

Leveraging Fecal DNA to enhance water quality

January 23rd, 2018
California Environmental Protection Agency Workshop



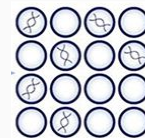


Accredited* Water DNA Lab

*World's only [ISO 17025 Accredited MST Lab](#)



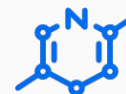
Project & Site Analytics



Digital PCR



Pathogens (BSL2)



Nutrient Source Tracking



Host Fecal Score

Increasing pressure on Water Board to “get it right”



State water board hears concerns about regulation

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Issue Date: December 13, 2017

By Ching Lee




Central Coast conservationists sue water boards

Amy Wu, The Californian Published 6:01 p.m. PT Aug. 15, 2017 | Updated 6:28 p.m. PT Aug. 15, 2017



With the diverse mix of crops grown in the state and farmers and their advocates told the State Water Board that regulating water quality remains burdensome, expensive, and difficult to implement. They shared their concerns during a public workshop in the East San Joaquin River watershed that would regulate water quality. The meeting, held last week in Sacramento on the proposed order, with written comments due



Column The next crisis for California will be the affordability of water

SEARCH

START TRIAL 3 FREE MONTHS



> STYLE > TECHNOLOGY > PERFORMANCE



Lesson from other industries



Forensics

God's signature: DNA profiling, the new gold standard in forensic science.

Lynch M¹.

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Food Testing

CDC Using DNA Testing to Find Source of Chipotle's E. Coli Outbreak

The exact source of the foodborne illness outbreak is still unknown.

by Whitney Filloon | @whitneyfilloon | Nov 6, 2015, 5:00pm EST




TWEET SHARE PIN



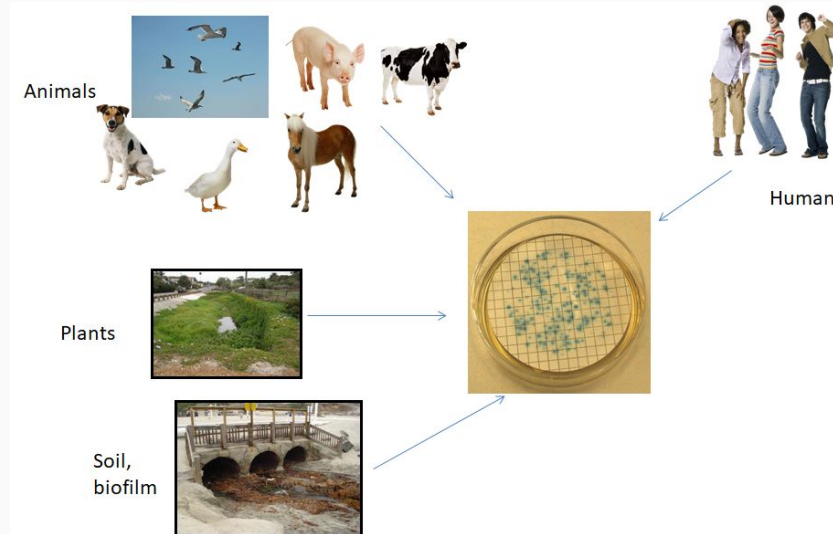
it's been messy yet
#fightdirty
method

SHOP NOW

How does genetic technology solve?

Regulatory Challenges	Microbial Source Tracking
Where is the pollution coming from?	
Unclear who is responsible?	
How do I evaluate permittees' BMP effectiveness?	

Available Tools - Legacy Testing (Culture FIB)



Concerns: Ineffective at discriminating between sources.

Available Tools - Field Observations

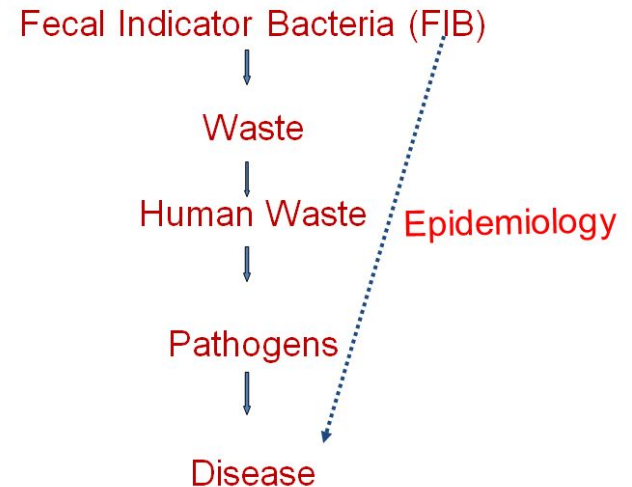


Concerns: Circumstantial and subjective evidence. Difficult to defend.

