Central Coast Integrated Regional Monitoring Program

ASBS stormwater, MS4 Phase 2, POTW

Potential Participants

- Marin County
- San Mateo County
- City of Santa Cruz
- County of Santa Cruz
- City of Watsonville
- Moss Landing Power Plant
- Monterey Regional Water Pollution Control Agency
- Monterey County
- City of Monterey
- Pacific Grove
- Carmel
- Pebble Beach Company
- Carmel Area Wastewater District
- California Department of Parks and Recreation
- California State Waterboard, Central Coast Region

Why Regional Monitoring?

- Cost savings
  - Efficiencies of scale – management, data processing, reporting
  - Leverage focused studies to benefit entire group
- Stakeholder-driven
  - Address important questions and needs of local communities and agencies
- Prioritize scarce resources for fixing problems
- Strength in numbers
  - Unified approach to regulatory issues
- Unified sampling, analysis and data sharing

Why Now?

- Simultaneous implementation of 3 new regulatory processes
  - ASBS Special Protections
  - MS4 Phase 2 permits
  - Ocean Plan revisions
- Opportunity to develop a cost-effective program that addresses all discharger needs and answers questions of interest to regional stakeholders

Current Status

- Numerous meetings with stakeholders and Regional Board staff
  - Began discussion Summer 2011
  - 3 meetings since January 2012 involving 28 dischargers
  - 9 meeting of technical and org/funding working teams
- Strong involvement and support from ASBS, MS4 Phase 2 and POTW dischargers
- Broad commitment by stakeholders to participate

Management Questions

- MQ 1 - How does water quality within the program area compare to applicable water quality standards and relevant indicator parameters?
- MQ 2 - What are the concentrations and loads of constituents of concern in discharges to the program area?
- MQ 3 - What are the specific sources of constituents from the discharges that may be contributing to the identified receiving water problems?
- MQ 4 - Are biological communities affected by water quality conditions within the program area?
- MQ 5 - How are water quality conditions within the program area changing over time?
- MQ 6 - How are water quality conditions in discharges to the program area changing over time?

Challenges

- Different implementation schedules for different types of dischargers
- Proactive versus reactive
- Immediate need for ASBS dischargers
  - Wariness among some regarding whether ASBS needs will be satisfied
- Acceptance by regulators
  - Willingness to accept an integrated program that does not fulfill ALL requirements
- Increased level of regulation for small communities with limited finances