



# Safe to Eat Workgroup (STEW) Meeting Notes



Wednesday, December 20, 2023  
9:30 AM - 11:00 AM (Pacific)

[Link to Meeting Slides](#) | [Link to Meeting Recording](#)

## Agenda Overview

Item	Topic	Lead	Time
1.	<a href="#">Roll Call, Agenda Review, Goals of the Meeting</a>	Anna Holder	9:30 AM (10 min)
2.	<a href="#">Information: Long-term Monitoring Priorities Assessment Process - Overview &amp; Update</a> <b>Desired Outcome:</b> Inform and update the STEW	Anna Holder	9:40 AM (10 min)
3.	<a href="#">Information: San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board (Region 9) Monitoring Priorities</a> <b>Desired Outcome:</b> Inform and update the STEW	Chad Loflen	9:50 AM (20 min)
4.	<a href="#">Information: Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (Region 4) Monitoring Priorities</a> <b>Desired Outcome:</b> Inform and update the STEW	Emily Duncan	10:10 AM (20 min)
5.	<a href="#">Information: Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board (Region 6) Monitoring Priorities</a> <b>Desired Outcome:</b> Inform and update the STEW	Laurie Scribe Kelly Huck	10:30 AM (20 min)
6.	<a href="#">Wrap-up and Adjourn</a>	Anna Holder	10:40 AM (10 min)

## **Agenda Details**

### **Item 1. Roll Call, Agenda Review, Goals of the Meeting**

- See [slides](#) (5-6) and [recording](#) for full discussion

#### ***Program/STEW Leads***

Anna Holder (SWAMP)  
Jay Davis (SFEI)

#### ***Peer Review Panel***

Harry Ohlendorf (Independent)

#### ***OEHHA***

Loren Chumney  
Tran Pham  
Wesley (Wes) Smith

#### ***MLML/MPSL***

Autumn Bonnema  
Billy Jackl  
Scot Lucas

#### ***State Board***

##### **OIMA/SWAMP**

Tessa Fojut  
Shuka Rastegarpour  
Jennifer Salisbury

#### ***Water Quality Monitoring Council***

Nick Martorano (OIMA/SWAMP)

#### ***Regional Boards***

R1:  
R2: Gerardo Martinez  
R3:  
R4: Emily Duncan  
R5:  
R6: Kelly Huck, Alanna Misico, Laurie Scribe, Daniel Sussman  
R7:  
R8: Heather Boyd, Jason Freshwater  
R9: Carey Kowalski, Chad Loflen, Deborah Woodward

#### ***Other***

Candace Comer (City of San Diego)  
Duyen Kauffman (Biomonitoring California)  
Ami Latker (City of San Diego)  
Alvina Mehinto (Southern California Coastal Water Research Project)  
Chi-Li Tang (Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts)

### **Item 2. Long-term Monitoring Priorities Assessment Process - Overview & Update**

An update on the Long-term Monitoring Priorities Assessment Process, including upcoming 2024 STEW meeting dates and topics will be presented.

#### **Discussion**

- See [slides](#) (7-14) and [recording](#) for full discussion
- No additional questions or discussion

*For the below agenda items, a representative from the region or division will present on their near and/or long-term bioaccumulation monitoring needs and priorities.*

### **Item 3. San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board (Region 9) Monitoring Priorities**

#### **Discussion**

- See [slides](#) (15-26) and [recording](#) for full discussion

- Also see the [Region 9 Template](#)
- Are the data for the Region 9 California spiny lobster PFAS study accessible?
  - California Sea Grant holds the data; a publication summarizing the study and results is available:
    - Talley et al. (May 23, 2023) [Contaminant risk and social vulnerability associated with crustacean shellfish harvest in the highly urbanized San Diego Bay, USA](#)
    - California Sea Grant News (Jun 14, 2023) [Who's at risk? A new California Sea Grant study assesses contaminant levels in spiny lobster & crab harvested from San Diego Bay.](#)

#### **Item 4. Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (Region 4) Monitoring Priorities**

##### **Discussion**

- See [slide](#) (27) and [recording](#) for full discussion
- Also see the [Region 4 Template](#)
- Is there a bioaccumulation component to the Region 4 Harbor Toxics TMDL?
  - Unsure - need to check with lead staff to confirm.
  - See the [Region 4 TMDL webpage](#) for more information.

