



CLEAN WATER TEAM ONLINE RESOURCES FOR CITIZEN MONITORS

What is it?

Access to water quality training, technical guidance and organizational material can be a limiting factor for many organizations. To help overcome that limitation the Clean Water Team has created and placed online several valuable resource compilations for citizen monitors: a Guidance Compendium for Watershed Monitoring and Assessment, a YouTube Channel, and a citizen monitoring calendar.

The purpose of the Compendium is to enhance a citizen monitor's knowledge and ability to make decisions regarding measurements of water quality in various water bodies. It is useful to field operators conducting water quality monitoring, technical advisors and trainers of citizen monitoring groups, agency staff, and other people interested in water quality issues. The YouTube channel features instructional and educational material for citizen monitors and watershed stewardship groups that is best presented in a visual format. As a resource and promotional tool, a calendar highlighting Citizen Monitoring and important environmental stewardship days was created. All of these resources are available free 24/7 on the World Wide Web.

Why is it important?

Protecting and improving water quality is extremely important to the health of California. Citizen involvement through citizen monitoring is an important part of watershed stewardship. Providing access to Clean Water Team water quality monitoring training and resource materials online, 24/7, is extremely cost effective during a time of fiscal uncertainty. This access adds to the Clean Water Team's legacy of online guidance material for citizen monitors, and provides for the continuation and growth of citizen monitoring in California.

The Guidance Compendium for Watershed Monitoring and Assessment is one of the strongest tools available to citizen monitors in California. The Compendium includes a range of guidance information such as:

1. **Fact Sheets (background information on the regulatory and ecological significance of parameters of water quality and watershed analysis),**
2. **Information Papers (background information about these parameters and the methods used to measure them),**
3. **Standard Operating Procedures,**
4. **QA/QC guidance (documents to assist citizen monitors in developing QA systems for their monitoring activities) and**
5. **Organizational development tools (guidance on working with volunteers, health and safety.**

In 2011 the Clean Water Team revisited the Compendium and added substantial new resources so that it now contains over 300 useful items for California's Citizen Monitors. However, sometimes it's best to demonstrate a task rather than just explain it with a written document. That's what the Clean Water Team's YouTube Channel accomplishes. It provides access to instructional and educational videos online and compliments the Compendium. Currently this channel is also providing outreach for the SWRCB and is being used by water districts and public access channels to help educate Californians within their local areas.

To further assist and highlight citizen monitoring within the state, and to serve as a marketing resource, a California citizen monitoring calendar was created. For the first time ever, we now have a collection of all the important water related days, weeks, months and year long celebrations and outreach events for California in a single place. Having access to this knowledge has allowed citizen monitoring programs and watershed stewardship groups to better promote their organizations, educate the public, celebrate their activities, fund raise and recruit volunteers.

How will this information be used?

These tools are continuously being used by Citizen Monitors throughout California and contribute towards their citizen science based monitoring programs. These programs are important because they generate much needed water quality data at a local scale. This local scale data enables

programs to more effectively protect and/or restore these waters. Additionally, the data collected contributes to our overall knowledge of water quality for many of the State's waters.

For more information about the Clean Water Team, the Compendium, and the monitoring calendar [click here](#) or visit the [Clean Water Team YouTube channel](#). Staff contact: Erick Burres eburres@waterboards.ca.gov 213-576-6788 Desk or 213-712-6862 Mobile.