

Date: October 22, 2008

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

From: The Quality Assurance Team (Moss Landing Marine Laboratories, Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program)

CC: The SWAMP Roundtable

Subject: Application of the September 1, 2008 *Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program Quality Assurance Program Plan*

Background

Upon release, the September 1, 2008 *Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program Quality Assurance Program Plan* (QAPrP) was posted to the State Water Resources Control Board's (State Board's) Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program (SWAMP) website:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/swamp/qaprp.shtml.

The December 22, 2001 *Quality Assurance Management Plan for the State of California's Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program* (QAMP) is concurrently in use by projects already under way at the time of the QAPrP's release. In order to clarify the applicability of these two documents, the following statements accompany the online QAPrP link.

Because SWAMP's original QA plan was recently updated, there are two documents currently available. To eliminate confusion, the documents should be implemented as follows:

- *Projects starting after September 1, 2008 must follow the requirements of the 2008 Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program Quality Assurance Program Plan*
- *Projects already active on September 1, 2008 may continue to completion under the 2002 Quality Assurance Management Plan for the State of California's Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program.*

- *Projects sponsored by the State Board's Division of Financial Assistance (DFA) are required to use either of the above documents. However, the State Board strongly encourages the use of the 2008 QAPrP for all forthcoming projects.*

Status

While consistent with the document's effective date, the current grandfather deadline of September 1, 2008 is impractical due to the following:

- For projects beginning after September 1, 2008, a contract and study design based on 2002 QAMP requirements may already be in place. Due to contractual obligations, additional requirements from the 2008 QAPrP may not be possible and may be cost prohibitive.
- Since some parts of large projects may be continuous and active while other parts are not, the true project start date is not always clear. There may be confusion as to which QA plan is applicable within a project.
- SWAMP undergoes an extensive data verification and validation process that is based on fiscal year (FY) rather than project start date. Projects already in progress could end up being inconsistently verified under two separate documents. For data and quality management issues, it would be more efficient to associate a specific QA plan with each FY.

Requested Action

The SWAMP QAT requests that the State Board adopt FY 2008 as the deadline after which the *2008 Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program Quality Assurance Program Plan* must be adopted.

Because the above web disclaimer is the only formal statement of the QAPrP's grandfather clause, its update is the only immediate action required. As with other document updates, this change would be communicated to program participants in the following ways:

- Subscribers to the State Board's *SWAMP Water Quality Monitoring* email list would receive a notification of this policy update; and

- The SWAMP Roundtable would be notified by email and at their November 2008 meeting.