



# Safe to Eat Workgroup (STEW) Meeting Notes

Wednesday, October 27, 2021

9:30 AM - 12:00 PM (Pacific)

[Link to Meeting Slides](#)

[Link to Meeting Recording](#)



Item	Topic	Lead	Time (Min)
1.	<p><b>Roll Call, Agenda Review, Goals of the Meeting</b></p> <p>– 25 participants at max attendance</p> <p><b>Program/BOG Leads</b> Ali Dunn (SWAMP) Anna Holder (SWAMP) Jay Davis (SFEI)</p> <p><b>OEHHA</b> Shannon Murphy</p> <p><b>MLML/MPSL</b> Autumn Bonnema Gary Ichikawa</p> <p><b>Regional Boards</b> R1: Rich Fadness R2: Carrie Austin R3: Melissa Daugherty R4: Emily Duncan R5: Girma Getachew, Jordan Hensley, Lauren Smitherman R6: Kelly Huck, Alanna Misico R7: R8: Nam Nguyen R9: Chad Loflen</p> <p><b>State Board</b></p>	Jay Davis	9:30 AM (10 min)

Item	Topic	Lead	Time (Min)
	<p><u>OIMA/SWAMP</u></p> <p>Devan Burke Corey Clatterbuck Chad Fearing Tessa Fojut Gabriella Moran Jennifer Salisbury</p> <p><b>Water Quality Monitoring Council</b></p> <p>Nick Martorano (OIMA/SWAMP) Peter Vroom (City of San Diego's Public Utilities Department)</p> <p><b>Other</b></p> <p>Bobby Gustafson Richard Jones Robert Mackie (Orange County Environmental Resources Public Works) Sherri Norris (California Indian Environmental Alliance) Chi-Li Tang (Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts) Ryan Watanabe (CA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife)</p> <p>–</p> <p>Action Items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Anna: Add Monitoring Council to Roll Call list.</li> </ul>		
2	<p><b>Information: Quick Updates</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2019 Bass lakes data and data report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Review of metals data nearly complete; only one Se file left for 2019 (Region 4), one metals file (Region 9, San Diego Bay Oyster Project). Age data will be processed before organics data.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• 2020 Coast analysis and data status <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Metals data have been submitted to SWAMP for review</li> <li>○ Most of the organics data have been submitted to SWAMP; five samples have not been analyzed yet and four additional samples that will be reanalyzed using archive material. All nine samples are outside of EPA's one year holding time. Since organics are stable in tissue after the one year holding time, we will still be sending the samples to the chemistry lab for analysis in spite of the holding time issue. Samples will be shipped as soon as the lab is able to receive samples.</li> <li>○ New isotopic method will be used for organics.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• New fish consumption advisories <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <a href="#">Black Butte Lake (Glenn, Tehama Counties)</a> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Update for six species</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Jay Davis	9:40 AM (20 min)

