

# Characterization of stormwater debris model parameters in southern California's dense urbanized watersheds

Kian Bagheri, Joint Doctoral Student<sup>1,2</sup>  
Hasan Davani, Assistant Professor<sup>1</sup>



Ballona Creek Trash Boom  
Courtesy of Richard Risemberg:  
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Catch Basin Insert for Trash Removal,  
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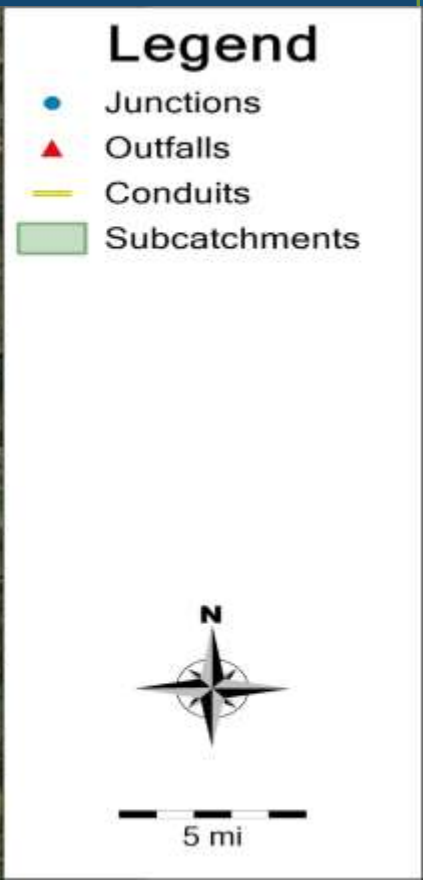
