The new web Portal, developed by the California Estuary Monitoring Workgroup (CEMW), will house information on California’s estuaries and their health. The Ocean Ecosystem and Health Portal is also under development.

CA Senate Bill 1070 mandated that water quality monitoring and assessment activities be coordinated among regulatory agencies and included the California government and the information be made available to decision-makers, researchers, and the public.

As a result, the California Water Quality Monitoring Council was formed to integrate and coordinate water quality and related ecosystem monitoring, assessment, and reporting.

**MY WATER QUALITY WEB PORTAL**

Agencies responsible for the data have already launched, under the oversight of the California Water Quality Monitoring Council, the California Water Quality Monitoring Program’s Environmental Data Exchange Center (CEDEN), and the California Science Center, River, and Water Portal.

The next step Portal, introducing the California Estuaries Monitoring Program (CEMWP), will house information on California’s estuaries and their health. The Ocean Ecosystem and Health Portal is also under development.

**CALIFORNIA WATER QUALITY MONITORING COUNCIL**

California’s Water Quality Monitoring Council coordinates among regulatory agencies and includes the California government and the information is made available to decision-makers, researchers, and the public.

In 2011, the California Science Center, River, and Water Portal.

**CALIFORNIA’S ESTUARIES**

Hundreds of estuaries are found in California, including the San Francisco Estuary, Santa Monica Bay, and More of Other Estuaries among others.

The key attributes to examine the health of California’s estuaries are living resources, water quality, ecological processes, and stewardship. For now, the portal follows a similar “Questions Answered” format and answers these questions for each living resource section.

**THE SAN FRANCISCO ESTUARY**

The California Estuaries Portal initially focuses on the health of California’s largest estuary, the San Francisco Estuary. By evaluating its four ecosystem elements (living resources, water quality, ecological processes, and stewardship), this portal will contribute to the development of an estuarine management plan for California’s estuaries.

The California Estuaries Portal is based on the San Francisco Estuary 2011 Report and its key attributes to examine the health of California’s estuaries.

**LIVING RESOURCES**

Living resources support diverse communities of living organisms and provide a wide variety of ecosystem services, such as pollution control, carbon sequestration, and habitat for numerous species. The California Estuaries portal includes information on phytoplankton, zooplankton, benthic organisms, fish, and birds in the San Francisco Estuary.

**ANSWERING OUR QUESTIONS**

The California Estuaries Portal is based on the San Francisco Estuary 2011 Report and its key attributes to examine the health of California’s estuaries.

**NEXT STEPS**

Following the lead of the Delta Science Program, the CEMWP will report performance measures related to water quality, health indicators, and ecosystem services, as well as support and promote adaptive management through assessment of the above attributes. The California Estuaries portal will support the California Water Quality Monitoring Council in the assessment of changing processes and water quality for the health of the ecosystem and water reliability. Including these will help managers evaluate the effectiveness of various conservation programs and prioritize management and identify necessary future monitoring, planning, and reporting needs.

**WHY GET INVOLVED?**

- Dissemination of information to a variety of audiences, including the public, managers, and policy makers.
- Opportunities for interdisciplinary science and collaboration across organizations.
- Access to and use of cutting-edge monitoring tools (e.g., remote sensing, improved technologies, and capabilities).
- Opportunities for data and information generated by others to increase the power of our own monitoring efforts.
- Access to tools that support data analysis and decision-making (e.g., visualization tools on workgroup site).
- Provide a place for all sides of the story to be told in tandem.

**HOW TO GET INVOLVED**

- We are currently working to improve the quality of the information presented in the portal and would love your input and feedback.
- Contact facilitator Stephanie Fong at sfong@sfcwa.org.