SWAMP Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program

# SWAMP Newsletter

*Sound science for informed water quality management*

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## SWAMP's Website Gets A Fresh New Look

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In February, the Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program (SWAMP) unveiled a new design for its website. The new SWAMP website improves usability and better communicates the program's activities, tools, and data. The redesigned website is organized into six sections.

**About SWAMP**

This section provides an overview of the mission and history of SWAMP. The program's statewide planning documents, which

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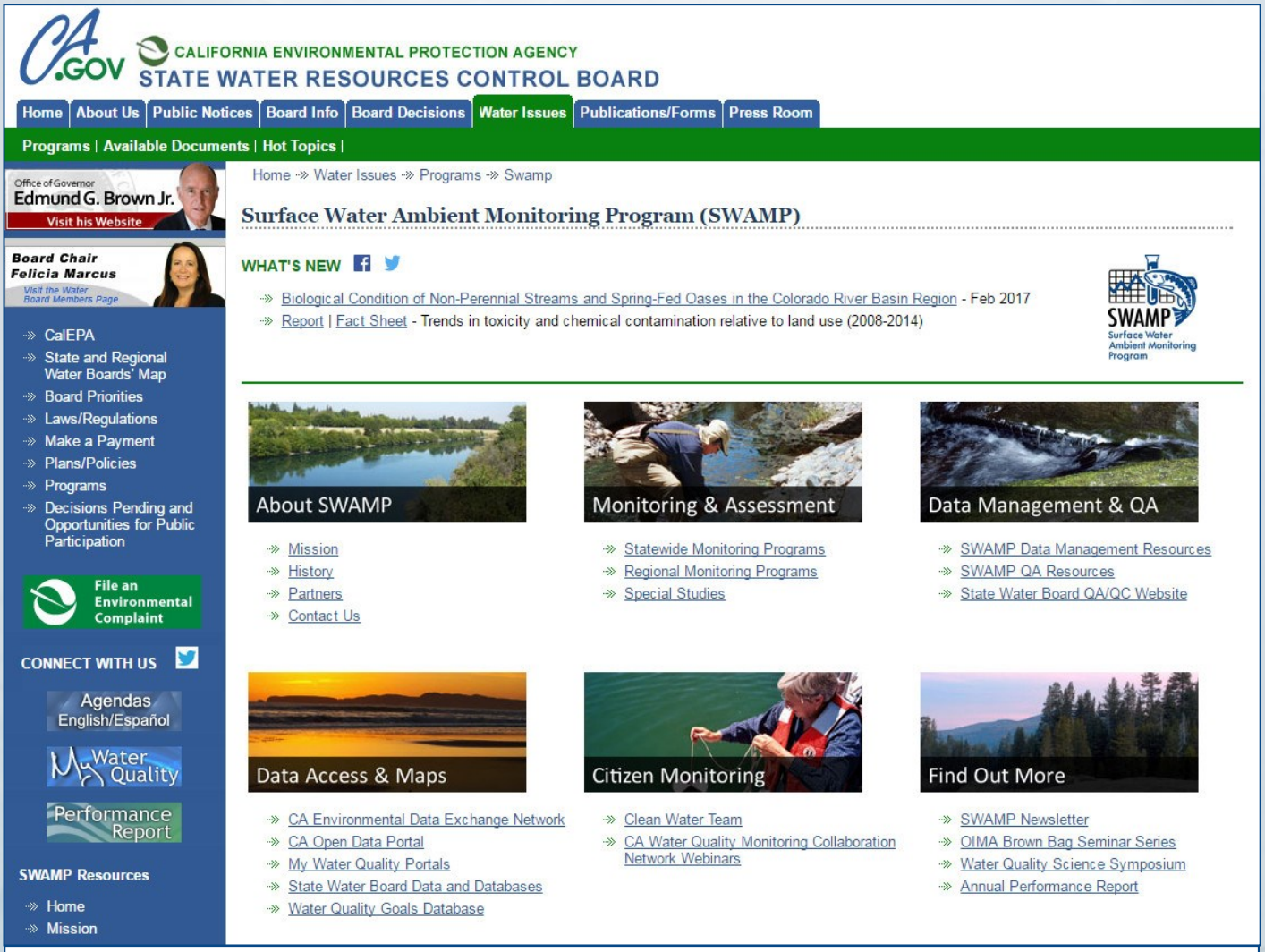