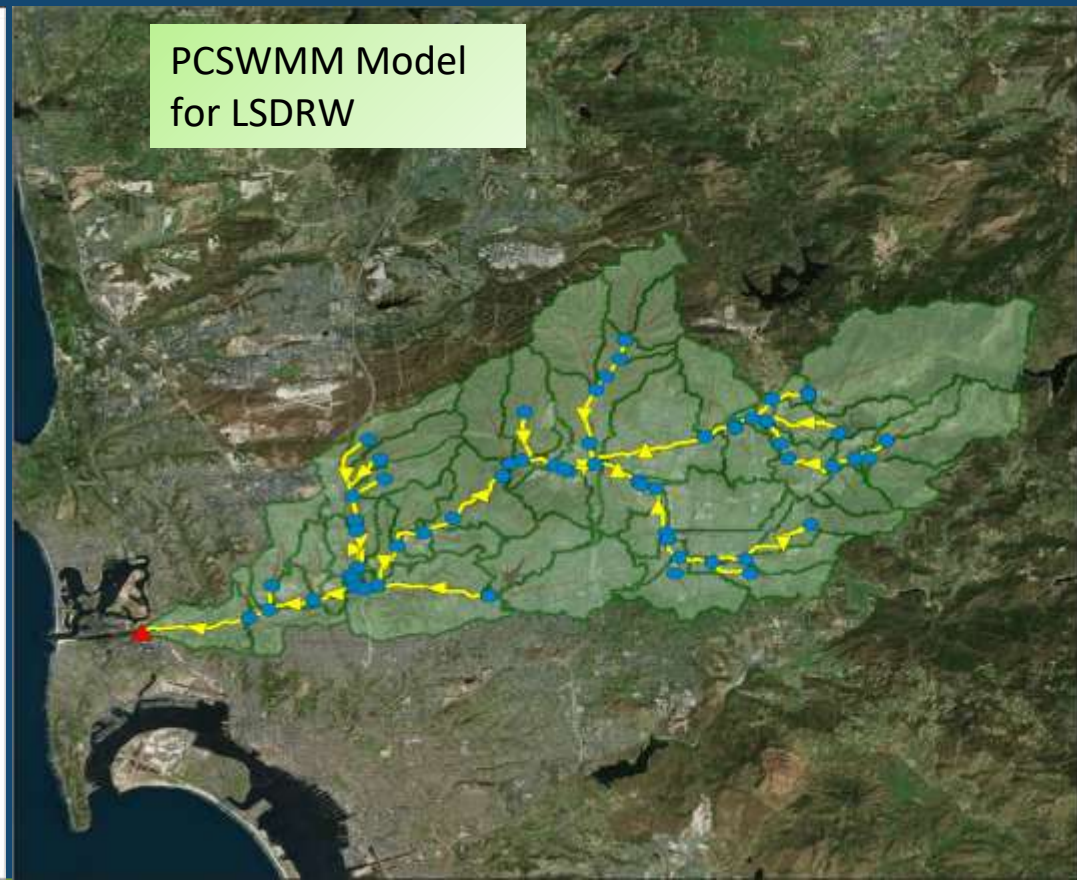
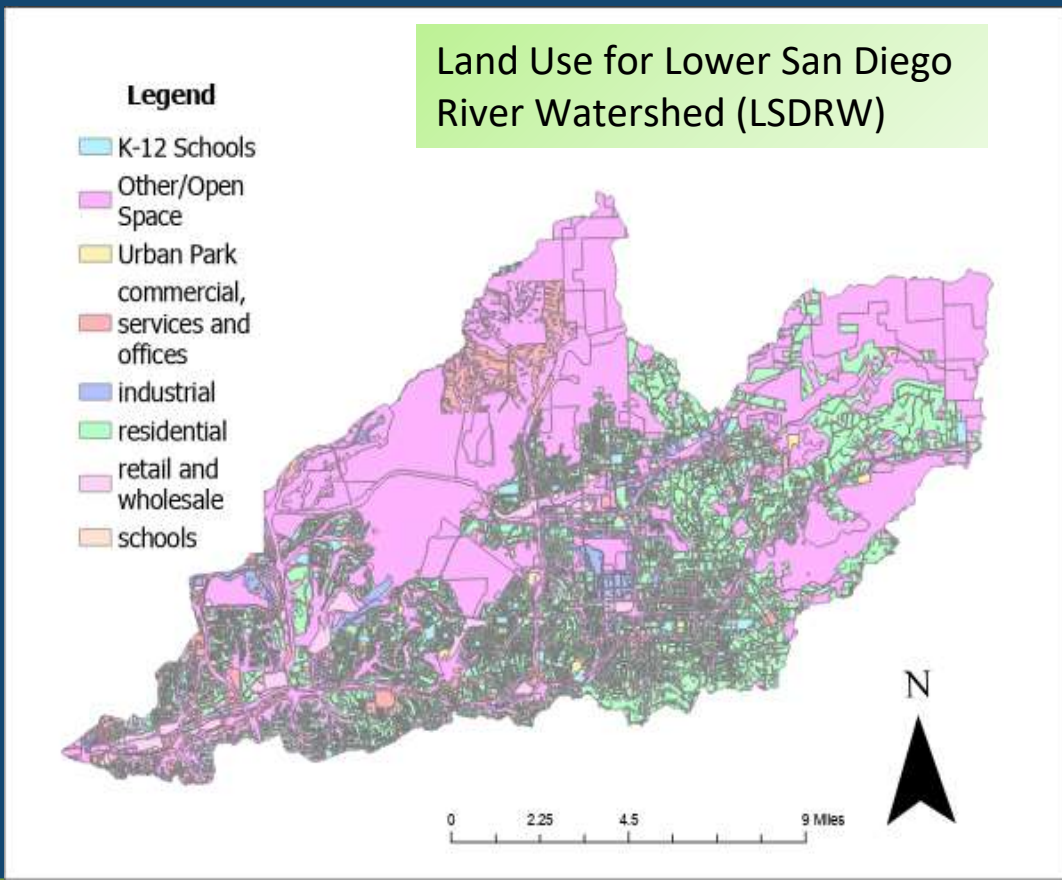
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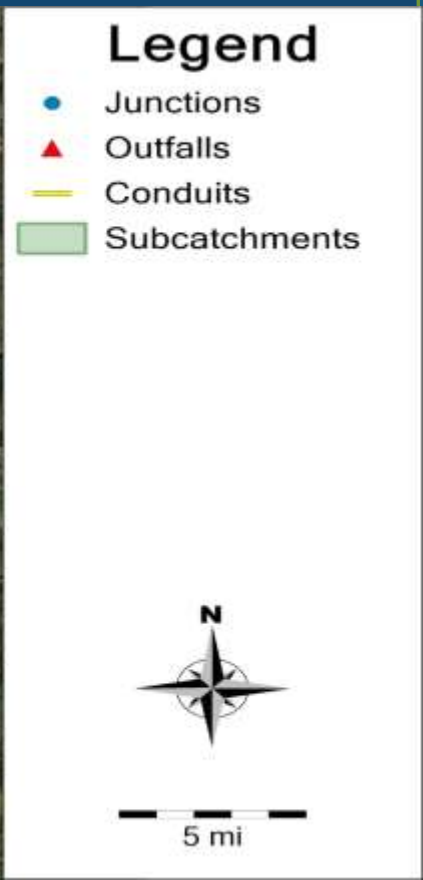
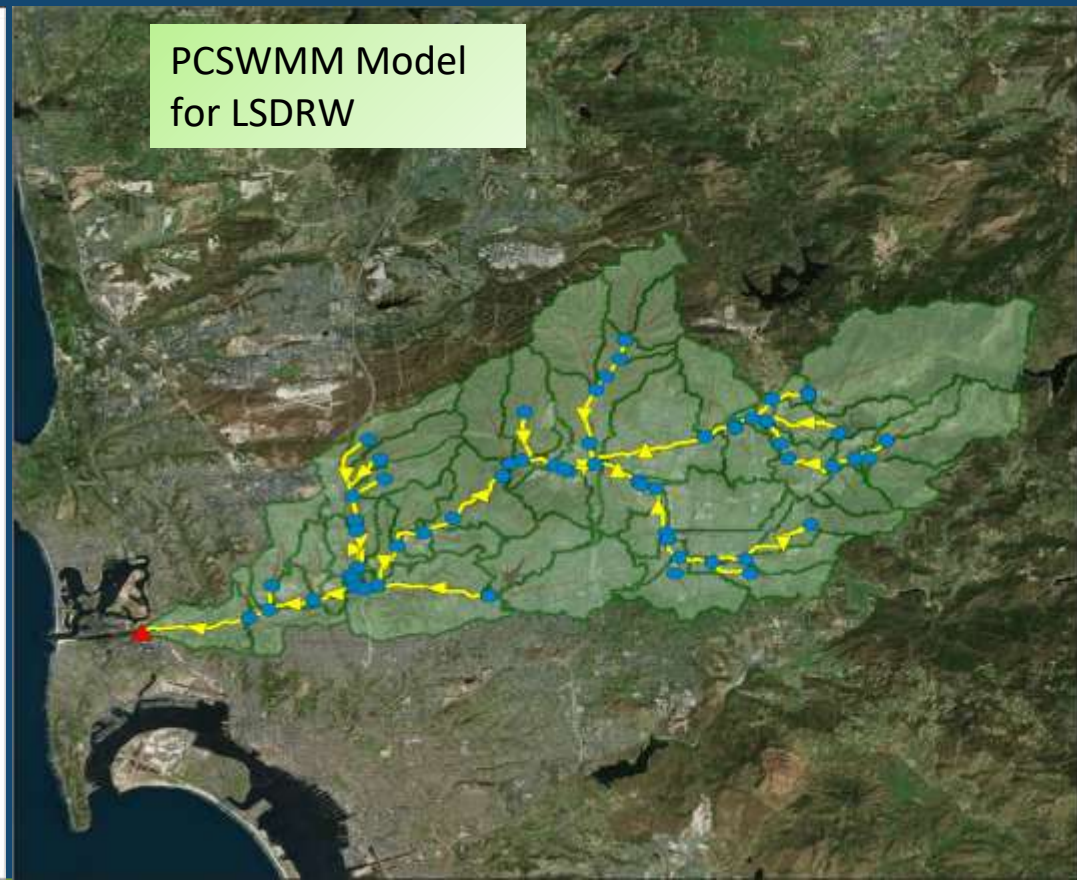
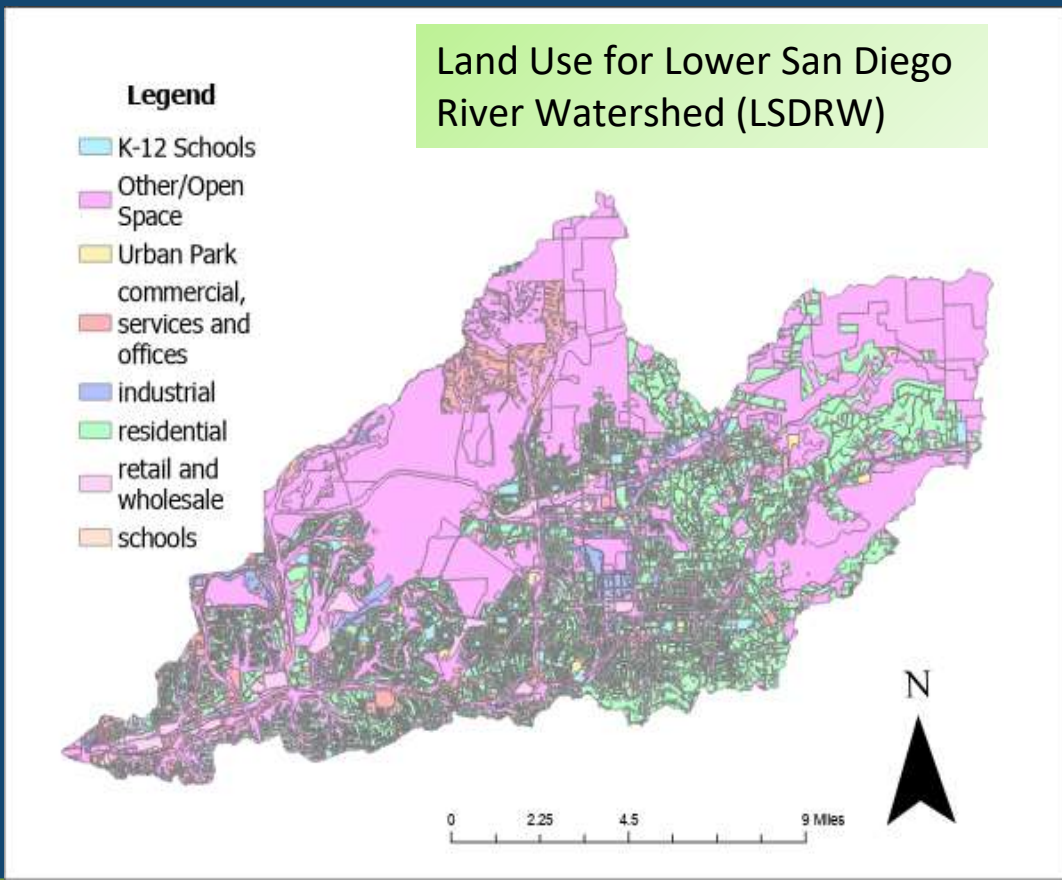
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- Use PCSWMM, a stormwater management model, to estimate pollutant transport (litter transport) loads through the urban environment into our waterways



