

Evidence-based guidelines for Microbial Source Tracking projects

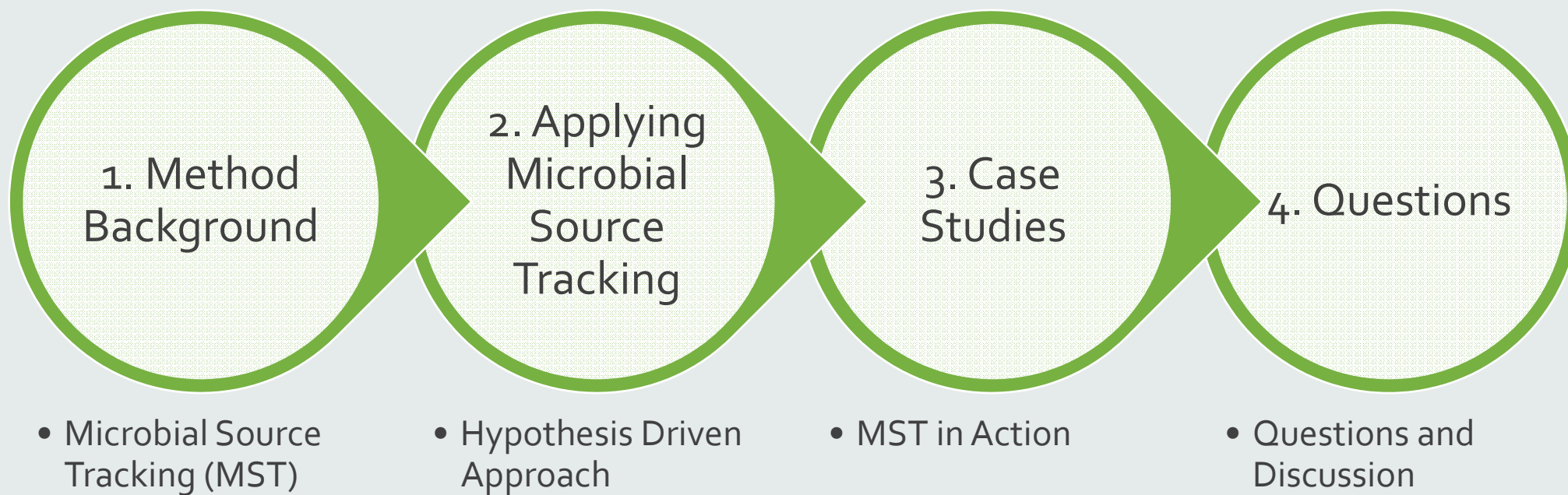
Beyond Nutrients: Case Studies and Tools for Addressing TMDLs
06/08/2016



Our mission is to fill the void between source identification research and real-world implementation of the technology.

Experience	Research	Methods	Quality
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leading commercial practitioner of Microbial Source Tracking services • >70 Source Tracking Studies Completed in 2014 and 2015 • Founded in 2002 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commercial partner for California Source Identification Project (SIPP) • Participated in US EPA Method Standardization Study • Collaboration with SCCWRP on Digital PCR study (publication pending) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • US EPA-Developed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human • Cattle • Chicken • Dog • 8 additional hosts available <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bird • Ruminant • Elk • Goose • Gull • Pig • Horse • Beaver 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pending ISO 17025 laboratory accreditation

