

**ENHANCING STATE, REGIONAL AND LOCAL MONITORING PROGRAMS:
COORDINATED MONITORING PROGRAM OF THE SACRAMENTO AND AMERICAN
RIVERS IN THE SACRAMENTO METROPOLITAN AREA, CALIFORNIA**

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ABSTRACT

In May of 1991, the Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District (District), the County of Sacramento Water Resources Department, and the City of Sacramento Utilities Department established the Sacramento Coordinated Monitoring Program (CMP). The purpose of the program was to develop high-quality data to aid in the development and implementation of water quality policy and regulations in the Sacramento, California area. The CMP demonstrates an effective regional monitoring effort through its goals of collaboration, coordination and communication.

In the earlier years of the CMP contributing agencies, along with U.S. Geological Survey, Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and consultants provided guidance regarding the performance and direction of the program. These agencies collaborated to develop a monitoring program that would complement other ongoing monitoring programs at the state, regional and local levels.

Annual reports characterizing water quality conditions, identifying spatial and temporal trends, and determining compliance with projected water quality objectives provide a communication tool for understanding annual changes and long term trends in river conditions. The CMP has been very active in pursuing community outreach which includes participating in local events.

Over the 17 years of monitoring, the program has faced several technical and financial challenges. The CMP has been committed to providing high quality data which requires advanced technology and capital resources. The contributing agencies have understood the worth of a regional monitoring program and thereby continued their support for this program. The monitoring results have been used by the City and County of Sacramento to help demonstrate compliance with the Sacramento NPDES Municipal Stormwater Permit and the District for an environmental assessment of its long-term planning activities. Regulatory agencies use CMP data to develop policies whereas other public agencies and private stakeholders track changes in ambient water quality and watershed trends over the years.

The contributing agencies have learned that the monitoring program provides a tool to assess the health of the rivers. Overall, the program has been successful in accomplishing its goals of generating long term ambient water quality data.

KEYWORDS

Sacramento, CMP, American, Water quality, Monitoring, Coordinated