

The San Diego Region Approach to Aquatic Bioassessment

Dave Gibson

San Diego Regional Water Quality

Control Board

858-467-4387 - dgibson@waterboards.ca.gov

SWAMP Summary 2004/2005

- Starting last three watersheds
- Synoptic Monitoring design including biannual bioassessment sampling
- Tributary approach sample site selection
- Continuing post-fire monitoring studies
- Regional Monitoring Coordination and Partnerships

Regulatory Uses of Biological Data

- Monitoring and Reporting Requirements in
 - NPDES Storm water permits
 - NPDES Live Stream Discharge Permits
 - General and specific WDRs
- 401 Water Quality Certification Program
- CWC 13267/13225 Technical Report Directives
- Clean-up and Abatement Orders

Regulatory Uses of Biological Data

- Utilize in 305(b) reports
- Support 303(d) listing or delisting
- Incorporate into upcoming TMDLs
 - Rainbow Creek TMDL (2005)
- Grant projects
- SEP Projects

Post Fire Assessment

- Initiated May 2004
- Partners
 - DFG
 - USGS
 - County of San Diego
 - City of San Diego
 - San Diego Stream Team
- 45 sites sampled in southern California
- Reference and Non-Reference, burned and unburned
- Continue through 2010



Boulder Creek April 1999



Boulder Creek May 2004



Long Term Objectives

- Integrate regulatory and non-regulatory monitoring efforts throughout the region
- Calibrate the SoCal IBI for intermittent streams
- Develop periphyton monitoring and assessment tools
- Develop Tiered Aquatic Life Uses for region rivers and streams
- Adopt biological criteria for San Diego Region following Oregon model.

End

