

**WATER MONITORING  
QUALITY ASSURANCE PROJECT PLAN  
  
FOR THE YUBA WATERSHED COUNCIL  
MONITORING COMMITTEE**

**Revision 1.3  
June 30, 2008**

**CITIZEN WATER MONITORING  
QUALITY ASSURANCE PROJECT PLAN FOR THE YUBA  
WATERSHED MONITORING COMMITTEE**

**Refer correspondence to:  
John van der Veen  
Yuba Watershed Council  
132 Main Street  
Nevada City, CA 95959**

**1. Title Page**

## **Original and Revision History**

### **OUTLINE PREPARED BY:**

**First Edition: Gwen Starrett, SWRCB, 1998  
Second Edition: Dominic Gregorio, SWRCB, 2000**

### **COMPLETED PLAN PREPARED BY:**

**Chad McDonald, Maureen Rose, Joanne Hild, and John van der Veen of the Yuba Watershed  
Council**

### **AMENDED PLAN PREPARED BY:**

**Wendy Thompson, Joanne Hild, Tamara Gallentine, and John van der Veen of the Yuba Watershed  
Council**

### **Revision 1 Prepared on 9/2/03 by:**

**William Ray, State Water Resources Control Board, Quality Assurance Program Manager**

### **Revision 1.1 Prepared on 8/20/04 by:**

**William Ray, State Water Resources Control Board, Quality Assurance Program Manager**

### **Revision 1.2 Prepared on 11/29/04 by:**

**William Ray, State Water Resources Control Board, Quality Assurance Program Manager**

### **Revision 1.3 Prepared on 01/01/08 by:**

**William Ray, State Water Resources Control Board, Quality Assurance Program Manager**

Revision History

Revision number	Date	Revision
1.0	September 9, 2003	Correction of named individuals in section 4. Change in acceptance criteria in section 7. Editorial changes throughout.
1.1	August 20, 2004	Addition of Wolf Creek Citizen Monitoring Group. Change in acceptance criteria for conductivity in section 7. Removal of Cara Wasilewski and replacement with Wendy Thompson.
1.2	November 29, 2004	Addition of algal sampling protocols
1.3	June 30, 2008	Addition of mercury testing; title changes to tables in section 7; addition of arsenic by test kit; addition of Wolf Creek monitoring; bacterial testing now done in-house; in-lab procedure for turbidity; changes to sample protocols for the altering of sample schedules for selected sites; personnel changes in section 4.3

## Approvals:

State Water Resources Control Board Quality Assurance Officer

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Bear River Watershed Group

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Deer Creek Coordinated Resources Management Project

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Yuba River Monitoring Project

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Wolf Creek Citizen Monitoring Program

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## **2. Table of Contents**

<b>1.</b>	<b>Title Page.....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>2.</b>	<b>Table of Contents .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>3.</b>	<b>Distribution List .....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>4.</b>	<b>Project Organization .....</b>	<b>8</b>
4.1.	Bear River Watershed Monitoring Organization.....	8
4.2.	Deer Creek Project Monitoring Organization .....	9
4.3.	Yuba River Monitoring Program Organization .....	10
4.4.	Wolf Creek Citizen Monitoring Group .....	11
4.5.	Technical Advisors.....	13
<b>5.</b>	<b>Problem Definition/Background.....</b>	<b>13</b>
5.1.	Problem Statement .....	14
5.2.	Intended Storage of Data .....	17
<b>6.</b>	<b>Project/Task Description .....</b>	<b>17</b>
6.1.	Parameters to be monitored by Participating Citizen Groups.....	17
6.2.	Parameters to be analyzed by Outside Laboratory .....	18
6.3.	Project Timetable.....	20
<b>7.</b>	<b>Data Quality Objectives .....</b>	<b>21</b>
7.1.	Accuracy .....	25
7.2.	Standardization of Instruments and Test Procedures (chemical and physical parameters).....	27
7.3.	Comparability .....	28
7.4.	Completeness.....	28
7.5.	Precision.....	29
7.6.	Representativeness.....	29
<b>8.</b>	<b>Training Requirements and Certification .....</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>9.</b>	<b>Documentation and Records.....</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>10.</b>	<b>Sampling Process Design .....</b>	<b>31</b>
10.1.	Rationale for Selection of Sampling Sites .....	31
10.2.	Sample Design Logistics .....	32
<b>11.</b>	<b>Sampling Method Requirements.....</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>12.</b>	<b>Sample Handling and Custody Procedures.....</b>	<b>34</b>
12.1.	Sample Handling.....	35
12.2.	Custody Procedures.....	35
12.3.	Disposal.....	35
<b>13.</b>	<b>Analytical Methods Requirements .....</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>14.</b>	<b>Quality Control Requirements.....</b>	<b>37</b>

14.1.	Cautions Regarding Test Procedures .....	38
14.2.	Field/Lab Blanks, Duplicate Field Samples, and Split Samples .....	38
<b>15.</b>	<b>Instrument/Equipment Testing, Inspection and Maintenance Requirements</b>	<b>40</b>
15.1.	Temperature.....	40
15.2.	Dissolved Oxygen .....	40
15.3.	pH and Conductivity .....	40
15.4.	Turbidity.....	41
15.5.	Nutrients .....	41
<b>16.</b>	<b>Instrument Calibration and Frequency.....</b>	<b>41</b>
<b>17.</b>	<b>Inspection/Acceptance Requirements .....</b>	<b>42</b>
<b>18.</b>	<b>Data Acquisition Requirements .....</b>	<b>42</b>
18.1.	Analytical Data.....	42
18.2.	Geographical Information/ Mapping.....	43
<b>19.</b>	<b>Data Management.....</b>	<b>43</b>
<b>20.</b>	<b>Assessment and Response Actions.....</b>	<b>43</b>
<b>21.</b>	<b>Reports .....</b>	<b>44</b>
<b>22.</b>	<b>Data Review, Validation and Verification .....</b>	<b>44</b>
<b>23.</b>	<b>Validation and Verification Methods.....</b>	<b>44</b>
<b>24.</b>	<b>Reconciliation with DQOs.....</b>	<b>44</b>

## Tables

Table 6-1 Types and Frequency of Monitoring in the Bear River, Deer Creek, and Yuba River Citizen Monitoring Programs.....	18
Table 6-2 Project Schedule, Bear River.....	20
Table 6-3 Project Schedule, Deer Creek.....	21
Table 6-4 Project Schedule, Yuba River.....	21
Table 7-1 Data Quality Objectives for Conventional Water Quality Parameters.....	22
Table 7-2 Data Quality Objectives for Nutrients Using Colorimeters or Spectrophotometers ....	22
Table 7-3. Data Quality Objectives for Nutrients Using Comparators.....	22
Table 7-4 Data Quality Objectives for Biological Parameters .....	23
Table 7-5 Example of QA Form: Data accuracy .....	26
Table 11-1 Sampling Method Requirements .....	33
Table 13-1 Analytical Methods for Water Quality Parameters .....	36
Table 14-1 Quality Control Requirements.....	39
Table 16-1 Instrument Calibration and Frequency Conventional Water Quality Parameters .....	41
Table 16-2 Nutrients (using comparators) .....	42
Table 16-3 Nutrients (using colorimeters or spectrophotometers) .....	42

## Appendices

<b>Appendix 1 Data Quality Forms .....</b>	<b>46</b>
<b>Appendix 2 Data and Observation Sheets .....</b>	<b>50</b>
<b>Appendix 3 Maps of Sampling Sites .....</b>	<b>52</b>
<b>Appendix 4 Sampling Manuals.....</b>	<b>57</b>

### 3. Distribution List

All group leaders and technical advisors will receive copies of this Quality Assurance (QA) plan, and any approved revisions of this plan. Once approved, this QA plan will be available to any interested party by requesting a copy from John van der Veen (see address on title page).

### 4. Project Organization

The Yuba\Bear Watershed Monitoring Project is a multiorganizational project. These organizations are the Bear River Watershed Group, Deer Creek Group, Wolf Creek Citizen Monitoring Group, and Yuba River Monitoring Project Group.

#### **4.1. *Bear River Watershed Monitoring Organization***

The Bear River Watershed Group has identified personnel/positions whose responsibility it will be to perform the following functions:

##### **4.1.1. Project Management (Leaders and Trainers)**

Tamara Gallentine and Cyndi Brinkhurst are the Watershed Group's staff and project leaders. They are responsible for organizing training sessions, locating trainers, and ensuring compliance with training procedures. Other trainers include Clean Water Team Member of the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB), the SWRCB Quality Assurance Program Manager, and Cyndi Brinkhurst for Macroinvertebrates and Habitat Assessment.

##### **4.1.2. Technical Advisors**

The technical advisors are resource professionals from the Yuba Watershed Council Monitoring Committee are named below in section 4.4.

##### **4.1.3. Field Data Collection (rank and file volunteers)**

Each team will be responsible for collection of data at their site(s). Tamara Gallentine and Cyndi Brinkhurst will be responsible for verification of procedures and data results.

##### **4.1.4. Equipment and Supply Management (including calibration)**



There will be four sets of equipment for monitoring that will be rotated among the field teams. The staff and volunteer project leaders are responsible for ensuring that all equipment is in good working order before it is used for sampling. Volunteers will be trained for the proper use and cleaning of equipment. Equipment calibration will take place at the semi-annual intercalibration studies.

#### 4.1.5. Data Management

Tamara Gallentine and Cyndi Brinkhurst are responsible for data management. Data will be stored and analyzed following the Data Management procedures described in the Data Management manual of the Yuba Watershed Council and stored at the Yuba Watershed Council office, both electronically and physically.

#### 4.1.6. Quality Assurance and Quality Control

Tamara Gallentine and Cyndi Brinkhurst will be responsible for the quality assurance program and for establishing the appropriate guidelines for the Quality Assurance program for the biological, chemical and physical parameters.

### **4.2. *Deer Creek Project Monitoring Organization***

The Deer Creek Project Monitoring Organization has identified personnel/positions whose responsibility it will be to perform the following functions:

#### 4.2.1. Project Management (Leaders and Trainers)

Joanne Hild is the staff project leader and John van der Veen is the volunteer project leader. They are responsible for organizing training sessions, locating trainers, and ensuring compliance with training procedures. Trainers include John van der Veen for Water Quality, Joanne Hild for Macroinvertebrates and habitat assessment.

#### 4.2.2. Equipment and Supply Management (including calibration)

There will be three sets of equipment for monitoring that will be rotated among the field teams. The staff and volunteer project leaders are responsible for ensuring that all equipment is in good working order before it is used for sampling. Volunteers will be trained for the proper use and cleaning of equipment. Equipment calibration will take place at the semi-annual intercalibration studies.

#### 4.2.3. Field Data Collection (rank and file volunteers)

Each team will be responsible for collection of data at their site(s). John van der Veen and Joanne Hild will be responsible for verification of procedures and data results.

#### 4.2.4. Data Management

John Van der Veen and Joanne Hild are responsible for data management. Data will be stored and analyzed following the Data Management procedures described in the Data Management manual of the Yuba Watershed Council and stored at the Yuba Watershed Council office, both electronically and physically.

#### 4.2.5. Quality Assurance and Quality Control

Joanne Hild and Susan McCormick, professional taxonomist, will be responsible for the macroinvertebrate quality assurance program and for establishing the appropriate guidelines. John van der Veen will be responsible for the Quality Assurance program for the biological, chemical and physical parameters.

