

Assessment of Interim Flow Water-Quality Data of the San Joaquin River Restoration Program and Implications for Fishes, California, 2009–11



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By Marissa L. Wulff and Larry R. Brown

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Conversion Factors

SI to Inch/Pound

Multiply	By	To obtain
	Length	
centimeter (cm)	0.3937	inch (in.)
meter (m)	3.281	foot (ft)
kilometer (km)	0.6214	mile (mi)
	Volume	
liter (L)	33.82	ounce, fluid (fl. oz)
liter (L)	0.2642	gallon (gal)

Horizontal coordinate information is referenced to the North American Datum of 1983 (NAD 83).

Concentrations of chemical constituents in water are given either in milligrams per liter (mg/L) or micrograms per liter ($\mu\text{g/L}$).

Abbreviations and Acronyms

ATR	San Joaquin River Restoration Program Annual Technical Report
DWR	California Department of Water Resources
EC50	50-percent effect concentration
EPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
LC50	50-percent lethal concentration
OC	organic carbon
OPP	Office of Pesticide Programs
Reclamation	U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
RWQCB	Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
SJRRP	San Joaquin River Restoration Program
SPMD	semi-permeable membrane devices
SWAMP	Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program
TOC	total organic carbon
USGS	U.S. Geological Survey

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Abstract

After more than 50 years of extensive water diversion for urban and agriculture use, a major settlement was reached among the U.S. Departments of the Interior and Commerce, the Natural Resources Defense Council, and the Friant Water Users Authority in an effort to restore the San Joaquin River. The settlement received Federal court approval in October 2006 and established the San Joaquin River Restoration Program, a multi-agency collaboration between State and Federal agencies to restore and maintain fish populations, including Chinook salmon, in the main stem of the river between Friant Dam and the confluence with the Merced River. This is to be done while avoiding or minimizing adverse water supply effects to all of the Friant Division contractors that could result from restoration flows required by the settlement. The settlement stipulates that water- and sediment-quality data be collected to help assess the restoration goals. This report summarizes and evaluates water-quality data collected in the main stem of the San Joaquin River between Friant Dam and the Merced River by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation for the San Joaquin River Restoration Program during 2009–11. This summary and assessment consider sampling frequency for adequate characterization of variability, sampling locations for sufficient characterization of the San Joaquin River Restoration Program restoration reach, sampling methods for appropriate media (water and sediment), and constituent reporting limits. After reviewing the water- and sediment-quality results for the San Joaquin River Restoration Program, several suggestions were made to the Fisheries Management Work Group, a division of the San Joaquin River Restoration Program that focuses solely on the reintroduction strategies and health of salmon and other native fishes in the river. Water-quality results for lead and total organic carbon exceeded the Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program Basin Plan Objectives for the San Joaquin Basin, and results for copper exceeded the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Office of Pesticide Programs' aquatic-life chronic and acute benchmarks for invertebrates. One sediment sample contained detections of pyrethroid pesticides bifenthrin, lambda-cyhalothrin, and total permethrin at concentrations above published chronic toxicity thresholds.

Introduction

The San Joaquin River Restoration Program (SJRRP) is a multi-agency collaboration to restore flows and fish to the San Joaquin River from Friant Dam to the confluence with the Merced River (fig. 1). Member agencies include the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), California Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW), California Department of Water Resources (DWR), U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), and private consultants. The SJRRP is the result of a settlement reached by the U.S. Departments of the Interior and Commerce, the Natural Resources Defense Council, and the Friant Water Users Authority in October 2006. The settlement has two major goals. The first goal is to restore and maintain fish populations, including naturally reproducing and self-sustaining populations of Chinook salmon *Oncorhynchus tshawytscha* in the main stem of the San Joaquin River between Friant Dam and the confluence with the Merced River. The second goal of the settlement is to reduce or avoid adverse water supply effects for all of the Friant Division contractors that could result from the flows required by the settlement. The release of interim flows began in October 2009 and continues until full restoration flows begin. Interim flows are meant to allow implementing agencies the opportunity to collect data related to flow; seepage losses; and fish needs, such as passage requirements, habitat quality, temperature constraints, and holding-pool availability, to aid in the implementation of full restoration flows.

There has been a variety of research on San Joaquin River water and sediment quality, particularly concerning the effect of agricultural pesticides and drainage water on aquatic and terrestrial environmental quality and biota (Saiki and others, 1993; Giddings and others, 2000; Domagalski and others, 2010); however, most of this work has been done downstream of the SJRRP restoration reach, where the river remains perennial. There are little data available from the SJRRP restoration reach before the agreement was reached, and there has been little interpretation or review of the specific water- and sediment-quality data collected for the SJRRP. The San Joaquin River Restoration Program water- and sediment-quality results have been reported in previous SJRRP Annual Technical Reports (San Joaquin River Restoration Program, 2010b), but little attention has been given to interpreting these results for possible effects on salmon and other native fish species that live in the San Joaquin River.

Purpose and Scope

The purpose of this report is to summarize and assess water-quality data collected from the SJRRP restoration reach between Friant Dam and the Merced River by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation for the SJRRP Interim Flows Program during 2009–11. This summary and assessment consider sampling frequency for adequate characterization of variability, sampling locations for sufficient characterization of the sampling reach, sampling methods for appropriate characterization of

media (water and sediment), and laboratory reporting limits. A discussion of the water-quality data and how the data compared to available criteria, benchmarks, and thresholds for salmonids, native fishes, and other aquatic organisms is also included. This report is specifically intended to aid the Fisheries Management Work Group, which is a group within the San Joaquin River Restoration Program that focuses solely on developing reintroduction strategies for Chinook salmon and protecting the health of the salmon and other native fishes in the river.

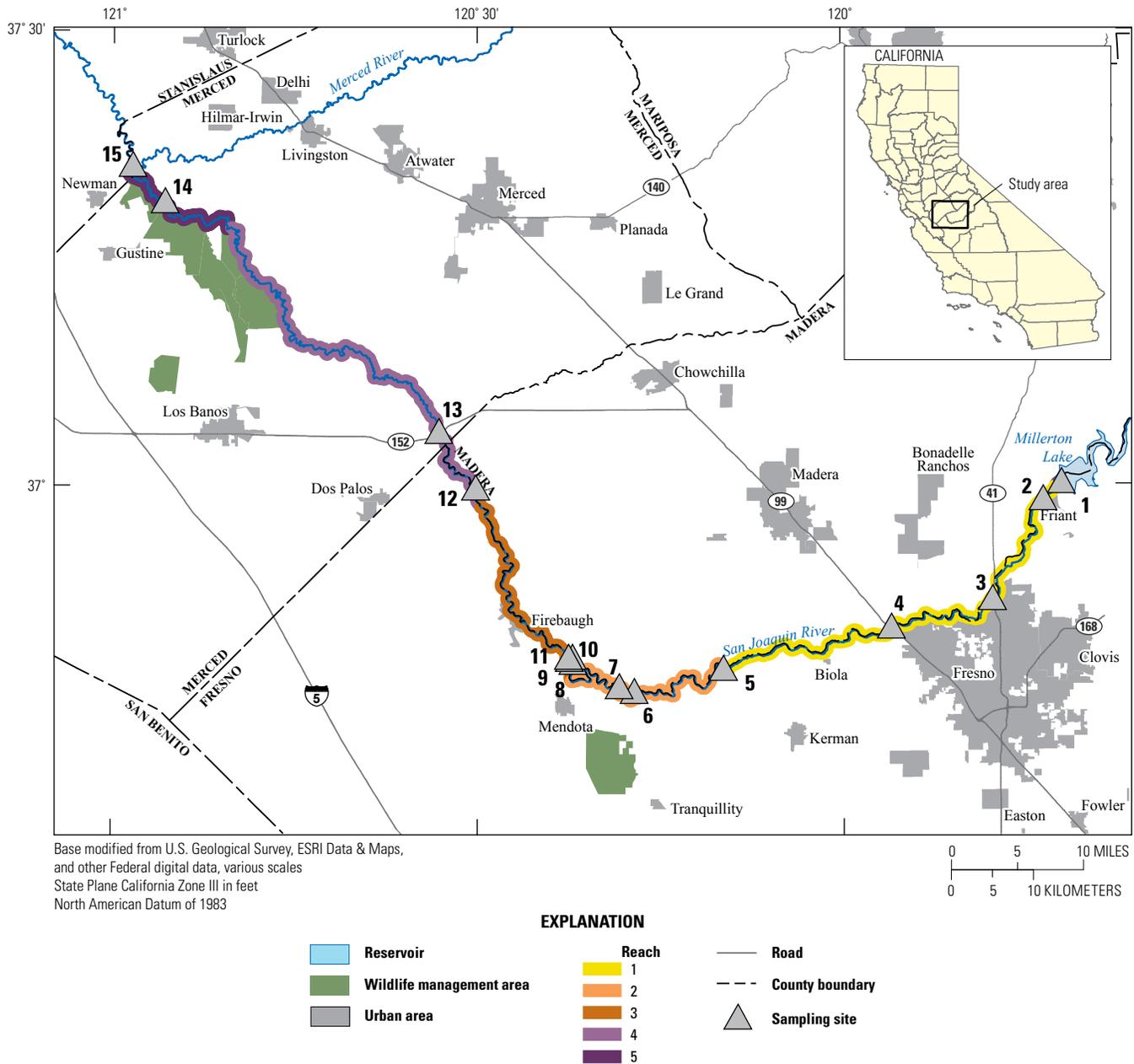


Figure 1. The location of the San Joaquin River Restoration Project restoration reach, San Joaquin River, central California, reach sections, and sampling sites. See [table 1](#) for site codes and descriptions.