Presentation Overview



Method Background

Traditional Fecal Indicator Methods



Total Coliform, Fecal Coliform,
E. coli, Enterococcus
CFU, MPN

Method Background

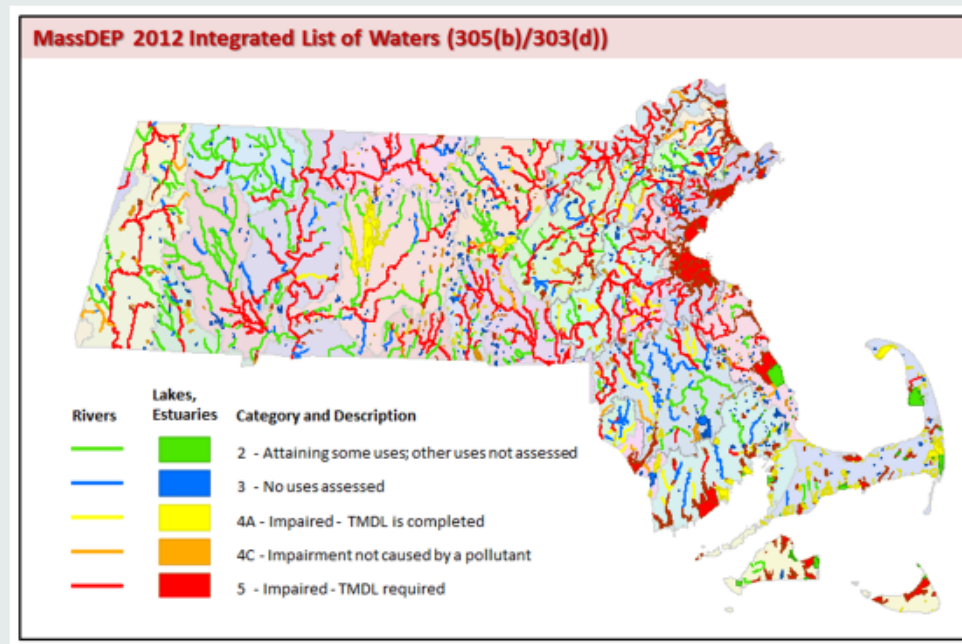
Traditional Fecal Indicator Methods



Total Coliform, Fecal Coliform,
E. coli, Enterococcus
CFU, MPN

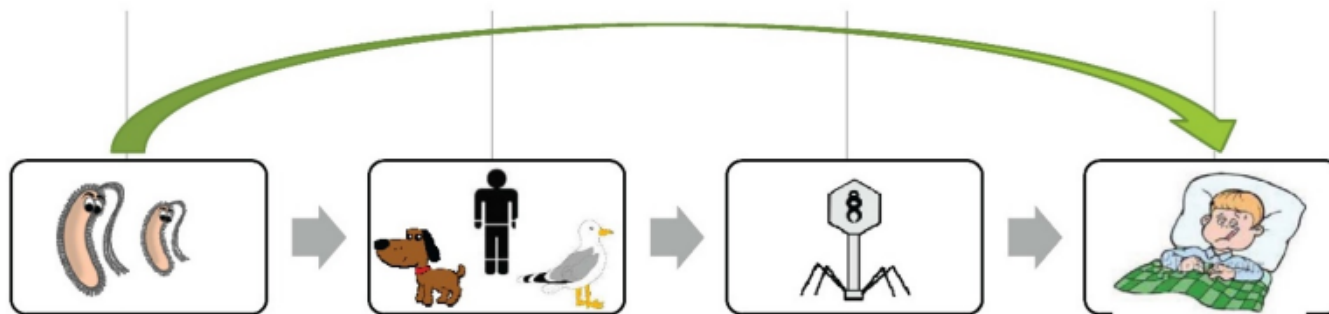


<http://floridawaterdaily.com/2015/05/01/no-swim-advisory-issued-for-venice-fishing-pier/>



<http://www.mass.gov/anf/research-and-tech/it-serv-and-support/application-serv/office-of-geographic-information-massgis/datalayers/wbs2012.html>

Fecal Indicator Paradigm



Fecal Indicator Bacteria (FIB) are assumed to be indicative of gastrointestinal illness, however this linkage breaks down for non-sewage impacted waters

How to measure each step in this linkage:

Culturable &
Rapid Methods
for FIB

qPCR markers
(MST)

Direct
pathogen
enumeration

Epidemiology
studies
(or QMRA)

How MST advances this monitoring capability:

Traditional FIB
approach

**Modern MST
approach**

The near
future?