#### **Item 5. Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board (Region 6) Monitoring Priorities**

##### **Discussion**

- See [slide](#) (28) and [recording](#) for full discussion
- Also see the [Region 6 Template](#)
- Are there Constituents of Emerging Concern (CECs) that are top of mind for the region?
  - PFAS is a growing concern.
  - There is also interest in the bioaccumulation and HABs nexus, but there are still substantial information gaps and the region is not sure if we know enough to be able to assess the extent of the concern in the region.
  - Arsenic has also come up as a potential CEC
  - Microplastics, particularly in the Lake Tahoe basin.
- Are the fish tissue data from the 2021 Upper Owens River Watershed Mercury Investigation available?
  - All of the fish tissue data were loaded in Aug 2023 and are available in CEDEN or the [CA Open Data Portal](#).

- Discussion of length of time it takes to develop OEHHA fish advisories and prioritization process.
  - Resources shared in past meetings or in the chat on this topic:
    - At the Apr. 2023 STEW Meeting, OEHHA gave a presentation on their process for prioritizing the development of fish advisories and shared their priorities for 2023.
      - See the Apr 23 STEW [Notes](#) (page 5-6), [Recording](#), and [Slides](#) (page 12-22).
      - [Slide](#) 21 contains the list of prioritized water bodies for 2023 - note that the slide shown in the recording displays incorrect water body region assignments, and the [linked slides](#) show the corrected water body region assignments.
    - Note that OEHHA is able to develop 9-12 advisories per year and updates the list of eligible water bodies annually. Feedback and requests from the bioaccumulation community can influence final priority decisions and is always welcome.
      - It is recommended that individuals who would like to provide feedback on OEHHA priorities do so by emailing [fish@oehha.ca.gov](mailto:fish@oehha.ca.gov) or during OEHHA presentations at STEW meetings.
    - Resources shared in the chat:
      - [OEHHA Water Body Prioritization Process for Developing or Updating Fish Advisories](#) (June 2023)
      - [OEHHA Protocol for Fish Sampling and Analysis to Support the Development of Fish Advisories in California](#) (August 2022)

## Item 6. Wrap-up and Adjourn

Review next steps and action items.

### Discussion

- See [slides](#) (29-34) and [recording](#) for full discussion

### Action Items

- All (especially **Tribes / Agencies / Community-Based Organizations**): See the [Ways to provide feedback section](#)
- Anna: Post meeting materials and recording on the [Meetings page](#), send to STEW email list once complete

## Ways to provide feedback during the Long-term Monitoring Priorities Assessment

- **Tribes / Agencies / Community-Based Organizations (CBOs)** interested in presenting the long-term monitoring priorities assessment discussions - email [anna.holder@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:anna.holder@waterboards.ca.gov) the following by **Jan 1, 2024**:
  - Notification of interest in presenting in discussions, and how you would like to share information (e.g. [External Partner Template](#) or other format)
  - A day/time your representative will be able to present the priorities at an upcoming STEW Meeting:
    - Wed. Jan. 31, 2024 (9:30 am - 12:30 pm PT), OR
    - Wed. Feb. 28, 2024 (1:30 pm - 4:30 pm PT)
- **If you are unable to present but would still like to provide feedback** - please complete the [Bioaccumulation Monitoring Priorities Survey](#) by **Mar 1, 2024**.
- Attend and participate in [upcoming Long-term Monitoring Priorities Assessment & STEW Meetings](#); [Join the STEW email list](#) to stay informed and receive updates.

## Recent STEW Meetings with Long-term Monitoring Priorities Assessment Item

Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Meeting Documents
Dec. 20, 2023	Process overview & update <i>Water Boards Presentations</i>	<a href="#">Slides</a> <a href="#">Notes</a> <a href="#">Recording</a>
Nov. 29, 2023	Process overview & update Q&A / Open Forum	<a href="#">Slides</a> <a href="#">Notes</a> <a href="#">Recording</a>
Oct. 18, 2023	Item 7. 2024 Long-term Monitoring Priorities Assessment Process	<a href="#">Slides</a> (pg. 72 - 82) <a href="#">Notes</a> (pg 8 - 10) <a href="#">Recording</a>
Jan. 18, 2023	Item 6. Planning for 2024 Long-term Monitoring Priorities Assessment	<a href="#">Slides</a> (pg. 32 - 35) <a href="#">Notes</a> (pg 7 - 8) <a href="#">Recording</a>

## Upcoming Long-term Monitoring Priorities Assessment & STEW Meetings

Meeting Date	Meeting Focus ( <i>Tentative</i> )	Meeting Documents
Wed. Jan. 24, 2024 1:30 pm - 4:30 pm PT	Process overview & update <i>Water Boards Presentations</i>	<a href="#">Registration Link</a> <a href="#">Agenda</a>
Wed. Jan. 31, 2024 9:30 am - 12:30 pm PT	Regular STEW Meeting <i>Tribe / Agency / CBO Presentations</i>	<a href="#">Registration Link*</a>
Wed. Feb. 28, 2024 1:30 pm - 4:30 pm PT	Process overview & update <i>Tribe / Agency / CBO Presentations</i>	<a href="#">Registration Link</a>