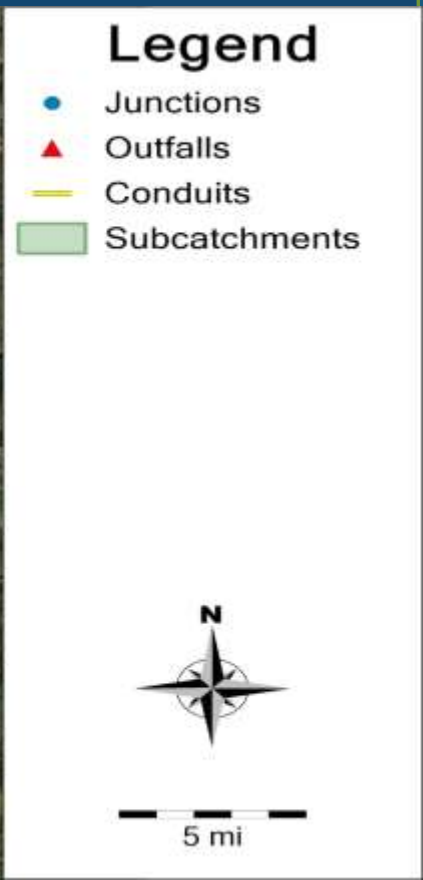
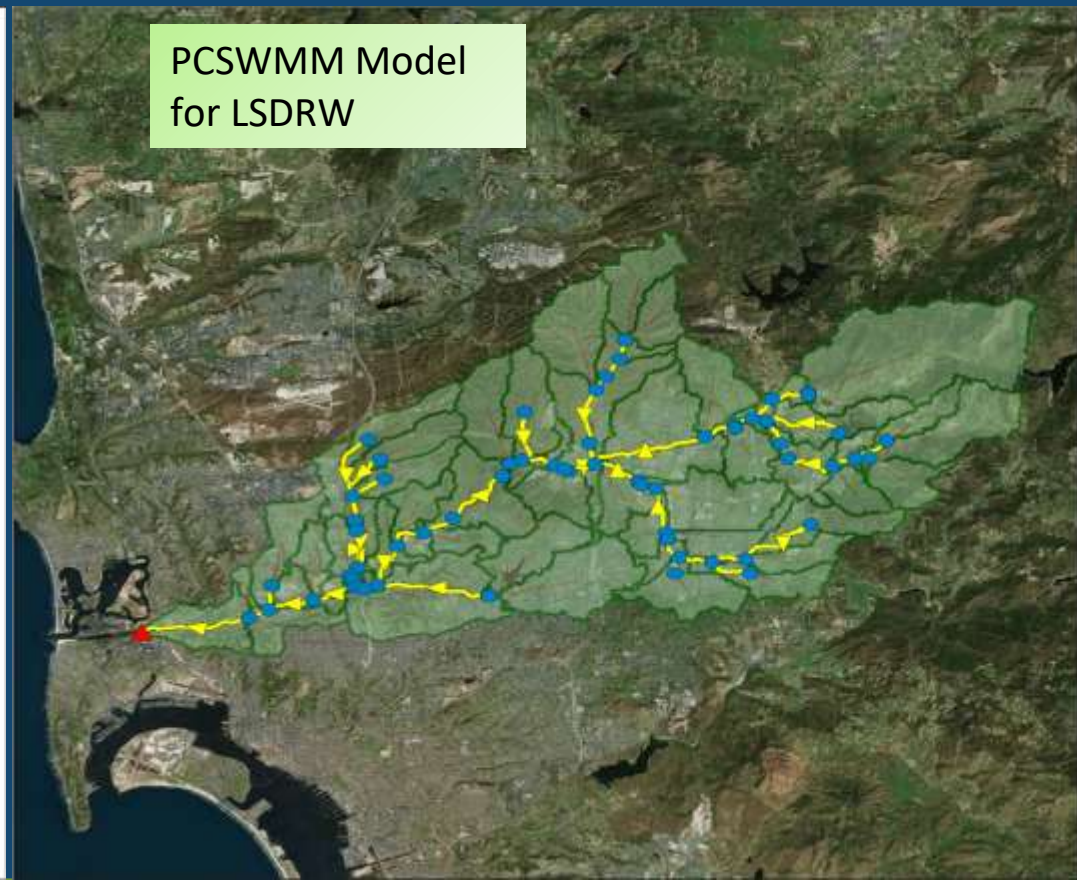
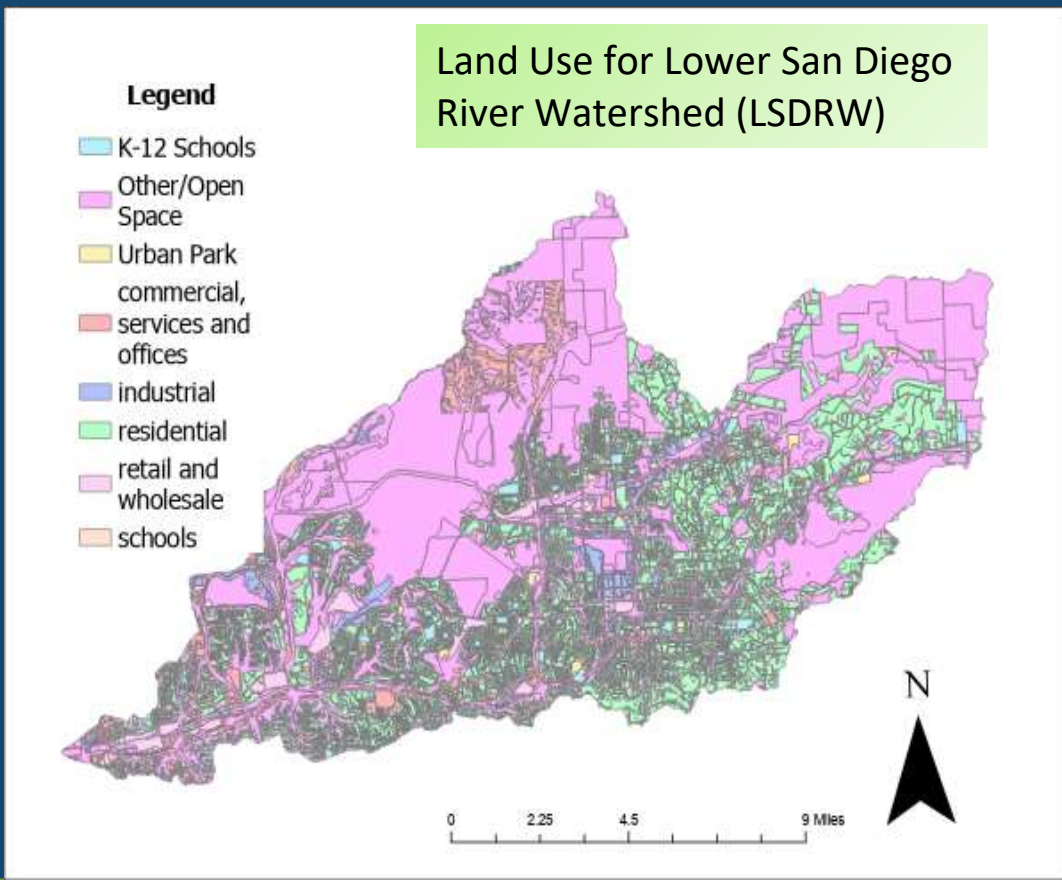
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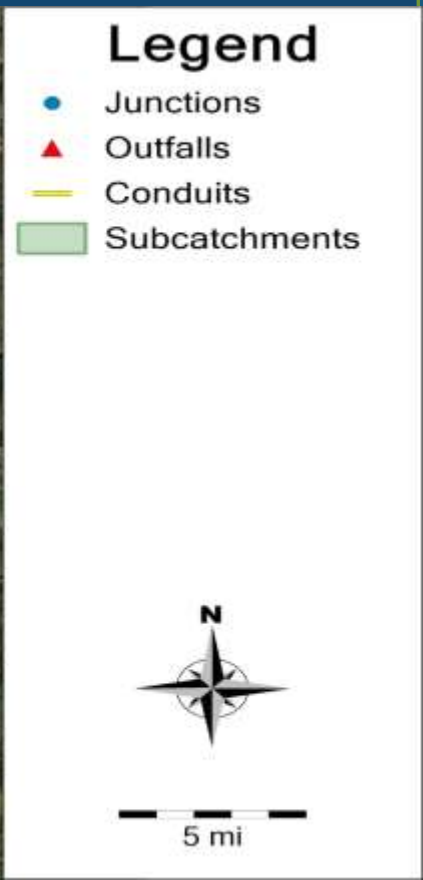