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ds

n, Fecal Coliform,
OCOCCUS

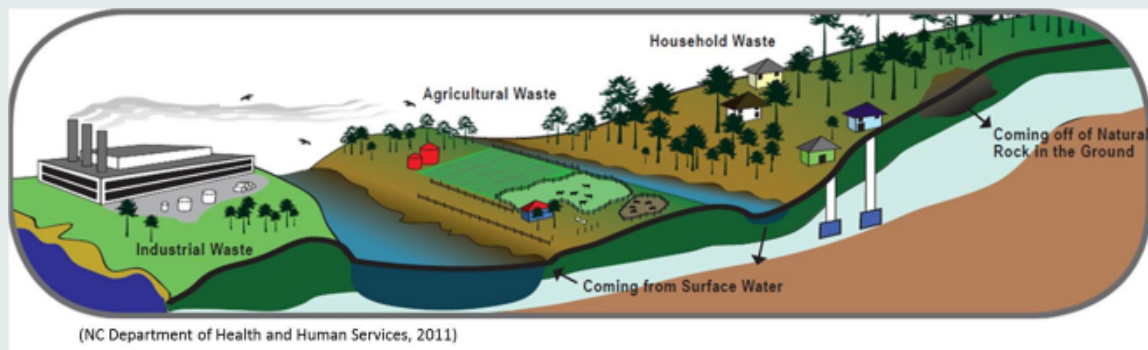
Method Background

Traditional Fecal Indicator Methods

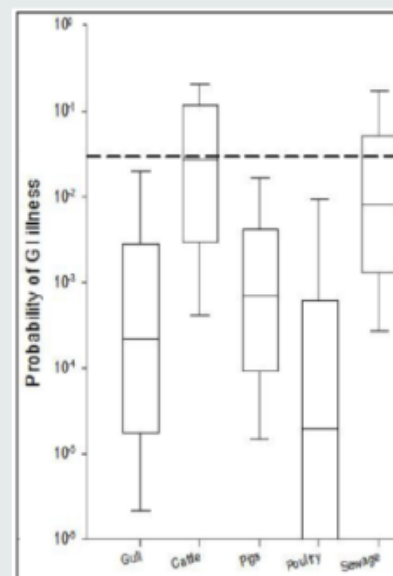


Total Coliform, Fecal Coliform,
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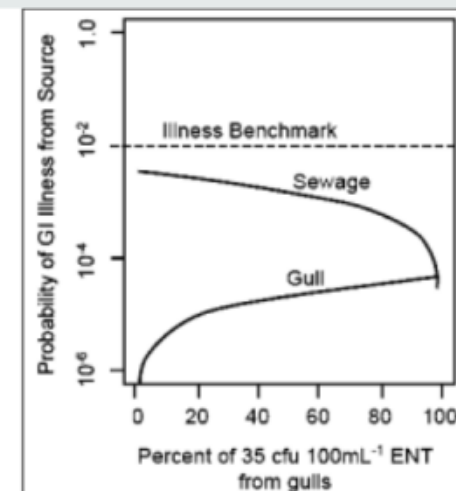
What is the source?



What is the health threat?