#### 4.2.6. Technical Advisors

The technical advisors are resource professionals from the Yuba Watershed Council Monitoring Committee are named below section 4.4.

### **4.3. *Yuba River Monitoring Program Organization***

The Yuba River Monitoring Program has identified personnel/positions whose responsibility it will be to perform the following functions.

#### 4.3.1. Project Management (Leaders and Trainers)

Wendy Thompson of SYRCL are the Yuba River Monitoring Program Coordinator. She is responsible for organizing and completing training sessions on Water Quality, Meadow Health Assessment, Macroinvertebrates, and Habitat Assessment, and ensuring compliance with training procedures. Other trainers may include SWRCB Clean Water Team Members for Water Quality, Joanne Hild for Macroinvertebrates, and Habitat Assessment. Sara Yarnell of UC Davis may assist in Channel Morphology training.

#### 4.3.2. Equipment and Supply Management (including calibration)

All equipment will be stored at the South Yuba River Citizens League office. Wendy Thompson will ensure that all equipment is calibrated and that all equipment is in good working order before it is used for sampling. Volunteers are responsible for the proper use and cleaning of equipment after it has been used for sampling. Equipment calibration will occur before every monthly sampling day per steps outlined below in this document.

#### 4.3.3. Field Data Collection (volunteers)

Wendy Thompson is responsible for organizing the 100 citizen volunteers in 41 water quality sites.

#### 4.3.4. Data Management

Wendy Thompson is responsible for evaluating and analyzing all data generated by the Yuba River Monitoring Program. Data will be stored electronically at the South Yuba River Citizens League office at 216 Main Street, Nevada City, CA 95959. Data will also be stored at the Yuba Watershed Council office at 132 Main Street, Nevada City, CA 95959.

#### 4.3.5. Quality Assurance and Quality Control

Wendy Thompson will be responsible for the quality assurance program and for establishing the appropriate guidelines and for Quality Assurance and Quality Control for the biological, chemical and physical parameters.

#### 4.3.6. Technical Advisors

The technical advisors are resource professionals from the Yuba Watershed Council Monitoring Committee are named below in section 4.4.

### **4.4. *Wolf Creek Citizen Monitoring Group***

The Wolf Creek Citizen Monitoring Group has identified personnel/positions whose responsibility it will be to perform the following functions:

#### 4.4.1. Project Management (leaders and Trainers)

BJ Schmitt is the staff project leader and Jonathan Keehn is the volunteer project leader. They are responsible for organizing training sessions, locating trainers, and ensuring compliance with training procedures. Trainers include Lynell Garfield, Jonathan Keehn, BJ Schmitt, and Wendy Thompson for water quality.

#### **4.4.2. Equipment and supply Management (including calibration)**

There will be six sets of equipment for monitoring that will be rotated among the field teams. The staff and volunteer project leaders are responsible for ensuring that all equipment is in good working order before it is used for monitoring or sampling. Volunteers will be trained for the proper use and cleaning of equipment. Equipment calibration will take place at the semi-annual intercalibration studies.

#### **4.4.3. Field Data Collection (rank and file volunteers)**

Each team will be responsible for collection of data at their site(s). Jonathan Keehn and BJ Schmitt will be responsible for verification of procedures and data results.

#### **4.4.4. Data Management**

BJ Schmitt is responsible for data management. Data will be stored and analyzed following the Data Management procedures described in the Data Management manual of the Yuba Watershed Council and stored at the Yuba Watershed Council office, both electronically and physically.

#### **4.4.5. Quality Assurance and Quality Control**

Jonathan Keehn and BJ Schmitt will be responsible for the quality assurance program and for establishing the appropriate guidelines and for Quality Assurance and Quality Control for the biological, chemical, and physical parameters.

#### **4.4.6. Technical Advisors**

The technical advisors are resource professionals from the Yuba Watershed Council Monitoring Committee, and are named below in section 4.5

#### **4.5. Technical Advisors**

Several resource agencies have assisted in the development of this project from its conception. Additional partnerships will be developed to ensure adequate technical support to all participating citizen monitoring groups. The QA plan reflects the diversity of monitoring and organizational support involved in this project. For the elements of this QA plan, we have addressed aspects that are shared with all groups as well as those aspects that are unique to individual groups. While the goals of monitoring may vary, the data quality objectives are consistent allowing us to compare data collected by different organizations.

##### **4.5.1. Technical Advisors of the Yuba, Bear, and Deer Creek Monitoring Programs**

- ◆ The technical advisors of the Yuba, Bear, and Deer Creek Monitoring Programs will oversee and review the tasks associated with watershed assessment and water quality monitoring. They will recommend, review, and comment on quality assurance/quality control procedures, help solve technical problems with the monitoring, review and comment on drafts of manuals and training materials, review protocols and recommend changes as needed, and assist in interpreting the results. The technical advisors consist of people with different specialties including geology, biology, hydrology, forestry, fisheries, and recreation. The technical advisors are:
- ◆ John van der Veen - Friends of Deer Creek, Chemist, Statistician\*
- ◆ Joanne Hild -Executive Director, Biologist\*
- ◆ BJ Schmitt, Wolf Creek Monitoring Coordinator
- ◆ Wendy Thompson – SYRCL – Biologist\*
- ◆ Fraser Shilling - UC Davis, Environmental Science and Policy
- ◆ Person needed – Nevada County Resource Conservation District\*
- ◆ William Ray, Quality Assurance Program Manager, State Water Resources Control Board
- ◆ Rick Weaver or designee, United States Forest Service
- ◆ Pat Ditrovati – Nevada County Environmental Health Department, Microbiology
- ◆ Cathy Johnson – Contaminate Specialist, U.S. Fish and Wildlife

\*--project leaders will not be allowed to vote on their own projects.

Participation by staff from the California Department of Parks and Recreation and the Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region is encouraged.

## **5. Problem Definition/Background**

## **5.1. Problem Statement**

Originally there was insufficient information to adequately assess the status of aquatic resources in the Yuba, Deer Creek, Wolf Creek, and Bear River watersheds. After several years of monitoring, the water quality of these watersheds has been recorded. Continued monitoring is needed for trend analysis, especially. Citizen monitoring organizations have been formed in local watersheds to address their own water quality concerns. If quality assurance is adequate, valuable information will be provided for watershed management, and pollution prevention and restoration.

### **5.1.1. Regional Citizen Monitoring Mission and Goals**

#### ***5.1.1.1. Mission***

The mission of citizen monitoring is to produce environmental information, which is needed to protect the condition of the Yuba and Bear River watersheds and aquatic resources. Citizen monitoring will also inform and engage the community in effective watershed stewardship.

#### ***5.1.1.2. Watershed Goals***

The general goals of citizen monitoring are:

- ◆ Identifying valued resources and watershed characteristics for setting management goals,
- ◆ Identifying physical watershed characteristics influencing pollutant inputs, transport and fate,
- ◆ Identifying the status and trends of biological resources in and around an aquatic environment,
- ◆ Screening for water quality problems,
- ◆ Identifying pollution sources and illegal activities (spills, wetland fill, diversions, discharges),
- ◆ Establishing trends in water quality for waters that would otherwise be un-monitored,
- ◆ Evaluating the effectiveness of restoration or management practices,
- ◆ Evaluating the effect of a particular activity or structure, and
- ◆ Evaluating the quality of water compared to specific water quality criteria.
- ◆ Evaluating hydro-geomorphology

In addition, citizen monitors build awareness of water quality issues, aquatic resources and pollution prevention.

This project will supplement existing agency information by monitoring streams in the Bear River, Deer Creek, Wolf Creek, and Yuba River watersheds. The focus of the project is on habitat and chemical, physical and biological water quality measures that will identify the status of these aquatic resources. The results of this work will be provided to the regulatory agencies.

It is their responsibility to ensure that adequate and valid data are collected to meet their regulatory requirements.

The following statements identify the specific missions and goals of the Yuba, Deer, Wolf, and Bear Monitoring Programs.

*5.1.1.3. Goals and Objectives of the Bear River Monitoring Program:*

- ◆ To design and carry out scientifically credible studies to establish a time-referenced condition of the Bear River Watershed.
- ◆ To use data collected on watershed disturbances to identify economically feasible solutions to site specific and region wide problems in the Bear River Watershed.
- ◆ To create a land use and natural resource database of the Bear River Watershed.
- ◆ To identify the relationship, if any, between land and riparian resource management and hydrologic and ecological conditions.
- ◆ To initiate and sustain a long-term monitoring program for the Bear River Watershed for the purpose of assessing and improving natural resource management.
- ◆ To involve residents in a hands on process of monitoring and improving the specific watershed in which they live.

*5.1.1.4. Goals and Objectives of the Yuba River Monitoring Program:*

- ◆ To design and execute scientifically credible studies which assess the condition of the Yuba River ecosystem.
- ◆ To empower citizens to be responsible stewards and decision-makers.
- ◆ To identify valued resources and watershed characteristics for setting management goals,
- ◆ To identify physical watershed characteristics influencing pollutant inputs, transport and fate,
- ◆ To identify the status and trends of biological resources in and around an aquatic environment,
- ◆ To screen for water quality problems,
- ◆ To identify pollution sources and potentially illegal activities (spills, wetland fill, diversions, discharges),
- ◆ To establish trends in water quality for waters that would otherwise be un-monitored,
- ◆ To evaluate the effectiveness of restoration or management practices,
- ◆ To evaluate the effect of a particular activity or structure, and
- ◆ To evaluate the quality of water compared to specific water quality criteria.

*5.1.1.5. Goals and Objectives of the Deer Creek Monitoring Program*

- ◆ To design and execute scientifically credible studies that assesses the condition of the Deer Creek watershed ecosystem.

- ◆ To improve the overall health of the Deer Creek watershed.
- ◆ To identify pollution sources.
- ◆ To empower citizens to be responsible stewards and decision-makers.
- ◆ To identify valued resources and watershed characteristics for setting management goals.
- ◆ To identify additional demonstration sites
- ◆ To evaluate the effectiveness of restoration and management practices.
- ◆ To evaluate the quality of water compared to standard water quality criteria.
- ◆ To understand and document the relationship between water quality/hydrologic function and land use/watershed management by monitoring indices of terrestrial and aquatic ecosystem health.
- ◆ To initiate and sustain a continuing process for collecting data for the purpose of assessing and modeling watershed condition over a decades-long scale.
- ◆ To educate residents about the Yuba watershed processes and to strengthen their connection to the ideal of a healthy watershed.
- ◆ To make information available to decision-makers and the public about whether the condition of the landscape, creeks, fisheries and water intended for drinking meet social and legal standards.
- ◆ To develop educational watershed programs to help inform and empower citizens

*5.1.1.6. Goals and Objectives of the Wolf Creek Citizen Monitoring Program*

- ◆ To design and execute scientifically credible studies that assesses the condition of the Wolf Creek watershed ecosystem.
  - ◆ To empower citizens to be responsible stewards and decision-makers.
  - ◆ To involve residents in a hands on process of monitoring and improving the specific watershed in which they live.
  - ◆ To improve the overall health of the Wolf Creek watershed.
  - ◆ To screen for water quality problems, and to identify pollution sources.
  - ◆ To identify valued resources and watershed characteristics for setting management goals.
  - ◆ To identify additional demonstration sites
  - ◆ To evaluate the effectiveness of restoration and management practices.
  - ◆ To evaluate the quality of water compared to standard water quality criteria.
  - ◆ To understand and document the relationship between water quality/hydrologic function and land use/watershed management by monitoring indices of terrestrial and aquatic ecosystem health.
  - ◆ To initiate and sustain a continuing process for collecting data for the purpose of assessing and modeling watershed condition over a decades-long scale.
  - ◆ To educate residents about the Wolf Creek watershed processes and to strengthen their connection to the ideal of a healthy watershed.
- To make information available to decision-makers and the public about whether the condition of the landscape, creeks, fisheries, and water intended for drinking meet social and legal standards.



