



Vision Award

The Council's Vision Award was established to recognize an individual or group at the National Water Quality Monitoring Conference that has demonstrated extraordinary vision and leadership in the field of water quality monitoring on a local/regional level and has brought together scientists, managers, and communities to observe and understand the interconnectivity of physical, chemical, and biological aspects of the Earth's watersheds, estuaries, and oceans.



Mr. Terry Fleming

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9

Terry Fleming has demonstrated strong leadership skills and dedication in the development and implementation of statewide monitoring strategies and programs for the state of California. Terry has consistently demonstrated an ability to encourage teamwork and collaboration among a diverse array of partners. As a result, California has produced a thorough, comprehensive monitoring strategy that successfully addresses the ten elements of the national program guidance for an effective monitoring program.

With Terry's leadership, the state's Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program (SWAMP) developed and maintains the infrastructure (i.e., standard procedures, quality assurance and control, and consistent data formats) to ensure that data are comparable and of known, documented quality. The infrastructure provides the foundation for the design, implementation, and reporting of the SWAMP statewide and regional assessments. SWAMP is now collaborating with other Water Board programs to integrate water quality monitoring into the SWAMP structure. In addition, systems are now in place to provide public access to the data.

Terry and the SWAMP workgroup developed some key statewide monitoring priorities and plans for implementation. In 2007, the SWAMP embarked on a two-year effort to assess fish contamination in lakes and reservoirs statewide. The first year's results revealed significant contamination in sport fish throughout the State resulting in several new proposed 303d listings for impairment. The second year's results will be reported in spring 2010. In 2009, the program initiated 2-years of monitoring in coastal areas and will rotate to rivers and streams in 2011. Work on indicator development for the statewide aquatic life use survey of perennial streams has produced a robust statewide bioassessment program. The program supports development of biological objectives that allow the use of bioassessment information in a regulatory context to protect the state's stream resources. Terry's vision, drive and sense of humor have played an integral role in developing and implementing these statewide programs.

In addition to Terry's pivotal role in the SWAMP program, he is equally engaged in the CA Clean Beach Initiative, which coordinates beach monitoring and BMP implementation. Most recently, Terry joined the CA Water Quality Monitoring Council, representing EPA Region 9. He is bringing to the Council the same skills and knowledge that he willingly brings to SWAMP.