<b>Meeting Date</b>	<b>Meeting Focus (<i>Tentative</i>)</b>	<b>Meeting Documents</b>
Wed. Mar. 27, 2024 9:30 am - 12:30 pm PT	Process overview & update Reflection, synthesis, priority setting	<a href="#">Registration Link</a>
Wed. Apr. 17, 2024 9:30 am - 12:30 pm PT	Process recap Presentation of priorities & next steps	<a href="#">Registration Link</a>
Apr. 24, 2024 9:30 am - 12:30 pm PT	Regular STEW Meeting	<a href="#">Registration Link</a> *
Jul. 31, 2024 9:30 am - 12:30 pm PT	Regular STEW Meeting	<a href="#">Registration Link</a> *
Oct. 30, 2024 9:30 am - 12:30 pm PT	Regular STEW Meeting	<a href="#">Registration Link</a> *

\* Attendee can register for all regular STEW meetings at one time

## Appendix: SWAMP Bioaccumulation Monitoring Program - Priorities and Needs Update Templates

Link to [blank Water Boards template](#), for reference. Some formatting may be revised in the below templates to reduce page length, but all submitted content remains the same.

### Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (Region 4) Template

#### Regional Contacts

Contact Type	Contact Name	Email Address
<a href="#">SWAMP Coordinator</a>	Emily Duncan	<a href="mailto:Emily.duncan@waterboards.ca.gov">Emily.duncan@waterboards.ca.gov</a>
STEW Representative	Emily Duncan	
<a href="#">FHAB Coordinator</a>	Emily Duncan	
<a href="#">Tribal Coordinator</a>	Susana Lagudis	<a href="mailto:Susana.lagudis@waterboards.ca.gov">Susana.lagudis@waterboards.ca.gov</a>
Basin Planning Designee	Stefani Daryanto	<a href="mailto:Stefani.daryanto@waterboards.ca.gov">Stefani.daryanto@waterboards.ca.gov</a>

#### Recent SWAMP Bioaccumulation Monitoring

Please highlight any recent, ongoing, or planned SWAMP Monitoring Projects that have included a bioaccumulation monitoring element. Don't forget to highlight when Regional SWAMP funds were used to augment statewide Bioaccumulation Monitoring Program efforts!

Fiscal Year	Recent / Ongoing / Planned Regional Bioaccumulation Monitoring
2020/21	
2021/22	
2022/23	Subsistence fishing survey for a select number of freshwater bodies in R4
2023/24	Coastal FHAB monitoring in R4, including shellfish monitoring
2024/25	Coastal FHAB monitoring in R4, including shellfish monitoring

#### Regional Priorities

Please describe the top 3 priorities that were identified in your region's most recent Triennial Review Work Plan.

Triennial Review Year: 2023-2025

Top 3 [Triennial Review Work Plan](#) Priorities:

1. Updating freshwater ammonia objectives based on 2013 US EPA ammonia criteria
2. Updating freshwater copper objectives based on 2007 US EPA copper BLM recommendation
3. Designating water bodies with tribal beneficial uses

Next anticipated Triennial Review Year: 2026

Additional Notes and/or Resources: Triennial Review documents can be found in [Basin Plan Webpage](#)

### **Tribal Beneficial Use (TBU) Basin Plan Amendment Processes**

*Please describe where your region is in the TBU process. For more information, visit the [Regional Water Board TBU Progress Updates Page](#) or [TBU Guidance Document](#)*

Region's Current TBU Step(s): Step 2: Gather information for designations

Additional Notes and/or Resources: The incorporation of TBU definitions to the Los Angeles Basin Plan can be found in [Adopted Orders/Permits](#)

### **Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Program Update**

*Please provide a brief update on recent, current, upcoming, or planned TMDLs in the region. For more information, visit the [TMDL Program Page](#).*

Region's Recent / Current TMDL(s): Los Cerritos Channel and Estuary, Alamitos Bay, and Colorado Lagoon Indicator Bacteria, Dominguez channel bacteria TMDL,

Re-consideration of the LA River bacteria TMDL,

Re-consideration of the Harbor Toxics TMDL (contaminated Sediment)

Region's Upcoming / Planned TMDL(s): Reconsideration of the Marina del Rey Harbor Toxics TMDL (copper)

### **Regional SWAMP Monitoring Vision**

*Please describe the vision you have for your Regional SWAMP Monitoring Program when it comes to bioaccumulation monitoring. Note that your vision statement should be relatively short (2-4 sentences) and describe what your SWAMP program desires to achieve in the long-run, generally in a time frame of five to ten years.*

The Los Angeles Regional Board SWAMP Bioaccumulation monitoring vision and goals:

- 1) Provide an improved basis for public health advisories for fish consumption for communities that rely on fishing for subsistence, sustenance, cultural, and Tribal purposes.



