Central Coast Ambient Monitoring Program

What is it?

The Central Coast Ambient Monitoring Program (CCAMP) is the SWAMP monitoring program for the Central Coast Region. CCAMP follows a rotational watershed monitoring scheme that assesses each major watershed area once in a five year period. As of the end of 2009, two complete watershed rotations have been completed, meaning that over the course of the past ten years, at least two years of monthly data have been collected at thirty sites in each watershed area. This provides data sufficient for detection of statistical trends. This data is being made available on a new website that uses open source technology to display maps and charts of data, and will include statistical change analysis. Other major data sources in the Central Coast Region are also included in this website.

Why is it important to the State?

The CCAMP dataset, which includes other partner programs like the Cooperative Monitoring Program for Agriculture, provides relatively comprehensive assessment of the status of water quality in the Central Coast. The Central Coast represents an important part of the State's water quality resources, and includes two National Marine Sanctuaries, a National Estuary, and a National Estuarine Research Reserve. CCAMP also is an excellent example of a smaller-scaled regional monitoring program that successfully employs a watershed rotational approach to provide substantial decision support for the Central Coast Region and its numerous water quality programs.

Why is it important to me?

For residents of the Central Coast, CCAMP provides online access to data, often collected in the watershed of their own backyard. This allows residents to understand more about where their waters are safe and healthy and where more help is needed to keep them clean. CCAMP has encouraged and partnered with numerous volunteer monitoring groups over the years, and has volunteer data accessible in a decision-making framework. It is easier for citizens to understand and advocate for
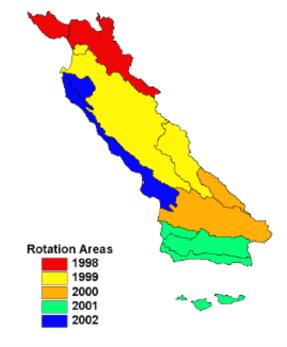
clean water when it is clear to them where water quality is adequately maintained and where it is not. CCAMP seeks to make data accessible and understandable for everyone.

How will this information be used?

This comprehensive data set provides the underpinnings for many decisions made by the Central Coast Regional Water Board. For example, the data has provided the basis for hundreds of "listings" of impairment under Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act. The data has been used to support NPDES permit revisions for both point source discharges and stormwater programs. The data has supported watershed planning and outreach efforts, and guides staff in making decisions related to grant fund allocations. CCAMP data often is the primary source of data used for development of Total Maximum Daily Loads, and serves as the basis for compliance monitoring for many TMDLs. Because the data has been available online in map format since 2001, it has informed many members of the public, consultants, and the research community over the years. New upgrades to the web site will provide additional access to land use and pesticide use information in a geographic framework.

Partners: The Bay Foundation, the Cooperative Monitoring Program for Agriculture, California Department of Fish and Game, Office of Health and Hazard Assessment, CCLEAN, U.C. Davis, U. C. Santa Barbara, plus many local agencies and volunteer groups, SWAMP, Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

To learn more about CCAMP, click here.

Rotation Areas
- 1998
- 1999
- 2000
- 2001
- 2002