

State Water Resources Control Board

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State and Regional Water Boards Join Individuals in Preparing for World Water Monitoring Day

Sacramento— Between September 18 and October 18th, staff of the State Water Resources Control Board and its nine Regional Quality Control Boards invite you to join them, along with local watershed groups, volunteers, students, and other interested environmental organizations and businesses, in a world-wide water quality monitoring and data collection effort.

Sponsored by America's Clean Water Foundation and the International Water Association, the U.S. EPA, a host of global partners, and supported by the State and Regional Water Quality Control Boards, World Water Monitoring Day is an outgrowth of last year's first National Water Monitoring Day, during which more than 75,000 Americans participated in monitoring events and educational programs.

World Water Monitoring Day serves as a global educational opportunity for watershed groups, educators and trained volunteers to build and support watershed stewardship through volunteer involvement in monitoring and collection of data on the health of our watersheds. Following the monitoring, volunteers will have an opportunity to enter the results of their efforts into an international database of the world's water quality.

Culmination of the monitoring will be the celebration of World Water Monitoring Day on October 18, 2003.

"Volunteer monitoring is an important part of watershed stewardship and meeting the State's goal of protection of the quality of California's water resources," stated Art Baggett, Chair of the State Water Resources Control Board.

In California, "The State and Regional Water Quality Control Boards will join with thousands of volunteers around the world to sample water quality and report our findings on this specific day," said Holly Sheradin, coordinator of the State's Clean Water Team program. "To accomplish this important task, our environmental staff will be on hand to help test the waters and to serve as guides for others who join this effort. While comprehensive monitoring goes on all year, never before has such an event been scheduled to occur on one day throughout the world," Ms. Sheradin added.

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The day's efforts will be relatively easy and fun to carry out. Throughout California groups and individuals will be walking in their local watershed while collecting basic water quality information. Volunteers will be asked to test and submit data on dissolved oxygen, pH, turbidity/clarity and temperature. More experienced monitors may also complete more technical analyses such as macro invertebrate counts (bugs), nitrogen content, phosphorus, and water flow.

The State and Regional Water Resources Control Boards are committed to sharing and protecting our community's water ecosystem and welcome volunteer participation in this, and other efforts, presently underway. We are expecting both experienced and first time monitors, including dignitaries, students and senior citizens.

For more details, visit the World Water Monitoring Day website at: www.worldwatermonitoringday.org or the SWRCB's Clean Water Team Program website at: www.swrcb.ca.gov/nps/volunteer.html. You may also check out www.acwf.org and www.iwahq.org.uk for related information.