- 2) Fill significant data and information gaps through answering the question: “Is it safe to eat fish and shellfish from our waters?”, especially for waterbodies or species that are important for subsistence by traditionally underrepresented communities, as well as tribal traditions, culture, and subsistence.

**Future SWAMP Bioaccumulation Monitoring**

*Please briefly describe any anticipated future SWAMP Monitoring Projects that will include a bioaccumulation monitoring element. Don't forget to highlight if you plan to use Regional SWAMP funds to augment statewide Bioaccumulation Monitoring Program efforts!*

[SWAMP Bioaccumulation Monitoring Program Realignment Update](#) (Dec 2022)

Fiscal Year	Anticipated Future Regional Bioaccumulation Monitoring
2025/26	
2026/27	Provide SWAMP funds to support more bioaccumulation monitoring in our region
2027/28	Provide SWAMP funds to support more bioaccumulation monitoring in our region
2028/29	Provide SWAMP funds to support more bioaccumulation monitoring in our region
2029/30	Provide SWAMP funds to support more bioaccumulation monitoring in our region

**Bioaccumulation Monitoring Wish List**

*If you had unlimited resources (funding AND people), what bioaccumulation-related monitoring would you like to see in your region? Please be as specific as possible (e.g. include water body names, species and/or analytes of interest).*

- Survey all the urban lakes that are being fished, differences in stocked fish versus ‘native fish population’ for bioaccumulation of DDT PCB Mercury.
- Give OEHHA more funds to update fish advisories.
- Consumption — how much do people eat?

We could use more information for these water bodies:

- Ballona Creek Estuary (PCBs)
- LA/Long Beach Inner Harbor (PCBs)
- LA Harbor Consolidated Slip (PCBs, toxaphene)
- Marina del Rey Harbor (DDT, dieldrin, PCBs)
- Calleguas Creek Reach 1 (PCBs)
- Channel Islands Harbor (PCBs)
- Dominguez Channel Estuary (PCBs)

- LA/LB Outer Harbor (PCBs)
- LA County Offshore (PCBs)
- LA River Estuary (PCBs)
- San Pedro Bay Near/Offshore (PCBs)

### **Bioaccumulation Monitoring Sticking Points**

*Please highlight any roadblocks or sticking points that are preventing you from being able to do the bioaccumulation monitoring and analysis you would like to be doing in your region.*

*Common examples include: lack of funding, lack of people, not enough time or subject matter expertise to be able to adequately interpret / visualize / communicate data / results, etc.*

A lack of funding and staff to plan the research required.

## Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board (Region 6) Template

### Regional Contacts

Contact Type	Contact Name	Email Address
<a href="#">SWAMP Coordinator</a>	Laurie Scribe	<a href="mailto:Laurie.scribe@waterboards.ca.gov">Laurie.scribe@waterboards.ca.gov</a>
STEW Representative	Laurie Scribe	<a href="mailto:Laurie.scribe@waterboards.ca.gov">Laurie.scribe@waterboards.ca.gov</a>
<a href="#">FHAB Coordinator</a>	Sabrina Rice	<a href="mailto:Sabrina.rice@waterboards.ca.gov">Sabrina.rice@waterboards.ca.gov</a>
<a href="#">Tribal Coordinator</a>	Danny McClure	<a href="mailto:daniel.mcclure@waterboards.ca.gov">daniel.mcclure@waterboards.ca.gov</a>
Basin Planning Designee	Daniel Sussman	<a href="mailto:daniel.sussman@waterboards.ca.gov">daniel.sussman@waterboards.ca.gov</a>
Other:	Kelly Huck (co-coordinator)	<a href="mailto:Kelly.huck@waterboards.ca.gov">Kelly.huck@waterboards.ca.gov</a>

Additional Notes and/or Resources:

- SWAMP Coordinator duties are slowly transitioning from Kelly Huck to Laurie Scribe during the second half of FY 23/24.
- Daniel Sussman is Senior ES of the Planning and Assessment Unit that includes the following programs: SWAMP, TMDL, IR, and Basin Planning

### Recent SWAMP Bioaccumulation Monitoring

*Please highlight any recent, ongoing, or planned SWAMP Monitoring Projects that have included a bioaccumulation monitoring element. Don't forget to highlight when Regional SWAMP funds were used to augment statewide Bioaccumulation Monitoring Program efforts!*

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<b>Recent / Ongoing / Planned Regional Bioaccumulation Monitoring</b>
2020/21	
2021/22	Upper Owens River Watershed Mercury Investigation – Crowley Lake
2022/23	Upper Owens River Watershed Mercury Investigation - Crowley Lake
2023/24	
2024/25	

Additional Notes and/or Resources:

- Upper Owens River Watershed Mercury Investigation was funded solely with regional SWAMP and discretionary contract funds.

