



Title: Southwest States and Pacific Islands Regional Water Quality Program: Building on Success

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Organization: CSREES Region IX

State: Multi-State

Region: Southwest States and Pacific Islands

Year of Funding: 2002

Theme: Pollution Assessment and Prevention

Situation: Extension outreach programs of the Land Grant Universities in Region 9 were well established prior to the inception of the Regional Coordination Project (Project) in the fall of 2002.

Objectives: Since that time, we have worked to build on the successes of our individual programs to foster an environment of collaboration between institutions. Part of this collaboration includes sharing information of successful projects that might be adapted to meet the needs and conditions of other states or territories. We have also worked to promote more regionally focused outreach and research efforts.

Methods: Toward this end, the Project is currently funding three special projects that deal with various regional themes: Demonstrating Best Management Practices on Piggeries in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; Developing a Potential Hazard Index for Nitrate in the Southwest States; and Regional Approaches to Water Protection from Nonpoint Sources of Microbial Contaminants.

Research: In an effort to guide future outreach, a regional water quality attitudes survey is being conducted in collaboration with Region 10 to randomly sample the public within the southwest states and Pacific islands. This survey is a tool through which our region can obtain the public's perceptions on a variety of water quality issues. By comparing responses from different states and territories, the survey will also help us identify areas of commonality and diversity within the region.



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