Consequence

- Hinders source abatement
 - Source identification must precede mitigation
- Weakens the chain of inference
 - Not all sources present the same level of human health risk
 - Non-fecal < fecal
 - Non-human < human

Basis for Monitoring: The Chain of Inference



DNA-based Microbial Source Tracking

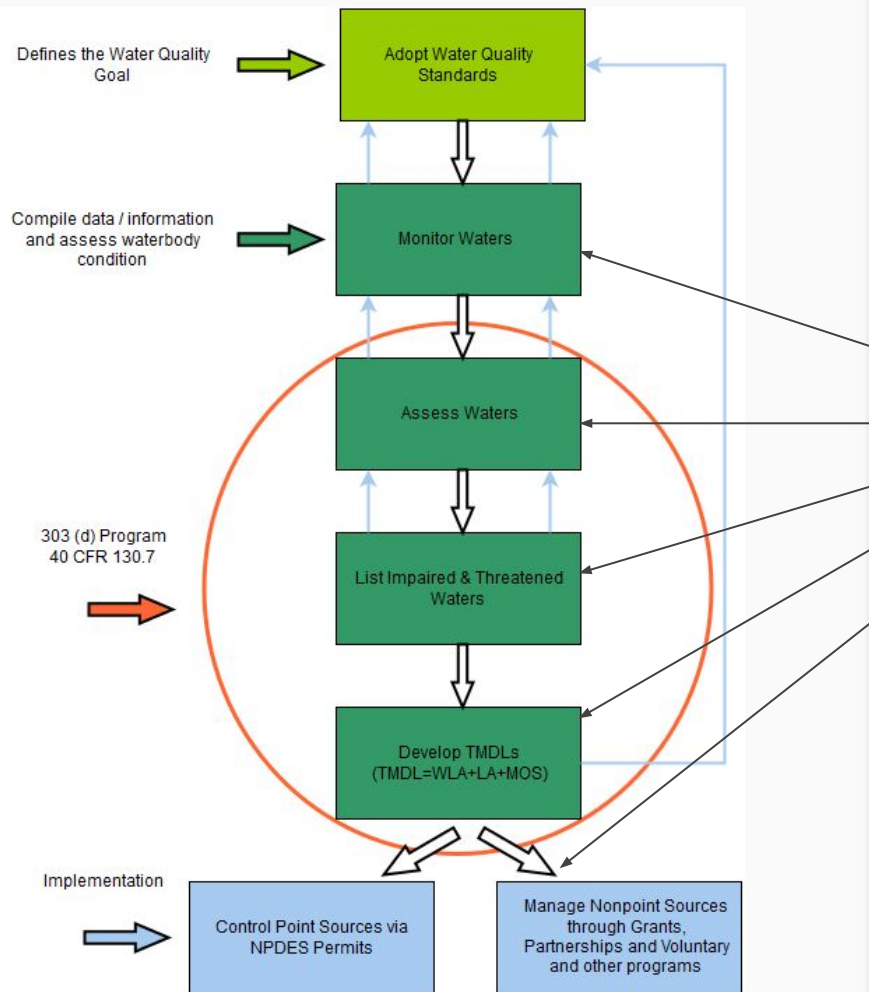
- There are special microbes that are only associated with a given source
 - Host and gut microbes co-evolve
 - Physiological difference of the gut
 - Dietary difference between hosts
- MST provides a set of methods to identify sources of contamination



Microbial Source Tracking - Maturity

Precedent	✓	Clean Beach Initiative Projects Boston Projects in >40 States
Credible Tests	✓	Validated Methods (SIPP)
Access to Technology	✓	Laboratories (Accredited)
Objective Interpretation	✓	Host Fecal Score