## **5.2. *Intended Storage of Data***

Bear River data will be compiled at 113 Presley Way, Suite 1, Grass Valley, CA, 95945. Deer Creek data will be compiled at 132 Main Street, Nevada City, CA, 95959. Yuba River data will be compiled at 216 Main Street, Nevada City, CA, 95959. Wolf Creek data will be compiled at 11741 Alta Vista Ave., Grass Valley, CA 95945. The information will be collated and shared with the State Water Resources Control Board, the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board, and upon request, to other state, federal, and local agencies and organizations. A regional database will be maintained at 132 Main Street, Nevada City, CA, 95959, the Yuba Watershed Council offices.

## **6. Project/Task Description**

The citizen monitoring organizations are monitoring water quality in the Yuba, Deer Creek, Bear River and Wolf Creek watersheds. Physical, chemical and biological parameters are measured, although not all groups are measuring all parameters. Table 6.1 identifies the monitoring design of the participating groups.

### **6.1. *Parameters to be monitored by Participating Citizen Groups***

This QA plan only addresses citizen data quality objectives for the following parameters:

- ◆ Temperature
- ◆ Dissolved Oxygen
- ◆ pH
- ◆ Conductivity
- ◆ Turbidity
- ◆ Ammonia (nitrogen)
- ◆ Nitrate (nitrogen)
- ◆ ortho-Phosphate
- ◆ Benthic Macroinvertebrates
- ◆ Total Coliform Bacteria
- ◆ *E. Coli* bacteria
- ◆ *Enterococcus* bacteria
- ◆ Algae
- ◆ Mercury
- ◆ Total suspended solids

For stream and urban storm drain environments, flow will be determined by using the protocol described in the U.S. EPA Volunteer Stream Monitoring Manual and/or in the Bear River, Yuba River, and Deer Creek Watershed Monitoring Manuals.

This program has a systematic method for visual and other sensory observations. A Streamwalk Visual Assessment observation sheet, with instructions, is included in the Bear River, Yuba River, and Deer Creek Watershed Monitoring Manuals. Observations using the Stream Walk Visual Assessment observation sheet will be made, at a minimum, on a quarterly basis. Observational data includes color, odor, presence of oil or tar, trash, and foam. In addition, the stream habitat quality may be assessed, once per year, using the California Dept. of Fish and Game Physical Habitat Assessment Form. Observational data includes epifaunal substrate/available cover, embeddedness, velocity/depth regimes, sediment deposition, channel flow status, channel alteration, frequency of riffles, bank stability, vegetative protection, and riparian vegetative zone width.

## **6.2. Parameters to be analyzed by Outside Laboratory**

The sampling plan contains references and instructions for the collection of samples for the following substances.

- ◆ Pesticides
- ◆
- ◆ Copper
- ◆ Zinc
- ◆ Arsenic
- ◆ Cadmium
- ◆ Chromium
- ◆ Iron
- ◆ Lead
- ◆ Manganese
- ◆ Mercury
- ◆ Nickel
- ◆ Total Petroleum Hydrocarbons (TPH)

Data Quality Indicators and their associated Measurement Quality Objectives have been selected for these substances although the group intends to contract the analysis to an outside laboratory. Samples may be sent to any laboratory capable of performing analysis. .

Total suspended solids, total Coliforms, *E. coli*, and *enterococcus* bacteria samples are performed in-house and have established Measurement Quality Objectives in Table 7.4.

Table 6-1 Types and Frequency of Monitoring in the Bear River, Deer Creek, and Yuba River Citizen Monitoring Programs

	Bear	Deer	Yuba	Wolf	Water Quality Standard Available	Agency or Historical Data Available
Discharge	S	X	X	X	N	Y
Temperature	M	M	M	M	Y	Y

Dissolved Oxygen	M	M	M	M	Y	Y
pH	M	M	M	M	Y	Y
Conductivity	M	M	M	M	Y	Y
Turbidity	M	M	X	M	Y	Y
Total Suspended Solids	X	X	M		Y	Y
Ammonia	M	X	X	S	Y	Y
Nitrate	M	S	X	S	Y	Y
ortho-Phosphate	M	S	X	X	Y	Y
<i>E. coli</i> Bacteria	X	X	M	X	Y	Y
<i>Enterococcus</i>		X	X		Y	
Benthic Macroinvertebrates	X	S	S	S		
Mercury	X	X	X		Y	Y
Zinc		X	M		Y	Y
Arsenic		X	M	X	Y	Y
Iron			M		Y	Y
Chromium			M		Y	Y
Copper		X	M		Y	Y
Lead		X	M		Y	Y
Nickel			M		Y	Y
Manganese		X	X		Y	Y
Cadmium			X		Y	
Total Petroleum Hydrocarbons		X	X		Y	
Visual Observations	S	S	S	S	N/A	N/A
Trash	S	S	S	S	N/A	N/A
Dumping/Spills	X	X	X		N/A	N/A

Frequency: M: Monthly, S: Seasonal, depending on flows, X: Irregular N/A= not available General Overview of Project

The following paragraphs identify the specific overviews of the citizen monitoring projects included in this plan.

The Bear River Monitoring Program was created to satisfy the monitoring elements of the Watershed Planning Grant received under Proposition 204. Chemical and biological monitoring is being done by volunteer teams on a monthly, seasonal, or annual basis depending on the criteria being collected. Monthly monitoring is being done at 8 volunteer sites on the Bear River and two main tributaries. The results of monitoring helps us to focus conservation, restoration, and monitoring efforts in the future on specific reaches of the watershed. These sites will continue to be monitored in the long term, thereby, allowing us to also monitor the effectiveness of any watershed protection practices that have been implemented. A map is available in Appendix 3.

The Deer Creek Monitoring Program was created to provide the monitoring elements in the watershed plan for Deer Creek, as funded under Proposition 204 and Proposition 13. Chemical and biological monitoring will be done by trained volunteer teams on a monthly basis under the guidance of trained staff. Monthly monitoring will be done at each of 15 sites along Deer Creek. In addition, trained citizen volunteers will do streamwalks 4 times/year, once during each season. This monitoring will give us baseline water quality and bioassessment data for Deer Creek, will help recognize specific concerns that need to be addressed, and will give a long term perspective of seasonal and annual changes in the watershed including potential human impact. A map is available in Appendix 3.

The Yuba River Monitoring Program was created to provide the monitoring elements required in the coordinated watershed plan for the Yuba River Basin, as funded under Proposition 204. The watershed is composed of the interacting landscapes and river systems. This plan describes procedures for assessing land use/land cover and impacts of particular water quality stressors. By monitoring conditions in both aquatic and terrestrial environments, the “health” of the watershed can be periodically determined relative to standards for water quality and land cover disturbance. “Watershed health” in this case refers to the relative state of the combined landscape and river systems in terms of maintenance of natural ecological, geological, and hydrological processes. The performance standards for a watershed will depend on a combination of legal minim and regional social expectations for ecosystem services and aesthetics. A map is available in Appendix 3.

The Wolf Creek Citizen Monitoring Program was created to provide the monitoring as funded by a grant from the Sierra Nevada Alliance. Monitoring will be done by trained volunteer teams on a monthly or seasonal basis under the guidance of trained staff. Monitoring will be done at each of 8 sites along Wolf Creek. This monitoring will give us baseline water quality data for Wolf Creek, will help recognize specific concerns that need to be addressed, and will give a long term perspective of seasonal and annual changes in the watershed including potential human impact. A map is available in Appendix 3.

### **6.3. Project Timetable**

The following tables identify the specific timetables of the citizen monitoring projects included in this plan. See Tables 6.2 – 6.4 below

Table 6-2 Project Schedule, Bear River

Activity	Task Completion
Identify monitoring leaders	Completed
Obtain training for monitoring leaders	On-going
Recruit monitors	On-going
Obtain and check operation of instruments	On-going
Train monitors	On-going
Initiate monitoring	Completed
Initiate data entry	Completed
Data entry	On-going

Calibration and quality control sessions	On-going
Review data with technical advisors	On-going

Table 6-3 Project Schedule, Deer Creek

Activity	Task Completion
Identify monitoring leaders	Completed
Obtain training for monitoring leaders	On-going
Recruit monitors	On-going
Obtain and check operation of instruments	On-going
Train monitors	Ongoing
Initiate monitoring	Completed
Initiate data entry	Completed
Data entry	On-going
Calibration and quality control sessions	On-going
Review data with technical advisors	On-going
Training volunteers to classify/identify macroinvertebrates	On-going

Table 6-4Project Schedule, Yuba River

Activity	Task Completion
Identify monitoring leaders	Completed
Obtain training for monitoring leaders	On-going
Recruit monitors	On-going
Obtain and check operation of instruments	On-going
Train monitors	On-going
Initiate monitoring	Completed
Initiate data entry	Completed
Data entry	On-going
Calibration and quality control sessions	On-going
Review data with technical advisors	On-going

## 7. Data Quality Objectives

This section identifies how accurate, precise, complete, comparable, sensitive and representative our measurements will be. Objectives for these data characteristics are summarized in the Tables 7-1 to 7-4. Data quality objectives were derived by reviewing the QA plans and performance of other citizen monitoring organizations' (e.g. Chesapeake Bay, Texas Watch, Coyote Creek Riparian Station, Southern California Citizen Monitoring Steering Committee, Heal the Bay Malibu StreamTeam).

Table 7-1 Data Quality Indicators and Measurement Quality Objectives for Field Measurements

Parameter	Method/range	Units	Detection Limit	Precision	Accuracy	Completeness
Temperature	Thermometer (-5 to 50)	<sup>o</sup> C	-5	±1°C	1°C	80%
Dissolved oxygen	Electronic meter/probe	mg/L	<0.1	± 10%	± 10%	80%
Dissolved Oxygen	Micro-Winkler Titration	mg/L	<0.2	± 10%	± 10%	80%
pH	pH meter	pH units	2	± 0.2 units	± 0.2 units	80%
Conductivity	Conductivity meter	uS	10	5 uS or 10%, whichever is greater	10 uS or 10%, whichever is greater	80%
Turbidity	Nephelometer	NTU's	<0.1	0.2 NTU or 10%, whichever is greater	0.2 NTU or 10%, whichever is greater	80%

Table 7-2 Data Quality Indicators and Measurement Quality Objectives for Nutrients using Spectrophotometric Methods

Parameter	Method/range	Units	Detection Limit	Precision	Accuracy	Completeness
Ammonia Nitrogen	Nessler method	mg/L	0.05	± 10%	± 10%	80%
Nitrate Nitrogen	Cadmium reduction	mg/L	0.05	± 10%	± 10%	80%
Ortho-Phosphate	Ascorbic acid	mg/L	0.05	± 10%	± 10%	80%

Table 7-3. Data Quality Indicators and Measurement Quality Objectives using Visual Comparators

Parameter	Method/range	Units	Detection Limit	Precision	Accuracy	Completeness
Ammonia Nitrogen	Salicylate method	mg/L	<0.25	± 0.5 mg/L	+ 20%	80%
Nitrate Nitrogen	Cadmium reduction	mg/L	0.25	± 0.5 mg/L (0-6) ± 1 mg./L (6-10)	+ 20%	80%

Ortho-Phosphate	Stannous Chloride	mg/L	1.0	± 0.5 mg/L	+ 20%	80%
Arsenic	Arsene hydride colorimetric	µg/L	3	±25%	± 25%	80%

Some test kits vary in sensitivity over the range of detection. The specific range of readings is noted in parentheses. For example, the ammonia kit has a sensitivity of 0.25 in the range of 0 to 0.5 mg/L, but a sensitivity of 0.5 between 0.5 and 1.0 mg/L. The kit has color comparisons at 0, 0.25, 0.5, 1.0, 2.0, and 4.0 mg/L.

