

## **San Joaquin River Basin Monitoring Partnership Project - Update April 6, 2008**

**Goal:** Improving San Joaquin Water Quality Information

**Purpose:** To encourage a public-private partnership to produce information for more effective water quality management. The approach is to identify ways to help develop a system for improved monitoring and assessment, consistent with SWAMP, CalFed, IEP, and related efforts. The project is technically directed and staffed by SFEI, with funding and participation from U.S. EPA, and in consultation with the CVRWQCB. The Great Valley Center participates in outreach and project coordination, with additional assistance from Brock Bernstein. The primary products are: (1) a proposed strategy to improve surface water quality data collection, reporting, and access for the San Joaquin River basin and (2) an online monitoring directory.

Scope: This project is directed to the San Joaquin River Region (including tribes). It also recognizes important linkages to the Bay-Delta, both in terms of San Joaquin flows to the Delta and supply water delivered from the Delta. Thus, in many cases data generated and ensuing analyses need to be useful and relevant to water quality and beneficial uses within the larger Central Valley watershed, particularly the Bay- Delta.

SWAMP context: The San Joaquin effort will be consistent with the approach to comprehensive monitoring and assessment described by the State Board and Regional Water Boards for the Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program.

Final product: Due for completion in late 2008, products will include: a strategy identifying key steps needed to advance monitoring in the San Joaquin basin and institutional options to sustain future implementation; and an on-line directory of surface water quality monitoring in the basin.

Monitoring objectives: The project acknowledges the importance of monitoring objectives for prioritizing, organizing, and conducting monitoring-related activities. The project seeks to reinforce the role of monitoring objectives in design of monitoring, assessment, and reporting.

**Status and prospects:** Using information from stakeholder interviews and a fall 2007 workshop in Modesto, a draft strategy document is under preparation. A pilot monitoring directory is available on the web at <http://www.sanjoaquinmonitoring.org/index.html>

The workshop provided five topic areas for further work:

- Sampling coordination
- Methods and quality assurance standardization
- Data analysis and interpretation
- Data center
- Implementation (funding and institutional arrangements)

The proposed strategy plan will address these five issue areas, and the development process will encourage input, consultation and review by interested and involved parties.

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