Item	Topic	Lead	Time (Min)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <a href="#">Indian Valley Reservoir (Lake County)</a> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ New advisory</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ <a href="#">Folsom Lake (Sacramento, El Dorado, Placer Counties)</a> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Update for six species</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ <a href="#">Lake Natoma (Sacramento County)</a> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Update for eight species</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ <a href="#">Little Rock Reservoir (Los Angeles County)</a> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Update for eight species; two new species</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ OEHHA working through the <a href="#">2009 report</a>: updating data, adding species, and updating advice as needed.</li> <li>● Updates on TMDLs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ State Board is beginning to consider taking the statewide Mercury TMDL off of the “back-burner”, and that what is to come might not be a traditional TMDL.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Monitoring Council update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Next <a href="#">meeting</a> is on Nov 10</li> <li>○ <a href="#">AB 1066</a> was signed by the Governor, requires Council to “undertake various actions relating to water quality data collection and to review existing water quality monitoring, assessment, and reporting efforts and recommend specific actions and funding needs necessary to coordinate and enhance those efforts” in priority inland water-contact recreation sites.</li> <li>○ Council is exploring justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion work through the newly established <a href="#">Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI) Workgroup</a></li> <li>○ New members will be introduced to the Council <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Public Health: <a href="#">Mark Starr</a>, Deputy Director of Environmental Health, CDPH</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ New members will be introduced to the Council continued <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Academic Community: <a href="#">Dr. Krista Kamer</a>, Director, CSU COAST</li> <li>▪ Academic Community Alternate: <a href="#">Boykin Witherspoon</a>, Executive Director, CSU WRPI</li> <li>▪ Regulated Community - Publicly Owned Treatment Works: <a href="#">Dr. Lorien Fono</a>, Executive Director, Bay Area Clean Water Agencies</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>● Other updates from the group <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ None</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Outreach materials <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <a href="#">Angler Booklet</a> (printed for field crews)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <a href="#">SWAMP Bioaccumulation Monitoring Program Flyer</a> (links in Toolbox on right side of the STEW webpage)</li> <li>○ Program and Workgroup Factsheet (links to be added to Toolbox on right side of the <a href="#">STEW webpage</a>)</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Bioaccumulation Training Series Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Training series is in development</li> <li>○ Primary Audience will be Tribal partners; resources will be posted online for others to access after initial offerings, as appropriate.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Desired Outcome:</b> Inform and update the Workgroup.</p> <p>–</p> <p>Action Items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Tessa: Follow-up with chemistry lab for updates regarding shipping status.</li> <li>● All: If you see “BOG” referenced on any webpages, please email location and description to <a href="mailto:anna.holder@waterboards.ca.gov">anna.holder@waterboards.ca.gov</a>.</li> <li>● All: If you would like additional resources added to the Relevant Literature page, please email information to <a href="mailto:anna.holder@waterboards.ca.gov">anna.holder@waterboards.ca.gov</a>.</li> </ul>		
3	<p><b>Information: 2021 Sampling Update</b></p> <p>2021 Sampling has been occurring since April. An update on sampling and analysis status and accomplishments will be provided.</p> <p><b>Desired Outcome:</b> Inform and update the Workgroup.</p> <p>–</p> <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Jay, Gary, and Autumn provided an update on 2021 sampling</li> <li>● Discussion of challenges faced by field crews, including COVID restrictions, extremely low water levels due to drought, fires, etc.</li> <li>● Despite challenges, field crews were able to sample 28 of 33 lakes on the list, of those sampled only 3-5 lakes had fewer sampling locations due to low water levels.</li> <li>● Discussion of interest in comparison of results that look at data with panels grouped as originally intended vs. as they were actually sampled (e.g. if lake A was planned to be included in Panel 3, but was pushed to Panel 4 - is there a significant difference in conclusions?). Also an interest in looking at the influence of outlier lakes like Almaden Reservoir on the annual means.</li> <li>● Discussion of interest in review of long term results in the context of wet and dry years.</li> <li>● Discussion of interest in post-fire monitoring, increases in dioxins in water bodies that are surrounded in burned areas.</li> </ul>	Jay Davis, Autumn Bonnema	10:00 AM (40 min)

Item	Topic	Lead	Time (Min)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ SWAMP has been discussing post-fire monitoring in the context of the Bioassessment Program.</li> <li>○ R5 is already doing some post-fire bioaccumulation monitoring and would be interested in adding Hg to their efforts.</li> <li>○ R6 is interested, but will probably focus their funds on bioassessment rather than bioaccumulation monitoring.</li> <li>○ The California Indian Environmental Alliance is interested in MeHg changes in post fire runoff, wetting and drying, as well as dioxins.</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Analysis of samples is going a bit slower than usual due to COVID and international shipping issues with the organic chemistry lab.</li> <li>● A few angler booklets were handed out to anglers during the field season. They were received well and there was appreciation for having information available in multiple languages.</li> <li>● –</li> </ul> <p>Action Items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Jay: Review long term results in context of wet and dry years and effect of outlier lakes like Almaden.</li> <li>● Anna: Add discussion of post-fire monitoring to the Jan agenda. Including a map of fires and reservoir sampling dates would be helpful.</li> <li>● Tessa: Follow-up with chemistry lab regarding Lake QAPP signatures.</li> </ul>		
4	<p><b>Information: Bioaccumulation Monitoring Program Realignment Update</b></p> <p>The implementation of the <a href="#">Bioaccumulation Monitoring Program Realignment</a> is underway. This agenda item will include an update on progress and next steps, including increasing engagement and discussing the longer-term interest in partnership and participation by regions.</p> <p><u>Relevant Resources</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <a href="#">Meeting Notes (Jun Mtg; Sep Mtg)</a></li> <li>● <a href="#">Realignment Plan Executive Summary</a></li> <li>● <a href="#">Realignment Fact Sheet</a></li> <li>● <a href="#">Realignment Notes and Products</a></li> </ul> <p><b>Desired Outcome:</b> Inform and update the Workgroup.</p> <p>–</p> <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Anna provided an update on progress and next steps for the Realignment effort, currently focused in the San Diego Region.</li> <li>● Last meeting was held on Sept 1, discussion of locations, species, and pollutants of importance to the Committee for the purposes of developing a Monitoring and Analysis Workplan for 2022 sampling efforts.</li> </ul>	Anna Holder	10:40 AM (20 min)