Fish Consumption Advisories:

- 2011-2019-Donner Lake, Silverwood Lake, Little Rock Reservoir, Lake Gregory
- 2020- Bridgeport Reservoir, Topaz Lake, Lake Palmdale, Fallen Leaf Lake, Bishop Creek,
- 2021- Silverwood Lake, Little Rock Reservoir
- Still Awaiting an advisory- East Walker River, Big Pine Creek, Independence Creek, Upper Twin Lake, and Mammoth Creek. (sampled circa 2016, Discretionary Contracts and SWAMP \$ to augment statewide sampling)

## **Regional Priorities**

*Please describe the top 3 priorities that were identified in your region's most recent Triennial Review Work Plan.*

Triennial Review Year: 2022

Top 3 [Triennial Review Work Plan](#) Priorities (7 High Priority Projects are equally weighted):

1. Tribal Beneficial Use and Subsistence Beneficial Use Designations
2. Bacteria Water Quality Objectives: Remove fecal coliform WQO
3. Update Total N WQO for Hot Creek

Next anticipated Triennial Review Year: 2025 (spring)

Additional Notes and/or Resources:

- There are two other Triennial Review projects which staff are working on. However, they may not result in Basin Plan amendments. This includes “High Quality Beneficial Use” and “Riparian, Floodplain, and Wetland Protection Updates.”

## **Tribal Beneficial Use (TBU) Basin Plan Amendment Processes**

*Please describe where your region is in the TBU process. For more information, visit the [Regional Water Board TBU Progress Updates Page](#) or [TBU Guidance Document](#)*

Lahontan Region's Current TBU Step(s):

- Engage with California Tribes and the Public (ongoing)
- Prioritize TBU in Triennial Reviews (done in 2022 Triennial Review)
- Step 1 – Complete: [R6T-2020-0057](#) and SB Resolution [No. 2021-0017](#)
- Step 2 – Ongoing for first project (Mono Basin TBU). For additional designation projects staff have begun outreach and received some data from several tribes.
- Step 3 – in development for Mono Basin TBU designations. This may be for CUL alone, or CUL *and* T-SUB, depending on the waterbody. Adoption by RB should happen in Calendar year 2024. Future designation efforts may also be for CUL alone, or both CUL and T-SUB.

Additional Notes and/or Resources:

- Region 6 understands that the chronological step approach is being abandoned by OPP because of the dynamic nature of these efforts.
- Region 6 is in the process of creating a Racial Equity Resolution and subsequent action plan that may impact regional priorities and TBU efforts.

### **Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Program Update**

*Please provide a brief update on recent, current, upcoming, or planned TMDLs in the region. For more information, visit the [TMDL Program Page](#).*

Region's Recent / Current TMDL(s):

- [Bishop Creek Bacteria Vision Plan](#) is an advance restoration plan approved by the Regional Water Board with Resolution No. [R6T-2022-0047](#) and accepted by the USEPA. The project is a 9-element watershed plan to address bacteria listings in the Bishop Creek watershed. Bishop Creek, north and south forks, run through the Bishop Paiute Tribe reservation. Additionally, the creek and the Bishop Creek Canal are popular fishing destinations and also see contact recreation during the heat of the summer months.
- [West Fork Carson River Vision Plan](#) is an advance restoration plan approved by the Regional Water Board with Resolution No. R6T-2023-0036. It addresses multiple pollutants on the California portion of the river's watershed. The West Fork Carson River is a popular fishing destination and a historic resource of the [Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California](#), who have a community in adjacent lands ([Hung A LeI Ti](#)).
- [Truckee River Sediment TMDL](#): The Truckee River Sediment TMDL was adopted over a decade ago, in 2008. The ten-year review of the TMDL prompted further questions and data needs to determine if beneficial use impairment is ongoing. The Truckee River, including tributary streams, lakes, and reservoirs, is a popular sport fishery.

Region's Upcoming / Planned TMDL(s):

Upper Owens River Watershed: The TMDL and SWAMP programs are collaborating with the Site Cleanup and Enforcement programs to address mercury contamination of Mammoth Creek and the Mill City Tributary from the Mammoth Stamp Mill. This effort may also address arsenic pollution. At this time staff is developing project options, one of which is a TMDL. These waters flow into Hot Creek, and then further downstream to Crowley Lake

R6 is in between projects and will be assessing the regional guidance to prioritize impaired waters. R6 will also be reviewing USEPA 303(d) list prioritization as guidance for updating the R6 303d list prioritization guidance. Region 6 has received requests to develop a TMDL or advance restoration plan for the East Fork Carson River.