Water Quality-Based Approach of the Clean Water Act



Microbial Source Tracking is being applied at each stage of the CWA*

*(Source Molecular national projects from 2010-2017)

Site Prioritization - Florida DEP/Martin County

Summary of Costs / Ranking (Total)

Ranking	Communities	# of Parcels	Totals Cost			Cost Per Parcel		
			Vacuum Collection System*	Gravily Sewer System*	Grinder Pump System**	Vacuum Collection System*	Gravily Sewer System*	Grinder Pump System**
1	Martin Downs / Sunset Gardens (Old Palm City) Area	1078	\$13,532,468	\$20,852,279	\$16,412,724	\$12,553	\$19,343	\$15,225
2	Golden Gate Subdivision	775	\$9,589,163	\$15,656,572	\$11,923,663	\$12,373	\$20,202	\$15,385
3	Benji Rivage Subdivision	256	\$3,974,236	\$5,909,039	\$4,029,218	\$15,524	\$23,082	\$15,739
4	Gaines Ave Area	277	\$4,445,731	\$6,817,429	\$4,447,102	\$16,050	\$24,612	\$16,055
5	Hibiscus Park Area	1349	\$14,165,566	\$18,617,161	\$18,924,589	\$10,501	\$13,801	\$14,029
6	Port Salerno / New Monrovia Area	878	\$10,536,133	\$14,665,435	\$12,878,941	\$12,000	\$16,703	\$14,668
7	Salerno / Manatee Pocket Area	478	\$5,434,992	\$7,838,844	\$6,905,906	\$11,370	\$16,441	\$14,448
8	Nor							\$16,802
9	Evie							\$15,452
10	Star							\$23,178
11	Star							\$15,398
12	Town of Sewall's Point	931	\$11,559,281	\$16,658,298	\$14,024,705	\$12,416	\$17,893	\$15,064
13	Rio / St. Lucie (East)	331	\$4,223,304	\$6,408,478	\$4,894,485	\$12,759	\$19,361	\$14,787
14	Rosewalk Galileo Bay	25	--	\$1,173,955	\$437,729	--	\$46,950	\$17,509
15	Shant Yacht & Country Club	504	\$7,065,980	\$9,910,480	\$7,536,348	\$14,020	\$15,664	\$15,072
16	Four Rivers Subdivision	106	--	\$3,171,303	\$1,095,847	--	\$29,919	\$18,449
17	Crane Creek Country Club	381	\$6,462,014	\$10,991,624	\$6,385,546	\$16,963	\$23,849	\$16,760
18	North Rivers Shire - Phase 2	292	\$4,186,403	\$6,108,524	\$4,494,891	\$14,337	\$22,125	\$15,259
19	Tropical Farms Area	652	\$9,846,595	\$14,796,687	\$10,299,471	\$15,102	\$22,694	\$15,797
20	River's End Subdivision	113	--	\$3,050,687	\$2,011,467	--	\$26,997	\$17,801
21	Vista Salerno / US 1 Area	234	\$3,404,083	\$4,781,277	\$3,558,041	\$14,547	\$20,433	\$15,205
22	Rio / St. Lucie (West)	97	--	\$2,197,773	\$1,582,174	--	\$22,657	\$16,311
23	Captain's Creek Subdivision	167	--	\$4,501,743	\$2,769,291	--	\$27,465	\$16,583
24	Lake Grove Subdivision	76	--	\$2,027,893	\$1,895,236	--	\$26,683	\$18,358
Totals***		10,358	\$118,082,117	--	\$201,150,037			
Total Cost***					\$138,232,154			

