

Research Completed/Ongoing

To date, the AWWQRP has funded three research projects. Appendix A provides a detailed summary of these three research projects. Following is a brief description of the purpose and status of each study:

Pre-Research Survey of Municipal NPDES Dischargers in the Arid and Semi-Arid West (Discharger Survey)—This research was implemented following an RWG recommendation that the Project survey as many arid West dischargers as possible to obtain information necessary to properly characterize arid West discharges and associated water quality concerns. A key finding of the resulting report, completed in March 2000, was that there was a general lack of data that effectively described effluent-dependent water habitats.

Habitat Characterization Study—Based on the findings of the Discharger Survey, the Habitat Characterization Study was commissioned for the purpose of characterizing the physical, chemical and biological characteristics of selected effluent-dependent waters across the arid West. It is believed that this effort represents the first attempt to focus data gathering efforts on this type of aquatic ecosystem. The draft final report was completed in April 2002; the final report will be published in fall 2002.

Extant Criteria Evaluation—The primary focus of this project is to evaluate existing methods for generating water quality criteria, methods for site-specific modifications to criteria and, if appropriate, develop an approach for regional AWQC modification that takes into account the unique characteristics of ephemeral and effluent-dependent watercourses in the arid West. Four “model” AWQC, which represent different types of pollutants, were used as the basis for this evaluation: copper, selenium, diazinon and ammonia. A draft report was prepared in April 2002; the final report will be published in fall 2002.