36
• Red:	<24

   Aquatic chemistry thresholds focus on dissolved metals. At each station, the total number of CTR exceedances at each sampling time is divided by the total number of constituents (Cd, Cr, Cu, Pb, Ni, Ag, Zn) with relevant CTR acute criteria, resulting in a proportion for each station between 0 and 1.0. The exceedance proportion for each station is then indicated on a map of the sampling sites, according to the following color scheme:

   - Green: 0 - < 0.14
   - Blue: 0.14 - < 0.40
   - Yellow: 0.40 - < 0.75
   - Red: 0.75 – 1.0

   Toxicity categories are based on the number of toxicity tests that showed toxicity above 25% mortality in the undiluted sample of a multiple dilution test with invertebrates or fish (*Ceriodaphnia* or Fathead minnow chronic survival or *Hyalella azteca* acute survival) or, if the value for TUc was greater than 1 in the *Selenastrum* growth test. For each site, icons on a map of the monitoring sites representing the four data types are then colored green, blue, yellow, or red to summarize the overall range of conditions at each site.

2. All data from the bioassessment sampling program were analyzed for spatial and temporal patterns in the benthic invertebrate community. Two methods were used to describe spatial and temporal patterns in the benthic invertebrate community: cluster analysis and two-way coincidence tables.

a. Cluster analysis defines groups of stations with similar community composition. The results are displayed in a hierarchical tree-like structure called a dendrogram. On the dendrogram, two groups are first defined, and within these groups subgroups are defined. Subsequently, subgroups within the subgroups are defined. This process is continued until all stations are a separate subgroup. The hierarchical nature of the dendrogram allows the analyst to choose groups of stations that represent a scale of community differences relevant to the present project. Cluster analysis is also used to define groups of species that tend to have similar distributional patterns among the stations.

b. A two-way coincidence table is the station-species abundance data matrix displayed as a table of symbols indicating the relative abundances of the species at the stations. The rows and columns of the table are arranged to correspond to the order of stations and species along the respective station and species dendrograms. Since similar entities (stations or species) will tend to be closer together along a dendrogram, the row and column orders will efficiently show the pattern of species over the stations and station groups.

   Since the rows and columns of the two-way coincidence table are ordered according to the dendrograms, the two-way coincidence table is also used to help delimit the station and species groups defined by the cluster analyses. At each potential separation of subgroups defined by the dendrogram, the two way coincidence table is examined to see the corresponding group differences in terms of species presences and abundances. This allows the analyst to choose groups with a level of community differences consistent with the goals of the project.

The specific steps are as follows:

- Preliminary biotic data transformation, using a square root transformation and standardization by species mean of values >0 (Smith, 1976; Smith et al., 1988) [1]
- Calculation of a Dissimilarity Index for cluster analysis of stations, using the Bray-Curtis Index, step-across procedure for dissimilarity >0.8 (Bradfield and Kenkel, 1987; Clifford and Stephenson, 1975; Smith, 1984; Williamson, 1978)[2]
- Calculation of similarities for cluster analysis of species, using flexible clustering (β=-0.25) (Clifford and Stephenson, 1975; Lance and Williams, 1967; Smith, 1982)[3]

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[1] Smith, R.W. 1976. Numerical Analysis of Ecological Survey Data. PhD thesis, Univ. of S. Calif., Los Angeles. 401 pp.
Smith, R.W., B.B. Bernstein, and R.L. Cimberg. 1988. Community-Environmental Relationships in the Benthos: Applications of Multivariate Analytical Techniques. Chapter 11 In: Marine Organisms as Indicators. Springer-Verlag. New York: 247-326.

[2] Bradfield, G.E. and N.C. Kenkel. 1987. Nonlinear ordination using shortest path adjustment of ecological distances. Ecology 68(3): 750-753.
Clifford, H.T. and W. Stephenson. 1975. An Introduction to Numerical Classification. Academic Press, New York: 229 pp.
Smith, R.W. 1984. The re-estimation of ecological distance values using the step-across procedure. EAP Technical Report No. 2.
Williamson, M.H. 1978. The ordination of incidence data. J. Ecol. 66: 911-920.

[3] Clifford, H.T. and W. Stephenson. 1975. An Introduction to Numerical Classification. Academic Press, New York: 229 pp.

- Creation of the two-way coincidence table (Kiddawa, 1968; Smith, 1976)[4].

1. Biological Cluster Analysis

   A more powerful set of analyses was used to discern relationships between the biological patterns in the benthic community and patterns in potential explanatory variables in the toxicity, aquatic chemistry, and physical habitat data.

