

Date: October 15, 2008

To: Toni Russell, QA Liaison; and Dawit Tadesse, Acting SWAMP Coordinator (State Water Resources Control Board, Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program Unit)

From: The SWAMP Quality Assurance Team (Quality Assurance Research Group, Moss Landing Marine Laboratories)

CC: The SWAMP Roundtable Distribution List

Subject: Retraction of Required Reporting Limits

Background

On March 20, 2008, the SWAMP Quality Assurance Team (QAT) drafted a memo to the State Water Resources Control Board (State Board) requesting four policy decisions relevant to the forthcoming *Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program Quality Assurance Program Plan* (QAPrP). On July 1, 2008, the State Board responded with a memo and decision to convert SWAMP's existing "target" reporting limits into programmatic requirements. Subsequently, the QAT started development of a waiver system in order to document and track deviations from these requirements. Finally, the 2008 SWAMP QAPrP was updated to reflect this policy change.

Regions and other SWAMP Roundtable participants then expressed concern that their SWAMP-funded projects could not achieve these RLs, and that other programs and projects would be unlikely to adopt them. On September 17, 2008, these concerns were further discussed on a conference call of the SWAMP Reporting Limits Work Group. The findings and recommendations from the SWAMP Reporting Limits Work Group were presented to the SWAMP Roundtable at its regular meeting on October 8, 2008. At that time, the Roundtable voted to temporarily retract the program's decision.

Decision

Based on an October 8, 2008 SWAMP Roundtable vote, the State Board temporarily retracts its recent adoption of mandated RLs. This will allow SWAMP to continue under the "target" RL

system initiated in the December 22, 2002 *Quality Assurance Management Plan of the State of California's Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program*, while allowing time for further development of programmatic RLs.

Communication

While temporary, this is a significant policy change for SWAMP. Consequently, it will be communicated to program participants in the following ways:

- The September 1, 2008 *Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program Quality Assurance Program Plan (QAPrP)* will receive an addendum in Appendix J. It will follow an addendum template, and will specify the affected document text. An SOP will be created to ensure consistent management of future addenda.
- Subscribers to the State Board's *SWAMP Water Quality Monitoring* email list will receive a notification of this policy update and associated QAPrP addendum.
- The SWAMP Roundtable will be notified by email and at their November 2008 meeting.