Description of the Study Area

The San Joaquin River is one of two major contributing rivers to the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, the landward reach of the San Francisco Estuary. The San Joaquin River is the second largest river in California, with a length of over 480 kilometers (km; 300 miles), and has three major tributaries: the Merced, Tuolumne, and Stanislaus Rivers. Beginning in the Sierra Nevada Mountains, the river and its tributaries are extensively diverted for agricultural use in the San Joaquin Valley before reaching the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (fig. 1). Friant Dam was completed in 1942, forming Millerton Reservoir, which is a reservoir that stores surface water for irrigation and flood-control purposes. From Friant Dam, water is diverted north through the Madera Canal and south through the Friant-Kern Canal to irrigation districts that provide water for agricultural uses throughout the valley. Before the settlement, there was a small release for riparian-water users that maintained flow for some distance downstream from the dam. Water diversion downstream from Friant Dam generally removed most of the water from the natural channel, often leaving the river dry at Gravelly Ford (fig. 1). Downstream from Gravelly Ford, the San Joaquin River is either dry or wetted in sections as a result of water transport between diversions or collection of agricultural return water. The SJRRP focuses solely on the stretch of river between Friant Dam, near Fresno, California, to the confluence with the Merced River, which is a distance of 245 km (152 river miles; fig. 1).

The SJRRP restoration reach has been divided into five separate reaches to address variations in channel morphology, water presence and source, land use, vegetation, and infrastructure along the river (fig. 1). Reach 1 extends from Friant Dam to Gravelly Ford, is perennial, and has been mined for instream gravel. Mining and agriculture are the major land uses for this reach, and riparian vegetation is present in most of reach 1. Reach 2 begins at Gravelly Ford and ends at Mendota Dam. This reach is a meandering, low-gradient channel that is dry the majority of the year, except following flood releases. The Chowchilla Bypass Bifurcation Structure divides reach 2 into two subsections: reach 2A has pasture and grassland vegetation and reach 2B has a narrow strip of riparian vegetation bordering the channel. Backwater coming from Mendota Pool causes a section of reach 2B to be perennial. Reach 3 begins downstream of Mendota Pool and extends to Sack Dam. Land use in reach 3 is primarily agriculture with some urban development and a narrow section of riparian vegetation along the channel. The Delta-Mendota Canal, which delivers water to Mendota Pool, provides flow to this section of the river all year. At the end of this reach, Sack Dam diverts the water from Mendota Pool to the Arroyo Canal. Reach 4 extends from Sack Dam to the confluence with Bear Creek and the Eastside Bypass; this reach rarely contains water because of the diversion at Sack Dam. Reach 4 is divided into three subsections: 4A, 4B1, and 4B2. Reach 4A extends from Sack Dam to the Sand Slough Control Structure and is sparsely vegetated. Reach 4B1, from Sand Slough Control Structure to the

confluence with the Mariposa Bypass, has been dry for more than 40 years, except for agricultural return flows. Reach 4B2, from the confluence of the Mariposa Bypass to the confluence of the Eastside Bypass, is where flood flows from the bypass return to the main stem of the San Joaquin River, creating a section of wide floodplain and natural vegetation. Reach 5 extends from the confluence of the Eastside Bypass to the confluence with the Merced River and contains water all year as a result of agriculture return flows from Mud and Salt Sloughs. Reach 5 has less agricultural land use than most other reaches and public wildlife areas managed for a variety of plant and wildlife species.

Methods

All data in this report were collected by Reclamation personnel and are publicly available from the Environmental Monitoring Database (U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, 2013). For this report, the accumulated water-quality data were first compiled and organized by location and date. The data were then compared to thresholds, benchmarks, and criteria obtained from literature sources for effects of water quality on aquatic organisms. This report specifically discusses the results of the SJRRP water-quality monitoring during interim flows and how exposure to various constituents in the river could affect the fishes in the SJRRP restoration reach. Detailed information about constituent concentrations, site locations, and collection dates are available in appendix D of the SJRRP Annual Technical Report (ATR; San Joaquin River Restoration Project, 2010a). Constituents that were not detected during SJRRP sampling are not discussed, unless recommendations were made to lower current laboratory reporting limits. All data that were downloaded from the Reclamation database and discussed in this report are available in appendixes A and C.

Sample Collection and Reporting

Water and sediment samples were collected by Reclamation personnel in accordance with the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) and California Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program (SWAMP) guidelines. Sample collection and processing also followed Provision 22 of the State Water Resources Control Board Division of Water Rights Order WR 2009-0058-DWR and corrected WR 2010-0029-DWR, which is further described in appendix D of the ATR and the Interim Flow Program water-quality monitoring plan (San Joaquin River Restoration Program, 2010a, 2010c). The Water Rights Order requires the SJRRP implementing agencies to monitor water-quality to determine whether there are adverse effects associated with the Interim Flows Program and to evaluate whether additional measures are needed to address water-quality issues on the basis of sampling data. Water and sediment sampling for the Interim Flows Program are mandated and amended as described in

the Water Rights Order. The initial sampling was meant to be exploratory and subsequent samplings are subject to change as the results of the initial sampling are evaluated and the flow-schedule changes. Samples were collected at eight core sites, listed in table 1, for analyses of various parameters required by the Water Rights Order; other sites were added to support fish-management research on an as-needed basis.

Samples were collected, preserved, and handled according to Reclamation quality-assurance practices, which included the incorporation of blank, reference, duplicate, and spiked samples to verify laboratory and field measurements (San Joaquin River Restoration Program, 2010a; U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, 2012). Water samples were collected by using a stainless-steel sampling device and were poured directly into sample bottles or a churn-splitter. Integrated width and depth water samples were collected where uneven mixing across the river channel was observed. Because of the short hold times for some constituents, water samples for analysis of *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*), fecal coliform, total coliform (24-hour hold times), nitrates, chlorophyll-*a* (48-hour hold times), total suspended solids (7-day hold times), and dissolved and total organic carbon (28-day hold times) were shipped from the field directly to contract laboratories. Bed-sediment samples were collected from the top 5 centimeters (cm) of stream-bed material at each sediment sampling location. Laboratory reporting limits and detection frequencies are presented for all measured constituents in tables 2 and 3.

Sampling Locations

Water-quality samples were collected repeatedly from eight primary sites during 2009–11. Sediment was collected repeatedly from eight primary sites during 2009–10. Three additional water-quality sites and three additional sediment sites were used in 2009 only (table 1). In 2009, water samples were collected from three sites in reach 1A; one site in reaches 2A, 2B, 3, and 4; and two sites in reach 5 (table 4; fig. 1). Sediment samples were taken from two sites in reach 1A; one site in reaches 2A, 3, and 4; and four sites in reach 2B. In 2010, water samples were collected from two sites each in reaches 1A, 2A, and 5 and from one site in reaches 3 and 4. Sediment samples were taken from two sites in reach 1A and one site in reaches 2A, 2B, and 3 through 5. In 2011, water samples were collected from two monitoring sites in reaches 1A and 5 and from one site in reaches 2A, 2B, 3, and 4. Sediment samples were not collected in 2011.

Sampling Frequency

The frequency of sampling and analytical parameters were based on initial findings from the 2009 interim flow water-quality monitoring program, the requirements of the Water Rights Order, and recommendations from the SJRRP Streamflow and Water Quality Monitoring Subgroup (San Joaquin River Restoration Program, 2010c). The water and

Table 1. Water-quality and sediment monitoring-site locations.

[**Media:** s, sediment sites; wq; water-quality sites; wq/s, both water-quality and sediment sites; **Abbreviations:** —, not applicable; @, at; CCID, Contra Costa Irrigation District; Hwy, highway; SJ, San Joaquin; WD, water district]

River mile	Site number	Monitoring site	Reach	Media	Year collected
—	1	Millerton Lake	—	wq	2009
266	2	SJ River downstream from Friant Dam (Lost Lake Park)	1A	wq/s*	2009–11
255	3	SJ River at Hwy 41	1A	wq	2009
243	4	SJ River at Hwy 99 Camp Pashayan	1A	wq/s*	2009–11
227	5	SJ River at Gravelly Ford	2A	wq/s*	2009–11
213	6	SJ River downstream from Chowchilla Bypass	2B	wq	2009
211.9	7	SJ River at San Mateo	2B	s	2009
206	8	Mendota Wildlife Management Area	2B	s	2009–10
205.5	9	Mendota Pool @ CCID outside canal headworks	2B	s	2009
205.2	10	Mendota Pool upstream from Mendota Dam (Firebaugh Canal WD headworks)	2B	s	2009
205	11	SJ River downstream from Mendota Dam	3	wq/s*	2009–11
182	12	SJ River downstream from Sack Dam	4	wq	2009
174	13	SJ River at Hwy 152	4	wq/s*	2009–11
125	14	SJ River at Fremont Ford	5	wq	2009–11
118	15	SJ River upstream from Merced River (Hills Ferry)	5	wq/s*	2009–11

*Sediment was not collected in 2011.

Table 2. Summary of all constituents measured in water and laboratory reporting limits. Multiple reporting limits are listed for constituents that were analyzed by using different reporting limits for different sets of samples.

[Multiple reporting limits are listed for constituents that were analyzed by using different reporting limits for different sets of samples.

