

PULLING DATA INTO A PILE: A SIMPLE, INNOVATIVE APPROACH TO DATA MANAGEMENT AND SHARING

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ABSTRACT

The Central Coast Ambient Monitoring Program is the monitoring and data management program for the California Central Coast Water Board. We are a small operation, and have made smart data management a priority, to improve our program efficiency and effectiveness and to stretch our monitoring dollars. We deliver our data to the State's Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program (SWAMP) in a simple batch upload format. Other programs, including those funded by grants and the new Central Coast monitoring program for irrigated agriculture are also required to submit data to our agency in a format consistent with SWAMP requirements. We have developed a web-based approach to file transfer that provides users with a web front end for file upload and data checking. This approach has saved our staff many hours in file format conversion and checking, and has generated a large quantity of data for inclusion in our biannual Clean Water Act assessment of water body status. We have also developed tools to scan data sets for quality assurance compliance and for exceedances of water quality standards. The output includes a "lines of evidence" report that provides water body and project-specific information on criteria exceedance by pollutant and beneficial use. These lines of evidence are combined to support 303(d) listing recommendations. Our website provides access to data using maps and imagery from various Internet providers. To the extent possible, we are using open source software and mapping tools that are widely available. Users of the web-delivery system have a number of incentives to participate, ranging from regulatory and grant requirements, to viewing their own data in the context of other programs.

KEYWORDS Data Management, web data delivery, 305(b)/303(d) assessments