



# Strengthening Regional Monitoring Programs Through the Development of a Collaboration Network: The Monitoring California Water Quality Monitoring Collaboration Network

Water is the most precious natural resource in California; and its value depends on its quality. Cleaner water can be put to greater uses, and requires less treatment prior to use. Every year, hundreds of decisions are made that influence water quality, ranging from local development to statewide policy. These decisions involve hundreds of millions of dollars for water delivery, water treatment, pollution reduction programs, and habitat protection. Good decisions must be based on good information. These decisions however, must be made during times when we must ask ourselves if we want good information “how can we continue training, teaching, and learning when we simply don’t have the funds?” To fulfill our stewardship missions, we need to find innovative ways to become more efficient and productive at a lower cost

To maximize budgets, encourage more orchestrated monitoring efforts, enhance partnerships and increase the pool of water quality information available to decision makers and stakeholders alike, the California Water Quality Monitoring Collaboration Network was created. This network was formed due to the need for a forum for sharing ideas, successes and common concerns. In response to that need, the California Water Quality Monitoring Council partnered with the Water Board’s Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program, the Nonpoint Source Program and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to initiate this network. The Water Quality Monitoring Collaboration Network began as a voluntary monthly conference call that members of the monitoring community participated in and discussed topics meeting their interests. The conference call format and content varied in response to input from participants and subsequently changed to a Webinar format. Sessions are planned to share technical and support tools for monitoring, assessment and reporting; to encourage discussion on common concerns like information management; and to provide a forum for networking



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[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/mywaterquality/monitoring\\_council/collaboration\\_network/index.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/mywaterquality/monitoring_council/collaboration_network/index.shtml)

## Webinars Presented, Recorded and available online from 6/2009 to present

- Water Quality Goals
- [StreamStats: A Streamflow Web Application](#)
- Finding the Right Funders
- [Ecological Condition Assessments of California’s Perennial Wadeable Streams: Highlights from the SWAMP’s PSA](#)
- An Introduction to the Concept of Reporting Limits
- [Yurok Tribe Water Quality Monitoring Program: A Tribal Perspective on the Development of a Comprehensive Water Quality Monitoring Program](#)
- [The Stream Pollution Trends Program \(SPoT\)](#)
- [Integrated Watershed Management](#)
- [Monitoring Trash, TMDLs and Efforts Towards Compliance](#)
- Health and Safety Responsibilities for Program Managers of Water Quality Monitoring Projects
- Introduction to the National Environmental Methods Index (NEMI)
- [Selecting and Working With Laboratories](#)
- Application of the USGS SPARROW model to Understand Nitrogen and Phosphorus Transport in California
- [Water Quality Monitoring Sensors](#)
- [Monitoring Directories-Demonstration of the Central Valley Monitoring Directory](#)
- [Introductory Mine Waste Characterization](#)
- [Collaborations for Healthier Streams: California Watersheds and AmeriCorps Programs](#)
- [Using the California Data Exchange Network \(CEDEN\)](#)
- [Developing a Comprehensive Watershed-wide Monitoring Program for Surface Water](#)
- An Introduction to the California Rapid Assessment Method (CRAM) for California Wetlands
- [Riparian Proper Functioning Condition Assessment \(PFC\) as a Tool to Inform Land Managers About Priorities for Addressing Water Quality](#)
- [Invasive Species Risk Assessment and Planning \(ISRAP\): A New Tool for Managing the Risk of Moving Aquatic Invasive Species in Natural Resource Monitoring and Management Activities](#)
- [Developing a California Whole System Report Card](#)
- [Site-Specific Profiles of Fish Feminization in Surface Waters of California Indicate Multiple Causes of Estrogenic Activities](#)
- [Orange County CoastKeeper: Redefining the Realm of Citizen Monitoring](#)
- [Microbial Source Tracking \(MST\)](#)
- [Genetic Testing of Cyanobacteria Blooms](#)
- [Friends of Deer Creek: Linking Science, Water and People](#)
- [Aquatic Invasive Species](#)
- [Citizen Monitoring in Watersheds Flowing to the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary](#)
- [Clean Water Act \(CWA\) & 303\(d\) Solicitation and Data Submission Process](#)
- [California Data Uploading and Checking System](#)
- [California Clean Water Team](#)
- [California Water Quality Monitoring Council](#)

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- C** • [Management/Administrative Tools](#)
- S** • [Data Sharing](#)
- [Reporting](#)

