

CREST: Cleaner Rivers through Effective Stakeholder TMDLs

Goals for the Water Body Survey Study

Objectives of the study: The purpose of the study is to understand where recreational use activities in 303(d) listed Los Angeles River mainstem reaches and tributaries are occurring or have a high potential of occurring in the near future. The study will help determine where potential risk to human health from exposure to elevated bacteria concentrations is greatest. The knowledge and data gathered from the bacteria source identification (BSI) study, which is another special study being overseen by the CREST stakeholder group, will be used in conjunction with this study.

The overall goal of both studies is to overlay areas of high bacteria concentrations, in particular where they can be correlated with human origin, with areas where recreational uses are occurring to prioritize implementation of BMPs to control bacteria sources in the watershed.

Questions that will be addressed by this study:

1. Where and when are people most often observed in the waterbodies?
2. What kind of recreational activities are people engaged in?
3. What locations are most likely to be accessed by people?
4. Where are changes likely to occur in the near term that might change access potential?
5. 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?

Draft Overall Approach:

- Characterization of existing recreational use activities: Use approved survey methods used elsewhere in the region (e.g., combination of surveys, interviews of stakeholders and agency staff, questionnaires, and photo documentation).
- Characterization of potential recreational uses: Develop channel attribute data (e.g., channel slope/bed characteristics and accessibility), review the Los Angeles River Revitalization Plan, Integrated Regional Water Management Plan for the Los Angeles River Watershed, and Los Angeles County Los Angeles River Master Plan.