Abbreviations: µg/L, microgram per liter; mg/L, milligram per liter; MPN/100 mL, most probable number per 100 milliliters; ng/L, nanograms per liter]

Pesticides	Reporting limit	Pesticides	Reporting limit
Organochlorine scan		Organochlorine scan—Continued	
2,4'-DDD	0.023, 0.020, 0.002 µg/L	Nonachlor, <i>cis</i>	0.002 µg/L
2,4'-DDE	0.011, 0.010, 0.002 µg/L	Oxadiazon	0.002 µg/L
2,4'-DDT	0.011, 0.010, 0.002 µg/L	Oxychlorane	0.002 µg/L
2,4,5-T	0.2 µg/L	Pentachlorophenol	0.04 µg/L
2,4,5-TP	0.2 µg/L	Picloram	0.1 µg/L
2,4-D	0.1 µg/L	Tedion	0.002 µg/L
2,4-DB	2.0 µg/L	Toxaphene	0.50, 0.57 µg/L
3,5-Dichlorobenzoic acid	0.5 µg/L	Trichloronate	1.5, 0.050, 0.040 µg/L
4,4'-DDD		Pyrethroid scan	
4,4'-DDE		Bifenthrin	0.50, 0.0010 µg/L
4,4'-DDMU		Cyfluthrin	0.50, 0.0020 µg/L
4,4'-DDT		Cypermethrin	0.002 µg/L
Acifluorfen	0.2 µg/L	Deltamethrin	0.5 µg/L
Aldrin	0.006, 0.005, 0.002 µg/L	Esfenvalerate	0.5 µg/L
Bentazon	0.5 µg/L	Fenprothrin	0.002 µg/L
Chlordane	0.050, 0.056 µg/L	Lambda-cyhalothrin	0.5, 0.0005 µg/L
Chlordane-alpha	0.010, 0.002 µg/L	Permethrin (total)	0.5 µg/L
Chlordane-gamma	0.010, 0.002 µg/L	Permethrin, <i>cis</i>	0.0025 µg/L
Dachtal	0.002 µg/L	Permethrin, <i>trans</i>	0.0025 µg/L
Dalapon	1.0 µg/L	Carbamates	
Total DCPA mono and diacid degradates	0.1 µg/L	3-hydroxycarbofuran	0.5 µg/L
Dicamba	0.1 µg/L	Aldicarb	0.5, 0.005 µg/L
Dichlorprop	0.5 µg/L	Aldicarb sulfone	0.5 µg/L
Dieldrin	0.011, 0.010, 0.002 µg/L	Aldicarb sulfoxide	0.5 µg/L
Dinoseb	0.2 µg/L	Baygon	0.5 µg/L
Endosulfan I	0.011, 0.010, 0.002 µg/L	Captan	0.005 µg/L
Endosulfan II	0.011, 0.010, 0.002 µg/L	Carbaryl	0.5, 0.020 µg/L
Endosulfan sulfate	0.023, 0.020, 0.002 µg/L	Carbofuran	0.5, 0.001 µg/L
Endrin	0.011, 0.010, 0.002 µg/L	Diuron	0.005 µg/L
Endrin aldehyde	0.011, 0.010, 0.005 µg/L	Linuron	0.005 µg/L
Endrin ketone	0.010, 0.005 µg/L	Methiocarb	0.5, 0.005 µg/L
Gamma-BHC	0.011, 0.010, 0.002 µg/L	Methomyl	0.5, 0.001 µg/L
HCH-Alpha	0.011, 0.010, 0.002 µg/L	Oxamyl	0.5 µg/L
HCH-Beta	0.006, 0.005, 0.002 µg/L	Organophosphates	
HCH-Delta	0.002 µg/L	Aspon	0.05 µg/L
Heptachlor	0.011, 0.010, 0.002 µg/L	Azinphosmethyl	2.5, 0.20, 0.020 µg/L
Heptachlor epoxide	0.011, 0.010, 0.002 µg/L	Azinphos ethyl	0.080, 0.050 µg/L
Hexachlorobenzene	0.001 µg/L	Bolstar	1.0, 0.20, 0.050 µg/L
Methoxychlor	0.011, 0.010, 0.002 µg/L	Carbophenothion	0.10, 0.050 µg/L
Mirex	0.002 µg/L	Chlorfenvinphos	0.050, 0.040 µg/L
		Chlorpyrifos	1.5, 0.040, 0.005 µg/L

Table 2. Summary of all constituents measured in water and laboratory reporting limits. Multiple reporting limits are listed for constituents that were analyzed by using different reporting limits for different sets of samples.—Continued

[Multiple reporting limits are listed for constituents that were analyzed by using different reporting limits for different sets of samples.]

Abbreviations: µg/L, microgram per liter; mg/L, milligram per liter; MPN/100 mL, most probable number per 100 milliliters; ng/L, nanograms per liter]

Pesticides	Reporting limit	Pesticides	Reporting limit
Organophosphates—Continued		Organophosphates—Continued	
Chlorpyrifos, methyl	0.050, 0.040 µg/L	Trichlorfon	0.05 µg/L
Ciodrin	0.05 µg/L	Total suspended solids	1.0–43 mg/L
Coumaphos	1.0, 0.40, 0.050 µg/L	Total organic carbon	0.6, 0.3 mg/L
Demeton	3.0 µg/L	Dissolved organic carbon	0.3 µg/L
Demeton-o	1.0 µg/L	Nutrients	
Demeton-s	2.0, 0.10, 0.050 µg/L	Ammonia as N	0.5, 0.05 mg/L
Diazinon	0.50, 0.040, 0.005 µg/L	Chlorophyll A	2.0–6.0 µg/L
Dichlorfenthion	0.050, 0.040 µg/L	Nitrate + nitrite as N	0.05 µg/L
Dichlorvos	0.50, 0.10, 0.050 µg/L	Nitrate as N	0.05 mg/L
Dicrotophos	0.05 µg/L	Nitrite as N	0.03 mg/L
Dimethoate	1.5, 0.20, 0.030 µg/L	Phosphorus, total as P	0.05 mg/L
Dioxathion	0.05 µg/L	Total Kjeldhal nitrogen (TKN)	0.5, 0.2 mg/L
Disulfoton	1.0, 0.10, 0.020 µg/L	Bacteria	
Epn	1.2 µg/L	Escherichia coli (<i>E. coli</i>)	1.0, 2.0 MPN/100 mL
Ethion	0.050, 0.040 µg/L	Fecal coliform	2.0 MPN/100 mL
Ethoprop	1.5, 0.10, 0.050 µg/L	Total coliform	1.0–2.0/100 ml
Famphur	1.0, 0.40, 0.050 µg/L	Trace elements, cations	
Fenitrothion	0.050, 0.040 µg/L	Calcium	1.0, 5.0 mg/L
Fensulfothion	2.5, 0.20, 0.050 µg/L	Magnesium	1.0, 5.0 mg/L
Fenthion	2.5, 0.50, 0.040 µg/L	Potassium	1.0, 5.0 mg/L
Fonophos	0.050, 0.040 µg/L	Sodium	1.0, 5.0, 10 mg/L
Glyphosate	6.0 µg/L	Trace elements, anions	
Leptophos	0.050, 0.040 µg/L	Alkalinity	5.0 mg/L
Malathion	2.0, 0.10, 0.020 µg/L	Bicarbonate alkalinity	5.0 mg/L
Merphos	5.0, 0.050 µg/L	Carbonate alkalinity	5.0 mg/L
Methidathion	0.10, 0.020 µg/L	Chloride	0.4–2.0 mg/L
Mevinphos	6.2, 0.10, 0.050 µg/L	Hydroxide alkalinity	5.0 mg/L
Naled	2.0, 0.50, 0.050 µg/L	Sulfate	0.4–2.0 mg/L
O,O,O-Triethylphosphorothioate	0.5 µg/L	Trace elements, total	
Parathion, ethyl	1.0 µg/L	Arsenic	0.5 µg/L
Parathion, methyl	4.0 µg/L	Boron	10.0 µg/L
Phorate	1.2, 0.10, 0.020 µg/L	Chromium	0.5 µg/L
Phosmet	0.20, 0.02 µg/L	Copper	0.5 µg/L
Phosphamadon	0.05 µg/L	Lead	0.5 µg/L
Ronnel	10, 0.10, 0.050 µg/L	Mercury	200, 100, 2.0 ng/L
Sulfotep	1.5, 0.050, 0.040 µg/L	Molybdenum	0.5 µg/L
Terbufos	0.050, 0.040 µg/L	Nickel	1.0 µg/L
Tetrachlorvinphos	3.5, 0.10, 0.050 µg/L	Selenium	0.8, 0.4 µg/L
Thionazin	1.0, 0.050, 0.040 µg/L	Zinc	2.0 µg/L
Tokuthion	1.6, 0.10, 0.050 µg/L		

Table 3. Summary of all constituents measured in sediment with laboratory reporting limits.

