



Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Regional Monitoring Program (DRMP) Planning

What is it?

The State Water Board, along with the Central Valley and the San Francisco Bay Regional Boards are working together to address the complex environmental problems affecting the waters of the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Estuary (Bay-Delta). In the Water Boards' Strategic Workplan for the Bay-Delta (2008), the development of a regional monitoring program in the Delta (similar to the successful San Francisco Bay Regional Monitoring Program) was identified as a priority action. In response, planning began on the Delta Regional Monitoring Program (Delta RMP) a long-term, collaborative program which will develop a framework for compiling and synthesizing information collected by a diverse array of agencies and other entities in order to produce assessments of water quality in the Delta.

SWAMP staff and resources help support the Delta RMP planning efforts through a collaborative stakeholder process. In 2010 a draft Delta RMP plan was published which outlines a phased approach to program implementation. The first phase of the program will consist of a pilot project to develop one or more regional synthesis reports. The pilot project will allow managers to test the program on a small scale and to identify difficulties and concerns. In the second phase, experience gained from the first phase will be used to develop and implement a comprehensive, long-term, collaborative monitoring program throughout the Delta.

Why is it important to the State?

Currently there are 17 monitoring programs in the Delta which regularly monitor water quality at over 200 sites, spending and estimated \$8 and \$12 million annually. However, despite this significant effort, many key questions remain unanswered. There are two reasons contributing to this; first, most existing programs are designed to address specific issues such as permit compliance or flow requirements rather provide answers to large-scale environmental concerns; and second,

lack of consistency in data collection and storage means that it is often difficult to share and integrate data across programs. The Delta RMP will address these issues and results in a cost-effective, coordinated monitoring program that will improve the ability of state, federal and local agencies to address environmental problems in the Delta.

Why is it important to me?

The Delta is a unique environmental resource that provides habitat for fish and wildlife, water for cities and agriculture, and recreational opportunities for local residents and visitors. The multiple demands placed on this region have adversely affected its water quality resulting in detrimental ecological consequences. The Delta RMP supports the many efforts to improve water quality in the Delta by providing timely, focused and accessible water quality data and information to resource managers, stakeholders, and other interested parties.

How will this information be used?

The Delta RMP will provide information that will be used to address water quality concerns in the Delta. Initially, the regional assessment reports produced during the first phase of the program will highlight important concerns in selected areas of the Delta. As the full-fledged monitoring program is implemented, the resulting long-term, consistent dataset will help answer large-scale environmental questions as well as enable managers to monitor the condition of the Delta's waters over time and track progress towards restoration goals. Throughout the process, Delta RMP managers will publish informational reports such as the "Pulse of the Delta" as well as technical papers and other documents reporting on Delta RMP activities.

For more information on the Delta RMP click [here](#)