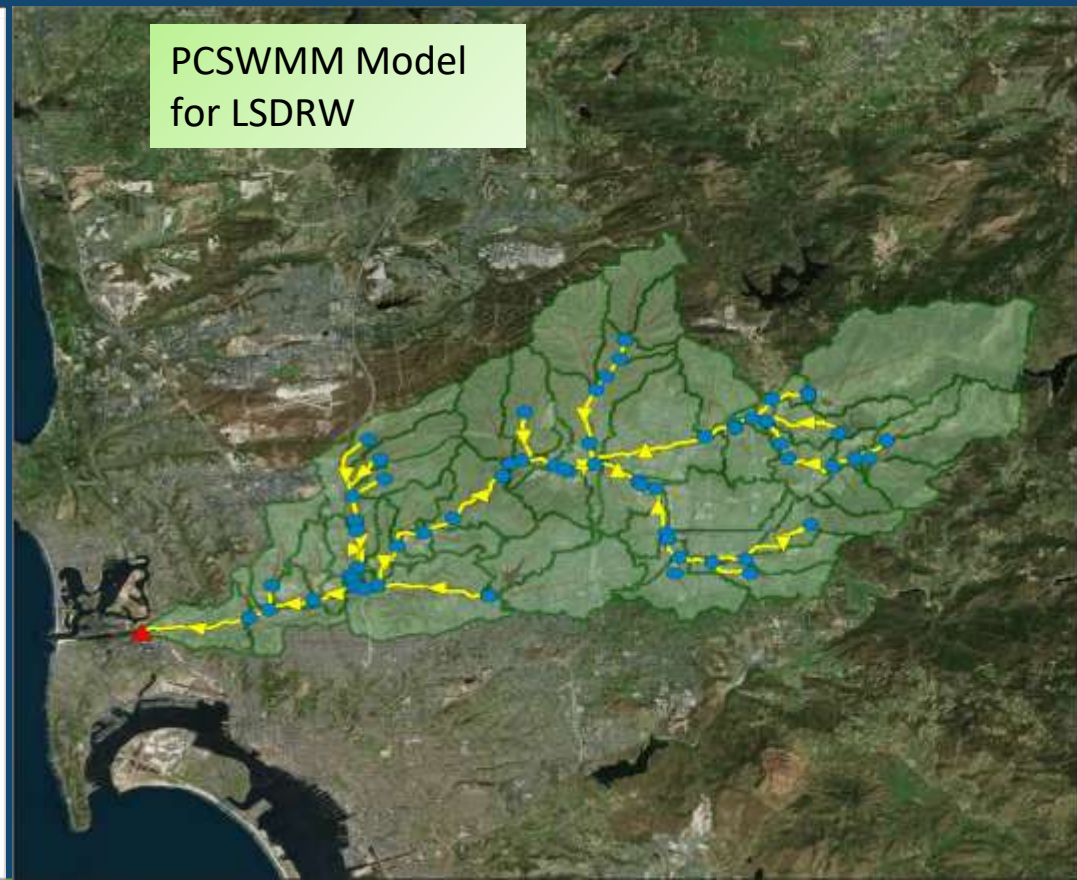
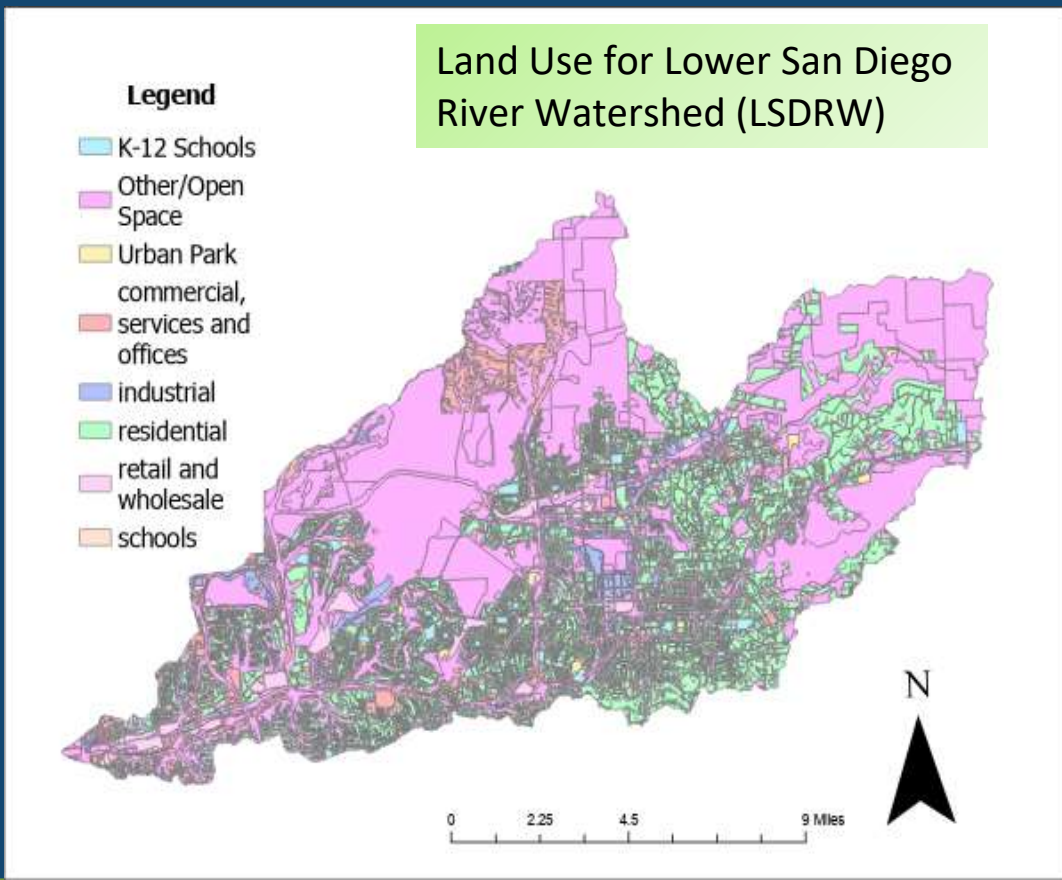
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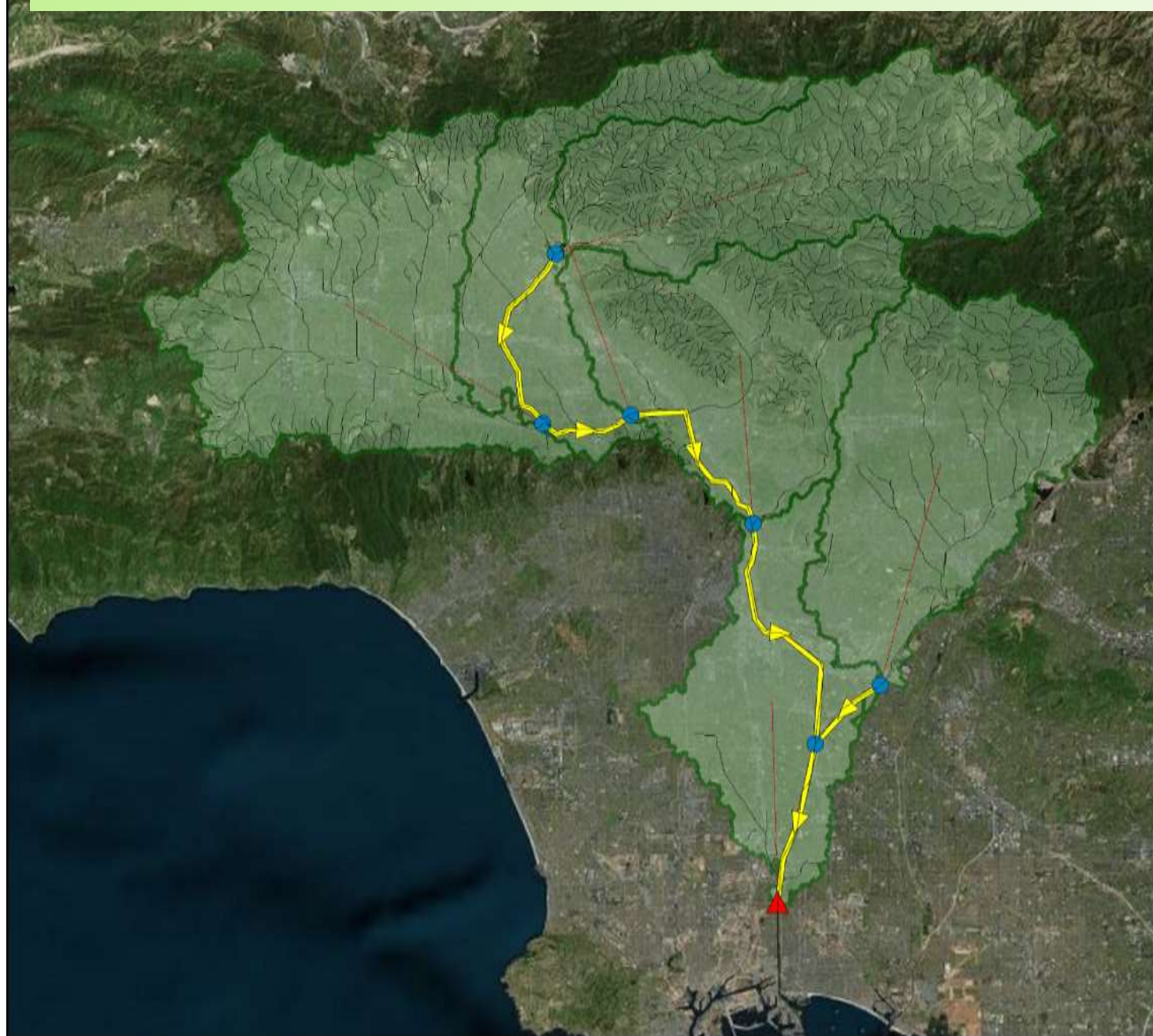




