



Citizen Monitoring in California & the Clean Water Team

The **Clean Water Team** (CWT) works to build and support the State's Watersheds Stewardship through involvement by **Citizen Monitoring** in order to reduce and prevent water pollution and recover lost beneficial uses.

Citizen Monitoring is any monitoring activity of aquatic resources, aquatic habitat, and or water quality that relies in whole or in part on participation by volunteers, students or non-paid staff. All across California, just as it is all over the country, citizen monitors are monitoring the condition of streams, rivers, lakes, reservoirs, estuaries, coastal waters, wetlands, and wells. They do this because they want to help protect a stream, lake, bay or wetland near where they live, work, or play. Their efforts are of particular value in providing quality data and building stewardship of local waters.

Citizen monitoring projects have occurred are throughout California all 9 Water Resource Control Board Regions and in 2009 over 250 active citizen monitoring organizations were identified in the State. A variety of organizations have been involved in citizen monitoring projects here in California. These include but are not limited to Coordinated Resource Management and Planning (CRMP) groups, non profit organizations, advocacy groups, Resource Conservation Districts, counties, cities, Community Based Organizations, grass-roots volunteers, self-monitoring, universities and community colleges, land owners, farm bureaus, Indian Reservations, land trusts, local agencies, non-government agencies, environmental organizations, sportsmen organizations and private consultants' projects.

The CWT assists these groups through six core functions: Outreach and communication, technical assistance/quality assurance, training, loans of equipment, event support and information management.

Resources for Citizen Watershed Monitors:

THE CLEAN WATER TEAM'S GUIDANCE COMPENDIUM FOR WATERSHED MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT

Section 1.0 Introduction and Overview

Section 2.0 Field Procedures (e.g., sample collection)

Section 3.0 "Grab" Samples and Measurements Taken at One Point in a Water Body (also Fact Sheets)

Section 4.0 Stream Measurements (e.g., flow)

Section 5.0 Measurements Taken in a Watershed (e.g., rain)

Section 6.0 Geographic Information for Watershed Use (GIS & GPS)

Section 7.0 Programmatic Quality Assurance and Quality Control (QA, QC & QAPP)

Section 8.0 Data Quality Management (DQM)

Section 9.0 Volunteer & Staff Role-Specific DQM Materials

Appendices Glossary

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/swamp/cwt_guidance.shtml

THE CLEAN WATER TEAM'S TOOL BOX FOR CITIZEN MONITORING PROGRAMS

This Toolbox has template files and documents that will help you manage and organize your water quality monitoring data. Most of the items are part of the Data Quality Management (DQM) system that the Clean Water Team has developed for the collection management and sharing of reliable data of known quality. The utility of the tools contained within this virtual toolbox will be especially useful as you begin to analyze your project's data.

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/swamp/cwt_toolbox.shtml

SWAMP ADVISOR-WEB RESOURCE for QAPPs

The SWAMP Advisor is an expert knowledge system that will help you to prepare superior Quality Assurance Project Plans (QAPPs) that meet all requirements of the California Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program (SWAMP). It will provide you with draft document files for each element that you may easily save, print and edit for your final QAPP.

http://water101.waterboards.ca.gov/swamp/qapp_advisor/

SWAMP Field Methods Course

This course is a training resource for SWAMP Field Methods. The course covers 6 modules (Reconnaissance, Water Quality Measurements, Flow Measurements, Water Sampling, Sediment Sampling, Sample Handling and Shipping) while also incorporating 4 common elements (Health and Safety, Quality Assurance, Representativeness, Information Management). The course also includes a Glossary, Index and a list of useful Resources. (The Clean Water Team has a limited number of CDs which contain this course. Contact Erick if you would like one mailed to your citizen monitoring program.)

http://water101.waterboards.ca.gov/swamp/qapp_advisor/FieldMethods/start.html

California Water Quality Monitoring Collaboration Network's Monthly Webinars

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/monitoring_council/collaboration_network/index.shtml#webinar

Stay Up to Date with Citizen Monitoring Updates Via the Citizen Monitoring Listserve

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email_subscriptions/swrcb_subscribe.shtml

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)

AIS threaten California's waters and their beneficial uses. AIS may cause economic, environmental, and/or human health harm. AIS can have negative impacts on water supplies (clogged pipes, increased transpiration), agriculture (reduced water flows...), fisheries (loss of species, disease...), ecological functions (altered hydrology...), waterways (choke and congested waters, undermine levees...) and more. AIS are plants, animals or disease agents that are not native to an ecosystem. (AIS are also known as, but not limited to: Exotic Species, Alien Species, Invasive Organisms, Noxious Species, Naturalized Species, and Non-indigenous Aquatic Species or Non-Native Species). Proper planning and decontamination techniques should be practiced by recreationists (boaters, sport fishers, hikers...), water professionals and aquatic scientists alike. To protect California's waters and their beneficial uses it is important that we all act in ways, which will prevent the introduction or spread of AIS. Persons active within surface waters may act as dispersants for certain AIS. It is important to prevent the transfer of AIS from one waterbody to another and to prevent the spread of AIS within a watershed.

AIS Quick Links

- Prevention Planning
- Widescale Prevention Measures
- Decontamination
- California Agency Websites Dedicated To AIS
- Additional California Websites
- Federal Websites
- Non Governmental Organizations (NGO) Websites
- International Websites of Interest
- Other Websites of Interest
- Weblogs

http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/swamp/ais

For Citizen Monitoring technical assistance, quality assurance guidance, workshops & training or loans of equipment, please contact:

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