

Date: December 7, 2009

To: Name (Regional Water Quality Control Board X)

From: The SWAMP Quality Assurance Team

Subject: Pathogen Field Duplicates

Cc: Toni Marshall (State Water Resources Control Board)

Background

During preparation of the September 1, 2008 *Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program Quality Assurance Program Plan (QAPrP)*, it was requested that pathogens be addressed as part of the conventional analyte tables. It has since been determined that one of the generic measurement quality objectives (MQOs) appearing in those tables is not applicable to pathogen analyses.

Summary

The following table is taken from QAPrP Page 66:

Table A3: Measurement Quality Objectives* – Conventional Analytes in Water - Pathogens

Field Quality Control	Frequency of Analysis	Measurement Quality Objective
Field Duplicate	5% of total project sample count (coliforms: one per 25 tube dilution tests)	RPD<25% (n/a if native concentration of either sample<RL; coliforms: within 95% confidence interval as defined by IDEXX Laboratories)
Field Blank, Travel Blank, Equipment Blank	Per method	Blanks<RL for target analyte

*Unless method specifies more stringent requirements

The field duplicate MQO “RPD <25%” is not applicable to bacteria. The remaining contents of the affected cell are correct. In addition, the reference to IDEXX Laboratories may mistakenly be interpreted as a product endorsement.

The next QAPrP revision will correct these specific errors, and will include a review of all pathogen coverage.