# PCSWMM Model For Los Angeles River Watershed

## Legend

- Junctions
- ▲ Outfalls
- Conduits
- ▭ Subcatchments

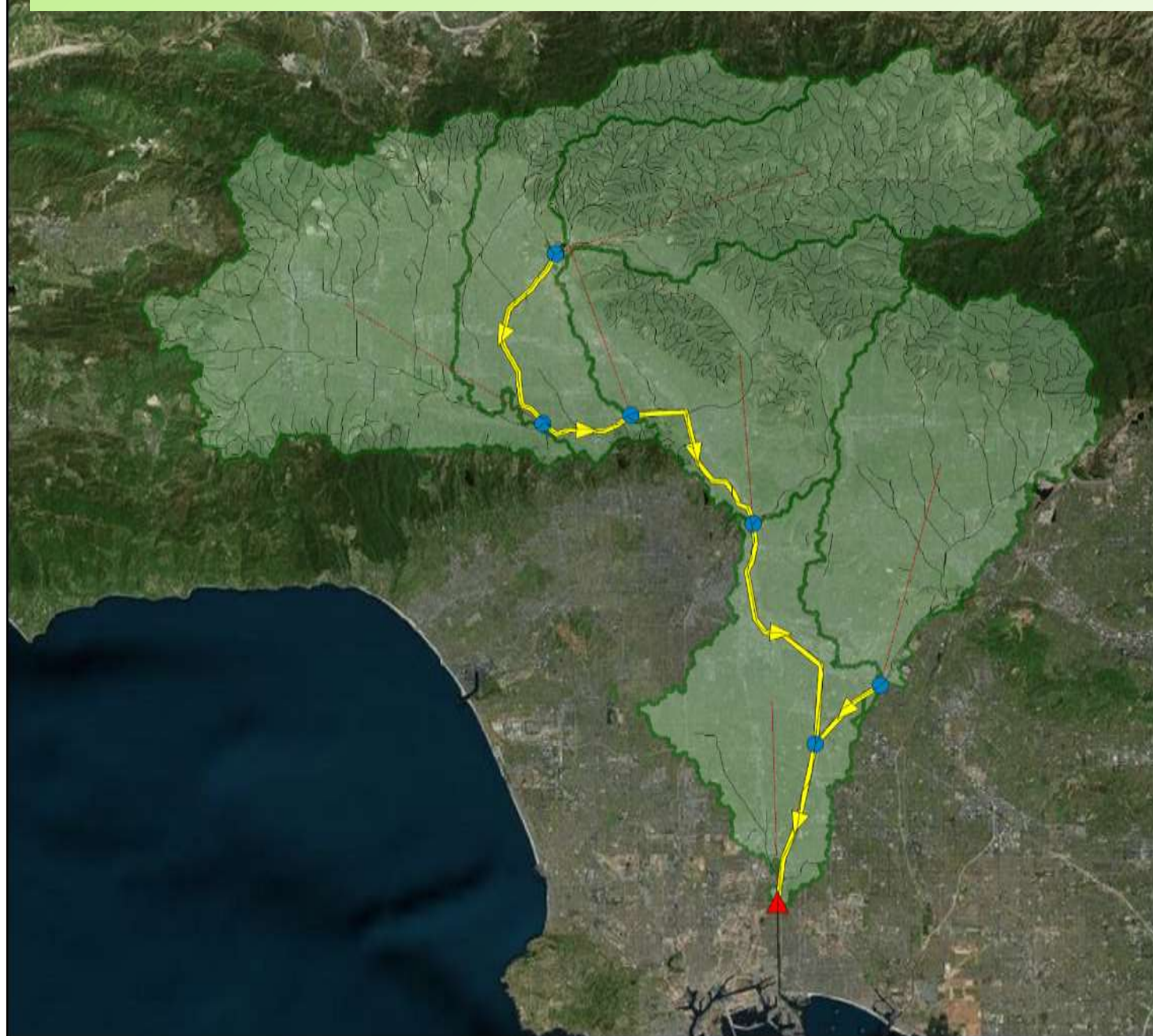


- **Total Area:** 834 sq. miles (533,760 acres)
- **Population:** ~9 million people
- **Percentage of Impervious Surfaces:** ~31 %
- **Land Use:**
  - 37% Residential
  - 8% Commercial
  - 11% Industrial
  - 44% Open Space
- **Mean Annual Rainfall:** ~21 inches

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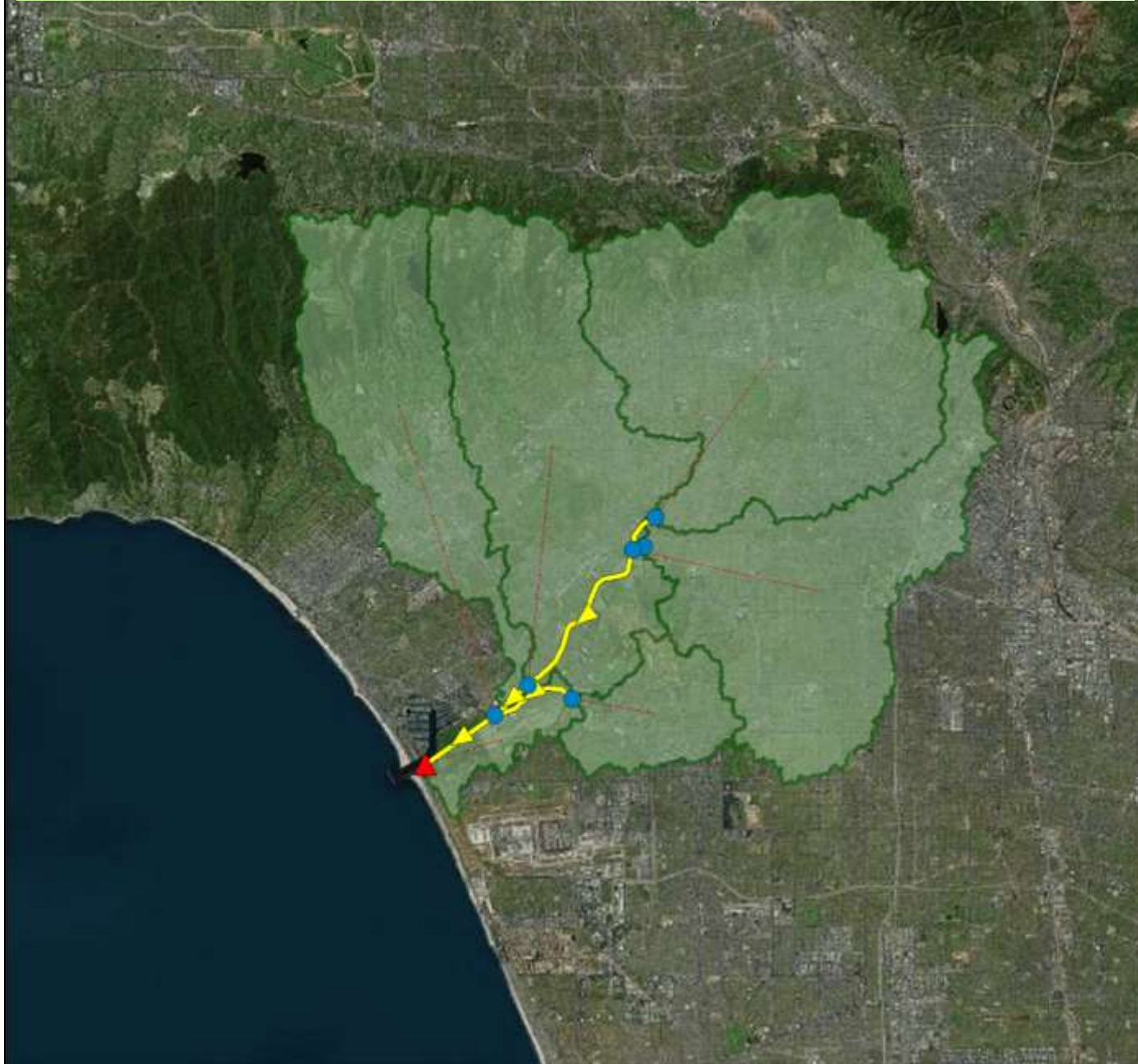


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# PCSWMM Model For Ballona Creek Watershed

## Legend

- Junctions
- ▲ Outfalls
- Conduits
- Subcatchments



4 mi

- **Total Area:** 130 sq. miles (83,200 acres)
- **Population:** ~1.5 million people
- **Percentage of Impervious Surfaces:** ~65 %
- **Land Use:**
  - 64% Residential
  - 8% Commercial
  - 4% Industrial
  - 17% Open Space
- **Mean Annual Rainfall:** ~16.4 inches

# Buildup and Washoff Governing Equations

## Parameters

**A<sub>1</sub>**: is the maximum buildup possible (mass/unit area or unit curb length)

**A<sub>2</sub>**: is the buildup rate constant controlling the speed of pollutant buildup (days<sup>-1</sup>)

**A<sub>3</sub>**: is the washoff coefficient (inches<sup>-1</sup>)

**A<sub>4</sub>**: is the washoff exponent (unitless)

- Buildup Curves follow exponential growth until reaching a maximum buildup value
- Washoff is dependent on buildup mass available

$$\text{Buildup} = A_1 * (1 - \exp(-A_2 * t))$$

where,

*Buildup* = mass/ unit area (or curb length)  
*t* = number of preceding dry weather days

$$\text{Washoff} = A_3 * \text{Runoff}^{A_4} * \text{Buildup}$$

where,

*Washoff* = load in mass/hr  
*Runoff* = inches/hr  
*Buildup* = mass of litter accumulated since last storm

