



USDA-CSREES 2005 National Water Quality Conference

Public Perceptions of Water Quality Issues in the Southwest States and Pacific Islands

Abstract: To assess public awareness, aptitudes, attitudes, and actions toward water quality in the Southwest States and Pacific Islands, the Regional Water Quality Program conducted a public survey. The 37-question survey was adapted from a similar survey previously used by the Pacific Northwest Regional Water Quality Program. One version of the survey was mailed to randomly selected residents in Arizona, California, Hawaii, and Nevada. Another version was slightly modified for the Pacific Islands and conducted orally with residents of American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of Palau. The survey was completed by 2069 residents of the region from August of 2003 to July 2004. Collected data were analyzed using the SAS procedure at the University of Idaho, and have a sampling error of 5 percent. Based on information gathered from the survey, key areas in need of outreach efforts were identified. Clean drinking water was the issue of greatest concern across the region, while watershed management and water conservation were also identified as high priority regional issues.

Author: Christine French