Additional Notes and/or Resources: (none)

### **Regional SWAMP Monitoring Vision**

*Please describe the vision you have for your Regional SWAMP Monitoring Program when it comes to bioaccumulation monitoring. Note that your vision statement should be relatively short*

*(2-4 sentences) and describe what your SWAMP program desires to achieve in the long-run, generally in a time frame of five to ten years.*

Regional Bioaccumulation Vision:

The Region 6 SWAMP bioaccumulation program aims to protect human health and collect high quality data for the public and for Water Board programs by collecting and analyzing fish tissue for known chemicals and contaminants of emerging concerns (eg PFAS, HAB toxins). Prioritize sampling at locations in the region where there are high rates of fish consumption. Improve communication with the public by ensuring advisories are posted and available to the public at each location. When issues are found, investigate the problem and strive to improve water quality for the enjoyment of all citizens and improvement of aquatic resources.

Current Regional Goals (entire R6 Water Board, not SWAMP specific):

1. Protect human health and aquatic life,
2. Protect /improve aquatic resources and water quality,
3. Promote a safe work environment,
4. Provide exceptional customer service, while being realistic about resources and commitments.
5. Incorporate Racial Equity into water quality decisions and regulatory actions.

**Future SWAMP Bioaccumulation Monitoring**

*Please briefly describe any anticipated future SWAMP Monitoring Projects that will include a bioaccumulation monitoring element. Don't forget to highlight if you plan to use Regional SWAMP funds to augment statewide Bioaccumulation Monitoring Program efforts!*

[SWAMP Bioaccumulation Monitoring Program Realignment Update](#) (Dec 2022)

<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Anticipated Future Regional Bioaccumulation Monitoring</b>
2025/26	Potentially request 25/26 Discretionary Contract \$ for either a consumption survey or additional lakes
2026/27	Potentially request 27/28 Discretionary Contract \$ for additional lakes monitoring
2027/28	Potential follow up sampling if new results indicate a need. (Haiwee, Lake Gregory)
2028/29	Realignment Cycle 4 (2028-2031) (this is in between IR cycles for R6) (pending being selected by SB for this cycle)
2029/30	TBD

Additional Notes and/or Resources: TBD after next Integrated Report Cycle

Anticipate Future Regional Bioaccumulation Long-term priorities (not monitoring related):

- Better communication and engagement with county health organizations
- Ensure all current OEHHA consumption advisories remain posted at relevant locations

### **Bioaccumulation Monitoring Wish List**

*If you had unlimited resources (funding AND people), what bioaccumulation-related monitoring would you like to see in your region? Please be as specific as possible (e.g. include water body names, species and/or analytes of interest).*

- Determine what species and in what waterbodies high consumption rates are happening
- Follow up on more recent statewide screenings and determine where follow up might make sense

*Example: We would want to fill a data / information / analysis gap related to ...*

Data gaps: Better information on where fish consumption and subsistence fishing are occurring and what species are being eaten. Determine areas of the region that have higher consumption rates. Determine which fish species are being consumed.

Collect screening samples from all major unsampled lakes/reservoirs with public fishing access in each eco-region in Region 6 – Modoc, Tahoe/Truckee, Eastern Sierra North, Eastern Sierra South, and Mojave (includes San Bernardino Mountains). (List of specific lakes is something we hope to develop this year.)

Better coordination with CDFW and County Health organizations.

### **Bioaccumulation Monitoring Sticking Points**

*Please highlight any roadblocks or sticking points that are preventing you from being able to do the bioaccumulation monitoring and analysis you would like to be doing in your region.*

*Common examples include: lack of funding, lack of people, not enough time or subject matter expertise to be able to adequately interpret / visualize / communicate data / results, etc.*

- Lack of funding currently relying on discretionary contract funding
- Lack of information about where fish are being consumed and what species
- Cost of rivers/streams surveys
- The amount of time that it takes from sampling to an advisory becoming available. Information becomes difficult to track especially when there is staff turnover. Is it still relevant?
- Keeping up with CECs, do CECs have standards that advisories can be based off of? Lack of expertise in CECs.
- Lack of coordination with local CDFW offices

