

Invitation to Join the 2023 California Bacteria Summit Planning Committee

This is an invitation to participate in the Planning Committee for the 2023 California Bacteria Summit, which is tentatively scheduled for September 2023.

By serving on the Planning Committee, you can help ensure the most important fecal indicator bacteria topics to you and your community are incorporated in future plans and actions to address bacteria-related water quality issues.

Overview of the Bacteria Summit

The 2023 Bacteria Summit will be a public forum to understand the risks associated with fecal indicator bacteria while recognizing tribal cultural practices.

California's lakes, rivers, and beaches are beloved spaces that are necessary for a good quality of life. California Tribes, residents, and visitors seek out bodies of water to carry out cultural practices, fish, and recreate in and on the water, so it is crucial to identify what it means to have waters that are safe to swim in and shellfish that are safe to eat.

2023 California Bacteria Summit Goals

1. Understand what it means to have waters that are safe to swim and shellfish that are safe to eat from risks associated with fecal indicator bacteria, while recognizing tribal cultural practices.
2. Educate audiences on beneficial uses of water, water quality objectives, ways to measure bacteria in water, monitoring tools, risk of illness, and more.
3. Identify future actions to achieve waters that are safe to swim and shellfish that are safe to eat, acknowledging limited resources are available to accomplish immediate actions.

The 2023 California Bacteria Summit builds on the [2022 California Bacteria Summit](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/bacterialobjectives/#bsummit) (<https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/bacterialobjectives/#bsummit>), held in Sacramento from September 14-16, 2022. We aim to build on that discussion by holding a 2023 Bacteria Summit that includes tribal representatives and perspectives missed last year, and expand the discussion of tribal cultural practices, education, and monitoring tools associated with fecal indicator bacteria. The State Water Resources Control Board ("State Water Board") will consider the information shared at both summits when planning future actions to address bacteria-related water quality issues.

Planning Committee Details

Join the Planning Committee to shape the agenda of this event. Your input will help ensure that we discuss the fecal-indicator bacteria topics most important to you and your community. We are inviting representatives from California Native American Tribes, communities that are disproportionately impacted from pollution, nongovernmental organizations, and other interested parties to participate in the Planning Committee to help plan the Summit.

The Planning Committee meets every other week for 1 to 2 hours to discuss the agenda, speakers, logistics, and other topics necessary to host the summit. Meetings are virtual using Microsoft Teams or a phone line.

If you are interested in participating in the planning committee, please reach out to Amanda Blackwell by **March 17, 2023**. You can reach Amanda by emailing Amanda.Blackwell@waterboards.ca.gov or calling (916) 327-8651.

Groups that are already participating include representatives of some California Native American Tribes, State Water Board, California Coastkeeper Alliance, and Heal the Bay.

For More Information

For more information about the 2023 California Bacteria Summit and bacteria-related water quality standards, please visit the [Bacterial Objectives website](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/bacterialobjectives/#bsummit) (<https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/bacterialobjectives/#bsummit>)

For information about fecal indicator bacteria, please review this [fact sheet on fecal bacteria contamination for recreational waters](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/swamp/docs/cwt/guidance/340.pdf) (https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/swamp/docs/cwt/guidance/340.pdf).

We will continue to update our information and websites to ensure they are informed by tribes, interested parties, and members of the public.