Item	Topic	Lead	Time (Min)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2022 Monitoring and Analysis Workplan is under review by the Advisory Committee; goal is to finalize Workplan by Dec. 1.</li> <li>• Outreach to Tribal partners and SWAMP coordinators will take place in 2022 to get a sense of interest and readiness to participate in future Realignment cycles.</li> <li>• –</li> <li>• Action Items:</li> <li>• All: Email <a href="mailto:anna.holder@waterboards.ca.gov">anna.holder@waterboards.ca.gov</a> if you are interested in participating in future realignment efforts</li> <li>• Anna: Provide updates at future Workgroup meetings</li> <li>• Anna: Send Tessa draft 2022 Monitoring and Analysis Workplan.</li> </ul>		
	<b>Break</b>		11:00 AM (10 min)
5.	<p><b>Discussion: Planning for 2022 and Beyond</b></p> <p>This group has been discussing the sampling plan for 2022 and beyond in some capacity since Jan 2021. An update on the more solidified 2022 sampling plan and the longer-term plan will be presented.</p> <p><b>Desired Outcome:</b> Inform and update the Workgroup.</p> <p>–</p> <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overview of past sampling priorities and frequency.</li> <li>• Discussion of sampling priorities for 2022 and beyond.</li> <li>• Discussion of California Indian Environmental Alliance’s interest in finding partners and information regarding if there are plans to sample Cache Creek in 2021-2022. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ From Sherri (CIEA) in the chat: We would like to know where to find any Cache Creek sampling outcomes and the locations for those samples. We have funds to sample in the area between now and the end of the year - and need to coordinate with Yolo County? Anyone that has been engaged in sampling in that area and getting permits in that region would be welcome.</li> <li>○ Past sampling locations available on the Safe to Eat Portal. SWAMP and the Fish Mercury Project have not sampled in Cache Creek.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Discussion of CIEA’s interest information regarding past sampling of Cache Creek, continued. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Darell Slotton of UC Davis has sampled in Cache Creek.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• 2022 Priorities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Completing the current coastal survey (Central and North Coast).</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Jay Davis	11:10 AM (40 min)

Item	Topic	Lead	Time (Min)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Initiate second river and stream survey (Central Valley Region).</li> <li>○ Realignment Sampling (San Diego Region).</li> <li>○ Realignment outreach to Tribal partners to gauge interest and readiness to participate in future Realignment cycles (Statewide)</li> <li>○ Moss Landing will also be sampling for the EPA National Lakes Assessment, to include 48 lakes, collection of PFAS data.</li> <li>● 2023 Priorities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Complete Lakes Panel 5</li> <li>○ Draft interpretive report on 2nd coast survey</li> </ul> </li> <li>● 2024 Priorities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Final interpretive report on 2nd coast survey</li> <li>○ Draft interpretive report on full bass lake dataset</li> <li>○ Realignment sampling (Region TBD; may occur in 2025)</li> <li>○ Reassess all monitoring, considering: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Reduced core monitoring budget</li> <li>▪ Realignment priorities and sampling needs</li> <li>▪ Equity and management priorities</li> <li>▪ Regional Board priorities</li> <li>▪ OEHHA data needs</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>—</p> <p>Action Items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Jay: Check and see if Cache Creek was included in the FMP project; follow-up with Sherri.</li> <li>● Anna: Connect R5 SWAMP Coordinator and Sherri.</li> <li>● Action Items, continued:</li> <li>● Anna: Work with Autumn/Jay to update the long-term planning table to include Realignment Sampling.</li> <li>● Regional Coordinators: Begin to think about sampling needs that might be coming in 2025 and beyond.</li> </ul>		
6.	<p><b>Wrap-up and Adjourn</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 2022 Meeting Schedule <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Last Wed of the month in Jan, Apr, Jul, Oct</li> <li>○ Proposed dates: Jan 26, Apr 27, Jul 27, Oct 26</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Review action items</li> <li>● Review items for next meeting</li> </ul>	Jay Davis, Anna Holder	11:50 AM (10 min)

Item	Topic	Lead	Time (Min)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Next meeting: Jan 26, 2022, 9:30 am - 12:30 pm</li> </ul> <p>–</p> <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No objections to 2022 quarterly meeting dates or switching to Zoom as the meeting platform.</li> <li>• Review action items (see above sections for complete list of action items).</li> <li>• Potential discussion items for Jan meeting to include the usual items and: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Update of the Rivers plan and feedback from the Peer Review Panel.</li> <li>○ Realignment sampling plan</li> <li>○ Post-fire monitoring interest/needs</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>–</p> <p>Action Items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jay: Send Anna post-fire monitoring literature</li> <li>• Anna: Add post-fire monitoring literature to the <a href="#">STEW Relevant Literature Page</a>.</li> <li>• All: Email <a href="mailto:anna.holder@waterboards.ca.gov">anna.holder@waterboards.ca.gov</a> with speaker/topic recommendations.</li> <li>• Anna: Post meeting notes, presentation, and recording on the Meetings page, send email to Workgroup once complete.</li> <li>• Anna: Send calendar invitations for 2022 meetings.</li> </ul>		

**Adjourn: 11:35 am**