SWAMP Newsletter

Sound science for informed water quality management

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Welcome to this issue of the SWAMP Newsletter. Every few months we plan to bring you the latest surface water ambient monitoring news from the State Water Resources Control Board. We welcome your feedback at swamp@waterboards.ca.gov.

Citizen Scientists Watching the Waters: 2017 California Citizen Monitoring Calendar

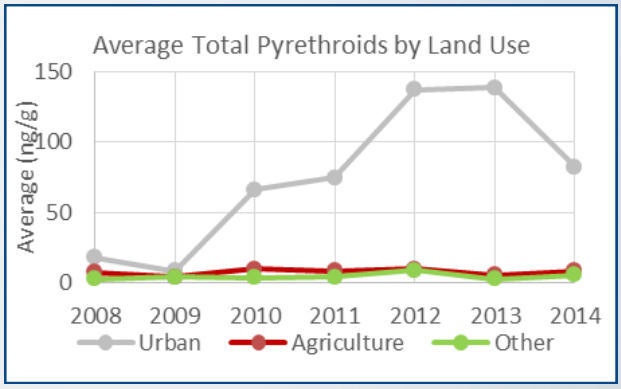
by Erick Burres

Like water and aquatic environments? Better mark your calendars. The Clean Water Team's free, online, and downloadable calendar will let you know when Creek Week happens, when California's free fishing days come around, and even when the EarthEcho Water Challenge happens. The calendar is an eclectic mix of fun and useful information, with active web-links to many water-relevant events and commemorations, so users not only know when World Wetlands Day is scheduled, but why wetlands are important and what you can do to help preserve them. Created by the Clean Water Team, the calendar promotes volunteerism, citizen science, and community stewardship of California's waters. ⇒ *View Calendar*

Importance of Monitoring Current-Use and Emerging Pesticides

Bryn Phillips and Brian Anderson

In a new report from the Stream Pollution Trends (SPoT) Monitoring Program, much of the observed toxicity in SWAMP's regional and statewide monitoring is caused by pesticides. Within the SPoT dataset, at least some portion of the low survival observed in 79% of the toxic samples can be explained by pyrethroid and organophosphate pesticides.
⇒ *Learn More*



Citizen Science & Watershed Stewardship Webinar Series

by Erick Burres

The California Water Quality Monitoring Collaboration Network has kicked off 2017 with an outstanding webinar series. The Network has lined up a great panel of presenters from across California to discuss Citizen Science and its applications to water quality monitoring and watershed stewardship. These presenters represent watersheds from all around California, as well as different types of citizen science and environmental stewardship projects. Watershed stewardship requires both engaged citizens and solid science; learn how the two intersect and how Citizen Science can work for your programs. All webinars are recorded and can be watched on YouTube.
⇒ *Learn More*

Safe to Swim Monitoring in the Central Valley

by Alisha Wenzel and Paige Fitzgibbon

Since 2007, the Central Valley Water Board has conducted "Safe to Swim" monitoring at swimming holes, beaches, and streams used for water-contact activities each summer. This program measures *E. coli* bacteria as an indicator of potential fecal pollution and recreation safety. From 2007 to 2014, SWAMP staff and our partners collected nearly 3,000 samples from twelve watersheds in the Central Valley Region. Recently, the Central Valley Water Board approved adding four water bodies to the 303(d) List of Impaired Waters using Safe to Swim data.

In 2015 and 2016, Safe to Swim monitoring focused on four watersheds with a history of elevated bacteria. Multiple sites in each watershed (see map) were monitored weekly for a full year in order to capture seasonal variability. Initial review of the data indicates that elevated bacteria continues to be a problem in these watersheds. This information will be used to develop a microbial source tracking study, inform future updates to the Clean Water Act Sections 305(b) and 303(d) Integrated Report, and help identify water bodies that need advanced protection under the Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems Policy.

Water Board Partners with Obama White House to Advance Data-Driven Water Management

by David Altare

The 2016 California Water Data Challenge—a first of its kind collaboration between the White House Council on Environmental Quality, multiple California state agencies, and non-profit organizations—was held to find new ways to maximize the impact of existing Federal and State water-related datasets. The challenge brought together a diverse group of participants with technical skills in coding, application development, data analysis and visualization, and water policy who leveraged open source technology and existing water data to produce tools and applications that transform how information is accessed, and used, to inform decision-making. ⇒ *Learn More*

SWAMP's Website Gets A Fresh New Look

by Michelle Tang

In February, SWAMP unveiled a new design for its website. The new SWAMP website improves usability and better communicates the program's activities, tools, and data. ⇒ *Learn More*

Water Quality Indicators and Data Science Symposium

by Beverly Anderson-Abbs

SWAMP is hosting the 2nd Annual Symposium on Water Quality Health Indicators and Data Science this coming June 29 and 30, 2017, in the Byron Sher Auditorium at the CalEPA Headquarters building in Sacramento, CA. This is an annual event that aims to:

- Daylight surface water quality data, insights, and interests;
- Better connect data, information, and knowledge to water quality stakeholders and decision makers; and
- Create a networking community to enhance communication throughout the year.

To stay up to date on what is happening, please visit the Symposium website.

Addendum: Condition of San Francisco Bay Area Freshwater Wetlands