NA = Not Applicable

Table 7-4 Data Quality Indicators and Measurement Quality Objectives for Bacterial and Biological Parameters

Parameter	Method/range	Units	Detection Limit	Precision	Accuracy	Completeness
Benthic Macro-invertebrates	Calif. Stream Bioassessment Protocol	N/A	Family level	<5% difference	<5% difference	80%
Total Coliform Bacteria	Colilert 18 hour	MPN/ 100 mL	10	Duplicates within 95% confidence limits	Positive standard within ½ of an order of magnitude	80%
E. coli Bacteria	Colilert 18 hour	MPN/ 100 ML	10	Duplicates within 95% confidence limits	Positive standard within ½ of an order of magnitude	80%
Enterococcus Bacteria	Enterolert (24 hour)	MPN/ 100 ML	10	Duplicates within 95% confidence limits	Positive standard within ½ of an order of magnitude	80%
Algae by weight	Ash weight	mg/L	10	± 20% weight difference or 1 mg, whichever is greater	NA	80%

Table 7-5 Data Quality Indicators and Measurement Quality Objectives for Chemical Analyses

Parameters	Units	Minimum Quantitation Limit	Precision	Accuracy	Recovery	Completeness
Total Suspended	mg/L	5 mg/L	Standard Reference Materials	Laboratory duplicate, Blind Field	NA	80%

Solids			(SRM, CRM, PT) within 95% CI stated by provider of material. If not available then with 80% to 120% of true value	duplicate, or MS/MSD 25% RPD Laboratory duplicate minimum.		
Copper Zinc Arsenic Cadmium Chromium Iron Lead Manganese Nickel	µg/L	Dependant on metal	Standard Reference Materials (SRM, CRM, PT) 75% to 125%.	Field replicate, laboratory duplicate, or MS/MSD $\pm$ 25% RPD. Laboratory duplicate minimum.	Matrix spike 75% - 125%.	80%
Mercury, total in water	ng/L	0.2 ng/L	Standard Reference Materials (SRM, CRM, PT) 75% to 125%.	Field replicate, laboratory duplicate, or MS/MSD $\pm$ 25% RPD. Laboratory duplicate minimum.	Matrix spike 75% - 125%.	80%
Mercury, methyl in water	ng/L	0.05 ng/L	Standard Reference Materials (SRM, CRM, PT) 70% to 130%.	Field replicate, laboratory duplicate, or MS/MSD $\pm$ 25% RPD. Laboratory duplicate minimum.	Matrix spike 70% - 130%.	80%
Mercury, total in sediments	mg/Kg	0.3 mg/Kg	Standard Reference Materials (SRM, CRM, PT) 75% to 125%.	Field replicate, laboratory duplicate, or MS/MSD $\pm$ 25% RPD except Hg in sediment at $\pm$ 0.35%. Laboratory duplicate minimum.	Matrix spike 75% - 125%.	80%
Mercury, methyl in sediments	ng/g	0.02 ng/g	Standard Reference Materials	Field replicate, laboratory	Matrix spike 70% - 130%.	80%



			(SRM, CRM, PT) 70% to 130%.	duplicate, or MS/MSD $\pm$ 25% RPD. Laboratory duplicate minimum.		
Total Petroleum Hydrocarbons (TPH)	$\mu\text{g/L}$	50 $\mu\text{g/L}$	Standard Reference Materials (SRM, CRM, PT) within 95% CI stated by provider of material. If not available then with 80% to 120% of true value	Laboratory duplicate, Blind Field duplicate, or MS/MSD 25% RPD Laboratory duplicate minimum.	Matrix spike 80% - 120% or control limits at $\pm$ 3 standard deviations based on actual lab data.	80%
Pesticides	$\text{ng/L}$	Dependant on pesticide	Standard Reference Materials (SRM, CRM, PT) within 95% CI stated by provider of material. If not available then with 50% to 150% of true value	Field replicate or MS/MSD $\pm$ 25% RPD. Field replicate minimum.	Matrix spike 50% - 150% or control limits at $\pm$ 3 standard deviations based on actual lab data.	80%

### 7.1. Accuracy

Description: Accuracy describes how close the measurement is to its true value. Accuracy is the measurement of a sample of known concentration and comparing the known value against the measured value. Performing tests on standards at the quality control sessions held twice a year will check the accuracy of chemical measurements. A standard is a known concentration of a certain solution. Standards can be purchased from chemical or scientific supply companies. A professional partner, e.g. a local analytical laboratory, certified for water or wastewater analysis by EPA might also prepare standards. Single or double blind samples may be submitted at the discretion of the Quality Assurance Officer.

Procedures: For all chemical water quality parameters volunteers shall obtain results within the stated data quality objectives in Tables 7.1 – 7.4. Note that all testing for nitrate includes measurement of nitrite. Testing will be done through the analysis of a solution of known concentration, which will be within 25% to 75% of the range of measurable values.

Accuracy for bacterial parameters will be determined by analyzing a positive control sample. A positive control is similar to a standard, except that a specific discrete value is not assigned to the bacterial concentrations in the sample. This is due to the fact that bacteria are alive and capable of mortality and reproduction. Instead of a specific value, an approximate target value of the bacterial concentration is assigned to the sample by the laboratory preparing the positive control sample.

For benthic macroinvertebrate analysis, accuracy will be determined by having 20% of the samples re-analyzed and validated to Level 3 by a professional taxonomist.

Instructions for determining accuracy (chemical analyses):

Record all results from the test for each instrument. Determine the average value. Compare the average value to the true value. Compare this difference to the accuracy objective set in the previous tables. If the absolute difference is greater, corrective action will be taken to improve performance. We will consult our technical advisors to determine the appropriate corrective action.

<b>EXAMPLE: ACCURACY</b>			
During a recent training session, volunteer monitors checked their pH meters against a standard buffer solution of pH 7.0. The following results were read:			
7.5	7.2	6.5	7.0
7.4	6.8	7.2	7.4
6.7	7.3	6.8	7.2
Determine the average result. Most calculators will determine an average. To calculate: Average : $\bar{x} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n x_i$			
ACCURACY = average value - true value			
To obtain a percent reading: Divide the ACCURACY BY the true value and multiply by 100.			
The average of these measurements is equal to 7.08. Since we know that the reference or true value is 7.00, the difference between the mean pH value is off or biased by +0.08 units or 1%. This level of accuracy is within the objective of ± 10 percent.			
Record these results on your QA Form: Data accuracy, Detection Limit, Precision.			

Table 7-6Example of QA Form: Data accuracy

Parameter/ units	Date	Objective	Deviation	Meet Objective? Yes or No	Corrective action planned	Date Corrective Action taken

Temperature °C	5/21/ 96	±1°C	1.5 °C -0.5%* * after correction factor given.	Yes	One thermometer was way off, it was discarded. All other thermometers were given a correction factor to improve their accuracy	5/21/96
Dissolved Oxygen (mg/L)	5/21/ 96	sodium thiosulfate 20.00± 0.2mL	+1.00 mL	No	replace reagent	6/15/96
PH Standard units	5/21/ 96	±10%	-5%	yes	none needed	
Conductivity (µS/cm)	5/21/ 96	±10%	+10%	yes	none needed	
Turbidity (NTU)	5/21/ 96	± 5	+1.4	yes	none needed	

## **7.2. Standardization of Instruments and Test Procedures (chemical and physical parameters)**

The temperature measurements will be standardized by comparing our thermometers to a NIST-certified or calibrated thermometer. All meters (pH, conductivity, oxygen) will be evaluated twice a year using standards of known value. The dissolved oxygen (Winkler method) will be checked by standardizing the sodium thiosulfate solution in the test kit, and/or by comparing the entire kit to saturated oxygen standard. Instructions for checking the sodium thiosulfate are included in the test kit (Additional reagents and glassware must be purchased separately however.) If the result is unsatisfactory, as indicated in the instructions, the sodium thiosulfate and/or other reagent will be discarded and replaced with new reagents. The validity of the dissolved oxygen test will also be assured by taking these steps:

- ◆ Care is taken not to aerate water samples during collection,
- ◆ Water is added gently to the dissolved oxygen bottle,
- ◆ No air bubbles are present in the sample,
- ◆ The titration sample will be measured carefully with a graduated cylinder,
- ◆ The sample is swirled thoroughly after each drop of titrant,
- ◆ If the endpoint is overrun, another 20 ml. of the sample will be titrated.

Comparators, nephelometers, colorimeters or spectrophotometers and associated reagents will be evaluated twice a year using standards of known value.

### **7.3. Comparability**

Description: Comparability is the degree to which data can be compared directly to similar studies.

Procedures: We will use the following methods to ensure that their data can be compared to others:

- ◆ SWRCB Citizen Monitoring Draft Compendium for Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment,
- ◆ U.S. EPA's Volunteer Monitoring Manuals for Streams, Lakes or Estuaries,
- ◆ California's Department of Fish and Game's (CDFG) Stream Bioassessment Protocol for Citizen Monitors.

Before modifying any measurement method, or developing alternative or additional methods, technical advisors will evaluate and review the effects of the potential modification. It will be important to address their concerns about data quality before proceeding with the monitoring program.

### **7.4. Completeness**

Description: Completeness is the fraction of planned data that must be collected in order to fulfill the statistical criteria of the project. There are no statistical criteria that require a certain percentage of data. However, it is expected that 80% of all measurements could be taken when anticipated. This accounts for adverse weather conditions, safety concerns, and equipment problems.

Procedures: We will determine completeness by comparing the number of measurements we planned to collect compared to the number of measurements we actually collected that were also deemed valid. An invalid measurement would be one that does not meet the sampling methods requirements and the data quality objectives. Completeness results will be checked every six months. This will allow us to identify and correct problems. Completeness measurements shall meet the requirements stated in Tables 7.1 – 7.4. Table 7.7 will be used to record our completeness information.

Instructions for Determining Completeness:

To determine the percent completed divide the number of valid samples collected and analyzed by the number of samples anticipated in the monitoring design then multiply by 100%. In the example below, the volunteers met their objective of 80% completeness for temperature, but not dissolved oxygen. The volunteers reviewed their sampling methods and realized that some volunteers were not fixing the dissolved oxygen samples correctly. When they corrected this activity their completeness improved.

## **7.5. Precision**

Description: Precision describes how well repeated measurements agree. The precision objectives described here refer to repeated measurements taken by different, trained volunteers or the same volunteer on the same water sample. Additional variability would be expected if comparisons were made between different samples taken at the same location.

Procedures: These precision objectives apply to duplicate and split samples taken as part of the QC session or as part of periodic in-field QC checks. For chemical and physical parameters measurements on the same sample read by different volunteers using the same equipment shall meet the data quality objectives stated in Tables 7.1 – 7.4.