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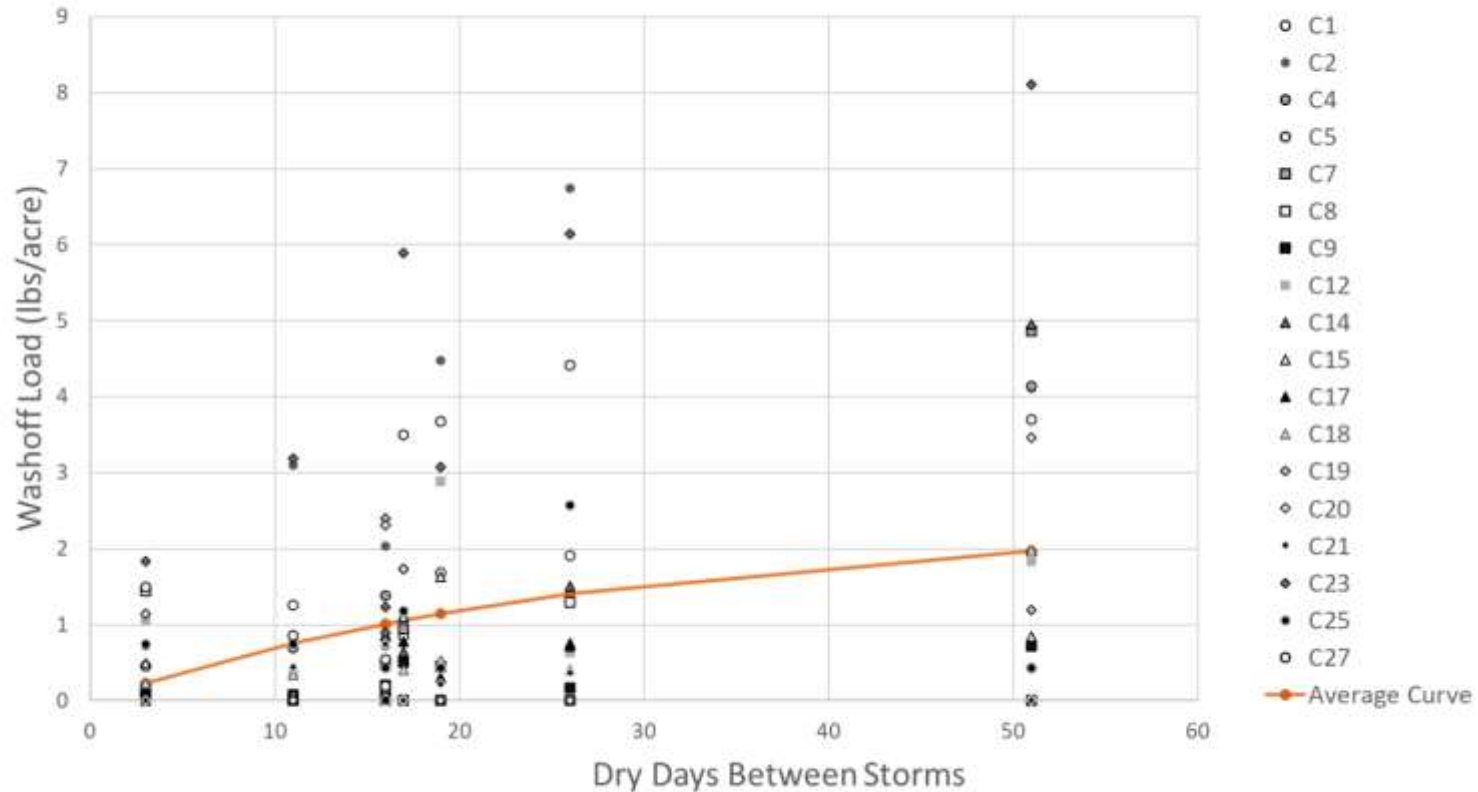
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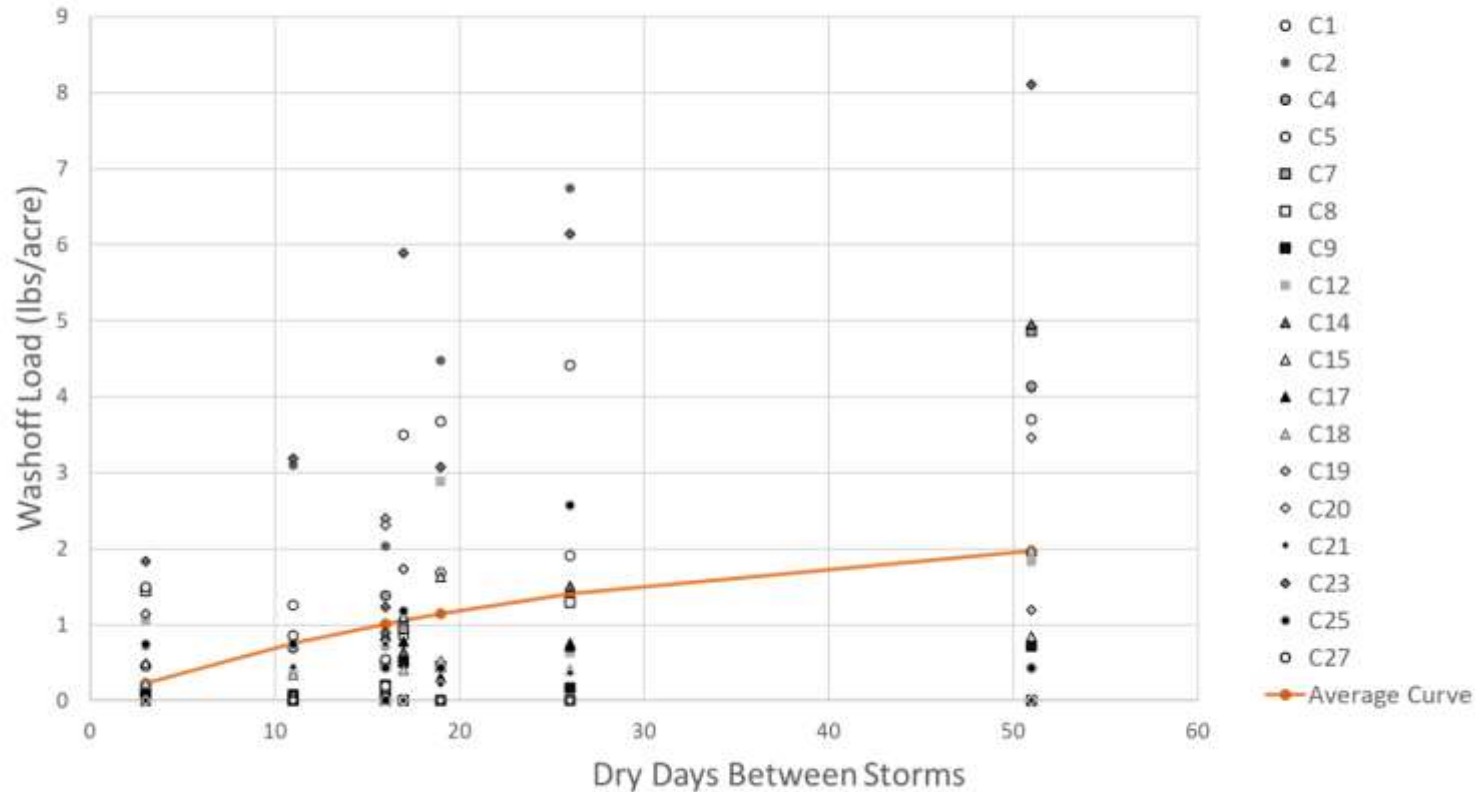
Exponential Curve for Average Washoff Values for Commercial Land Use  
Ballona Creek 2002-2003



- Data from Los Angeles County Public Works “Trash Baseline Monitoring Report”
- 500 Catch Basin Inserts Across **Los Angeles River** and **Ballona Creek Watersheds**
- Spanning 5 Land Uses: **Commercial, Industrial, High Density Single Family Residential, Low Density Single Family Residential, and Open Space**
- Sampled Each Watershed for **two years from 2002-2004**
- **C1-C27 Site ID for Commercial land use trash collection sites**