## San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board (Region 9) Template

### Regional Contacts

Contact Type	Contact Name	Email Address
<a href="#">SWAMP Coordinator</a>	Chad Loflen	<a href="mailto:Chad.Loflen@waterboards.ca.gov">Chad.Loflen@waterboards.ca.gov</a>
STEW Representative	Chad Loflen	<a href="mailto:Chad.Loflen@waterboards.ca.gov">Chad.Loflen@waterboards.ca.gov</a>
<a href="#">FHAB Coordinator</a>	Carey Kowalski Deborah Woodward	<a href="mailto:Carey.Kowalski@waterboards.ca.gov">Carey.Kowalski@waterboards.ca.gov</a> <a href="mailto:Deborah.Woodward@waterboards.ca.gov">Deborah.Woodward@waterboards.ca.gov</a>
<a href="#">Tribal Coordinator</a>	Michelle Santillan	<a href="mailto:Michelle.Santillan@waterboards.ca.gov">Michelle.Santillan@waterboards.ca.gov</a>
Basin Planning Designee	Michelle Santillan	<a href="mailto:Michelle.Santillan@waterboards.ca.gov">Michelle.Santillan@waterboards.ca.gov</a>
Other:		
Monitoring Coordinator, San Diego Bay	Wayne Chiu	<a href="mailto:Wayne.Chiu@waterboards.ca.gov">Wayne.Chiu@waterboards.ca.gov</a>
Climate Change	James (Jimmy) Smith	<a href="mailto:James.Smith@waterboards.ca.gov">James.Smith@waterboards.ca.gov</a>
Basin Planning Contact	Jody Ebsen	<a href="mailto:Jody.Ebsen@waterboards.ca.gov">Jody.Ebsen@waterboards.ca.gov</a>

### Recent SWAMP Bioaccumulation Monitoring

*Please highlight any recent, ongoing, or planned SWAMP Monitoring Projects that have included a bioaccumulation monitoring element. Don't forget to highlight when Regional SWAMP funds were used to augment statewide Bioaccumulation Monitoring Program efforts!*

<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Recent / Ongoing / Planned Regional Bioaccumulation Monitoring</b>
2020/21	San Diego Bay Oyster (Analysis and Publication)
2021/22	Funding for supplemental STEW realignment work
2022/23	Realignment Sampling
2023/24	Oyster and Mussel Sampling for R9 portions of the BIGHT
2024/25	TBD Depending on Discretionary Funding and Contract Options

Additional Notes and/or Resources:

Funding planned for allocation to Babcock for additional tribal and subsistence tissue work in 23/24 and 24/25 was unable to be allocated to the contract and diverted to other projects. If discretionary funding allows R9 would like to supplement existing STEW sampling to add priority



waterbodies and species identified during the realignment effort as well as during on-going tribal/subsistence outreach and communications.

**Regional Priorities**

Please describe the top 3 priorities that were identified in your region’s most recent Triennial Review Work Plan.

Triennial Review Year: 2021

Top 3 [Triennial Review Work Plan](#) Priorities:

1. Designation of Tribal Tradition and Culture (CUL), Tribal Subsistence Fishing (T-SUB), and Subsistence Fishing (SUB) Beneficial Uses to Surface Waters in the San Diego Region
2. Tijuana River Valley Water Quality Restoration
3. Biological Objectives for Water Bodies in the San Diego Region

Next anticipated Triennial Review Year: 2024

Additional Notes and/or Resources:

Designation of Tribal Tradition and Culture (CUL), Tribal Subsistence Fishing (T-SUB), and Subsistence Fishing (SUB) Beneficial Uses to Surface Waters in the San Diego Region expected to remain the top priority project.

**Tribal Beneficial Use (TBU) Basin Plan Amendment Processes**

Please describe where your region is in the TBU process. For more information, visit the [Regional Water Board TBU Progress Updates Page](#) or [TBU Guidance Document](#)

Region’s Current TBU Step(s): Step 2: Gather information for designations

**Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Program Update**

Please provide a brief update on recent, current, upcoming, or planned TMDLs in the region. For more information, visit the [TMDL Program Page](#).

Region’s Recent / Current TMDL(s):

<b><i>Adopted TMDLs</i></b>	<b><i>Adoption Date</i></b>
<a href="#">Chollas Creek Diazinon TMDL</a>	August 14, 2002
<a href="#">Rainbow Creek Nitrogen and Phosphorus TMDLs</a>	February 9, 2005
<a href="#">Shelter Island Yacht Basin Dissolved Copper TMDL</a>	February 9, 2005
<a href="#">Chollas Creek Copper, Lead, and Zinc TMDLs</a>	June 13, 2007

<b>Adopted TMDLs</b>	<b>Adoption Date</b>
Indicator Bacteria: <a href="#">Revised Project I - Twenty Beaches and Creeks in San Diego Region (including Tecolote Creek)</a>	February 10, 2010
Indicator Bacteria: <a href="#">Project II - Baby Beach in Dana Point Harbor and Shelter Island Shoreline Park in San Diego Bay</a>	June 11, 2008
<a href="#">Los Peñasquitos Lagoon Sediment TMDL</a>	June 13, 2012