Precision for bacterial parameters will be determined by having the same analyst complete the IDEXX procedure for two or more replicates of the same sample. At a minimum this should be done once for every 20 samples. The results of the replicates shall meet the data quality objectives stated in Table 7.4.

For benthic macroinvertebrate analysis, precision will be determined by having the technical advisor perform an evaluation on the citizen analysts as discussed in Section 14.2 of this QAPP and the results shall meet the data quality objectives stated in Table 7.4.

Instructions for Determining Precision (chemical analyses):

All volunteers run tests on the same sample. Record all results from the test for each instrument. Determine the average value. Calculate the standard deviation and determine the percent precision. Compare the percent precision result to the precision objective set in Tables 7.1- 7.4. If the precision is outside of the objectives, corrective action will be taken to improve performance. We will consult our technical advisors to determine the appropriate corrective action.

## **7.6. Representativeness**

Description: Representativeness describes how relevant the data are to the actual environmental condition.

Problems can occur if:

- Samples are taken in a stream reach that does not describe the area of interest (e.g. a headwaters sample should not be taken downstream of a point source).
- Samples are taken in an unusual habitat type (e.g. a stagnant backwater instead of in the flowing portion of the creek).
- Samples are not analyzed or processed appropriately, causing conditions in the sample to change (e.g. water chemistry measurements are not taken immediately).

Representativeness will be ensured by processing the samples in accordance with Section 10, 11 and 12, by following the established methods, and by obtaining approval of this document.

Procedures: the Team leaders will conduct a review of sampling procedures and audits of sampling events. Any deviations noted are to be reported to the Scientific and Technical Advisory committees.

## **8. Training Requirements and Certification**

All citizen monitoring leaders must participate in three hands-on training sessions on water quality monitoring conducted by the State Water Quality Control Board or have equivalent training as specified by the Technical Advisory Committee on a case by case basis. The following topics are covered under this training:

- ◆ General hydrology
- ◆ Ecology
- ◆ Safety
- ◆ Quality Assurance and Quality Control Measures
- ◆ Sampling Procedures
- ◆ Field Analytical Techniques
- ◆ Data recording.

For macroinvertebrate bioassessment citizen monitoring leaders must also participate in a three-day training course provided by the California Department of Fish and Game, the Sustainable Lands Stewardship Institute, the American Fisheries Society, or the State Water Resources Control Board.

Trained citizen monitoring leaders may then train their rank-and-file volunteers. Individual trainees are evaluated by their performance of analytical and sampling techniques, by comparing their results to known values, and to results obtained by trainers and other trainees.

In addition to completion of the above-described training course, the citizen monitoring leaders must participate in semi-annual quality control sessions conducted by through the Yuba Watershed Council Monitoring Committee. The semi-annual quality control sessions will provide an opportunity for citizen monitoring groups to check the accuracy and precision of their equipment as well as of their own testing techniques. The monitor will bring his/her equipment to the session. The monitor will conduct duplicate tests on all analyses and meet the data quality objectives described in Section 7. If a monitor does not meet the objectives, the trainer will re-train and re-test the monitor. If there is insufficient time at the QC session to re-train and re-test monitors, the monitor will be scheduled for an additional training session. The monitor will be encouraged to discontinue monitoring for the analysis of concern until training is completed.

The quality control trainer will examine kits for completeness of components: date, condition, and supply of reagents, and whether the equipment is in good repair. The trainer will check data quality by testing equipment against blind standards. The trainer will also ensure that monitors are reading instruments and recording results correctly. Sampling and safety techniques will also be evaluated. The trainer will discuss corrective action with the volunteers, and the date by which the action will be taken. The citizen monitoring leader is responsible for reporting back that the corrective action has been taken. Certificates of completion will be provided once all corrective action has been completed.

Quality control trainers are defined as water quality professionals from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the State Water Resources Control Board, and the Regional Water Quality Control Boards. Additional qualified trainers will be recruited and designated by these agencies from experienced citizen monitoring organizations, universities and colleges, commercial analytical laboratories, and other federal, state, and local agencies.

## **9. Documentation and Records**

All field results will be recorded at the time of completion, using the data sheets (see Appendix 2). Data sheets will be reviewed for outliers and omissions before leaving the sample site. The citizen monitoring leader will sign data sheets after review. Data sheets will be stored in hard copy form at a specified location unique to each citizen monitoring group. Field sheets are archived for three years from the time they are collected. These data sheets can be found in Appendix 2.

If data entry is performed at another location, duplicate data sheets will be used, with the originals remaining at the headquarters site. Data will be stored electronically every month. Hard copies of all data, as well as computer back-up, are maintained at each group's center of operations. For the Bear River it is 113 Presley Way, Suite 1, Grass Valley, CA, 95945. For the Deer Creek it is 132 Main St, Nevada City, CA, 95959. For the Yuba River it is 216 Main St, Nevada City, CA, 95959. For Wolf Creek it is 1741 Alta Vista Avenue, Grass Valley, CA 95945.

Each citizen monitoring group will also keep a maintenance log. This log details the dates of equipment inspection and calibrations, as well as the dates reagents are replaced.

Data will be protected using an electronic back-up system along with a battery surge protection, which will automatically back-up incoming data for any power loss and shut down the system.

## **10. Sampling Process Design**

### ***10.1. Rationale for Selection of Sampling Sites***

Sampling sites are indicated on the maps in Appendix 3. The following criteria were evaluated when choosing sampling locations:

- ◆ access is safe,
- ◆ permission to cross private property is granted,
- ◆ sample can be taken in main river current or where homogeneous mixing of water occurs,
- ◆ sample is representative of the part of the water body of interest,
- ◆ location complements or supplements historical data,
- ◆ location represents an area that possesses unique value for fish and wildlife or recreational use.

If the monitoring program requires reference sites these locations are chosen upstream of any potential impact. A site chosen to reflect the impact of a particular discharge, tributary or land use should be located downstream of the impact where the impact is completely integrated with the water, but upstream of any secondary discharge or disturbance.

Volunteers are instructed to work in teams of at least two people. If a scheduled team cannot conduct the sampling together, the available team member will call an additional member.

Prior to final site selection, permission to access the stream is obtained from all property owners. If access to the site is a problem, the citizen monitoring leader will select a new site. Safety issues are included in Monitoring Manual.

The leader will review sample sites. A short report will be made about the site. The report will describe conditions and include photographs. Methods for photographic monitoring can be found in the SWRCB Draft Compendium for Citizen Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment.

## ***10.2. Sample Design Logistics***

Volunteers are instructed to work in teams of at least two people. If a scheduled team cannot conduct the sampling together, the team captain is instructed to contact the citizen monitoring leader so that arrangements can be made for a substitute trained volunteer.

Prior to final site selection, permission to access the stream is obtained from all property owners. If access to the site is a problem, the citizen monitoring leader will select a new site following the site selection criteria identified in Section 10.1.

Safety measures will be discussed with all volunteers. No instream sampling will be conducted if there are small creek flood warnings or advisories. It is the responsibility of the citizen monitoring organization to ensure the safety of their volunteer monitors. Safety issues are included in the individual watershed monitoring manuals.



## 11. Sampling Method Requirements

The individual watershed monitoring manuals describe the appropriate sampling procedure for collecting samples for water chemistry. Samples will be taken with either a Van Dorn, Niskin, or Kemmerer sampling device, a LaMotte dissolved oxygen sampling device, or by dipping a plastic container or glass sediment sampler (DH48 style) into the midstream of a wadeable creek.

Sampling devices will be rinsed three times with sample water prior to taking each sample except for prepared bottles provided by laboratory. Whenever possible, the collector will sample from a bridge so that the creek is not disturbed from wading. All samples are taken in mid-stream, at least one inch below the surface. Sampler will wear gloves when taking dissolved oxygen (Winkler Titration Method), metals, and bacteria samples. If it is necessary to wade into the water, the sample collector stands downstream of the sample, taking a sample upstream. If the collector disturbs sediment when wading, the collector will wait until the effect of disturbance is no longer present before taking the sample.

All efforts will be taken to collect metals samples using the Clean Hands-Dirty Hands techniques described in EPA method 1669.

The following table describes the sampling equipment, sample holding container, sample preservation method and maximum holding time for each parameter.

Table 11-1 Sampling Method Requirements

Parameter	Sampling Equipment	Preferred / Maximum Holding Times
Conventional Parameters		
Temperature	Digital, plastic or glass container or sample directly	Within 15 minutes
Dissolved Oxygen	glass D.O. bottle	Within 15 minutes / fix per protocol instructions, continue analysis within 8 hr. Sampler will wear gloves.
PH	plastic or glass container	Within 15 minutes
Conductivity	plastic or glass container	Within 15 minutes/ refrigerate up to 28 days
Turbidity	plastic or glass container	Within 15 minutes/ store in dark for up to 24 hr.
Nutrients		
Ammonia	Van Dorn, LaMotte or plastic sampling bottle	Within 15 minutes or within 8 hours if the sample is acidified with sulfuric acid to less than 3.0 pH
Nitrates	Van Dorn, LaMotte or plastic sampling bottle	Within 15 minutes / refrigerate in dark for up to 48 hr.
Orthophosphate	Van Dorn, LaMotte or plastic sampling bottle	Within 15 minutes or refrigerate immediately and analyze within 8 hours

Laboratory Analysis of Chemical Parameters		
Metals except mercury and methylmercury	Acid and DI water rinsed plastic sampling bottle	Send to lab immediately; fix with Ultrapure (or comparable) nitric acid. Sampler will wear gloves.
Mercury	Proper sample bottle of borosilicate glass or polyfluorocarbon obtained from laboratory performing analysis. Group will not prepare bottles	Laboratory will provide preservative of hydrochloric acid as prescribed in EPA method 1630e, section 8
Methylmercury	Proper sample bottle of borosilicate glass or polyfluorocarbon obtained from laboratory performing analysis. Group will not prepare bottles	Laboratory will provide preservative of hydrochloric acid as prescribed in EPA method 1631, section 8
Total Petroleum Hydrocarbons	Solvent rinsed and dried rinsed glass sampling bottle, Teflon liner in lid	Send to lab immediately
Toxicity	Acid and DI water rinsed. Triple rinsed with sample	Refrigerate to 4°C, send to lab immediately
Pesticides	Solvent and DI water triple rinsed with sample water glass sampling bottle, Teflon liner in lid	Refrigerate to 4 degrees C, send to lab immediately
Biological Samples		
Bacteria	sterile plastic sampling bottle or whirl-pack	Refrigerate to 4 degrees C in the dark; delivered to the lab within 4 hours, start analysis within 6 hours, unless precluded by distant transportation issues in which case no later than 24 hours from sampling; sampler will wear gloves.
Benthic macroinvertebrates	wide mouth plastic bottles	Fixed with ethanol immediately

## 12. Sample Handling and Custody Procedures

### **12.1. Sample Handling**

Identification information for each sample will be recorded on the field data sheets (see Appendix 2) when the sample is collected. Samples are normally processed in the field. Split samples and samples that are not processed immediately will be labeled with the waterbody name, sample location, sample number, date and time of collection, sampler's name, and method used to preserve sample (if any).

### **12.2. Custody Procedures**

The conventional water quality monitoring tests do not require specific custody procedures since they will, in most cases, be conducted immediately by the same person who performs the sampling. In certain circumstances (such as driving rain or extreme cold), samples will be taken to a nearby residence for analysis. The dissolved oxygen samples will be fixed prior to transport.