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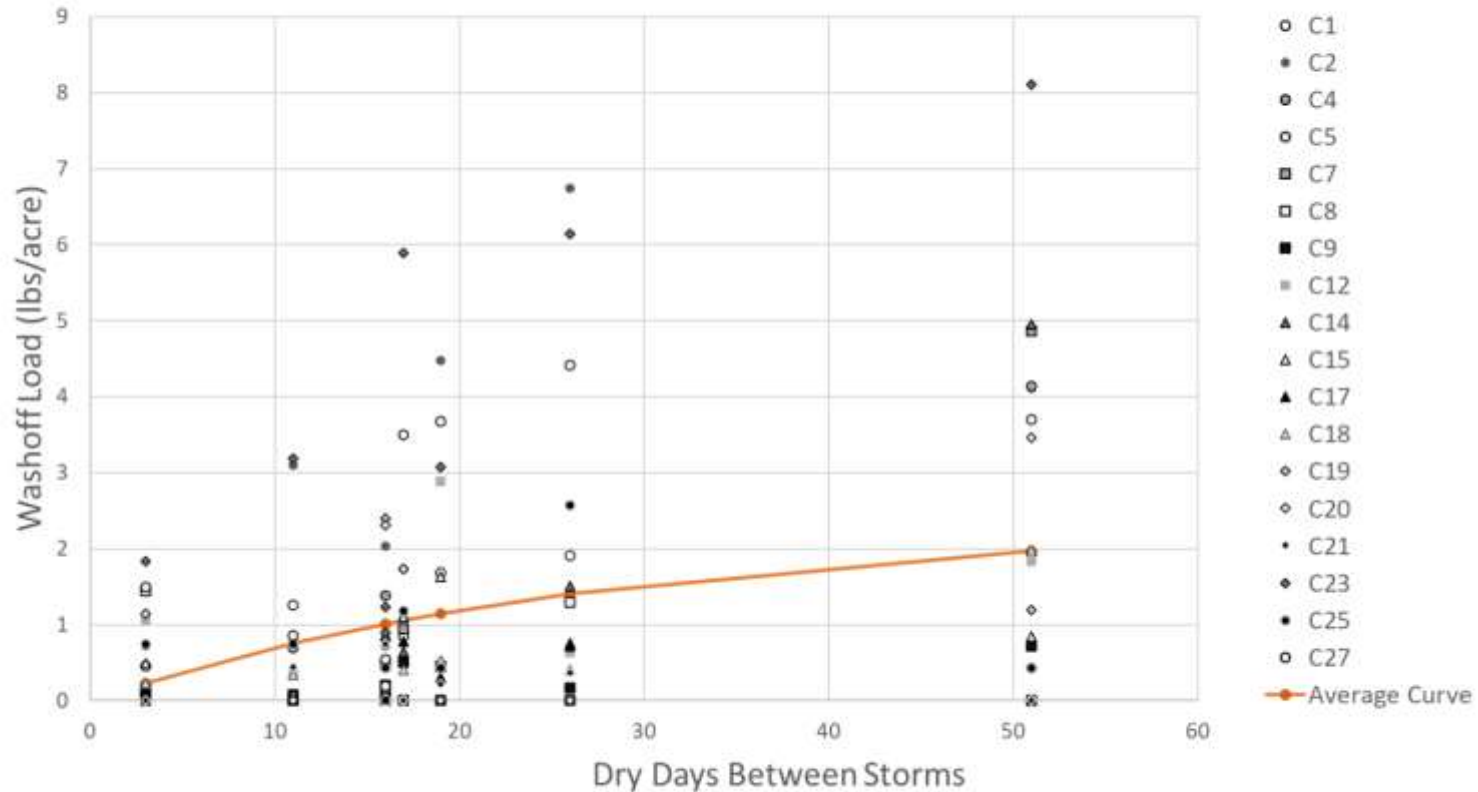
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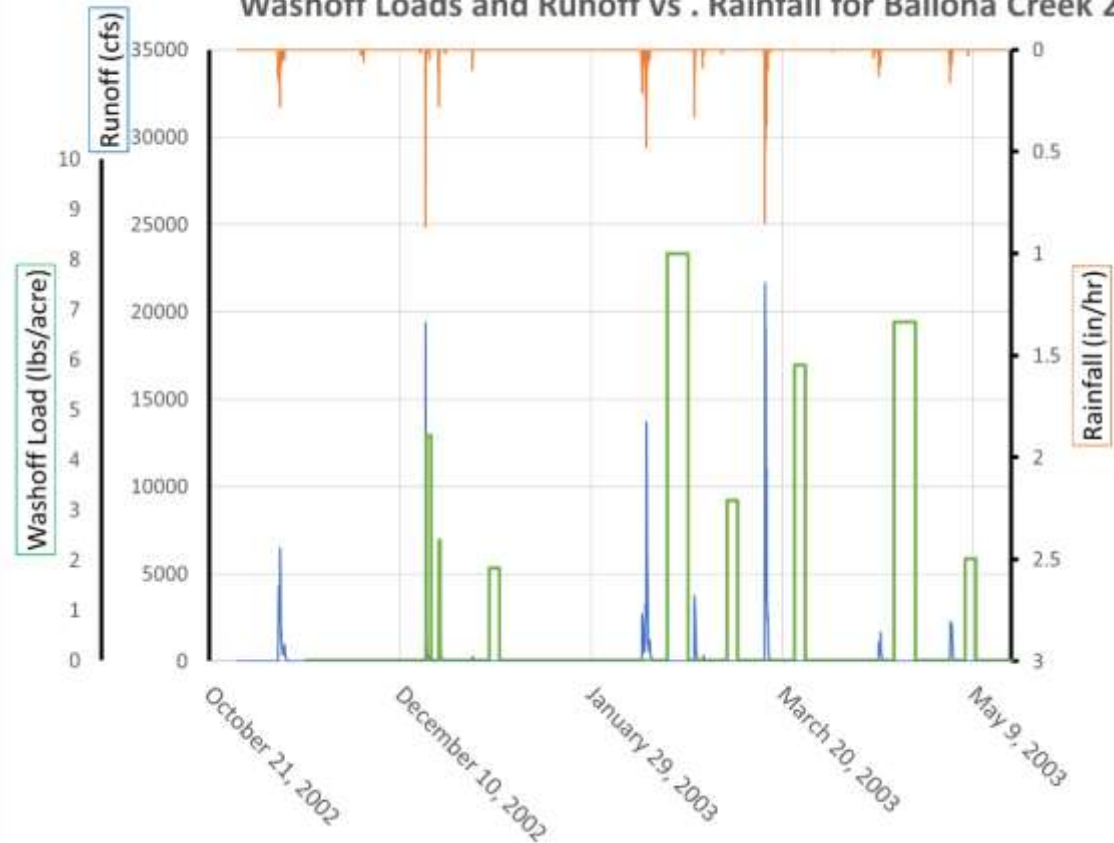
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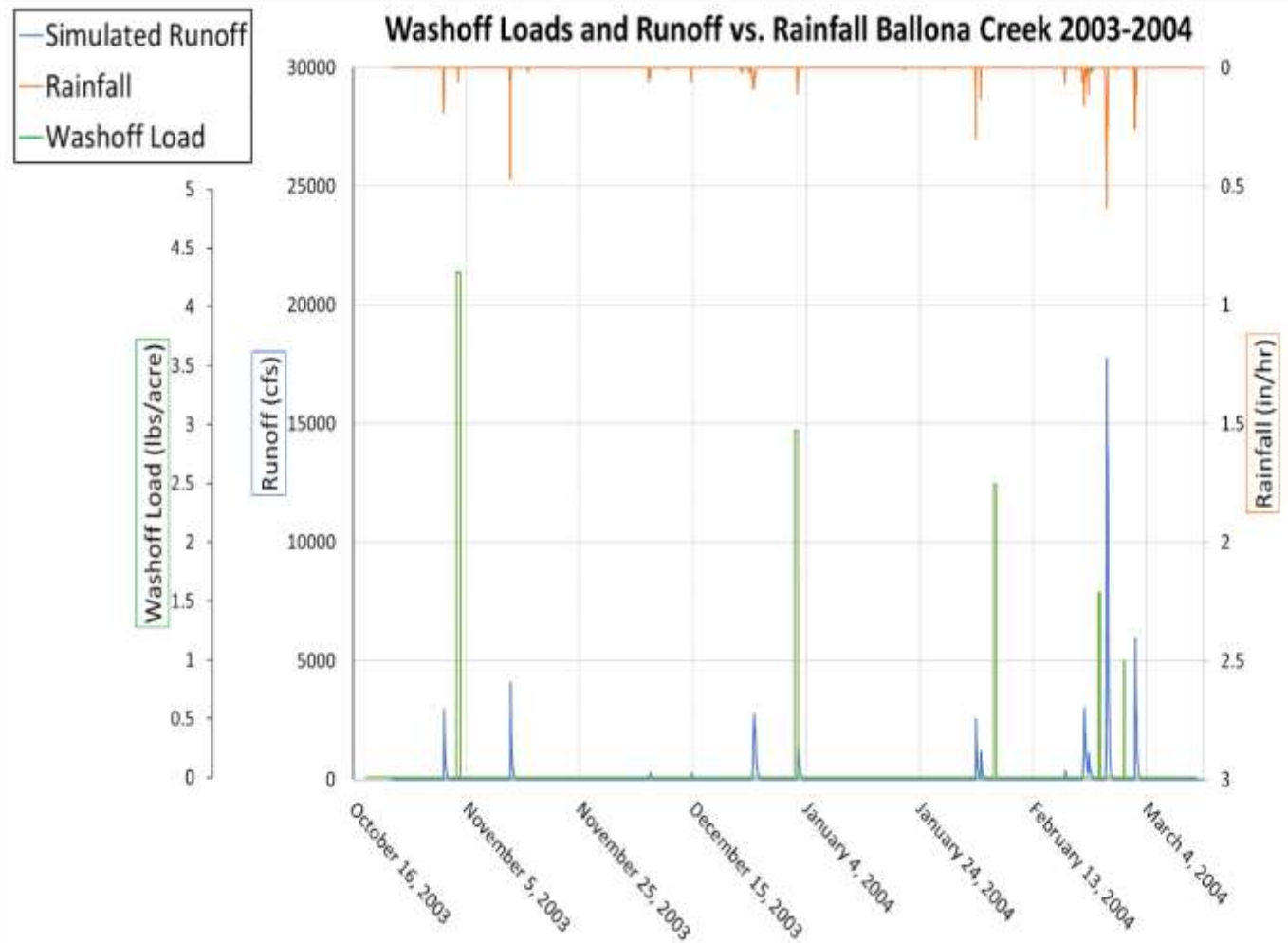
Washoff Loads and Runoff vs . Rainfall for Ballona Creek 2002-2003



