



# United States Department of the Interior

**U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY**  
**Reston, VA 20192**  
Mail Stop 413

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Colleagues and Conference Participants,

On behalf of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and the National Water-Quality Assessment (NAWQA) Program, I am pleased to welcome you to the 5<sup>th</sup> National Monitoring Conference in San José, California. I am honored that the National Water Quality Monitoring Council offered the NAWQA Program an opportunity to play a major role in the conference.

In particular, we in NAWQA are excited to share with you our recent national-scale findings on pesticides and volatile organic contaminants from data collected in the first decade of the Program, 1992-2001. In addition, we bring to the conference our latest approaches and methods, for example, models that make the important step of moving us forward from monitoring to prediction of water quality conditions. Prediction of water quality conditions in unsampled waters is an important next step because water quality-assessment is something we need for all waters, not just those we can afford to monitor. We also bring to the conference early results on approaches to assessing and understanding the sources, fate, transport, and effects of contaminants in ground water and streams, and the effects of mercury and urbanization on aquatic ecosystems.

The quality of this conference is the reason we return each biennium. The quality is the result of the activities and contributions of a large number of individuals that make up the membership of the National Water Quality Monitoring Council. I want to thank all those who made this week possible and wish you a beneficial and productive time in San José.

Sincerely,

Donna N. Myers, Chief  
National Water-Quality Assessment Program