   As a first step, the species data from all surveys was clustered to identify groupings of sites that were similar in terms of their community composition. **Figure C-11.20** shows the cluster analysis of all sites during surveys conducted from 2009 to 2012 and **Figure C-11.21** the two-way coincidence table of the relative distribution of species in each site at each sampling time. Horizontal and vertical lines on the two-way coincidence table identify major groupings of species and sites, respectively. (Sites are identified by their site number and year of sampling. The average IBI score for the station group is provided. Relative species abundances are shown as symbols. The abundance of each species was standardized in terms of its maximum at each site over all surveys. Smaller symbols represent a lower proportion of maximum abundance and larger symbols a larger proportion.)

   Finally, species with broader distributions across sites and times are concentrated in the upper three species groups (A, B and C) on the two-way coincidence table. Species with such broad distributions tend to be more pollution and/or disturbance tolerant. In contrast, species in the lower two species groups (D and E) half of the two-way coincidence table have much more restricted distributions and in fact are found primarily at the upper watershed sites. A closer examination of the species groups shown in the two-way table shows that species group D and E contain a diverse assemblage of several sensitive types of organisms. Species groups A, B and C (at the top of the two-way table) include moderately to very tolerant species characteristic of disturbed sites.

C-11.III.4.7 Phase I Sediment Quality Objectives Analyses of Estuary / Marsh Data

California Water Code section 13393 requires the State Water Resources Control Board to develop sediment quality objectives (SQOs) for toxic pollutants in California's enclosed bays and estuaries. In 1991 the SWRCB adopted a workplan to develop these SQOs but due to budgetary constraints was not able to implement this workplan. Litigation by several environmental groups ensued and in August 2001, the Sacramento County Superior Court ruled that the SWRCB must initiate development of the SQOs. With the aid of a multi-agency scientific steering committee Phase 1 SQOs were developed and became effective on August 25, 2009.

Lance, G.N., and W.T. Williams. 1967. A general theory of classificatory sorting strategies. I. Hierarchical systems. Computer J. 9: 373-380.
Smith, R.W. 1982. Analysis of ecological survey data with SAS and EAP. Proc. 7th Annual SAS Users' Group International (SUGI). SAS Institute Inc. P.O. Box 8000, Cary NC 27511: 610-615.

[4] Kikkawa J. 1968. Ecological association of bird species and habitats in Eastern Australia; similarity analysis. J. Anim. Ecol. 37: 143-165.
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With Phase 1 SQOs, the assessment of sediment quality consists of the measurement and integration of three lines of evidence (LOE). The LOE, as described by the SWRCB, are:

- Sediment Toxicity—Sediment toxicity is a measure of the response of invertebrates exposed to samples of surficial sediments (those sediments representing recent depositional materials and containing the majority of the benthic invertebrate community) under controlled laboratory conditions. The sediment toxicity LOE is used to assess both pollutant related biological effects and exposure. Sediment toxicity tests are of short durations and may not duplicate exposure conditions in natural systems. This LOE provides a measure of exposure to all pollutants present, including non-traditional or unmeasured chemicals.

- Benthic Community Condition—Benthic community condition is a measure of the species composition, abundance and diversity of the sediment-dwelling invertebrates inhabiting surficial sediments. Benthic community composition is a measure of the biological effects of both natural and anthropogenic stressors.

- Sediment Chemistry—Sediment chemistry is the measurement of the concentration of chemicals of concern in surficial sediments. The chemistry LOE is used to assess the potential risk to benthic organisms from toxic pollutants in surficial sediments. The sediment chemistry LOE is intended only to evaluate overall exposure risk from chemical pollutants. This LOE does not establish causality associated with specific chemicals.

With assistance from SCCWRP, the SWRCB has developed an LOE integration tool using Microsoft Excel. To use the tool, data from the three LOE at each site are entered into the Excel workbook and a score is generated for each LOE. Using the matrix of 64 possible combinations of LOE scores a final assessment score is produced. This final assessment score can be unimpacted, likely unimpacted, possibly impacted, likely impacted, or clearly impacted. A comprehensive description of this sediment quality assessment method can be found on SCCWRP's website at http://sccwrp.org/Data/DataTools/SedimentQualityAssessment.aspx .

C-11-III.4.8 Prioritization of Reconnaissance Sites for Source Identification

Concentrations of monitored constituents at dry weather reconnaissance sites are compared to the upper bounds (lower bound for dissolved oxygen) of tolerance intervals around the 90th percentile calculated from the set of random urban background sites. The concentrations are also compared to the limits from the site-specific control charts. These control charts are time series plots of each measurement at a site. The upper control limit for each measurement is set at 3.9 standard deviations above the mean of all measurements at the site. Instances in which data values for a specific contaminant exceeds either of these two qualifiers for two consecutive monitoring events are flagged for further source identification efforts to identify upstream sources of pollution.

C-11-III.4.9 Identification of Parameter Trends Associated With Land Use Change

Evaluation of monitoring data from the land use transition sites is based on an examination of trends described by graphical analysis. For each site, the data for specific groundwater and urban runoff markers are plotted against time. Where available, data from monitoring points upstream of the development are plotted on the same graph.

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