

**California Water Quality Monitoring Collaboration Network Participant:**

Join the California Water Quality Monitoring Collaboration Network for the webinar [Widespread Prevalence of Cyanobacteria & Cyanotoxins from a Variety of California Waterbodies](#) on Thursday August 13, 2015 from 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM. Please see the instructions below to join the webinar. To watch the presentation click “join the online meeting” and “join by phone” to hear the webinar as we use voice over phone protocol.

**Widespread Prevalence of Cyanobacteria & Cyanotoxins from a Variety of California Waterbodies**

Cyanobacteria, also known as “blue-green algae”, are photosynthetic bacteria that inhabit a broad range of freshwater and brackish environments. Many are capable of producing toxins, cyanotoxins, the most common of which belong to the group microcystins. Cyanobacterial blooms and associated toxins have become increasingly problematic globally and cause a variety of harmful effects including illness and mortality in humans, domesticated animals (livestock, pets), and wildlife.

Recent screening assessments revealed widespread prevalence of microcystins from a variety of waterbody types including streams (benthic algae), depression wetlands, lakes, reservoirs, coastal lagoons and estuaries. Microcystins were commonly detected in Southern California, and from benthic samples in one-third of wadeable stream samples statewide. Multiple types of cyanotoxins (cylindrospermopsin, anatoxin-a, and saxitoxin) were detected at a subset of sites, indicating the potential for other cyanotoxins to be prevalent. Although no regional or statewide monitoring program for cyanotoxins are currently in place, the Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program (SWAMP) is currently developing a statewide monitoring program for cyanobacteria and associated toxins.

**Presenters:**

**Meredith Howard** is a biological oceanographer specializing in the ecology and physiology of harmful algal blooms (HABs). She received her B.A. in Finance from Lehigh University in 1995, B.S. in Biology from Rutgers University in 2001 and Ph.D. in Ocean Science from the University of California, Santa Cruz in 2007. Dr. Howard joined SCCWRP in 2007. Her present research efforts focus on examination of the environmental factors that influence phytoplankton blooms (including HABs), with a special emphasis on nutrient sources and the improvement of HAB monitoring and detection.

**David A Caron** is a Professor in the Marine Environmental Biology section of the Department of Biological Sciences at the University of Southern California. He has degrees in Microbiology (B.S.) and Oceanography (M.S.) from the University of Rhode Island, and a Ph.D in Biological Oceanography conferred jointly by Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution. His research interests involve the ecology of microbes in marine and freshwater ecosystems. He has authored or co-authored more than 200 scientific articles and book chapters, and is a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the American Academy of Microbiology.

**Avery O. Tatters** is classically trained in phytoplankton ecology and zoonotic virology. He received a B.S. and M.S. from the University of North Carolina-Wilmington and a Ph.D. in Marine Environmental Biology from the University of Southern California. Dr. Tatters is currently working on the understudied ecology of toxic phytoplankton and cyanobacteria in the Southern California region.

## **CWQMCN HAB Webinar**

Thursday, August 13, 2015

11:30 am | Pacific Daylight Time (San Francisco, GMT-07:00) | 1 hr

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We have set up a webpage for the California Water Quality Monitoring Collaboration Network (CWQMCN) at: [www.mywaterquality.ca.gov/monitoring\\_council/collaboration\\_network/](http://www.mywaterquality.ca.gov/monitoring_council/collaboration_network/)

LinkedIn Group: California Water Quality Monitoring Professional Network

This group was formed to facilitate water quality monitoring communication and discussions.  
[www.linkedin.com](http://www.linkedin.com)

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