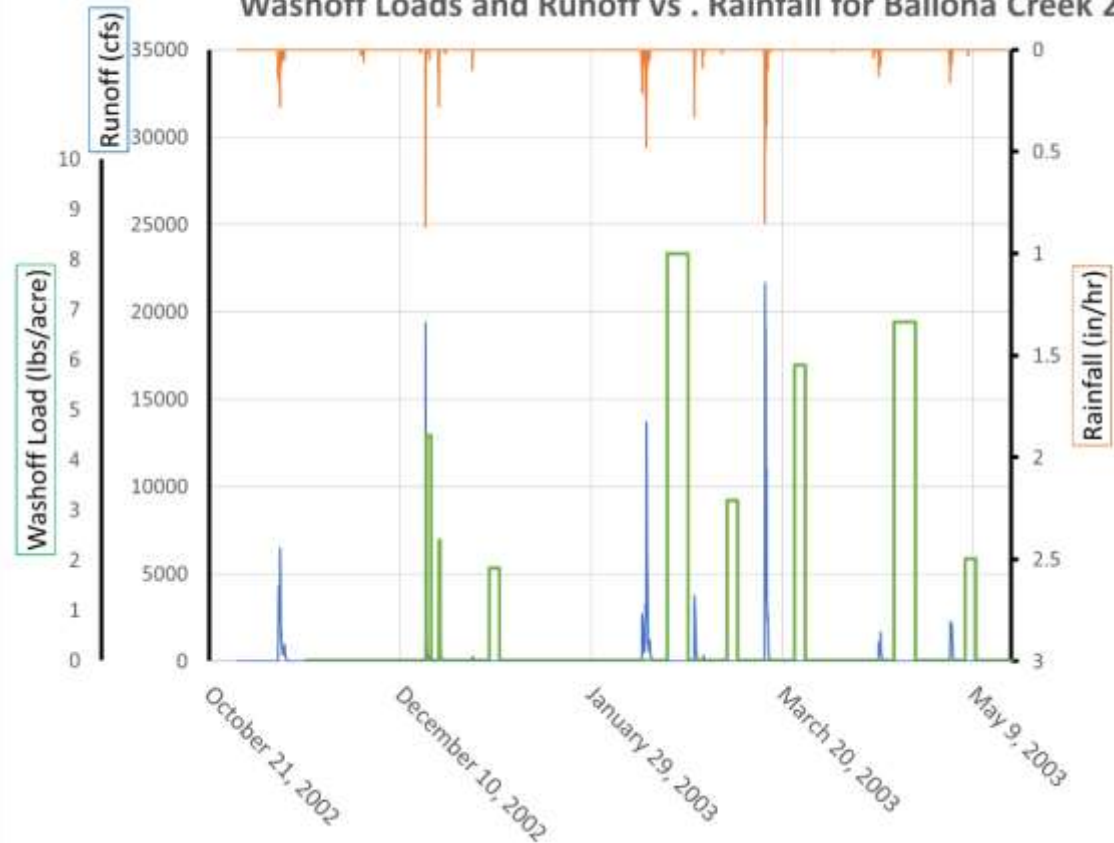
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- First year rainfall **11.32 inches**, with a total load of **3714 lbs**.
- Second year rainfall **5.94 inches** with a total load of **1622 lbs**.

Washoff Loads and Runoff vs. Rainfall Ballona Creek 2003-2004



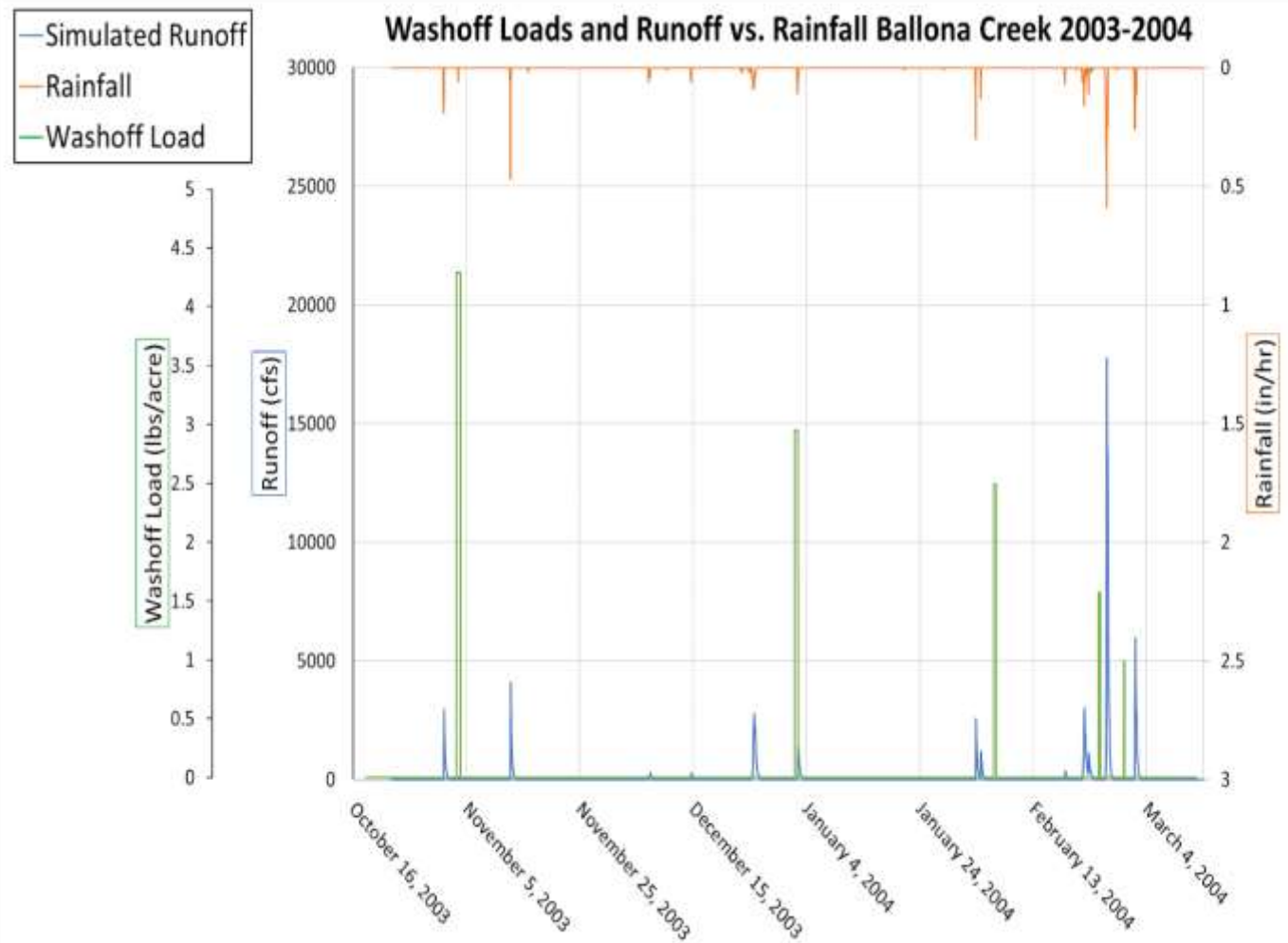
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## Results

Watershed	Total loading based on <b>PCSWMM</b> simulation (lbs.)	Year
Ballona Creek	93,184	2002-2003
Los Angeles River	3,341,337	2002-2003
Ballona Creek	62,732	2003-2004
Los Angeles River	2,038,963	2003-2004

Thank you!  
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### Future Work

- Sensitivity Analysis for Buildup and Washoff Parameters
- Application of Parameters toward Lower San Diego

River Watershed

### Acknowledgments

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