

Cleaner Rivers through Effective Stakeholder TMDLs

Dear Stakeholder:

As you may know, CREST is embarking on the development of a TMDL for bacteria in the Los Angeles River. In developing the TMDL, we will be reviewing and analyzing existing data and studies related to the LA River and its tributaries, including bacteria concentrations, flow characteristics, temperature, and existing Best Management Practices (BMPs) in the watershed.

In addition, segments of the LA River are listed as impaired for oil and grease and organics, and the LA River Estuary (Queensway Bay) is listed for metals, historic pesticides, and PCBs. Therefore, future TMDLs for the LA River will require analysis of information on those constituents.

We have prepared a list of information we are seeking for the bacteria TMDL related tasks (List 1). Our highest priority is to obtain the information on the items contained in List 1 so that we can get the bacteria TMDL underway. We also have prepared list of information (List 2) that may be important for addressing other impairments and for carrying out additional studies in the system. This is additional information that we would like to add to our library in support of future TMDL development, but it is a lower priority.

We also have included a summary of data and studies we already possess (see Tables 1, 2, and 3). We are writing to request any additional information you have that will be relevant to our assessment of the existing conditions, sources, and implementation strategies for bacteria and other constituents in the LA River watershed. Please identify the sources for which you have data electronically available.

Where available, please include sample locations and site attributes. We are looking for data not only for the listed segments of the LA River, but from other areas in the watershed. We will accept these data in any format, from hard copies of studies, to spreadsheet or database data repositories, through GIS layers.

The data should be sent to the attention of Jagjit Kaur (Tel: 213-228-8229) at jkaur@ch2m.com or
555 S. Flower St., #3550
Los Angeles, CA 90071

Data can also be brought to the January CREST Technical Committee Meeting. We would like to have all of the List 1 data collected by no later than January 31, 2006.

In addition to providing this data, we hope you will continue to participate in CREST, as your input into the TMDL development process is essential to successful improvement of our watershed.

List 1 – Information Relevant to LA River Bacteria TMDL

- water quality data from the Los Angeles River mainstem or its tributaries, including E coli, enterococci, total coliform, and fecal coliform concentrations (“bacteria”)
- water quality data from storm drains, including flow and bacteria
- effluent quality data from wastewater dischargers (POTWs and other permitted sources), especially flow and bacteria data
- flow
- temperature
- sediment quality (bacteria)
- bacteria source tracking information/ data
- estimates of bacteria loadings (event mean concentrations [EMC]) resulting from runoff from various types of land uses
- data on existing infrastructure to control runoff water quality (e.g., BMPs) including
 - type
 - location
 - delineation of the drainage area it serves (i.e., point files with drainage attribute tables or polygon files)
 - related water quality data, e.g., pollutant removal efficiencies
- information on water quality control programs such as stormwater management programs, drainage system improvement programs, and sewer system improvement activities as well as other potentially related activities
- illicit discharge and elimination detection activities
- information on any septic systems, e.g., location and timing/extent of activities to convert areas from septic to sewer
- data required for modeling tasks (land use, soils, and meteorological info, e.g., rainfall; watershed characteristics; channel geometry and bathymetry; elevation data)
- relevant GIS layers, e.g., files that provide sample locations, point source discharges, including storm drains
- habitat studies

List 2 – Additional Information for Future TMDLs:

- nutrients (e.g. nitrogen and phosphorus)
- total suspended solids (dissolved and particulate)
- organic carbon
- pH and alkalinity
- sediment data
- oil and grease
- organics/volatile organic compounds (VOCs) including dichloroethylene (DCE), perchloroethylene (PCE) and trichloroethylene (TCE)
- metals
- pesticides (e.g., chlordane, DDT)
- polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs)
- biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) and dissolved oxygen
- benthic and periphyton data