When samples are transferred from one volunteer to another member of the citizen monitoring group for analysis, or from the citizen monitoring program to an outside professional laboratory, then a Chain of Custody form should be used. This form identifies the waterbody name, sample location, sample number, date and time of collection, sampler's name, and method used to preserve sample (if any). It also indicates the date and time of transfer, and the name and signature of the sampler and the sample recipient. It is recommended that the Chain of Custody form used be the one provided by the outside professional laboratory. When a professional lab performs quality control checks, their samples will be processed under their chain of custody procedures with their labels and documentation procedures.

For benthic macroinvertebrate samples, the California Department of Fish and Game Aquatic Bioassessment Laboratory Chain of Custody form will be used.

### **12.3. Disposal**

All analyzed samples (except for waste from the nitrate/cadmium reduction test and the Nessler ammonia test) including used reagents, buffers or standards will be collected in a plastic bottle clearly marked "Waste" or "Poison". This waste material will be disposed of according to appropriate state and local regulations. This will usually mean disposal into a drain connected to a sewage treatment plant.

Liquid waste from the cadmium reduction nitrate test will be kept separate and disposed of at a facility that is permitted to handle, transport, or dispose Cd waste. Liquid waste from the Nessler ammonia test (which contains mercury) likewise will be kept separate and disposed of at a facility that is permitted to handle, transport, or dispose Hg waste. Waste from the zinc reduction nitrate test and the salicylate ammonia test can be held in the regular waste container and disposed of as described in the previous paragraph.

### 13. Analytical Methods Requirements

Water chemistry is monitored using protocols outlined in the SWRCB compendium. The methods were chosen based on the following criteria:

- capability of volunteers to use methods,
- provide data of known quality,
- ease of use,
- methods can be compared to professional methods in Standard Methods.

If modifications of methods are needed, comparability will be determined by side-by-side comparisons with a US EPA or APHA Standard Method on no less than 50 samples. If the results meet the same precision and accuracy requirements as the approved method, the new method will be accepted.

Table 13.1 outlines the methods to be used, any modifications to those methods, and the appropriate reference to a standard method.

Table 13-1 Analytical Methods for Water Quality Parameters

Parameter	Method	Modification	Reference (a)
Temperature	Thermometric	Alcohol-filled thermometer marked in 0.5°C increments	2550 B.
Dissolved Oxygen	Winkler Method, Azide Modification	Prepackaged reagents, 20 ml sample size	4500-O C.
Dissolved Oxygen	Membrane Electrode	none	4500-O G.
pH	Electrometric	none	4500-H B.
Turbidity	Nephelometric	none	2130 B
Ammonia	Phenate	Prepackaged reagents, Salicylate with color comparator	4500 - NH3 F.
Ammonia	Nessler or phenate/salicylate	Prepackaged reagents, colorimeter or spectrophotometer	4500 – NH3 C 18 <sup>th</sup> edition only (1992)
Nitrate	Cadmium Reduction or Zinc reduction	Prepackaged reagents, color comparator	4500 – NO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup> E.
Nitrate	Cadmium Reduction or Zinc reduction	Prepackaged reagents, colorimeter or spectrophotometer	4500 – NO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup> E.
Ortho-Phosphate	SnCl <sub>2</sub>	Prepackaged reagents, color comparator	4500-P D
Ortho-Phosphate	Ascorbic acid	Prepackaged reagents, colorimeter or spectrophotometer	4500 – P E.

Total Suspended Solids	Filter, Dehydrate, Weigh	none	2540 D
Metals except mercury and methylmercury	Inductively coupled plasma	None	3120B or EPA method 200.8
Mercury	Atomic fluorescence	None	EPA method 1631 for aqueous samples, EPA method 7473 (SW-846) for solid samples
Methylmercury	Atomic fluorescence	None	EPA method 1630
Total petroleum hydrocarbons	Infrared spectrophotometry	None	EPA method 413.1
Pesticides	Gas chromatography	None	EPA methods applicable for pesticide in questions
Enterococcus Bacteria	Enterolert 24 hour	none	Idexx
E. Coli Bacteria	Colilert 18 hour	none	9223 B
Benthic Macroinvertebrates	California Stream Bioassessment Protocol	Level 2 (to family only)	Harrington, Jim, CDFG, 1997

All of the above cited methods, except where noted are described in Standard Methods for the Examination of Water and Wastewater:

Andrew D. Eaton, Lenore S. Clesceri, Arnold E. Greenberg, Mary Ann H. Franson.

Standard Methods for the Examination of Water and Wastewater, prepared and published jointly By American Public Health Association, American Water Works Association, Water Environment Federation, 20th edition, Washington, DC: American Public Health Association, 1998.

## 14. Quality Control Requirements

Quality control samples will be taken to ensure valid data are collected. Depending on the parameter, quality control samples will consist of field blanks, replicate samples, or split

samples. In addition, quality control sessions (a.k.a. intercalibration exercises) will be held twice a year to verify the proper working order of equipment, refresh volunteers in monitoring techniques and determine whether the data quality objectives are being met.

#### **14.1. Cautions Regarding Test Procedures**

##### **14.1.1. Dissolved Oxygen Test**

The Winkler method is not appropriate for highly alkaline waters.

Other citizen monitoring groups have noted problems with short shelf-life of the sodium thiosulfate reagent. Field measurements should be evaluated immediately to determine whether they are reasonable.

##### **14.1.2. Nutrients**

The nitrate test measures nitrite as well as nitrate. When mixing nitrate reagents take care not to agitate aggressively. The LaMotte phosphate reagents have been shown to degrade well within their listed shelf life once opened.

#### **14.2. Field/Lab Blanks, Duplicate Field Samples, and Split Samples**

Table 14.1 describes the quality control regimen.

Field/Laboratory Blanks: For turbidity and specific chemical analysis (see Table 14.1) performed in the field blanks (a.k.a. reagent blanks) will be taken once every 20 samples, or quarterly whichever comes first except for nutrient sampling. For nutrients and chlorine using comparators, a reagent blank sample will be analyzed every sampling trip. Color can sometimes appear in these nutrient blanks, suggesting that the real samples may be overestimating the true nutrient concentration. When colorimeters or spectrophotometers are used at the group's facility for nutrient analysis, a laboratory reagent blank will be analyzed and recorded for each day of analysis.

Instructions for Field and Lab Blanks: Distilled water is taken into the field or used in the laboratory and handled just like a sample. It will be poured into the sample container and then analyzed. Field blanks are recorded on the normal sampling datasheet. For nutrients measured with comparators, results from the field blanks should be "not detected". If nutrients are detected, corrective action will be taken to eliminate the problem. For nutrients measured with colorimeters, the reagent blanks should be less than 0.05 ppm and the specific value should be recorded and subtracted from the field sample result.

**Duplicate Field Samples:** For chemical, physical, and bacterial analysis duplicate field samples will be taken once every 20 samples, or quarterly whichever comes first. Duplicate samples will be collected as soon as possible after the initial sample has been collected, and will be subjected to identical handling and analysis.

No duplicate field samples for benthic macroinvertebrate sampling.

**Benthic Identification Verification.** A minimum 20% of the benthic macroinvertebrate samples will be subjected to validation by an outside professional taxonomist. Following analysis by the citizen group the selected samples will be reconstituted and sent out for professional level 3 taxonomic analyses. Reconstituted means opening the vials containing the 100 identified specimens, pouring the specimens back into the original sample jar, and gently stirring the contents. In addition, once a year, citizen macroinvertebrate analysts will participate in an intercalibration exercise in which their subsampling/sorting and taxonomic skills will be evaluated. A minimum of two teams of analysts will each inspect each other's processed grids immediately following completion of the subsampling procedure. There should be no more than 10% missed organisms. A technical advisor should then evaluate each of the citizen analysts by testing their identification to order and family level on at least 20 specimens, including at least one representative from each of the major orders and families as determined by the technical advisor for that watershed. Accuracy and precision can be determined by the results of these validation and evaluation measures.

Table 14-1 Quality Control Requirements

Parameter	Blank	Duplicate Sample	Split Sample to lab	QC session
Water quality				
Temperature	None	5% or a minimum of once a year	none	twice a year
Dissolved Oxygen	None	5% or a minimum of once a year	none	twice a year
pH	None	5% or a minimum of once a year	none	twice a year
Conductivity	5%	5% or a minimum of once a year	twice a year	twice a year
Turbidity	5%	5% or a minimum of once a year	twice a year	twice a year
Nutrients comparators				
Ammonia	daily	5% or a minimum of once a year	twice a year	twice a year
Nitrate	daily	5% or a minimum of once a year	twice a year	twice a year
Orthophosphate	daily	5% or a minimum of once a year	twice a year	twice a year
Nutrients (colorimeters or spectrophotometers) and chemical analyses				

Ammonia	daily	5% or a minimum of once a year	twice a year	twice a year
Nitrate	daily	5% or a minimum of once a year	twice a year	twice a year
Phosphate	daily	5% or a minimum of once a year	twice a year	twice a year
<b>Biological Parameters</b>				
Benthic Invertebrates	none	None, instead conduct verification of identification by outside professional service	20% per year	once a year
<i>e. coli</i> Coliform	Daily	5% or a minimum of once a year	twice a year	twice a year
<i>Enterococcus</i> Bacteria	Daily	5% or a minimum of once a year	Twice a year	

## 15. Instrument/Equipment Testing, Inspection and Maintenance Requirements

The monitoring group leader keeps a maintenance log. This log records reagent use, and any problems noted with equipment. Calibration information is recorded on the datasheets.

### 15.1. Temperature

Before each use, thermometers are checked for breaks in the column. If a break is observed, the alcohol thermometer will be placed in nearly boiling water so that the alcohol expands into the expansion chamber and the alcohol forms a continuous column. Verify accuracy by comparing with a calibrated or certified thermometer.

### 15.2. Dissolved Oxygen

Before each use, bottles, droppers, and color comparators are checked to see if they are clean and in good working order. Reagents are replaced according to manufacturer's recommendation.

### 15.3. pH and Conductivity

Before each use, pH and conductivity meters are checked to see if they are clean and in good working order. pH and conductivity meters are calibrated before each use. pH buffers and conductivity standards are replaced at least annually or prior to expiration date, whichever is sooner. Conductivity standards are stored with the cap firmly in place and in a dry place kept away from extreme heat. Do not re-use pH or conductivity standards.



#### 15.4. Turbidity

Before each use, turbidity tubes are checked to ensure that they are clean. The turbidity standard will be replaced prior to expiration date.

#### 15.5. Nutrients

Before each use, test kits are checked to ensure that droppers, sample containers, and color comparators are clean and in working condition. Reagents are replaced according to manufacturer's instructions.

### 16. Instrument Calibration and Frequency

Instruments will be calibrated accordingly to the following schedule. Standards will be purchased from a chemical supply company or prepared by a laboratory certified by U.S. EPA for chemical analysis of water or wastewater. Calibration records will be kept at a location where they can be easily accessed before and after equipment use. This will likely be at the citizen monitoring organization's main office or the volunteer monitor's home.

Records for the calibration of instruments used by contract laboratories are referenced in their laboratory quality manual, which can be viewed upon request.