Source: Soller et al, 2010

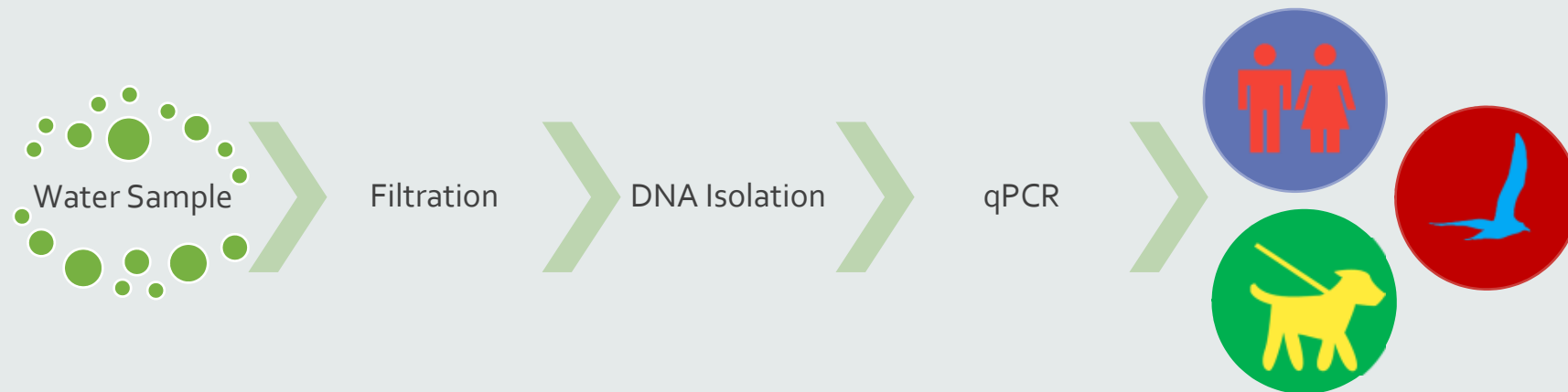


Source: Schoen & Ashbolt, 2010

Traditional Fecal Indicator Methods



Microbial Source Tracking Methods



Key Resources



Human MST Method Standardization: Method Selection by Expert Consensus

• Source Identification Protocol Project (SIPP)

5 organizations formed technical lead team
Public challenge via blinded study
27 expert laboratories
41 methods
Special Issue of Water Research (2013)



• Majority of experts (>90%) favor a **PCR-based technology**

Bovhan, A. B. *et al.* (2013) Performance of forty-one microbial source tracking methods: a twenty-seven lab evaluation study. *Water Research* 47: 6812-6828.

• qPCR methods are highly reproducible across labs only when protocol is **standardized**

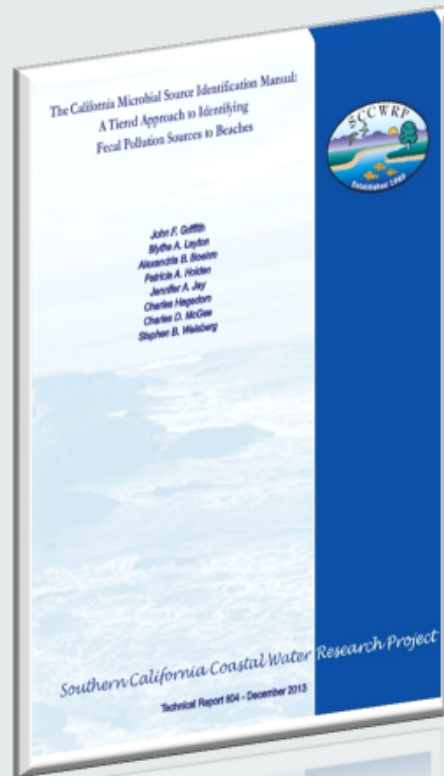
Ebenbiller, D. L. *et al.* (2013) Evaluation of the repeatability and reproducibility of a suite of PCR-based microbial source tracking methods. *Water Research* 47: 6839-6848.

• Identification of top human-associated qPCR methods

Layton, B.A. *et al.* (2013) Performance of human fecal anaerobe-associated PCR-based assays in a multi-laboratory method evaluation study. *Water Research* 47: 6897-6908.



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[California Microbial Source Identification Manual](#)

PATHOGENS in Urban Stormwater Systems



[Report](#) on state-of-the-practice on source tracking techniques and strategies
Associated [webinar series](#) May and June 2016

Contact Us at:

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Or

786-220-0379

Define Project Objectives

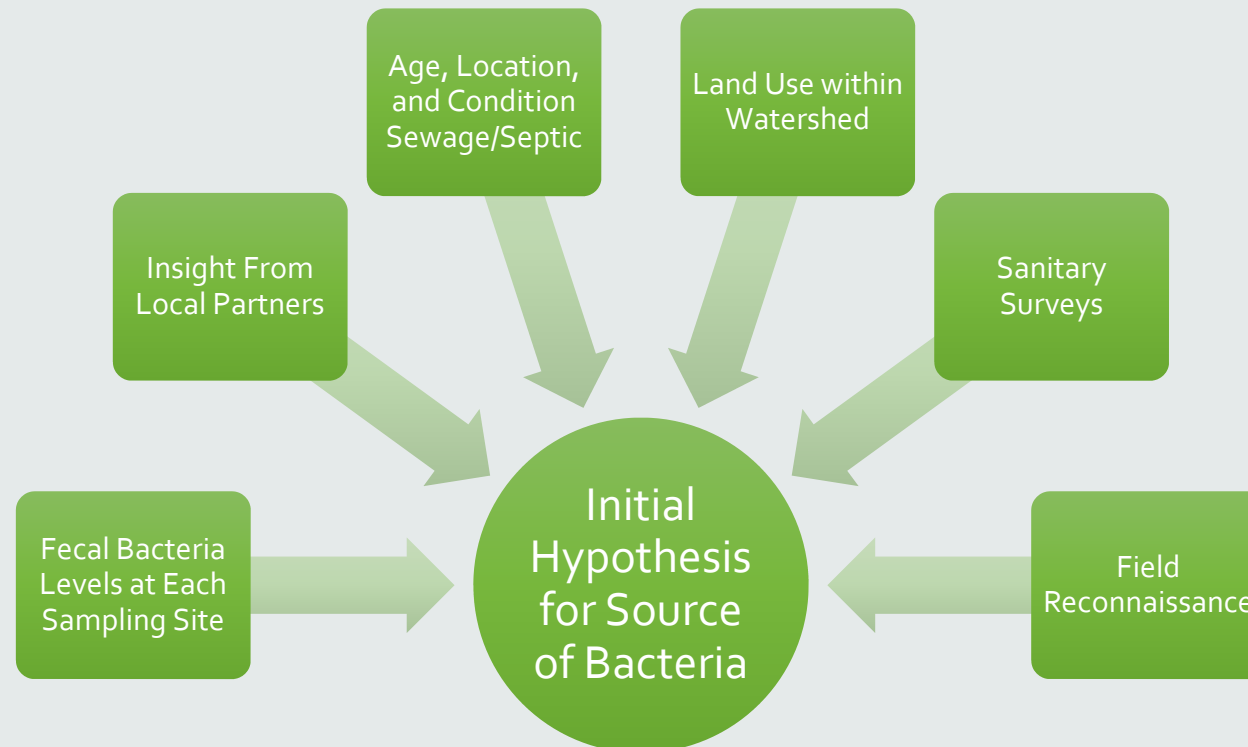
IDDE

Compliance Demonstration

Natural Source Exclusion

Site Specific Objectives

Infrastructure Asset Management



Sample and Test Plan

- Fecal Bacteria Hotspots
- Collecting Near Physical Sources

Sampling Sites



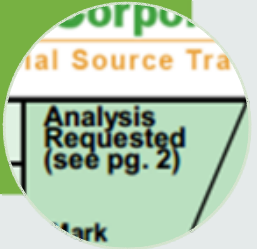
- Wet/Dry Weather Sampling
- Seasonal Changes
- Statistically Significant Number of Events

Sampling Events



- Focus on Anthropogenic Sources (Human, Dog, Agriculture)
- Most Likely Wildlife Source (Birds, Deer, ect)

Tests Per Sample



Case Study 1

DNREC Beach Source Tracking Project

Weight of Evidence Approach to Interpretation

Scenario

- High Fecal Bacteria
- Potential Sources:
 - Human
 - Gull
 - Dog

Human Sources

Non-Human Pollution Source

8% of samples Positive for Human Fecal Indicators: Low Levels

Sanitary Surveys Showed No Evidence of Leaking Sewers

100% of samples Positive for Gull Fecal Indicators: High Levels

4% of samples Positive for Dog Fecal Indicators: Low Levels

Sanitary Surveys show systemic presence of Gulls on the beach

Outcomes

- Allocated mitigation funds to other projects
- Target BMPs to reduce pollution from birds
 - Educate public about feeding birds
 - Better trash receptacles



<http://www.aboutmybeaches.com/3383/indian-river-life-saving-station-delaware-state-parks-recreation-activities-delaware-beaches-spring-programs/>

