

Watershed Portal

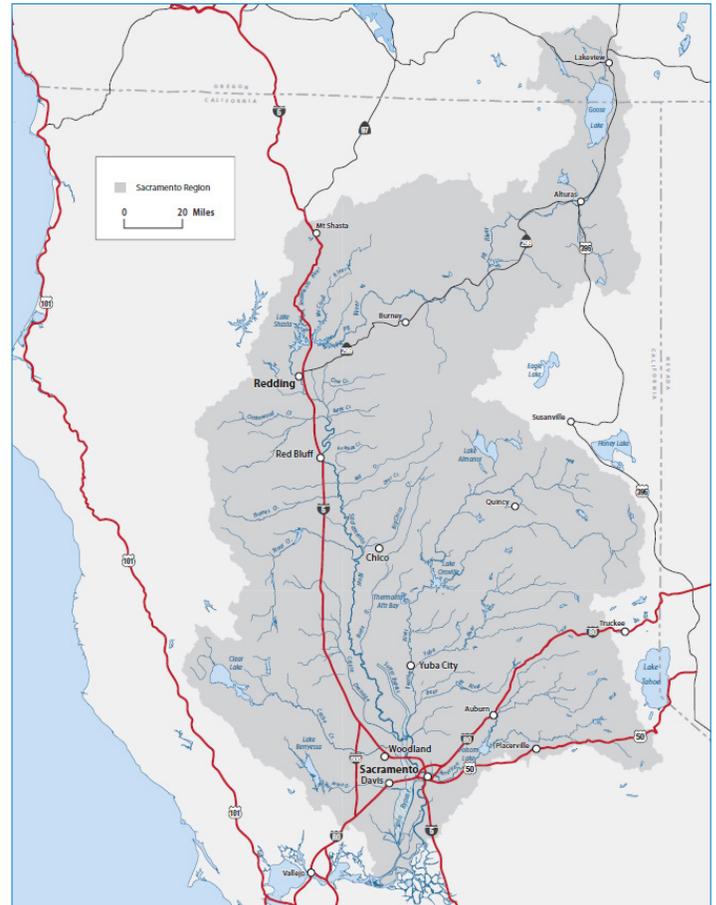
The Sacramento River Watershed

The Sacramento River is the largest river and watershed system in California. It carries 31% of the state's total surface water runoff, provides drinking water for residents throughout California, supplies the lifeblood of the state's agricultural industry, and provides vital habitat for hundreds of fish and wildlife species. It is also the home of more than 2 million Californians. Primary tributaries to the Sacramento River are the Pit, Feather, and American Rivers. From the mountains, to the valley, from the small towns to the cities, it is the place where we live, work, and play. It is imperative that we protect this valuable resource for today's needs as well as for future generations.

Regional Water Quality

Water quality protection and improvement are principal management issues throughout our watershed. Knowing the condition of our natural resources is fundamental to responsibly managing it. Collaborating regionally is one way to better understand conditions and track changes over time to ensure that the health of the watershed is maintained.

In 2008 the Sacramento River Watershed Program (SRWP) launched an effort to investigate a long-term, sustainable regional monitoring program (RMP) for the Sacramento River Watershed. This effort produced an *RMP Investigation Report*, a two-page *RMP Fact Sheet*, and an *RMP Interview Summaries Memorandum*. From that, we concluded that the regional functions that would benefit the vast majority of stakeholders today include communication, coordination and technical support. This project is a key element in SRWP's long-term efforts supporting stakeholders and their regional monitoring activities.

