

**GROUP:** SURFACE WATER MONITORING

**MEASURE:** SITE VISITS AND SAMPLING EVENTS  
ANALYSES CONDUCTED

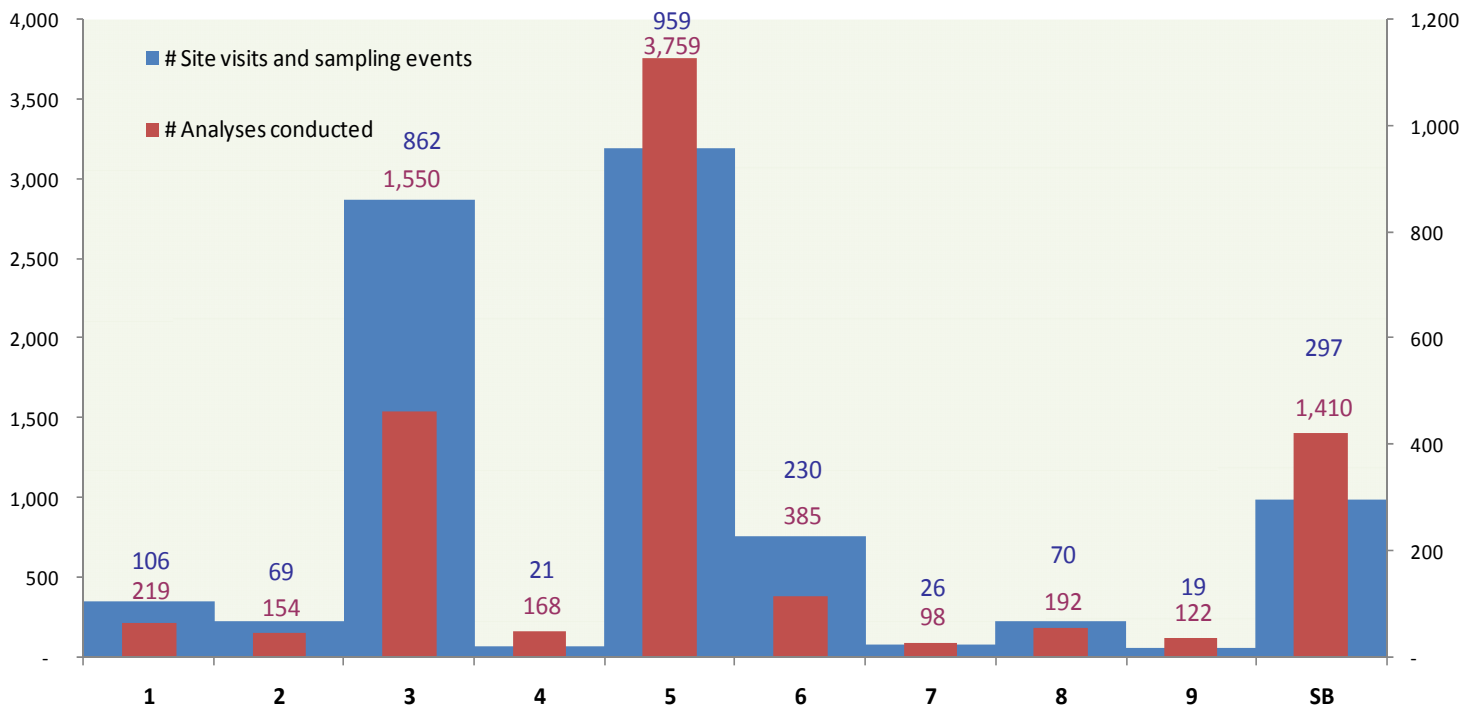
**MESSAGE:** Variations in surface water monitoring efforts throughout the State are influenced by differences in regional needs, strategies, and resources.

*KEY STATISTICS FOR FY 2008-09*

SITE VISITS AND SAMPLING EVENTS: 2,659  
ANALYSES CONDUCTED: 8,057

**MEASUREMENTS:**

Region	# Site visits and sampling events	# Analyses conducted
1	106	219
2	69	154
3	862	1,550
4	21	168
5	959	3,759
6	230	385
7	26	98
8	70	192
9	19	122
State Board and other agencies	297	1,410
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,659</b>	<b>8,057</b>



**WHAT THE MEASURE IS SHOWING:**

In Fiscal Year (FY) 2008-09, the State and Regional Water Boards conducted 2,659 site visits to take samples and measurements that resulted in 8,057 analyses. Monitoring needs, strategies, and resources vary among the Regional Water Boards, so the number of samples collected and analyses conducted also varies among the regions.

**WHY THIS MEASURE IS IMPORTANT:**

Monitoring and assessment of the State's waters provides data and information to determine the status and trends of their condition, establishing water quality standards, determining compliance with requirements, guiding actions to protect the waters, and evaluating the effectiveness of pollution control efforts. The Water Boards' Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program (SWAMP) monitors and assesses the State's surface waters, directly and through collaborative partnerships, to support water resource management. Data from SWAMP is used for many purposes, including the State's water quality assessment report, "California 305(b) Report on Water Quality", and the impaired waterbodies list.

**TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS:**

- **Data Source:** SWAMP. Period: July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009. Extracted in July 2009.
- **Unit of Measure:** Number of sites visits (sampling events) and analyses conducted in FY 2008-09.
- **Data Definitions:** *Site visit (sampling event):* A monitoring station visit on a given day for any measurement or sample collection type. Monitoring consists of going out to a site, making observations, and taking measurements and samples for analysis. *Analyses:* Samples taken during a site visit may undergo chemical, physical, toxicological, or biological analysis in the field or laboratory. While analyses address a wide range of parameters, from \$3 pH measurements to \$6000 toxicity identification evaluations, each analysis reported is counted the same, regardless of cost or complexity.
- **References:** More information on the Water Boards' SWAMP program is available at: [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/swamp/](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/swamp/); the Water Boards' latest water quality assessment report, *2002 California 305(b) Report on Water Quality*, is available at: [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/tmdl/305b.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/tmdl/305b.shtml); the Water Boards' latest list of impaired waters is available at: [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/tmdl/303d\\_lists2006\\_epa.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/tmdl/303d_lists2006_epa.shtml). The next updates of the water quality assessment and impaired waters list will be prepared as an integrated report.

**GLOSSARY:****Ambient Monitoring**

Ambient monitoring refers to the collection of information about the status of the physical, chemical, toxicological, and biological characteristics of the environment.

**Parameter**

A parameter is a measurable or quantifiable characteristic or feature of water quality, such as temperature, pH, dissolved oxygen, sediment, bacteria, metals, nutrients, pesticides, and toxicity.