

Water Quality Program Plan Year 9 and Progress Year 8
US EPA activities

Priorities

- Comprehensive, integrated monitoring in the Bay-Delta system
 - Work with Regional Boards 2 and 5, and State Board
 - Coordinate with CALFED strategic planning for monitoring, assessment and performance measures (Sam Luoma et al)
- Performance measures/ indicators
- Cumulative water quality impacts of urbanization in the Delta

Projects

San Joaquin Basin Water Quality Monitoring Partnership (with Regional Board 5 and Great Valley Center). Cooperative agreement: San Francisco Estuary Institute (SFEI).

- Interviews and public workshop led to identification of work subjects: sampling coordination, quality assurance, data assessments, design for a data center, institutional support.
- On-line directory of monitoring in the basin. Regional Board pilot.
- FY 2009: by early 2009 produce a final report with recommendations or implementation agreements.

San Joaquin Basin Indicators of Water Quality and Management (grant to SFEI)

- Final report tested indicators of salinity and selenium (Grasslands) conditions and effects of management practices at varying scales
- Now seeking ISB review of the methodology and applications for performance measures

Delta Cumulative Impacts Study (contract with TetraTech and UC Berkeley)

- Will identify and use water quality and hydrodynamic models to evaluate urbanization impacts on water quality in the Delta.
- Second phase (currently unfunded) to produce an analysis that quantifies the impacts on “waters of the U.S.” due to changes such as increased wastewater and storm water discharges, losses of wetlands and other aquatic habitat.

Related activities

Delta Long-term Management Strategy for dredged sediments

- Objective: Beneficial reuse of dredged material—sorted after “characterization” of sediment contamination.
- Component of Levee Systems Integrity Program, but material has broader reuse potential, including building Delta island elevations for habitat creation.
- Corps of Engineers lead, with DWR, water boards, USEPA, Delta Protection Commission, CALFED.
- Potential role in disposition of dredged materials from proposed Corps of Engineers and local Port projects: channel deepening to the Port of Stockton and the Port of Sacramento.