

ESI Flagship Project (January 5, 2007)

Initial Focus. Using new biomolecular technologies to improve environmental monitoring

GOAL: Address a significant government, research and community-based need concerning non-point source pollution issues in the Chollas Creek Watershed (with an emphasis on PCBs, PAHs, Dioxins/Furans), taking into account related work that has already been completed or is now underway. Establish collaborations with community-based partners and identify a clear value added niche for applying and advancing UCSD science in the service of vulnerable communities and sustainability objectives.

APPROACH:

- 1) Conduct a non-point source pollution workshop/needs assessment to identify past, present and future work in the Chollas Creek Watershed with a focus on organic pollution. The workshop/needs assessment will help identify current research gaps, short and long-term research opportunities and a clear niche for UCSD's work in the watershed. This workshop will also help formalize collaborations with stakeholders conducting monitoring and research in the study area. Stakeholders to be invited include: UCSD researchers, City of San Diego, City of La Mesa, City of Lemon Grove, County Department of Environmental Health, Port of San Diego, RWQCB, SWRCB, SCCWRP, Navy SPAWAR, SDSU, USD, Weston Solutions, CSC and San Diego Citizen Watershed Monitoring Consortium, among others. Capture workshop in video.
- 2) Based on the information gathered during the workshop, prepare a formal field research proposal and circulate the proposal among the stakeholders to receive feedback and finalize the work plan. Also, form a technical advisory committee composed in part by of some of the stakeholders participating in the workshop.
- 3) Conduct a community workshop to present the project and gather feedback on communicating findings to community, as well as identify opportunities for UCSD student and community involvement. Capture/archive the meeting in video.
- 4) Implement the field research project [following a logical flow: purpose => question => hypotheses => sampling design => data collection => statistical analysis => tests of hypotheses => interpretation and presentation of results]
- 5) Conduct a public meeting to report findings and present recommendations for future work. Release report on findings. Capture/archive meeting in video.

DELIVERABLES:

- Videos of workshops and meetings
- Data as part of GIS layer
- Final Report (possibly presenting the results at a conference and/or in a publication).