Summary of data and studies

Table 1. Compiled Bacteria Monitoring Datasets for the Mainstem LA River

Agency	Monitoring Program	Dataset Period of Record	Measured Parameters	Approx. Sampling Frequency	Number of Sites	Monitoring Site Names
City of LA Bureau of Sanitation – Watershed Protection Division	Status and Trends	2001 - Ongoing	Total Coliform E. coli Enterococcus Flow Estimate	3x/month	8	White Oak Ave. Sepulveda Blvd. Tujunga Ave. Colorado Blvd. Figueroa St. Washington Blvd. Rosecrans Ave. Willow St.
City of LA Glendale Water Reclamation Project	NPDES Permit	1998 – Ongoing	Total Coliform Fecal Coliform	1x/day	3	R-4 R-5 R-7
		July 1997 to Oct. 1998	Total Coliform Fecal Coliform	1x/week	1	R-6
City of LA Donald C. Tillman Water Reclamation Plant	NPDES Permit	1998 – Ongoing	Total Coliform Fecal Coliform	1x/day	3	R-7 R-8 R-9
		July 1997 to Dec. 2003	Total Coliform	1x/week	3	W-C W-D W-E
		July 1997 to Oct. 1998	Total Coliform	1x/week	1	R-2
LA County Department of Public Works	MS4 Permit	Nov. 1997 to Apr. 2003	Total Coliform Fecal Coliform	Storm Events	1	S10 (Reach 1)
Southern California Coastal Water Research Program**	Snapshot Study	September 2000 July 2001	Total Coliform Enterococcus E. coli Flow Estimate	One Event	127 Outfalls 10 Mainstem 7 Tributaries	Many

** Data are not yet available

Table 2. Compiled Bacteria Monitoring Datasets for LA River Tributaries

Agency	Monitoring Program	Dataset Period of Record	Measured Parameters	Approx. Sampling Frequency	Number of Sites	Monitoring Site Names
City of LA Bureau of Sanitation – Watershed Protection Division	Status and Trends	2002 - Ongoing	Total Coliform E. coli Enterococcus Flow Estimate	1x/month	10	Headwaters @ Winnetka Ave. Aliso Canyon @ Wilbur Ave. Caballero Creek Bull Creek @ Victory Blvd. Tujunga Wash @ Moorpark St. Burbank Western @ Riverside Dr. Verdugo Wash @ Fairmont Ave. Arroyo Seco @ San Fernando Rd. Rio Hondo @ Garfield Ave. Compton Creek @ Del Amo Blvd.
	2002 Regional Water Quality Assessment Update of 303(d) List for LA Region	Sept. 1999	Fecal Coliform	1x/week	3	R7 Sepulveda Basin R8 Tujunga Wash R9 Aliso Canyon Wash
		July 1997 to August 2000	Total Coliform Fecal Coliform	1x/week	1	R4 Verdugo Wash
LA County Department of Public Works	MS4 Permit	Aug. to Sept. 2005 (5 weeks)	Total Coliform Fecal Coliform E. coli Flow Estimate	1x/week	10	N_1 LAR @ Wardlow Road N_2 Rio Hondo @ LAR N_3 Project 14 @ LAR N_4 Project 5202@Arroyo Seco N_5 Arroyo Seco @ Project 5202 N_6 Verdugo Wash @ Jackson St. N_7 Burbank Western@Peyton St. N_8 Tujunga Wash @ Moorpark Rd. N_9 Bull Creek @ Victory Blvd. N_10 Aliso Creek @ Saticoy
City of LA Donald C. Tillman Water Reclamation Plant	NPDES Permit	July 1997 to Dec. 2003	Total Coliform	1x/week	1	W-B Haskell Flood Control Channel

In addition, we will be receiving water quality data from FoLAR (Friends of the Los Angeles River). FoLAR has been monitoring water quality at 22 stations along the River’s entire length since April 2003.