*Figure 1. Front page of the redesigned SWAMP website*

guide the implementation of SWAMP, are available for download on the "Mission" page. There is a new "Contact Us" page that lists the contact information for SWAMP staff located at both the State Water Board and Regional Water Board offices. A new page also highlights the rich and varied network of partners that SWAMP has developed over the years.

**Monitoring and Assessment**

SWAMP implements multiple monitoring and assessment programs throughout the state at both the statewide and regional levels. The new "Statewide Monitoring Programs" landing page features the four SWAMP statewide program websites: the Bioaccumulation Monitoring Program, Bioassessment Program, Freshwater CyanoHABs Program, and Stream Pollution Trends Monitoring Program. Follow the links for more information about a specific program, and for tools and resources related to the program. One such tool is the Bioassessment Scores interactive map (Figure 2), which is hosted on the Bioassessment Program website.

The new "Regional Monitoring Programs" page in this section likewise highlights the nine regional SWAMP programs being implemented throughout the state. A new interactive map (Figure 3) displays the nine Regional Water Boards. Click on a region to bring up the contact information for the SWAMP coordinator, along with links to the region's SWAMP website and region-specific SWAMP reports and fact sheets. The "Special Studies" page is dedicated to SWAMP monitoring projects or efforts that are not specifically addressed by SWAMP's statewide or regional monitoring programs. Topics covered include Constituents of Emerging Concern, Inland Beaches, and Wetland Studies.

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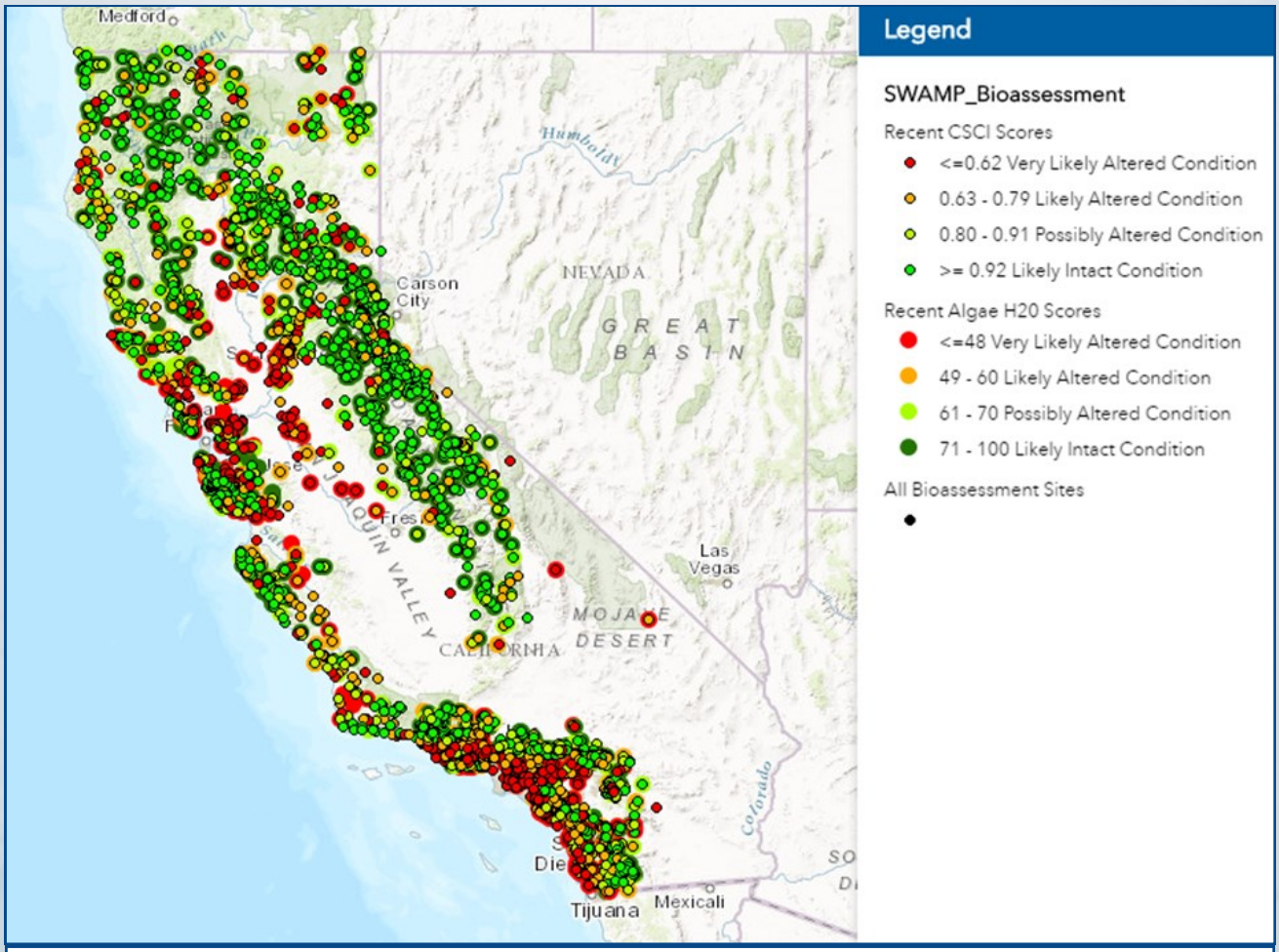