Ranking Summary

Ranking	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
Communities	Martin Downs / Sunset Gardens (Old Palm City)	Golden Gate	Benji Rivage	Gaines Ave	Hibiscus Park	Port Salerno / New Monrovia	Port Salerno / Manatee Pocket	Salerno / Manatee Pocket	Salerno / Manatee Pocket	Salerno / Manatee Pocket	Salerno / Manatee Pocket	Salerno / Manatee Pocket	Salerno / Manatee Pocket	Salerno / Manatee Pocket	Salerno / Manatee Pocket	Salerno / Manatee Pocket	Salerno / Manatee Pocket	Salerno / Manatee Pocket	Salerno / Manatee Pocket	Salerno / Manatee Pocket	Salerno / Manatee Pocket	Salerno / Manatee Pocket	Salerno / Manatee Pocket	Salerno / Manatee Pocket	
Population Density																									
Public Systems																									
Classification Surface																									
Proximity Surface																									
FEMA Plain																									
Ground Table																									
Soil Type																									
Surface Water Management	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	10	12	4	12	12	8	12	4	12	12	9	4	12	12	4	4
Nitrogen Contribution	9.59	6.89	2.28	2.46	12.0	7.81	4.23	1.46	7.87	0.33	2.42	8.28	2.98	0.22	4.48	0.94	3.39	2.60	5.80	1.01	2.08	0.86	1.49	0.68	
Human Biological Markers	12	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Total Score	99.35	90.85	85.51	84.37	82.93	82.30	81.90	80.66	79.64	79.36	76.33	74.57	73.98	73.15	72.69	72.10	71.65	71.35	71.17	70.80	68.02	68.52	65.74	53.53	

Human Biological Markers

Total Score

Where is the pollution coming from - Boston Water and Sewer

- **First ever** effectiveness assessment of MS4 IDDE program using DNA markers
- Human markers measured at outfalls regardless of degree of IDDE completion, and conventional tools (test kits) found to be insufficiently sensitive or specific for detecting illicit discharges
- New IDDE procedures now recommended, including DNA markers to improve program effectiveness
- Outcome will be greater bacteria and phosphorus reduction (at **lower unit cost and greater health benefit** than Green Infrastructure), **moving City closer to TMDL compliance**
- Project recognized with **national O&M Performance Award from NACWA**

Geosyntec
consultants



Demonstrating BMP effectiveness - Santa Barbara

Santa Barbara Beaches (with UCSB), for SWRCB under Clean Beaches Initiative grant

- Infrastructure sources investigated and largely ruled out
- Homeless and bather sources continue to be evaluated
- DNA markers have been an essential complement to conventional tools (dye, CCTV, GIS, etc.)
- Management actions recommended based on study results, **improving public health protection at high use beaches**
- Prior work was **first ever** to document and publish on sewer exfiltration into stormdrains, shedding new light on this important source for agencies nationwide

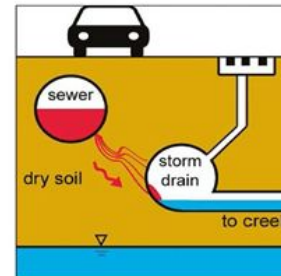
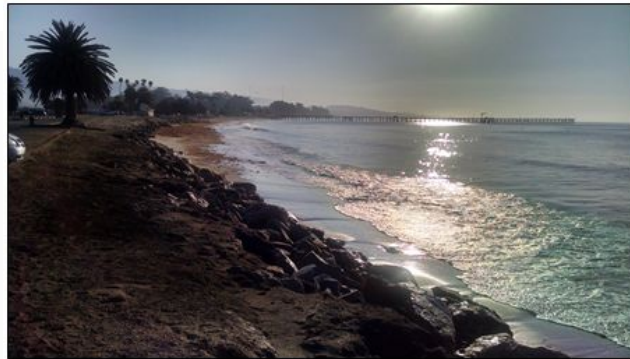


Figure 3-1. Leaking Sanitary Sewer Exfiltrating to Storm Sewer
(Source: Sercu et al. 2011⁴)

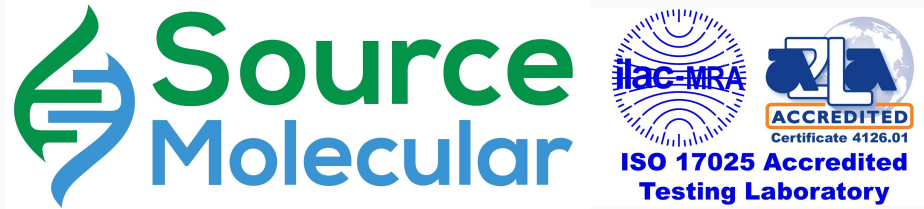
Summary

Genetics is a superior tool for water quality monitoring

It can be used for effective investigations of bacteria impairment

Building a data driven approach on top of rich DNA test data enables analytics

Thank You



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