[Abbreviations: —, not available; µg/g, micrograms per gram; µg/kg, microgram per kilogram; ng/g, nanograms per gram]

Pesticides	Reporting limit	Pesticides	Reporting limit
Organochlorine scan		Pyrethroid scan	
2,4'-DDD	1.0–8.7 ng/g	Bifenthrin	0.0012–21.0 µg/kg
2,4'-DDE	2.0–8.7 ng/g	Cyfluthrin	0.0047–21.0 µg/kg
4,4'-DDD	0.65–8.7 ng/g	Cypermethrin	4.7–8.6 ng/g
4,4'-DDE	2.0–8.7 ng/g	Esfenvalerate	13–22 µg/kg
4,4'-DDMU	3.0–4.4 ng/g	Fenpropathrin	4.7–8.6 ng/g
4,4'-DDT	0.65–87 ng/g	Lambda-cyhalothrin	0.0023–22.0 µg/kg
Aldrin	1.0–1.5 ng/g	Permethrin (total)	13–22 µg/kg
Chlordane, technical	6.1–13.0 µg/kg	Permethrin, <i>cis</i>	5.8–11.0 ng/g
Chlordane-alpha	1.0–1.5 ng/g	Permethrin, <i>trans</i>	5.8–11.0 ng/g
Chlordane-gamma	1.0–1.5 ng/g	Organophosphates	
Dachtal	0.99–1.5 ng/g	Chlorpyrifos	0.46–0.59 ng/g
Dieldrin	0.50–51.0 ng/g	Trace elements, total	
Endosulfan I	2.0–2.9 ng/g	Arsenic	0.5–1.3 µg/g
Endosulfan II	6.8 ng/g	Chromium	0.5–1.0 µg/g
Endosulfan sulfate	5.5 ng/g	Copper	0.5–1.0 µg/g
Endrin	0.65–87.0 ng/g	Lead	0.5–1.3 µg/g
Gamma-BHC	0.5–51 ng/g	Mercury	0.0117–0.3 µg/g
HCH-alpha	0.50–0.73 ng/g	Nickel	1.0 µg/g
HCH-beta	1.0–1.5 ng/g	Selenium	2.5–4.4 µg/g
Heptachlor	1.0–1.5 ng/g	Zinc	1.5–2.0 µg/g
Heptachlor epoxide	0.65–8.4 ng/g	Total Organic Carbon (TOC)	2,000–2,500 µg/g
Hexachlorobenzene	0.69–1.0 ng/g	Dissolved Organic Carbon (DOC)	2,000 µg/g
Methoxychlor	3.0–4.4 ng/g	Percentage of solids	—
Mirex	1.5–2.2 ng/g	Percentage of moisture	—
Nonachlor, <i>cis</i>	0.99–1.5 ng/g	<i>H. azteca</i> survival	—
Nonachlor, <i>trans</i>	5.8–11 ng/g	<i>H. azteca</i> dry weight	—
Oxadiazon	0.99–1.5 ng/g		
Oxychlordane	0.99–1.5 ng/g		

sediment samples discussed in this report were collected throughout the year from the main stem of the San Joaquin River during interim flows from 2009 to 2011 (table 4).

Overall, a total of 111 water samples (from 12 sites) were collected for the SJRRP water-quality monitoring program during 2009–11. Each water sample was analyzed for 153 different constituents. During the same period, a total of 18 sediment samples were collected (from 10 sites), and each sediment sample was analyzed for 54 constituents.

Results and Discussion

Concentrations Found and Comparisons to Biologically Based Thresholds

To determine whether constituent concentrations found in water and sediment samples were of concern to fishes and other biota in the SJRRP restoration reach, results were compared to SWAMP Basin Plan Objectives for the San Joaquin Basin (California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region, 2009), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Office of Pesticide Programs' aquatic life benchmarks and aquatic life criteria (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 2014a, 2014b) and relevant literature values. Literature inferences were necessary because few studies have been done on California native fish species. Approximately 40 percent of constituent analyses were below minimum laboratory reporting limits. Results for constituents detected in one or more samples are listed in table 5 for water and table 6 for sediment.

Water Quality

Concentrations of lead and total organic carbon (TOC) exceeded SWAMP basin plan objectives for the San Joaquin Basin in some water samples. There was a single exceedance for lead at the San Joaquin River upstream from Merced River site (table 1, site 15) in October 2009. The SWAMP basin plan objective is 15 micrograms per liter ($\mu\text{g/L}$; California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region, 2009), and the one sample exceeding this value had a lead concentration of 56 $\mu\text{g/L}$ (table 5). This value also exceeds the EPA Office of Water aquatic life criteria continuous concentration of 2.5 $\mu\text{g/L}$ (table 7). "Continuous concentration" refers to an estimate of the highest concentration of a constituent to which aquatic life can be exposed for an indefinite period without an unacceptable effect resulting. Total organic carbon exceeded SWAMP basin plan objectives for the San Joaquin Basin in 61 samples at 7 sites along the SJRRP restoration reach, with exceedances in each year. The basin plan objective for TOC is 3 $\mu\text{g/L}$ (California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region, 2009), and exceedances ranged from 3.2 to 8.8 $\mu\text{g/L}$ (table 5).

Concentrations of dissolved copper in water were above laboratory reporting limits (table 2) in 152 samples from 12 different sampling sites. Concentrations of dissolved copper ranged from 0.5 to 7.0 $\mu\text{g/L}$ (table 5). Copper concentrations in 95 water samples from 12 sites were above the EPA Office of Pesticide Programs' (OPP) aquatic-life chronic benchmark for invertebrates of 1.11 $\mu\text{g/L}$ (table 7). The chronic benchmark for invertebrates refers to the lowest concentration that has no observed adverse effect from a 21-day exposure test on invertebrates (usually midge, scud, or daphnids). Because the majority of water samples from the SJRRP restoration reach had copper concentrations at or above this chronic benchmark, invertebrates could be exposed to higher concentrations for longer than 21 days and experience negative effects.

Sixty-three samples from nine sites had copper concentrations that were above EPA OPP's acute benchmark for invertebrates of 2.05 $\mu\text{g/L}$ (table 7). The acute benchmark for invertebrates refers to a toxicity value that is usually the lowest 48- or 96-hour EC_{50} (concentration for a compound where 50 percent of its maximal effect is observed) or LC_{50} (lethal dose for half of test population after a specific time; U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 2014a). Aquatic life benchmarks are extracted from the most current publicly available risk-assessment data that are based on the most sensitive toxicity data for each aquatic taxon. Each benchmark, acute or chronic, is an estimate of the concentration below which pesticides are not expected to harm the organism.

Dissolved copper naturally occurs in the environment, but elevated ambient levels can cause lethal and sublethal effects on fish and negative effects on the food web utilized by salmon and other fish. Sources of copper that can elevate ambient background levels include fertilizers, herbicides, acid-mine drainage, and urban runoff. Sublethal effects of copper on salmonids include impairment of olfaction, disruption of migration, reduced response to predators, depression of immune responses, and interference with brain function (Lorz and McPherson, 1977; Baker and others, 1983). For example, Baldwin and others (2003) found that a 2.3–3.0 $\mu\text{g/L}$ increase in copper levels above 3.0 $\mu\text{g/L}$ background levels for 30–60 minutes affected olfactory-related behaviors in juvenile coho salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*), regardless of water-hardness levels. Water hardness has been shown to affect the toxicity of copper and other metals to fish.

Sediment Quality

A single sediment sample from sample site 9, San Joaquin River at San Mateo (table 1), collected on October 1, 2009, had three pyrethroid pesticide detections. Bifenthrin (23 micrograms per kilogram; $\mu\text{g/kg}$), lambda-cyhalothrin (21 $\mu\text{g/kg}$), and total permethrin (20 $\mu\text{g/kg}$) were detected at concentrations above reporting limits (table 6). These pesticide results were normalized to 1 percent organic carbon in sediment to compare them with published benchmarks following procedures outlined in DiToro and others (1991). Organic carbon for this sediment sample was below the reporting limit

Table 5. Summary of water-quality constituents above laboratory reporting limits, 2009–11.

[Abbreviations: <, less than; µg/L, micrograms per liter; mg/L, milligrams per liter; MPN/100 mL, most probable number per 100 milliliters; ng/L, nanograms per liter]

Constituent	Number of total samples	Number of samples above laboratory reporting limits	Detection frequency	Minimum result	Maximum result	Reporting limit	Units
General water quality							
Alkalinity	139	139	1.00	7.0	200.0	5.0	mg/L
Bicarbonate alkalinity	156	156	1.00	8.0	200.0	5.0	mg/L
Carbonate alkalinity	156	156	1.00	7.0	7.0	5.0	mg/L
Metals							
Arsenic	154	154	1.00	<0.5	6.2	0.5–1.3	µg/L
Boron	121	105	0.87	10.0	950.0	10.0	µg/L
Chromium	154	86	0.56	<0.5	5.3	0.5	µg/L
Copper*	154	152	0.99	<0.5	7.0	0.5	µg/L
Lead*	154	69	0.45	<0.5	56.0	0.5	µg/L
Magnesium	154	78	0.51	<1.0	40.0	1.0, 5.0	mg/L
Mercury	151	9	0.06	2.2	17.0	200, 100, 2.0	ng/L
Molybdenum	121	121	1.00	0.6	9.2	0.5	µg/L
Nickel	154	71	0.46	<1.0	16.0	1.0	µg/L
Selenium	115	42	0.37	<0.4	2.3	0.8, 0.4	µg/L
Zinc	154	128	0.83	<2.0	17.0	2.0	µg/L
Trace elements, anions							
Chloride (dissolved)	155	141	0.91	1.0	250.0	0.4–2.0	mg/L
Sulfate (dissolved)	122	114	0.93	0.7	240.0	0.4–2.0	mg/L
Trace elements, cations							
Calcium	154	150	0.97	2.0	68.0	1.0, 5.0	mg/L
Potassium	154	89	0.58	<1.0	9.2	1.0, 5.0	mg/L
Sodium	154	150	0.97	<1.0	210.0	1.0, 5.0, 10	mg/L
Biological							
Chlorophyll A	148	74	0.50	<2.0	62.0	2.0–6.0	µg/L
Escherichia coli (<i>E. coli</i>)	132	131	0.99	2.0	500.0	1.0, 2.0	MPN/100 mL
Fecal coliform	128	127	0.99	<2.0	900.0	2.0	MPN/100 mL
Total coliform	147	147	1.00	13.0	2,400.0	1.0, 2.0	MPN/100 mL
Dissolved organic carbon (DOC)	148	148	1.00	1.8	8.0	0.3	mg/L
Total organic carbon (TOC)*	154	154	1.00	1.8	8.8	0.3	mg/L
Total suspended sediment (TSS)	163	109	0.67	1.1	85.0	1.0–43	mg/L
Pesticides							
Dacthal	19	2	0.11	0.013	0.014	0.002	µg/L
Diuron	3	1	0.33	0.024	0.024	0.005	µg/L
HCH-alpha	45	3	0.07	0.002	0.004	0.011, 0.010, 0.002	µg/L
Nutrients							
Ammonia as N	151	75	0.50	0.1	3.5	0.5, 0.05	mg/L
Nitrate + nitrite as N	48	31	0.65	0.055	1.400	0.050	mg/L
Nitrate as N	101	53	0.52	<0.05	2.70	0.05	mg/L
Nitrite as N	101	11	0.11	<0.03	0.05	0.03	mg/L
Nitrogen, total Kjeldhal (TKN)	150	83	0.55	<0.2	1.6	0.5, 0.2	mg/L
Phosphorus, total as P	150	72	0.48	<0.05	0.39	0.05	mg/L

*Result of concern.

