

**Date:** July 5, 2012

**To:** The Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program (SWAMP) Data Management Team (DMT)

**From:** The SWAMP Quality Assurance (QA) Team (QAT)

**Subject:** Sample Handling Guidelines for Total and Dissolved Phosphorus in Water

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Based on its internal nutrient holding time study and the requirements of Title 40 Section 136.3<sup>1</sup> of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), SWAMP has revised the total and dissolved phosphorus preservation and holding time guidelines presented in the 2008 *Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program Quality Assurance Program Plan (QAPrP)*.

Effective immediately, the “Revised” content below is to replace the “Original” content from QAPrP Table B1: *Sampling and Preservation – Conventional in Water*.

**Table 1: Phosphorus (Total and Dissolved, as P)**

	Units	Recommended Preservation	Required Holding Time
<b>Original</b>	mg/L	Cool to 6 °C and store in the dark	28 days
<b>Revised</b>	mg/L	Cool to 6 °C; H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub> to pH<2	48 hours or 28 days if acidified

In response to this update:

- All affected parties have been made aware of the revision.
- The Roundtable has been reminded that method-mandated holding times should be adopted if they are more stringent than SWAMP's.
- The current QAPrP tables have been revised and sent to the State Water Resources Control Board (State Board) for review. They will then be brought to the Roundtable.
- Affected data will be flagged on the temporary and permanent sides of the SWAMP database. This applies to data produced under the QAPrP, as well as the retired *Quality*

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<sup>1</sup> TABLE II: *Required Containers, Preservation Techniques, and Holding Times*

*Assurance Management Plan for the State of California's Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program (QAMP).*