Monitored streamflow in the San Gabriel River Watershed shows the seasonal effects of the southern California coastal climate. These include dry and warm summers, and wet and cool winters. Data from two streamflow gauging stations shown in the graphs to the right reflect precipitation and runoff conditions in the upper (Whittier Narrows) and the lower (Spring Street) portion of the watershed. Streamflow at both locations is highly affected by dams and diversions upstream.

Monthly flow averages at Whittier Narrows are higher than those downstream due to greater precipitation and runoff at the higher elevations in the upper portion of the watershed. Surface water flow during the dry summer months reflects dry weather flow at both the Whittier Narrows and the Spring Street monitoring sites. Flow at the Whittier Narrows is affected by the Santa Fe Dam and recharge spreading grounds. While summertime flows at Spring Street reflects the flow primarily made up of water released by reclamation plants located along the San Gabriel River.