Table 6. Summary of sediment sample constituents above laboratory reporting limits, 2009–11.

[Abbreviations: µg/g, microgram per gram; µg/kg, micrograms per kilogram; %, percent; mg, milligram; mg/kg, milligram per kilogram]

Constituent	Number of total samples	Number of samples above laboratory reporting limits	Detection frequency	Minimum result	Maximum result	Reporting limit	Units
Trace elements, total							
Arsenic	19	14	0.74	0.86	4.7	0.5–1.8	mg/kg
Chromium	19	19	1.00	1.2	29	0.5–1.8	mg/kg
Copper	19	19	1.00	1.2	23	0.5–1.8	µg/g
Lead	19	16	0.84	0.98	53	0.5–1.8	mg/kg
Mercury	19	2	0.11	0.046	0.047	0.018	µg/g
Nickel	19	19	1.00	1.3	34	1.0–1.8	µg/g
Zinc	19	19	1.00	5.5	62	1.5–2.7	µg/g
Pesticides, pyrethroids							
Bifenthrin*	19	1	0.05	23	23	0.0012–21.0	µg/kg
Lambda-Cyhalothrin*	16	1	0.06	21	21	0.0023–22.0	µg/kg
Permethrin (total)*	12	1	0.08	20	20	13–21	µg/kg
Other							
Sediment toxicity- <i>H. azteca</i> (10 day % survival)	12	12	1.00	79	98	0	%
Sediment toxicity- <i>H. azteca</i> (10 day dry weight)	12	12	1.00	0.06	0.14	0	mg
Total organic carbon	15	8	0.53	680	15,000	100–3,400	µg/g

*Result of concern.

Table 7. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) Office of Pesticide Programs' freshwater aquatic life benchmarks and criteria.

[All concentrations are in micrograms per liter (µg/L); **Data source:** U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 2014a, Office of Pesticide Programs' aquatic life benchmarks, accessed February 10, 2014, at http://www.epa.gov/oppefed1/ecorisk_ ders/aquatic_life_benchmark.htm#benchmarks; U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 2014b, National recommended water-quality criteria aquatic life criteria table, accessed July 10, 2014, at <http://water.epa.gov/scitech/swguidance/standards/criteria/current/index.cfm>. **Abbreviations:** —, no data; <, less than; >, greater than]

Analyte	Fish		Invertebrates		Office of Water aquatic life criteria (freshwater)	
	Acute ¹	Chronic ²	Acute ³	Chronic ⁴	Maximum concentration	Continuous concentration
2,4-D acids and salts ⁷	12,075	14,200	12,500	16,050	—	—
2,4-D esters	130	79.2	1,100	200	—	—
2,4-DB ⁷	1,000	—	7,500	—	—	—
4,4'-DDT	—	—	—	—	1.1	0.001
Acifluorfen sodium	8,500	<1,500	14,050	—	—	—
Aldicarb sulfone	21,000	—	140	—	—	—
Aldicarb sulfoxide	3,570	—	21.5	—	—	—
Aldicarb ⁵	26	0.46	10	1	—	—
Aldrin	—	—	—	—	3.0	—
Arsenic	—	—	—	—	340	150
Azinphos methyl ⁵	0.18	0.055	0.08	0.036	—	—
Bentazon	>50,000	—	>50,000	—	—	—
Bifenthrin	0.075	0.04	0.8	0.0013	—	—
Captan ⁶	13.1	16.5	4,200	560	—	—
Carbaryl	—	—	—	—	2.1	—
Carbaryl ⁵	110	6	0.85	0.5	—	—
Carbofuran	44	5.7	1.115	0.75	—	—
Chlordane	—	—	—	—	2.4	0.0043
Chloride	—	—	—	—	860,000	230,000
Chlorpyrifos	0.9	0.57	0.05	0.04	0.083	0.041
Chlorpyrifos-methyl	7	—	0.085	—	—	—
Chromium (III)	—	—	—	—	570	57
Chromium (VI)	—	—	—	—	16	11
Copper	15.7	9.01	2.05	1.11	—	—
Coumafos ⁶	140	11.7	0.037	0.037	—	—
Cyfluthrin	0.034	0.01	0.0125	0.0074	—	—
Cypermethrin	0.195	0.14	0.21	0.069	—	—
Dacthal (DCPA)	15,000	—	13,500	—	—	—
Deltamethrin	0.29	0.017	0.055	0.0041	—	—
Demeton	—	—	—	—	—	0.1
Diazinon ⁶	45	<0.55	0.105	0.17	0.17	0.17
Dicamba acid ⁷	14,000	—	>50,000	—	—	—
Dicamba, dimethylamine salt	488,500	—	781,500	—	—	—
Dicamba, sodium salt	253,600	—	17,300	—	—	—
Dichlorvos (DDVP)	91.5	5.2	0.035	0.0058	—	—
Dicrotophos	3,150	—	6.35	0.99	—	—
Dieldrin	—	—	—	—	0.24	0.056

Table 7. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) Office of Pesticide Programs' freshwater aquatic life benchmarks and criteria.—Continued

[All concentrations are in micrograms per liter ($\mu\text{g/L}$); **Data source:** U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 2014a, Office of Pesticide Programs' aquatic life benchmarks, accessed February 10, 2014, at http://www.epa.gov/oppefed1/ecorisk_ ders/aquatic_life_benchmark.htm#benchmarks; U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 2014b, National recommended water-quality criteria aquatic life criteria table, accessed July 10, 2014, at <http://water.epa.gov/scitech/swguidance/standards/criteria/current/index.cfm>. **Abbreviations:** —, no data; <, less than; >, greater than]

Analyte	Fish		Invertebrates		Office of Water aquatic life criteria (freshwater)	
	Acute ¹	Chronic ²	Acute ³	Chronic ⁴	Maximum concentration	Continuous concentration
Dimethoate ⁵	3,100	430	21.5	0.5	—	—
Disulfoton ⁵	19.5	4	1.95	0.01	—	—
Diuron ⁶	200	26.4	80	200	—	0.056
Endosulfan	0.05	0.11	0.3	0.01	0.22	—
Endosulfan sulfate	1.9	—	150	—	—	—
Endrin	—	—	—	—	0.086	0.036
Esfenvalerate ⁵	0.035	0.035	0.025	0.017	—	—
Ethoprop	150	24	22	0.8	—	—
Fenitrothion	860	46	1.15	0.087	—	—
Fenprothrin	1.1	0.091	0.265	0.064	—	—
Fenthion	415	7.5	2.6	0.013	—	—
Gamma-BHC (Lindane)	—	—	—	—	0.95	—
Glyphosate ⁶	21,500	1,800	26,600	49,900	—	—
Heptachlor	—	—	—	—	0.52	0.0038
Heptachlor epoxide	—	—	—	—	0.52	0.0038
Lambda-cyhalothrin	0.105	0.031	0.0035	0.002	—	—
Lead	—	—	—	—	65	2.5
Linuron ⁵	1,500	5.58	60	0.09	—	—
Malathion	16.5	8.6	0.295	0.035	—	0.1
Mercury	—	—	—	—	1.4	0.77
Methidathion ⁶	1.1	6.3	1.5	0.66	—	—
Methiocarb	218	50	3.5	0.1	—	—
Methomyl ⁵	160	12	2.5	0.7	—	—
Methoxychlor	7.5	—	0.7	—	—	0.03
Mirex	—	—	—	—	—	0.001
Naled	46	2.9	0.07	0.045	—	—
Nickel	—	—	—	—	470	52
Oxadiazon	440	0.88	1,090	30	—	—
Oxamyl ⁶	2,100	770	90	27	—	—
Parathion	—	—	—	—	0.0651	0.013
Permethrin ⁸	0.395	0.0515	0.0106	0.0014	—	—
Phorate	1.175	0.34	0.3	0.21	—	—
Phosmet	35	3.2	1	0.8	—	—
Picloram acid	2,750	—	17,200	—	—	—
Picloram potassium salt	6,500	550	34,150	11,800	—	—
Picloram TIPA salt	187,500	—	—	—	—	—
Selenium	—	—	—	—	—	5

Table 7. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) Office of Pesticide Programs' freshwater aquatic life benchmarks and criteria.—Continued

[All concentrations are in micrograms per liter ($\mu\text{g/L}$); **Data source:** U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 2014a, Office of Pesticide Programs' aquatic life benchmarks, accessed February 10, 2014, at http://www.epa.gov/oppefed1/ecorisk_ ders/aquatic_life_benchmark.htm#benchmarks; U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 2014b, National recommended water-quality criteria aquatic life criteria table, accessed July 10, 2014, at <http://water.epa.gov/scitech/ swguidance/standards/criteria/current/index.cfm>. **Abbreviations:** —, no data; <, less than; >, greater than]

Analyte	Fish		Invertebrates		Office of Water aquatic life criteria (freshwater)	
	Acute ¹	Chronic ²	Acute ³	Chronic ⁴	Maximum concentration	Continuous concentration
Terbufos ⁶	0.385	0.64	0.1	0.03	—	—
Tetrachlorvinphos	265	—	0.95	—	—	—
Toxaphene	—	—	—	—	0.73	0.0002
Trichlorfon	79	110	2.65	0.0057	—	—
Zinc	—	—	—	—	120	120

¹ Benchmark = Toxicity value x level of concern (LOC). For acute fish, toxicity value is generally the lowest 96-hour 50-percent lethal concentration (LC_{50}) in a standardized test (usually with rainbow trout, fathead minnow, or bluegill), and the LOC is 0.5.