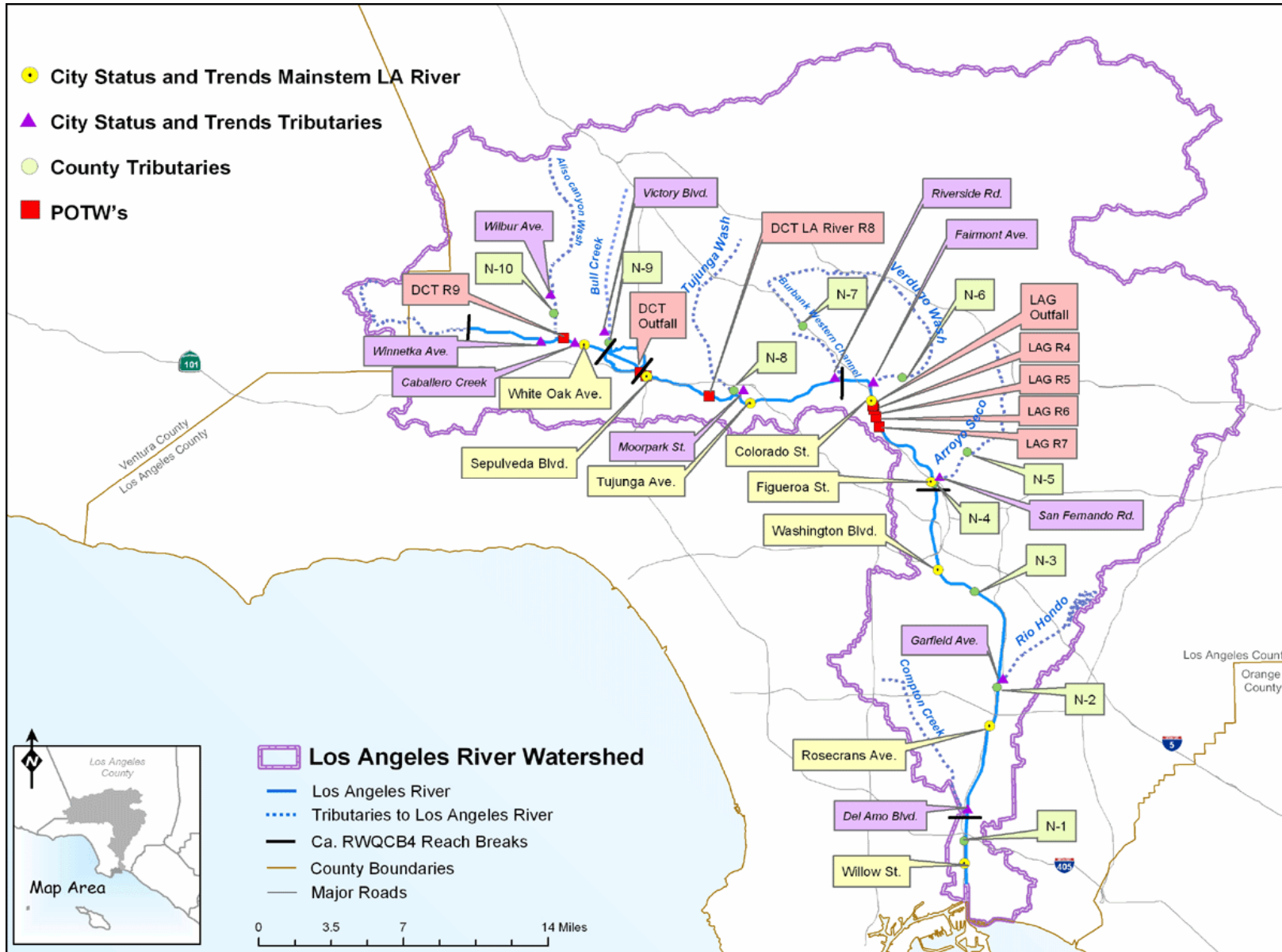


Table 3. Summary of Studies

No.	Report Title	Year	Summary	Available/Format
1	The Biota of the Los Angeles River, Kimball Garrett	1993	The study examines the historical records of the flora and selected fauna of the river and compares it to present-day observations.	Yes/Paper copy (CH2M HILL)
2	Arroyo Seco Watershed Restoration Feasibility study, North East Trees and the Arroyo Seco Foundation	2002	The study characterizes the ecosystem health, physical and cultural characteristics of the watershed, and makes recommendations for future studies and technical analyses.	Yes/Paper copy (CH2M HILL)
3	Hydrodynamic Study for Restoration Feasibility of the Tujunga Wash, The River Project	2002	The study addresses planning for ecological rehabilitation and enhancement projects within the reach of the Los Angeles River system. A Mike11 computer-based hydrodynamic model of the system was created that can be linked with an existing model of the Los Angeles River built for the Taylor Yard feasibility study.	Yes/Paper copy (CH2M HILL)
4	Integrated Plan for the Wastewater Program, 2001 (IPWP phase I) and Integrated Resources Plan for the Wastewater Program: Facilities Plan Vols. 1-4, 2004, City of LA DPW Bureau of Sanitation and DWP	2001 and 2004	IRP Phase I described a future vision of storm water and waste water management in the City of Los Angeles that explicitly recognized the complex relationships that exist among all of the City's water resources activities and functions. IRP facilities plan (completed in 2004) is an excellent source of data on the current inputs/outputs and uses of water as well as projections into the future.	Yes/Paper copy (CH2M HILL)
5	Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers Watershed Feasibility Study: Preliminary Draft Feasibility report, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Los Angeles County Department of Public Works	2001	The report characterizes the watershed through GIS data mapping, narrative and tables. The report used GIS modeling to create project selection criteria. Approximately 31 sites were selected for further study, and from this, six sites selected to move to the implementation phase.	Yes/Paper copy (CH2M HILL)
6	Los Angeles River Master Plan, County of Los Angeles	1996	The plan examined the river, reach by reach, for the main stem of the river and Tujunga Wash to identify ways to revitalize the publicly-owned rights-of-way.	Yes/Paper copy (CH2M HILL)
7	Reconnaissance Study of Arroyo Seco watershed, US Army Corps of Engineers	2002	The Arroyo Seco Reconnaissance Study presents an overview of the watershed. It identifies opportunities/ possibilities for future projects and plans, such as specific sites for ecological reconstruction, creating a comprehensive recreation and trail system for the watershed, among others.	Yes/Paper copy (CH2M HILL)

