

Regional Water Quality Control Board  
North Coast Region

Executive Officer's Summary Report  
Thursday, October 20, 2016  
Regional Water Board Office  
Santa Rosa, California

ITEM: 4

SUBJECT: Overview of the Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program's (SWAMP) regional and statewide projects (*Rebecca Fitzgerald and Lori Webber*)

BOARD ACTION: This is an informational item only. No action will be taken by the Regional Water Board.

BACKGROUND: SWAMP is a statewide program managed by the State and Regional Water Boards. SWAMP's mission is to provide resource managers, decision makers, and the public with timely, high-quality information and tools needed to evaluate the condition of surface waters through California. This mission is accomplished by monitoring, providing data assessment infrastructure and tools, and coordinating standardized data collection, storage, and analysis.

DISCUSSION: This item will be presented in two parts. Lori Webber, Senior Environmental Scientist with the State Water Resources Control Board, will provide an overview of SWAMP's mission and statewide ambient monitoring and assessment efforts. Rebecca Fitzgerald, Senior Environmental Scientist with the North Coast Regional Water Board, will summarize current regional SWAMP projects and possible future efforts.

Statewide SWAMP efforts include:

- Bioassessment Monitoring Program to monitor and assess the biological integrity of wadeable streams through the state, including physical habitat, nutrients, macroinvertebrates, algae and other parameters.
- Stream Pollution Trends Monitoring Program to monitor trends in sediment toxicity and sediment contamination in selected large rivers throughout California, and relate conditions to watershed land uses.
- Bioaccumulation Monitoring Program to monitor the levels of chemical contaminants in sport fish at popular fishing locations throughout the state.
- Freshwater Harmful Algal/Cyanobacteria Blooms Program to help develop the capacity to respond to blooms.
- Data quality assurance and data management.
- California Environmental Data Exchange Network (CEDEN) database to collect, store and analyze data.
- California Water Quality Monitoring Council to coordinate monitoring, assessment and reporting among state agencies.
- Clean Water Team to support citizen monitoring.

Current Regional SWAMP efforts include:

- Harmful Cyanobacteria Bloom Program to respond to blooms, monitor, and coordinate with state, regional, and local entities.
- Contaminants of Emerging Concern Assessment to measure the impacts of bioactive chemicals in fish tissue, the water column, and channel bottom sediments in the Russian River.
- Fish Advisory Support Monitoring Project to collect fish tissue from the Russian River, Laguna de Santa Rosa, and Spring Lake for the analysis of mercury contamination by the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment in order to determine if it is appropriate to post fish consumption advisories.
- Garcia River Monitoring Program to monitor and assess physical habitat and instream sedimentation conditions.
- Smith River Plain Assessment to evaluate potential chemical impacts to surface water, channel bottom sediments, and groundwater from lily bulb cultivation.
- Status and Trends Project to monitor and assess a wide range of chemical constituents over time in rivers and streams throughout the region. Sampling efforts are complete and staff is finalizing the monitoring report.
- Nutrient Assessment Project in the Russian and Eel River watersheds to assess nutrient and biostimulatory conditions. Sampling efforts are complete and staff is finalizing the monitoring report.

Regional Water Board staff is also developing the work plan for SWAMP projects for 2017 to 2020. Staff will highlight several of these projects during the item's presentation.

**RECOMMENDATION:** This is an information item. No action will be taken.

**SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:** None

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