Table 16-1 Instrument Calibration and Frequency Conventional Water Quality Parameters

Equipment Type	Calibration Frequency	Standard or Calibration Instrument Used
Temperature	Every 6 months	NIST calibrated or certified thermometer
Dissolved Oxygen (Winkler)	Prepare fresh solution or check sodium thiosulfate, or check against a saturated oxygen standard every 6 months	titration
Dissolved Oxygen Meter	Every sampling day	At a minimum, water saturated air, according to manufacturer's instructions.
pH	Every sampling day	pH 7.0 buffer
Conductivity	Every sampling day	conductivity standard
Turbidity meter (nephelometer)	Every sampling day	For clear ambient conditions use an 1.0 NTU standard, for turbid conditions use an 10.0 NTU standard

Table 16-2 Nutrients (using comparators)

Equipment type	Standardization frequency (test standard)	Standard or Calibration Instrument Used
Ammonia	every 6 months or when reagents replaced	ammonia standard
Nitrate	every 6 months or when reagents replaced	nitrate standard
Ortho-Phosphate	every 6 months or when reagents replaced	phosphorous standard

Table 16-3 Nutrients (using colorimeters or spectrophotometers)

Equipment type	Standardization frequency (test standard)	Standard or Calibration Instrument Used
Ammonia	Every day of analysis	ammonia standard
Nitrate	Every day of analysis	nitrate standard
Ortho-Phosphate	Every day of analysis	phosphorous standard

## 17. Inspection/Acceptance Requirements

Upon receipt, buffer solutions, standards, and reagents used in the field kits will be inspected by the citizen monitoring leader for leaks or broken seals, and to compare the age of each reagent to the manufacturer's recommended shelf-life. All other sampling equipment will be inspected for broken or missing parts, and will be tested to ensure proper operation.

Before usage, thermometers are inspected for breaks. Breaks can be eliminated by heating (see Section 15.1). If not, they will be returned to the manufacturer.

Reagents are replaced before they exceed manufacturer's recommended shelf life. These shelf lives are typically one to two years. However, specific replacement dates can be determined by providing the reagent lot number to the LaMotte Company by phone at (800) 344-3100 or facsimile at (410) 778-6394. Reagent replacement dates are noted in the maintenance log.

## 18. Data Acquisition Requirements

### 18.1. Analytical Data

Only certified analytical laboratories or academic laboratories (with approval of State and/or Regional Board staff) will be used for quality assurance checks. The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) or technical advisors will review these laboratories' data as well as the volunteers'. They will review the lab's own quality control data to ensure data validity.

## **18.2. Geographical Information/ Mapping**

USGS maps will be used to verify watershed boundaries and river courses. NOAA navigation charts can be used for mapping marine sampling sites. Additional information on distribution of natural resources will be obtained from the National Park Service and the CDFG's Biodiversity database. Land use information will be obtained from local planning offices. When information is requested, the agency will be asked to provide appropriate metadata and any information on data limitations. This information will be maintained with the data files.

## **19. Data Management**

Field data sheets are checked and signed in the field by the citizen monitoring leader. The citizen monitoring leader will flag as unusable any results where holding times have been exceeded, sample identification information is incorrect, samples were inappropriately handled, or calibration information is missing or inadequate.

Independent laboratories will report their results to the citizen monitoring leader. The leader will verify sample identification information, review the Chain-of-Custody forms, and identify the data appropriately in the database. These data are also reviewed by the technical advisors( in terms of assessing the environmental implications of that data, but not in terms of data quality).

The data management coordinator will review the field sheets and enter the data deemed acceptable by the citizen monitoring leader and the technical advisors. Data will be entered into an MS Excel or Access format spreadsheet or a database using a format that is compatible with the State Water Resources Control Board or Regional Water Quality Control Board's database guidelines. The data coordinator will review electronic data, compare to the original data sheets and correct entry errors. After performing data checks, and ensuring that data quality objectives have been met, data analysis will be performed.

Raw data, once approved by the TAC, will be provided to the SWRCB and RWQCB in electronic form at least once every year, so that it may ultimately be included in the 305(b) report. Appropriate quality assurance information can be provided upon request.

## **20. Assessment and Response Actions**

Review of all field and data activities is the responsibility of the citizen monitoring leader, with the assistance of the technical advisory committee. Volunteers will be accompanied by the citizen monitoring leader, or a technical advisor on at least one of their first 5 sampling trips. If possible, volunteers in need of performance improvement will be retrained on-site. All volunteers must attend a refresher course offered by the citizen monitoring group or Yuba Watershed Council Monitoring Committee. If errors in sampling technique are consistently identified, retraining may be scheduled more frequently.

State and EPA quality assurance officers as requested may review all field and laboratory activities, and records.

## **21. Reports**

The technical advisors will review raw data to be included in reports to ensure accuracy, precision, and proper data analysis. After approval by the TAC raw data reports will be made available to data users per their request. The individual citizen monitoring organizations will report their data to their constituents after quality assurance has been reviewed and approved by their technical advisors. Every effort will be made to submit approved data and/or reports to the State and/or Regional Board staff in a fashion timely for their data uses (e.g. 305(b) report or special watershed reports) on an annual basis minimum.

## **22. Data Review, Validation and Verification**

Data sheets or data files are reviewed every six months by the technical advisors to determine if the data meets the Quality Assurance Project Plan objectives. They will identify outliers, spurious results or omissions to the citizen monitoring leader. They will also evaluate compliance with the data quality objectives. They will suggest corrective action that will be implemented by the citizen monitoring leader. Problems with data quality and corrective action will be reported in final reports. A quorum should be established ( $1/2 + 1$ ) and used for technical advisory committee decisions. If a quorum does not show up at the meeting, work can still proceed. The work product (e.g., review and comments on monitoring results) must then be sent out to the whole committee for approval with a 30-day review period. This approach will prevent delays and make for efficient and timely feedback to the monitors.

## **23. Validation and Verification Methods**

As part of standard field protocols, any sample readings out of the expected range will be reported to the citizen monitoring leader. A second sample will be taken as soon as possible to verify the condition. It is the responsibility of the citizen monitoring leader to re-train volunteers until performance is acceptable.

## **24. Reconciliation with DQOs**

The Technical Advisory Committee will review data every six months to determine if the data quality objectives (DQOs) have been met. They will suggest corrective action. If data do not meet the project's specifications, the following actions will be taken. First, the technical advisors will review the errors and determine if the problem is equipment failure, calibration/maintenance techniques, or monitoring/sampling techniques. If the problem cannot be corrected by training, revision of techniques, or replacement of supplies/equipment, then the

technical advisors and the TAC will review the DQOs and determine if the DQOs are feasible. If the specific DQOs are not achievable, they will determine whether the specific DQO can be relaxed, or if the parameter should be eliminated from the monitoring program. Any revisions to DQOs will be appended to this QA plan with the revision date and the reason for modification. The appended QA plan will be sent to the quality assurance panel that approved this plan. When the appended QA plan is approved, the citizen monitoring leader will work with the data coordinator to ensure that all data meeting the new DQOs are entered into the database. Archived data can also be entered.

## **Appendix 1 Data Quality Forms**

Return to [Table of Contents](#)

Data Quality Form: Accuracy

Quality Control Session

Monitoring Group Name	Type of Session (field or lab)
Your Name	Quality Assurance Leader
Date	

Parameter/ units	Sensitiv ity	Accura cy Objecti ve	Standard Conc.	Analytic al Result	Estima ted Bias	Meet Objectiv e? Yes or No	Corrective action planned	Date Correct ive Action taken
Temperatu re °C								
Dissolved Oxygen (mg/L)								
pH standard units								
Conductiv ity (uS)								

Comments:

Data Quality Form: Completeness

Quality Control Session

Monitoring Group Name			Type of Session (field or lab)	
Your Name			Quality Assurance Leader	
Date				
Parameter	Collection Period	No. of Samples Anticipated	No. Valid Samples Collected and Analyzed	Percent Complete
Temperature ° C				
Dissolved Oxygen (mg/L)				
pH standard units				
Conductivity (uS)				

Comments:



Data Quality Form: Precision

Quality Control Session

Monitoring Group Name	Type of Session (field or lab)
Your Name	Quality Assurance Leader
Date	

Parameter/ units	Mean (x)	Standard Deviation (s.d.)	s.d./x	Precisi on Objecti ve	Meet Objectiv e? Yes or No	Corrective action planned	Date Correct ive Action taken
Temperatur e ° C							
Dissolved Oxygen mg/L							
pH standard units							
Conductivit y (uS)							

Comments:

## **Appendix 2 Data and Observation Sheets**

Information contained in the [2005 Udated Data Sheets.xls](#)

The above hyperlink will take you to this document. A copy is provided on the next page.

Return to [Table of Contents](#)

Monitor Names: \_\_\_\_\_  
(full name)  
Sampling Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Checked By: \_\_\_\_\_ / WJT

SYRCL Yuba River Monitoring Program  
Field Data Sheet  
Site 1: North Yuba River/Above Downieville at Union Flat Campground

Observations: *Circle one underlined option:*

Observation Starting Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Cloud cover	<u>no</u> clouds; partly cloudy; cloudy sky
Precipitation	<u>none</u> ; misty; drizzle; rain
Wind	<u>calm</u> ; breezy; windy
Depth at station (cms)	
Water Murkiness	<u>clear</u> water; cloudy water (>4" visibility); murky (<4" visibility). [this pertains to the water itself, not to scum]
Percent Canopy	Less than 50%; Greater than 50%. [If you have a <i>Densitometer</i> , record exact reading here:]
Other (presence):	algae or water plants; oily sheen; foam or suds; litter; trash; none, other:

Measurements

Instrument Type and I.D. Number	parameter	units	sample 1	sample 2	sample 3	sample 4	Sample Time	Comments
Supco ST09 #	Air Temp.	(°C)						
Hanna pH Testr #	H <sub>2</sub> O Temperature	(°C)						
Oakton TDS Testr 3 #	Conductivity	(mS)						
LaMotte #	Dissolved oxygen	mg/L (ppm)						
Hanna pH Testr #	pH							
Bacteria Sample(s) Collected:			Yes	No	Time:			
Metal Sample Collected:			Yes	No	Time:			
TSS 1/2 gal Sample Collected:			Yes	No	Time:			
Turbidity Sample (room temp) Collected:			Yes	No	Time:			

