



vulnerable areas, we'll require growers to take specific actions to prevent contamination. County Agricultural Commissioners will work with growers and pesticide applicators to implement the new program.

## **SURFACE WATER MONITORING**

The Davis Administration has earmarked more than \$3 million to expand our surface water protection initiatives. We're continuing joint efforts with the State Water Resources Control Board and its regional boards to meet state and federal water standards. The Water Boards will use our data to set pesticide "total maximum daily loads" deemed acceptable in waterways and then we will jointly develop cleanup strategies and timetables.

In 2001, we completed a five-year monitoring program in the Sacramento River watershed for the insecticides chlorpyrifos and diazinon. While levels of contamination did not pose any hazard to humans, our data revealed that water quality standards were exceeded. Some problems have been linked to urban sources such as neighborhoods, parks, and golf courses. In other cases, pesticide spraying in orchards near streams and rivers caused runoff contamination. For several years, we and the County Agricultural Commissioners have worked with farmers and commodity groups to encourage the use of vegetation buffer strips, low-toxicity pesticide oils, and other chemicals less prone to runoff. A good example of local leadership is Glenn County, which created a water quality stewardship program for orchards.

Late in 2001, DPR developed a policy to better describe our regulatory response when pesticides are detected in surface waters. In 2002, DPR and the Commissioners will develop and institute measures to bring pesticide concentrations in the Sacramento River watershed back to acceptable levels. Meanwhile, other surface water quality investigations continue. We set up monitoring programs in Orange and San Diego counties to learn more about the sale and use of pesticides in urban areas. These include studies with the Irvine Ranch Water District to better understand and prevent urban pesticide runoff.

As part of our data-gathering process, we enhanced public access to our Surface Water Database. It consists of more than 6,600 water monitoring samples gathered over a decade. Web surfers can click on a specific sampling site (from a list or map) and the system will retrieve information for all detections and non-detections at that site. The database is already available on CD-ROM. We recently modified the file format to make it usable in common database applications.



## **Keeping score on the environment**

DPR helped create an "environmental scorecard" for Cal/EPA during 2001. For the Environmental Protection Indicators for California (EPIC) project, DPR scientists collected data on a range of environmental issues to assist in identifying trends and gauging our overall progress. We focused primarily on monitoring reports and statistical data for occupational illnesses and injuries, food residue monitoring, and pesticide detections in well water. Other DPR indicators lacked sufficient qualitative or quantitative data for trend analyses, but were included for informational purposes: toxic air and surface water contamination, pesticide use, integrated pest management, and fish and bird kills. EPIC will be updated every two years.