

SRCSD's Environmental Stewardship & Support



At the Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District (SRCSD), “environmental stewardship” isn’t just a catch phrase; it is a core principle and is something we practice every day as we work to meet our mission. We believe environmental stewardship is good business, a public trust responsibility, and key to achieving sustainable outcomes.

Protecting the environment and our watershed for future generations requires a concerted effort across many fronts. Motivated by a strong environmental ethic, dedicated staff throughout our organization lead the way in environmental action founded on the latest scientific research and accomplished with appropriate uses of technology.

SRCSD also provides significant in-kind and financial support to efforts outside of our own organization that have connections to water quality or other environmental benefits. In fact, SRCSD has spent more than \$20 million over the past decade on a wide range of environmentally-focused (and many non-mandated) efforts. The following list briefly describes some of these efforts.

Monitoring and Science Research Activities

- **Mathematical modeling of SRWTP discharge in Sacramento River and Delta**

This effort supported sound science through development and refinement of dynamic modeling and other studies of the Sacramento River and the impact of SRWTP discharge on water quality. It studied water quality conditions in the Sacramento River and developed a coordinated operations agreement between the SRCSD and Freeport Regional Water Authority Project to minimize operations impacts on the SRCSD and FRWA facilities. *Approximately \$1.1 million to-date.*

- **Sacramento Coordinated Monitoring Program**

This effort is jointly funded by Sacramento Stormwater partners and SRCSD. It supports sound science through characterization of Sacramento and American River water quality. *Approximately \$2 million in support since 1997.*

- **Sacramento River Toxic Pollutant Control Program and Sacramento River Watershed Program**

SRCSD lobbied for and obtained \$10 million in Federal grants over 11 years. This effort supported sound science through characterization of the Sacramento River and tributary water quality. *Approximately \$2.8 million in support from 1995 to 2007.*

- **Mercury Bioaccumulation Study**

The study was a voluntary effort to determine the degree to which mercury bioaccumulates in clams. SRCSD is leading the nation in developing sound science to support mercury management. *Approximately \$700,000 spent from 2006-2008.*

Stewardship, Pollution Prevention and Watershed Enhancement Activities

- **Mercury Source Reduction (www.bemercuryfree.net)**

SRCSD established an award-winning “Be Mercury Free” program and program Web site to prevent sources of residential, industrial, medical sources of mercury from entering the sewer system. Included collection events, public information campaigns, advertising. Program is ongoing. *Approximately \$1.6 million spent since 2001.*

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Stewardship, Pollution Prevention and Watershed Enhancement Activities (continued)

- **Pesticide Source Reduction**

An innovative, multi-pronged effort was conducted as part of a Pollution Prevention Plan required under the District's August 2000 NPDES permit to address diazinon, chlorpyrifos, and lindane. *Approximately \$200,000 spent since 2001.*

- **"Bufferlands" Land Stewardship and Natural Resource Conservation Program**

This effort supports restoration, enhancement, and conservation of increasingly scarce Central Valley wetland, grassland and riparian forest habitats on 2,650 acres of Bufferlands surrounding the wastewater treatment plant. Includes wildlife population, habitat and water quality monitoring. *More than \$1.5 million spent since 1989.*

"Green" Investment Activities

- **Recycling – Water, Methane and Biosolids**

SRCS D's "Water Recycling Opportunities Study" identified options and opportunities to increase the District's recycled water output by up to 40 MGD over the next 20 years. *Approximately \$1.7 million spent since 2004.* (Note: SRCS D has also made significant investments in the areas of methane gas and biosolids recycling.)

Public Education and Outreach

- **Fats, Oil and Grease (FOG) Control Program (www.stoptheclog.com)**

Partnering with local sewer collection agencies, SRCS D developed an award-winning program to provide tools and knowledge to reduce FOG from entering the sewer system, with the goal of preventing sewage backups and overflows. The focus is on outreach and education in this ongoing program. *More than \$1.2 million spent since 2000.*

- **"Splash" Watershed Education Program (www.sacsplash.org)**

In partnership with City of Sacramento Department of Utilities and County Department of Water Resources, this program provides a "Life in Our Watershed" program to 4th and 5th graders via an in-class curriculum followed by a hands-on, docent-lead vernal pool field trip. A high school component provides a curriculum focusing on streams and water quality. *More than \$1 million in support since 1999.*

- **Bufferlands Environmental Outreach and Education Program (www.bufferlands.com)**

This program educates the community about the value of the SRCS D Bufferlands, the natural vegetation and wildlife habitat provided by the Bufferlands. Includes facilitation of public tours, customized school or group tours of various aspects of the Bufferlands, and development and distribution of educational materials. *More than \$1.5 million spent since 1989.*

To learn more, please visit www.srcsd.com.