*Figure 2. The Bioassessment Scores interactive map on the SWAMP Bioassessment Program website.*

**Data Management and Quality Assurance**

The SWAMP Information Management & Quality Assurance Center (SWAMP IQ) manages this section, which contains all of the resources related to the program's data management and quality assurance activities. Resources available include standard operating procedures, data sheets, data templates, database and data management tools, and training webinars. This section also includes a link to the State Water Board Quality Assurance/Quality Control website, which offers a big picture overview of the State Water Board's quality system and its associated components.

**Citizen Monitoring**

Dedicated volunteers and watershed stewardship organizations all over California help the State improve and protect water quality. SWAMP's Clean Water Team, which is the citizen/volunteer monitoring program for the State and Regional Water Boards, offers a trove of resources related to citizen monitoring. These resources include guidance documents; webinars; quality assurance/quality control support; temporary loans of equipment to citizen monitors; and links to events, trainings, and workshops. This section also includes a link to the Water Quality Monitoring Collaboration Network YouTube channel. This channel publishes monthly webinars covering topics and issues related to citizen monitoring, assessment, and reporting.

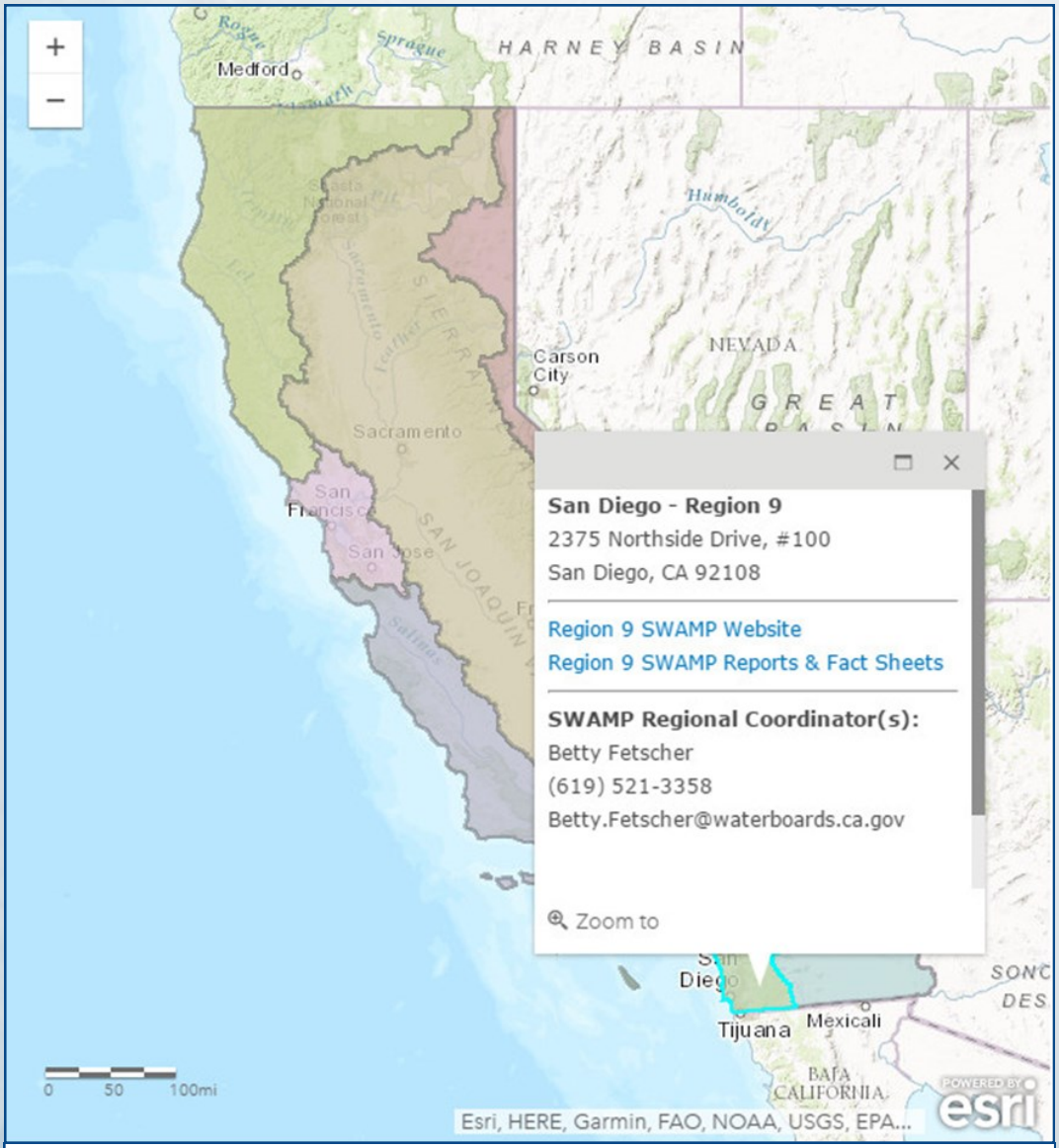


*Figure 3. Interactive map on the Regional Monitoring Programs page showing the pop up for the San Diego Regional Water Board.*

**Data Access and Maps**

SWAMP embraces open data and is working to make the data it collects more freely available to data users and the general public. This section lists websites and databases where interested parties can access and download SWAMP data. The California Environmental Data Exchange Network (CEDEN) is the recommended public-facing database for downloading SWAMP data. SWAMP also contributes a select number of datasets to the California Open Data Portal with plans to add more datasets in the future. SWAMP data are also

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featured on the My Water Quality web portals in various interactive maps and displays. Links to other data sources are also included.

**Find Out More**

If you are interested in learning more about SWAMP and keeping up with the program's latest activities and releases, then we encourage you to explore the resources in this last section. Included are links to the SWAMP Newsletter, the Office of Information Management & Analysis Brown Bag Seminars, and the Water Quality Science Symposium. This section also features a link to the Water Boards Annual Performance Report, an effort that tracks and evaluates the activities of all Water Boards programs, including SWAMP.

SWAMP is continually working to improve the usability and the display of information on its website. Over time, SWAMP staff may make changes to the website based on feedback received. We encourage our readers to visit the new SWAMP website, explore the resources available, and submit their feedback. Please send all comments to Michelle Tang (michelle.tang@waterboards.ca.gov), Environmental Scientist with the SWAMP Unit at the State Water Resources Control Board.