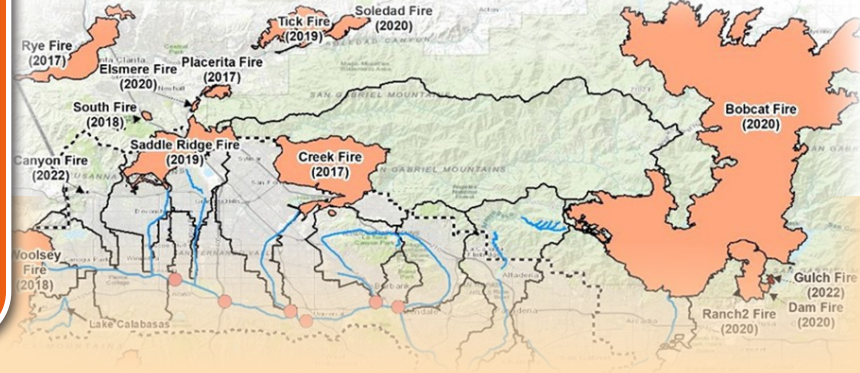




# ULAR Watershed Management Group Fire Effects Study



## Project Background

The Upper Los Angeles River Watershed Management Group (ULAR WMG) consists of 19 agencies that are responsible for upholding water quality standards for a vast area of 479 square miles, including compliance with Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for nutrients and metals. In response to an increase in the frequency and intensity of wildfires in southern California and evidence correlating elevated pollutant loading in surface water with wildfires, the ULAR WMG designed the Fire Effects Study (Study) to examine wildfire impacts on water quality within its own watershed.



Fire Effects Study project manager presenting to breakout session attendees.

## Monitoring and Modeling Progress

The Study team collects dry weather and wet weather water quality samples and conducts bioassessment monitoring to characterize the impacts of wildfires. Data collected will be input into models that predict wildfire and climate change impacts on water quality. Best management practice (BMP) models will also be used to better inform decisions for selecting BMPs and evaluating BMP performance, considering landscapes affected by wildfires and climate change.

## Regional Collaboration

The Study team continues to involve numerous stakeholders conducting similar work with wildfires, such as the California State University Council on Ocean Affairs, Science, and Technology (COAST), Geosyntec, and Southern California Coastal Water Research Project (SCCWRP).

## Objectives

- Address gaps in water quality data
- Model future effects due to increased frequency and severity of wildfires and climate change scenarios
- Characterize fate and transport of pollutants from wildfires
- Leverage regional funding
- Coordinate with stakeholders and regulatory agencies

## Regulatory Engagement

The Study team has met routinely with the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (LARWQCB) to provide updates on the progress of research and solicit the input of the LARWQCB regarding the potential regulatory actions that may be informed by the outcomes of the study.

## Los Angeles County's Safe, Clean Water Program

In 2018, Los Angeles County voters approved Measure W, also known as the Safe, Clean Water Program (SCWP), to improve water quality, increase local water supply, and enhance communities. The Study is funded by the SCWP and is designed to satisfy the following SCWP goals: improve water quality and contribute to the attainment of water quality requirements, leverage other funding to maximize SCWP goals, encourage innovation and adoption of new technology and practices, and invest in independent scientific research.

