



Safe to Eat Workgroup (STEW) Updates



The April 28, 2022, STEW Meeting will be canceled.



We do not have enough information to present to warrant holding a regular STEW meeting. However, we have been making progress on several items and have provided pertinent updates below. These updates will be shared to the STEW email list and posted on the [Meetings page](#) in lieu of meeting notes.

If you have other updates you would like to be added to this document and shared with the group, please email Anna Holder, STEW Co-chair, at anna.holder@waterboards.ca.gov.

Quick Updates

- 2016 Bass lakes report
 - The document is undergoing the final accessibility review and will be posted on the [Lakes page](#) when it is complete.
- 2019 Bass lakes (Panel 3) data and report
 - Data status: all 2019 data have been uploaded!
 - Report status: a draft report will be distributed and ready to discuss during the July 27, 2022 STEW Meeting.
- 2020 Coast data and report
 - Sample status: Final 3 samples were sent to the chemistry lab for processing in Mar 2022; files have not yet been submitted to SWAMP.
 - Data status: Only 9 files (3 organics, 6 age) plus those from the 3 samples that have yet to be analyzed and submitted to SWAMP remain.
 - Report status: We will be pushing the report to 2025 after the remainder of the coast has been sampled (2024) and data processed (2025).
- 2021 Bass lakes (Panel 4) data and report
 - Sample status: Still dissecting 2021 fish (organics complete, Hg and Se in progress). About half of the samples have been shipped to the chemistry lab for analysis; the other half will be shipped after July 1, 2022.
 - Data status: TBD - waiting on final files to be submitted to SWAMP.
 - Report status: A draft report will be distributed and ready to discuss during the April 2023 STEW Meeting.

- SWAMP Bioaccumulation Monitoring Program Fact Sheet is complete!
 - The [English version](#) is posted on the [STEW webpages](#) (Toolbox) and [Program page](#) (top of page). Other languages (Spanish, Simplified Chinese, Traditional Chinese, Hmong, Korean, Tagalog) are forthcoming.
- New fish consumption advisories
 - [Prado Lake \(San Bernardino County, Mar 2022\)](#)
 - [Lake Webb \(Kern County, Nov 2021\)](#)
 - [Los Banos Reservoir \(Merced County, Dec 2021\)](#)
- Updates on TMDLs
 - No updates at this time.
- Monitoring Council Updates
 - [Next meeting](#) on May 26, 2022, with a focus on post-fire monitoring
 - The Council is considering meeting in person again, potentially in two locations.
- Recent California Lake Management Society (CALMS) STEW Presentation Recordings
 - [Mar 2022 CALMS Webinar](#), Anna Holder
 - [Oct 2021 CALMS Annual Symposium](#), Jay Davis

2022 Sampling Update

- 2022 Sampling Projects:
 - Initiate second river and stream survey (Central Valley Region – 5 sites)
 - Realignment Sampling (San Diego Region – multiple locations in R9, mostly coastal)
 - Final preparation for both projects is underway; sampling will begin in May 2022
- Unfortunately, due to severe budget limitations, we will be unable to pursue or complete the Coast Project in the 2022 sampling season. We will instead conduct all remaining coast sampling (Central and North Coast – 8 zones) in 2024.

Planning for 2023 and Beyond Update

- Current monitoring plans include:
 - 2023: Complete Lakes Panel 5 (to remain consistent with Panels 1-4)
 - 2024: Complete Coast Round 2
- A long-term monitoring priorities discussion and assessment will be conducted in 2024. Topics to consider will include:
 - Reduced core monitoring budget
 - Realignment priorities
 - Equity and management priorities
 - Regional Board priorities
 - OEHHA data needs
 - Leveraging other efforts (e.g., EPA NLA)

- Long-term rivers sampling discussion update:
 - An action item from our January 2022 STEW meeting was to: “Add prioritization of long-term rivers sampling and consensus process to agenda for April meeting.” since more time was needed to consider and discuss the proposal to: deprioritize regular river sampling, unless:
 - Regions/partners are able to contribute a substantial amount of funds/resources towards river monitoring/analysis, OR
 - A Regional Realignment Advisory Committee indicates that river sampling is an essential priority for that region, OR
 - The Program receives a significant increase in funding.
 - **Discussion of this topic will be postponed until the 2024 long-term monitoring priorities discussion and assessment** so that the discussion and decisions can be made in the context of the broader long-term monitoring priorities discussion and assessment decisions.

Bioaccumulation Monitoring Program Realignment Update

- The implementation of the [Bioaccumulation Monitoring Program Realignment](#) is underway.
- San Diego Region Realignment Cycle (2021 - 2023). In 2022, we will:
 - Host two Advisory Committee meetings; conversations will focus on communication needs and priorities.
 - Conduct sampling in the San Diego Region according to the [2022 Sampling and Analysis Workplan](#).
- The Bioaccumulation Monitoring Program Realignment Team has also begun to implement statewide Regional and Tribal engagement.
 - We have met with the 8 remaining Regions’ Coordinators (e.g. [SWAMP](#), [FHAB](#), [Tribal](#), STEW, Basin Planning) to discuss each Region’s interest and readiness to participate in a future realignment cycle.
 - Tribal engagement is underway according to our [Statewide Tribal Engagement Plan](#). Tribal meetings and outreach activities will continue through Nov 2022.
 - In Dec 2022, we will announce which Region will be selected to undergo the next Realignment Cycle, which will begin in 2024.

Upcoming STEW Meetings

Changes to upcoming meetings indicated in **bold text** below. Calendar invites will be updated to reflect the below changes shortly.

- **Apr 28, 2022, 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm - CANCELED**
- Jul 27, 2022, 9:30 am - 12:30 pm
- **Oct 26, 2022 meeting will be shifted to Nov 2, 2022, 9:30 am - 12:30 pm**
 - We are shifting the meeting to prevent scheduling conflicts

Please email anna.holder@waterboards.ca.gov with future STEW meeting speaker/topic recommendations.