Case Study 2

Arroyo Burro Beach Source Tracking Project

Multiple Source Markers to test hypotheses

Scenario

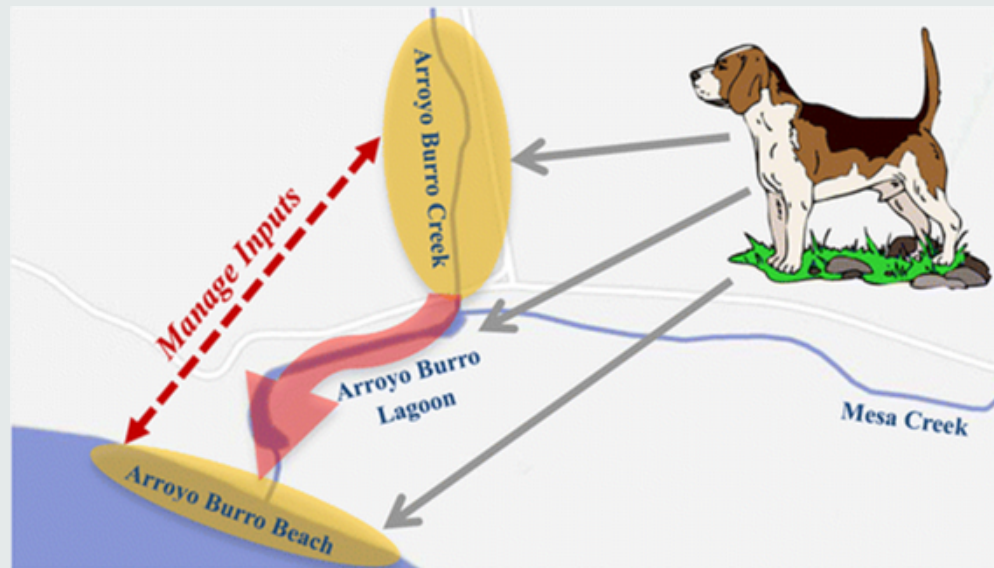
- High Fecal Bacteria
- Potential Sources:
 - Human
 - Horse
 - Gull
 - Dog

Microbial Source Tracking in a Coastal California Watershed Reveals Canines as Controllable Sources of Fecal Contamination

[Jared S. Ervin](#) et al. 2014



<http://www.independent.com/news/2007/dec/01/arroyo-burro-beach/>



Outcomes

- Horse not detected
- Gull confirmed at lagoon and beach
- Dog markers reduced after targeted public outreach
- Human markers associated with homeless encampments

Case Study 3

San Juan Basin Bacteria Source Tracking Project

Scenario

- High Fecal Bacteria
- Potential Sources:
 - Human
 - Bird
 - Cattle

Non-Human Pollution Source

Human Sources

77% of samples Positive for Human Fecal Indicator 1. High Quantity

94% of samples Positive for Ruminant Fecal Indicators

Presence of EPA Human Fecal Indicator.

Few Detections of Bird Fecal Indicators

Sanitary Surveys shows aging septic systems

Outcomes

- Targeted Public Outreach Campaigns
- Regulatory options for municipalities (septic system inspections/maintenance)
- Certified septic disposal professionals

San Juan Basin Bacteria Source Tracking Project

Summary of 2013 and 2014 sampling results

San Juan Watershed Group
San Juan Soil & Water Conservation District
Animas Watershed Partnership

February 26, 2015



"WHO POOPED IN THE RIVER?"



