

## **WATERSHED MANAGEMENT AND SOURCE REDUCTION SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY – DECEMBER 11, 2001**

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Jessica Morton and Jack Gregg, California Coastal Commission  
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### Recap of Watershed Subcommittee Activities

The goal of the subcommittee is to promote strategies to reduce specific pollutants of concern from the Ballona, Dominguez Channel, Los Angeles River and San Gabriel River Watersheds so that they no longer pose a sediment disposal problem when these areas are dredged. We decided not to focus attention on the San Gabriel River Watershed, since the sediments at the mouth of the river do not present significant contamination and this area does not require dredging. The pollutants of concern have been listed as metals, polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), organochlorines (especially DDT and PCBs), and excess sediments.

The subcommittee identified two major data gaps as obstacles to completion of the watershed management and source reduction component of the long-term management plan: 1) the need for collection of additional stormwater monitoring data related to specific land uses; and 2) the need to analyze existing stormwater monitoring data from several major studies to identify major sources of sediment contamination, examine seasonal and annual trends of contaminant loadings, and investigate the correlation between emissions and land uses. CSTF datagap studies will be completed to fill these needs (See below).

### Stormwater Permit Monitoring

The Watershed Subcommittee wished to take an active role in the review of the monitoring program proposed for the Los Angeles County Municipal Stormwater NPDES permit renewal. However, due to the accelerated time schedule initially proposed for preparation and review of the monitoring requirements, only Heal the Bay, Los Angeles Regional Board and SCCWRP staff actively participated in discussions with Los Angeles County to modify the monitoring program. The new monitoring program represents a substantial improvement over the version in the 1996 permit, with better monitoring of mass loadings and land uses (Los Angeles is so heterogeneous, that the previous approach of adding up different land use loading estimates did not work very well). In the 2001 permit, there is a shift to more receiving water monitoring, including water quality samples, bioassessment of freshwater systems, monitoring of the benthic community in estuaries (the mouths of the 5 major watersheds covered by the permit), effluent toxicity and sediment toxicity (including TIE/TRE triggers), tributary monitoring within each watershed (verify relative contributions for the loading model), as well as peak discharge/erosion effects (physical characteristics of watershed to aid development planning to design BMPs) and evaluation of the effectiveness of BMPs.

Stormwater sampling of specific land uses is being conducted for the CSTF under the SCCWRP datagaps contract; approximately 2/3 of the sampling was completed last winter (2000-01) and the remaining 1/3, plus resampling for PAHs (bad detection limits last winter), will be completed this winter (2001-02). This data will be used for land-use modeling.

### Stormwater Monitoring Database

SCCWRP and EVS are pulling together existing electronic databases with stormwater monitoring data (they will not be including other disorganized data sets). Once the database is assembled, SCCWRP will analyze the data to answer the following questions: is stormwater a source of sediment contamination?,

how do stormwater inputs vary over time?, and what are the sources of contamination in the watershed (land uses)? The priority datasets of interest include Los Angeles County Department of Public Works monitoring, SCCWRP TMDL studies (including CSTF stormwater monitoring), SCCWRP inputs studies (data from 70's and 80's), SCCWRP Los Angeles River monitoring (2000 and 2001), UCLA Ballona Creek studies (funded by Santa Monica Bay Restoration Project), SCCWRP molecular marker studies, City of Long Beach monitoring; of lower priority, but potentially of interest, would be inland POTW monitoring, SCCWRP POTW emissions data, and SCCWRP-UCLA aerial deposition study. Subcommittee members recommended adding the Regional Board's industrial stormwater data (in Access database, at least for past 2 years) and Port of Long Beach industrial permit monitoring data (also in Regional Board Access database); SCCWRP will talk with the Regional Board to gain access to this data. We need to define our objectives more precisely before SCCWRP can undertake the analysis of the monitoring data assembled into this electronic database (agenda item for next meeting).

#### Ballona Creek Sedimentation Basin Update

This item was postponed until the next meeting since we did not have a representative from the Army Corps of Engineers to lead the discussion.

#### Miscellaneous

The Dominguez Channel Watershed Advisory Committee has developed a splinter group, composed of the Port of Los Angeles, City of Los Angeles, Port of Long Beach and the oil refineries (WSPA), which is working with SCCWRP to do a project focused on sampling stormwater from Dominguez Channel for land uses representing these agencies, to be used for model development. They are not focused on the sediment connection, but may produce data useful for this purpose. The Watershed Subcommittee could interact with this so-called non-DCWAC group by commenting on sediment sampling protocols and by coordinating with Regional Board TMDL studies.

At the next Watershed Subcommittee meeting, we would like to meet with Los Angeles Regional Board TMDL staff (Jon Bishop, Melinda Becker) to discuss the 303d list (impaired waterbodies) and what will be needed for TMDL development in waterbodies listed for sediment contamination problems. Subcommittee members believe that we need to develop a better understanding of transport and deposition processes.

#### **Next Meeting: January 22, 2002 – 10 am to noon, Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board**

We will discuss integration of the subcommittee's objectives with the Regional Board's TMDL process and discuss analysis of the stormwater monitoring data being assembled into an electronic database.