

San Gabriel River Regional Monitoring Program (Los Angeles Region)

What is it?

The San Gabriel River Regional Monitoring Program (SGRRMP) is a multi- stakeholder collaboration among major permittees, regulatory and management agencies, and conservation groups that seeks to increase awareness of issues at the watershed scale and improve the coordination and integration of monitoring efforts for both compliance and ambient conditions. The SGRRMP is implemented by the Los Angeles and San Gabriel River Watershed Council (Watershed Council). The Los Angeles Water Board is an active member of the Watershed Council and coordinates its SWAMP monitoring efforts with both the SGRRMP and the related Los Angeles River Regional Monitoring Program (see the Los Angeles River Regional Monitoring Program Achievement Report [link]).

The SGRRMP is designed to answer five specific questions of interest to a broad range of stakeholders within the watershed:

- 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?
- 5. Is body contact recreation safe?

Activities include targeted monitoring of contaminants of concern and adjustment of monitoring locations and sampling frequencies to better respond to management priorities. Land use in the watershed is diverse and ranges from predominantly open space in the upper watershed to urban land uses in the middle and lower parts of the watershed (Figure 1). The SGRRMP's incorporation of local and site-specific issues within a broader watershed-scale perspective is unique among efforts in the San Gabriel watershed.

Why is it important to the State?

The SGRRMP is an integral part of ongoing efforts to monitor and protect the health of the San Gabriel River Watershed. By improving coordination among various monitoring programs, the SGRRMP helps reduce the costs associated with water quality monitoring while generating useful data that can be used to assess water quality, determine permit compliance and target areas for further monitoring or study.

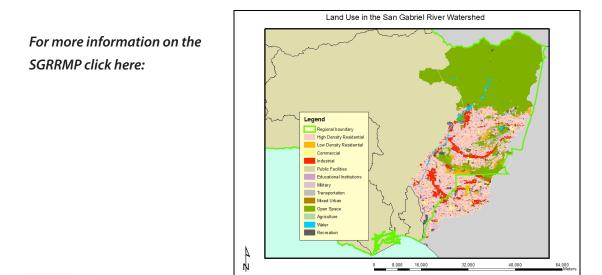
Why is it important to me?

Initial program results illustrate clear patterns between the upper (undeveloped) portions and the lower (developed) portions of the watershed in terms of water quality and habitat condition. This information is useful for local residents and other individuals who are interested in knowing more about the condition of the water resources of the San Gabriel River Watershed.

How will this information be used?

The data are used in ambient assessments which provide a context for evaluating water quality and stream conditions beneath permitted discharge locations and help identify areas where expanded monitoring or special studies need to occur. The data also help identify waters that are impaired for inclusion on the Clean Water Act's 303(d) list.

Annual monitoring reports are produced for both LA and San Gabriel River Watersheds by the Watershed Council and posted on their website.





SWAMP Achievements Report 2010

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/swamp