Data Input to Computer By: \_\_\_\_\_

Data Entry Checked By: \_\_\_\_\_

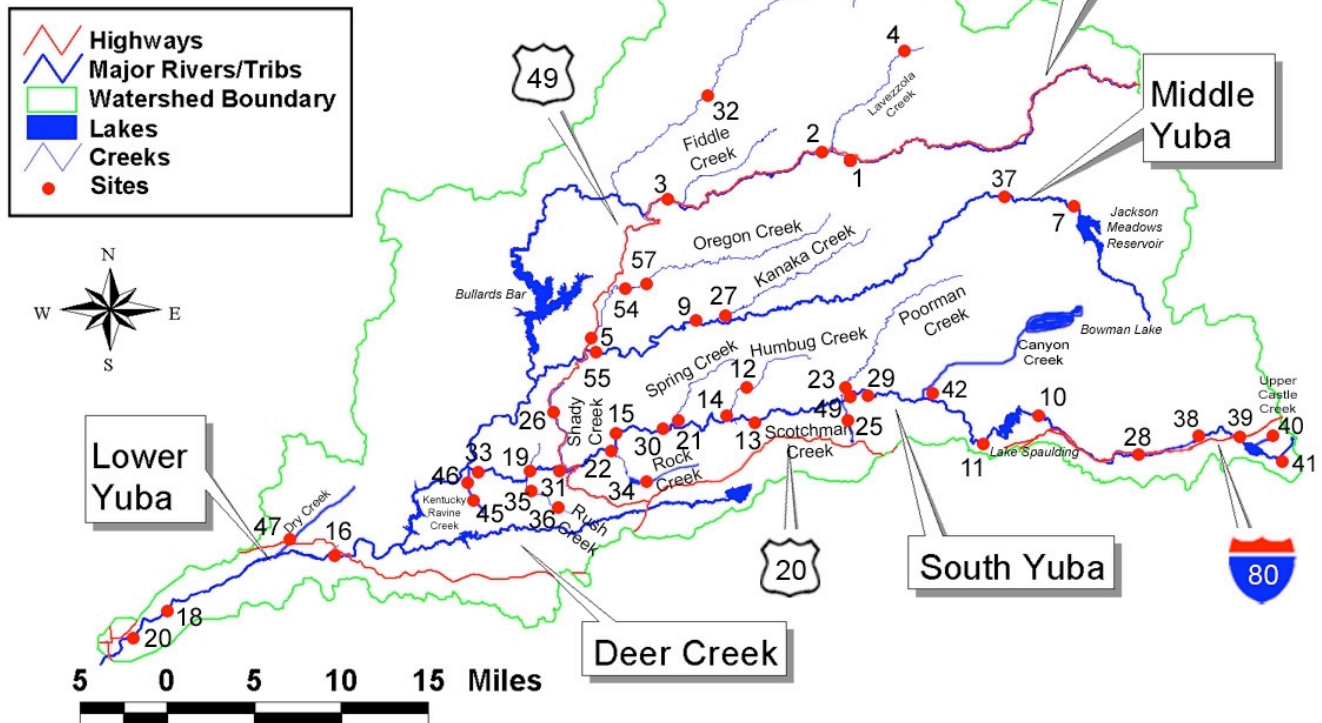
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

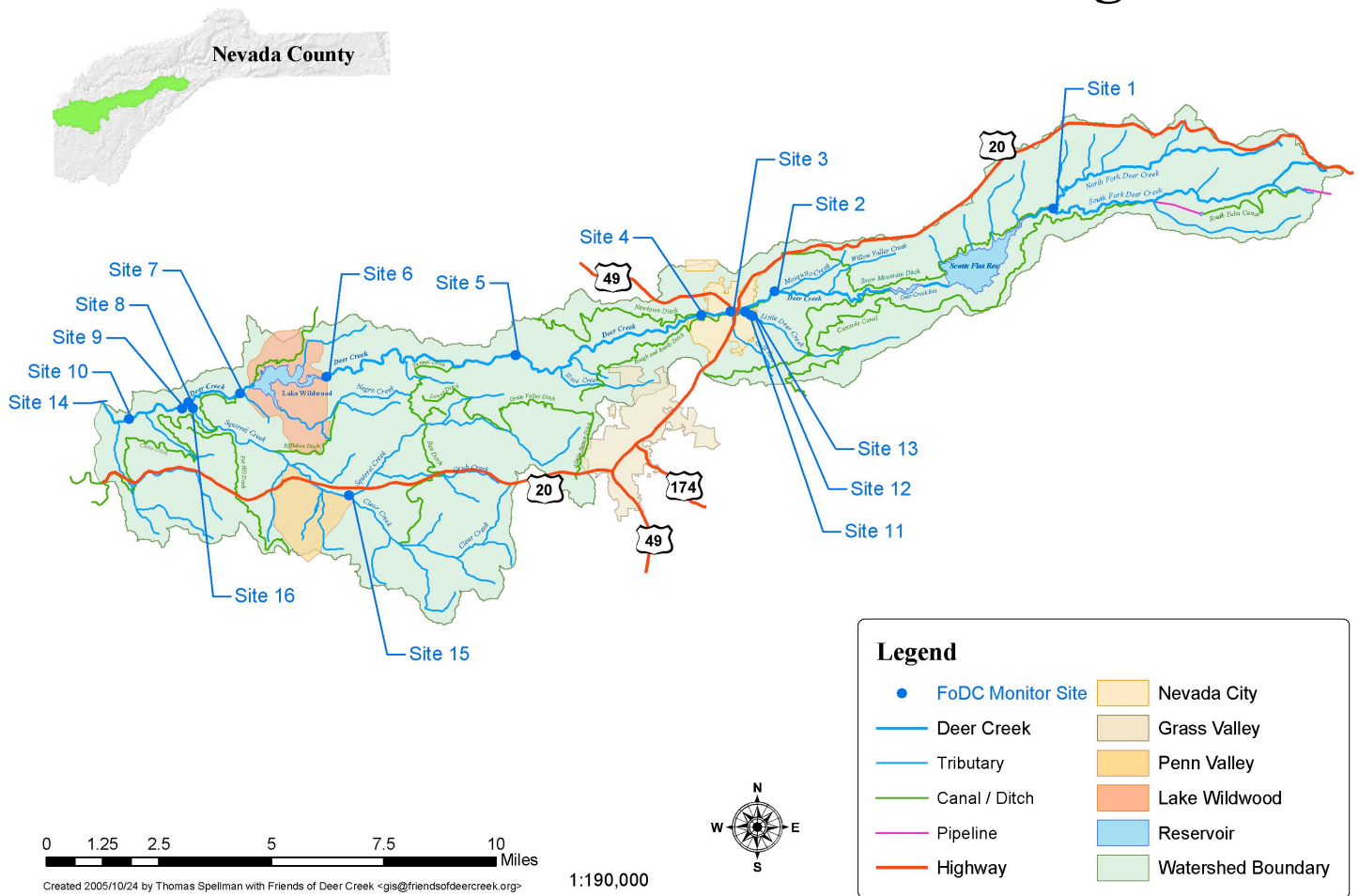
## **Appendix 3 Maps of Sampling Sites and Site Location Information**

Return to [Table of Contents](#)

## South Yuba River Citizens League Monitoring Site Map



# Deer Creek Monitoring Sites



GPS COORDINATES for River Monitoring + Macroinvertebrate  
Sites

Site #	Site Name	Coord		Elevation	New Site Name
1	UNION FLAT/ HWY 49 (Above Downieville)	69755E	4382219N	3,430	Union Flat
2	NORTH. YUBA BELOW DOWNIEVILLE	686290E	4381088N	2,950	Blw Downieville
3	NORTH YUBA BELOW FIDDLE CREEK	672048E	4376302N	2,259	Fiddle Creek
4	LAVEZOLLA CREEK (past Downieville)	689190E	4385500N	3,350	Lavezzola Ck
5	OREGON CREEK (at confluence of Yuba and the creek)	665183E	4362314N	1,441	Oregon Ck
7	JACKSON MEADOWS RESERVOIR (Below)	709417E	4376884N	5,780	Jackson Mdws
9	FOOTE'S CROSSING (at Middle Fork Yuba)	676322E	4364857N	2,200	Foote's Crossing
10	INDIAN SPRINGS (Upper Yuba At Eagle Lakes exit)	709102E	4356230N	5,490	Indian Springs
11	LANGS CROSSING (just past Bowman Road)	702112E	4354902N	5,490	Langs
12	UPPER HUMBUG CREEK (BELOW MALAKOFF DIGGINS)	679228E	4358935N	2,940	Humbug Ck
13	SOUTH YUBA RIVER, 0.3 mile Above HUMBUG CREEK	678445E	4356151N	2,120	Abv Humbug Ck
14	SOUTH YUBA RIVER, below HUMBUG CREEK	678001E	4356234N	2,100	Blw Humbug
15	PURDON CROSSING (at the bridge)	668311E	4354963N	1,690	Purdon
16	PARK'S BAR (Hwy 20)	643584E	4342650N	185	Parks Bar
18	HALLWOOD BLVD (Lower Yuba)	628652E	4307955N	140	Hallwood
19	JONES BAR	663366E	4350917N	1,310	Jones Bar
20	SIMPSON STREET BRIDGE (Lower Yuba)	673039E	4333543N	54	Simpson Ln
21	SPRING CREEK (Downstream from Edwards Crossing)	673468E	4355482N	2,000	Spring Ck
22	LOWER ROCK CREEK (at confluence with South Yuba)	668228E	668228E	1,745	Lwr Rock Ck
23	POORMAN CREEK (past Washington)	688843E	4358950N	2,596	Poorman Ck
25	SCOTCHMAN CREEK (near Washington)	690977E	4358298N	2,818	Scotchman Ck
26	SHADY CREEK (off Tyler Foote Rd)	663366E	4350917N	2,045	Shady Ck
27	KANAKA CREEK	0677079E	4365228N	2,240	Kanaka Ck
28	HAMPSHIRE ROCKS (at Rainbow Bend)	715726E	4354156N	5,893	Hampshire Rock
29	KELEHER (past town of Washington)	N 39 21.636	W120 47.003	2,736	Keleher
30	EDWARDS CROSSING / (Downstream to ECKERT BEACH)	673200E	4355619N	1,939	Edwards
31	HWY 49 BRIDGE	664743E	4355619N	1210	49r Bridge
32	CANYON CREEK (up from the North Fork)	667315E	4376559N	2094	Canyon Ck NY
33	BRIDGEPORT (below the Bridge)	12111866W	3917560N	533	Bridgeport
34	ROCK CREEK ABOVE LAKE VERA	670458E	4352117N	2448	Uppr Rock Ck
35	LOWER RUSH CREEK AT JONES BAR	663415E	4350806N	1325	Lwr Rush Ck
36	UPPER RUSH CREEK/HWY 49 AT RUSH CREEK ROAD	N39 16.443'	W121 04.839'		Uppr Rush Ck
37	MILTON RESERVOIR, Middle Fork	N 39 523	W 120 581	5690	Milton
38	PLAVADA BRIDGE, KINGVALE, I- 80	N39 19.025'	W120 26.470'	6120	Plavada
39	VAN NORDEN MDW OUTLET, DONNER SUMMIT	N 39 321.	W 120. 375	6769	Van Norden Dan
40	UPPER CASTLE CREEK ABOVE VAN NORDEN LAKE	N39 19' 23.6"	W120 22' 17.8"	6780+	Uppr Castle Ck
41	HEADWATERS OF YUBA NEAR SUGAR BOWL	N39 18' 31.6"	W120. 20' 21.1"	6864	Yuba Headwater
42	CANYON CREEK, BOWMAN LAKE	N39 21 39.9	W120. 45.001	2802	Canyon Ck SY
43	RAINBOW BEND - I-80				Rainbow Bend
44	SCHREIBER PROPERTY/Kingvale				Kingvale
45	KENTUCKY RAVINE CREEK	N39 17' 03.3"	W121 11' 29.3"	900+/-	Kentucky Rv Ck
46	OUR HOUSE DAM	N39 418.	W 121 020.	1870 +/-	Our House

55	MIDDLE YUBA (Above Oregon Creek)	665274E	4362035N	1,440	Abv Oregon Ck
----	----------------------------------	---------	----------	-------	---------------



## Appendix 4 Sampling Manuals

Information contained in the [SYRCL1 Field Monitoring Manual 2005.doc](#) [Friends of Dear Creek Volunteer Manual.doc](#) [Mercury in Water SOPs.doc](#) [Mercury in Sediment SOPs.doc](#) [Turbidity Meter Procedure SYRCL.doc](#) and the [Streamwalk Survey Form Instructions FNL'05.doc](#) with associated form [Streamwalk survey form 2 FNL 4-05.xls](#)

The above hyperlinks will take you to these documents.

Return to [Table of Contents](#)