

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA
REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
CENTRAL COAST REGION**

STAFF REPORT FOR REGULAR MEETING OF JUNE 17-18, 2026

Prepared on May 27, 2026

ITEM NUMBER: 12

SUBJECT: **CENTRAL COAST AMBIENT MONITORING PROGRAM
(CCAMP) PROGRAM UPDATE**

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ACTION: **Discussion/Informational**

SUMMARY

This item includes a presentation by staff from the Central Coast Ambient Monitoring Program (CCAMP), including Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Coast Water Board) staff and representatives from the Bay Foundation of Morro Bay (Bay Foundation). The presentation will provide an overview of CCAMP's regional surface water quality monitoring and recent program activities, including a discussion on reduced monitoring capacity due to severe budget and funding cuts.

Established in 1998, Central Coast Ambient Monitoring Program (CCAMP) is a regional surface water quality monitoring program for the central coast. CCAMP is supported by an endowment and is implemented in partnership with the Bay Foundation of Morro Bay (Bay Foundation) and in coordination with the State Water Resource Control Board's (State Water Board) Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program (SWAMP). CCAMP provides long-term data on the status and trends of surface water quality in all major central coast watersheds.

Program data are publicly accessible through California Environmental Data Exchange Network (CEDEN)¹ and CCAMP's web-based Data Navigator,² which allows users to view maps, graphs, and charts of regional water quality information. CCAMP data are regularly used to support multiple Central Coast Water Board programs including, but

¹ California Environmental Data Exchange Network webpage: <https://ceden.waterboards.ca.gov>

² CCAMP Data Navigator webpage: <https://www.ccamp.org/datanavigator/>

not limited to, permitting programs, the Irrigated Lands Program (ILP), Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs)/Basin Planning/Non-Point Source/Grants Programs, and additionally, the Clean Water Act Section 303(d) List of Impaired Waterbodies and California Integrated Report,³ which relies heavily on data collected by CCAMP.

CCAMP also coordinates with the State Water Board's Freshwater and Estuarine Harmful Algal Bloom (FHAB)⁴ Program to conduct targeted recreational-use harmful algal bloom (HAB) monitoring before major holiday weekends. These efforts support local partners and waterbody managers by assisting with sampling, analysis, and guidance for public health advisories to provide information on potential risks associated with HABs. More information and resources are available on the California Harmful Algal Blooms Portal.⁵

Historically, funding for CCAMP has been provided by the Bay Foundation (e.g., for monitoring program personnel, supplies, and equipment) and the State Water Board (e.g., for contract support for laboratory analytical services). Over the past year-and-a-half, CCAMP experienced significant funding cuts to its annual budget through the total elimination of SWAMP annual allocation of regional monitoring funds in November 2024 and State Water Board regional discretionary funds in June 2025. The loss of \$530,000 in annual financial support represents an approximately 52 percent cut to CCAMP's available annual budget. For context, total expected annual costs to maintain the current reduced level of laboratory analyses for monthly conventional water quality parameters at long-term trend sites are estimated at \$414,000 for the 2026 calendar year. These costs are projected to increase during each statewide contracting cycle. The Bay Foundation manages the CCAMP Endowment Fund with a balance of approximately \$11.3 million which results in approximately \$490,000 in annual earnings. These earnings are moved into the CCAMP operational account over the course of a year via quarterly transfers to support CCAMP implementation. Currently, CCAMP endowment earnings are the only source of income for CCAMP.

CCAMP plays a vital role in advancing the Central Coast Water Board's commitments to the human right to water, environmental justice, and climate adaptation and resiliency. By maintaining consistent, high-quality, and publicly accessible water quality data across diverse watersheds, CCAMP helps identify disparities in water quality affecting disadvantaged and under-resourced communities. Its long-term monitoring record provides critical insights into climate-related changes, such as temperature increases, altered hydrology, and harmful algal bloom patterns. Through these functions, CCAMP

³ Central Coast Water Board TMDL Program Clean Water Act Section 303(d), List of Water Quality Limited Segments webpage:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/water_issues/programs/tmdl/303d_list.html

⁴ State Water Resources Control Board Freshwater and Estuarine Harmful Algal Bloom Program webpage: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/swamp/freshwater_cyanobacteria.html

⁵ State of California My Water Quality Council Harmful Algal Bloom webpage: <https://mywaterquality.ca.gov/habs/index.html>

directly supports the Board's mission to protect water quality and public health for all communities throughout the Central Coast region.

More detailed information about CCAMP is available in the Central Coast Water Board Strategic Plan⁶ (pages 34-36) and the CCAMP website.⁷

⁶ Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board Strategic Plan Fiscal Year 2025-2026: https://waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/board_info/agendas/2025/oct/Item10_SP.pdf

⁷ CCAMP website: <https://www.ccamp.org>