



Media Release

Are California's Streams and Rivers Healthy?

*Find Out Through an Innovative New Web Portal
Webinar Demonstration Planned for June 28*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Sacramento – “*What is the condition of California streams?*” is one of many questions that the latest update to California’s innovative *My Water Quality* website will answer. The new California Streams and Rivers Portal provides information on the health of public waterways and includes interactive graphics, maps, and monitoring data that focus on the location extent, and health of the states’ streams and rivers. This latest update can be found at www.CaWaterQuality.net, under the Ecosystem Health tab.

The *My Water Quality* website houses the widest collection of water quality and ecosystem health data ever available about our state’s lakes, rivers, streams, wetlands and ocean waters. The goal is to provide timely information in an easy-to-understand manner for the public, environmental organizations, and water quality professionals.

The *My Water Quality* website enters its third year and is sponsored by the California Water Quality Monitoring Council (Monitoring Council), a joint partnership between the California Environmental Protection Agency, the California Natural Resources Agency, and several stakeholder organizations from both inside and outside state government.

“The health and cleanliness of California’s surface waters remain an important barometer of their availability for beneficial purposes like drinking water, recreational uses, and for the continued sustainability of aquatic life,” said State Water Resources Control Board Executive Director Tom Howard.

Streams and rivers perform numerous functions and provide important services to society. They are the source of much of the water supply for California’s cities, farms, and industries. At the same time, they provide essential habitat for fish and wildlife, including threatened and endangered species as well as commercially important species. The attractiveness of our streams and rivers make them the focus of many recreational activities and they are an important component of the California landscape.

“In many parts of California, streams, creeks and rivers provide free community spaces for swimming, fishing, wading, and paddling,” says California Coastkeeper Alliance Policy Director Sara Aminzadeh, who also represents the Public on the Monitoring Council. “This new tool will empower Californians to access information about the cleanliness and health of these waterways.”

The Monitoring Council brings together water quality and ecosystem health information from a variety of organizations with special expertise in stream and river monitoring and assessment, coordinated through the California Healthy Streams Partnership. State, federal, and regional agencies and non-governmental organizations have pitched in to answer your water quality questions.

The California legislature mandated in 2006 that water quality monitoring and assessment activities are coordinated among organizations inside and outside California government, and that this information be made available to decision makers and the public via the internet. The Monitoring Council was formed in 2007 by a cooperative agreement between the California Environmental Protection Agency and the California Natural Resources Agency for this purpose. The *My Water Quality* website and its numerous portals bring this information together in a single location and in an easy to understand manner for the public, environmental organizations, and water quality professionals. <http://www.CaWaterQuality.net>

For a fact sheet on the new Healthy Streams Portal, click here:

http://www.mywaterquality.ca.gov/eco_health/streams/docs/streams_factsheet.pdf

An **interactive Webinar** is planned for **Thursday June 28**.

Topic: Introducing the New Water Quality Portal "Are Our Stream and River Ecosystems Healthy?"

Time: **11:30 am to 12:30 pm** Pacific Daylight Time (San Francisco, GMT-07:00)

To join the webinar, go to:

<https://waterboards.webex.com/waterboards/j.php?ED=184590377&UID=484113162&PW=NZTgyMjIhMGU4&RT=MiiM0>

Meeting Password: wqwebinar

The portal can also be accessed through the "My Water Quality" button on many State agency websites, such as

California Environmental Protection Agency: <http://www.CalEPA.ca.gov>

California Natural Resources Agency: <http://www.resources.ca.gov>

State Water Resources Control Board: <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov>

Department of Water Resources: <http://www.water.ca.gov>

The California Coastkeeper Alliance is on the web at www.cacoastkeeper.org

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