No.	Report Title	Year	Summary	Available/Format
8	Sun Valley Watershed Park Project, County of Los Angeles, Department of Public Works	2002	The project proposes to manage storm water runoff via infiltration and remedy existing storm water flooding issues in the vicinity of the park.	No
9	Sun Valley Watershed Management Plan, County of Los Angeles, Department of Public Works	2004	The plan describes current conditions within the watershed, identifies a number of potential improvement projects and explains how they will be implemented. [http://www.sunvalleywatershed.org/ceqa_docs/plan.asp]	Yes/Paper copy (CH2M HILL)
10	Taylor Yard and Los Angeles River Preliminary Groundwater and Surface Water Study, The River Project	2002	The objectives of the work activities summarized in this report were to evaluate the potential for offsite contribution to subsurface contamination of soil/groundwater and to collect subsurface parameters to establish a baseline groundwater water flow model.	No
11	Taylor Yard Multiple Objective Feasibility Study, California Coastal Conservancy	2002	The goal of the study was to investigate possible flood management, habitat enhancement, parks, and recreational opportunities on 61 acres that were designated as railroad operating and maintenance facilities.	Yes/Paper copy (CH2M HILL)
12	Water Augmentation Study, The Los Angeles & San Gabriel Rivers Watershed Council	2004	The study is a ten year research program of the Los Angeles and San Gabriel River Watershed Council. The purpose of the program is to assess whether the capture and infiltration of storm water at localized sites throughout the watersheds is a viable means of augmenting water supply without adversely affecting groundwater quality.	Available online at: http://www.lasgrwc.org/
13	Water Quality Control Plan of Los Angeles Region: Basin Plan for the Coastal Watersheds of Los Angeles and Ventura Counties. California Regional Water Quality Control Board Los Angeles Region	1994	It is the official water quality plan for the Los Angeles basin. It is designed to preserve and enhance water quality and protect the designated beneficial uses of all regional waters.	Yes/Paper copy (CH2M HILL)
14	Wetlands of the Los Angeles River watershed: Profiles and restoration opportunities, California Coastal Conservancy	2000	The strength of this report is its characterization of location, habitat, and water quality identified by specific project. It also has an excellent annotated bibliography of related resources.	Yes/Paper copy (CH2M HILL)

No.	Report Title	Year	Summary	Available/Format
15	Geological, Hydrologic, and Water Quality Data from Multiple-Well Monitoring Sites in the Central and West Coast Basins, Los Angeles County, California, 1995-2000: U.S. Geological Survey Open-file Report 01-277, 178 p. By: M. Land; R.R. Everett, and S.M. Crawford	2002		No
16	Draft Staff Report Supporting the Recommended Revisions to the Clean Water Act Section 303(d) List	2005	Vol. I: contains the listing methodology used, summary of the proposed additions, deletions, and area changes; the 2002 section 303(d) list; and references to all data and information in the administrative record. Vol. II contains the fact sheets supporting recommendations for listing, delisting, and data changes for the North Coast, San Francisco Bay, Central Coast, and Los Angeles regions.	Available online at: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/tmdl/303d_update.html
17	Compton Creek Watershed Management Plan, Los Angeles and San Gabriel Watershed Council	2005	The plan provides a catalog of existing conditions and sets goals for watershed improvements. It discusses potential future projects and suggested Best Management Practices (BMPs).	Available online at: http://www.lasgrwc.org/