Image courtesy of Source Molecular laboratory

Case Study 4

San Diego River MS4 Project

Scenario

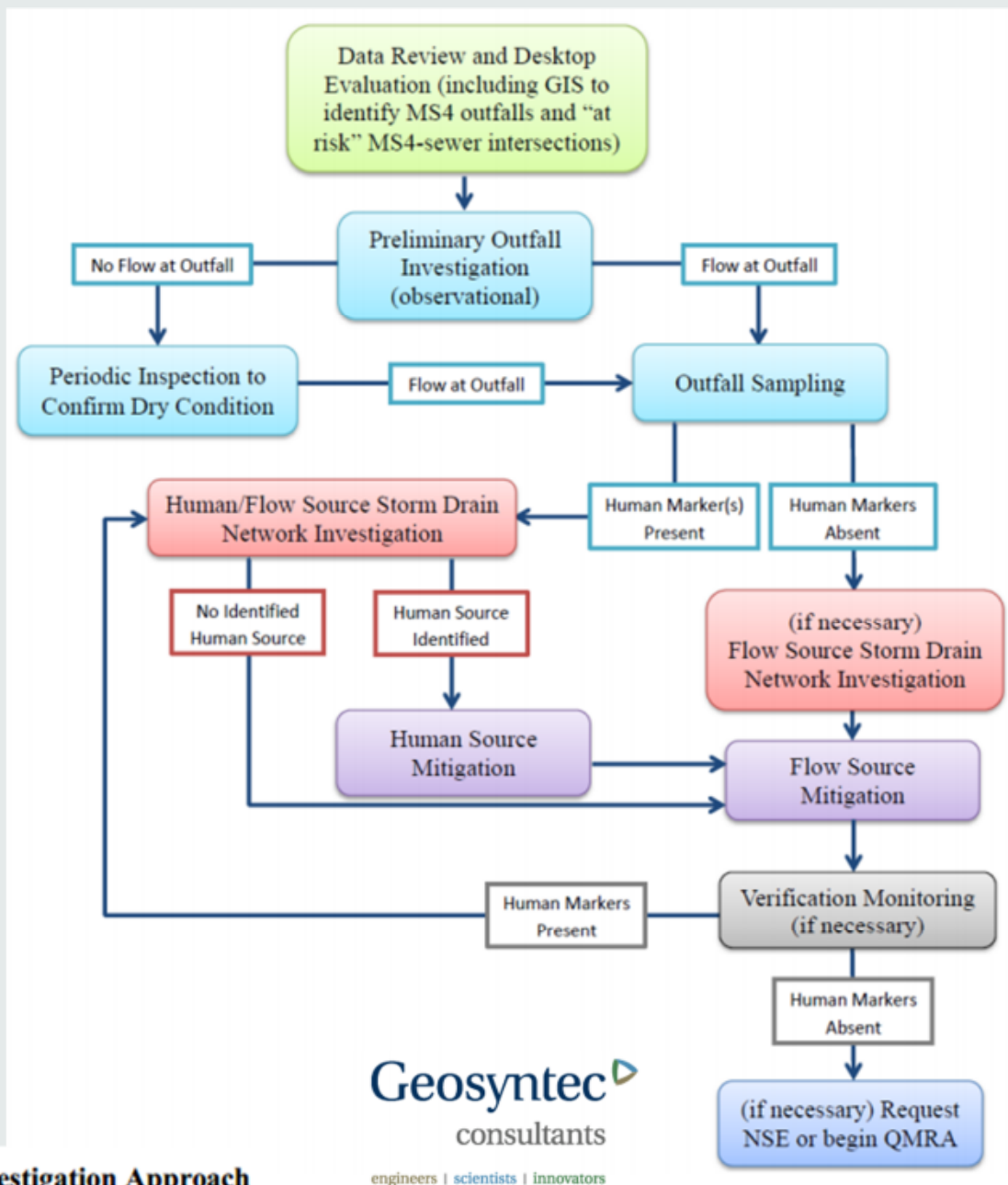
- High Fecal Bacteria at MS4 outfalls
- Potential Sources:
 - Illicit connections
 - Leaking sewer pipes
 - Homeless encampments



<http://hiddensandiego.net/pomero-storm-drain.php>

[LINK: Pathogens in Urban Stormwater Systems](#)

Figure 5-4. MS4 Microbial Source Identification Investigation Approach
(Source: Brandon Steets, Geosyntec Consultants)



Outcomes

- Documented absence of illicit connections and sewer leaks
- Documented human fecal pollution from homeless encampments
 - Notified local authorities

Questions



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Prices

Microbial source tracking uses qPCR to detect bacterial DNA originating from 13 fecal sources: Human, Cattle, Swine, Gull, Goose, Chicken, Dog, Deer, Elk, Horse, Bird, Beaver, and Ruminant

Each water sample can be tested for multiple fecal sources. Prices are as follows:

\$175 per test when 4 or more tests are performed per sample

\$225 per test when 3 tests are performed per sample

\$275 per test when 2 tests are performed per sample

\$375 per test when only 1 test is performed per sample

There is an additional \$40 charge per test if you want to measure the quantity of fecal contamination. A list of available tests can be found here: sourcemolecular.com/tests

We provide shipping and sampling materials at no cost. Samples are sent overnight to our laboratory, and within 5-10 working days results are reported.

For projects of 15 samples or more, we offer price reductions of 15%-35% from the prices above. We provide unlimited consultation to assure that your project has the best outcome possible.