² Benchmark = Toxicity value x LOC. For chronic fish, toxicity value is usually the lowest no observed adverse effect concentration (NOAEC) from a life-cycle or early life stage test (usually with rainbow trout or fathead minnow), and the LOC is 1.

³ Benchmark = Toxicity value x LOC. For acute invertebrates, toxicity value is usually the lowest 48- or 96-hour 50-percent effect concentration (EC_{50}) or LC_{50} in a standardized test (usually with midge, scud, or daphnids), and the LOC is 0.5.

⁴ Benchmark = Toxicity value x LOC. For chronic invertebrates, toxicity value is usually the lowest NOAEC from a life-cycle test with invertebrates (usually with midge, scud, or daphnids), and the LOC is 1.

⁵ An acute-to-chronic ratio was used to calculate the chronic endpoint and benchmark, which could underestimate chronic toxicity.

⁶ Although the underlying acute toxicity value is greater than or equal to the chronic toxicity value, the acute benchmark is lower than the chronic benchmark because acute and chronic toxicity values were multiplied by LOC values of 0.5 and 1, respectively.

⁷ Original toxicity values are in micrograms of acid equivalents per liter. For 2,4-D and 2,4-DB, the toxicity values selected were the lowest available values for the acid or salt forms. For MCPA, acute toxicity values were the lowest for the acid, salt or ester forms, and chronic toxicity values were the lowest of the acid and salt forms. For Dicamba, the toxicity values were the lowest of the acid or salt forms. (Selection was consistent with risk quotients in the cited USEPA references.)

⁸ Toxicity values and benchmarks apply to permethrin. If monitoring data represent only the cis isomer of permethrin in water, comparison with benchmarks could underestimate potential toxicity.

of 2000 micrograms per gram ($\mu\text{g/g}$), or 0.2 percent, which was understandable for a sediment sample that primarily contained sand (98.9 percent). Pesticide results were organic carbon-normalized, assuming 0.2 percent organic carbon. This provided the lowest organic carbon-normalized concentration, given the reporting limit.

Organic carbon-normalized results for bifenthrin and lambda-cyhalothrin were above the Reclamation proposed sediment-quality targets for pyrethroids (written commun., J. Eldredge, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, May 12, 2014) as well as the chronic toxicity thresholds proposed by Moran and others (2012) for *Hyaella azteca* at 1 percent organic carbon. Organic carbon-normalized results for total permethrin exceeded chronic toxicity thresholds proposed by Moran and others (2011; table 8). This was the only sediment sample that contained pesticides above the reporting limits and the only sediment sample taken from this location. These results showed that pesticides are present in this reach of the San Joaquin River, and follow up sampling would be beneficial to the SJRRP.

A study on the effects of sediment-bound bifenthrin on gizzard shad (*Dorosoma cepedianum*) found that an 8-day exposure to a bifenthrin concentration of 7.75 $\mu\text{g/kg}$ in sediment induced complete mortality (Drenner and others, 1992). Partial mortality and stress behaviors were observed at concentrations between 0.185 and 1.55 $\mu\text{g/kg}$. The gizzard shad belongs to the same family (*Clupeidae*) as is the threadfin shad (*Dorosoma petenense*), a species introduced to California and a member of the ‘deep-bodied’ fish assemblage, which is expected to occupy the valley floor portions of the SJRRP restoration reach (McBain and Trush, 2002). This assemblage also includes the native species Sacramento perch (*Archopites interruptus*), hitch (*Lavinia exilicauda*), and Sacramento blackfish (*Orthodon microlepidotus*). The gizzard shad feeds on zooplankton, as do many species found in the San Joaquin River, such as threadfin shad, Sacramento blackfish, and hitch. In the same study, copepod nauplii (larvae) experienced significant mortality on day four and seven of exposure, when bifenthrin concentrations in sediment ranged between 0.090 and 7.75 $\mu\text{g/kg}$ (Drenner and others, 1992). Copepods are a group of zooplankton that is likely to be food for zooplankton-consuming fishes. Also, the larvae of almost all fishes consume zooplankton, including copepods, for at least a short time as they grow. These data indicated that sustained high concentrations of bifenthrin both can have direct effects and indirect effects on fishes through the food web. Although data for native species were not available, high concentrations of bifenthrin in the SJRRP restoration reach could be a concern because of potential direct effects on fish and invertebrates. Reduced production of aquatic invertebrates consumed by fishes could result in decreased growth and poor condition of resident and migratory fishes, including Chinook salmon.

The lambda-cyhalothrin sediment concentration was 21 $\mu\text{g/kg}$ (10.5 $\mu\text{g/g}$ organic carbon-normalized), a sediment-bound concentration harmful to aquatic invertebrates as found in sediment toxicity tests with amphipods (Weston and others, 2004; Amweg and others, 2005). A report by Moran and others

(2012) that derived chronic toxicity thresholds for pyrethroid compounds in stream sediments found the chronic toxicity threshold for *Hyaella azteca* at 1-percent organic carbon to be 0.087 $\mu\text{g/g}$. This indicated that, similar to bifenthrin, lambda-cyhalothrin both can have direct and indirect effects on fishes through the food web.

Sampling Frequency

Water quality was generally sampled once a month, and sediment quality was sampled once a year, but not at every site. Continuing a minimum of monthly water sampling is suggested so that a thorough understanding of the effects of interim flows on water quality can be developed. Ideally, a more consistent sampling routine could be established to evaluate pesticide concentrations and presence in the SJRRP restoration reach better (Crawford, 2004). Routine sediment sampling might be considered, with sediment sampling done at the same time each year, ideally, before flow increases from fall releases. The data collected during interim flows can provide a valuable baseline for any water-quality assessment carried out after full implementation of restoration flows.

Storm sampling might be considered to determine if there are pulses of contaminants in the SJRRP restoration reach during storm events. In-stream concentrations of constituents that come primarily from surface runoff, such as pesticides, can increase dramatically during a storm event and could have toxic effects on aquatic organisms. Kratzer (1999) found that concentrations of the pesticide diazinon were highly variable during winter storms, and some storm samples had diazinon concentrations high enough to be acutely toxic to aquatic invertebrates. Thus, it can be important to sample water quality both during base flows and high flows in order to accurately monitor the water quality of the river (Orlando and others, 2003; Weston and others, 2004; Smalling and others, 2005; Hladik and others, 2009). Storm sampling is labor intensive and requires careful planning. If such a study is undertaken by the SJRRP, a study design should be developed by appropriate experts.

Sampling Locations

As of 2012, sampling included at least two locations in every reach, except for reaches 3 and 4, where access to the river is restricted. The SJRRP might consider adding water and sediment sampling sites upstream and downstream from the confluence of Bear Creek with the San Joaquin River to determine if Bear Creek contributes any significant concentrations of sampled constituents (fig. 1). Including sampling locations upstream and downstream from Bear Creek would add one sample site both to reaches 4 and 5 resulting in a more even distribution of sample locations in the SJRRP restoration reach. Even distribution of sampling locations can be important for developing an accurate representation of the water quality.

Table 8. Sediment results from site 9 in 2009 compared to sediment-quality targets and benchmark toxicity thresholds.[See table 1 for location details. **Abbreviations:** µg/g, micrograms per gram; %, percent; OC, organic carbon; USBR, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation]

Constituent	Sediment result (µg/g-organic carbon)	Benchmark (chronic toxicity threshold for <i>Hyaella azteca</i> , in µg/g dry weight at 1% OC) ¹	USBR proposed sediment quality targets (µg/g dry weight at 1% OC) ²
Pesticides, pyrethroids			
Bifenthrin	11.5	0.049	0.52
Lambda-cyhalothrin	10.5	0.087	0.45
Permethrin (total)	10.0	1.96	10.83

¹ Moran, P.W., Calhoun, D.L., Nowell, L.H., Kemble, N.E., Ingersoll, C.G., Hladik, M.L., Kuivila, K.M., Falcone, J.A., and Gilliom, R.J., 2012, Contaminants in stream sediments from seven U.S. metropolitan areas—Data summary of a national pilot study: U.S. Geological Survey Scientific Investigations Report 2011–5092, 66 p.

² Amweg, E.L., Weston, D.P., and Ureda, N.M., 2005, Use and toxicity of pyrethroid pesticides in the Central Valley, California, USA: Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry, v. 24, p. 966–972.

