

California Water Quality Monitoring Collaboration Network Participant:

Join the California Water Quality Monitoring Collaboration Network and Orange County CoastKeeper's Ray Heimstra, from your own workspace for a 1-hour Webinar session "Orange County CoastKeeper: Redefining the Realm of Citizen Monitoring". The webinar will be on April 21, from 11:30 AM -12:30 PM. Please see the instructions below to join the webinar.

Orange County CoastKeeper: Redefining the Realm of Citizen Monitoring

The Orange County Coastkeeper, founded in 1999, is a non-profit organization dedicated to the protection and preservation of the marine habitats and watersheds of Orange County through programs of education, restoration, enforcement and advocacy. Coastkeeper works with business, developers, cities, elected officials and regulatory agencies to develop solutions to the problems of polluted urban runoff.

Coastkeeper tries to collaborate with a variety of stakeholders in seeking solutions that are good for Orange County and protect coastal resources. They work to identify and stop polluters, using litigation if necessary; however, they believe that solutions that are good for the environment are also good for business. They strive to build a community approach to watershed management, with the intent of avoiding future conflicts, and agreeing on solutions that meet broad societal goals. Ultimately their hope is to increase the likelihood of sustaining long-term environmental improvements.

This Webinar will focus on their work that does not fit into the traditional view of what a citizen monitoring program is. It is hoped that this Webinar will broaden the view of what can be done through citizen monitoring and inspire new collaborations.

Ray Hiemstra

Ray Hiemstra is the Associate Director of Orange County Coastkeeper where he has worked for 10 years on water research and policy issues. Ray has degrees in Geography and Environmental Studies from Long Beach State and lives in Huntington Beach. He is a member of the Newport Bay Watershed, and the Orange County Nitrogen Selenium management committees along with the LA/Long Beach Harbor Safety Committee. Ray has been the Project Manager for several projects contracted by the Regional Water Quality Control Board, including: Santa Ana River Citizens Water Quality Project (319h) 2001-2004; Rhine Channel Remediation Alternatives Project (Prop 13) 2004-2006; Orange County Watersheds Citizen Monitoring Project (Prop 13) 2004-2006; Newport Bay Marinas Metals Study, 2006-2007; Newport Bay Stormdrains Study, 2007-present; Orange County Nurseries Water Quality Improvement Project, 2007-present.

Topic: Orange County CoastKeeper: Redefining the Realm of Citizen Monitoring

Date: Wednesday, April 21, 2010

Time: 11:30 am, Pacific Daylight Time (San Jose, GMT-07:00)

Meeting Number: 747 980 182

Meeting Password: wqmwebinar

To start the online meeting

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We have set up a web page for the California Water Quality Monitoring Collaboration Network at http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/monitoring_council/collaboration_network/index.shtml.

Materials (if available), including past webinars will be posted on the website. The recorded webinars and associated materials are located under 'Monthly Webinars'.

We hope to use this web page to help you network with each other and with the larger monitoring community. So, feel free to give us your ideas on how to make it better.

New participants can join the webinar listserv by signing up on the web at http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email_subscriptions/swrcb_subscribe.shtml. Enter your email address and name, place a check mark next to "Water Quality Monitoring Collaboration Network - Webinar Sessions", then click the "subscribe" button.

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Many of us in the water quality monitoring community have been looking for a California forum for sharing our ideas, successes and common concerns. In response to that need, the California Water Quality Monitoring Council is partnering with the Water Board's Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program, the Nonpoint Source Program and US Environmental Protection Agency to launch a monthly conference call to support the activities of regional monitoring programs.

The Water Quality Monitoring Collaboration Network will begin as a voluntary monthly conference call that members of the monitoring community can participate in as topics meet their interests. The conference call format and content will vary in response to input from participants. 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.

It is envisioned that the Collaboration network will help support a state framework to coordinate consistent and scientifically defensible methods and strategies for improving water quality monitoring, assessment, and reporting.