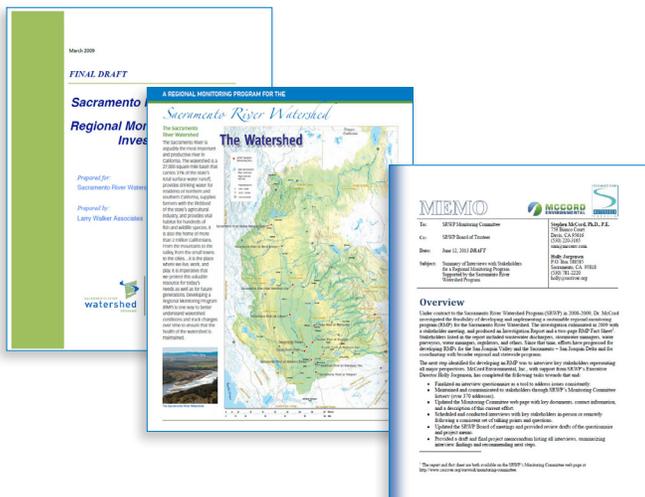


Hydrology in the Sacramento River Basin

Monitoring in the Sacramento River Watershed

You can only manage what you can measure. SRWP conducted water quality monitoring on the Sacramento River mainstem and its major tributaries from 1998 to 2007. SRWP's monitoring program was one of the first ongoing monitoring programs for the Sacramento River Basin.

A more coordinated approach could support the many agencies and groups monitoring water quality, flows, and ecological conditions throughout the watershed. The SRWP is excited to lead this project, which is consistent with the SRWP's broadly representative Board of Trustees, nonprofit status, and mission. Our history of successful regional monitoring and general stakeholder coordination, continues through today through an existing Monitoring Committee web page and listserv that includes more than 350 stakeholders.



A Web Portal for the Sacramento River Watershed

Web Portal Project

Description

This project will engage key stakeholders to design, create, promote and maintain a web portal customized for the Sacramento River watershed. The collective knowledge of key stakeholders will be applied to articulate management questions, access relevant information, and develop a web portal that provides the best available insight about water quality conditions in the Sacramento River Watershed. The web portal will give users access to the extensive water monitoring data, studies, reports and articles on the Sacramento River watershed. Users will be able to compile maps and graphs to better visualize available data and answer questions about the watershed. The web portal will be produced in OpenNRM, an Open Source Software Project dedicated to the communication of science and natural resource management information to all stakeholders with a toolset that combines multiple datasets with useful tools to help answer relevant questions.

Using Data to Answer Questions

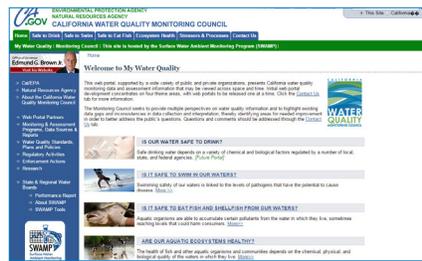
The web portal will include interactive maps, a “wiki”-style knowledge base, data center access and documents library. Examples of questions and issues that could be evaluated by the web portal include:

Who is monitoring water quality (and where)?

How and where are salts and nutrients (or mercury) impacting beneficial uses in the Sacramento Watershed?

Is the aquatic ecosystem healthy?

What is being done to protect or improve water quality?



My Water Quality Portals



San Joaquin River Portal

Scope and Schedule

The project scope is divided into four overlapping activities:

- Communicate with watershed stakeholders through SRWP’s Monitoring Committee (listserv, web site, and regular meetings) and with statewide partners through the California Water Quality Monitoring Council.
- Compile water quality management issues and formulate relevant questions that can be evaluated and would benefit Sacramento River Watershed stakeholders.
- Identify and assess available water quality-based information, identifying thresholds relative to the key water quality questions.
- Set up, customize, maintain and promote a sustainable, stakeholder-driven web portal.

For more information, contact Stephen McCord at sam@mccenv.com or Holly Jorgensen at holly@sacriver.org.



Funding for this project has been provided in full or in part through an agreement with the State Water Resources Control Board. The contents of this document do not necessarily reflect the views and policies of the State Water Resources Control Board, nor does mention of trade names or commercial products constitute endorsement or recommendation for use.