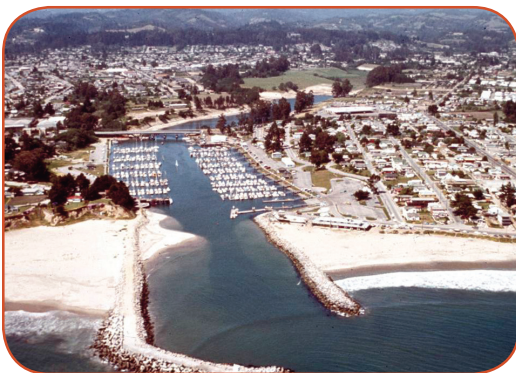


NEW REGIONAL MONITORING EFFORT INCLUDING ASBS AND STORMWATER PROGRAMS

What is it?

Central Coast Ambient Monitoring Program (CCAMP) staff served on a technical workgroup for regional monitoring program development in the Monterey Bay area, along with representatives from the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary; Central Coast Environmental Assessment Network; State Water Resources Control Board; and area municipalities affected by new Ocean Plan, stormwater, and Area of Special Biological Significance (ASBS) monitoring requirements. The group was tasked with developing a regional monitoring plan that addresses multiple program requirements and answers important questions about the impact of discharges on Monterey Bay, while still representing cost savings for participants. The initial phase of the project, planning and implementing ASBS monitoring, has been completed. Phase 2 storm water monitoring will require waters either on the 303(d) List of Impaired Waters or with a total maximum daily load (TMDL) in place to be incorporated into the existing design. Participants are considering options for the program's organizational infrastructure, including use of a joint powers agreement, to establish an entity to receive and manage funds for the program.



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Why is it important?

A regionalized approach to monitoring can be more cost efficient than monitoring by each individual entity because of efficiencies of scale and design. A well-designed program can meet regulatory requirements, such as those for TMDLs and required permit monitoring, while also addressing questions of regional importance. Data is typically more meaningful when placed in a regional context.



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How will this information be used?

Data generated by this new program will be used to understand the relative impacts of point and non-point sources of pollution to Sanctuary waters; to prioritize stormwater discharges for follow-up work; and to meet new regulatory requirements for Ocean Plan, stormwater, ASBS monitoring, and existing receiving water requirements for National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) discharges.

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