



CREST
Los Angeles River Bacteria TMDL

Water Body Survey Study

Steering Committee Meeting

April 12, 2007

Overview

- Purpose of the Study
- Proposed Study Approaches
- Areas of Focus
- Survey Schedule and Costs

Study Purpose

To understand the *where, when and how* of recreational use activity in the Los Angeles River mainstem and tributaries in order to support prioritization of implementation of BMP controls for bacteria.



Study Focus

- **Characterize existing activity**

- Where and when are people most often observed in the waterbodies?
- What kinds of recreational activities are people engaged in?

- **Characterize potential activity**

- What locations are most likely to be accessed by people?
- Where are changes likely to occur in the near term that might increase access potential?

- **Note areas of significant trash and debris**

- Which locations of the waterbodies have significant trash and debris that may indicate greater human presence and/or higher potential for bacteria sources and growth?

Survey Approach: Recreational Activity - Existing

- **Characterize current waterbody use through:**
 - Interviews (including stakeholders and agency staff)
 - Periodic field surveys
 - Email surveys
 - Photodocumentation
 - Possible installed cameras (beyond base scope)

Approach: Recreational Activity - Potential

- **Recommended base level of effort – channel attribute characterization**
 - **Dry weather flow conditions (general width/depth characterization)**
 - **Channel structure**
 - Side-slopes – trapezoidal/vertical/natural
 - Channel material (bottom and side slopes) – concrete/rip-rap/natural
 - **Channel access**
 - Location of access points
 - Fencing, gating, signage
 - **Adjacent land use**

Example Channel Structure/Access Attributes



Linkage to Bacteria Source Identification Study

- **Prioritization of implementation of BMP controls can rely on several factors**
- **Highest priority sites might be:**
 - Locations where human bacteria sources are detected and prevalent
 - Locations where people are most likely to recreate and ingest water
- **Coupled together – the highest priority might be those sites where not only do we know that people recreate, but we know those sites also have human sources of bacteria**

Waterbody Survey Report

- **Findings from existing and potential recreational activity assessment for each 303(d) listed waterbody/reach**
- **Waterbody-specific maps with channel attributes**
- **Recommendations for prioritization of the implementation of BMP controls for bacteria**
 - Working presumption is that sites/reaches with greatest existing or potential recreational use activity are the highest priority

Schedule and Costs

■ Schedule

- Estimate that project can be completed in approx 10 months from notice to proceed
- Field surveys desirable during both summer and winter months

■ Estimated Costs

- Approx \$300k without digitizing the as-builts for the river or cameras.

Update

- **Working Technical Group had its first meeting 03/29/07**
- **Discussed Scope – generally supportive**
- **Particularly focus on detailed nature of “recreational activities”**
- **Interest in cameras, but some concerns, especially cost – potentially up to \$50K/site for camera, installation, maintenance, image management and review, analysis, and report**

Further Discussion and Questions