Sample Media

Tissue samples of resident fish species could be a valuable data set for the SJRRP. Tissue samples can help address questions regarding bioaccumulation and food-web transfer of contaminants. Such questions are difficult to address only with data from water and sediment. Recent tissue sampling of fish for selenium, boron, and mercury has been done in reach 5 (Davis and others, 2008) of the San Joaquin River as part of the Grassland Bypass Project (Grassland Bypass Project Oversight Committee, 2013). Davis and others (2008) found elevated mercury concentrations in largemouth bass (*Micropterus salmoides*) at one location in the SJRRP restoration reach (reach 5) and at multiple locations downstream from the SJRRP restoration reach. Mercury concentrations found in reach 5 ranged between 0.69 and 0.86 µg/g. These results were above the EPA threshold of 0.47 µg/g, above which, there is an advisory to limit consumption to one meal per month of contaminated fish tissue (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 2000). Hence, further tissue sampling could be an important addition to SJRRP sampling.

Another method for addressing the bioavailability of hydrophobic organic chemicals to aquatic organisms involves the use of semi-permeable membrane devices (SPMDs). This passive sampling technique can mimic the uptake of contaminants through biological membranes (Kot and others, 2000). They have been used to passively sample organochlorine pesticides in aquatic environments and can be used as a surrogate tissue sample to evaluate bioconcentration from water into aquatic organisms (Esteve-Turrillas and others, 2008). Bioaccumulation of contaminants through the food web cannot be addressed with SPMDs.

Sample Processing

During 2009–11, 408 (4.9 percent) constituent analyses exceeded their holding times for lab processing. Hold-time exceedances ranged from 24 hours to 28 days, with the majority of samples exceeding either the 24-hour hold or filtration

hold times (91 percent). Four dissolved organic carbon and three total organic carbon samples were not preserved correctly upon collection. Exceeding holding times adds uncertainty to results of chemical analyses, as do other departures from standard operating procedures. Clearly, decreasing uncertainty is desirable. Ongoing review of standard operating practices and determination of the reasons for holding time exceedances would be useful and contribute to improved data quality.

The laboratory reporting limits were in compliance with the RWQCB SWAMP guidelines and the California Regional Water Quality Control Plan for the Sacramento and San Joaquin River basin (California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region, 2009; California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region, 2011). Under these guidelines, reporting limits are mostly sufficient for detecting concentrations potentially harmful to aquatic biota, with the 15 exceptions listed in table 9. It is important to note that some pesticides, such as chlorpyrifos, diazinon, malathion, and bifenthrin, can be detected at lower concentrations than possible with the laboratory analyses used by the SJRRP. Detection of toxic constituents at low levels can be important for identification and investigation of sublethal effects both on Chinook salmon and resident native fishes (discussed further in the next section of this report).

Determining Relevance to Fishes

Review of the water-quality data collected to date for the SJRRP showed only a few constituents present at concentrations that exceeded aquatic life thresholds (table 7). Other water-quality studies on the San Joaquin River, however, have found elevated levels of constituents, such as pesticides, selenium, and mercury, that could pose a threat to aquatic organisms (Saiki and others, 1993; Weston and others, 2004). Thus, it is important to maintain regular and consistent sampling in the SJRRP restoration reach to understand possible changes in constituent concentrations associated with natural factors, such as seasons and storm events, as well as anthropogenic factors,

such as changes in restoration flows, restoration of floodplains, and changes in agricultural practices. In addition, reporting limits for 15 pesticides are above the EPA OPP aquatic life benchmark and criteria levels (table 9), and therefore, sampling results can not accurately reflect all potential effects of these pesticides on aquatic life in the SJRRP restoration reach. Monitoring results should be evaluated on a regular basis in the context of current research on the effects of contaminants in surface waters on aquatic biota. Such evaluation can guide refinements in the water-quality monitoring program and implementation activities to address issues related to fish restoration better.

The SJRRP is managing for Chinook salmon and other native fishes that are part of the same food web. Unfortunately, there is little published information on aquatic food webs of the rivers in the area. For salmonid populations, in general, there is little information about toxic effects of pesticides on aquatic invertebrates and how such effects move up the food web (Macneale and others, 2010). Research in other systems indicated that applications of pesticides can have a strong negative effect on the food web. Relyea and Diecks (2008) looked at food-web effects of the insecticide malathion on a frog population in an outdoor mesocosm study and found that all levels of application (10–250 µg/L) over short periods (1–4 days) caused a decline in zooplankton, which caused a cascading decline in all other species in the study. They also found that repeated applications of low doses caused a greater negative response than a single application of a high dose. The importance of pesticide exposures in aquatic habitats to different organisms depends on a variety of factors, including pesticide-use patterns, synergetic and antagonistic effects of multiple pesticides, variability in the fate of various pesticides in relation to degradation times, and uptake rates and binding ability of soils (Kuivila and Foe, 1995; Nowell and others, 1999; Oros and Werner, 2005; Laetz and others, 2009).

Sublethal effects of pesticides could be of concern for aquatic organisms in the San Joaquin River. Sublethal effects include reductions in growth, swimming behavior, and reproductive success in fish and aquatic invertebrates as well as suppressed immune system response, often at much lower than lethal concentrations (Oros and Werner, 2005). Organophosphates and carbamates are two classes of pesticides that are of particular concern because both affect the nervous system (Fulton and Key, 2001). For example, a 2-hour exposure to the organophosphate insecticide diazinon was found to decrease olfactory-mediated alarm responses in Chinook salmon at concentrations of 1.0 µg/L. A 24-hour exposure to diazinon at concentrations ranging from 0.1 to 10.0 µg/L disrupted the ability of Chinook salmon males to return to their home stream (Scholz and others, 2000). All organophosphate and carbamate insecticides have been shown to inhibit acetylcholinesterase

(AChE), an important chemical for the transmission of nerve impulses in the nervous system and muscles of juvenile steelhead and coho salmon. Reduction of AChE activity has been linked to decreased swimming behavior and prey consumption by juvenile salmon (Sandahl and Jenkins, 2002; Sandahl and others, 2005). The carbamate insecticide carbofuran is thought to have sublethal effects on reproduction in Atlantic salmon (Waring and Moore, 1997). The presence of these and other pesticides are well documented on the San Joaquin River and its tributaries (Orlando and others, 2004; Domagalski and others, 2010); however, pesticide use is complex because new compounds increase in use and previously used compounds decline in use for various reasons. To date, the results from the SJRRP water and sediment sampling show few exceedances of aquatic life benchmarks, yet it is possible that aquatic organisms in the river are exposed to concentrations both of pesticides and other potentially harmful constituents that are sufficient to cause sublethal effects.

Data collected to date indicate that water quality is not a major impediment to restoration of Chinook salmon and native fishes in the SJRRP restoration reach. Restoration flows and the final configuration of the restored channel have not yet been decided, however. Continued monitoring of water and sediment quality is advisable as the SJRRP moves forward. This assessment has indicated several possible modifications that can be considered by the SJRRP as water-quality monitoring continues:

- Do monthly water-quality sampling throughout the year.
- Do sediment sampling at the same time each year.
- Evaluate the desirability of storm sampling.
- Add sample sites upstream and downstream from the Bear Creek confluence to help determine the effect of Bear Creek inflow to the SJRRP restoration reach.
- Evaluate the desirability of tissue sampling in the entire SJRRP restoration reach.
- Use SPMDs for passive (bioavailable) pesticide sampling.
- Review and revise standard operating procedures to minimize exceedances of sample holding times and other sources of uncertainty.
- Expand literature review to determine thresholds for sublethal effects of contaminants detected in the SJRRP.
- Lower reporting limits for pesticides to help determine potential effects on the aquatic food web.

Table 9. San Joaquin River Restoration Program (SJRRP) reporting limits above U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) Office of Pesticide Programs' freshwater aquatic life benchmarks and criteria.

[Multiple reporting limits are listed for constituents that were analyzed using different reporting limits. Table values in µg/L. **Abbreviations:** —, no data; µg/L, microgram per liter]

Pesticides	Fish		Invertebrates		Aquatic life criteria (freshwater)		SJRRP reporting limit
	Acute ¹	Chronic ²	Acute ³	Chronic ⁴	Maximum concentration	Continuous concentration	
Organochlorines							
4,4'-DDT	—	—	—	—	1.1	0.001	0.011, 0.010, 0.005
Chlordane	—	—	—	—	2.4	0.0043	0.050, 0.056
Mirex	—	—	—	—	—	0.001	0.002
Pyrethroids							
Deltamethrin	0.29	0.017	0.055	0.0041	—	—	0.5
Esfenvalerate	0.035	0.035	0.025	0.017	—	—	0.5
Permethrin (total)	0.395	0.0515	0.011	0.0014	—	—	0.5
Organophosphates							
Coumaphos	140	11.7	0.037	0.037	—	—	1.0, 0.40, 0.050
Demeton	—	—	—	—	—	0.1	3.0
Dichlorvos	91.5	5.2	0.035	0.0058	—	—	0.50, 0.10, 0.050
Disulfoton	19.5	4	1.95	0.01	—	—	1.0, 0.10, 0.020
Fenthion	415	7.5	2.6	0.013	—	—	2.5, 0.50, 0.040
Naled	46	2.9	0.07	0.045	—	—	2.0, 0.50, 0.050
Parathion	—	—	—	—	0.0651	0.013	1.0
Terbufos	0.385	0.64	0.1	0.03	—	—	0.050, 0.040
Trichlorfon	79	110	2.65	0.0057	—	—	0.05

¹ Benchmark = Toxicity value x level of concern (LOC). For acute fish, toxicity value is generally the lowest 96-hour 50-percent lethal concentration (LC₅₀) in a standardized test (usually with rainbow trout, fathead minnow, or bluegill), and the LOC is 0.5.

