

Safe to Swim Workgroup Proposed 2013 Goals

The purpose of the Safe to Swim Workgroup is to coordinate the monitoring and assessment of issues affecting swimming safety and also to report that information to decision makers and the public through the [Safe to Swim Portal](#). In 2011, there were 15-20 members of the workgroup. Members come from the county health agencies, the State and Regional Water Boards, NGOs, data center experts and US EPA. The last meeting was November 28th 2011. The Safe to Swim Workgroup did not hold any meetings in 2012.

At a minimum, the goal is to reconvene the Safe to Swim Workgroup by engaging members statewide, holding three quarterly meetings in 2013, setting priorities and goals in initial meeting and creating subcommittees for carrying out tasks.

Proposed 2013 Workgroup Goals

- Integrate Safe to Swim website with existing smartphone applications and websites (Beach Report Card and The Swim Guide) and reduce redundancies.
- Conduct informational survey of monitoring entities to determine “what agency decision makers want to know about swimming safety on a local, regional and statewide basis and how to best inform decision making.” Workgroup meeting/subcommittee is needed to review and discuss the survey before sending it
- Develop priority list for addressing problems in data management and restrictions; review Beach Watch/CEDEN database for gaps, barriers to use, etc.
- Expand the coverage of Safe to Swim by adding inland waters to Safe to Swim Portal website.
- Develop recommendations for long-term agency involvement and financial support of Safe to Swim portal and workgroup.

Proposed Schedule

- June – 7/18/2013 meeting of statewide Safe to Swim Workgroup to discuss annual goals and set priorities, review of informational survey and subcommittees formed
- June/July – survey is launched (Erick Burres)
- August/September – statewide workgroup meeting
- November – statewide workgroup meeting

Background on BeachWatch Database

The new BeachWatch Database has been online since late 2011 and is hosted directly at the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project. It has created a more user-friendly and efficient upload platform for coastal county health agencies that are required to perform beach bacterial indicator monitoring. It now encourages more frequent data entry and will directly upload beach data to US EPA on a more frequent basis than the annual requirement. Since early 2012 this new database has fed data directly into the [California Environmental Data Exchange Network \(CEDEN\)](#). This will allow CEDEN to become the new data source for the [Safe to Swim Portal](#), allowing concurrent display of bacterial indicator monitoring data from both coastal and inland waters.

For more information contact

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