

IT Matters

e-News from the Water Boards' Division of Information Technology and Office of Information Management and Analysis

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User Perspective

Recently, I was reviewing discharger [monitoring report] toxicity results using CIWQS related to developing the upcoming toxicity policy. I was greatly impressed with the transparency and ease of reviewing these reports electronically. The format of how the data is presented lends itself to an easier review, for example, I could easily click on the [chain of custodies], cover letter, [and] toxicity reports to review them. We are collecting a lot of valuable information throughout the state and a critical step is to obtain these results in a fashion that is readily available to be reviewed. Your program has accomplished this goal by making the results directly transparent and readily available for review in much more efficient time for the reviewer.

User Debra Denton, from USEPA, sent us this user perspective and we appreciate her feedback. Send us your perspective and input too! Internal users may use the C-WIKI. External users may send their feedback to the CIWQS Help Center.

Welcome Readers

Welcome to the DIT/OIMA Information Technology (IT) Newsletter designed to bring you the latest happenings in IT support services. This issue is focused on the California Integrated Water Quality System (CIWQS). If you have questions regarding CIWQS, please contact [Jarma Bennett](#). If there are subjects that you think should be included in the next IT Matters, email [Toni Spears](#), IT Matters editor, with your comments or requests.

Focus: CIWQS

We are pleased to announce that CIWQS, one of the Water Boards' regulatory databases, has undergone many improvements. Whether it is the list of "recently accessed records," a new column in one of our reports, or the templates that prepopulate with CIWQS information, the new features provide user-friendly tools to enter and access CIWQS data and information.

This newsletter summarizes the status of activities on some CIWQS fronts. The CIWQS website (http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/ciwqs/index.shtml) includes information on the different modules of CIWQS and lists of bug fixes and enhancements seen by dischargers and the public that have been introduced into CIWQS recently.

Ever wondered how accurately Water Board staff enters data into CIWQS?

Water Board staff conducted an internal audit of data entry accuracy as part of the CIWQS data quality assurance effort. The results showed that Water Board staff data entry accuracy was 97% overall. For the purposes of the audit, data entry accuracy was defined as having two major components: correct transcription from the source documentation (99% accuracy) and adherence to the business rules (94% accuracy). [More](#)

Report Status

In May 2008, the CIWQS expert review panel completed its final [Panel Report](#), which included its final recommendations. Benchmarks regarding reports have long been met and exceeded. These include:

- Current list of prioritized reports generated
- Current schedule for report production
- Significant development of prioritized reports
- Methods for ad hoc report production implemented and evidence that users are creating their own reports with these tools provided
- Reports used to demonstrate validity of database design provided

These were excellent goals and this year the CIWQS Team plans to go a step further by updating the list of prioritized reports, creating a list of priority enhancements for ad hoc reporting and scheduling the implementation of both.

Examples of our most recent efforts can be found in the article "[CIWQS Reports - A Regulatory Tool for Staff](#)."

eSMR Progress By the Numbers

The CIWQS Team and Regional Board staff have worked diligently to transition non-municipal stormwater individual NPDES dischargers from submitting paper Self-Monitoring Reports (SMRs) to electronic SMRs through the eSMR module of CIWQS.

Below is a snapshot of where we are with this effort.

Major NPDES Dischargers (240 Total)

- 240 have been trained
- 240 have submitted at least one electronic report
- 190 are submitting electronic reports only

Minor NPDES Dischargers (302 Total)

- 201 have been trained
- 156 have submitted at least one electronic report
- 68 are submitting electronic reports only

eSMR data collected through May 2012

- 606,600 data points

You can access submitted reports and the data they contain using the eSMR-at-a-Glance Report on our public reports website.

The ability to receive reports electronically is powerful. We can expand the use of this tool by moving to other regulated entities (e.g. other programs and discharges covered by general orders) or by increasing the breadth of information collected, ranging from wastewater treatment types to recycled water production and usage.

eSMR 2.5

One of the original goals of CIWQS was to transfer data to one of the US Environmental Protection Agency's (USEPA) regulatory databases. The Water Boards are now on the verge of achieving this goal. This achievement is in the form of "eSMR 2.5," which is the next iteration of the Electronic Self-Monitoring Reports (eSMR) module of CIWQS.

eSMR accepts self-monitoring reports submitted by regulated entities. At this point eSMR has primarily been rolled out to agencies that are responsible for discharges covered by National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits. For more information on the eSMR roll-out, see the article "eSMR Progress By the Numbers." [More](#)

CIWQS Reports - A Regulatory Tool for Staff

CIWQS Reports are a fast and easy way to respond to public inquiry, but it is important to recognize that they are also a great regulatory tool. Below are examples of tools you can use.

Inspection Prioritization Tool and GIS

If you plan to inspect one facility, but think you have time to visit another, the Inspection Prioritization Report displays the facilities in the vicinity.

