

Nutrient Dynamics in Watersheds

*Adina Paytan¹

1. University of California Santa Cruz

Watersheds and the processes that take place within them are complex and important modulators of nutrients that ultimately drain into receiving water bodies like streams, rivers, lakes, wetlands and the coastal ocean impacting the aquatic ecosystems and the people that depend on them. It is essential to consider these processes and downstream impacts when developing and implementing water quality protection and restoration actions. In this presentation an overview of the sources and transformation of major nutrients (C, N and P) within a watershed and the processes that affect nutrient dynamics at various settings in a watershed along the drainage network will be presented with emphasis on innovative isotope tools to track nutrient dynamics.

Keywords: Watersheds, Nutrients, Isotopes