² Benchmark = Toxicity value x LOC. For chronic fish, toxicity value is usually the lowest no observed adverse effect concentration (NOAEC) from a life-cycle or early life stage test (usually with rainbow trout or fathead minnow), and the LOC is 1.

³ Benchmark = Toxicity value x LOC. For acute invertebrates, toxicity value is usually the lowest 48- or 96-hour 50-percent effect concentration (EC₅₀) or LC₅₀ in a standardized test (usually with midge, scud, or daphnids), and the LOC is 0.5.

⁴ Benchmark = Toxicity value x LOC. For chronic invertebrates, toxicity value is usually the lowest NOAEC from a life-cycle test with invertebrates (usually with midge, scud, or daphnids), and the LOC is 1.

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Appendix A. Water-quality data used in this report

Appendix A. U.S. Bureau of Reclamation water-quality data used in this Report. (Provided as a Microsoft Excel™ file)

Files are available at <http://pubs.usgs.gov/of/2015/1093/>.

Appendix B. Analyte method description for water quality and sediment-sample analysis

[**Abbreviations:** &, and; %, percent; As, arsenic; B, boron; Ca, calcium; CaCO₃, calcium carbonate; Cu, copper; Cr, chromium; EPA, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; Hg, mercury; HPLC, high performance liquid chromatography; K, potassium; Mg, magnesium; Mo, molybdenum; N, nitrogen; Na, sodium; Ni, nickel; NO₂, nitrite; NO₃, nitrate; P, phosphorus; Pb, lead; Se, selenium; SM, standard method; Zn, zinc]

Water quality			
Method	Method title	Analyte	Reference
EPA 150.1	pH	pH	http://www.epa.gov/region6/qa/qadevtools/mod5_sops/field_measurements/29palms_field_ph.pdf
EPA 1631E	Mercury in water by oxidation, purge and trap, and cold vapor atomic fluorescence spectrometry	Mercury	http://water.epa.gov/scitech/methods/cwa/metals/mercury/index.cfm
EPA 200.7	Determination of metals and trace elements in water and wastes by inductively coupled plasma-atomic emission spectrometry	total: B, Ca, K, Mg, Na	http://water.epa.gov/scitech/methods/cwa/bioindicators/upload/2007_07_10_methods_method_200_7.pdf
EPA 200.8	Determination of trace elements in water and wastes by inductively coupled plasma-mass spectrometry	total: As, Cu, Cr, Pb, Mo, Ni, Zn	http://water.epa.gov/scitech/methods/cwa/bioindicators/upload/2007_07_10_methods_method_200_8.pdf
EPA 245.1	Determination of mercury in water by cold vapor atomic absorption spectrometry	total Hg	http://water.epa.gov/scitech/methods/cwa/bioindicators/upload/2007_07_10_methods_method_245_1.pdf
EPA 300.0	Determination of inorganic anions by ion chromatography	total: Chloride and sulfate	http://water.epa.gov/scitech/methods/cwa/bioindicators/upload/2007_07_10_methods_method_300_0.pdf
EPA 310.1	Alkalinity (titrimetric, pH 4.5)	Alkalinity, bicarbonate, carbonate	http://www.caslab.com/EPA-Methods/PDF/EPA-Method-3101.pdf
EPA 350.1	Determination of ammonia nitrogen by semi-automated colorimetry	Ammonia as N	http://water.epa.gov/scitech/methods/cwa/bioindicators/upload/2007_07_10_methods_method_350_1.pdf
EPA 351.2	Determination of total Kjeldahl nitrogen by semi-automated colorimetry	Total Kjeldahl nitrogen	http://water.epa.gov/scitech/methods/cwa/bioindicators/upload/2007_07_10_methods_method_351_2.pdf
EPA 3510	Separatory funnel liquid-liquid extraction	Organochlorine, organophosphorus pesticides	http://www.epa.gov/osw/hazard/testmethods/sw846/pdfs/3510c.pdf
EPA 353.2	Determination of nitrate-nitrite by automated colorimetry	NO ₃ (N), NO ₂ (N)	http://water.epa.gov/scitech/methods/cwa/bioindicators/upload/2007_07_10_methods_method_353_2.pdf
EPA 365.4	Phosphorus, total, colorimetric, automated, block digester, automated analyzer II	Phosphorus, total as P	http://water.epa.gov/scitech/methods/cwa/bioindicators/upload/2007_07_10_methods_method_365_4.pdf
EPA 415.1	Total organic carbon in water (combustion or oxidation)	Organic carbon, total organic carbon	http://www.epa.gov/region9/qa/pdfs/415_1dqi.pdf
EPA 515.4	Determination of chlorinated acids in drinking water by liquid-liquid microextraction, derivatization, and fast gas chromatography with electron capture detection	Organochlorines	http://www.epa.gov/ogwdw/methods/pdfs/methods/met515_4.pdf
EPA 531.2	Measurement of <i>n</i> -methylcarbamoyloximes and <i>n</i> -methylcarbamates in water by direct aqueous injection HPLC with postcolumn derivatization	Carbamates	http://www.epa.gov/ogwdw/methods/pdfs/methods/met531_2.pdf

Appendix B. Analyte method description for water-quality and sediment-sample analysis—Continued

[Abbreviations: &, and; %, percent; As, arsenic; B, boron; Ca, calcium; CaCO₃, calcium carbonate; Cu, copper; Cr, chromium; EPA, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; Hg, mercury; HPLC, high performance liquid chromatography; K, potassium; Mg, magnesium; Mo, molybdenum; N, nitrogen; Na, sodium; Ni, nickel; NO₂, nitrite; NO₃, nitrate; P, phosphorus; Pb, lead; Se, selenium; SM, standard method; Zn, zinc]

Water quality			
Method	Method title	Analyte	Reference
EPA 547	Determination of glyphosate in drinking water by direct-aqueous-injection b HPLC, post-column derivatization, and fluorescence detection	Glyphosate	http://water.epa.gov/scitech/methods/cwa/bioindicators/upload/2007_11_06_methods_method_547.pdf
EPA 600/4-91/002	Short-term methods for estimating the chronic toxicity of effluents and receiving water to freshwater organisms	Sediment toxicity- <i>H. azteca</i> (10 day % survival, dry weight)	http://water.epa.gov/scitech/methods/cwa/wet/disk3_index.cfm
EPA 600/R-99/064	Methods for measuring the toxicity and bioaccumulation of sediment-associated contaminants with freshwater invertebrates	Sediment toxicity- <i>H. azteca</i> (10 day % survival, dry weight)	http://water.epa.gov/polwaste/sediments/cs/freshfact.cfm
EPA 6020	Inductively coupled plasma-mass spectrometry	As, Cr, Cu, Pb, Ni, Zn	http://www.epa.gov/epawaste/hazard/testmethods/sw846/pdfs/6020a.pdf
EPA 632	The determination of carbamate and urea pesticides in municipal and industrial wastewater	Carbamates	http://water.epa.gov/scitech/methods/cwa/bioindicators/upload/2007_11_06_methods_method_632.pdf
EPA 7471A	Mercury in solid or semisolid waste (manual cold-vapor technique)	Mercury	http://www.epa.gov/epawaste/hazard/testmethods/sw846/pdfs/7470a.pdf
EPA 8081A	Organochlorine pesticides by gas chromatography	Organochlorine pesticides	http://www.caslab.com/EPA-Methods/PDF/8081a.pdf
EPA 8081B	Organochlorine pesticides by gas chromatography	Organochlorine pesticides	http://www.epa.gov/osw/hazard/testmethods/sw846/pdfs/8081b.pdf
EPA 8141A	Organophosphorus compounds by gas chromatography: Capillary column technique	Organophosphate pesticides	http://www.caslab.com/EPA-Methods/PDF/8141a.pdf
EPA 9060	Total organic carbon	Total organic carbon	http://www.epa.gov/osw/hazard/testmethods/sw846/pdfs/9060a.pdf
SM 10200H	Spectrophotometric determination of chlorophyll	Chlorophyll a	Standard Methods for the Examination of Water and Wastewater
SM 2320B	Alkalinity by titration	Alkalinity as CaCO ₃ , bicarbonate, carbonate, hydroxide	Standard Methods for the Examination of Water and Wastewater
SM 2540D	Solids in water	total suspended solids	Standard Methods for the Examination of Water and Wastewater
SM 3500	Selenium	Selenium	Standard Methods for the Examination of Water and Wastewater
SM 4500-NH ₃ C	Nitrogen (ammonia)	Amonia as N, total Kjeldahl nitrogen	Standard Methods for the Examination of Water and Wastewater
SM 4500P	Phosphorus	Phosphorus, total	Standard Methods for the Examination of Water and Wastewater
SM 5310C	Total organic carbon	Organic carbon	Standard Methods for the Examination of Water and Wastewater
SM 9221	Multiple-tube fermentation technique for members of the coliform group	Total coliform	Standard Methods for the Examination of Water and Wastewater
SM 9223	Enzyme substrate coliform test	<i>E. coli</i>	Standard Methods for the Examination of Water and Wastewater

American Public Health Association, 1995, Standard methods for the examination of water and wastewater: Washington, D.C., American Public Health Association, American Water Works Association, and Water Pollution Control Federation, 19th ed.

Appendix C. Sediment-quality data used in this report

Appendix C. U.S. Bureau of Reclamation sediment-quality data used in this Report. (Provided as a Microsoft Excel™ file)

Files are available at <http://pubs.usgs.gov/of/2015/1093/>.

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