Home Reports

Inspection Prioritization Tool

[REFINE SEARCH] [NEW SEARCH] [PRINTER FRIENDLY VERSION] [EXPORT TO EXCEL]

SEARCH CRITERIA

Region : 4 Place Type :
County : NONE Program :
Staff : NONE Major/Minor :
Reg Meas Type : NONE

Days Since Last Inspection : 15.0%
Number of Violations Since Last Inspection : 75.0%
Follow-Up Needed : 0.0%
Threat to Water Quality : 10.0%

[Map facilities on GIS]

Rep. Measure Title	Facility	Address	Place ID	County	Days Since Last Inspection	Last Inspection Date	Sampling Done in Last 5 Years	Violations Since Last Inspection	Follow Up Needed	TTWQ	Rank	Distance (miles)
NPDES Permit 00-090 (CI 8432) for San Clemente Island WWTP	San Clemente Island WWTP	1500 # East of Wilson Cove, San Clemente Island, CA	250054	Los Angeles	4081	02/21/2001	N	113	N	1	1	[Select]
Enrollee- Treated GW from Invertebrate/leakage of VOC Sites Permit for Cerritos City	Cerritos Corporate Yard	16540 Marquardt Avenue, Cerritos, CA 90703	217756	Los Angeles	3415	12/19/2002	N	51	N	2	2	[Select]
Enrollee (CI 8431) discharges for GW from	Whittier Pump Station II-CBMWD	4128 San Gabriel River	273983	Los Angeles	3577	07/10/2002	N	26	N	2	2	[Select]

Here I selected Cerritos Corporate Yard, which re-sorted the table in order of distance to this facility. Several facilities are within two miles, which you can map with a link at the top of the report.

Reg. Measure Title	Facility	Address	Place ID	County	Days Since Last Inspection	Last Inspection Date	Sampling Done in Last 5 Years	Violations Since Last Inspection	Follow Up Needed	TTWQ	Rank	Distance (miles)
Enrollee- Treated GW from Invest/Cleanup of VOC Sites Permit for Cerritos City	Cerritos Corporate Yard	16540 Marquardt Avenue, Cerritos, CA 90703	217766	Los Angeles	3415	12/19/2002	N	51	N	2	2	0
Enrollee (CI 9715)- GW from Const Dewat for CA Dept of Transportation District 7	I-5 Freeway Utility Relocation	I-5 at Marquardt Ave and Alondra Blvd and Freeway Drive east of Marquardt Ave, Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670	767206	Los Angeles	1996	11/07/2006	N	0	N	None	21	0.48
Enrollee-GW from potable water supply wells for Suburban Water Systems	Plants 409 and 410	15224 Canary Avenue, La Mirada, CA 90638	250528	Los Angeles	607	08/27/2010	N	0	N	3	24	1.1
Enrollee- Gen NPDES permit GW Potable Water Supply Wells, Suburban Water	Plant No. 427	15075 Stage Road, La Mirada, CA 90638	776744	Los Angeles	Never Inspected	None	N	0	N	None	21	1.66

The link in the first column takes the user to the Regulatory Measure, where in **under a minute**, you can create a new planned inspection with a couple clicks and by answering a few questions. CIWQS makes the links for you!

Inspection Form

Inspection ID: 7952714
 Status: Planned
 Inspector (Lead): Erin Mustain

Inspection Entry | Related Parties | Alleged Inspection

Save | Select Place | [\[Inspection Form\]](#)

Place: * Cerritos Corporate Yard
 16540 Marquardt Avenue, Cerritos, CA 90703-
 Water Board: 4
 Lat: (33.881603 dec deg), Long: (-118.037785 dec deg)

Inspection Type: * B Type compliance inspection Inspection Result:

Lead Inspector Type: * State

Status: * Planned

Inspection Dates (Planned): 05/30/2012 to 05/30/2012 Workplan Commitment

Inspection Dates (Actual): to

<input type="button" value="Link a Regulatory Measure"/>	<input type="button" value="Link an Inspection"/>	Program
Regulatory Measure	Place Type Date	Program
Enrollee- Treated GW from Invest/Cleanup of VOC Sites Permit for Cerritos City <input type="button" value="Unlink"/>		NPDES

Summary |

This link opens the Inspection Form. Take it into the field to verify discharger and facility information. Once the performed inspection is updated in CIWQS, you can print it out for the case file or index it to the Electronic Content Management system (ECM).

Ever wondered how accurately Water Board staff enters data into CIWQS? - Continued

The data entry audit involved reviewing data entered by Water Board staff at all statewide offices. In total, 1,076 complete records comprised of 23,680 individual data fields were checked for accuracy. Verifying transcription accuracy involved comparing the data as it appeared in the CIWQS record to how it appeared in the source document (e.g., inspection report). Assessing compliance with the business rules involved

checking that data entry conformed to the applicable rules that dictate how data should be entered for each record.

The complete set of results from the audit is being reviewed to determine the recommended actions to further improve data entry accuracy. In general, the transcription accuracy result indicates that Water Board staff should be congratulated for their hard work and dedication to keying in data correctly. Additionally, the business rules compliance result suggests that future efforts to increase data entry accuracy should focus on enhancing the business rules and data entry screens.

eSMR 2.5 - *Continued*

In addition to being required to submit self-monitoring reports to the regulating Regional Water Quality Control Board, NPDES permit holders classified as "major" are also required to submit Discharger Monitoring Reports (DMRs) to the State Water Resources Control Board for entry into the NPDES portion of USEPA's Integrated Compliance Information System (ICIS-NPDES).

The eSMR 2.5 system, paid for with a National Environmental Information Exchange Network grant from EPA, keeps the same functionality of eSMR, but adds a new reporting tab for Dischargers to enter DMR data. Once the SMR is submitted, the DMR data is packaged up in extensible mark-up language (XML) and sent through the CalEPA node to EPA's Central Data Exchange and then finally into ICIS-NPDES

Not only will this data exchange reduce the need for manual data entry of DMR data by contractors, saving resources that can be used for water quality improvement, it also establishes a model to be used for other data exchanges between ICIS-NPDES and CIWQS. Exchanges will become increasingly important as EPA rolls-out their Electronic Reporting Rule, which requires more data to be submitted electronically.

For more information on eSMR 2.5, please see

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/ciwqs/esmr25.shtml.

Toni Spears, Newsletter Editor

OIMA, Project Management, State Water Resources Control Board
(916) 341-5046 or by email: tspears@waterboards.ca.gov