

California Water Quality Monitoring Collaboration Network Announces

Citizen Science & Watershed Stewardship Webinar Series

Join the California Water Quality Monitoring Collaboration Network along with Pat Higgins from the Eel River Recovery Project for the presentation “**Citizen Science Works for the Recovery of a Wild & Scenic River, its Fisheries, and its Communities**”. Please join us on Thursday February 16, 2017 from 11:30 AM -12:30 PM (PST). Please see the instructions below to join the webinar.

Topic: Citizen Science Works for the Recovery of a Wild & Scenic River, its Fisheries, and its Communities

The Eel River Recovery Project (ERRP) formed in 2011 to serve the community of the Eel River watershed by helping citizen monitors gauge the health of the watershed and to share information back with their neighbors. The foundation of citizen science creates a trusted framework, so that communities can assess the health of their nearby streams and determine whether efforts to restore the Eel River ecosystem are working.

ERRP monitoring has included water temperature, flow and cyanobacteria. Since 2012, ERRP has acquired grants and built partnerships with other community groups, academic institutions, private entities, agencies and Indian Tribes to acquire needed information. Data are used to test hypotheses based on community concerns. For example, citizens felt that tributary and river flow were diminishing and water temperature increasing due to expanding cannabis farming after the passage of Proposition 215 in 1995. A grant from the State Water Resources Control Board in 2015 allowed comprehensive analysis of temperature trends that partially confirmed this hypothesis. ERRP has actively supported University of California Berkeley annual basin-wide cyanobacteria studies since 2013. The hypothesis being tested in the latter case is that diminishment of flow and increased nutrients have pushed the Eel River ecosystem past a tipping point where it is dominated by sometimes toxic cyanobacteria instead of beneficial green algae species. www.eelriverrecovery.org

Presenter: Patrick Higgins

Patrick Higgins has been a consulting fisheries biologist and watershed scientist with an office in Arcata, CA since 1989. He published Stocks at Risk in Northwestern California for the American Fisheries Society in 1992. Pat has contributed to restoration plans for the Klamath and South Fork Trinity rivers. He began studying the Eel River in 2010 and published findings that native fall Chinook escapement had risen into the tens of thousands similar to population levels in the 1950's. Pat helped form the Eel River Recovery Project, coordinated volunteers in cyanotoxin surveys, and has volunteered hundreds of hours in helping collect data from 2013-2016. His curiosity is a motive force for his involvement in Eel River studies as well as his desire to help the community and restore the Eel River ecosystem.

Meeting information

Topic: CWQMCN Webinar

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CWQMCN Communication:

- CWQMCN webinar listserv:
www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email_subscriptions/swrcb_subscribe.shtml
After opening the above web-site, enter your email address and name, click on State Water Resources Control Board - Covering statewide issues, next click General Interests, and then place a check mark next to "Water Quality Monitoring Collaboration Network - Webinar Sessions", then click the "subscribe" button.
- We have set up a webpage for the California Water Quality Monitoring Collaboration Network
www.mywaterquality.ca.gov/monitoring_council/collaboration_network/index.html
- We also have a LinkedIn Group, California Water Quality Monitoring Professional Network. This group was formed to facilitate water quality monitoring communication and discussions.
www.linkedin.com.
- Watch CWQMCN videos and find video playlists organized by topic at
www.youtube.com/cwqmcn.

Clean Water Team

The Clean Water Team (CWT) is the citizen monitoring program of the State Water Resources Control Board. The CWT is a part of the Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program (SWAMP). The CWT Citizen Monitoring Coordinator(s) work statewide in order to provide technical assistance and guidance documents, training, QA/QC support, temporary loans of equipment and communication to citizen monitoring programs and watershed stewardship organizations. Our Mission ... "To build and support the State's Watersheds' Stewardship through citizen monitoring in order to reduce and prevent water pollution.

- www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/swamp/cwt_volunteer.shtml
- www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/swamp/cscs_toolkit.shtml
- www.youtube.com/CleanWaterTeamVideos