

BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS FOR WATER QUALITY MONITORING IN CALIFORNIA

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Abstract

Numerous water quality monitoring and research programs in California are conducted by various federal, state, local and non-governmental entities costing millions of dollars annually. The Statewide Ambient Monitoring Program (SWAMP) is a statewide monitoring effort designed to assess the conditions of surface waters throughout the state of California. With significant budget constraints and complicated institutional arrangements, a comprehensive assessment of water quality will have to rely on a collaborative system. Currently, data are collected using different methods, at varying locations, and on different time scales, with data maintained at a number of locations and in different formats. As a result, data integration and interpretation is limited. Improved coordination and integration of existing water quality monitoring is essential to implementation of SWAMP.

This presentation will discuss efforts to enhance water quality monitoring and assessment through improve coordination and collaboration statewide and regionally. Specially, I will discuss the formation of the California Monitoring Council, the progress of three regional pilots designed to enhance regional monitoring, and the development of a statewide probabilistic sampling design to support continued ecological condition assessments.

The presentation will highlight lessons learned in striving to enhance regional coordination within a statewide monitoring framework and will include information on:

- Improved coordination statewide through the formation of the California Monitoring Council
- Pilot projects for the Klamath River basin, San Joaquin River basin and the Central Coast region to enhance regional monitoring consistent with the statewide framework
- A web-based monitoring directory in the San Joaquin River region to facilitate “virtual” coordination;
- Partnering with the state’s nonpoint source program to provide an additional four years of statewide probabilistic sampling to support continued ecological condition assessments.
- Approaches to engaging a wide range of interests to develop and support a strategy based on shared monitoring and assessment objectives that reflect the key management priorities for the region; and

Keywords

Regional coordination, data integration, California monitoring council, regional monitoring, statewide framework, probabilistic design