<b>Approved Alternative Approach TMDLs</b>	<b>Approval Date</b>
<a href="#">Loma Alta Slough TMDL Phosphorus</a>	June 26, 2014
<a href="#">Famosa Slough Nutrient TMDL</a>	October 31, 2017
<a href="#">Santa Margarita River Estuary TMDL</a>	May 9, 2019

Region's Upcoming / Planned TMDL(s):

- [Santa Margarita River Estuary](#) – Nutrients/Eutrophication
- [Tijuana River](#) – Trash/Sewage
- [San Mateo Creek](#) – Invasive Species

### **Regional SWAMP Monitoring Vision**

*Please describe the vision you have for your Regional SWAMP Monitoring Program when it comes to bioaccumulation monitoring. Note that your vision statement should be relatively short (2-4 sentences) and describe what your SWAMP program desires to achieve in the long-run, generally in a time frame of five to ten years.*

*Our vision is to continue to sample for priority species, pollutants, waterbodies, and preparation methods for the various beneficial uses (COMM, CUL, T-SUB, SUB). We also are prioritizing sampling previously unsampled waters and species.*

### **Future SWAMP Bioaccumulation Monitoring**

*Please briefly describe any anticipated future SWAMP Monitoring Projects that will include a bioaccumulation monitoring element. Don't forget to highlight if you plan to use Regional SWAMP funds to augment statewide Bioaccumulation Monitoring Program efforts!*

[SWAMP Bioaccumulation Monitoring Program Realignment Update](#) (Dec 2022)

<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Anticipated Future Regional Bioaccumulation Monitoring</b>
2025/26	TBD based on discretionary funding allocation and contracts

Fiscal Year	Anticipated Future Regional Bioaccumulation Monitoring
2026/27	TBD based on discretionary funding allocation and contracts
2027/28	TBD
2028/29	TBD
2029/30	TBD

Additional Notes and/or Resources:

Our Regional SWAMP funds have been allocated for projects though 24/25. Planning is underway for 25/26 and moving forward.

### **Bioaccumulation Monitoring Wish List**

*If you had unlimited resources (funding AND people), what bioaccumulation-related monitoring would you like to see in your region? Please be as specific as possible (e.g. include water body names, species and/or analytes of interest).*

*Example: We would want to fill a data / information / analysis gap related to ...*

We would want to sample all waterbodies for all species consumed or potentially consumed. We would also have a continuous monitoring program for marine and freshwater HABs in both water and tissue. There has been a lack of SWAMP monitoring statewide for most invertebrate species (e.g. lobster, crab) and also finfish species that are targeted for consumption (e.g. crappie, yellowtail, white seabass). We would expand the pollutant monitoring list to be **proactive instead of reactive**. For example, we are just now responding to PFAS/PFOA issues and are **years** behind other states on this effort. As a result many of the consumption advisories could be highly inaccurate due to unsampled pollutants.

We would also fund work to develop better indicators for bivalve consumption beyond simple grab water column measurements for coliforms.

### **Bioaccumulation Monitoring Sticking Points**

*Please highlight any roadblocks or sticking points that are preventing you from being able to do the bioaccumulation monitoring and analysis you would like to be doing in your region.*

*Common examples include: lack of funding, lack of people, not enough time or subject matter expertise to be able to adequately interpret / visualize / communicate data / results, etc.*

- A lack of increase in SWAMP Funding in over 17 years is the largest roadblock
- The contracting challenges faced are not a roadblock, but more of planning speedbumps or potholes
- The lack of interest by OEHHA in doing non-sportfishing advisories is a roadblock
- The Scientific Collection Permit Process: a roadblock

- There is confusion and a lack of clarity regarding Water Board bioaccumulation sampling under the Marine Managed Areas Improvement Act. The Water Board is a “designating entity” but not a “managing entity” and this confusion prevents us from conducting bioaccumulation monitoring in MLPAs for CWA compliance and assessment. I’d suggest SWAMP take a more active involvement in the MLPA Leadership Working Group.
- There is a high degree of difficulty in obtaining permits for bioaccumulation monitoring from CDFW. Most CDFW SCP staff we have encountered are unaware of our work, especially on the marine side. It is harder to collect fish/shellfish to test for tissue pollutants than collection of those same organisms for consumption purposes. A statewide SCP for waterboards or perhaps MOA/MOU would be ideal if feasible.

### **Additional Information or Resources**

*Please add any additional information, notes, or links to resources that you think will be important to note / reference / discuss during the long-term monitoring priorities assessment process.*

We should be directly working with CDFW fisheries staff to use consumption surveys to guide site-specific species selection.